



THE CODE

By The Kilbanes
Directed by Jessica Holt

A.C.T. AMERICAN
CONSERVATORY
THEATER

YC YOUNG
CONSERVATORY

AUG 4-7, 2022

THE STRAND THEATER

WELCOME TO A.C.T.'S YOUNG CONSERVATORY

The Code marks the Young Conservatory's 55th commissioned work since 1990, and I am extremely proud to build on the legacy of our YC New Plays Program. Hiring professional artists to create complex and relevant work specifically for younger actors is essential if we want the theater canon to be representative of our world, and to engage a new generation. And the importance of welcoming younger artists to witness this process firsthand can't be overstated: involving student actors directly in the creation of new works demystifies the process, removes barriers, and empowers them to think critically about the kind of work they want to do, and how they want to do it—something our characters in *The Code* are also discovering.

As one student actor shared with me recently, "Being quite young and getting to experience adult professional working artists collaborating, changing, and developing this piece is incredibly valuable not only as an actor but it creates a lasting example of what a healthy and safe working environment can look like." This is a tribute to the warmth, patience, vulnerability, and leadership demonstrated by The Kilbanes, Jessica Holt, and the entire team of *The Code*. Thank you to all of the artists, actors, staff, crew and families who have made this production possible. We invite you to join the students of Valhalla Academy as we proudly say—at long last—"welcome back, and enjoy the show!"

Jill MacLean



Young Conservatory Director

Three and a half years ago, I sat down for the first time with the brilliant writing team Kate Kilbane and Dan Moses—the duo that is The Kilbanes—to listen to their initial hunches and dreams for the new musical A.C.T. Young Conservatory had recently commissioned them to write. They had just come off the heels of several sessions interviewing then-current YC students, asking the students questions about what mattered to them, what challenged them, and what they wished for. The students talked about their frustrations about the imperative to be excellent in all things, the pressures to succeed, and the directive to check every box in order to fit into the box of the perfect student.

Kate and Dan also shared they had recently read the book *Excellent Sheep* by William Deresiewicz, which argues that the contemporary educational system "manufactures students who are smart and talented and driven . . . but also anxious, timid, and lost, with little intellectual curiosity and a stunted sense of purpose . . . great at what they're doing but with no idea why they're doing it." This book and their conversations with the students made The Kilbanes yearn for a different kind of educational system, one that prioritized learning for learning's sake and encouraged students to follow their curiosity and awaken their true passions. Who would our students be if their schools had those kinds of value systems?

And Kate shared about her research on Berea College, the Kentucky college founded by abolitionists in 1855 that was the first non-segregated, coeducational college in the South, a rare early example of an education model that created a school for all, and offered a utopic vision of a purpose-driven education. Who would our students be if their schools created more authentic inclusion and access for all?

These questions birthed *The Code*, this electrifying new musical with a mystery at the heart of it, that envisions a diverse and inclusive world where young people are inspired to listen to the power of their own voices and ask themselves what they want to do.

This production was slated to have been produced two years ago, but as we all know, 2020 had other plans for us all. There have been so many incredibly hard things we have dealt with due to Covid, but one unexpected win was the gift of more time to develop this sprawling epic. New musicals take time. They are big and unwieldy (I like to joke that *The Code* is *The Breakfast Club* meets Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* meets *Spring Awakening*; I am only half-kidding). I am so grateful to A.C.T. for continuing to support *The Code* over the last two years, and continuing to find the resources for us to further develop this special story. The musical has benefited from this additional development time, and now, I'm so thrilled that you are here as we finally put this new musical "on its feet" and begin to discover how it lives and breathes on the stage *for the very first time*. Thank you for joining us. We can't wait to hear how it resonates with you.

Jessica Holt



The Code director

ABOUT THE YOUNG CONSERVATORY

A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory is a school of training and an artistic company of young artists ages 8–19. With year-round classes and multiple productions every season, the YC aims to help students grades 3–12 develop their character, confidence, and skills to succeed both on and offstage.

