

Heartfelt, Uplifting Musical

SOMEWHERE OVER THE BORDER

Joseph Clayes III Theater

BY
BRIAN QUIJADA

DIRECTION AND
CHOREOGRAPHY BY
CARLOS MENDOZA

MUSIC DIRECTION BY
LYNDON PUGEDA



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CYGNET THEATRE

Announcing the

2026-2027 SEASON

ARCADIA

July 15 – August 9, 2026

Dottie Studio Theater

By Tom Stoppard

Directed by Sean Murray

Passion and intellect collide across centuries in this dazzling drama.

DEAR EVAN HANSEN

September 9 – October 4, 2026

Joseph Claves III Theater

Music & Lyrics by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul

Book by Steven Levenson

Directed by Blaka McCarty

Music Direction by Patrick Marion

Choreography by Theresa Maigue Bendorf

A Tony Award-winning musical about the desperate need to be seen.

JOB

October 7 – November 1, 2026

Dottie Studio Theater

By Max Wolf Friedlich

Directed by Hannah Meade

A gripping psychological showdown.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

November 24 – December 24, 2026

Joseph Claves III Theater

Adaptation and Lyrics by Sean Murray

Original Score by Billy Thompson

Directed by Sean Murray

Music Direction by Patrick Marion

Choreography by Katie Barville

Dickens' beloved and timeless tale of hope and redemption.

CYGNET'S A MAGICAL HOLIDAY

December 2 – 24, 2026

Dottie Studio Theater

Created and Directed by Carlos Mendoza

Choreography by Kristel Nichols & Carlos Mendoza

Musical Arrangements by Justin Gray

Music Direction by Lyndon Pugaeda

Add sparkle to your season with this holiday spectacular.

ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS

February 17 – March 14, 2027

Joseph Claves III Theater

By Richard Bean

With songs by Grant Olding

Based on *The Servant of Two Masters* by Carlo Goldoni

Directed by Sean Murray

Music Direction by Patrick Marion

Choreography by Katie Barville

A cascade of chaos fuel this wild comedy that will leave you dizzy with laughter.

JOHN PROCTOR IS THE VILLAIN

March 17 – April 11, 2027

Dottie Studio Theater

By Kimberly Bellflower

Directed by TBA

A bold, razor-sharp comedy that flips *The Crucible* on its head.

BAT BOY: THE MUSICAL

May 26 – June 20, 2027

Joseph Claves III Theater

Story and book by Keith Farley & Brian Flerring

Book and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe

Directed by Sean Murray

Music Direction by Patrick Marion

Choreography by Katie Barville

This cult favorite follows a half-boy/half-bat searching for love in a town that fears him.



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FROM THE DIRECTOR

When I think of *Somewhere Over the Border*, I think of resilience, sacrifice, and love. Reina's journey reflects the courage of so many who have left everything behind—family, language, and familiarity—in search of a better life. Her story is one of hope, determination, and the unbreakable human spirit.

I'm reminded of the countless individuals who came to this country not out of choice, but necessity. People who were doctors, teachers, and professionals in their home countries, now rebuilding their lives from the ground up. Their perseverance, humility, and unwavering strength are what make stories like Reina's so powerful and necessary to tell.

This story also makes me reflect deeply on my own family's journey. I often catch myself imagining—what if my mom had never come to this country? Who would I have become? Would I even speak English? My entire world would look completely different. I wouldn't be here, standing in front of audiences, sharing stories that matter, contributing to a community I love, or living a life shaped by opportunity. Every door that opened for me, every dream I dared to chase, traces back to her courage. Her sacrifices didn't just guide me—they built the very path beneath my feet.

