

FEB 10 THROUGH MAR 12



RINGOFFIRE

THE MUSIC OF JOHNNY CASH

Created by RICHARD MALTBY, JR. | Conceived by WILLIAM MEADE

Adapted from the Broadway Production by Richard Maltby, Jr. and Jason Edwards
Orchestrations by Steven Bishop and Jeff Lisenby

Ring of Fire was originally produced on Broadway by William Meade, CTM Productions, Bob Cuillo, GFour Productions, and James B. Freydberg

Karen S. Kolba MD Susan Minker Pam & Mitch Nichter Ann Robinson

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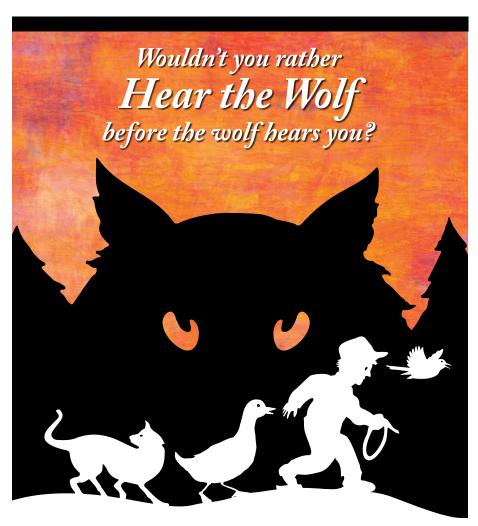
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Artistic Director's Message

Welcome to SLO REP's GALA production of Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash!

Each season SLO REP strives to bring some of the greatest performers in the country to our intimate stage in San Luis Obispo. This year, we are thrilled to welcome a group of actor/musicians who have been seen across the nation in shows like: Guys and Dolls, Million Dollar Quartet, Once, Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story, Million Dollar Christmas, The Marvelous Wonderettes, and many more. We are so lucky to have them in our community and on our stage for Ring of Fire.

Thank you so much for you support, and always remember:



"I love songs about horses, railroads, land, Judgment Day, family, hard times, whiskey,courtship,marriage, adultery, separation, murder, war, prison, rambling, damnation, home, salvation, death, pride, humor, piety, rebellion, patriotism, larceny, determination, tragedy, rowdiness, heartbreak and love. And Mother And God."

- Johnny Cash



Kevin Harris Managing Artistic Director

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Karen S. Kolba, MD

Karen S Kolba, MD retired after 35 years from her solo rheumatology practice in Santa Maria. Former dedicated canine office assistants Tango and Cricket report that they are finally getting all the attention they so richly deserve.



Susan Minker

Originally from New York, Susan has gradually (and gratefully) moved West, first to Tucson, Arizona where she was the only female partner in a group of 27 diagnostic radiologists, and then to the central coast, when she and her (now late) husband retired. Since moving here, Susan has served on the boards of the SLO Health Commission, the SLO Symphony, the SLO International Film Festival. and the Hearst Cancer Resource Center.

Susan saw her first play, the original Broadway production of *West Side Story*, when she was thirteen years old and was instantly in thrall. She acted (poorly) in college and has had minor roles in a couple of local productions (*Oklahoma!* with Chameleon Productions and *The Royal Family* with the Little Theatre). One of her only regrets in life is that she isn't a better actress. Had she been, she would have pursued acting instead of medicine as a career. Susan is thrilled that as a SLO REP board member and as a sponsor of this wonderful production of *Ring of Fire*, she is able to serve in some way to promote and support our wonderful local repertory theatre.

Susan lives in Los Osos with her two standard poodles, Benny and Coco.



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Pam and Mitch Nichter

Pam and her husband Mitch retired from their careers in the Bay Area in 2015 and relocated to the tiny town of Harmony. Both Nichters are passionate gardeners and enjoy working in their home gardens as well as volunteering time with the Master Gardeners of SLO County. Fans of live theatre, the Nichters sought a local theatre to enjoy and support, and to their delight discovered SLO REP.



A longtime board member of Berkeley Repertory

Theatre and Marin Summer Theatre, Pam joined the SLO REP board in 2017. She is honored to be part of the team helping to nurture professional theatrical productions for the entertainment and enrichment of the public, and theatre education opportunities for youth. Pam strongly believes the entertainment and storytelling aspects of live theatre can provide transformative and thought-provoking opportunities for dialog with friends, family and communities.