A.C.T.'S YOUNG CONSERVATORY *PRESENTS*

THE CODE

By

THE KILBANES

Directed by

JESSICA HOLT

THE CAST

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

BRIDGETTE BARFIELD	ENSEMBLE
CAITLIN DEVENNEY	VERA
ELIZABETH JONES	ANGELINA FEE
KAMORA JOSEPH	LILLIAN
ELLIE LAUTER	ROSE
KAHLIL LENEUS	ANTHONY
BLAKE LEVINSON	BRENNAN
ISA LOPEZ	ENSEMBLE
BELLA MCLAUGHLIN	ENSEMBLE
REBECCA PINGREE	BRIDGET POTTER
SIDNEY PIPPIN	ENSEMBLE
JIMMY RUSSI	RYAN
JANELLE SORIANO	DOROTHY
SAMORA STEPHENS	ENSEMBLE
GEMMA STRAUSS	KAILYNN
ASAL TAKESH	TATTIANA
RHEA VERGHESE	NESTA
MADELEINE WEISS	ARIA
ISABELLA YEE	ENSEMBLE

ADDITIONAL CREDITS

MUSIC DIRECTOR JULIE WOLF	DRAMATURG JOY MEADS
CHOREOGRAPHER JENNIFER HARRISON NEWMAN	ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR NIKKI MEÑEZ
SCENIC DESIGN HEATHER KENYON	ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER NIGEL BOLTON
COSTUME DESIGN JESSIE AMOROSO	PROPS MANAGER JANICE GARTIN
LIGHTING DESIGN STEPHANIE ANNE JOHNSON	STAGE MANAGER ALEXA BURN
SOUND DESIGN JAMES ARD	ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER ALYX ENANORIA

BAND

MUSIC DIRECTOR	JULIE WOLF
KEYBOARDS	DAN MOSES
GUITAR	JOSH POLLOCK
BASS	ANDREW HIGGINS
DRUMS	JASON SLOTA

A.C.T. YOUNG CONSERVATORY PRODUCING TEAM & STAFF

YOUNG CONSERVATORY DIRECTOR	JILL MACLEAN	YOUNG CONSERVATORY AND STUDIO A.C.T. ASSOCIATE PROGRAMS MANAGER	EMILY COOPER
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER	ARIANA JOHNSON	YOUNG CONSERVATORY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	JUSTIN P. LOPEZ
CONSERVATORY PRODUCTION MANAGER	MIKE ANDERBURG		

THE CODE was commissioned and developed at A.C.T.

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.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

“Valhalla Anthem”
“Hide and Seek”
“Holy Ground”
“Up All Night”
“Feel You There”
“Speak To Me”
“Ripple In The Water”
“Air I Breathe”

ACT II

“Perfect Life”
“Same Stars”
“Same Walls”
“Inside This House” (“Holy Ground” reprise)
“Only One”
“Air I Breathe” reprise
“Feel You There” reprise
“Trust”
“Speak to Me” reprise
“Vows”
“Valhalla Anthem”

SPECIAL THANKS

The YC would like to thank Jay Yamada, photographer, and Papu for the blackboard!

RECOGNITION

The Code is made possible by Production Sponsors Ashley and Paul Dalzell and the Theatre Forward Making Music Program sponsored by The Augustine Foundation.

A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory is made possible, in part, by generous support from The Bernard Osher Foundation, Bill Graham Memorial Foundation, and Jewels of Charity, Inc.

A.C.T. gratefully acknowledges our Season Presenters and Company Sponsors.

Season Presenters

Barbara Bass Bakar; Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson; Kathleen Donohue and David Sze; Priscilla and Keith Geeslin; Michael P. N. A. Hormel, in loving memory of James C. Hormel; Kenneth and Gisele Miller; Barbara Ravizza and John S. Osterweis; Toni Rembe and Arthur Rock; Robina Riccitiello; Mary and Steven Swig.

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Want to Become More Involved?

If you are interested in learning ways to support and promote the Young Conservatory—including joining the Friends of the YC—please contact Deputy Director of Development Sasha Habash at shabash@act-sf.org.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE LAND

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.

