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In Memoriam

Land Acknowledgment
We acknowledge that the land on which we gather belongs to the Ohlone people of past, present, and future, whose homelands extend from Big Sur to the San Francisco Bay Area. We recognize that every member of the Bay Area community has, and continues to benefit from, the use and occupation of this land. We recognize that the Ohlone people are alive and flourishing members of the Bay Area communities today. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and learn on their land. Visit sfplayhouse.org/edi for more information.

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450 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94102
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A Chorus Line was the first Pulitzer Prize–winning musical developed in the nonprofit world. It opened at the Public Theater on April 15, 1975, and almost immediately transferred to the Shubert Theatre. Broadway was a mess back then. Many theaters were dark, Times Square was run down and full of hustlers and the homeless, and many people were afraid to go there. New York itself was hurtling into bankruptcy. The year before A Chorus Line opened, Broadway attendance dipped to an all-time low. Many had declared Broadway dead. A Chorus Line almost single-handedly lit the flame that revitalized Broadway with rave reviews and sold-out houses that gave hope to a city that was locked in despair. New York had something fabulous to hold it up. The most successful musical in history rescued both Broadway, and perhaps New York City itself.

A Chorus Line was a revolution, not just revitalizing New York but forever changing musical theatre. It was something never before seen on Broadway, an ensemble show with little scenery, no costumes (except for the finale), no intermission, and no stars!

Following an era of lush, extravagantly produced shows, A Chorus Line was the opposite. Called the “original reality show” by original cast member Baayork Lee, A Chorus Line is half dazzling dance and song and half docudrama. Based on dozens of actual interviews between Michael Bennett, the director, and veteran actor-singer-dancers called gypsies at the time, A Chorus Line is a kind of theatre verité. We even get to watch an audition with twenty-six dancers, and see which are selected, not once but twice!

So why now? Why after almost fifty years is A Chorus Line still relevant? So many of the issues that were rising into our public consciousness in the early seventies still resonate today. We are still a work in progress in regard to the struggles of people of color trying to make it in the arts and have their unique communities recognized. We still struggle to accept our bodies for what they are, rather than what our “cover girl” culture promotes, and having respect for women as artists is still far from the norm in many parts of the world.

Resonating even more with us in this divisive, polarized world where humans are splintered into thousands of camps, each clamoring for the microphone, A Chorus Line rises gloriously above the babble of human differences. It demonstrates how we can come together. It shows us clearly that we can do more as a community, that belonging to a great enterprise can be as rewarding, or more so, than individual recognition.

Finding ways to work together, now more than ever, will determine the salvation or the failure of humankind.

Bill English, Artistic Director
SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE  
BILL ENGLISH, Artistic Director, SUSI DAMILANO, Producing Director  
and WILLIAM McALLISTER & SUSAN WATSON and ROBERT HULTENG, Executive Producers, present  

A CHORUS LINE  
Conceived and originally directed and choreographed by MICHAEL BENNETT  
Book by JAMES KIRKWOOD and NICHOLAS DANTE  
Music by MARVIN HAMLISCH  
Lyrics by EDWARD KLEBAN  
Co-choreographed by BOB AVIAN  

Directed by BILL ENGLISH  
Music direction by DAVE DOBRUSKY  
Choreography by NICOLE HELFER  

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MICHAEL OESCH  
Properties Designer  
KEILI ELLIOTT  
Assistant Director  
LOUIS PARNELL  
Associate Choreographer  
KEITH PINTO  
Casting Directors  
KIERAN BECCIA & DORI L. JACOB, CSA  
Choreography  
NICOLE HELFER  

Cast  
(in alphabetical order)  
Bobby ......................................................................................................................................... DAVE J. ABRAMS*  
Greg, Associate Dance Captain ............................................................................................................ DALTON BERTOLONE  
Diana ............................................................................................................................................... SAMANTHA ROSE CÁRDENAS*  
Maggie ........................................................................................................................................... DANIELLE CHEIKEN  
Tricia .................................................................................................................................................... GABI CHUN  
Mike ....................................................................................................................................................... TONY CONATY*  
Judy ...................................................................................................................................................... MAGGIE CONNARD  
Richie .................................................................................................................................................... CHACHI DELGADO  
Mark ...................................................................................................................................................... ZEKE EDMONDS  
Tom ...................................................................................................................................................... McKAY ELWOOD*  
Sheila .................................................................................................................................................... ALISON EWING*  
Frank ...................................................................................................................................................... ELIHU GUERRERO  
Al ......................................................................................................................................................... M. JAVI HARNLY  
Cassie .................................................................................................................................................... NICOLE HELFER*  
Roy ......................................................................................................................................................... MICHAEL C. KENNEDY  
Connie .................................................................................................................................................... RURI KODAMA  
Vicki ....................................................................................................................................................... DIAN SITIP MEECHAI  
Butch ..................................................................................................................................................... JOEL OCHOA  
Don ......................................................................................................................................................... ZACH PADLO*  
Zach, Dance Captain ......................................................................................................................... KEITH PINTO*  
Paul ........................................................................................................................................................ ALEX RODRIGUEZ  
Bebe ...................................................................................................................................................... JILLIAN A. SMITH  
Lois ......................................................................................................................................................... ERIN ROSE SOLORIO*  
Cassie (Alternate) ............................................................................................................................... ADRIA SWAN  
Kristine ................................................................................................................................................... GWEN TESSMAN  
Lori ......................................................................................................................................................... ANN WARQUE  
Val ......................................................................................................................................................... MELISSA WOLFKLAIN*
Understudies
(in alphabetical order)

Richie, Chorus (Frank, Butch, Roy, Tom) ........................................................... DAVE J. ABRAMS*
Maggie, Judy ........................................................................................................ GABI CHUN
Mike, Bobby ........................................................................................................... MCKAY ELWOOD*
Paul, Don ............................................................................................................ ELIHU GUERRERO
Judy ......................................................................................................................... NICOLE HELFER*
Mark, Greg ............................................................................................................ MICHAEL C. KENNEDY
Sheila, Lori ............................................................................................................. DIAN SITIP MEECHAI
Al, Greg .................................................................................................................. JOEL OCHOA
Zach ......................................................................................................................... ZACH PADLO*
Chorus (Frank, Butch, Roy, Tom, Vicki, Lois, Tricia) ........................................... MEGAN SOLEDAD
Val, Diana .............................................................................................................. ERIN ROSE SOLORIO*
Kristine, Bebe, Chorus (Vicki, Tricia, Lois) ........................................................... EMILY STEELHAMMER
Maggie, Lori (Alternate), Chorus (Vicki, Tricia, Lois) ........................................ ADRIA SWAN
Connie .................................................................................................................... ANN WARQUE
Chorus (Frank, Butch, Roy, Tom, Vicki, Lois, Tricia) ........................................... HANNAH WOOLFENDEN

Understudies never substitute for the listed performers
unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the appearance.

Swings
(in alphabetical order)

MEGAN SOLEDAD • EMILY STEELHAMMER • ADRIA SWAN • HANNAH WOOLFENDEN

Stage Management

Stage Manager ......................................................................................................... DAREN A.C. CAROLLO*
Assistant Stage Manager ........................................................................................ JO DAVITA ORTIZ*
Production Assistant .............................................................................................. SAM HATTERSLEY

* Member of Actors’ Equity Association. This theater operates under an agreement with Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

^ Member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

Special Thanks

Actors’ Equity Association, San Francisco State University, Nicholas Yenson, and the staff of the Kensington Park Hotel

A Chorus Line is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC. www.concordtheatricals.com

Original Broadway production produced by the New York Shakespeare Festival, Joseph Papp, Producer, in association with Plum Productions, Inc.

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Performance Dates: June 22 – September 16, 2023
The performance lasts approximately two hours and ten minutes. There is no intermission.
Playbill content current as of August 15, 2023.
Please visit sfplayhouse.org/playbill for the most current version of our digital playbook.