Ann Robinson

Ann Robinson is a former Senior Manager at Adobe Systems and has donated her time in support of several non-profit organizations since relocating to San Luis Obispo. She currently serves as president of the San Luis Obispo Land Conservancy Board of Trustees. She was a founding member of the Women's Legacy Fund at The Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County, where she served as President of the Board for two years. She is also a past Board Member of Opera San Luis Obispo and a past President of the SLO Children's Museum.

Ann, and her late husband Lou, have always believed in giving back to the community through their volunteer efforts and financial support. As dedicated supporters of the arts, they have played a critical role in building a thriving community here on the Central Coast with theatre, art and music at its core. We miss Lou's no-nonsense personality and wicked sense of humor here at 888 Morro Street, but his memory lives on in our hearts.



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Cast of Characters

Vocals, Piano, Autoharp, Rhythm Jennifer Barnaba
Male Vocals, Acoustic and Electric Guitar, Electric Bass, Cajon
Vocals, Acoustic and Electric Guitar, Electric Bass, Mandolin
Vocals, Acoustic and Electric Guitar, Electric Bass, Cajon
Vocals, Acoustic Guitar, Electric Bass, Rhythm Rachel Tietz

Creative Team

Director & Choreographer Kelly Fidopiastis
Musical Direction Steven Lasiter
Production Manager
Scenic Design Dave Linfield
Costume Design Barbara Harvey Abbott
Lighting/Sound Design Kevin Harris
Sound Engineers
Prop Design
Light Operator
Scenic ArtistLisa Langere





About the Cast



Jennifer Barnaba (Vocals, Piano, Autoharp, Rhythm) is so happy to be joining the SLO REP family for *Ring of Fire!*Jennifer is originally from Ohio, but is usually traveling the country performing. She is a huge Johnny Cash fan, and has written her own Johnny & June tribute show. Favorite credits include: *Next to Normal* (Natalie), *Into the Woods* (Cinderella), *Footloose* (Ariel), *The Addams Family* (Wednesday), *A Little Night Music* (Anne), *Hank Williams: Lost Highway, The Buddy Holly Story, Saturday Night Fever, The Marvelous Wonderettes*, and the *Million Dollar Quartet* National Tour. Much love to Steven. May the circle be unbroken!



Mike Fiore (Vocals, Acoustic and Electric Guitar, Electric Bass, Cajon) is so pleased to be back rockin' and rollin' on the SLO REP stage. A Central Coast native and graduate of PCPA - Pacific Conservatory Theatre, you may have spotted him in previous SLO REP productions or on other stages in the area. He sends his thanks to the whole SLO REP team and love to his family!



Steven Lasiter (Music Director, Vocals, Acoustic and Electric Guitar, Electric Bass, Mandolin) is overjoyed to be joining the SLO REP team and family! Hailing from Beaumont, Texas, he has been touring around the North American continent for the last 20 years performing for anyone who would care to watch and listen. Favorite roles are Johnny Cash in Million Dollar Quartet, Hank Williams, Sr. in Lost Highway, Buddy Holly in The Buddy Holly Story, and Dr. Frank N. Furter in The Rocky Horror Show. He's also so excited to share the stage again with his lovely wife, Jennifer! Enjoy the show, and let's rock and roll!

About the Cast



Matthew J. Staley (Vocals, Acoustic and Electric Guitar, Electric Bass, Cajon) is thrilled to be making his SLO REP debut. Matthew has been on national tour with Once (Eamon, Guy). Cruise Ship: Blitz/Soul of the City (Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line). Regional: Guy in Once (Red Mountain Theatre), Nikki/Norman in Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story, Joe in The Spitfire Grill (Oregon Cabaret Theatre), Carl/Elvis understudy in Million Dollar Quartet (Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre), Timestep (Broward Stage Door Theatre), Rev. Oglethorpe in Smoke on the Mountain (La Comedia Dinner Theatre), Anselmo in Man of La Mancha (The Princeton Festival). Matthew is originally from New Jersey and has a BFA from Rider University.



Rachel Tietz (Vocals, Acoustic Guitar,
Electric Bass, Rhythm) is overjoyed to be back on the SLO
REP stage! A central coast native, Rachel is a graduate of
PCPA - Pacific Conservatory Theatre, with additional
experience through Second City Chicago, The Academy of
Theatrical Combat, and more. Previous SLO REP credits
include Betty Jean in *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, Ruth
Condomine in *Blithe Spirit*, Philia in *A Funny Thing Happened*on the Way to the Forum, and Ulla in *The Producers*. She has

also had the pleasure to direct and perform in many shows at The Great American Melodrama. She has a passion for working with young artists and proudly serves as the Assistant Education Director for the Academy of Creative Theatre at SLO REP.