WHO'S WHO

The Kilbanes (Writer/Composer Team) are Kate and Dan, a married songwriting and performing duo. Their works for theater include *Weightless* (WP Theater September 2022, A.C.T., Public Theater's Under the Radar, Z Space SF) and *Eddie the Marvelous Who Will Save the World* (O'Neill National Music Theater Conference, Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor). They recently received the Next Generation Commission from Theater Latte Da in Minneapolis, with Jessie Austrian and Noah Brody of Fiasco Theater. They have performed their work in theaters and clubs throughout the United States and have been finalists for the Glickman Award and the Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards.

Jessica Holt (Director) is a director, educator, and experience creator who has directed and developed work at A.C.T., Ensemble Studio Theatre, Alliance Theatre, Berkeley Rep, Barrington Stage Company, Virginia Stage Company, Magic Theatre, Florida Studio Theatre, San Francisco Playhouse, Cape Cod Theatre Project, Rivendell Theatre, & BAPF, among others. She has directed and taught at schools and conservatories including A.C.T., Maggie Flanigan Studio, American Academy of Dramatic Art, The Studio/NYC, Fordham University, UC Berkeley, New Conservatory Theatre Center, and Stanford University. Most recently, she co-wrote and directed a site-specific immersive fictional walking tour for En Garde Arts in lower Manhattan. Fellowships and residencies: 2016-17 National Director's Fellowship (O'Neill, NNPN, the Kennedy Center, and SDCF); Yale Directing Fellowship (Alliance Theatre). MFA, Directing: Yale School of Drama. Proud member: SDC, Ring of Keys, and Wingspace. Up next: *The Great Leap* (OKCRep) jessicaholt.org (she/her)



Bridgette Barfield (Ensemble) graduated from high school in May. She has been active in the Bay Area theater community

since elementary school, performing with Tomorrow Youth Repertory, the Berkeley Playhouse, and the Pacific Boychoir Academy. Some of her favorite past roles include Hope in *Urinetown* and Grizabella in *Cats*. While she has studied at A.C.T., this is her first production with the company. Bridgette also enjoys classical voice and writing fiction. She is looking forward to embarking on her performance career full-time now that she is done with school.



Caitlin Devenney (Vera) is an active member of the A.C.T. YC Cabaret Program and has performed in many musicals and plays

throughout the Bay Area. She is a senior in high school and is excited to pursue a degree in theater with an emphasis on musical theater at UCLA in the fall.



Elizabeth Jones (Angelina Fee) is ecstatic to be making her debut with A.C.T.! She is incredibly humbled and honored to embody

Angelina and bring her fascinating

story to life. Elizabeth grew up in the Bay Area and is a graduate of Howard University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Arts. Elizabeth was recently seen as Claudette in Theatre Rhino's *How Black Mothers Say I Love You*, Nancy/Boz in *A Christmas Carol* (Center REP), Radio in *Caroline, or Change* (Ray of Light), and Motormouth Maybelle in Bay Area Musical's production of *Hairspray*. Some other theater credits include Lady O in *The Right Note* (Spare Stage), Darlene in *Dance of The Holy Ghosts* (Ubuntu Theater Project), Deloris Van Cartier in *Sister Act!* (Berkeley Playhouse), and Ronnette in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Contra Costa Musical Theatre). Elizabeth sends love to her daughter Caira and thanks God, family, and friends for their support. IG @elizasenoj.



Kamora Joseph (Lillian) is a San Francisco native. She studied acting at Ruth Asawa School of the Arts and has recently moved to New

York to study musical theater. She was a finalist in the regional Shakespeare competition and has published a short play as well. Kamora was last seen at A.C.T. in the YC's production of *Into the Woods* as the Baker's Wife. She is grateful to be doing live theater again and is especially excited to originate the role of Lillian. She hopes to create an amazing experience for her family and supporters. @Kamoraisartsy



Ellie Lauter (Rose) has been a part of A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory since 2014, performing in *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel), *A Christmas*

Carol, and the High School Cabaret program. Ellie also performs in community theater in her area, including Stapleton Theatre's *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle) and *The Sound of Music* (Liesl). Ellie takes voice lessons with Kayla Gold and dance training from Happy Feet Dance School and Marissa Joy Ganz. Recently finishing high school, she is so excited to have the opportunity to perform in another A.C.T. production before leaving for college to study theater.



