

Oánh Nguyễn
Executive Artistic Director

**Gus &
Mary Chabre**
Executive Producer

**Sophie &
Larry Cripe**
Executive Producer

**Samuel &
Tammy Tang**
Executive Producer

Sally Ann Catering
Corporate Sponsor

Bette & Wylie Aitken
Executive Season Producer

The Chinese Lady

WRITTEN BY LLOYD SUH

DIRECTED BY SHINSHIN YUDER TSAI

MAY 16 - JUNE 8, 2025

on the Cripe Stage @ Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center

CHANCE

(888) 455-4212
ChanceTheater.com
5522 E. LA PALMA AVE, ANAHEIM

SEASON
27

Running Time: 1 hour, 20 minutes with no intermission

Afong Moy..... Michelle Krusiec*
Atung Albert Park*
Afong Moy U/S..... Amanda Kang
Atung U/S Kaixiang Zhang

Director Shinshin Yuder Tsai**

Scenic Designer Christopher Scott Murillo

Costume Designer Grace Kim

Lighting Designer Masako Tobaru**

Sound Designer Jesse Mandapat

Stage Manager..... Bebe Herrera**

Dramaturg Natalia Duong

Assistant Directors..... Nico Pang

Jerry “Yi Hang” Zou

Sound Engineer James Markoski

Props Master Bebe Herrera**

Assistant Scenic Designer..... Carter Vickers

Casting Director Shinshin Yuder Tsai**

Executive Artistic Director..... Oánh Nguyễn**

Load-In Crew Melina Diaz, Summer Frey, Edson Gomez,
James Markoski, Lupe Santos, Peter Sarmiento,
Emily Stroh, and Umadevi

Scenic Painter..... Kylie Baumbusch and Emily Stroh

* Member of Actors' Equity Association

Co-world premiere presented at Barrington Stage (Julianne Boyd, Artistic Director; Branden Huldeen, Artistic Producer), Pittsfield, MA, July 2018. Commissioned by and co-world premiere presented by Ma-Yi Theater Company (Ralph B. Peña, Artistic Director) in New York City. Developed with support of the Roe Green Award at Cleveland Play House. THE CHINESE LADY is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

PRODUCTION SPONSORS

Executive Producers Gus & Mary Chabre
Sophie & Larry Cripe
Samuel & Tammy Tang
Associate Producer Myrna Hamid
Supporting Producer Bruce Goodrich
Executive Season Producer Bette & Wylie Aitken
Associate Season Producer The Family of Mary Kay Fyda-Mar
Corporate Sponsor Sally Ann Catering
Community Partner Tustin Host Lions Club

Take a seat in either the Cripe or Fyda-Mar Stages by adopting one of our Priority or Premium Chairs. Once a chair has been adopted, an engraved plaque with your name on it will be displayed *permanently* on that chair.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

ADOPT A CHAIR

WWW.GIVEBUTTER.COM/ADOPTACHAIR

THANK YOU FOR ADOPTING A CHAIR

Argyros Family Foundation | Anthony Paul Arnold | In loving memory of Diane Arnold | Lily Fan Arnold | Martin & Wendy Benson | Sophie Cripe | Gail & Ernie Doe | Lynn Gold & Karen "Jade" Martner | In loving memory of Hartley S. Graham | In loving memory of Lois B. Graham | Pamela J. Lorenz, CFP | Manny & Betsy Porto | Frances Riggs | Eddie Schuller & Rachelle Menaker | Laurie Smits Staude | Daniel Temianka MD & Zeinab Dabbah MD, JD | David Emmes & Paula Tomei
Susan Carol Carpenter | Victor & Marnie Ceporius | Chapman University | Susie Dittmar | Kathy & Bahram Esfahani | Stephen & Susan Faessel | Michael Garcia & Burt Vosburgh | The Hamman Family | Jeffrey Hellebrand | Patti Howard & Carol Hellebrand | Nancy Johnson | Elizabeth Jones | Dan Kee & Judy Todd | Joanne & Dennis Keith | Gary Kuwahara | AJIS Lamb | In honor of Don Laffoon & Grace Songolo | James & Marsha Lindsey | Casey Long | Madeleine Long | Tommy Long | Jolynn & Pat Mahoney | Christina Mar | In memory of Judy Martin | Marc Masterson | In Memory of Bryan McCormick | In Memory of David McCormick | Bill & Jane McDonald | Drs. Pauline Merry and John Goodman | Erika C. Miller | Dr. and Mrs. Eberhard S. Neutz | Oanh Nguyen | Pacific Western Bank | The Muriel Pollia Foundation | Ron & Marilyn Rice | Michelle & Terry Schomburg | Leonard Silberman | Susan Silberman | Karen Smits | Tom & Julie Tait | Linda White | Tod White | In memory of Howard Well | In memory of Patricia Well | Lisa C. & Thomas E. Zaradich

