

**A.C.T.** AMERICAN  
CONSERVATORY  
THEATER

# THE PLIANT GIRLS

BY MEGHAN BROWN  
DIRECTED BY PETER J. KUO

MAY 19-27, 2022

# WELCOME TO A.C.T.

Hello everyone, and welcome to *The Pliant Girls*!

*The Pliant Girls* features our MFA Class of 2022—twelve incredible actors who have spent most of their time here in the MFA Program navigating a pandemic, acting from home, creating digital theater, and all that entails. They have learned how to become content creators in a way that we never meant to ask of them. They have explored the frontier of digital theater and have come out stronger than we could have ever expected.

And now, in their final performance with A.C.T., they have landed on the mainstage at the Strand Theater, which they are commanding with the full force of their training and all the world has thrown at them. We're so incredibly proud, and we can't wait to see what they do next.

We are also excited to give platform to an alum of another of our Conservatory actor training programs. Before playwright Meghan Brown wrote *The Pliant Girls*, she attended our Summer Training Congress (STC) program in 2004. The STC has been on hiatus for the last two years, but we're thrilled for its return this summer. This six-week intensive is for those actors who are considering a graduate degree in theater or a performance career, and for professional actors who want exposure to new methods or to brush up on skills. Learn more (and apply!) at [act-sf.org/stc](http://act-sf.org/stc).

Last month, the Strand Theater was home to *Fefu and Her Friends*...with all three floors transformed night after night into Fefu's home and garden. We hope you were able to join us to experience this often-studied, rarely-produced masterwork by María Irene Fornés. Both *Fefu and Her Friends* and *The Pliant Girls* fill the Strand Theater with fascinating conversations about women as individuals and feminism as a societal structure. It's been so refreshing to be able to present these stories and participate in these discussions, all together and in person once again.

Thank you so much for making the choice to spend some time with A.C.T. We couldn't do what we do without you, our audience members, and we're so grateful to be welcoming you into our space again. This is your theater, San Francisco.

Warmly,



Pam MacKinnon  
Artistic Director



Jennifer Bielstein  
Executive Director



**PAM  
MACKINNON**  
Artistic Director

**JENNIFER  
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## PRESENTS

# The Pliant Girls

By Meghan Brown

Directed by Peter J. Kuo

**A.C.T. WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE  
GENEROUS SUPPORTERS OF OUR  
MFA PROGRAM:**

THE BERNARD OSHER FOUNDATION  
JEWELS OF CHARITY, INC.

# THE PLIANT GIRLS

By Meghan Brown

Directed by Peter J. Kuo

## THE CAST

**HERNÁN ANGULO**  
ALEXANDER

**ZOE CHEN**  
LETA

**EVANGELINE EDWARDS**  
COURTNEY

**GRACIE FOJTIK**  
ARIANNA

**NICHOLAS GIOVANNONI**  
KEM

**WESLEY GUIMARÃES**  
MARCUS

**MORGAN GUNTER**  
DEAN

**CASSANDRA HUNTER**  
PHILOMENA

**BREEZY LEIGH**  
VOICE/CHORUS

**JAMES WDL MERCER II**  
CLAUDE

**NICOLA RINOW**  
MOTHER/CHORUS

**MADELINE ISABEL YAGLE**  
KAY

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/  
MOVEMENT ASSOCIATE

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DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, THEATER  
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### Recording Notice

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production, or distributing recordings on any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited.

## ABOUT A.C.T.

American Conservatory Theater is an essential gathering place that brings artists and communities together to inspire and provoke. Our mission is to engage the spirit of the San Francisco Bay Area, activate stories that resonate, promote a diversity of voices and points of view, and empower theater makers and audiences to celebrate liveness. We value inclusion, transformational learning, participation, and rigorous fun.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As part of our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion at A.C.T., we are in the process of building a meaningful relationship with the local Indigenous community. As part of this we begin by honoring the lands upon which we do our work. We would be proud to offer deep gratitude to the tribal band of Ramaytush Ohlone peoples and their lands that cover Northern California and down the Pacific coastline. Prior to the arrival of the Spanish in the 1700s, the Ramaytush Ohlone numbered approximately 1500 persons, and made their life on the sacred lands. Only a few families survived and still remain. Those descendants make up the membership of the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone (ARO) today. We honor the Ohlone as a people, their resilience, and all they have done and continue to do in maintaining sacred and ancestral lands, ceremony, and communities to this day.

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# WHO'S WHO IN THE PLIANT GIRLS



**HERNÁN ANGULO (Alexander)** is excited to be performing with his classmates as an ensemble one last time before they split off and embark on their own professional and artistic journeys. Hernán graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Theater and Performance Studies in 2019 before being accepted to A.C.T.'s MFA program. Some of his recent credits include Posthumous in *Cymbeline* (A.C.T. Out Loud Series), Silvius in *As*

*You Like It*, and Raul in A.C.T. and Perseverance Theater's virtual production of *In Love and Warcraft*.