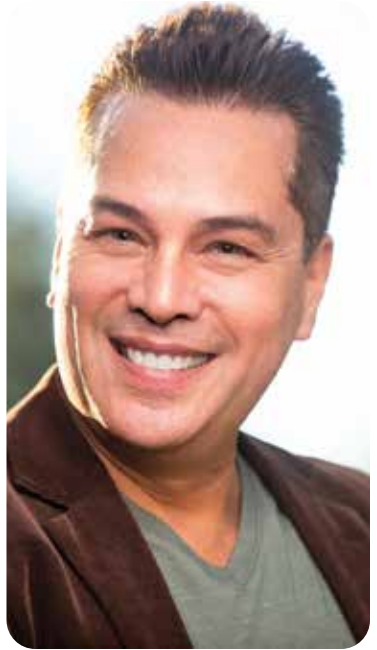
At its heart, this piece celebrates the beauty that emerges from struggle, the laughter, the music, the connection that reminds us of who we are and where we come from. It's an honor to bring this story to life and to pay tribute to those whose journeys continue to shape our world.

Dedication:

This production is dedicated to my mamita—whose struggles, strength, love, and power kept our family together at any cost.

This one is for you, mamita.

Te quiero, te adoro, te amo.



Carlos Mendoza

Carlos Mendoza
Director & Choreographer of
Somewhere Over the Border

NOTA DEL DIRECTOR

Cuando pienso en *Somewhere Over the Border*, pienso en la resiliencia, el sacrificio y el amor. El viaje de Reina refleja el valor de tantas personas que lo han dejado todo atrás—la familia, el idioma y lo familiar—en busca de una vida mejor. Su historia es de esperanza, determinación y un espíritu humano que no se quiebra.

Recuerdo a las innumerables personas que llegaron a este país no por elección, sino por necesidad. Personas que en sus países eran doctores, maestros y profesionales, y que aquí han tenido que reconstruir sus vidas desde cero. Su perseverancia, humildad y fuerza inquebrantable son lo que hace que historias como la de Reina sean tan poderosas y necesarias de contar.

Esta historia también me hace reflexionar profundamente sobre el viaje de mi propia familia. A menudo me sorprendo imaginando—¿qué hubiera pasado si mi mamá nunca hubiera venido a este país? ¿En quién me habría convertido? ¿Siquiera hablaría inglés? Mi mundo entero sería completamente distinto. No estaría aquí, frente a audiencias, compartiendo historias que importan, contribuyendo a una comunidad que amo o viviendo una vida moldeada por oportunidades. Cada puerta que se abrió para mí, cada sueño que me atreví a perseguir, nace de su valentía. Sus sacrificios no solo me guiaron—they construyeron el camino mismo bajo mis pies.

En esencia, esta obra celebra la belleza que surge de la lucha: la risa, la música, la conexión que nos recuerda quiénes somos y de dónde venimos. Es un honor dar vida a esta historia y rendir homenaje a quienes, con sus viajes, siguen dando forma a nuestro mundo.

Dedicación:

Esta producción está dedicada a mi mamita—cuyas luchas, fortaleza, amor y poder mantuvieron a nuestra familia unida a cualquier costo. Esta es para ti, mamita. Te quiero, te adoro, te amo.



CYGNET THEATRE

**ASST. DIRECTOR/
DRAMATURG**
Catalina Maynard

ASST. CHOREOGRAPHER
Tamara Rodriguez ■

SCENIC DESIGNER
Tanya Orellana**

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Ryan Fallis

COSTUME DESIGNER
Janet Pitcher

PROJECTION DESIGNER
Blake McCarty ■

SOUND DESIGNER
Jordan Gray

WIG & MAKEUP DESIGNER
Peter Herman ■

PROPS DESIGNER
Jaeonnie Davis-Crawford

STAGE MANAGER
Heather M. Brose ■◆

ASST. STAGE MANAGER
Alyssa Hayden

COSTUME SUPERVISOR
Sarah Marion ■

SOUND MIXER
Mikey Lannen

LIGHTING SUPERVISOR
Skeeter Barraza

**FOLLOW SPOT
OPERATOR**
Sebastian James Dillingham

**RUN CREW
PRODUCTION ASST.**
Penelope Cruz Rabago

SDSU SCENIC FELLOW
Sukritha

SDSU COSTUME FELLOW
Anastasia Sennikova

*Scenery partially constructed
by San Diego Opera.*

SOMEWHERE OVER THE BORDER

BY
Brian Quijada

DIRECTION AND CHOREOGRAPHY BY
Carlos Mendoza

MUSIC DIRECTION BY
Lyndon Pugada

CAST (In Alphabetical Order)