A WINDOW INTO... THE CHINESE LADY



1820 AFONG MOY IS BORN

Afong Moy was born in Canton (Guangzhou) Province in Southern China, the youngest of seven children. Historians suspect her family was upper-middle class due to her bound feet.

AFONG ARRIVES 1834 IN THE US

Afong Moy sold by her parents to brothers Nathaniel and Frederick Carnes of Far East Oriental Imports for 2 years. She is brought to the U.S. and displayed at the Peale Museum in New York.



1834-37 AFONG'S FIRST TOUR

Afong toured Washington D.C. where she met President Andrew Jackson, and is placed in other exhibitions in Baltimore, New Orleans, Providence, Charleston, Boston, New York, and even Cuba.

AFONG AWAY 1838-47 FROM PUBLIC EYE

After turning a profit, Afong's managers abandoned her in New Jersey where she eventually lived in a poor house because she was so destitute.



1847-49 PT BARNUM TOURS AFONG

Afong was sold to P.T. Barnum and displayed as part of Barnum's American Museum in New York. She was eventually replaced by Pwan-Yee-Koo who was younger and said to have smaller feet.

AFONG'S LAST KNOWN 1851 PERFORMANCE

Afong's last known performance in Cleveland, Ohio, after which she disappears from all historic archives.



A WINDOW INTO...

BY NATALIA DUONG



1863-69 TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD IS BUILT

The construction of the railroad connecting the East and West coasts relied heavily on Chinese immigrant's labor. By 1864, the Chinese made up 90% of the workforce.

THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT 1882

Due to fear of labor competition, the Chinese Exclusion Act became the first federal law to restrict immigration based on race and ethnicity. It effectively limited Chinese people from immigrating to the U.S.



1943 MAGNUSON ACT

The Magnuson Act repealed the 1882 Exclusion Act allowing Chinese immigrants to become naturalized citizens. It intended to strengthen U.S.-China relations during WWII but still restricted this number to 105 visas per year.

IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1965

Immigration Act of 1965 signed into U.S. Law that officially lifted the quota on immigration for Chinese visas into the United States previously set by the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882.



2018 CHINESE LADY WORLD PREMIERE

The Chinese Lady premieres at Barrington Stage Company in Pittsfield, MA not far from where Afong Moy first toured the U.S. It was a co-production with Ma-Yi Theater Company.

CHINESE LADY ARRIVES AT CHANCE 2025

Regional premiere of "The Chinese Lady" by Lloyd Suh, directed by Shinshin Yuder Tsai at Chance Theater in Anaheim, CA.



DRAMATURG'S NOTE

It is a beautiful thing to look at something long enough to really understand it. But it is so much more beautiful to be looked at long enough to be understood.