IG @hernanc.a / hernanangulo.com (he/him)



**ZOE CHEN (Leta)** is a transgender actor, activist, and educator. She is currently a third year MFA student at A.C.T. The highlights of her training at A.C.T. have been playing Jaques in *As You Like It* and Charlotte von Mahlsdorf in *I Am My Own Wife*. Before coming to A.C.T., she toured a four-person production of *The Taming of the Shrew* as part of the Shakespeare Academy at Stratford's Alumni Company. zozochen.com. (she/her)



**EVANGELINE EDWARDS (Courtney)** is excited to round out her time at A.C.T. with the role of Courtney. Previous roles at A.C.T. include Imogen in A.C.T.'s reading of *Cymbeline* (dir. Pam MacKinnon) and Kitty in Madhuri Shekhar's *In Love and Warcraft* (dir. Peter J. Kuo). Evangeline plans to move to New York City in the fall after performing as Henrietta Leavitt in *Silent Sky* at Santa Rosa Summer Rep this July. She

is eternally grateful to her teachers, family, and fellow A.C.T. classmates for supporting her growth as an actor and artist along this journey. Enjoy the show! (she/her)



**GRACIE FOJTIK (Arianna)** is about to graduate from American Conservatory Theater's Master of Fine Arts Program. Recent educational credits include *Cymbeline*, *As You Like It* (a filmed-musical adaptation), *Far Away*, and *The Moors*. Before she moved West, Gracie performed at Williamstown Theatre Company (*Community Works*), and participated in readings with Middle Voice at Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre

and Primary Stages. She is stoked to be on stage with her 11 other lads for a final lap. Much love to the class of 2022, and gratitude to the team that made this production possible. @graciefojtk graciefojtk.com (she/her)



**NICK GIOVANNONI (Kem)** is quite delighted for this experience. Regional: SPARC: *The Glass Menagerie* (Tom); The Audacity Players: *Audacity 3.0* (Trump / Ted Cruz / + others); A.C.T.: *Cymbeline* (Guiderius / Frenchman); Educational: A.C.T. MFA: *The Moors* (The Mastiff); *Sunday in the Park with George* (George); Delta Drama: *Uncle Vanya* (Vanya); *Noises Off* (Lloyd Dallas). Nick wants to

thank everyone, be it faculty, friends, and family, in his life that have helped him get thus far. They won't be forgotten. Except for those two who just keep slipping his mind... Instagram: @joe\_balogni / Facebook: Nick Giovannoni / nick-giovannoni.com (he/him)



**WESLEY GUIMARÃES (Marcus)** is an actor from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Some of his recent acting credits include *Cymbeline* (A.C.T. Mainstage), *In Love and Warcraft* (A.C.T. Mainstage), and *As You Like It* (A.C.T. MFA). This production of *The Pliant Girls* celebrates his last run with his beloved A.C.T. MFA Class of 2022. He dedicates this performance to each one of his classmates: passionate and caring individuals who

will be, without a doubt, beacons of light to the American theater from now on. This production is also the first time his mother, who's travelled all the way from Brazil to here, will be seeing him on stage. Cheers for that! Um beijo, mamãe! Te amo. IG: @ciaowes (he/him)



# WHO'S WHO IN THE PLIANT GIRLS



**MORGAN GUNTER (Dean)** feels so fortunate for this one last cherished opportunity to play with his incredible colleagues of the class of '22. Morgan's recent A.C.T. MFA credits include Orlando in *As You Like It*, Jack in *Jack and Jill*, Ernest in *Ernest and the Pale Moon*, Doug Wright in *I Am My Own Wife*, and Philario in the staged reading of *Cymbeline*. Morgan wants to thank

all his instructors, especially the indomitable Melissa Smith, for this once in a lifetime experience at A.C.T., his wife Jordyn, and children Karter and Holden, for their neverending love and support, for without it, none of this would have been possible. (he/him)



**CASSANDRA HUNTER (Philomena)** is an actor in the American Conservatory Theater's Master of Fine Arts Acting program (class of 2022). She is from New York City by way of North Carolina. Her recent credits within the program include *Bright Half Life*; *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark*; a musical adaptation film of *As You Like It*; and *In Love and Warcraft*, which was remounted for the mainstage at A.C.T. following the

success of the MFA premiere. [cassandrahunter.com](http://cassandrahunter.com) (she/her)



**BREEZY LEIGH (Voice/Chorus)** was born on December 4, 1991. She is a New Jersey native, and an actress and media personality known for BARS podcast (2017), *Baby Mama Drama* (2018), and *Step Into My Office* (2018). She will be receiving her Masters of Fine Arts degree from the American Conservatory Theater in May of 2022. (she/they)



**JAMES WDL MERCER II (Claude)** is a first generation AfroCarolinian multi hyphen griot from the Philadelphia region. Some of their recent credits have been *Fireflies*, *Cymbeline*, *Mojo*, *In Love and Warcraft*, *As You Like It*, and *Repressed: A Horror Mixtape*. They're proud to be a part of A.C.T.'s legacy and the last of Melissa Y. Smith's chosen. ALL Black lives still matter. For Akmurda & MJ. (they/them)



**NICOLA RINOW (Mother/Chorus)** is a third year MFA student. Prior to A.C.T., she lived in Chicago where she worked with the Goodman Theater, American Blues Theater, and several storefront theaters before making her way to A.C.T. Favorite A.C.T. credits include Regan in *Bachelorette*, Huldey in *The Moors*, The Bride in *Blood Wedding*, and Erica in *Bright Half Life*. She has a BA in Theater from Northwestern University. Much love

to her classmates and Jimmy. [nicolarinow.com](http://nicolarinow.com) (she/her)



