

SAN LUIS OBISPO

REP

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*Edward Albee's*  
**WHO'S AFRAID OF  
VIRGINIA  
WOOLF?**



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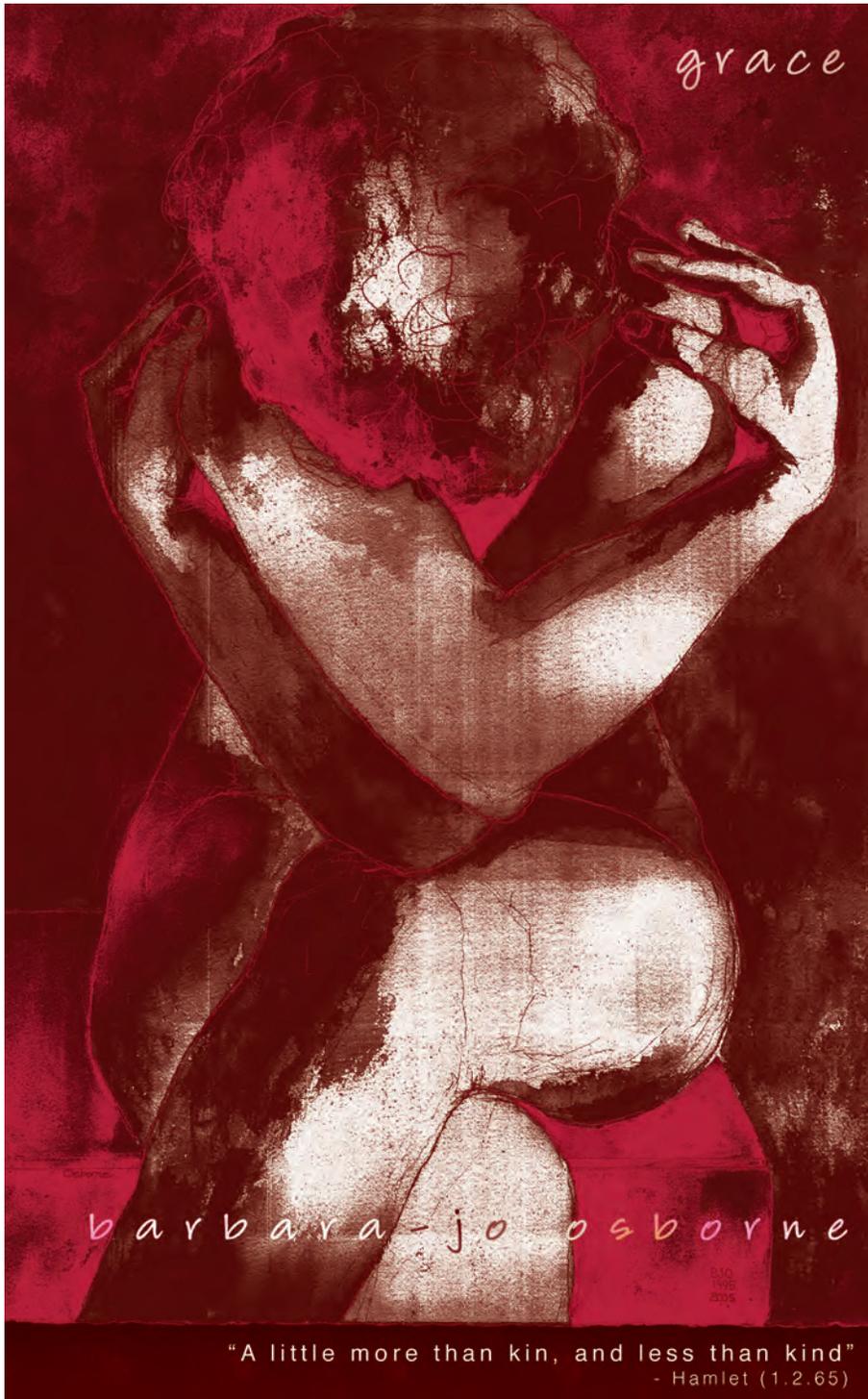
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SAN LUIS OBISPO REPERTORY THEATRE

Love Alone  
APR 17 - 18, 2026



## A Note from the Managing Artistic Director

### Some plays entertain. Some initiate.

I first saw *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* in 1993 in a cramped basement theatre in New York City. The pipes clanged overhead. The air was stale. There were eleven of us in the audience. Eleven witnesses to a marital earthquake.