This production is dedicated to Martin Roher.
Production Team

Production Manager ............................................................. ANGELA KNUTSON
Technical Director .............................................................. TISH LEUNG
Associate Production Manager ............................................. ELIZABETH NEWTON
Costume and Properties Coordinator .................................... LEX NOSEWORTHY
Production Management Assistant ....................................... KELI ELLIOTT
Master Electrician ............................................................... LIZ KRETER-KILLIOTT
Master Carpenter ............................................................... ARIAN GRIMSRUD
Audio Engineers ................................................................. JAMES ARD, EDDIE CONTRERAS,
                                                   DAN ALVARO HOLLAND, ELLIOTT ORR
Light Board Programmers .................................................. LIZBETH ORTIZ-PIVARAL, COREY SCHAEFFER
Scenic Charge ......................................................................... TISH LEUNG
Scenic Painter ......................................................................... ALLISON ESSEX
Shop Foreman .......................................................................... GABRIEL MARTINEZ
Shop Carpenters ................................................................. TISH LEUNG, YOUSSEF RIAHI
Load-In Carpenters ............................................................. ANTHONY ARANDA, JOSHUA GRAVES
                                                   ISAIAH HUNTSINGER, BECCA SALSBURG-FRANK
Electricians ............................................................................ SHY BANIANI, EMMA BUECHNER,
                                                   COLIN JOHNSON, LIZBETH ORTIZ-PIVARAL,
                                                   CODY POEHNELT, TAYLOR RIVERS, BEN VISINI
Deck Hand ............................................................................... ANTHONY ARANDA
Pre-Producton & Production Photography ................................ JESSICA PALOPOLI
Trailer Videographer ................................................................ ADAM ELDER
Key Art Designer ....................................................................... LENNA SEMENKOVA
Publicists .............................................................................. CARLA BEFERA, LAUREN GOLDFARB

Musical Numbers

“I Hope I Get It” .............................................................................. Company*
“I Can Do That” ............................................................................ Mike
“... And ...” ................................................................................ Bobby, Richie, Val, Judy
“At the Ballet” ............................................................................... Sheila, Bebe, Maggie
“Sing!” .......................................................................................... Kristine, Al
Montage, Part 2: “Nothing” ......................................................... Diana
Montage, Part 3: “Mother” ......................................................... Don, Judy, Maggie & Company
Montage, Part 4: “Gimme the Ball” .............................................. Judy, Greg, Richie & Company
“Dance: Ten; Looks: Three” ........................................................ Val
“The Music and The Mirror” ...................................................... Cassie
“One” .......................................................................................... Company*
“The Tap Combination” ............................................................. Company
“What I Did For Love” .............................................................. Diana, Company
“One” (Reprise) .......................................................................... Company*

* Original choreography by Michael Bennett.

Musicians

Keyboard 1, Conductor .......................................................... DAVE DOBRUSKY
Keyboard 2 ................................................................................ KEN BRILL, TIMOTHY FLETCHER, BEN PRINCE
Reed 1 (Flute, Piccolo, Clarinet, Alto Sax) .................................... WILL BERG, NICK DISCALA,
                                                   TERRY HALVORSON, RICHARD MATHIAS
Reed 2 (Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Baritone Sax) ............................. AUDREY JACKSON, HAL RICHARDS
Trumpet, Flugelhorn .................................................................. JASON PARK, JUSTIN J. SMITH
Drums .......................................................................................... DAVID DIENI, RUSS GOLD, BEN VISINI
Synth Programmer ........................................................................ KEN BRILL

Not all musicians play at every performance.
CAST

DAVE J. ABRAMS*  
Bobby  
U/S: Richie, Chorus  
Dave is overjoyed to be making his San Francisco Playhouse debut telling this amazing story. Recent theater credits include Benny in In the Heights, Andre in Ain’t Misbehavin’, Seaweed in Hairspray (2019 TBA Award for Outstanding Featured Actor), and Coalhouse in Ragtime (2018 TBA Award for Outstanding Actor in a Principal Role). Dave earned a BA in Theatre and Dance from the University of California, Berkeley. In addition to performing, Dave works as a teaching artist sharing his passion for the performing arts with youth. “Enjoy the show!”  
IG: @davejabrams

DALTON BERTOLONE  
Greg  
Associate Dance Captain  
Dalton is thrilled to make his San Francisco Playhouse debut! Favorite credits include A Chorus Line (Broadway Palm Theatre), Elf (Arizona Broadway Theatre), Pippin and Hair (Playhouse on Park), West Side Story and Godspell (New London Barn Playhouse), Newsies, Mary Poppins, and West Side Story (Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre), West Side Story and How to Succeed… (Connecticut Repertory Theatre), A Chorus Line (Sierra Repertory Theatre), and Footloose and Elements! (Norwegian Cruise Line). In his free time, Dalton is a dance teacher and choreographer in the Bay Area as well as a Marvel fanatic and board game enthusiast. Dalton graduated from The Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford. He dedicates his performance to his brother, Tyler. daltonbertolone.com

SAMANTHA ROSE CÁRDENAS*  
Diana  
Samantha is a critically acclaimed bicoastal actress in the Bay Area and New York City. She most recently played Cinderella in Into the Woods (Mountain Play) and Young Sally in Follies (San Francisco Playhouse). Favorite roles include Woman #1 in I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change, Peggy Sawyer in 42nd Street (San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle nomination), Olive Ostrovsky in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (TBA Award finalist), Nina in In the Heights (TBA Award), Millie in Thoroughly Modern Millie, Maria in West Side Story (TBA Award finalist), Ariel in The Little Mermaid, Mallory and Avril in City of Angels (SFBATCC award), Anne Egerman in A Little Night Music, Emily Webb in Our Town, and Heather Duke in Heathers: The Musical (TBA Award). Samantha is also a private voice teacher and performance and audition coach, accepting new students from anywhere in the world. “For Mom.” samantharosecardenas.com

GABI CHUN  
Tricia  
U/S: Maggie, Judy  
Gabi is thrilled to make her San Francisco Playhouse debut! She recently performed as Marcy Park in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Cinnabar Theater), Phantom in The Rocky Horror Show (Ray of Light Theatre and OASIS), and Gilly in The Imaginaries (Bay Area Children’s Theatre). She also graduated from Molloy/CAP21 with a BFA in Musical Theatre and minor in Business in New York. Gabi thanks her teachers, family, and friends for supporting her and helping her get to where she is today. gabichun.com

TONY CONATY*  
Mike  
Tony is thrilled to make his San Francisco Playhouse debut in such an iconic show! Credits include Anything Goes and The Pajama Game (42nd Street Moon), The Little Mermaid and Mary Poppins (Northern Stage), Cabaret (Music Theatre of Connecticut), and productions with New
London Barn Playhouse and Disney Cruise Line. Tony earned a BFA in Musical Theatre from Ithaca College. “Special shoutout to the soccer coach who did, in fact, refer to me as ‘Twinkle-Toes.’ For Yee!” @tonyconaty

**MAGGIE CONNARD**

Judy

Maggie is thrilled to work with San Francisco Playhouse on her very favorite musical! She is a teaching artist and performer who graduated with a BA in dance from Point Park University. Maggie teaches barre fitness and for Rhythm & Motion at ODC and has taught ballet, jazz, tap, and musical theatre dance to children and adults. She has performed with companies including EmDance, Leyya Tawil’s Dance Elixir, Deborah Slater Dance Theater, and Printz Dance Project. Maggie has also performed in local productions of *A Chorus Line*, *Singin’ in the Rain*, *Chicago*, *Cabaret*, *Irving Berlin’s White Christmas*, and the last two years of Panto in the Presidio.

**CHACHI DELGADO**

Richie

Chachi is so excited to return to San Francisco Playhouse after performing here as Young Buddy in *Follies*. Other recent credits include *Into the Woods* and *Hello, Dolly!* (Mountain Play) and *I, Too, Sing America* (San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company). He thanks his family, friends, and YMTC for all the love and support. He would like to dedicate all his performances to his grandfather. Chachi hopes you sit back and enjoy this brilliant show!