Crissy Guerrero ◆ Luis Sherlinee
Vanessa Orozco Dhani Solorio
Luzma Ortiz ◆ Fernando Vega ◆
Edward Padilla ◆

MUSICIANS

PERCUSSION
Danny Chavarin

CONDUCTOR/KEYBOARD
Lyndon Pugada

BASS
Martín Martiarena

GUITAR
Michael Reyes

GUITAR
Nikko Nobleza

■ CYGNET RESIDENT ARTIST

◆ MEMBER OF ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION (AEA)

** MEMBER OF UNITED SCENIC ARTISTS, LOCAL USA-829 (IATSE)

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SPECIAL THANKS

Ralph Johnson Jeanette & Ivan Quiceno
Catalina Maynard Christy White
Alicia Mendoza Sandra Zapata
Andres Mendoza

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS PROVIDED IN-PART BY



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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Everyday Towns	The Narrator & Company
In the USA	Antonia, Reina & Company
El Gran Coyote de Tijuana	Napoleon, Reina & Company
In the USA (Reprise)	Reina, Adán
Somewhere Over the Border	Reina & Company
The Tornado	The Narrator, Antonia, Reina & Company
Beautiful Boy	Reina
This Is It	Reina
Ride Up the Road - Guatemala	The Narrator, Reina
Cruz	Cruz, Reina
In the USA (Mini Reprise)	Reina
Ride Up the Road - Tapachula	The Narrator, Reina, Cruz
What I Know	Julia
In the USA (Final Reprise)	Cruz
Silvano	Silvano
El Gran Coyote (Reprise)	Reina, Silvano
Dream (Tapachula)	The Narrator & Company
Ride Up the Road - Guadalajara	The Narrator, Reina, Cruz, Silvano
Leona	Leona
Dream (Guadalajara)	The Narrator
Ride Up the Road - Tijuana	The Narrator, Reina, Cruz, Silvano, Leona

ACT TWO

Red Skies	Julia
The Desert (Part 1 & 2)	The Narrator, Reina, Cruz, Silvano, Leona
Step by Step	Reina
Life in America	Reina, Cruz, Silvano, Leona
Beautiful Boy (Duet)	Reina, Fernando
Everyday Towns (Reprise)	The Narrator & Company

PROFILES



CRISSY GUERRERO ♦
Julia

Signature Theatre *In the Heights* - Camila;
Two River Theater
American Mariachi -

Soyla; Latino Theater Co *American Mariachi* - Soyla; Marriott Theatre *In the Heights* - Abuela; South Coast Repertory *American Mariachi* - Soyla; Denver Theater Center, Old Globe *American Mariachi* - Soyla; The REV *State Fair* - Melissa Frake; La Mirada Theater *In the Heights* - Camila; Dallas Theater Center *In the Heights* - Camila; Moonlight Amphitheater *On Your Feet* - Gloria Fajardo; Theatreworks *Fun Home* - Helen. TV/FILM: NBC *Parks and Recreation*; NICKELODEON *SpongeBob*; DISNEY *Handy Manny*; NETFLIX *Big Mouth* PODCASTS: Producer/Host - *Studio C & C*; Producer - *Really?! with Tom & Dave*. Senior Fellow of Eric Futterer AAVT.

Crissy Guerrero is sponsored by Artist Advocate Ellie Lynch.



VANESSA OROZCO
(she/her)
Reina

Recent credits include *Mistress* in *Evita* (Cygnet) and

Nina in *In the Heights* (San Diego Musical Theatre). She studied Biology and Spanish at Santa Clara University. She would like to give a special thanks to her Mom, Dad, and Osvaldo for their unwavering support. Her performance is dedicated to her grandparents, José, Lulú, Juanita, and Julio. "*Many [...] people tell themselves that if they keep calling them 'illegals,' they can avoid speaking their names or imagining their faces.*" - Jason De León.

Vanessa Orozco is sponsored by Artist Advocates Richard & Eileen Brown.