I was young and certain I understood theatre.

Then Edward Albee disabused me of that notion.

This was language as sport and as weapon. The laughter felt dangerous. With so few of us in that room, there was no safe distance. Every barb landed at our feet. Every silence vibrated. It felt less like watching a play and more like being trapped at a party that had gone spectacularly wrong.

And yet beneath the gin and the games was something unmistakably human. George and Martha's cruelty is inseparable from their intimacy. They wound each other with surgical precision, fluent in every scar and soft spot the other carries. The play asks what stories we invent to survive and what happens when those stories are stripped away.

Revisiting the play now at 50, I find myself less interested in the spectacle and more attuned to the ache beneath it. What once felt like cruelty for sport now reads as desperation. Their games are rituals of survival. Their illusions are scaffolding.

Age has shifted my sympathy. I no longer watch from a safe perch. I recognize the fear of irrelevance, the panic of unmet expectation, the way love and resentment can share the same glass.

It's a privilege to bring this extraordinary play to life at SLO REP and invite you into the room. Thank you for coming today.

  
Kevin Harris



## Show Sponsors

**Jill Anderson & Steven Jobst** have lived in San Luis Obispo since the early 1980s. Jill founded and for 23 years directed Pacific Repertory Opera (now Opera SLO.) She subsequently co-founded Canzona, a local women's choral group. Steve co-founded a busy medical practice. Their son grew up here and attended local public schools before Stanford.



Jill and Steve enjoy local theatre – PCPA initially, then adding SLO REP when it became a professional theatre company a decade ago. Now they are avid supporters, not only of SLO REP but also of the capital campaign to build a new theatre building downtown.

"We have been to theatre in New York as well as more regularly in Los Angeles, La Jolla and San Diego. We delight in the theatre offerings at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland and very much see OSF as a growth model for SLO REP in its new downtown location, encompassing both a Mainstage theatre and a separate Black Box theatre. We could not be prouder or more hopeful for the future of SLO REP."

## Show Sponsors

**Pam & Mitch Nichter** retired from their careers in the Bay Area and relocated to the tiny town of Harmony in 2015. Both Nichters are passionate gardeners and enjoy working in their home gardens as well as volunteering their 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.



Pam joined the SLO REP board in 2017. In the Bay Area she was a longtime board member of Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Marin Summer Theatre. Pam is honored to be part of the theatre's board as we help nurture professional theatrical productions for the entertainment and enrichment of the public, and theatre education opportunities for youth. Pam truly believes the entertainment and storytelling aspects of live theatre can provide transformative and thought-provoking opportunities for dialog and the connection of friends, family and communities.

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share a love of theatre and are excited to sponsor *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Carol is a retired English professor at Cal Poly and taught Modern and Contemporary plays in her American literature courses. Tom is the former co-owner and president of Voler Team Apparel, a company on the Central Coast that makes cycling apparel.



Along with their dog Bunky, they love walking the Central Coast landscape and sharing it with others, especially their family who lives in Los Osos. Both find living on the Central Coast a joyful experience.

Attending SLO REP productions enriches their lives here. Carol and Tom always look forward to an evening at SLO REP and are continually impressed with the company's high quality of work.