**ZEKE EDMONDS**

Mark

Zeke is an alumnus of the BFA musical theatre program at Syracuse University. He is a professional actor who moved from New York City to the Bay Area in 2020. Recent credits include *A Chorus Line* (Signature Theatre, Arlington), *Newsies* (Westchester Broadway Theatre), *A Christmas Carol* (McCarter Theatre Center), *As You Like It* (San Francisco Playhouse), and *Mary Poppins* (Syracuse Stage). Zeke is extremely honored and excited to be part of this production. He gives a huge thank you to his partner, Emma, for all of her love and support and thanks the entire artistic team for this special opportunity. zekeedmonds.com

**MCKAY ELWOOD**

Tom

U/S: Mike, Bobby

McKay (he, him) is happy to make his San Francisco Playhouse debut. Recent Bay Area roles include Tyler in *Merrily We Roll Along* (42nd Street Moon), Narrator in *Rumpelstiltskin* (East Bay Children’s Theatre), Sergei in *Roald Dahl’s Matilda The Musical* (Berkeley Playhouse), and Tenor in *Encore* (New Conservatory Theatre Center). Other favorite productions include *An American in Paris*, *Phantom*, and *Anything Goes* (Hale Centre Theatre), *Footloose* (West Valley Arts), and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Parker Theatre). McKay earned a BM in vocal performance with a minor in dance from Brigham Young University. When not on stage, he teaches private voice lessons and directs music for classes with Musical Theatre Works. Current favorite hobbies include video editing, watching movies, and throwing pottery. “Love you, Luke! Thanks for the never ending support and encouragement!” mckayelwood.wixsite.com/vocals

**ALISON EWING**

Sheila

Alison is thrilled to make her San Francisco Playhouse debut! Broadway credits include Tanya in *Mamma Mia!* (Broadhurst Theatre) and Lulu in *Cabaret* (Roundabout Theatre Company). National tours include Countess Lily in *Anastasia*, Frauline Kost in *Cabaret*, Tess in *Flashdance*, and roles in *An American in Paris* and *Mamma Mia!* Regional favorites include *Hand to God* (San Jose Stage Company), *Emma, Big River, Into the Woods, Harold and Maude, and Ain’t Nothin’ But the Blues* (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (San Jose Repertory Theatre), *Sweet Charity* (Center REPertory Company), *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* (Marin Theatre Company), *The Last Five Years* (Playhouse West), and *8 Track* (Theatre on San Pedro Square). Television and film credits include *Ally McBeal* (Fox), *Six Feet Under* (HBO), *Fractured* (DeValley Productions), and *Marbles* (Luis Tobar Films). Alison is also an audiobooks narrator on Audible. She is so happy to be working with her husband Keith again in this production. alisonewing.com

**ELIHU GUERRERO**

Frank

U/S: Paul, Don

Elihu is thrilled to make his San Francisco Playhouse debut! He is a Mexican-Filipino actor who is fresh out of college with a BA in musical theatre. Elihu graduated from Jessup University where he most recently played Tommy Djilas in *The Music Man*. He has been dancing hip-hop for ten years, but explored ballet, jazz, and tap in earning his degree. Elihu thanks Missouri Street Theatre for giving him his first step into the professional world. Finally, he thanks his parents for showing him Golden Age musicals from a very young age, which sparked a life long passion for the performing arts.
M. JAVI HARNLY
Al
Javi is thrilled to return to San Francisco Playhouse after performing here as a featured dancer in Follies last summer. His work as a scenic painter has been seen here in As You Like It and Chinglish, and at many Bay Area theatres. Regional acting credits include Mortimer in The Fantasticks (Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre), understudy for Paul in Big, understudy for Rooster in Annie, James and the Giant Peach, and Sister Act (Berkeley Playhouse), Saturday Night Fever, Aida, and Beauty and the Beast (Broadway by the Bay), Bernardo in West Side Story (The Western Stage), Mimeasaurus in Triassic Parq (Ray of Light Theatre), Omar in My Beautiful Laundrette (New Conservatory Theatre Center), and the Australian educational tour of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. Raised in Thousand Oaks, he performs and teaches throughout the Bay Area, Southern California, and beyond. Much love to his family, Kara and the FSE team, and his friends coast to coast.
@dmeechai

NICOLE HELFER*
Cassie
U/S: Judy
Nicole is an award-winning choreographer, director, performing artist, and has been a dance and theatre teacher for twenty-five years. Performance credits include Marian Paroo in The Music Man, Fantine in Les Misérables (Shellie Award), Audrey in Little Shop of Horrors (Shellie nominee), Cassie and Val in A Chorus Line, Velma Kelly in Chicago (San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle nominee), Betty Shaeffer in Sunset Boulevard (Shellie nominee), Sarah in The Lover by Harold Pinter, Kate Monster and Lucy T. Slut in the regional premiere of Avenue Q, Miraid in Brimstone (SFBATCC nominee and Shellie nominee), Kitty in Sweet Charity featuring Tony Award winner James Monroe Inglehart, and featured ensemble roles in A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder and Me and My Girl. She has also been a swing for Cabaret, Groundhog Day The Musical, and Follies here at San Francisco Playhouse for which she was also the choreographer.

MICHAEL C. KENNEDY
Roy
U/S: Mark, Greg
Michael (he, him) is making his San Francisco Playhouse debut! Favorite roles include Big Deal and understudy for Action in West Side Story (Berkeley Playhouse), Lord Pinkleton in Cinderella (Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre), and Flounder in The Little Mermaid (Cabrillo Music Theatre). Regional credits include Grease (Berkeley Playhouse), 42nd Street and The Music Man (Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre), Bye Bye Birdie and The Sound of Music (Cabrillo Music Theatre), and Noah’s Ark (Pacific Festival Ballet). Television and film credits include Santa Girl (Peacock) and Gilmore Girls. Michael earned a BFA in musical theatre from Shenandoah Conservatory and is currently a JD candidate at the McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific. Born in Redwood City and raised in Thousand Oaks, he performs and teaches throughout the Bay Area, Southern California, and beyond. Much love to his family, Kara and the FSE team, and his friends coast to coast.
@dmeechai

RURI KODAMA
Connie
Ruri (she, her) is making her San Francisco Playhouse debut! Raised in the Bay Area, she is a first generation Japanese-American artist. Favorite credits include Composer Project: Marvin Hamlisch (Molloy University/CAP21), Flower Drum Song (Palo Alto Players), and Lily in the musical Ranked (Cupertino Actors Theatre). Now based in Brooklyn, Ruri majors in the musical theatre BFA program at the Molloy University/CAP21 Musical Theatre Conservatory, with a minor in diversity and inclusion studies. She was recently featured in the documentary My So-Called High School Rank (HBO) and as Milan in the television series pilot Department of One. “Love and gratitude to family, friends, and mentors, who have supported me.”
@ruri_kodama

DIAN SITIP MEECHAI
Vicki
U/S: Sheila, Lori
Dian (she, her) is making her San Francisco Playhouse debut! Favorite roles include Lady Eugenia in A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder, Princess Leia and Twi’lek in the original US cast of The Empire Strips Back, Lulu in The Merry Widow, Giulia in The Gondoliers, and The Girl in The Roar of the Greasepaint - The Smell of the Crowd. Other favorite credits include a production vocalist onboard the Silver Spirit and choreographer for Broadway Bares SF. Dian is a songwriter, recording artist, National Academy of Sports Medicine certified personal trainer, and former contortionist. Born in the “boogie down” Bronx, she aspired to perform as a child. Dian is a graduate of Northwestern University. She moved to San Francisco for circus school in 2007 and fell in love with the city.
dianmeechai.com | @dmeechai

JOEL OCHOA
Butch
U/S: Al, Greg
Joel (he, him) is excited to make his San Francisco Playhouse debut! He recently
performed in *Macbeth* at Marin Shakespeare Company. Favorite credits include CB in *Dog Sees God* and Cathy Hiatt in *The Last Five Years* (Pipe Dreams Studio Theatre), Moritz in *Spring Awakening* (Springfield Theatre Center), and Cecil in *Eva’s Conundrum* (Gong Films). Originally from Iowa, Joel earned a BA in theatre and communications from Millikin University and is earning an MFA in acting as a second year graduate student at the Academy of Art University! He thanks all the people in his life that push him to be a better artist and a better human. “This one is for you. See you on the line!” @joelocho

**ZACH PADLO***

Don  
U/S: Zach  
Zach is making his San Francisco Playhouse debut! Favorite roles include Riff in *West Side Story* (Madison Theatre), Tony in *Billy Elliot* (Berkeley Playhouse), and Bad Idea Bear in *Avenue Q* (Summer Repertory Theatre Festival). He graduated from the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts in of 2012 and earned a BA in theatre and dance from the University of California, Davis. When not performing, Zach loves to play pick-up basketball at his local gym in Burbank where he now lives. He is a member of Actors’ Equity Association.

**KEITH PINTO***

Zach  
Dance Captain  
Keith is so excited to be back on stage at San Francisco Playhouse, especially with his lovely and talented wife, Alison Ewing. He has performed here in *Starting Here, Starting Now*, as Bobby in *Company*, and as The Baker in *Into the Woods*. His choreography was featured here in *Dogfight* and *Colossal*, for which he received a San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle award. He also received a SFBATCC award for his role as Bill in *Me and My Girl* (42nd Street Moon) and TBA Awards for his role as The Emcee in *Cabaret* (Hillbarn Theatre) and choreography of *Altar Boys* (Center REPertory Company). Other favorites include 1776 (American Conservatory Theater), Hedwig and the Angry Inch and *The Rocky Horror Show* (San Jose Stage Company), *Dames at Sea* (42nd Street Moon), and *Lucky Stiff* (Center REPertory Company).