Kahlil Leneus (Anthony) is excited to be a part of *The Code*. Past projects include *Merrily We Roll Along* (Charles) and *Rent* (Collins) at Youth

Musical Theater Company, *Into the Woods* (Cinderella's Prince) at A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory, *Les Misérables* (Jean Valjean) and *A Chorus Line* (Zach) at Berkeley Playhouse Teenstage. Other credits include *The Amen Corner* at AlterTheater, *The Gathering* (Michael) with Jones Street Productions, *Queenie Pie* with Oakland Opera Theater, *Caroline, or Change* (Joe) at Pacific Conservatory Theatre, *Show Boat* at San Francisco Opera and writing and performing the monologue "6 Steps on How to Crack a Relationship (Quarantine Edition)" for Neighborhood Stories.



Blake Levinson (Brennan) is an incoming sophomore at Temple University studying musical theater. Past roles include

Ernst (*Spring Awakening*), Mark Cohen (*Rent*), and the Baker (*Into the Woods*). This is Blake's third Strand theater production, including *Homefront* and *Into the Woods*. Blake has been a part of *The Code* workshops since its inception at A.C.T. and is elated to come back to the project, as well as be back home working in San Francisco!



Isa Lopez (Ensemble) is beyond excited to be joining *The Code* and A.C.T. company! Her recent credits include

Language of Angels, *Twelfth Night*, and *Xanadu* with Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School. She has also contributed to a student written play, *The Diner*. In the fall, she will be attending Marymount Manhattan College to pursue a BA in theater arts. She would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her through thick and thin. She would also like to thank Lauren Rosi for being her greatest teacher and guiding her to be the performer she is today.



Bella McLaughlin (Ensemble) is a 15-year-old from San Francisco. She enjoys improv, music, and fashion. She is very happy and excited to be in this show.



Rebecca Pingree (Bridget Potter) recently appeared as the Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods* with

Berkeley Playhouse, as Paulina in Jenn LeBlanc's *Winter's Passage*, and Helga in Diane Samuel's *Kindertransport* at SPARC. She's also been seen on the stages of TheatreFirst, Shotgun Players, Ray of Light, Napa Valley Conservatory, Marin Theatre Co., and Perspective Theatre, among others. She holds an MFA in Collaborative Theatremaking from Rose Bruford in London, and co-founded Analog Theatre, analogtheatre.org. (she/her)



Sidney Pippin (Ensemble) is a Bay Area born actress who integrates acting into her daily life. Pippin enjoys working on

both stage and screen, and most recently performed in her high school's rendition of *Into the Woods*. Sidney appears in countless short and student films, along with an upcoming feature film, *The Last Day of Retrograde*. In the near future, Sidney plans to relocate to Los Angeles to pursue a degree and a career in the art of acting.



Jimmy Russi (Ryan) is making his A.C.T. debut. He has previously appeared in *Twelfth Night*, *Xanadu*, and *Music Man*, among other

shows. Jimmy will be attending AMDA College of the Performing and Dramatic Arts starting this fall and hopes to expand his knowledge of acting on stage and in front of the camera. He would like to thank his mentor Lauren Rosi for guiding him and making him a better actor and person. He'd also like to thank his friends and family who support him in everything he does. Jimmy hopes you enjoy the show and PARTY ON!



Janelle Soriano (Dorothy) is ecstatic to return to A.C.T. for the YC's summer production of *The Code*! She has been a part of the

project since its inception and has participated in multiple readings and workshops of the script. She is thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the cast for its world premiere. She was recently a part of the YC's High School Cabaret ensemble and participated in the YC's musicals (*Urinetown*, *Into the Woods*) during the summer. Currently, she is attending UCLA's School of Theater, Film, and Television (TFT) studying musical theater.



Samora Stephens (Ensemble) Having just completed the 8th grade, Samora Stephens is over the moon about the opportunity

to be in person on stage in *The Code* at A.C.T.! Samora recently won a scholarship to study at Broadway Artists Alliance in New York City, has a Miracle Gro commercial airing and recently appeared on a sibling themed episode of *The Price Is Right*. Some of Samora's favorite roles include Winifred in *Mary Poppins Jr.* and Not Dead Fred in *Spamalot*. In addition to her acting work, Samora is a nationally ranked fencer and a 4-sport athlete. Samora understands the vast amount of effort it takes to create success as a performer and continues to use their talents and gifts to bring stories to life.