LUZMA ORTIZ ♦
(she/her)
Antonia / Leona

Luzma Ortiz is honored to be making her Cygnet Theatre debut!
Select credits: Dora

u/s Dora the Explorer Live! (National Tour); Gabby Orozco, *American Mariachi* (South Coast Repertory); Tracy, *Hairspray* (PVPA); Gladys/Bolero Singer, *In the Heights* (Musical Theatre West); Gabriela, *Tentación* (Walt Disney Concert Hall with LA Phil); Eva Peron, *Evita* (Irvine Barclay Theatre). TV: "*The Paper*" (NBC); "*Matlock*" (CBS). Film: *20 Pounds to Happiness*, *Miami Bici 2*. Training: Musical Theatre BFA (UC Irvine), AMDA graduate (NYC). Special thanks to Carlos Mendoza, Ivan y Jeanette Quiceno, Mackenzie and the Aliso Viejo Physical Therapy team, and my family for all their support.

www.LuzmaOrtiz.com

@LuzmaOrtizActress

Luzma Ortiz is sponsored by Artist Advocates Dr. Stuart Strenger & Charles Crit Stuart.



EDWARD PADILLA ♦
Napoleon / Silvano

Edward Padilla grew up in San Diego and is based in Los Angeles. Stage credits

include *Real Women Have Curves* (A.R.T.), *Matthew Modine Saves the Alpacas* (Geffen Playhouse), *The Marriage of Figaro* (LA Opera Connects), and workshop productions of *Sister Act* and *Zorro the Musical*. Film credits include *Spider-Man 3* and *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*. Television credits include recurring roles on *Suburgatory* and *Los Beltran*, with appearances on *Will & Grace*, *Jane the Virgin*, *I'm Dying Up Here*, *SouthLAnd*, and more. He has appeared in over 150 commercials.

PROFILES

Edward holds a B.A. in Theater from USC, studied at the British American Drama Academy at Oxford, and earned his Master of Public Health from USC Keck School of Medicine. He serves on the Board of Directors at Casa 0101 Theater.

Edward Padilla is sponsored by Artist Advocates Mark Ranyak, Nancy Sprotte.



LUIS SHERLINEE
Adán / Cruz

Luis Sherlinee is honored to make his Cygnet Theatre debut in *Somewhere Over the Border!*

He received his BA from SDSU's theatre performance program with a minor in film. Credits include: Adolfo Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd* (SDMT); Aaron Fox in *Curtains* (Coronado Playhouse); JD in *Heathers the Musical* (SDSU); The Baker in *Into the Woods* (SDSU); Chuck Cranston in *Footloose* (A-List Theatre); and Davey Jacobs in *Newsies* (YAT). Luis is beyond ecstatic to be a part of this production and looks forward to bringing this story to life with authenticity and sincerity. ¡Gracias y abrazos a mi familia por apoyarme siempre!

Luis Sherlinee is sponsored by Artist Advocates Charles & Karalee Johnson.



DHANI SOLORIO
(he/him/el)
Fernando

Honored to be making his Cygnet debut!
Credits: Rafael in *El Milagro del Recuerdo*

(San Diego Opera), Boo Who & Ladybug in *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (The Old Globe), Young Emilio & Nayib in *On Your Feet* (SWC Theatre), Eric in *Matilda* (SDMT), Nemo in *Finding Nemo Jr.*, Also: *Junie B. Jones the Musical*, *Jingle All the Way* (YAT),

and various performances at school and church. Dhani is grateful to all who make this production possible, and to his family, friends, and teachers for their support. ¡Gracias!

Dhani Solorio is sponsored by Artist Advocates Maria & Randy Zack.



FERNANDO VEGA ♦
The Narrator

Fernando Vega has appeared in numerous productions with San Diego Repertory

Theatre, including Luis Valdez's *Corridos REMIX*, *Sweet 15 (Quinceañera)*, the award-winning bi-national production of *Nuevo California, Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (U.S. and Canada), and *Calafia: Restless Spirits*. Additional credits include ¡Ay, Compadre! with Latino Theater Ensemble; *The Taming of the Shrew* at Idaho Shakespeare Festival; and *Pippin*, *Godspell*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *Alice* at Lamb's Players Theatre. A featured vocalist on NPR, Fernando holds a BFA and lives in Lemon Grove, California, with his daughters Lola, Ella, and Emma.