**ALEX RODRIGUEZ***

Paul  
Alex is thrilled to make his San Francisco Playhouse debut in this iconic show! Director and choreographer credits include *Into the Woods* and *Ragtime* (TBA Award finalist for choreography) (Berkeley Playhouse) and *Kinky Boots, The Rocky Horror Show, Jesus Christ Superstar* (TBA Award finalist for choreography), *The Wild Party* (TBA Award for choreography), and *Heathers: The Musical* (TBA Award for choreography) (Ray of Light Theatre). Acting credits include Quasimodo in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (TBA Award finalist and San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle award winner), Che in *Evita* (TBA Award), and Velociraptor of Science in *Triassic Parq* (TBA Award). National Tour: *Miss Saigon*. "For Bam, Thor, and his PIC."

**JILLIAN A. SMITH***

Bebe  
Jillian (she, her, hers) is overjoyed to return to San Francisco Playhouse after performing here in *As You Like It*. She is a recent graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, where she studied theatre, dance, and computer science. Recent credits include Erma in *Anything Goes* (42nd Street Moon), Maggie in *Kinky Boots* (Ray of Light Theatre), Adriana in *The Comedy of Errors* (SPARC Theater), Toria in *Blood at the Root* (Custom Made Theatre Co.), Calista in *Anon(y)mous* (South Bay Musical Theatre), and Jamie in *The Last Five Years* (BareStage Productions). She has dreamed of dancing in *A Chorus Line* since her first baby ballet class and is overjoyed to have the chance to dance for you. "Eternal gratitude to Nicole, Bill, Ms. Lise LaCour, this tremendous cast and crew, my family, and foam rollers!” @jillians_1

**MEGAN SOLEDAD***

Swing  
U/S: Chorus  
Megan (she, her) is excited to be making her San Francisco Playhouse debut! This fall she is also playing The Woman in *The Turn of the Screw* (Town Hall Theatre Company) and performing at the San Francisco Fringe Festival in *Dancing Home* (San Francisco Youth Theatre). Other Bay Area credits include *In the Heights* (Berkeley Playhouse), *The Sound of Music* (Throckmorton Theatre), and *Silent Sky* (Summer Repertory Theatre). Megan recently earned her masters in opera from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and has a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University. When not performing in a show, Megan loves to sing with her salsa band! @meganmateosky

**ERIN ROSE SOLORIO***

Lois  
U/S: Val, Diana  
Erin (she, her) is a performer raised in the Bay Area. She graduated from Rider University with a BFA in
musical theatre. Erin has regional and collegiate performance, directing, and choreography credits. Favorites include Sally Bowles in Cabaret and Belle in Scrooge in Love! (6th Street Playhouse), Pippin and Anything Goes: Tap Cabaret (Rider University), vocalist and choreographer at Blue Note Napa, A Grand Night for Singing (Jarvis Conservatory), and Vanessa in In the Heights (Lewis Family Playhouse). She is honored and thrilled to be a part of this San Francisco Playhouse production which is a dream show for her! “Huge thank you to the team. This one’s for Mom, Dad, Sheila, and for Sheri.” For more info check out her website erinrosesolorio.com

**EMILY STEELHAMMER**

**Swing**  
**U/S: Kristine, Bebe, Chorus**

Emily (they, them) is thrilled to make their San Francisco Playhouse debut. Recently, they played Andy in Aunt Jack (New Conservatory Theatre Center) and Trisha in Rocket Man (Masquers Playhouse). When not performing, Emily enjoys hiking in the Oakland redwoods, baking elaborately themed cakes, and ongoing scene-study in the Barrow Group approach. “To my mom and dad, thank you for your support from my tiniest dancing years onward. And to my teacher, Alyson Schacherer, thank you for the tools and the candles.”

**ADRIA SWAN**

**Cassie (Alternate)**

**Swing**  
**U/S: Maggie, Lori (Alternate), Chorus**

Adria is excited to make her San Francisco Playhouse debut in this iconic show! She most recently played Rona Lisa Peretti in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee at Contra Costa Musical Theatre. Other favorite credits include Demeter in Cats, Elle Woods in Legally Blonde, Millie in Thoroughly Modern Millie, and Peppermint Patty in Snoopy. Adria recently performed in two workshop readings of the new musical Can You Hear Me? by Lisa Rafel and Gary Tinyard. She worked regionally at Connecticut Repertory Theatre, Clinton Area Showboat Theatre (lowa), and Theatre Under the Stars (Houston). Adria also spent two years sailing the globe as a lead vocalist onboard Holland America Line cruises. She earned a BFA in musical theatre from Texas State University. “This one is for C. Abate!”

**GWEN TESSMAN**

**Kristine**

Gwen is absolutely pumped to be performing at San Francisco Playhouse. She has been dancing her whole life and graduated from the University of Arizona with a BFA in dance in 2021. Gwen began working in theatre shortly after graduation and has since performed in Rent (Marin Musical Theatre Company), Into the Woods and Hello, Dolly! (Mountain Play), and Elf (Hillbarn Theatre). Performing is such a joy and Gwen is honored to share her love of singing and dancing with this production! She thanks her family, friends, and most importantly, apologizes to all of her dance teachers for never paying attention in ballet class.

**ANN WARQUE**

**Lori**  
**U/S: Connie**

Ann is a Filipina-American musical theatre artist from the East Bay who is thrilled to return to San Francisco Playhouse! She recently graduated with a BA degree in dance and a minor in theatre arts from Loyola Marymount University. Recent credits include Mei Lin in Song of the Nightingale (Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre), Angela in Nanay (Town Hall Theatre Company), In the Heights (Berkeley Playhouse), Follies (San Francisco Playhouse), Kasey in Baked! The Musical (FaultLine Theater), and Vanessa in In the Heights (Loyola Marymount University). She thanks her family, friends, and partner for supporting her dreams! @warque.af

**MELISSA WOLFKLAIN**

**Val**

Melissa is thrilled to be back at San Francisco Playhouse where she also performed in Starting Here, Starting Now and Cabaret. She recently closed the role of The Baker’s Wife in Into the Woods at Mountain Play, where she previously played the title role in Peter Pan. Melissa has performed in Merrily We Roll Along, A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder, Dames at Sea (TBA Award), and Me and My Girl at 42nd Street Moon. Additional credits include the national tours of 42nd Street and Irving Berlin’s White Christmas, and roles in Ragtime, Sense and Sensibility, Pride and Prejudice, and Tynyard Hill (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley), Cabaret and Funny Girl (Hillbarn Theatre), and Shrek (3-D Theatricals). “Thanks Mom, Dad, Isaiah, Nicole, and all the sibs for your continued support!” melissawolflain.com | @melissawolflain

**HANNAH WOOLFENDEN**

**Swing**  
**U/S: Chorus**

Hannah (she, her) is thrilled to be a part of this production! She is a recent graduate from the Alonzo King Lines Ballet BFA program through Dominican University of California and is excited to be back at San Francisco Playhouse. Hannah was recently onstage in House of Spirits (Dance Lumiere), As You Like It (San Francisco Playhouse), and Hello, Dolly! (Mountain Play). Hannah loves...
to perform, dance, and choreograph. She is incredibly thankful for the support of her family and artistic community. hannahwoolfenden.com

**MUSICIANS**

**WILL BERG**

*Reed 1*

Will (he, him) is a San Francisco based woodwind doubler and jazz musician. Favorite theatre credits include *La Cage aux Folles* (Bay Area Musicals), *Follies* (42nd Street Moon), *Let's Dance* (Transcendence Theatre Company), *Cabaret* (Contra Costa Civic Theatre), *Fiddler on the Roof* (STARS 2000), and the 2022 national tour of *Ain't Too Proud*. “I am very lucky and forever grateful for the unconditional support and love my wife, Tessa, gives me every day. Also, a big thanks to Dave Dobrusky and the whole San Francisco Playhouse team for putting on great theatre productions every year and having me on board this time!”

**KEN BRILL**

*Keyboard 2, Programmer*

Ken is thrilled to be back at San Francisco Playhouse for *A Chorus Line*. Previous Playhouse contributions include keyboard for *As You Like It* and *Groundhog Day The Musical*, associate music director, synth programmer, and keyboard for *Follies* and *Sunday in the Park with George*, onstage pianist for *Company*, Sir Lionel in *Camelot*, the roles of Big Six, Del, Luther, and a member of the Angel City Four in *City of Angels*, and Santa in *A Christmas Story*.