— Lloyd Suh, *The Chinese Lady*

The Chinese Lady is one of several Asian American history plays written by Lloyd Suh over the past decade that retell stories of immigration, internment, and political activism. Although it was not the first play Suh wrote, chronologically it is the one that takes place first, as he narrates the life of Afong Moy who is believed to be the first Chinese woman to set foot in the US in 1834. Moy was brought to the U.S. by Nathaniel and Francis Carnes, exporters of porcelain and other Chinese goods, to be the main subject of a “living exhibit.” The display intended to market Chinese housewares to American consumers and ideally support intercultural exchange between the U.S. and China. As such, Moy performed quotidian tasks that reaffirmed her identity as an emblem of the imagined Orient and attracted viewers to the exhibit through her perceived exotic otherness. By donning extravagant silk fabrics and ornamental hair pins, eating with chopsticks, and displaying her feet which had been transformed by traditional foot-binding practices, Moy became a “living curiosity”—both an ambassador and orientalized object who was asked to represent an entire nation and to ease cultural tensions against the backdrop of the Opium Wars. Historians and cultural theorists write about how Asian women are often equated with ornate objects—perceived as beautiful, docile, and compliant—something to be looked at rather than someone to engage with. In *The Chinese Lady*, Suh crafts a Moy that resists this simple narrative to instead offer audiences an opportunity to reflect upon how they perceive racialized bodies on stage and how their perception might become complicit in the others’ objectification. As the first woman of Chinese descent to arrive in the U.S., Moy’s story also evokes contemporary immigration discourses as The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 ultimately barred Chinese immigrants from becoming naturalized citizens. In viewing this play in today’s vexed world, Suh invites viewers to reflect upon how we see the “other” and how we might try to understand them. While theater can often be a site of magical transformation, Suh simultaneously sheds light on the exploitative display of bodies who were asked to perform cultural authenticity and otherness often without explicit consent. In doing so, the play asks viewers to pause and question how we engage with perceived otherness, especially when we are unfamiliar with one another’s cultural practices and beliefs. Ultimately, Suh asks the viewer how we might better understand each other, and in turn, seek another way of being together.

--Natalia Duong, dramaturg

Bette & Wylie Aitken ENDOWMENT CHALLENGE

Building a Legacy – Creating a Future

In honor of Bette Aitken's unwavering support for Chance Theater and her lifelong passion for the arts, we are launching the Bette & Wylie Aitken Endowment Challenge—a \$50,000 fundraising effort to establish the Chance General Endowment Fund.

The Endowment Challenge

To ensure lasting support for our artistic, education, and outreach programs, the Bette & Wylie Aitken \$50,000 Endowment Challenge will match every donation dollar-for-dollar—turning \$50,000 into \$100,000.

Bette believes in the power of theater to change lives. With this challenge, we uplift her mission—ensuring that Chance Theater remains a home for artists, audiences, and the next generation of theater lovers.

**JOIN THE CHALLENGE.
SHARE THE VISION.
SECURE THE FUTURE.**



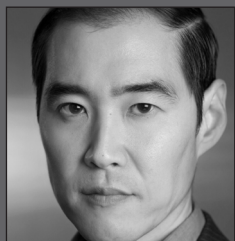
**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO LEARN MORE**



CAST



MICHELLE KRUSIEC* (AFONG MOY) is a multi-hyphenate actress and filmmaker. Stage credits include *Wild Goose Dreams* (Public Theatre), *Chinglish* (SCR, Berkeley Rep, Hong Kong Theatre Arts). Michelle premiered her autobiographical solo show *Made in Taiwan* at the Aspen Comedy Arts Festival, National Asian American Theatre Festival, and the NYC Fringe Festival. Favorite film roles include *A Million Miles Away*, *Far North*, and *Saving Face*. *Saving Face* earned Michelle a Best Actress nomination for the Golden Horse, Taiwan's equivalent of the Academy Awards. On streaming, Michelle plays icon Anna May Wong in the Netflix series *Hollywood*. Michelle's directorial short film *NIAN* won Best Midnight Short at Palm Springs Film Festival and can be seen on season 3 of Hulu's *Bite Size Halloween*. Michelle co-wrote and co-stars in the upcoming feature *Tiger Mom* starring Ken Jeong. Michelle is grateful to Chance Theater for this extraordinary opportunity and to her family for their ongoing support. **Sponsored by Myrna Hamid.**



ALBERT PARK* (ATUNG) is thrilled to make his debut at Chance Theater. Select regional credits: *Man of God* (Geffen Playhouse/Williamstown Theatre Festival); *Bina's Six Apples* (CTC/Alliance Theatre); *The Supreme Leader* (Dallas Theater Center); *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* (South Coast Repertory); *Cambodian Rock Band* (City Theatre Company/Merrimack Repertory); *The Winter's Tale* and *All's Well That Ends Well* (The Old Globe); *The Car Plays* (Moving Arts/La Jolla Playhouse); *Flower Drum Song* and *BFE* (SDAART/La Jolla Playhouse). Select theater credits: *Yoga Play* and *A Man, His Wife, and His Hat* (MOXIE Theatre); *Vietgone* (East West Players); *The Oldest Boy* (San Diego Repertory); *Extraordinary Chambers* and *Yellow Face* (Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company); *The Odd Couple* (North Coast Repertory); *Golden Child* (Chinese Pirate Productions). Select festival readings: *Sifting Through Ashes...* (Center Theatre Group); *To Red Tendons* (Ojai Playwrights Conference); *Sumo* (La Jolla Playhouse/Ma-Yi Theater Company); *Child of Colonialism* (La Jolla Playhouse). Select film credits: *Last Summer of Nathan Lee*; *Borrowed Light*. Special thanks to Chance Theater, the cast, and the crew. Albert is eternally grateful to Jenny, Felix, Henry, and Coral. **Sponsored by Myrna Hamid.**