Gemma Strauss (Kailynn) is thrilled to be back onstage with A.C.T.! She most recently appeared in Throckmorton Theatre's *The*

Sound of Music (Liesl) and *Newsies* (Katherine). A recent graduate of Redwood High School and A.C.T.'s Cabaret program, Gemma will be studying musical theatre at NYU Tisch's New Studio on Broadway this fall (Go Violets!). She sends so much love to her family and friends for their support! @gemmastrauss



Asal Takesh (Tattiana) is a recent graduate from Redwood High School in Marin County and is thrilled to be performing in her first

production at A.C.T. after having been a member of the YC Cabaret Program for three years! Her future plans include attending NYU Tisch School of the Arts in the fall for a BFA in drama. Some of her favorite roles include Rusty from *Footloose*, Eponine from *Les Misérables*, and Morticia from *The Addams Family*. Make sure to check out her original music on all platforms! asaltakesh.com @asaltakesh



Rhea Verghese (Nesta), enter stage right! Rhea is very excited to be part of *The Code*. She is a high school junior and has been a student

with A.C.T. since middle school. Rhea's passions include singing, songwriting, and musical theater. She has been part of several local performances and her most memorable include playing Martha Cratchit in A.C.T.'s *A Christmas Carol*, singing the National Anthem at the SF Giants game, and performing as Grizabella in *Cats*. Outside of theater, Rhea enjoys music production, and her favorite things include sushi, shopping, and relaxing on the beach!



Madeleine Weiss (Aria)

is thrilled to be making their debut in their first-ever world premiere musical!

Madeleine is in the Eliza cast

of the 2021-2022 YC Cabaret, and this is her third production with American Conservatory Theater. Madeleine has been acting and singing since age seven and is currently in their junior year of high school. Additionally, Madeleine has most recently worked with The Adderley School in Santa Barbara on productions such as *Into the Woods* and *West Side Story*. Madeleine would like to thank her lovely friends, family, and brilliant educators for their abundant support.



Isabella Yee (Ensemble)

is excited to join the cast of *The Code* at A.C.T. She is 13 and attends Charlotte Wood Middle School in Danville.

Her passion is theater and music. Her recent/favorite credits include playing the role of Fiona in *Shrek the Musical Jr* at her school, A.C.T. Middle School Cabaret, and Leshner's Young REP Theatre Workshop. She studies under the Royal Conservatory of Music program for piano and has been vocally trained since she was 8 years old. For fun, she enjoys performing in a rock band, spending time with friends, camping, and traveling with family.

Julie Wolf (Music Director) is an Oakland-based music producer/composer/music director. She has collaborated with Ani DiFranco, Carly Simon, Indigo Girls, Maceo Parker, Joan Baez, Sia, and many others. Music Direction: Berkeley Rep (including *Swept Away*, 2022 world premiere, and *Girlfriend*, 2010 world premiere), Cal Shakes, Actors Theatre of Louisville, La Jolla Playhouse, and more. Awards include L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical Direction, *Girlfriend* (CTG/Kirk Douglas Theatre). Recent music production credits: Dillbilly's Chaparral; Boom Tic Boom *Glitter Wolf*; Kofy Brown's *Child of Providence*; "Just Like A Woman" duet with Carly Simon for the release of *Chimes of Freedom: The Songs of Bob Dylan*; and more. Upcoming: Jill Sobule and Liza Birkenmeier's musical *F*ck7thGrade* (The Wild Project, autumn 2022) Julie is thrilled to make her A.C.T. YC debut collaborating with the amazing Kilbanes. Juliewolfmusic.com

Jennifer Harrison Newman (Choreographer) is an artistic director, producer, educator, choreographer, and performance artist with over twenty-five years in the visual and performing arts, working collaboratively across disciplines with emerging and established artists alike. Jennifer has been an artist-in-residence at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, The Juilliard School, Princeton University, Yale University, Central Connecticut State University, The Field, Mabou Mines, Baryshnikov Arts Center, 651 Arts, and has led workshops across the United States, and in Sweden, South Africa, and Mexico. She has worked with Michael Jackson, Julie Taymor, The Radio City Rockettes, and has performed on Broadway in *Saturday Night Fever* and Disney's *The Lion King*.

