

SAN LUIS OBISPO

REP

**AUG 11**  
THROUGH  
**AUG 27**

# STONES IN HIS POCKETS



**BY MARIE JONES**

**Bette Kulp**  
Show Sponsor

**Susan Minker**  
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**Tom Weiss**  
Show Director Sponsor

Presented through special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing, Inc.

# Thank you to our Sponsors

*Our sponsors are the cornerstone for absolutely everything this theatre brings to our community. Their early, generous and ongoing support provides stability and the funding necessary to make professional live theatre thrive in downtown San Luis Obispo.*

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## Season Sponsors



*"The overture is about to start, You cross your fingers and hold your heart, it's curtain time and away we go, another op'nin of another show!" — COLE PORTER*

## A Message from the Managing Artistic Director

We are thrilled to begin our season by welcoming three incredible artists – Billy Breed, Jeffrey Salsbury and Lawrence Leshner – back to the SLO REP stage. Jeff and Billy last appeared here together in 2019’s wildly successful *Greater Tuna*, portraying all of the townfolk of Tuna, TX. Lawrence directed last season’s fast-paced and frenetic *Around the World in 80 Days*. Marie Jones’s *Stones in His Pockets* seemed the perfect fit for this trio of artists and we are so happy to have all three of them back at 888 Morro Street to bring this remarkable show to life on our stage.

Live Theatre is all about relationships; the connection between artists, audience members, and the community. There really is nothing else like it.

As you know, theatres across the country are facing unprecedented challenges. We have such great things planned for the next season (and beyond) as we begin preparations to move into our new building which will anchor the newly-formed Cultural Arts District in SLO. The best way that you can support this theatre as we head into this period of transition and growth: become a season or flex pass subscriber. If you enjoyed today’s performance of *Stones in His Pockets*, you can purchase a 4-show flex pass for the rest of our season and never hear the words SOLD OUT again!

Thanks for coming to the theatre today; we are so grateful for your support.

### Kevin



**Kevin Harris (Managing Artistic Director)** grew up on the Central Coast performing with many local theatre groups, including the San Luis Obispo Little Theatre. He went on to study at the Tisch School at NYU and at the Atlantic Theatre Company. He was the Artistic Director of San Luis Obispo’s first professional theatre, Centerpoint Theatre Group and the Theatre Manager of the Contemporary Art Center in New Orleans. He received his Master of Fine Arts in Directing from

the University of Iowa and worked throughout the country and in the Middle East directing and as a collaborator on original plays. He 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.



"The beginning can be anywhere along the way."  
~ Anonymous

barbara-j o s b o r n e

A R T I S T

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## Director's Note

Think of all the greatest works of literature, poetry, and drama ever written in English. Now think of how many of those were written by Irish authors: James Joyce, Oscar Wilde, Samuel Beckett, Bram Stoker, George Bernard Shaw, C.S. Lewis, etc., the list goes on forever.

How does a country with less than 1.4% of the English-speaking world manage to produce such a giant percentage of the greatest storytellers in the language?

There is seemingly something in the national character that fosters such creativity. This small island has suffered great tragedy over the centuries but from that crucible comes the great wit and searing pathos that is a hallmark of their stories.

I hope you enjoy *Stones In His Pockets* as it tells a story that is simultaneously exuberant and despondent, celebratory and haunting, acerbic and tender. Marie Jones has given us a paradox that is, in the end, a thoroughly satisfying story.

Very Irish.

Enjoy!

**Lawrence**

---

### Lawrence Leshner



**Lawrence Leshner** is an Army brat who has lived, acted in, toured, and/or directed in all 50 states and about 40 countries. He now lives a charmed life in diverse Queens. Among his directing credits are *Around the World in 80 Days* and *Rounding Third* at SLO REP. *Misery* and *39 Steps* at Millbrook Playhouse; *Tom Jones* at Florida Southern College; *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* at Ocala Civic Theatre and *Unnecessary Farce* at Theatre Winter Haven. After this, Lawrence will be guest directing *Unnecessary Farce* at Florida Southern College. Thanks to Kevin for inviting me back here!  
[www.lawrencelesher.com](http://www.lawrencelesher.com)