**DAVID DIENI**

*Drums*

David is a drummer and percussionist whose experience encompasses everything from rock to classical, jazz, and musicals. A graduate of both the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, he is currently timpanist with the Golden Gate Park Band and percussionist with the California Pops Orchestra. David has performed in musicals with Contra Costa Musical Theatre, Broadway by the Bay, Woodminster Summer Musicals, Marin Theatre Company, and Berkeley Repertory Theatre. During his career, he has been fortunate to perform with the likes of Luciano Pavarotti, Dave Brubeck, Carol Channing, and Judy Collins. In 2017 David published his first book, *Drumming In All Directions - A System for Achieving Creative Control* with Hal Leonard. *Modern Drummer* calls it “An extensive take on developing coordination from the ground up.” He also maintains a busy teaching schedule at his SF Drum School, which has proved an active training ground for the next generation of drummers.

**NICK DISCALA**

*Reed 1*

Nick played for national touring productions of *My Fair Lady*, *The Prom*, and *Frozen*. He has also played for *Beach Blanket Babylon*, the San Francisco, California, Napa, Sacramento, Santa Rosa, and Oakland symphonies, West Bay Opera, Ray Charles, The Temptations, The Manhattan Transfer, Johnny Mathis, Kevin Spacey, Della Reese, Peabo Bryson, Reuben Studdard, and Isaac Hayes. Nick regularly plays for TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Woodminster Summer Musicals, and other regional theatres. He has arranged music for Tony-nominated performer Christiane Noll and the New York Pops and served as music director for over twenty Bay Area theatre productions. Nick works with the estate of jazz pioneer Don Ellis preparing music for publication and producing new and archival recordings, and he reset the piano–vocal score for *Anyone Can Whistle* for Music Theatre International.

**DAVE DOBRUSKY**

*Keyboard 1, Conductor*

Dave has been working in the Bay Area for twenty-five years. Highlights include *Follies*, *Groundhog Day The Musical*, *Cabaret* (San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle award), *Sunday in the Park with George* (SFBATCC award), *La Cage aux Folles*, *Man of La Mancha* (SFBATCC award), and *City of Angels* (San Francisco Playhouse) and *Hot Mikado*, *110 in the Shade*, *Dames at Sea*, *Me and My Girl*, *Ain’t Misbehavin’*, *The Most Happy Fella, Paint Your Wagon* (SFBATCC award), and *Scrooge in Love!* (42nd Street Moon). He has worked with many theatre companies, including Theatre Rhinoceros, Ray of Light Theatre, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, New Conservatory Theatre Center, and Hillbarn Theatre. Dave is originally from Albuquerque and attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

**TIMOTHY FLETCHER**

*Keyboard 2*

Timothy (he, him) is elated to make his San Francisco Playhouse debut after being married to his husband, Dylan, on the Playhouse stage three years ago! He earned an MFA in music direction from the University of California, Irvine and works throughout the country as a professional music director. Some favorite credits include *Fun Home*, *The Fantasticks*, and *Spring Awakening*. Regional credits include *Head Over Heels* (Theatre SiCo), *Into the Woods* and *Company* (University of California, Irvine), *The Last Five Years*, *Urinetown*, and *Mamma Mia!* “Much love to my amazing, supportive husband who has been there every step of the way and...
deserves an award for Husband of the Year!"

timothyletchermusic.com

RUSS GOLD
Drums
Russ (he, him, they) had the great fortune to tour throughout Germany with West Side Story after graduating from the Berklee College of Music. Upon returning to Boston, he played for Rap Master Ronnie, written by famed cartoonist Gary Trudeau, and the London hit A Slice of Saturday Night. Russ has worked extensively with director Andrew Serban and writer Susan Sontag at the American Repertory Theater in Cambridge, a highlight being The King Stag. Favorite San Francisco and Sacramento credits include Rent, Jersey Boys, Wicked, Cats, Catch Me If You Can, Hairspray, Irving Berlin’s White Christmas, The Full Monty, Bye Bye Birdie, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, The Addams Family, Hair, Grease, Annie Get Your Gun, The Producers, The Little Mermaid, Sugar, and Oliver! Since 2013 he has been working on Tristan & Yseult and An Audience with Meow Meow at Berkeley Repertory Theatre with the British group Kneehigh Theatre Company from Cornwall. Recently, Russ has performed several cabaret concerts with Billy Porter.

TERRY HALVORSON
Reed 1
Terry (he, him, his) is a multiple woodwind musician (oboe, English horn, clarinets, flutes, saxophones, whistles, recorders, and bamboo flutes) who has been playing musical theatre scores for forty-plus years. Between 2006 and 2018, he toured the US and Canada playing with several national tours. Terry originated the Reed 2 book for the US premiere of The Hunchback of Notre Dame (La Jolla Playhouse, 2014) as well as for the US premiere of the first fully-orchestrated and staged production of The Prince of Egypt (Tuacahn Amphitheater). He recently returned from living in Tampere, Finland where he performed in one of the first EU productions of The Hunchback of Notre Dame. Terry is currently based in Southern California, but often performs throughout the state. He most recently performed here in Follies and is excited to be back at San Francisco Playhouse!

AUDREY JACKSON
Reed 2
Audrey (she, her, hers) is a multi-instrumentalist who has played for musical theatre productions from Napa down to Monterey. Past credits include Indecent, Sunday in the Park with George, A Christmas Story, Cabaret, and Groundhog Day The Musical at San Francisco Playhouse. She is also now a proud part owner of Forrests Music in Berkeley. Her hobbies include cooking and hiking. When not engaged in musical activities, discovering the intricacies of QuickBooks, or quarantining, Audrey can be found in New York attending Broadway musicals and Mets games, or relaxing in the Napa Valley with her dearest friends.

RICHARD MATHIAS
Reed 1
Richard (Dick) is an Oakland native with an extensive and multi-dimensional Bay Area career as a freelance musician, composer, arranger, and educator. Stylistically, his interests have included a wide range of jazz, band, orchestral and chamber music, avant-garde classical, musical theatre, opera, and various forms of commercial music. Dick has worked in the pits of numerous Bay Area theaters with local and national companies. As a composer–arranger, he writes and performs with the Albatross Clarinet Quartet, his own wind quintet, and other chamber groups. A versatile woodwind doubler, his recent performances include work with Festival Opera, West Edge Opera, The Morchestra, Bay Symphony, Royal Society Jazz Orchestra, Cantare Con Vivo, and the Don Piestrup Big Band.

JASON PARK
Trumpet, Flugelhorn
Jason is honored to be part of A Chorus Line, making this his tenth year anniversary with San Francisco Playhouse. He joined the company in 2013 playing trumpet on Camelot and has been performing here annually for many musicals. Jason also performs with Bay Area symphony orchestras, musical theatre companies, chamber ensembles, and has worked as a music director, musician contractor, and professional chef. He currently is program administrator for the award-winning San Francisco Boys Chorus.

BEN PRINCE
Keyboard 2
Ben (he, him) is delighted to be back on keys at San Francisco Playhouse, after serving as music director for Dogfight and playing in the pit for a number of productions including the two-piano Company, Groundhog Day The Musical, and Camelot. Ben has music directed over fifteen productions for Ray of Light Theatre including Kinky Boots, Jesus Christ Superstar, Jerry Springer: The Opera, and Carrie. Other local theatre credits include DuBarry was a Lady (42nd Street Moon), Avenue Q (New Conservatory Theatre Centre), Altar Boyz (Center REPertory Company), and Catch Me If You Can (Woodminster Summer Musicals). Ben is a regular
pianist at Martuni’s piano bar and has played all over the world on Holland America Line and Carnival Cruise Line.

HAL RICHARDS
Reed 2
Hal currently performs with Jeff Sanford’s Cartoon Jazz Orchestra, the Berkeley Saxophone Quartet, the Dave Parker Quintet, the California Pops Orchestra, the Golden Gate Park Band, David Hardiman’s San Francisco All-Star Big Band, and Laurent Fourgo. Hal has previously performed with Carol Channing, Terry Gibbs, Eric Marienthal, Bob Florence, Bill Perkins, Fred Radke, Lennie Niehaus, Steve Turre, Charles Tolliver, The Revels, San Francisco Children’s Opera, and the San Francisco Mime Troupe. Additional credits include multiple CD projects, television soundtracks, and musical productions with Magic Theatre, San Francisco Playhouse, Broadway by the Bay, Marines’ Memorial Theatre, Berkeley Playhouse, Contra Costa Musical Theatre, Peninsula Civic Light Opera, Verismo Opera, the Guadalajara Symphony Orchestra, the Fillmore Jazz Festival, and at the North Beach Jazz Festival. Hal is a member of the Musicians Union Local 6 and has taught music in the San Francisco Unified School District for more than thirty years.