Heather Kenyon (Scenic Designer) is excited to return to A.C.T. after designing *Ti-Jean and His Brothers* for the MFA. Recent set design credits include *Twelfth Night* (San Francisco Playhouse) and *Men on Boats* (Palo Alto Players). Heather has also worked with TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Aurora Theatre Company, Ballet San José, Children's Musical Theatre of San José, Custom Made Theatre Company, and West Valley Light Opera. Heather has an MFA in scenic design from SFSU and teaches in the theater department at West Valley College. She is a proud member of United Scenic Artists, IATSE Local USA 829. heatherkenyon.net

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)

Stephanie Anne Johnson (Lighting Designer) has designed for Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Arizona Repertory Theatre, and National Black Theater Festival. Locally, Johnson has worked with Cultural Odyssey, Afro Solo, Oakland

Theatre Project, TheatreFirst, African American Shakespeare, Shotgun Players, Marin Theatre Company, and many others. She has designed in India, Holland, Belgium, Paris, Italy, and Canada. Dr. Johnson is a professor at CSU, Monterey Bay. This is her first production with A.C.T. Work can be seen at lightessencedesign.com.

James Ard (Sound Designer) is a San Francisco based designer and noisemaker for new works, interactive media, and immersive stage productions. Recent theatrical Sound Design credits include *Exit Strategy*, *Actually*, *Dry Powder*, *The Royale* (Aurora Theatre Company), *This is Who I Am* (Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company), *9 Parts of Desire* (Portland Center Stage), *Phantasmagoria*, *Utopia*, *Free For All*, *La Ronde* (Cutting Ball Theater), *Kings*, *A Small Fire* (Shotgun Players), and *Time of Change* (Joe Goode Performance Group). James is a Resident Artist with both Golden Thread Productions and Crowded Fire Theater.

Joy Meads (Dramaturg) a native of Oakland, is director of dramaturgy and new works at American Conservatory Theater. A.C.T. credits include *Fefu and Her Friends*, *Communion*, *Testmatch*, *Wakey, Wakey*, *Sweat*, *Men on Boats*, *Edward Albee's Seascape*, *Her Portmanteau*, *The Great Leap*, and *Rhinoceros*. Prior to A.C.T., she was literary manager/artistic engagement strategist at Center Theatre Group. CTG credits include *Archduke*, *Good Grief*, *Appropriate*, *Forever*, *Marjorie Prime* (2015 Pulitzer Prize finalist), *A Parallelogram*, *The Royale*, and *Sleep* (also: Brooklyn Academy of Music and Yale Repertory Theatre). Previously, Joy was literary manager at Steppenwolf Theatre Company and associate artistic director at California Shakespeare Theater. Joy is a co-founder of The Kilroys. (she/her)

Nikki Meñez (Associate Director) is a director, movement artist, and arts administrator. When not directing, Nikki works in outreach, theater education, and arts advocacy for a more equitable, sustainable, and humane creative ecosystem. Local creative affiliations include Z Space, Queer Cat Productions, Custom Made Theater Company, Faultline Theatre, Epic Party Theater, and PianoFight. Select directing credits include *In the Heights* by Quiara Alegria Hudes and Lin Manuel Miranda (Custom Made), *The Gay Divorce Play* by Carson Becker and Nicole Jost (Queer Cat Productions), *Let's Kill Jessica* by Claire Rice (Awesome Theatre), and *The Law of Attraction* by Patricia Milton (NCTC). (they/she/siya).

Nigel Bolton (Assistant Choreographer) has been dancing and choreographing for the last 23 years, and is currently a member of the SF-based Medea Sirkas.