**MADLINE ISABEL YAGLE (Kay)** is a soon-to-be-Philadelphia-based actress originally from Los Angeles and is psyched to be rounding out her year playing Kay with her entire MFA cohort. She previously graduated from UC Berkeley with a BA in Theater and Performance Studies and is currently a third-year MFA in the A.C.T. Conservatory. Recent acting credits include *Constellations* (A.C.T. MFA), *Mud* (A.C.T. MFA), *70*

*Scenes of Halloween* (UC Berkeley Playhouse), and *In Love and Warcraft* (A.C.T.). She was also the assistant director for *Carrie the Musical* at BearStage UC Berkeley. (she/her)

**MEGHAN BROWN (Playwright)** is an Ovation Award-winning playwright, screenwriter, VR/immersive writer, librettist, and lyricist based in Los Angeles. Full-length plays include *The Tasters*, *Psyche*, *The Fire Room*, *The Gypsy Machine*, *This Is Happening Now*, *Perfect Teeth for Crocodile Land*, and *Shine Darkly, Illyria*. She wrote the libretto for Operaworks's *The Discord Altar*, and the book and lyrics for *Emma: A New Musical* with composer Sarah Taylor Ellis, as well as the lyrics for the song cycle *Untuned Ears Hear Nothing but Discord*. Described as "a perfect theatrical moment" by Ira Glass, a 15-minute section of the show premiered at Lincoln Center as part of *In Need of Music: The Songs of Ben Toth*. *The Pliant Girls* is the winner of the 2014 Ovation Award for Playwriting for an Original Play. [meghanbrown.net](http://meghanbrown.net) (she/her)

# WHO'S WHO IN THE PLIANT GIRLS

**PETER J. KUO (Director)** is the Director of the Conservatory for A.C.T. He was born and raised in Southern California where he was a co-founder of Artists at Play, an Asian American Theatre Collective. Previously directed A.C.T. MFA productions include *Mud, In Love and Warcraft*, and *Medea*. Additionally, he was the director of the 2019 *A Christmas Carol* at the Geary, and the adaptor/director of 2020's *A Christmas Carol: On Air*. He is dedicated to disrupting the inequities of American society with the power of empathy through the creative process and presentation of theatre. He received his MFA in Directing from The New School for Drama. (he/him)

**DEANNA ZIBELLO (Scenic Designer)** (she/her) is excited to return to A.C.T. Conservatory, having designed *Passage* in early 2020. Since that time, she has been primarily focused on her work at Saint Mary's College where she is the Director of the Theatre Program. Favorite past design projects include *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train* (Azeotrope, Seattle; Gregory Award & Gypsy Rose Lee Award); *Gruesome Playground Injuries* (Azeotrope, Seattle; Gypsy Rose Lee Award); *Middle-Aged White Guys* (Open Eye Productions, Chicago; After Dark Award); *Arcadia* (Shotgun Players); *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (Town Hall Theatre); and *The Shipment, Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them*, and *Mechanics of Love* (Crowded Fire). Upcoming: *Getting There* (world premiere), New Conservatory Theatre Center, January 2023. (she/her)

**JESSIE AMOROSO (COSTUME DESIGNER)** is currently the costume director at American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) where his costume design credits include *Testament, Ah, Wilderness!, Love and Information, Underneath the Lintel, Chester Bailey, John, Vietgone*, and this season's MFA lineup. Bay Area theater design and styling credits include work at Marin Theatre Company, Center Rep, California Theatre Center, Julia Morgan Theater, Solano College Theater, Berkeley City Club, Marines Memorial Theater, Herbst Theater, and The Palace of Fine Arts. Other highlights include designing two world premieres for Brad Ericson at NCTC. At Theatre Artaud/Z Space he designed *Caligua* featuring Nancy Carlin and *Round Heeled Woman* starring Sharon Gless. Jessie is a graduate of California State University Hayward (Now CSU East Bay) and a member of United Scenic Artists local 829. In his spare time Jessie has donated many hours to Broadway Cares Equity Fights Aids and the Richmond Ermet Aid Foundation. (he/him)

**CASSIE BARNES (Lighting Designer)** is a San Francisco Bay Area Lighting Designer. Her work focuses mainly on dance productions and theatrical performances.