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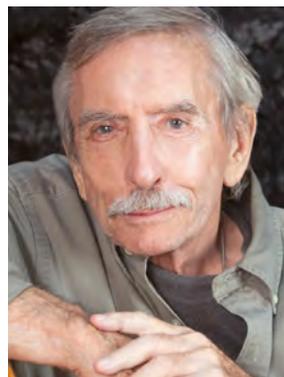
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## About the Author

Edward Albee (1928–2016) was born on March 12, 1928, and began writing plays 30 years later. His plays include *The Zoo Story* (1958), *The American Dream* (1960), *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (1961–62, Tony Award), *Tiny Alice* (1964), *A Delicate Balance* (1966, Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award), *All Over* (1971), *Seascape* (1974, Pulitzer Prize), *The Lady From Dubuque* (1977–78), *The Man Who Had Three Arms* (1981), *Finding The Sun* (1982), *Marriage Play* (1986–87), *Three Tall Women* (1991, Pulitzer Prize), *Fragments* (1993), *The Play About The Baby* (1997), *The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?* (2000, 2002, Tony Award), *Occupant* (2001), *Peter and Jerry: Act 1, Homelife; Act 2, The Zoo Story* (2004), and *Me, Myself and I* (2007).



He was a member of the Dramatists Guild Council and President of The Edward F. Albee Foundation. Mr. Albee was awarded the Gold Medal in Drama from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters in 1980, and in 1996 received the Kennedy Center Honors and the National Medal of Arts. In 2005 he was awarded the special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement.



## Dramaturg's Note

By Linnea Valdivia, Dramaturg

When *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* premiered in 1962, it burst onto the scene at a moment when American confidence was publicly triumphant and privately unravelling.

In the wake of World War II, the United States cast itself as prosperous and morally secure, even as the Cold War ushered in nuclear anxiety and fear of decline. Albee's play explores these contradictions in his most explosive living room drama. What begins as a drunken 2 am homecoming becomes a brutal dissection of the American Dream, exposing the rot beneath its shining surface.

Set in a small, elite New England university town, the play treats academia as a microcosm of the nation: hierarchical, obsessed with legacy, and desperately clinging to the myths of progress and inheritance. George and Martha's marriage becomes both personal battleground and national allegory, dramatizing struggles over power, which strict mid-century expectations around gender only intensify. Martha's aggression defies ideals of subservient femininity, while George's stalled career suggests masculine failure. Nick and Honey embody complementary gendered anxieties about virility, reproduction, and fragility, suggesting that identity is less personal choice and more of conformity to institutional demands and cultural pressure.

The play's jarring racialized jokes and Cold War references are deliberately ugly. They echo the dehumanizing language of mid-century geopolitics, when distant regions were reduced to abstract battlegrounds for American projection and control. Fitness, science, and reproduction—then promoted as measures of national strength—haunt the play's preoccupation with bodies, legacy, and futurity.

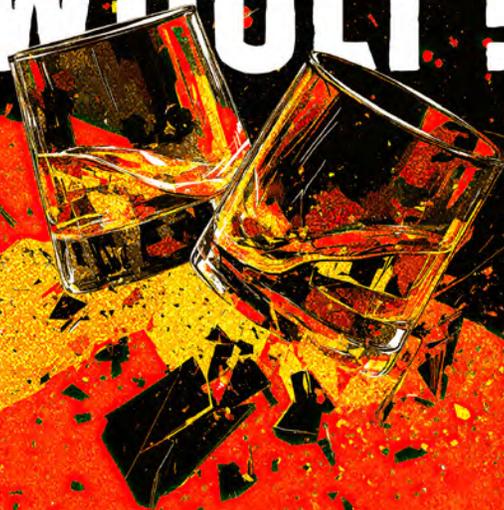
More than 60 years later, Albee's portrait of a culture clinging to illusion feels unsettlingly current. The cruelty on stage is not gratuitous; it reflects the violence embedded in systems that prize dominance, normalcy, and control.

### Original Production

Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* premiered on Broadway on October 13, 1962 at the Billy Rose Theatre and ran through May 16, 1964. Directed by Alan Schneider, the original production featured Uta Hagen (Martha), Arthur Hill (George), Melinda Dillon (Honey), and George Grizzard (Nick). The production won both the 1963 Tony Award for Best Play and the 1962–1963 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play. Uta Hagen and Arthur Hill won Tony Awards for Best Actor and Actress.