Janice Gartin (Props Manager) is delighted to be working with A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory. She was the Prop Master for A.C.T.'s recent productions of *Fefu and Her Friends* and *Cymbeline*. She designed props for the Conservatory's production of *Passage* in spring of 2020. Janice worked for Beach Blanket Babylon for six years, where she constructed and maintained costumes, repaired curtains, as well as giant lion's tongues and dancing Christmas trees. Over the years she has worked in various theaters around the Bay Area. Instagram @electrageek

Alexa Burn (Stage Manager) is from Cupertino, California. Her credits include *Chess* and *A Little Night Music* at 42nd Street Moon, The SF Bay Area Theatre Company's New Roots Festival, and *The Great Leap*, *Grand Horizons*, and *Hood* at the Asolo Repertory Theatre. Alexa was also a stage manager at the Disneyland Resort for many years, working with the Disneyland Band, Dapper Dans, and many more. Alexa is excited to be joining the A.C.T. Young Conservatory family!

Alyx Enanoria (Assistant Stage Manager) is an AAPI assistant stage manager who grew up in the Bay Area. In 2019, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree at a four-year college in Oregon. She has worked with theatre companies like San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company and Palo Alto Players. Her previous productions include *Allegiance*, *Night of the Living Dead*, and *Ada and the Engine*. She is passionate about working behind the scenes and continues to do so in the hopes of one day shining a light on *Dear Evan Hansen*.

ADDITIONAL STAFF

Lyre Alston, Wardrobe

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Bert Castillo, Audio Head

Melody Cohen, Production Assistant

Anika Goel, Lighting Assistant

Abo Greenwald, Prop Shop Manager

Stewart Lyle, Technical Director

Michael Mananquil, Head Carpenter

Tyler Mark, Head Electrician / Board Operator

Jeunée Simon, Intimacy Coordinator

Mark Wilhelm, A2

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A.C.T.'s **Friends of the YC** directly supports the Young Conservatory, providing critical funding for young actor training programs, productions, and scholarships. As a non-profit organization, A.C.T. depends heavily on donations, as tuition revenue and ticket sales only cover a portion of the organization's general operating budget. When you join the Friends of the YC, you're ensuring that high-caliber actor training remains available and accessible to youth throughout the greater Bay Area region.

Friends of the YC members enjoy exclusive benefits and unique behind-the-scenes opportunities, including invitations to special events—like Conservatory Hours with guest artists—private backstage tours, the ability to shadow a professional stage manager, complimentary tickets, and much, much more!

To view the full list of Friends of the YC membership levels and benefits, and to join, please visit act-sf.org/FriendsOfYC or contact Sasha Habash at shabash@act-sf.org or 415.439.2415.

**Thank you for
your support!**

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Photos by Jay Yamada



A.C.T. STAFF

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Artistic Director

JENNIFER BIELSTEIN
Executive Director

Artistic

Andy Chan Donald*, *Associate Artistic Director*
Joy Meads, *Director of Dramaturgy and New Works*
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

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

Human Resources

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Dao VanQuate, *Human Resources Manager*

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Amy Dalba*, *General Manager*
Sam L. Wong, *Company Manager*

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Ning Xiao, *Controller*
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Will Gaines, *Associate Director of Individual Giving*
Stephanie Swide, *Senior Manager, Development Operations*
Derek Collard, *Special Events and Donor Engagement Manager*

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Syche Phillips, *Deputy Director of Marketing*
Kevin Kopjak/Prismatic Communications, *Public Relations Counsel*
Samantha Lomax*, *Digital Engagement Manager*
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David Englemann, *Treasurer*

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Jerry Chirip, *Audience Services Associate*
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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 Associate*
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*
Jerry Lopez, *Director of Financial Aid*
Charlotte Brockman, *Conservatory Manager*
Alejandra Maria Rivas*, *Conservatory and School & Community Programs Associate*

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Joseph Tally*, *Head Librarian*

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Studio A.C.T.