Fernando Vega is sponsored by Artist Advocates Paula Fitzgerald & Christopher Nielsen.



BRIAN QUIJADA
(he/him)
Playwright

Brian Quijada is an Emmy-nominated playwright, actor, and composer. He

has spent most of his career acting in Off-Broadway and regional theatres, including The Public Theater, Roundabout Theatre Company, Ensemble Studio Theatre, and MCC. As a playwright and composer, his work spans theatre, audio plays, and television. His plays include *Where Did We Sit on the*

PROFILES

Bus?; Kid Prince and Pablo, Mexodus, and Somewhere Over the Border. He is a four-time Jeff Award winner, three-time Drama Desk nominee, and one-time Lucile Lortel winner and Helen Hayes Award winner. Visit www.brianquijada.com and @mrbrianquijada on Instagram.



CARLOS MENDOZA
(he/him)
Director /
Choreographer

Carlos was born in Davis, CA, but spent his early years in Colombia, South America. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis in Musical Theatre at the United States International University in San Diego, CA. He is the founder of the Hispanic Arts Theatre, an innovative theatre company that promotes Hispanic cultural awareness. Carlos has an extensive resume as a director, choreographer, and producer. He has won several awards: Mary Jane Teal Award for his production of *In the Heights* at Music Theatre Wichita; San Diego Critics Circle Awards for his productions of *West Side Story*, *Ragtime*, and *In the Heights* for the Moonlight Stage Productions & Starlight Musical Theatre; the 2014 BRAVO (San Diego) Award for body of work; and the Inland Theatre League Award for Choreography for his production of *In the Heights* at Performance Riverside.



LYNDON PUGEDA
Music Director

Lyndon Pugeda is excited to be back after working on *Cygnets A Magical Holiday!* Select credits: *The Ballad of Johnny and June* (The Citadel Theatre); *The Lorax* (The Old Globe); *Jersey Boys* (Musical

Theatre West); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Moonlight Stage Productions); *Karaoke Dreams* (Blindspot Collective); *Legally Blonde* (San Diego Musical Theatre); *Once on This Island* (Oceanside Theatre Company). Associate Music Supervisor: *Revolution: A Celebration of Prince* (Norwegian Cruise Line). Associate MD: *Redwood* (La Jolla Playhouse). Honors: two BroadwayWorld Awards, three National Youth Arts Awards, Sterling Award nomination, Craig Noel Award nomination. Education: B.A. degree in Music: Interdisciplinary Computing and the Arts from UCSD. Instagram: @lyndonpugeda

DANNY CHAVARIN
Percussion

Danny Chavarin is a San Diego-based percussionist and drum set artist known for his dynamic versatility and precision. A graduate of the Bob Cole Conservatory at CSU Long Beach (B.M.) and San Diego State University (M.M. in Percussion Performance), Danny has performed with renowned groups such as the San Diego Symphony, The Polynesian Dance Company, CCAE, The Old Globe Theatre, San Diego City Ballet, Cygnet Theatre, and countless others. While he enjoys all settings, his heart belongs to the energy and storytelling of musical theatre. Outside the pit, he enjoys golf, family time, and digital music production.

MARTÍN MARTIARENA
Bass

Martín Martiarena is a guitarist, bassist, music director, and educator based in Southern California. He has toured nationally as a bassist with *The Simon & Garfunkel Story* and as music director and guitarist with *The British Invasion: Live On Stage*. He recently served as guitarist and conductor for *Henry VI* at The Old Globe. Select credits include *Mamma Mia!*, *Kinky Boots*, *Jesus*

PROFILES

Christ Superstar, *Rock of Ages*, and *Dogfight*. He holds a B.A. in Jazz Performance from UCLA.

NIKKO NOBLEZA

Guitar

Nikko Nobleza is excited to be back at Cygnet Theatre! He has been playing guitar for 23 years and performs in a variety of styles. Some of the theatres he has played for include San Diego Civic Theatre (*Mean Girls*), The Old Globe (*Hair*, *Bob Fosse's Dancin'*), La Jolla Playhouse (*The Untitled Unauthorized Hunter S. Thompson Musical*), and, of course, Cygnet Theatre (*The Rocky Horror Show*). Nikko is also the in-house composer for two film production groups, Almost Good Films and Jabronie Pictures.