Ring of Fire is an almost mythic American tale about growing up dirt-poor in the heartland of America, finding love, misadventure, success, faith and redemption.

About the Authors

Richard Maltby, Jr.(Creator) includes among his Broadway credits: Conceived/directed AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' (1978 Tony, NY Drama Critics, Outer Critics and Drama Desk Awards. Also Tony Award for Best Director); FOSSE (1999 Tony, Outer Critics and Drama Desk Awards). Lyricist: MISS SAIGON (Evening Standard Award 1990, Tony Nomination for Best Score 1991). Director and co-lyricist of Andrew Lloyd Webber's SONG & DANCE, 1986 (Tony Award for star Bernadette Peters). With composer David Shire: director/lyricist BABY, 1983 (book by Sybille Pearson; seven Tony Award nominations); Lyricist: BIG, 1996 (book by John Weidman. Tony nomination: Best Score).Off-Broadway credits: director/lyricist STARTING HERE, STARTING NOW, 1977 (Grammy Award nomination); CLOSER THAN EVER, 1989 (Outer Critics Circle Awards: Best Musical, Best Score). Contributes devilish crossword puzzles to Harpers Magazine. Son of well-known orchestra leader; married to Janet Brenner; five children: Nicholas, David, Jordan, Emily and Charlotte.

William Meade (Creator) began his career as a musician. He has been a featured soloist with numerous orchestras, including the Zurich Philharmonic, Prague Philharmonic, and Jacksonville Symphony. He has produced concerts throughout the U.S. and Europe with artists ranging from Arlo Guthrie to BB Kind. Television: "The Miss America Pageant," "The Super Bowl Half Time Show," "Sex and The City," "Love Monkey," and "Sesame Street." On Broadway, he has been involved with more than 50 musicals. He is a Grammy-nominated record producer with a wide range of theatrical releases to his credit, from Hello, Dolly! With Carol Channing to Elegies by William Finn.



ACT 1 Song List

Country Boy

Straight A's In Love

In The Highways

While I've Got It

On My Mind

Five Feet High and Rising

Daddy Sang Bass

The Old Rugged Cross

Cry, Cry, Cry

Big River

I Still Miss Someone

Get Rhythm

Dirty Old Egg Sucking Dog

Angel Band

Flushed From the Bathroom of Your

Heart

If I Were A Carpenter

Ring of Fire

Jackson

ACT 2 Song List

I've Been Everywhere

Sunday Mornin' Comin'Down

All Over Again

Going to Memphis

Delia's Gone

Folsom Prison Blues

Man in Black

I Walk the Line

Waiting on the Far-Side Banks of Jordan

Why Me, Lord?

Hey, Porter

A Boy Named Sue

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Directors Notes

Growing up, my family never really listened to country music. My dad, however, was a music teacher and stressed the importance of appreciating all types of music. This prompted a family "country music tour" which inevitably led us to Nashville, Tennessee. It was there that I stood on the stage at The Grand Ole Opry and sang "You Are My Sunshine" to an empty theatre. In Memphis, we stopped by the infamous Sun Records and I imagined country music's legends walking through the doors for the first time.

Around that same time, Johnny Cash had hit a career lull. He was older and hadn't had a hit in years. To my naïve teenage self, he was "some old dude that used to be a country singer." Despite learning about Cash on our tour, I found it difficult to connect with him. I was more into jazz, pop, or musicals and didn't really care about a "washed up country music guy." That was my feeling about Johnny Cash....until the early 2000's.

In 2002, convinced by his producer and with his health failing, Johnny recorded the Nine Inch Nail's song "Hurt." His touching version of the popular song reignited his career and allowed him to connect with a new generation of listeners. Trent Reznor, who originally wrote the song is quoted as saying "I used to think the song was mine, but now it's his."

Whether you're a fan of Johnny's songs that are from his gospel roots like "In the Sweet Bye & Bye," his crossover tunes like "Jackson," his comedic songs such as "Boy Named Sue" or his later covers like "Hurt," Cash has crafted a musical connection with everyone. It stands to reason that, musically, you can't get much more All-American than Johnny Cash.

From the naïve little girl who stood on the very stage that Johnny Cash once stood on, thank you for coming today. We all hope you enjoy this musical journey through Cash's life. At the very least, we are certain that you'll each find one song that resonates with you. That's the magic of Johnny Cash.