Mark Jackson, *Director of Studio A.C.T.*
Emily Cooper, *Young Conservatory and Studio A.C.T. Associate Programs Manager*
Liz Anderson
Heidi Carlsen
Frances Epsen-Devlin
Deb Fink
Paul Finocchiaro
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

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Emily Cooper, *Young Conservatory and Studio A.C.T. Associate Programs Manager*
Justin P. Lopez, *Young Conservatory Administrative Assistant*
Andy Alabran, *Acting, Voice & Dialect*
Kimberly Braun, *Musical Theater*
Janel Chanté, *Musical Theater, Acting*
Meredith Joelle Charlson, *Dance/Choreographer*
Gwynnevere Cristobal, *Musical Theater, Acting*
Allison Gamlen, *Cabaret*
Nancy Gold, *Physical Character, Acting*
Lore Gonzales, *Acting, Improvisation*
Andrew Mondello, *Musical Theater, Acting*
Dario Johnson, *Musical Theater, Voice, Cabaret*
Brennan Pickman Thoon, *On-Camera, Acting*
Thaddeus Pinkston, *Accompanist, Musical Arranger*
Leandra Ramm, *Cabaret, Voice, Private Coaching*
Salim Razawi, *Acting, On-Camera, Musical Theater*
Veronica Renner, *Musical Theater, Acting*
Ely Sonny Orquiza, *Acting, Devised Theater*
Kimiya Shokri, *Acting, Devised Theater*
Valerie Weak, *Acting, Shakespeare, College Prep*
Krista Wigle, *Musical Theater, Voice*

Conservatory Accompanists

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

San Francisco Semester Faculty

Mark Jackson, *Performance Making*
Peter J. Kuo, *Collaboration Building*
Michael Mohammed, *PhD, Voice*
Patrick Russell, *Physical Theater*
Jack Sharrar, PhD, *Cultural Landscaping*
Dee Dee Stephens, *Acting Styles*
Mia Tagano, *Acting Styles*

Professional Development

Dillon Heape, Ben Quinn, Mark Rafael, Radhika Rao, Katie Rubin, Dominique 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.

CAREY PERLOFF
Artistic Director Emerita

JAMES HAIRE
Producing Director Emeritus

MELISSA SMITH
Conservatory Director Emerita, in memoriam

CRAIG SLAIGHT
Young Conservatory Director Emeritus

FALL SESSION

YOUNG CONSERVATORY

PRE-PROFESSIONAL THEATER TRAINING AGES 8-19

Fall Session: Sep 20-Nov 12

Develop your character this season with A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory. This Fall we will have in-person classes that meet weekly for 8 weeks, culminating in an open class for friends and family. Join us for classes in On-Camera Acting, Musical Theater, Voice & Dialect and more - all students are encouraged and welcome to join!

Find class descriptions, schedule and registration info at act-sf.org/yc

AUDITIONS

YOUNG CONSERVATORY

PRE-PROFESSIONAL THEATER TRAINING AGES 8-19

Auditions for the 2022-23 YC Cabaret and Actors Ensembles will be held August 24-26. For more details and to sign up for an audition, please visit our Performance Opportunities page on A.C.T.'s website:



FALL SESSION

STUDIO A.C.T. REAL THEATER CLASSES FOR REAL PEOPLE

Expand your creativity in ways you never thought possible at Studio A.C.T., the Tony Award-winning American Conservatory Theater's adult (19+) part-time acting school.

Whether you're new to acting, a working professional looking to polish certain skills, or a theater lover hungry to learn more about the art, Studio A.C.T. offers a wide range of dynamic classes designed to meet your needs and goals.

Summer Session: Check out one-day and one-week intensives in August!
Plus Fall Session is enrolling now.

Learn more and register at act-sf.org/studio

A.C.T. Presents

PASSENGERS

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

SEP 15-OCT 9, 2022 | GEARY THEATER

"An illustration of grace, freedom, moments of wonder and leaps of faith"—*The Guardian*

You have never experienced a train ride quite like this. *Passengers* combines contemporary dance, circus arts, singing, acrobatics, and theater into a story that explores a community of strangers with one thing in common: each person has somewhere to go.

A.C.T. Presents

ON BECKETT

Conceived and Performed by **Bill Irwin**
An **Irish Repertory Theatre** Production
Produced by **Octopus Theatricals**

OCT 19-23, 2022 | GEARY THEATER

A.C.T. favorite Bill Irwin can't escape Samuel Beckett. He has spent a lifetime captivated by the Irish writer's language. In this intimate 90-minute evening, Irwin will explore a performer's relationship to Beckett, mining the physical and verbal skills acquired in his years as a master clown and Tony Award-winning actor.

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

This acclaimed holiday event is finally back and we can't wait to see you there!

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW AT ACT-SF.ORG