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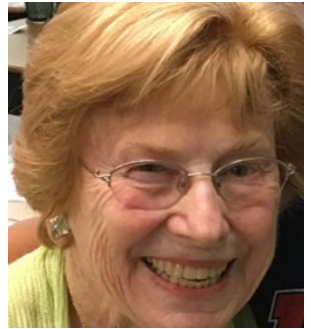
## Bette Kulp

Bette Kulp, with her late husband, Frank Little, became fans of the Little Theatre back in 1988 when they first came to San Luis Obispo and attended *The Belle of Amherst*, a one-woman performance that instantly captured their enthusiasm and support.

Both Bette and Frank sought to become involved with their new community, volunteering to deliver meals to house-bound individuals, answering questions of visitors arriving at the airport and train station. During the time that Evelyn Delaney was District 3 Supervisor, Bette served as her volunteer aide. She found her year on the County Grand Jury to be a big learning experience. Prior to COVID, Bette enjoyed volunteering at Hawthorne School, helping youth to develop and improve their reading skills.

Bette's interests include bird watching, promoting women's rights, and preservation of our pristine lands. As a 35-year member of AAUW, Bette has served as various officers, including president of both the SLO and Five Cities-Pismo branches. A charter member of the AAUW scholarship committee, she worked to incorporate the group, thus making it a 501(c)3 entity. The scholarship committee has been fortunate to host several past dress rehearsal benefit nights at SLO REP, which has augmented its funds for awarding scholarships to re-entry women at Cuesta College.

As a season subscriber, show sponsor, and Capital Campaign contributor, Bette anxiously awaits the implementation of plans for the new SLO REP theatre.



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### Susan Minker

Originally from New York, Susan has gradually 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, SLO Symphony, SLO International Film Festival, and the Hearst Cancer Resource Center.



Susan saw her first Broadway play (*West Side Story*) when she was 13 and was instantly in thrall. She acted (poorly) in college and has had minor roles in a couple of local productions over the years. 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 show sponsor, she is able to serve and support our local professional theatre.

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

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## About the Author



**Marie Jones** Born in Belfast in 1951, Marie Jones has written extensively for radio, television and the stage. She was founder member and Writer-in-Residence with Charabanc Theatre Company from 1983-1990 and went on to co-found Dubbeljoint Theatre Company in 1991. Her plays have been performed in many countries, such as the former Soviet Union, Germany, Canada, Britain and the USA. *A Night in November* won the TMA award for Best Touring Production and the Glasgow Mayfest Award. *Stones in His Pockets* was a major international success, winning the 1999 Irish Times/ESB Irish Theatre Award for Best Production and nominated for three Tony Awards. She also won the John Hewitt Award for her contribution to the cultural traditions debate, and she was awarded a Special Judges Award at the Belfast Arts Awards 2000. Marie Jones was awarded an OBE (Order of the British Empire) in 2002. She lives in Belfast and loves helping students develop and hone their skills while broadening their horizons as people and artists, it's the power of theatre. The world's a stage, enjoy it!



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## About the Creative Team

**Tyler Seiple** is an actor, director, writer, producer, and freelance voice and speech coach in the Los Angeles area. He is the founder of Accents in Action™ and a Master Teacher of Knight-Thompson Speechwork®. Tyler holds a Master of the Fine Arts from the University of California, Irvine, and is an Associate Teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework®. He currently teaches at CSU Long Beach and CSU Fullerton, and has also taught at the University of California Irvine, Chapman University, and multiple studios in L.A. His television credits include *Lucifer*, *SEAL Team*, and *Penny Dreadful: City of Angels*. His film credits include *Babylon*, *Separation Anxiety*, *Travelling Salesman*, and his award-winning shorts, *Life*, *Perfected* and *One Year Later*. An L.A. Stage Alliance Ovation-nominated actor, Tyler also produces and directs onstage around Southern California.