**CHRISTOPHER SAUCEDA (Sound Designer)** is happy to return to A.C.T.'s Conservatory, for a live show, with artists he's previously worked with online. It has been a great pleasure to create with this cast. Aside from A.C.T., he has designed sound many times for Magic Theatre. (he/him)

**ANN C. JAMES (Intimacy Choreographer)** recently made her debut as the first Black Intimacy Coordinator of Broadway for Antoinette Nwandu's *Pass Over*. She also served as Intimacy Director and Sensitivity Specialist® for the provocative Off-Broadway productions of Moises Kaufman's *Seven Deadly Sins* (Tectonic Theatre Project), *Seize the King* (Classical Theatre of Harlem), *Twilight Los Angeles: 1992* (Signature Theater), *F\*cking A* (Fordham University), and Dominique Morisseau's *Confederates* (Signature Theater). On the West Coast, Ann provides consultation and intimacy coordination for the television and film industry, most recently working with Rashida Jones, Mark Wahlberg, Issa Rae, Will Ferrell, and Cynthia Erivo. Ann has been featured as an expert voice for Theatre Communications Group, HowlRound, the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation, and Lincoln Center's Directors Lab West. Her company, Intimacy Coordinators of Color, has partnerships with Adelphi University, New York University, Columbia University, American Conservatory Theater, Brown University, Trinity Repertory Theater, and A.R.T./New York. [anncamesintimacy.com](http://anncamesintimacy.com) (she/they)

**TAHA "ENKIDU" KHAN (Stage Manager)** is a multi-disciplined theatre artist who has worked in a variety of positions, including, but not limited to, as a playwright, a lighting and projection designer, a director, a stage manager, and an artistic director. He joined A.C.T. as the Production Office Coordinator at the tail end of 2021, moving to San Francisco two weeks later. He would like to thank his friends and family for their constant support and hopes that you enjoy the show—thank you. (he/they)

**ANELISA ARMIJO MONTTOYA (Assistant Stage Manager/Props Manager)** is incredibly honored to be a new addition to the A.C.T. staff! Hailing proudly from Albuquerque, New Mexico, they moved to San Francisco in the fall of 2021. They graduated from the University of New Mexico in Spring 2020 with a BFA in Theater with focuses in acting and playwriting. Anelisa is thrilled to be part of the stage management team for this moving piece of theater. (she/they)

# WHO'S WHO IN THE PLIANT GIRLS

**SYDNEY SCHWINDT (Fight Choreographer)** is an actor and fight director. She served as the stage combat instructor at American Conservatory Theater's graduate program for the past several years and is a Resident Artist and Climate Justice Advocate with San Francisco Shakespeare Festival. Fight directing credits include American Conservatory Theater, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Livermore Shakespeare Festival, and others. Sydney earned her BFA in Acting from The Hartt School and has trained with the San Francisco Clown Conservatory, Academia dell'Arte (Arezzo, Italy), Roving Classical Commedia Company, British Academy of Stage and Screen Combat, Stage Combat Deutschland, and the Society of American Fight Directors where she holds the rank of Advanced Actor Combatant. [sydney-schwindt.com](http://sydney-schwindt.com) (she/her)

**CHRISTINE ADAIRE (Faculty Voice/Dialect Coach)** is head of voice at A.C.T. She is a Designated Master Linklater Voice Teacher, and has worked as an actor, voice coach, and director in many American regional theaters, including The Old Globe, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, the Guthrie Theater, Chicago Shakespeare, Goodman Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Court Theatre, Theatre for a New Audience (NYC), Santa Cruz Shakespeare, La Jolla Playhouse, and Shakespeare & Company. Christine has taught at DePaul University, National Theatre School of Canada, University of Massachusetts–Amherst, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, and Roosevelt University. Her current area of research and writing is gender affirming voice. (she/her)

**MĀKENA MILLER (Assistant Director/Movement Associate)** grew up in Honolulu, Hawaii. She is a proud graduate of American Conservatory Theater's MFA class of 2021. Prior to beginning her journey at A.C.T. she attended NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and in between thrived in New York as an improviser, writer, and all around silly lady! Mākena is thrilled to be returning to A.C.T. as assistant director and movement associate. Mākena is a sponge. She loves soaking up each artistic journey she's part of and it's a dream of hers to direct for theatre and film. [Makenamiller.com](http://Makenamiller.com) (she/her)

## ADDITIONAL CREDITS

BJ Bandy, *Wardrobe and Hair Manager*  
Zoe Chen, *Singing Coordinator*  
Evangeline Edwards, *Singing Coordinator*  
Nicholas Giovannoni, *Fight Captain*  
Abo Greenwald, *Set and Prop Construction*  
Nicola Rinow, *Intimacy Captain*

## SPECIAL THANKS

Meghan Brown  
Tanya Orellana



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Ms. Patricia Coffey	Sue Kubly	Kerry and Jamie Rosenblatt
Ms. Kathleen Cohen	Deborah Kurtin	Sally and Toby Rosenblatt
Mr. and Mrs. Ricky J. Curotto	Linda Kurtz	Ms. Virginia Rutenberg
Irwin and Carol Cutler	Marcia and Jim Levy	Abby and Gene Schnair
John Danforth	Nicole Lewis	Lynn Searle
Carlotta and Robert Dathe	Sue Yung Li and Dale K. Ikeda	Catharine and William Shirley
Dr. Charlotte M. Davis	John Lloyd	Mr. John Simpson
Kelly and Olive DePonte	Anna Mantell	Guinever Smith
Ms. Pat Dwyer	Mr. and Mrs. Michael R. Marron	Donna Snow
Paul Edwards	Ian Marshall	Cherie Sorokin
Mr. Paul Farley	Susan, Edward, and David Marshall	Amelia R. Stewart
Frannie Fleishhacker	The Marymor Family Fund	Ms. Liz Summerhayes
Mr. Thomas W. Flynn	Christine and Stan Mattison	Sandra and John W. Thompson
Karin and Shawn Fojtik	Frances McDormand	Edward Tillett
Nina Freeman	Mr. and Mrs. Robert McGrath	Aaron Vermut and Adriana López Vermut
Grace and James Giesel	Maureen McKibben	Eric Weiner and Natalie Standiford
Joyce and Thomas Glidden	MFA Class of 2007	Charles Whaley
Naomi Goldstein	Bob Milano and Lori Cripps	Susan Wilburn
Robin Gordon	Pamela and Wayne Miller	Tracy Wittreich
Kaatri** and Doug Grigg	Donald J. and Toni Ratner Miller	Angela Workman
Angie and Robert Halliday	Mary Ann Munro and Jon Turner	Beverly and Loring Wyllie
Lori Halverson Martin	Kevin O'Rourke	Jay Yamada
Benjamin Harrison	Bonnie Osler	William and Carol Young
Kirke and Nancy Sawyer Hasson	Curtis and Beth Overbey	Kay Yun and Andre Neumann-Loreck
Mrs. Henry Paul Hensley, in memory of Henry Paul Hensley	Brooke Pardue	
	Fredric Price and Ellen Wilson	