MICHAEL REYES

Guitar

Mike Reyes is a San Diego-based multi-instrumentalist and music educator. He earned his Bachelor of Music from SDSU in 2016 and has since become an active performer in the region's vibrant music scene. In 2023, he released his debut album *Crossing Over* with Two Turtles Duo, followed by his second album with Mishy, released in October 2025. Beyond recording, Mike performs with a variety of bands and serves as a pit musician for community and regional theatre productions. Passionate about sharing his craft, he also teaches private lessons and is dedicated to helping students grow as confident, expressive musicians.

HEATHER M. BROSE ■◆

Stage Manager

Recent SM credits include *The Little Fellow*, *The Great Leap*, *Pageant*, *A Behanding in Spokane*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Cabaret*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *Private Lives* (Cygnet Theatre); *Sister Act*, *Water by the Spoonful*,

and *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* (Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center); *Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors* and *Globe for All - Shakespeare Call & Response* (ASM) (The Old Globe Theatre); *The Little Prince* (European tour); and 13 seasons at SDRP, which included *In the Heights*. Additional credits include *All the Men Who've Frightened Me*, *Jin vs the Beach*, and *Alice Chan* (La Jolla Playhouse); *Salome* and *The Father*, directed by Estelle Parsons for The Actors Studio and starring Al Pacino and Dianne Wiest; and *Stephen Sondheim's 70th Birthday Bash* at the Hollywood Bowl. Proud member of Actors' Equity Association, where I serve our members as a Western At-Large Councilor.

JAEONNIE DAVIS-CRAWFORD

Props Designer

Jaeonnie Davis-Crawford is a theatre artist who was born and raised in San Diego and holds a BA in Theatre Arts from SDSU. Having worked with a wide range of theatre companies—from the beloved community forum theatre work of Imagine Brave Spaces to the nationally renowned Old Globe Theatre—around the county for over a decade, she has developed a multi-hyphenate skill set. From directing to props to educating, her work seeks to reflect and instill her passion for telling imaginative stories that resonate with and reflect the cultural fabric of the community.

RYAN FALLIS

(he/him)

Lighting Designer

Ryan is making his Cygnet Theatre debut. He is a recent BFA graduate from Utah Valley University and the associate lighting designer for The Ruth and Nathan Hale Theater's inaugural 2025 season. Some favorite past designs include *Something Rotten!* (The Ruth and Nathan Hale Theater), *Once* (Hale Center Theater Orem), *The*

PROFILES

Scarlet Pimpernel (Hale Centre Theatre Arizona), *Spring Awakening* (PINK NEON Productions), *Into the Woods* (Utah Valley University), *A Chorus Line* (West Valley Arts), and *American Idiot* (Midvale Main Street Theatre). RyanFallis.com
@RyanFallis.Designs

JORDAN GRAY

Sound Designer

Jordan Gray is thrilled to be making his Cygnet debut! Previous design credits include *The Prince of Egypt*, *Tootsie*, and *Into the Woods* (Moonlight Stage Productions); *Rent* (New Village Arts); *Spring Awakening* (Oceanside Theatre Company); *A Christmas Story*, *The Prom*, *Winter Wonderettes*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Fiddler on the Roof* (San Diego Musical Theatre); and *A Magical Holiday Celebration*, *Elf the Musical*, and *Spamalot* (Theatre at the Welk). Proud Boise State alum. Thank YOU for supporting live theatre!

ALYSSA HAYDEN

(she/her/hers)

Assistant Stage Manager

Alyssa is delighted to be working with Cygnet Theatre. She has worked for nine years as a stage manager and production assistant in San Diego. Some of her work includes *She Kills Monsters* (San Diego City College), *Ripcord* (Coronado Playhouse), *LIT* (Blindspot Collective), *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (Old Globe), and *R-E-S-P-E-C-T* (Lamb's Players Theatre).