**Rylee Terry (Costume Designer)** is thrilled to be making her SLO REP design debut with *Stones in His Pockets*. Her recent design work includes *Working: A New Musical* and *Twelfth Night* at Cal Poly, where she studied Theatre Arts. Rylee is so grateful for this opportunity and hopes you enjoy the show!

**Breeana Fawcett (Stage Manager)** started her journey in set and event management ten years ago, working on film and television sets in North Hollywood and the L.A. area. After graduating from London's Central Saint Martins Event Management course, Bree found enjoyment in coordinating weddings across California, eventually landing with her husband on the beautiful Central Coast. She previously stage managed SLO REP's production of *ONCE*.

**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.

# STONES IN HIS POCKETS



**BY MARIE JONES**

Directed by  
**Lawrence Leshner**

Presented through special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing, Inc.

**Place:** A scenic spot near a small village in County Kerry.

## Cast (In order of appearance)

CHARLIE CONLON . . . . . Billy Breed  
JAKE QUINN . . . . . Jeffrey Salsbury

## Additional Characters

Simon (First A.D.), Aisling (Third A.D.) Mickey (a local), Clem (The Director), Sean (young local lad), Fin (Sean’s friend), Caroline Giovanni (an American star), John (Accent Coach), Brother Gerard (local teacher), Dave (movie crew member), and Jock Campbell (Caroline’s security man)

## Creative Team

DIRECTOR . . . . . Lawrence Leshner  
DIALECT COACH . . . . . Tyler Seiple  
COSTUME DESIGN . . . . . Rylee Terry  
LIGHTS AND SOUND . . . . . Kevin Harris  
SET DESIGN . . . . . Dave Linfield  
STAGE MANAGER . . . . . Breanna Fawcett  
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Bob Rice, Valerie Pallai

*Stones in His Pockets* was first performed in Belfast at the Lyric Theatre on June 3, 1999 and was staged at the Tricycle Theatre, London, in August 1999.

*Any taping, filming, recording or broadcast of this play is strictly prohibited. Please silence your cell phones.*

## About the Cast



**Billy Breed** (Charlie Conlon) is delighted to be returning to SLO REP! Audiences may remember him from last season's productions of *Red* (Mark Rothko) and *Around the World In 80 Days* (Inspector Fix). Previous SLO REP productions include *The Producers*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *The 39 Steps*, *Greater Tuna* and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged*. Locally, he has performed many times with the Great American Melodrama and PCPA - Pacific Conservatory Theatre. His regional theatre work has included Oregon Cabaret Theater, Theater at the Center/ Chicago, Royal Palm Theater, Actor's Guild of Lexington, Circa 21 Playhouse and Old Schoolhouse Theater. He has also toured Europe and Israel with The Golden Musicals of Broadway/ Scala Productions. Billy trained for the stage at the North Carolina School of the Arts and New York University. He hopes you enjoy this two-hander!



**Jeffrey Salsbury** (Jake Quinn) is excited to return to the SLO REP stage. Last season, he was in SLO REP's production of *Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike* (*Spike*). Past plays at SLO REP include *Doubt*, *Greater Tuna*, *Betrayal* (an UBU's Other Shoe Staged Reading) and *Singin' In The Rain*. Jeff has performed for the last 10 years at theatres including PCPA–Pacific Conservatory Theatre, The Great American Melodrama, The Texas Shakespeare Festival and McLeod Summer Playhouse. I love you, Shaley!



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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you have any questions about your listing, please contact Patty Thayer at [patty@slorep.org](mailto:patty@slorep.org).

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# 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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Thanks to the foresight, generosity and determination of Dr. Bernhard Singesen, SLO REP has established an endowment fund for the future of live theatre in downtown SLO. This fund will grow as we grow, providing security and future funding, ensuring that this organization continues to survive and thrive for years to come.

## Endowment Fund Donors

Pam & Mitch Nichter  
Dr. Bernhard Singesen

To find out more about how you can help build the future of SLO REP through planned giving, please contact **Patty Thayer at (805) 781-3889, ext. 15** or **patty@slorep.org**.

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## 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.

## Vision

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](http://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.

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2023-2024  
SEASON 77  
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