# A.C.T. STAFF

## **PAM MACKINNON**

*Artistic Director*

### **Artistic Director Emerita**

Carey Perloff

### **Producing Director Emeritus**

James Haire

### **Conservatory Director Emerita, in memoriam**

Melissa Smith

### **Artistic**

Andy Chan Donald\*, *Associate Artistic Director*  
Joy Meads, *Director of Dramaturgy and New Works*  
Allie Moss\*, *Literary Manager and Casting Associate*  
Ariana Johnson, *Associate Producer*

### **Commissioned Artists**

Kate Attwell, Julia Cho & Seret Scott, Eisa Davis, Aleshea Harris, Naomi Iizuka, Kate Kilbane & Dan Moses, Craig Lucas & David Zinn, Will Power, Mfoniso Udofia, Anne Washburn, Lauren Yee

### **Coaches**

Christine Adaire, *Voice and Text*  
Joel Chapman, *Music*  
Danyon Davis, *Movement*  
Daniel Feyer, *Music*  
Dave Maier, *Fights*  
Danielle O'Dea, *Fights*  
Lisa Anne Porter\*, *Voice and Text*

### **Production**

Martin Barron, *Director of Production*  
Jack Horton, *Production Manager*  
Michael Anderburg, *Conservatory Production Manager*  
Jessie Amoroso\*, *Costume Director*  
Taha Khan, *Production Office Coordinator*

### **Administration**

Jess Katz, *Executive Assistant*

### **Human Resources**

Chrystal Ellis Sweazey, *Director of Human Resources*

### **General Management**

Louisa Liska, *Director of General Management & Operations*  
Amy Dalba\*, *General Manager*  
Sam L. Wong, *Company Manager*

### **Finance**

Jim Sivori\*, *Chief Financial Officer*  
Ning Xiao, *Controller*  
Eric Law, *Senior Accountant*  
Yvonne Chen, *Staff Accountant*

### **Information Technology**

Thomas Morgan, *Director*  
Joone Pajar, *Network Administrator*

### **Operations**

Eric Brizee, *Operations and Facilities Manager*  
Jeffrey Warren, *Associate Facilities Manager*  
Leopoldo Benavente, *Assistant Facilities Manager*  
Matt Stewart, *Facilities Crew Member*

### **Development**

Caitlin A. Quinn, *Director of Development*  
Sasha Habash, *Deputy Director of Development*  
Nicole Chalas, *Associate Director of Development*  
Stephanie Swide, *Senior Manager, Development Operations*  
Hillary Bray\*, *Donor Relations and Membership Manager*  
Derek Collard, *Development Associate*

### **Marketing & Public Relations**

Adam Thurman, *Director of Marketing & Communications*  
Syche Phillips, *Deputy Director of Marketing*  
Kevin Kopjak/Prismatic Communications, *Public Relations Counsel*  
Samantha Lomax\*, *Digital Engagement Manager*  
Sarah Sugg, *Video Content Producer*  
Laura Clatterback, *Lead Visual Designer*  
Dani Karonis, *Graphic Designer*

### **Ticket Services**

Jennifer Peterian\*, *Director of Ticketing and Sales Operations*  
Jorena de Pedro, *Box Office Manager*  
Mark C. Peters, *Subscriptions Manager*  
Elizabeth Halperin, *Assistant Head Treasurer*  
Andy Alabran, *Treasurer*  
David Englemann, *Treasurer*

## **JENNIFER BIELSTEIN**

*Executive Director*

### **Audience Services**

Megan Murray, *Audience Services Manager*  
Jerry Chirip, *Audience Services Associate*  
Genevieve Pabon, *House Manager*  
Mark Saladino, *House Manager*  
Tuesday Ray, *House Manager*  
Sadie Li, *House Manager*  
Loren Lewis, *Stage Door & Security*  
Oliver Sutton, *Stage Door & Security*  
Edris Sow, *Front Door & Security*