*Edward Albee's*  
**WHO'S AFRAID OF  
 VIRGINIA  
 WOOLF?**



Directed by Kevin Harris

**Cast of Characters**

Martha ..... Suzy Newman  
 George ..... Billy Breed  
 Honey ..... Carley Quintana  
 Nick ..... Michael Gould

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**Setting**

Fall 1962. The living room of a house on the campus of a small New England college.

**Act One**

Fun & Games

**Act Two**

Walpurgisnacht

**Act Three**

The Exorcism

***There will be two 10-minute intermissions***

**Production Team**

Director ..... Kevin Harris  
 Stage Manager ..... Kerry DiMaggio  
 Stage Manager ..... Carly Crow  
 Intimacy Director ..... Shae Palic  
 Fight Director ..... Peter Hadres  
 Dramaturg ..... Linnea Valdivia  
 Scenic Design ..... Dave Linfield  
 Costume Design ..... Reneé Van Niel  
 Lighting & Sound Design ..... Kevin Harris  
 Set Dressing & Props ..... Dave Linfield, Suzy Newman  
 Production Manager ..... Suzy Newman  
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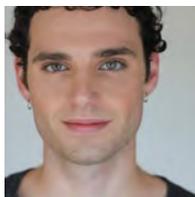
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 Please silence your cell phones.

## About the Cast

**Billy Breed (George)** is excited to be back at SLO REP, sharing this American classic with SLO audiences. Billy has appeared on the SLO REP stage in several productions including *A Christmas Story*, *I Hate Hamlet*, *Red*, *The Producers* and many more. Central Coast audiences will also recognize him for his frequent work at The Great American Melodrama and PCPA – Pacific Conservatory Theatre. He has performed in theaters throughout the U.S and toured Europe and Israel. Billy trained for the stage at the North Carolina School of the Arts, New York University and the University of Kentucky. He gives a thankful shoutout to the fantastic artistic and tech team that are bringing this powerful play to the stage. Enjoy!



**Michael Gould (Nick)** is thrilled to be making his SLO REP debut! A recent graduate of PCPA's 2 year acting program, Michael is beyond excited to be working at his hometown theater on such an incredible play. Some of his other favorite credits include John in *Holding the Man*, Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Holmes 3 in *Holmes and Watson*, Whit in *Of Mice and Men*, Bookseller/Ensemble in *Beauty and the Beast*, Captain Gower in *Henry V*, Wino & Plant Puppeteer in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Cliff understudy in *Cabaret*. Much love to his sister, Elle, his family, and friends for all their love and support!



## About the Cast

**Suzu Newman (Martha)** is delighted as hell to be back on the SLO REP stage to take this ride with you! Recent SLO REP credits: *The Cake* (Della), *What the Constitution Means to Me* (Heidi), *A Doll's House, Part 2* (Nora), *Nunense* (Sister Hubert) and director for *9 to 5: The Musical*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Suzu's last performance was in the immensely fun and challenging *50th Anniversary Spectacular* at The Great American Melodrama. She is honored and privileged to be a part of the rich artistic community in this beautiful area.



**Carley Quintana (Honey)** is a local actor and a graduate of PCPA – Pacific Conservatory Theatre. They have been seen on The Great American Melodrama stage in *Trudy and the Beast*, *Less Miserable*, *How the West Was Really Won* and the 2023 and 2025 *Holiday Extravaganza*. Carley has also performed in the PCPA Summer Fest 2018 production of *Mamma Mia!* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Carley is thrilled to be back at SLO REP after playing Kira in the 2022 production of *Xanadu*. Carley is extremely excited to take on this 'bucket list' role of Honey.



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## About the Production Team

**Kevin Harris (Director, Lighting & Sound)** 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 has led the team at SLO REP since 2008 and feels privileged to be part of bringing live theatre to San Luis Obispo.