PETER HERMAN ■

Wig & Makeup Designer

Peter has designed hair, wigs, and makeup for over 60 Cygnet productions. Favorite credits include *Shockheaded Peter*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Angels in America*, and *The Rocky Horror Show*. Peter was recently

awarded "Outstanding Achievement in Wigs and Makeup Design" by the San Diego Critics Circle Craig Noel Awards. Peter's design work has been seen across Southern California in theatre, film, television, and theme parks. He currently teaches wig and makeup design at San Diego State University.

Peter Herman is sponsored by Artist Advocate Maria Frase.

CATALINA MAYNARD

Asst. Director / Dramaturg

Catalina is proud to be part of *Somewhere Over the Border*. This production marks Catalina's first time serving as an assistant director at Cygnet. Directing credits include *Native Gardens*, *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*, *Maricela de la Luz Lights Up the Sky*, *The Monica Project*, "X" *Marks the Spot*, and the UCSD/ULMSP Monologue Series. Last year, Catalina directed *Our Town* for the Cygnet Pre-Pro Program at Chula Vista High School for the Performing Arts, and she will direct *Clue* this spring. Assistant directing credits include *Oedipus El Rey*, *Reasons to Be Pretty*, and *Bandito*, to name a few.

BLAKE MCCARTY ■

Projection Designer

Blake McCarty is a director, designer, and creative producer based in San Diego, where he serves as the executive artistic director of Blindspot Collective. His award-winning projection and video designs have been seen in California, Texas, and New York, and this is his twelfth collaboration with Cygnet since 2016. Blake's work also includes large-scale immersive projects, original musicals, devised theatre, and documentary plays that have been developed or commissioned by The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, California Center for the Arts, Cygnet Theatre, New Village Arts, New York Theatre Barn, UC San Diego, and New York University.
www.blakemccarty.com

PROFILES

TANYA ORELLANA ■◆

(she/her)

Scenic Designer

Tanya Orellana designs performance spaces for theatre, opera, and immersive experiences. Her work has been seen in venues across the USA, including Berkeley Rep, American Conservatory Theatre, The Huntington, The Guthrie, Pasadena Playhouse, and The Greek Theatre. Select credits include *Fun Home*, directed by Logan Ellis (The Huntington); Octavio Solis's *Mother Road* (Berkeley Rep), directed by David Mendizábal; Shayan Lotfi's *What Became of Us* (Atlantic Stage 2), directed by Jennifer Chang; María Irene Fornés's *Fefu and Her Friends*, directed by Pam MacKinnon; Qui Nguyen's *Poor Yella Rednecks*, directed by Jaime Castañeda (American Conservatory Theatre); and *For the People* by Larissa FastHorse and Ty Defoe, directed by Michael John Garcés. She received her MFA in scenic design from CalArts and is a recipient of the Princess Grace Fabergé Award.

JANET PITCHER

(she/her)

Costume Designer

Janet is thrilled to be welcomed back to Cygnet to design costumes for *Somewhere Over The Border* in Cygnet's inaugural season at the Joan. She has been designing costumes professionally since 2012, bringing over 100 productions to life across San Diego. Favorite credits include *Waitress* and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Moonlight); *Sunday in the Park with George*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Light in the Piazza*, and *Once* (CCAET Theatricals); *A Christmas Story*, *In the Heights*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *The Full Monty* (SDMT); *Elf*, *The Bodyguard*, and *Rent* (Welk Theatre); and *The Color Purple* (New Village Arts). Awards include

an SD Theater Critics Circle win for *Sunday in the Park with George* and a Robby Award nomination for *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*.