### **Bartenders**

Ramsey Abouremeleh, Monica Amitin, Jeremy Boatman, Leigh Crow, Warren Duprey, Bernadette Fons, Anthony Hernandez, Samantha Hoffman, Jasmine Johnson, Hannibal Jones, Jessica Lim, Ben McGrath, Susan Monson, Scott Phillips, Kacey Wilson, Tygre Wolf

### **Ushers**

Susan Allen, Rodney Anderson, Felix Bishop, Serena Broussard, Philip Carberry, Nancy Chang, Alison De Vries, Kathy Dere, John Doll, Katherine Dominguez, Christine Ford, Melita Foster, Claire Gerndt, Carol Grace, Sophia Halperin, Kathleen Keeler, Ryszard Koprowski, Maria Markoff, Kescha Mason, Val Mason, Ken McKellar, Meechi McKellar, Sam Mesinger, Kathy Napoleone, Mary O'Connell, Melissa Stern, Christopher Willers, May Yasui, June Yee, Sharon Lee

### **Education & Community Programs**

Juan Manzo, *Director of Education & Community Programs*  
Shannon R. Davis, *Director of Community Connections*  
Natalie Greene, *School Programs Manager*  
Alejandra Maria Rivas\*, *Conservatory and School & Community Programs Coordinator*  
Elizabeth Halperin, *Student Matinee Coordinator*

### **Teaching Artists**

Andy Alabran, Fran Astorga, Reyna Brown, Callie Floor, Paul Flores, Sierra Gonzalez, Lauren Kivowitz, Brennan Pickman-Thoon, Radhika Rao, Annie Rovzar, Kimiya Shokri, Adam Sussman

### **Conservatory**

Peter J. Kuo\*, *Director of the Conservatory*  
Christopher Herold, *Director of Summer Training Congress*  
Jack Sharrar, PhD, *Director of Academic Affairs*  
Jerry Lopez, *Director of Financial Aid*  
Charlotte Brockman, *Conservatory Manager*  
Alejandra Maria Rivas\*, *Conservatory and School & Community Programs Coordinator*

### **Master of Fine Arts Program Core Faculty**

Danyon Davis, *Director of the MFA, Head of Movement*  
Christine Adaire, *Head of Voice*  
Peter J. Kuo\*, *Collaboration Building*  
Joy Meads, *Character and Text*  
Lisa Anne Porter\*, *Head of Acting*  
Jack Sharrar, PhD, *Theater History*

### **MFA Program Adjunct Faculty**

Milissa Carey, *Singing, Director*  
Matt Chapman, *Clowning*  
Richard Dent, *Play Intensive*  
Andy Chan Donald, *Arts Leadership*  
Julie Douglas, *Beginning Mask*  
Lauren English, *The Business of Acting*  
Daniel Feyer, *Accompanist*  
Janet Foster, *Audition*  
Anthony Fusco, *Acting*  
Jasmin Hoo, *Citizen Artistry*  
Mark Jackson, *Performance Making*  
Darryl Jones, *Acting, Director*  
W. D. Keith, *On-Camera Acting*  
Philip Charles MacKenzie, *On-Camera Acting*  
Heidi Marshall, *On-Camera Acting*  
Hope Mohr, *Dance*  
Danielle O'Dea, *Combat*  
Kari Prindl, *Alexander Technique*  
Gabriel Romero, *Latin Social Dance*  
Lindsay Saier, *Stage Makeup*  
Virginia Scott, *Clowning*  
Elyse Shafarman, *Alexander Technique*  
Lee Strawn, *Singing*  
Lisa Townsend, *Director, Choreographer*  
Brian Thorstenson, *The Actor Writes*

### **Library**

Joseph Tally\*, *Head Librarian*

### **Library Volunteers**

G. David Anderson, Theresa Bell, Laurie Bernstein, Helen Jean Bowie, Bruce Carlton, Barbara Cohrssen, William Goldstein, Pat Hunter, Connie Ikert, Ashok Katdare, Martha Kessler, Nelda Kilguss, Barbara Kornstein, Gail McGown, Vineet Mishra, Lynnnda Means, Maida Paxton, Connie Pelkey, Christine Peterson, Dana Rees, Roger Silver, Jane Taber, Aileen Thong, Susan Torres, Joyce Weisman, Jean Wilcox, Marie Wood

### **Studio A.C.T.**

Mark Jackson, *Director of Studio A.C.T.*  
Sophia Nguyen, *Young Conservatory & Studio A.C.T. Programs Manager*  
Liz Anderson  
Heidi Carlsen  
Frances Epsen-Devlin  
Deb Fink  
Paul Finocchiario  
Margo Hall  
Maya Herbsman  
William Thomas Hodgson  
Mark Jackson  
Drew Khalouf  
Peter J. Kuo  
Carolina Morones  
Thaddeus Pinkston  
Mark Rafael  
Radhika Rao  
Kate E. Ryan  
Fumi Sasa  
Chauntee' Schuler Irving  
Elyse Shafarman, MA  
Dee Dee Stephens  
Mia Tagano  
Jomar Tagatac  
Laura Wayth  
Valerie Weak