Director's Bio



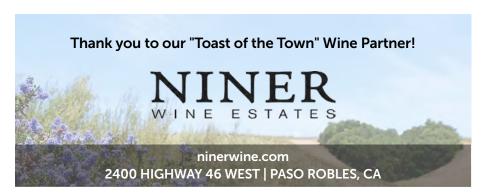
Kelly Fidopiastis is a graduate of Binghamton University (BA Theatre). A NY native, she was the Director of Dance & Performing Arts for a large YMCA. Additionally, she both performed in and choreographed many productions for various theatres. During this time, Kelly's work earned her an Outstanding Performance Award from the Theatre Advisory of New York State. Since moving to CA, she has been fortunate to work with SLO REP, The Great American Melodrama, ACT and

The Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo. Kelly has directed numerous shows for Ubu's Other Shoe Staged Readings. Most recently, her choreography was seen in SLO REP's *Xanadu* and *The Marvelous Wonderettes*. Thank you for supporting the arts!

About the Creative Team

Isabel Torres (Production Manager/Prop Design) is happy to be an ongoing part of SLO REP productions, including stage manager for *Xanadu!*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, and *A Christmas Story*. Isabel has worked in technical theatre for many years as a light and music operator, stagehand, and stage manager for shows like *Beauty & The Beast*, *The Mousetrap*, *Newsies*, *Mamma Mia*, *39 Steps*, and *Happiest Show On Earth*.

Kevin Harris (Lighting/Sound Design) received his MFA in Directing from the University of Iowa (2007), his BFA in Acting from New York University (1996), and his California Teaching Credential from Chapman University. While at NYU, he spent three years at the Atlantic Theatre Company studying acting under David Mamet, William H. Macy, and Felicity Huffman; he also spent a year at Musical Theatre Works (CAP 21) learning the finer intricacies of "jazz hands". Favorite roles at the Atlantic include The Russian (Chess), Alan Strang (Equus), Jamie (The Last Five Years), Orsino (12th Night), and Rev. Hale (The Crucible). For several years, Kevin worked as a freelance director in L.O.R.T./Equity theatres across the nation. Favorite shows: The Merry Wives of Windsor, The Comedy of Errors, The Exhibitionists, Militant Language, Woyzeck, Ghost Sonata, The Cherry Orchard, Man of la Mancha, and several original plays which have gone on to be produced at the New York Theatre Workshop, The Public Theatre, The O'Neill, Cherry Lane, and many others. From 1999-2002 he was the Artistic Director of Centerpoint Theatre Group in San Luis Obispo, CA. In 2005, he traveled to the West Bank and Gaza Strip to co-write and direct an original play with Ashtar Theatre, Palestine's only professional theatre company. The subsequent play, The Era of Whales, has been performed in Gaza, Ramallah, Nablus, Jerusalem, and several international theatre festivals. Kevin has taught at the University of Iowa, University of Chicago, and has led dozens of workshops on A Practical Handbook for the Actor across the country. Kevin feels privileged to be part of bringing live theatre to San Luis Obispo.



About the Creative Team

Barbara Harvey Abbott (Costume Designer) is excited to be joining the talented team at SLO REP this season. She's worked for theatres in California, Utah, and Indiana designing and building costumes for a wide range of shows from Sister Act to School for Scandal, and Woyzek to Beau Jest. Locally, Barbara designed for Opera SLO and Central Coast Gilbert & Sullivan and worked as a Cutter/Draper at PCPA. In addition to costuming, she enjoys raising her four young daughters and has a passion for fermenting foods and exploring the art of hand sewing and visible mending.

Dave Linfield (Scenic Design) designs nearly all of SLO REP's Mainstage productions. The theatre bug bit David in 1990 when an audition notice for a community theatre production caught his fancy. Over the years, he migrated from performing onstage to working behind the scenes, embracing technical stagecraft as his true calling. Dave's educational background in graphic design and his work experience in retail display and housing construction have blended together in distinctive ways to fuel his passion for designing and building sets.



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In Honor of Chip Visci's tireless service to SLO REP Sandi Sigurdson ϑ Steve McGrath

All donations listed have been pledged or received as of **February 1, 2023 for the 2022-23 season**.

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Marcia Scott Alaine Steuk, by Judy Stark Alaine Steuk by Judy Stark)

For more information on our Capital Campaign and how you can help build the future of live theatre on the Central Coast, please contact Director of Development, Patty Thayer at (805) 781-3889, ext. 15 or email patty@slorep.org.

Leave a Legacy of Live Theatre for the Future

Everyone can leave a legacy. Great or small, planned gifts through your financial or estate plans will ensure that the enjoyment and enrichment you've experienced at SLO REP is available to our community for years to come.