AMANDA KANG (AFONG MOY U/S) is thrilled to be joining *The Chinese Lady* cast. Additional theater credits include *Into the Woods* at Moonlight Stage, *The Addams Family* at Berkeley Playhouse, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at UCLA TFT. Film Credits include *Ladke* (VC Film Fest, UK Asian Film Fest, San Diego Film Fest) and *Call Earl* (Overlook Film Fest). Amanda is a graduating senior of

UCLA's Ray Bolger Musical Theater Program. Keep up with her at amandakangofficial.com or follow her on Instagram @amandakang_.

Sponsored by Myrna Hamid.



KAIXIANG ZHANG (ATUNG U/S) holds an M.F.A. in Acting from the University of Southern California. A bilingual actor working across the U.S. and China, he appeared in the Student Academy Award-winning film *Neither Donkey Nor Horse*. He is thrilled to be part of this production of *The Chinese Lady* and is committed to creating work that brings people together.

Sponsored by Myrna Hamid.

OFFICIAL CHANCE CATERING PARTNER SINCE 2013



 *Sally Ann Catering*
Event Planning and Productions

Visit us at www.SallyAnnCatering.com
801 S. Lakeview Ave, Ste B, Placentia 92870
Phone 714.779.1260 FAX 714.779.7629
info@SallyAnnCatering.com

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We recognize that Chance Theater sits on the traditional lands of the Tongva, Kizh, and Acjachemen people. Although for over 200 years Native Nations have been forcibly removed from this territory, we must acknowledge that this land continues to be a site of gathering and healing for more than 30 Tribal Nations and remains home to over 300,000 tribal members in the state of California. Here is a website with more information: nativegov.org/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment

PRODUCTION TEAM



SHINSHIN YUDER TSAI (DIRECTOR) is the Producing Associate at Chance Theater, where he also serves as the Resident Intimacy and Casting Director. He is a Board Member-Council for OCTG and the Founding Artistic Director of the AAPI Sketch Comedy Troupe, No MSG Added. His directing credits span a wide range of acclaimed productions, including *She Kills Monsters* at Long Beach Playhouse & STAGES theatre, *The Hatmaker's Wife*, *LOVE/SICK*, and *Cowboy Vs. Samurai* at Long Beach Playhouse, as well as *The Pillowman* and *Almost, Maine* at the University of California, Irvine. At Chapman University, he has directed *Metamorphoses* and *Mother Courage and Her Children*. His production of *Kvetcher in the Wry* was a standout at OC-Centric, and he directed the 2024 OCTG Award Shows at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, with plans to direct the 2025 Award Show. As an intimacy director, Shinshin has worked to ensure that performers feel safe and respected in their craft. His intimacy direction credits include the upcoming *Spring Awakening* and 2024's *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* at Chance Theater, *Unbroken Blossom* at East West Players, and productions of *Vietgone* and *Peter and the Starcatcher* at the University of California, Riverside. Shinshin is also dedicated to the development of new theatrical works. He has collaborated on projects such as *Boat Show* by Dustin H. Chinn, *saving all my worries till the day you don't need me* and *Multiple Loads* by Nicholas Pilapil, and *The Lantern Bearer* and *Shanghai Express* by Aj Layague. Outside of his artistic pursuits, Shinshin has lovingly curated an extensive list of All-You-Can-Eat restaurants across Southern California, with a passion for food that rivals his dedication to theater arts. **Sponsored by David & Danice Limberg, Tod & Linda White, and Todd & Rachel Martinez.**