### **Young Conservatory**

Jill MacLean, *Craig Slight Director of the Young Conservatory*  
Sophia Nguyen, *Young Conservatory & Studio A.C.T. Programs Manager*  
Emily Cooper, *Young Conservatory Administrative Assistant*  
Andy Alabran, *Acting, Voice & Dialect*  
Robert Allen, *Accompanist*  
Kimberly Braun, *Musical Theater*  
Janel Chanté, *Musical Theater, Acting*  
Meredith Joelle Charlson, *Dance/Choreographer*  
Allison Gamlen, *Cabaret*  
Nancy Gold, *Physical Character, Acting*  
Lore Gonzales, *Acting, Improvisation*  
Michael Mohammed, *Musical Theater*  
Andrew Mondello, *Musical Theater, Acting*  
Dario Johnson, *Musical Theater, Voice, Cabaret*  
Brennan Pickman Thoon, *On-Camera, Acting*  
Thaddeus Pinkston, *Accompanist, Musical Arranger*  
Salim Razawi, *Acting, On-Camera, Musical Theater*  
Ely Sonny Orquiza, *Acting, Devised Theater*  
Kimiya Shokri, *Acting, Devised Theater*  
Valerie Weak, *Acting, Shakespeare, College Prep*  
Krista Wigle, *Musical Theater, Voice*

### **Conservatory Accompanists**

Daniel Feyer, Paul McCurdy, Thaddeus Pinkston, Naomi Sanchez, Katelyn Tan

### **San Francisco Semester**

Mark Jackson, Michael Mohammed, Patrick Russell  
Jack Sharrar, Dee Dee Stephens, Mia Tagano

### **Professional Development**

Dillon Heape, Ben Quinn, Mark Rafael, Radhika Rao, Katie Rubin, Domenique Salerno

\*denotes a member of the Staff EDI Committee

A.C.T. is a constituent of Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for the nonprofit professional theater.

A.C.T. is a member of Theatre Bay Area, the Union Square Association, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, and the San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau.



# A.C.T. PROFILES



## **PAM MACKINNON**

**(A.C.T. Artistic Director)** is in her fourth season as A.C.T.'s fourth artistic director. She is a Tony, Drama Desk, and Obie award-winning director, having directed upwards of 75 productions around the country, off Broadway, and on Broadway. Her Broadway credits

include Beau Willimon's *The Parisian Woman* (with Uma Thurman), David Mamet's *China Doll* (with Al Pacino), Wendy Wasserstein's *The Heidi Chronicles* (with Elisabeth Moss), Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* (with Glenn Close and John Lithgow), Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia*

*Wolf?*, and Bruce Norris's *Clybourne Park*. Her most recent credits include world premieres of Bruce Norris's *Downstate* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company, London's National Theatre), Lydia R. Diamond's *Toni Stone* (Roundabout Theatre Company, A.C.T., and Arena Stage), Kate Attwell's *Testmatch* (A.C.T.), Edward Albee's *Seascape* (A.C.T.), and Christopher Chen's *Communion* (A.C.T.). She has been recognized as among the 25 Most Influential San Franciscans of 2020 by *San Francisco Magazine*, along with Jennifer Bielstein. Pam is the most recent past president of SDC, the national union representing stage directors and choreographers, and remains on their board. (she/her)



## **JENNIFER BIELSTEIN (Executive Director)**

joined A.C.T. in 2018. She serves on the board of Theatre Forward, is a member of the International Women's Forum and the Advance SF Advisory Panel, was part of Mayor Breed's Economic Recovery Task Force, and is the

immediate past-president of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT)—an organization that represents 76 theaters nationwide—having previously served as LORT's vice president; chair of its Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee; secretary; and on multiple union negotiating teams. She has been recognized as among the 25 Most Influential San Franciscans of 2020 by *San Francisco Magazine*, along with Pam MacKinnon, and as one of the Most Influential Women in Bay Area Business by the *San Francisco Business Times* in 2021. Before relocating to the Bay Area, Bielstein was the managing director of the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, managing director of

Actors Theatre of Louisville, and executive director of Writers Theatre in Chicago. She has also worked for Steppenwolf Theatre Company, About Face Theatre, Northlight Theatre, and the Lincoln Park Zoo, as well as served on the boards of the League of Chicago Theatres, the Arts and Cultural Attractions Council, and other civic boards. She has received the Center for Nonprofit Excellence's Pyramid Award of Excellence in Leadership, has been recognized as one of *Louisville's Business First's 40 Under 40*, was named by *Twin Cities Business* as a Person to Know, and a *Minnesota Business* magazine Real Power 50 member. Bielstein is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, attended Stanford's Graduate School of Business Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders in the Arts, and received an MBA from Bellarmine University, where she received the MBA Faculty Merit Award, was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, the honor society for business programs and in 2021 was recognized as a Distinguished Alumna. (she/her)

# ABOUT THE STRAND THEATER

## MAILING ADDRESS

415 Geary St  
San Francisco, CA 94102

ONLINE: [act-sf.org](http://act-sf.org)

## ADMINISTRATIVE/CONSERVATORY OFFICES

30 Grant Ave, 7th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94108

## BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

### A.C.T. BOX OFFICE

Address: 405 Geary Street and  
1127 Market Street

Tel: 415.749.2228

Visit our website for hours of operation

## SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION DISCOUNTS

Full-time students, educators, and administrators save up to 50% off season subscriptions with valid ID. Visit [act-sf.org/educate](http://act-sf.org/educate) for details.