TAMARA RODRIGUEZ ■

Asst. Choreographer

Tamara Rodriguez is a multi-talented vocalist, songwriter, actress, and dancer who first rose to prominence on popular reality singing competitions: *Telemundo's Quinceañera: Mamá Quiero Ser Artista* and Univision's *Buscando a Timbiriche, La Nueva Banda*. Originally from Monterrey, Mexico, now based in San Diego, Tamara has toured internationally, starred in over 50 theatrical productions, ranging from classic musicals like *Cabaret*, *Evita*, *Rock of Ages*, *A Magical Holiday*, *Oklahoma!* (Cygnet Theatre) to contemporary premieres such as *Up Here* and *Kiss my Aztec* at La Jolla Playhouse, *House of Joy* (San Diego Rep). Her most recent choreography credits include *La llorona* (tuyo theatre), *RENT/ La Havana Madrid* (NVA), 2019-2025 (CSUSM). On film, Tamara's credits include *Sugar Silence* and *Everyday Violence*, *Cholo Zombies*, and *Tazmania*. A graduate from Berklee college of music. Her original music is on all streaming platforms

www.tamararodriguez.com

[@itsnotodayitstamara](https://www.instagram.com/itsnotodayitstamara)



◆ ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION (AEA)

AEA founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. actorsequity.org.



■ CYGNET RESIDENT ARTISTS

Artists who have made Cygnet Theatre their creative home throughout the years. Their vision, craft, and collaboration continue to define our artistic identity.



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CYGNET THEATRE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Cygnet Theatre recognizes and respects that the land on which our theatre sits is the unceded homeland of the Kumeyaay Nation. As San Diego's first people, the Kumeyaay have faced violent efforts to separate them from their land, culture, and each other. We view acknowledgement as an important first step to build mindfulness and awareness. We find inspiration from this land and thank them for their centuries of stewardship.



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The Swans are a volunteer group that take great pride in providing home-cooked meals and treats for the cast of every new production. Many thanks to our Swans:

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Cygnnet is honored to recognize our Legacy Society members for their commitment to ensure the future, vitality, and long-term sustainability of Cygnnet Theatre.

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If you are considering making a planned gift to Cygnnet Theatre, please contact Development Director Marinda Peugh at 619-574-0059 ext. 121 for more information.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF Arthur Neumann

Arthur Neumann, a native San Diegan, passed away on January 24, 2026, at the age of 95. Born at Mercy Hospital to Rose and Alias "Al" Neumann, Arthur was the youngest of three children and affectionately known as a "late-life delight."



Arthur grew up inspired by his mother Rose, a beloved leader in San Diego's Jewish community whose lifelong service shaped his deep commitment to giving back. Through her example, Arthur learned the enduring value of generosity and community.

Arthur met Marilyn as a child in Brooklyn during World War II. After serving in the U.S. Air Force as a radar technician in North Africa, Arthur invited Marilyn to San Diego. They married in Brooklyn on December 25, 1954, and shared 71 years of marriage.

A graduate of San Diego High School and San Diego State College, Arthur built a successful career as a Certified Public Accountant, forming lifelong friendships with his clients. In 1963, Arthur and Marilyn welcomed their son Allen, whose life with cerebral palsy led them to become devoted advocates and to build a loving ARC family.

Arthur was a passionate supporter of the arts, serving on several theater boards, including Cygnet Theatre, and remained a lifelong theater lover and traveler. Arthur loved supporting local artists and would follow them all over the county to support their work. He attended every Cygnet production with Marilyn and gave generously as a donor, a board member and an ambassador. Arthur and Marilyn have always said they consider Cygnet Theatre's employees and artists as part of their family.

His absence will be felt deeply by us all. He will be remembered for his generosity, devotion to family, and unwavering commitment to community.



A strong community is built on a solid foundation.

It takes dedication, hard work, and a smart and steady approach to help a community thrive. That's why PNC is proud to celebrate Cygnet Theatre for all it does to help make our community brilliant.

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**To make a contribution, contact Development
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or visit us online at CygnetTheatre.org.**



August Wilson's

FENCES



Directed by Delicia Turner Sonnenberg

Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning *Fences* is a cornerstone of August Wilson's The American Century Cycle, and a powerful exploration of fatherhood, identity, and legacy. Set in 1957, the play follows Troy Maxson, a former Negro League baseball star, now a sanitation worker. Grappling with the burden of his broken dreams, Troy struggles to assert control over his family and his future. Director and Old Globe favorite Delicia Turner Sonnenberg (*Deceived, Trouble in Mind*), helms this deeply human portrait of a family's love and resilience. August Wilson's *Fences* is a must-see event that resonates as deeply today as it did when it first took the stage.

April 4 – May 3



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