JUSTIN J. SMITH
Trumpet, Flugelhorn
Justin (he, him) is thrilled to be returning to the San Francisco Playhouse for his ninth musical production since Promises, Promises in 2014. He is a freelance musician and the Upper School Music Teacher at the San Francisco Day School. A musical chameleon, you will find Justin performing and recording with small group jazz bands, musical theatre productions, pop and rock ‘n’ roll bands, orchestras, and classical chamber music ensembles. He is the resident trumpet soloist at All Souls Episcopal Parish in Berkeley and plays solo cornet with the North American Brass Band Association (NABBA) competing San Francisco Brass Band.

BEN VISINI
Drums
Ben Visini has been drumming for seventeen years, with a focus in rock, funk, jazz, and rap styles. He has played at conventions and festivals such as MAGFest, MAGWest, Fanime, and the Chinatown Music Festival (2018, 2019, 2021). He has also featured at established San Francisco venues such as Hotel Utah and Neck of the Woods, playing local shows there for over four years. He is currently the drummer for Kat Robichaud’s Misfit Cabaret. Ben has also played in the pit for musicals for over a decade at venues including the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Palo Alto Players, San Mateo High School, and the Castellija School. In addition to drumming, Ben is a comedy musician, an electrician and carpenter, and a video editor.

AUTHORS
MICHAEL BENNETT
Conception, Original Direction, Original Choreography
Michael Bennett was an American musical theatre director, writer, choreographer, and dancer. He won seven Tony Awards for his choreography and direction of Broadway shows and was nominated for an additional eleven. Choreography credits include Henry, Sweet Henry, Promises, Promises, Coco, and Company. Michael directed and choreographed productions including Follies, Seesaw, and Ballroom. In 1976, he won the Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical and the Tony Award for Best Choreography for A Chorus Line. Under the aegis of producer Joseph Papp, Michael created A Chorus Line based on a workshop process which he pioneered. In 1982, he directed and, with Michael Peters, co-choreographed Dreamgirls, winner of six Tony Awards, including Best Choreography.

MARVIN HAMLISCH
Music
As a composer, Marvin Hamlisch won virtually every major award that exists: three Oscars, four Grammys, four Emmys, a Tony, three Golden Globe awards, and the Pulitzer Prize (won by A Chorus Line). Only he and Richard Rodgers have won the PEGOT (Pulitzer, Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony awards). For Broadway, Marvin wrote the music for his groundbreaking show, A Chorus Line, as well as They’re Playing Our Song, The Goodbye Girl, and Sweet Smell of Success. Additional theatrical scores include Jean Seberg and The Nutty Professor. He was the composer of more than forty motion picture scores including his Oscar-winning score and song for The Way We Were and his adaptation of Scott Joplin’s music for The Sting, for which he received a third Oscar. His prolific output of scores for films include original compositions and/or musical adaptations for Sophie’s Choice, Ordinary People, The Swimmer, Three Men and a Baby, Ice Castles, Take the Money and Run, Bananas, Save the Tiger, and The Informant!, starring Matt Damon and directed by Steven Soderbergh. At the time of his passing, Marvin had just finished his last musical score for the film about Liberace, Behind the Candelabra. Directed by Soderbergh and starring Michael Douglas and Matt Damon, the movie was shown at the 2013
Cannes Festival and later aired on HBO to great reviews. It went on to win several Emmys including best actor for Douglas. Marvin was musical director and arranger of the Barbra Streisand 1994 concert tour of the US and England as well as the television special, *Barbra: The Concert*, for which he received two of his Emmys. He held the position of principal pops conductor for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Pasadena Symphony and Pops, Seattle Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, DC. At the time of his death, Marvin was preparing to assume responsibilities as principal pops conductor for the Philadelphia Orchestra. He was a graduate of The Juilliard School and Queens College, where he earned a bachelor's of arts degree. Marvin believed in the power of music to bring people together.

**EDWARD KLEBAN**

**Lyrics**
Edward Kleban was the lyricist of *A Chorus Line*, for which he won the 1975 Tony Award, the Pulitzer Prize, the Drama Desk Award, and the Olivier Award. His score for the musical *A Class Act*, produced posthumously, was nominated for the 2001 Tony and Drama Desk awards and won an Obie Award. *A Class Act* is a musical biography of his life, with a score comprised of his own music and lyrics. A New York revival was staged in February 2022. Edward was a graduate of the High School of Music and Art and of Columbia College, where he wrote the music for The Varsity Show of 1960 with a book by Terrance McNally. Upon graduation from Columbia, Edward was hired as a record producer by Columbia Records. Throughout the sixties, he produced original cast albums while developing his own musicals in the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop. Every song that Edward wrote for *A Chorus Line* was tested in the BMI workshop. During the 1980s, he carried on Mr. Engel's tradition and taught songwriting in the workshop. Edward died in December 1987 at the age of 48, after a two-year bout with a cigarette-related cancer. In his will, he created and endowed The Kleban Prize, a unique grant that is bestowed not for a writer's previous achievements, but for the promise of creativity to come, chosen by a panel of Broadway's most respected artists. Recipients have gone on to garner four Tony Awards, thirty Tony nominations, ten Drama Desk Awards, and four Obie Awards.

**NICHOLAS DANTE**

**Book**
Nicholas Dante was an American dancer and writer, best known for having co-written the book of the musical *A Chorus Line*. Born Conrado Morales in New York City, he began his career as a dancer and performer, appearing on Broadway in productions including *Applause*, *Ambassador*, and *Smith*. In 1974, Michael Bennett invited Nicholas to participate in interview sessions with Broadway dancers who, almost anonymously, serve as a backdrop behind star performers. Those sessions provided ample material for a Broadway musical. Collaborating with Michael Bennett and James Kirkwood, Nicholas created *A Chorus Line*, which earned him the 1976 Tony Award and Drama Desk Award for Best Book of a Musical and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The character of Paul, a gay Puerto Rican dancer whose early career consisted of working in a drag show, was based primarily on himself. Sammy Williams, who originated the role, won the 1976 Tony Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical. Nicholas later assumed the role himself. In 1991, at age 49, he died in New York City from AIDS-related complications.

**JAMES KIRKWOOD**

**Book**
James Kirkwood was an American playwright, author, and actor. In 1976 he received the Tony Award, the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Book of a Musical, and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his work on *A Chorus Line*. Born in Los Angeles, James began his career as an actor, appearing on television in *Valiant Lady* and *Perry Mason*, and on Broadway in productions including *Small Wonder* and *Dance Me a Song*. As an author, he penned the semi-autobiographical novel *There Must Be a Pony*, along with *P.S. Your Cat Is Dead*, *Good Times/ Bad Times*, *Some Kind of Hero*, and *Hit Me with a Rainbow*. In 1970, James wrote the non-fiction book *American Grotesque*, about the trial of Clay Shaw. His comedic play *Legends* toured the United States starring Mary Martin and Carol Channing. James later wrote an account of the experience, titled *Diary of a Mad Playwright: Perilous Adventures on the Road with Mary Martin and Carol Channing*. He died of AIDS-related complications in 1989. In his memory, friends and admirers established the James Kirkwood Literary Prize to honor new generations of fiction writers for their literary accomplishments.

**CREATIVE TEAM**

**BILL ENGLISH**

**Director, Scenic Co-Designer**
Bill is the co-founder and artistic director of the San Francisco Playhouse. In fifteen years with Susi Damilano, he has guided its growth from a bare-bones storefront to the second-largest nonprofit theatre company in San Francisco. Bill designed our first theater space at 536 Sutter Street and
personally reconfigured our current space from a barn-like 700-seat hall into the current gracious and intimate 199-seat venue. Along the way, he has served as director, actor, scenic designer, and sound designer, winning San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle nominations or awards in each of those categories. Bill is also an accomplished musician and builder. Milestone accomplishments include bringing Pulitzer Prize-winner Stephen Adly Guirgis to the Bay Area by directing three of his plays, commissioning twelve playwrights including Theresa Rebeck, Aaron Loeb, Lauren Gunderson, Lauren Yee, and Christopher Chen, and developing world premieres from workshops to Sandbox Series to Mainstage Season to Off-Broadway (including the Off-Broadway transfers of Ideation and Bauer), and presenting the very first production of Grounded by George Brant which later played at the Public Theater. He coined the phrase “the empathy gym” and it drives everything at the Playhouse.