**Kerry DiMaggio (Stage Manager)** is thrilled and honored to be stage managing for the first time! Kerry first began performing with SLO REP while attending Cal Poly for her BA in Theatre Arts. Since that time, she's performed in and directed dozens of shows on the SLO REP stage. Favorites include *Ado Annie (Oklahoma)*, *Bella (Lost in Yonkers)*, and *Violet (9 to 5 - The Musical)*, as well as directing *The Cake* and *Seussical Jr.* Kerry also serves as SLO REP's Education Director. She feels especially fortunate to be able to do her favorite thing (making theatre) alongside her talented friends and colleagues at SLO REP. Thank you to Luke for holding down the fort at home and to Kevin for letting her find her way into this project.

**Carly Crow (Stage Manager/Board Op)** is overjoyed to be back for another show at SLO REP! Most recently Carly stage managed the Ubu's Other Shoe production of *Anthropology*. She is a stage manager, actor, tech helper and an all-around lover of theater. It's been so fun helping share the wild story of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Hope you enjoy!

**Linnea Valdivia (she/they) (Dramaturg)** is a dramaturg and arts writer hailing originally from the American Midwest. Linnea received their Bachelor of Arts in English from Whitman College and their Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Theatre and Drama from Northwestern University. She has artistic credits at theaters including: the Lark, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Curious Theatre and Steppenwolf. A proud SLOcal for now half a decade, she's happy to be a part of her first SLO REP show!

**Reneé Van Niel (Costume Design)** is thrilled to return to SLO REP to work on this classic play. Previous shows at SLO REP include *Million Dollar Quartet*, *9 to 5 - The Musical*, *The Thanksgiving Play*, *The All Night Strut*, and *Steel Magnolias*, and the fabulous wigs for *Beehive*, and *The Marvelous Wonderettes*. Renee' worked as a costume and wig designer for The Great American Melodrama for many years, and prior to moving to the Central Coast, she toured throughout the U.S. with Theater League as a Costume Designer and Wardrobe Supervisor, and, when not out on the road, designed throughout the Los Angeles Area.

**Dave Linfield (Scenic Design)** has designed and built nearly all SLO REP's Mainstage productions over the past 15 years. The theatre bug bit him 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 in distinctive ways to fuel his passion for designing and building sets.



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Christine & Bob Williams  
Minke WinklerPrins  
& Pete Petersen  
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Lagomarsino Woidke  
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Robert & Patricia Anderson  
Sharon & Jeffrey Armstrong  
Ashkin Family Fund  
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Manette & Richard Boragno  
Mary Kay & Jay Bornfleth  
Shasta & Tom Brander  
Peggy & Tom Burhenn  
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Skye & Craig Christakos  
Carlyn Christianson  
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Jonathan Fellows  
Yvon & Jack Gresser

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Sally Kruger  
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Susie & Mike Miner  
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Gregory & Virginia Palmer  
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Nicole & Jay Raftery  
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Julie Rodewald  
Dana & Jenny Shaheen  
Bob & Sandy Simoni  
Jane & Steve Sinton  
Laura & Clint Slaughter  
and Family  
Susan Stern-Pearl  
Clifton & Jane Swanson  
Bert Townsend  
Susan & Craig Updegrove  
Tracie & Rick Ventura  
Laurel Adams Viola  
Suzanne Werle  
Janet Windman  
David Winett  
D. Rosh Wright  
Margo & Russ Zink

### SUPPORTING ROLES

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Odile Ayrat  
Helen Bailey & Douglas Keesey  
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Donna & Larry Coffey  
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Jayne & Steve Devencenzi  
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Gina & David Hafemeister  
Linda Halisky  
Gary & Muriel Harkins  
Mary Kay Harrington  
Kris & Craig Hendricks  
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M. Anne Spence  
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To view a complete list of donors or to make your online donation, please visit [storep.org.a-new-stage](http://storep.org.a-new-stage). For more information about donor acknowledgement and naming opportunities, please contact: Patty Thayer at (805) 592-3190 / [patty@storep.org](mailto:patty@storep.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 make a big difference. Your future gift may provide tax benefits for you or your loved ones and 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 our Legacy Society members whose foresight and generosity will keep live theatre going strong in downtown San Luis Obispo for years to come.