Please join us in a round of applause for these members of SLO REP's **Legacy Society** whose foresight and generosity will keep live theatre going strong in downtown San Luis Obispo for years and years to come.

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For more information about joining our Legacy Society, please contact Patty Thayer at (805) 781-3889, ext. 15 or patty@slorep.org.

*deceased

Thank you to all of these generous annual donors who made it possible for SLO REP to return to the stage this year. Thank you for making a difference. We wouldn't be here without you.

Supporting great live theatre doesn't have to be complicated! Check out these four great ways to support SLO REP:

- **Join us as an Annual Fund Donor.** Your gift supports professional live theatre and creative educational programs right here in San Luis Obispo.
- 2 Give More and Owe Less! If you're 70 ½ or older, a donation to SLO REP can count as your required minimum distribution from your IRA, plus save you money on taxes! (Please consult your tax advisor for details.)
- Host a Visiting Artist in your Home. It's a great way to get to know some very interesting artists, AND provide valuable support for the theatre. Please email kevin@slorep.org for details.
- 4 **Donor-Advised Funds.** Designate a gift from your personal or family fund. You've already enjoyed the tax benefits of your gift, now you can enjoy sharing those funds in support of live theatre.

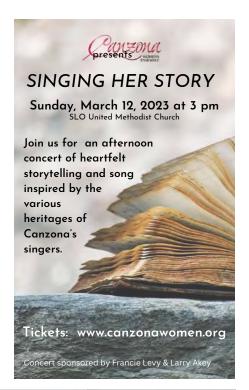


For more information about how you can join our family of supporters and support the future of live theatre in downtown San Luis Obispo, please contact Chris McBride at (805) 781-3889, ext. 16 or email chris@slorep.org.

Host Homes for Guest Artists

Got a spare room? Do you like meeting interesting people and supporting live theatre in downtown SLO? SLO REP utilizes a long-standing Host Home Program, which matches professional directors and actors with volunteer hosts for the duration of their time working at the theatre. Benefits of hosting a guest artist include complimentary tickets, acknowledgement in our playbill, invitations to special events and the chance to meet new friends and influence people!

For more information about hosting a SLO REP guest artist, please contact Kevin Harris at **kevin@slorep.org**.



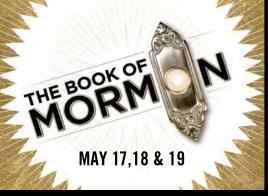








CARLA MORRISON OCT. 28





ALAN CUMMING



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Contact

Box Office: (805) 786-2440 boxoffice@slorep.org Business Office: (805) 781-3889

Box Office Hours

Wed-Fri 3 pm - 6 pm Show Saturdays 3 pm - 5 pm Will Call open 1 hour before every show

Downtown Venue Address

888 Morro Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Empleo Street Campus 3533 Empleo Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Mailing Address PO Box 122 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Board of Directors

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Rachel Tietz & Shannon Peters

Assistant Education Directors

Vincent Lemos

Education Coordinator

Penny DellaPelle Shannon Peters Amanda Thaver

Lester Wilson **ACT Teaching Artists**

Daniel Freeman Sonja Jackson

Amanda Thayer Rylee Terry Melissa Walker-Scott

Assistant House Managers

Mission

SLO REP strengthens theatre's cultural influence and enriches the Central Coast by producing professional theatre, nurturing artists and providing theatre education for children and adults.

Our Belief

Live theatre's powerful storytelling connects people in ways that open the mind, nourish the soul and illuminate our shared humanity.

To be a nationally recognized regional theatre that:

- Produces professional theatrical productions in a state-of-the-art facility.
- Strengthens the cultural vitality of the Central Coast, entertains audiences, nurtures artists, and cultivates future generations of theatre enthusiasts.
- Creates a strong and sustainable economic impact, attracting residents and visitors to downtown San Luis Obispo.

Our Commitment

Theatre plays a vital role in our culture and our community and has a responsibility to enact positive change through its work, practices, educational programs and policies. We at SLO REP are committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in all aspects of our work. To learn more about our commitment to you, our community and to ourselves, visit our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion webpage at www.slorep.org/about/diversity-and-inclusion

Land Acknowledgement: San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre acknowledges with respect that the place we work and gather is located on the traditional land of the Northern Chumash people.

SLO REP is a proud member of:





Artwork: Subplot Studio

Photos/Video: RyLo Media Design, Ryan Loyd

UP NEXT Chekhov's iconic characters and themes are thrown into a blender and mixed together with hilarious results.

MARCH 31 - APRIL 16, 2023



BY
CHRISTOPHER DURANG

The Bostrom Family

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