**DAVE DOBRUSKY**  
**Music Director**  
Dave has been working in the Bay Area for twenty-five years. Highlights include Follies, Groundhog Day The Musical, Cabaret (San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle award), Sunday in the Park with George (SFBATCC award), La Cage aux Folles, Man of La Mancha (SFBATCC award), and City of Angels (San Francisco Playhouse) and Hot Mikado, 110 in the Shade, Dames at Sea, Me and My Girl, Ain’t Misbehavin’, The Most Happy Fella, Paint Your Wagon (SFBATCC award), and Scrooge in Love! (42nd Street Moon). He has worked with many theatre companies, including Theatre Rhinoceros, Ray of Light Theatre, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, New Conservatory Theatre Center, and Hillbarn Theatre. Dave is originally from Albuquerque and attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

**NICOLE HELFER**  
**Choreographer**  
Nicole is an award-winning choreographer, director, and performing artist who has worked with many well known Bay Area theatre companies such as TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, 42nd Street Moon, Broadway by the Bay, Center REPertory Company, Contra Costa Musical Theatre, Ray of Light Theatre, Mountain Play, Lamplighters Music Theatre, and Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre. She has choreographed for San Francisco Playhouse since 2019, starting with the successful production of Cabaret (San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle award and TBA Award finalist) and followed by Groundhog Day The Musical (SFBATCC nominee), Songs for a New World, Starting Here, Starting Now (SFBATCC nominee), Twelfth Night (SFBATCC award), Follies, and most recently Indecent and Clue. Additional choreography credits include She Loves Me (SFBATCC award), Dames at Sea (TBA Award finalist and SFBATCC nominee), The Music Man (TBA Award finalist), West Side Story (TBA Award), In the Heights (TBA Award), No, No, Nanette (TBA Award finalist and SFBATCC nominee), and LIZZIE (SFBATCC nominee). Nicole is delighted to be a part of this amazing production with this incredibly talented team of artists!

**ABRA BERMAN**  
**Costume Designer**  
Abra (she, her, hers) has been designing costumes for over twenty-five years. Collaborations include Magic Theatre, Pacific Repertory Theatre, Boxcar Theatre, San Francisco Playhouse, San Jose Stage Company, West Bay Opera, Marin Shakespeare Company, Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Company C Contemporary Ballet, Lamplighters Music Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, the M.H. De Young Memorial Museum, and the Museum of Performance + Design. Abra earned an MFA in theatrical costume design from the University of California, Los Angeles.

**CLINT CALIMLIM**  
**Assistant Choreographer**  
Clint (he, him) is excited to make his San Francisco Playhouse and assistant choreographer debut! Favorite performing credits include A Chorus Line, Cats, Graffiti Pete in In the Heights, West Side Story, Miss Saigon, and Aida (Broadway by the Bay), and Van Patten in American Psycho (Ray of Light Theatre). When not performing on stage or assisting choreographers, he is a full-time public high school counselor at the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts and teaches dance to kids on the weekends at ODC in San Francisco. Clint thanks Nicole Helfer, San Francisco Playhouse, the sensational cast and crew, and his husband Brendon for their love and support! “Enjoy the show!”

**DAREN A.C. CAROLLO**  
**Stage Manager**  
Daren, an award-winning director and producer with over 175 credits, has been a leader in the San Francisco Bay Area arts scene for two decades, previously serving as the producing artistic director of 42nd Street Moon and Berkeley Playhouse, executive director of Broadway by the Bay, and artistic director for Diablo Theatre Company/DLOC. His production company, Carollo & Palumbo, LLC, produced the musical bare Off-Broadway and A Time to Kill on Broadway. His 42nd Street Moon directing highlights include A Gentleman's
Guide to Love and Murder, New Girl in Town, and concert productions of Kismet, Follies, South Pacific, Titanic, and Brigadoon. Favorite directing projects include Les Misérables, Sweeney Todd, Jekyll & Hyde, Ripcord, Clybourne Park, Noises Off (twice), One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, The Trip to Bountiful, Dracula (twice), Peter Pan (twice), Miss Saigon, The Drowsy Chaperone (twice), A Grand Night for Singing, Rabbit Hole, Doubt, Curtains, and To Kill A Mockingbird (twice). Daren has directed for Diablo Theatre Company, Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre, Napa Valley Opera House, Ohlone College, Solano College, Town Hall Theatre Company, On Broadway for Diablo Regional Arts Association, El Campanil Theatre, and Contra Costa Civic Theatre. He is a proud member of Actors’ Equity Association and Theatre Bay Area. For all that Daren has been blessed and honored to accomplish theatrically thus far, he is most proud of his greatest accomplishment: being the father of his son, Jack.

CASTING COLLECTIVE
Kieran Becca & Dori L. Jacob, CSA
Casting Directors
The Casting Collective is a team of casting directors with extensive experience and deep ties to the Bay Area theatre community. They have created and maintain the most comprehensive, regularly updated local talent database in the region. Casting locally is the predominant practice of the Collective. In the wake of the pandemic and the massive national call for greater EDI representation and prioritization, regional theatre has fundamentally changed. The Casting Collective is a response to this call for change in the way theatres access, promote, and hire artists, in order to foster an anti-racist, inclusive, collaborative future. Their purpose is to advance the interests of local actors and encourage institutions to explore, engage with, and hire from within this community instead of searching elsewhere for their talent.
castingcollective.org

KEILIL ELLIOTT
Properties Designer
Keili (she, her) is a long time janie of all trades at the San Francisco Playhouse who is honored to add properties designer to the list. Her first production here was The Nether back in 2015–2016. Since then, Keili has worked as an assistant stage manager and production assistant for more than ten productions at the Playhouse and as stage manager for four productions with ACT’s Young Conservatory program. She considers the Playhouse her family and theatre home and can’t wait for you to experience A Chorus Line at the empathy gym!

SAM HATTERSLEY
Production Assistant
Sam is thrilled to join San Francisco Playhouse for A Chorus Line. They are a recent graduate of San Francisco State University. When Sam is not backstage, they’re onstage. Some favorite roles include Duke Orsino in Twelfth Night, Demetrius in A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and Vindice in The Revenger’s Tragedy. Sam thanks their friends and family for the endless support.

HEATHER KENYON
Scenic Co–Designer
Heather (she, her, hers) is a Bay Area scenic designer and lighting designer. Previous scenic designs for San Francisco Playhouse include Clue, As You Like It, Follies, Twelfth Night, Starting Here, Starting Now, The Fit, and Washed Up on the Potomac. She designed lighting for the Playhouse productions of Heroes of the Fourth Turning, Songs for a New World, I was Right Here, Art, and Hold These Truths. Additional scenic design credits include The Code and Ti–Jean and His Brothers (Young Conservatory and MFA programs at American Conservatory Theater), American Hero and Cloud 9 (Custom Made Theatre Co.), Men on Boats (Palo Alto Players), and The Book of Will (Santa Clara University). She has also worked with TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Aurora Theatre Company, Ballet San José, CMT San José, South Bay Musical Theatre, and WVLO Musical Theatre Company. Heather teaches scenic design at Santa Clara University and is a proud member of United Scenic Artists, IATSE Local USA 829. heatherkenyon.net

MICHAEL OESCH
Lighting Designer
Michael (he, him) is a lighting designer for musicals, dance, theatre, and opera. Since first working with San Francisco Playhouse in 2007, he has designed lights here for Cashed Out, Tiny, Beautiful Things, Cabaret, Sunday in the Park with George, Born Yesterday, The Christians, City of Angels, The Nether, Company, Tree, Into the Woods, Camelot, reasons to be pretty, My Fair Lady, Becky Shaw, Period of Adjustment, Tigers Be Still, The Fantasticks, Coraline, Animals Out of Paper, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, The Scene, Cabaret, and Man of La Mancha. He has also designed lighting for many other theatre companies in the Bay Area and regionally. Michael recently received a TBA Award for lighting work, along with previous multiple nominations from the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle awards and the Shellie Awards, and an Isadora Duncan Dance Award. He earned an MFA from the University of California, Davis and is a proud member of United Scenic Artists.