## GROUP DISCOUNTS

Groups of 10 or more save 20%! For more information contact [groups@act-sf.org](mailto:groups@act-sf.org) or 415.749.2228.

## AT THE THEATER

The Strand lobby opens one hour before curtain. The theater opens 30 minutes before curtain.

## REFRESHMENTS

Visit our bar located in the main lobby for drinks and snacks.

## PHOTOGRAPHY & RECORDING

Audience members may take photos in the theater before and after the performance and during intermission. If you post photos on social media or elsewhere, please include the designer names listed on the lobby board. Please note: Photos are strictly prohibited during the performance. Video recording is not permitted in the theater at any time.

## CELL PHONES

If you carry a pager, beeper, cell phone, or watch with alarm, please make sure that it is set to the "off" position while you are in the theater. Text messaging during the performance is very disruptive and not allowed.

## PERFUMES

The chemicals found in perfumes, colognes, and scented aftershave lotions, even in small amounts, can cause severe physical reactions in some individuals. As a courtesy to fellow patrons, please avoid the use of these products when you attend the theater.

## LATECOMERS

A.C.T. performances begin on time. Latecomers will be seated before the first intermission only if there is an appropriate interval.

## LISTENING SYSTEMS

Headsets designed to provide clear, amplified sound anywhere in the auditorium are available free of charge in the lobby before performances. Please turn off your hearing aid when using an A.C.T. headset, as it will react to the sound system and make a disruptive noise.

## AFFILIATIONS

A.C.T. is a constituent of Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for the nonprofit professional theater. A.C.T. is a member of Theatre Bay Area, the Union Square Association, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, and the San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau.



A.C.T. operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.



The Director is a member of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.



The scenic, costume, lighting, and sound designers in LORT theaters are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.



The scenic shop, prop shop, and stage crew are represented by Local 16 of the IATSE.



A.C.T. is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.



A.C.T. is supported in part by a grant from Grants for the Arts.

## RESTROOMS

Restrooms are located on the basement level; on the ground floor (two ADA toilets behind the box office); and toward the back of the upper orchestra, on mezzanine 2. Gender diversity is welcome at A.C.T. We invite audiences to use the restroom that best fits your gender identity. If preferred, single-user restrooms can be found at the rear of the lobby.



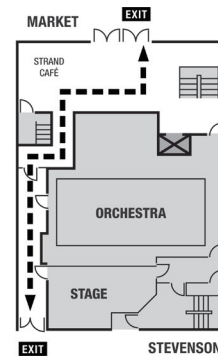
Wheelchair Seating is located at the main cross aisle on the orchestra level, at Box A on the orchestra level, and in the mezzanine.

An **Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)** is available in the house management closet in the lobby of the Geary.

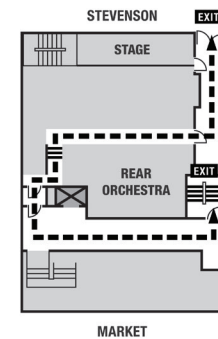
## LOST AND FOUND

If you've misplaced an item while you're still at the theater, please look for it at the merchandise stand in the lobby. Any items found by ushers will be taken there. If you've left the theater, please call 415.439.2471 and we'll be happy to check our lost and found for you. Please be prepared with the date you attended the performance and your seat location.

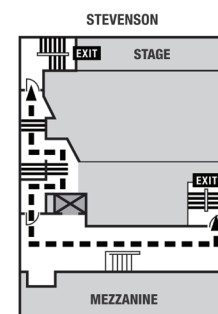
## STRAND THEATER EXITS



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M1



M2

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER

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## PASSENGERS

From The 7 Fingers  
Original Idea, Direction, and Choreography by Shana Carroll

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## ON BECKETT

Conceived and Performed by Bill Irwin  
One week only!

OCT 19-23, 2022 | GEARY THEATER

## A CHRISTMAS CAROL

By Charles Dickens  
Adapted by Carey Perloff and Paul Walsh  
Music by Paul Lundeberg  
Choreography by Val Caniparoli  
Directed by Peter J. Kuo  
Based on the original direction by Carey Perloff

NOV 30-DEC 24, 2022 | GEARY THEATER

## THE HEADLANDS

By Christopher Chen  
Directed by Pam MacKinnon

FEB 9-MAR 5, 2023 | GEARY THEATER

## POOR YELLA REDNECKS VIETGONE 2

By Qui Nguyen  
Directed by Jaime Castañeda

MAR 30-MAY 7, 2023 | STRAND THEATER

## THE WIZARD OF OZ

By L. Frank Baum  
With Music and Lyrics by Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg  
Background Music by Herbert Stothart  
Dance and Vocal Arrangements by Peter Howard  
Orchestration by Larry Wilcox  
Adapted by John Kane for the Royal Shakespeare Company  
Based upon the Classic Motion Picture owned by  
Turner Entertainment Co. and distributed in all  
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Directed and Choreographed by Sam Pinkleton

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A World-Premiere Musical

## SOULTRAIN

By Dominique Morisseau | Choreographed by Camille A. Brown | Directed by Kamilah Forbes  
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The O'Jays, Sister Sledge, Stevie Wonder, and more.

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