## Legacy Society

|                                 |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Concettina* & Allyn* Arnold     | Jeanne & Lawrence Lovelace           |
| Sharynn & Jerry Chirpich        | Catherine & Richard Luckett          |
| Jeff McKeegan & Steven deLuque  | Pam & Mitch Nichter                  |
| Kate Hines & Bryce Engstrom     | Wilda Rosene*                        |
| Ray* & Jaime Hatler*            | Gail Ryff                            |
| Brenda & Jules* Hock            | Michael & Maryellen Simkins          |
| Bernie & Ed Kurtz               | Robert Lahr* & Bruce Stuart*         |
| Lisa Langere                    | Ben* & Pat* McAdams                  |
| Amy Hart & Steven Lloyd-Moffett | William F. Mooney* & Wilbur Wooster* |

Choosing the right planned gift depends on your personal circumstances and goals. Please consult your financial advisor, then contact us about joining SLO REP's Legacy Society. Benefits include exclusive invitations to special events, priority seating for all shows with personal assistance from SLO REP staff and a listing in our playbill. If you've already included SLO REP in your future plans, please let us know. We want to honor and celebrate your generous gifts TODAY!

\*deceased

## Building the Future

Thanks to the foresight, generosity, and determination of Dr. Bernhard Singen, 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 thrive for years to come.

For more information about how you can build the future of live theatre in downtown SLO, please contact **Patty Thayer** at (805) 592-3190 or [patty@slorep.org](mailto:patty@slorep.org).

## Endowment Fund Donors

Catherine & Richard Luckett  
Pam & Mitch Nichter  
Dr. Bernhard Singen

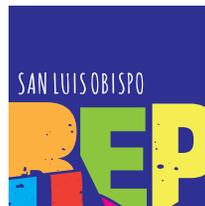
## Special Thanks

### Artist Hospitality Support

Pam & Mitch Nichter  
Ilene Brill  
Ann Robinson  
Liz Frost  
Tina & Scott Radovich

Anneka Scranton  
Ingrid & Carol Siegel  
Elizabeth Stanley Salazar & John Salazar  
Ping & Su Tsao  
Patti Westgate & Tom Wilson

For more information about hosting a SLO REP guest artist, please contact **Suzy Newman**, Production Manager at [suzy@slorep.org](mailto:suzy@slorep.org).



### Contact

Box Office: (805) 786-2440  
[boxoffice@slorep.org](mailto: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 Headquarters

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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**Diane Clausen**, Vice-President  
**Debbie Stewart**, Treasurer  
**Michael Simkins**, Secretary & Past President

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| <b>Keith George</b>    | <b>Paul Rose</b>        |
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| <b>Richard Luckett</b> | <b>Ellie Washington</b> |
| <b>Kevin Magon</b>     | <b>Jonathan York</b>    |

### Staff

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Kevin Harris</b><br>Managing Artistic Director              | <b>Rachel Tietz</b><br>Assistant Education Director  |
| <b>Kerry DiMaggio</b><br>Education Director                    | <b>Shannon Peters</b><br>Assistant Education Director & Empleo Office Manager  |
| <b>Patty Thayer</b><br>Development Director                    | <b>Katherine Appell</b><br>ACT Education Coordinator   |
| <b>Suzy Newman</b><br>Production Manager                       | <b>Lester Wilson,</b><br><b>Carolyn Peters, Carley Quintana, Vincent Lemos, Samantha Nakagaki, Danielle Durbin, Krissie Miller</b><br>ACT Teaching Artists |
| <b>Dave Linfield</b><br>Technical Director/<br>Scenic Designer | <b>Aaron Jackson, Sonya Jackson, Araceli Peralta Leyva, Abe Lincoln, Layli Veach</b><br>Assistant House Managers   |

**Brian Lampert**  
Volunteer Coordinator  
& Front of House Manager

**Carey Blauvelt**  
**Cynthia Ford**  
**Makenzie Fry**  
Box Office Staff

## 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, please visit our website at [slorep.org](http://slorep.org)

**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



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