KEILIL ELLIOTT
Properties Designer
Keili (she, her) is a long time janie of all trades at the San Francisco Playhouse who is honored to add properties designer to the list. Her first production here was The Nether back in 2015–2016. Since then, Keili has worked as an assistant stage manager and production assistant for more than ten productions at the Playhouse and as stage manager for four productions with ACT’s Young Conservatory program. She considers the Playhouse her family and theatre home and can’t wait for you to experience A Chorus Line at the empathy gym!
Artists 829, the union of professional theatrical designers. michaeloesch.com

JO DAVITA ORTIZ*
Assistant Stage Manager
Jo (they, them) is an Actors’ Equity Association stage manager who has been stage managing at a variety of levels for six years. This is their San Francisco Playhouse debut and they are thrilled to be on the team. Their favorite part about stage management is to bring shows together from pre-production through closing. Credits include School of Rock, Funny Girl, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged), The Agitators, Crumbs From the Table of Joy, Two Trains Running, The Travelers, and Where Did We Sit on the Bus?

LOUIS PARNELL
Assistant Director
Louis (he, him, his) is pleased to return to the Playhouse where he most recently played Dimitri Weismann in Follies and Herr Schultz in Cabaret. He has directed many Playhouse productions and performed in over a dozen plays and musicals here, including Follies, Cabaret, Art, Born Yesterday, The Nether, Into the Woods, The Fantasticks, Man of La Mancha, and the inaugural Playhouse production It Had to Be You. For the past forty years, Louis has also worked as an actor and director with numerous other Bay Area companies, including American Conservatory Theater, Marin Theatre Company, Center REPertory Company, Magic Theatre, and TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, as well as many smaller companies. He has been nominated for San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle awards fifteen times – winning five - and has been honored with various other awards for his work. Louis has performed in numerous film, commercial, and television roles and is a proud member of Actors’ Equity Association and SAG-AFTRA.

KEITH PINTO
Associate Choreographer
Keith’s choreography has been featured here at San Francisco Playhouse in Colossal, for which he received a San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle award, and Dogfight. Other choreography credits include a TBA Award for Altar Boyz (Center REPertory Company), Othello, Adiós Mamá Carlota, and Mamma Mia! (San Jose Stage Company), Pericles, Prince of Tyre (Pacific Repertory Theatre), Angry Black White Boy and Block by Block (Campo Santo), Stateless: A Hip Hop Vaudeville Experience (The Jewish Theatre San Francisco), Beatbox: A Raparetta (Theater Artaud), Stand Up Tragedy (PCPA Theaterfest), and Jesus Christ Superstar (Urban Street Players).

He is a graduate of the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts and has been on the faculty at San José State University teaching Hip Hop Dance Technique for twenty years.

FOUNDERS

SUSI DAMILANO
Founder, Producing Director
Susi (she, her, hers) is co-founder and producing director of the San Francisco Playhouse. She is a five–time recipient of the Excellence in Theatre Award for Principal Actress in a Play from the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle for the Playhouse productions of Abigail’s Party, Harper Regan, Bug, Six Degrees of Separation, and Reckless. Susi has also performed leading roles here in Heroes of the Fourth Turning, Yoga Play, The Effect, The Roommate, Red Velvet, Tree, Bauer, Abigail’s Party, Harper Regan, Coraline, Slasher, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, Landscape of the Body, First Person Shooter, Jesus Hopped the ‘A’ Train, The Crucible, Kimberly Akimbo, Our Town, and The Smell of the Kill. Directing credits include Playhouse productions of Indecent, Twelfth Night, Groundhog Day The Musical, Cabaret, Mary Poppins, Noises Off, She Loves Me, Stage Kiss, Company, Stupid Fucking Bird, Into the Woods, A Behanding in Spokane, Den of Thieves, and Wirehead (SFBATCC nomination), the West Coast premieres of Honey Brown Eyes (SFBATCC nomination), Dead Man’s Cell Phone, Coronado, The Mystery Plays, and Roulette, and the world premieres of On Clover Road by Steven Dietz, From Red to Black by Rhett Rossi, and Seven Days by Daniel Heath in the Sandbox Series.

BILL ENGLISH
Founder, Artistic Director
Bill is the co–founder and artistic director of the San Francisco Playhouse. In fifteen years with Susi Damilano, he has guided its growth from a bare–bones storefront to the second–largest nonprofit theatre company in San Francisco. Bill designed our first theater space at 536 Sutter Street and personally reconfigured our current space from a barn-like 700-seat hall into the current gracious and intimate 199-seat venue. Along the way, he has served as director, actor, scenic designer, and sound designer, winning San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle nominations or awards in each of those categories. Bill is also an accomplished musician and builder. Milestone accomplishments include bringing Pulitzer Prize–winner Stephen Adly Guirgis to the Bay Area by directing three of his plays, commissioning twelve playwrights including Theresa Rebeck, Aaron Loeb, Lauren Gunderson, Lauren Yee, and Christopher
Chen, and developing world premieres from workshops to Sandbox Series to Mainstage Season to Off-Broadway (including the Off-Broadway transfers of Ideation and Bauer), and presenting the very first production of Grounded by George Brant which later played at the Public Theater. He coined the phrase “the empathy gym” and it drives everything at the Playhouse.

**PRODUCTION AFFILIATIONS**

**ACTORS’ EQUITY ASSOCIATION**

Founded in 1913, Actors’ Equity Association is the US labor union that represents more than 50,000 actors and stage managers. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages and working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors’ Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. [actorsequity.org](http://actorsequity.org)

**UNITED SCENIC ARTISTS**

United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829, IATSE, is a labor union and professional association of designers, artists, craftspeople, and department coordinators, organized to protect craft standards, working conditions and wages for the entertainment and decorative arts industries. The members of Local USA 829 work in film, theatre, opera, ballet, television, industrial shows, commercials, and exhibitions. [usa829.org](http://usa829.org)

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* Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers.

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San Francisco Playhouse is celebrating twenty years as San Francisco’s Empathy Gym. Presenting a diverse range of plays and musicals, the Playhouse produces new works as well as reimagined classics, “making the edgy accessible and the accessible edgy.” Its bold Sandbox Series – the only subscription series in the Bay Area devoted solely to presenting world premieres – is dedicated to nurturing new playwrights beyond readings. There is also a commitment to more in-depth new work through individual commissions, including plays by Ruben Grijalva, Michael Gene Sullivan, Theresa Rebeck, Christopher Chen, Lauren Gunderson, and Aaron Loeb. The Playhouse has developed, presented, and transferred three world premieres to New York. Gunderson’s Bauer and Loeb’s Ideation opened Off-Broadway, and Loeb’s Abraham Lincoln’s Big, Gay Dance Party won the best of New York International Fringe Festival. Their commitment to new works in the San Francisco Playhouse Sandbox Series has been honored by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Theatre Wing. The Playhouse secured their two highest-profile commissions to date: Shoot Me When by Ruben Grijalva, which was presented online during the pandemic and was awarded a Will Glickman Award, Seared by Theresa Rebeck, which opened the 2016-2017 Mainstage Season and was nominated for ten San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle awards, and You Mean to Do Me Harm by Christopher Chen, winner of the Lanford Wilson Award from the Dramatists Guild of America in 2016. Works developed by the Playhouse have gone on to receive regional and national acclaim. Yockey’s Pluto – a Playhouse commission – was named a National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere, George Brant’s Grounded – a Playhouse premiere – was produced at the Public Theater starring Anne Hathaway and directed by Julie Taymor in 2015, and Loeb’s Abraham Lincoln’s Big, Gay Dance Party has received productions from Birmingham to Off-Broadway. sfplayhouse.org

Our mission is to share stories that uplift spirits, deepen self-awareness, and nurture compassionate community. Our theater is an Empathy Gym where we come to practice our powers of compassion. Here, safe in the dark, we can risk sharing in the lives of the characters. We feel what they feel, fear what they fear, and love what they love, and as we walk through our doors we take with us greater powers of understanding to make our community a better place, one play at a time.
## OUR STAFF

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Guys & Dolls
Book by Abe Burrows and Jo Swerling
Music by Frank Loesser
Directed by Bill English
11.16.23 - 1.13.24

My Home on The Moon
By Minna Lee
1.25.24 - 2.24.24

The 39 Steps
Adapted by Patrick Barlow
From the novel by John Buchan
Directed by Susi Damilano
3.7.24 - 4.20.24

The Glass Menagerie
By Tennessee Williams
Directed by Jeffrey Lo
5.2.24 - 6.15.24

Evita
Lyrics by Tim Rice
Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
Directed by Bill English
6.27.24 - 9.7.24

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