CHRISTOPHER SCOTT MURILLO (SCENIC DESIGNER) is a scenic designer, artist, and educator based in Los Angeles, CA. He is thrilled to be collaborating with Chance Theater once again. This will be his 20th production at the Chance. Recently, his stage designs have been seen at Antaeus Theatre Company, Sierra Madre Playhouse, Skylight Theatre Company, IAMA Theatre Company, New Village Arts, and East West Players. As a production designer for television, his work can be seen on Paramount+ on *The Ready Room* with Wil Wheaton and *Halo the Series: Declassified*. He is a 2016 recipient of the Princess Grace Foundation Theater Fellowship. Currently, he is on faculty at UC Riverside in the Department of Theatre, Film, and Digital Production. @csmdesign97



GRACE KIM (COSTUME DESIGNER) is a costume designer who thrives on storytelling across multiple creative realms. From earning multiple CAPPIES nominations for Best Costumes in high school to designing for short films and music videos in recent years, she has a knack for bringing characters—and their wardrobes—to life. Whether crafting intricate period pieces or bold, conceptual looks, Grace infuses every project with creativity and detail. When she's not deep in fabric swatches and fittings, you'll likely find her wandering through art museums, reading anything she can get her hands on, sketching and painting whimsical pet portraits for friends, or fostering kittens. She also flexes her creative muscles in advertising and branding at top creative agencies where storytelling remains at the heart of everything she does.



MASAKO TOBARU (LIGHTING DESIGNER) has been with the Chance since 2003, and also serves as a resident stage manager and lighting designer. Her Chance Theater credits include *Parade*, *Little Women*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *Edward Albee's The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?*, *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*, and *Evita*, among others. Her credits outside the Chance include *Ganga*. . . *Life as a River*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Cabaret*, *Medea*, *Patient A* and *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*. Masako received her BA in Theater and Communications from Concordia University, Irvine.



JESSE MANDAPAT (SOUND DESIGNER) Off-Broadway: *Bundle of Sticks* (INTAR); *Tell Hector I Miss Him* (Atlantic Theatre Company); *Fool For Love* (Theatre for the New City); *Fish Men* (INTAR); *Locusts Have No King* (INTAR). Los Angeles: *God Will Do The Rest* (Los Angeles Theater Center & Artists At Play); *Mix Mix* (Los Angeles Theater Center & Playwrights' Arena); *Three* (Playwrights' Arena); *Do You Feel Anger* (Circle X); *What I Learned In Paris* (South Coast Repertory); *A Shot Rang Out* (South Coast Repertory); *West Adams* (Skylight Theatre); *Red Ink* (Playwright's Arena); *Defenders* (The Broadwater); *Be A Good Little Widow* (Odyssey Theater Ensemble); *Exit Strategy* (LA LGBT Center); *1984* (Greenway Court Theatre); *Two Kids That Blow Shit Up* (Artists At Play); *An Accident* (Griot Theatre). Special projects: *The Castle Rock Live Experience* (Hulu activation at San Diego Comic-Con 2018); *The Fantastic Kim Sisters* (East West Players Theatre For Youth); *What Goes Around* (Kaiser Permanente Educational Theatre).



BEBE HERRERA (STAGE MANAGER & PROPS

MASTER) has been Chance Theater's resident Swiss Army Knife since 2015. The Production Manager by day and stage manager, specialty makeup designer, and props master when needed, Bebe wears a lot of Chance Hats. Hailing from the South Bay, Bebe is a CSULB graduate with a double major in English Literature and Theater Arts. She has had the distinct

pleasure of working with multiple theater companies from Hollywood to Anaheim including Rangeview Productions, Sacred Fools, Theatre of NOTE, and Moveable Piece. There her credits include, the World Premiere of Pat McGowan's *FILM*, regional premiere *Holy Ghost* by Jon Tuttle, B. Walker Sampson's *Alceste*, and *The Pity of Things*, an evening of one-act plays. From her first production at Chance Theater in 2012, *UP*, to now, Bebe is immensely grateful to be able to do what she loves, everyday. When she has any free time, you might find her with her partner in crafting, Masako, with a piece of fabric, sewing her next plush creation for their company, Ghost Light Craft Company



NATALIA DUONG (DRAMATURG) is delighted to return to the Chance after working on *Colonialism is Terrible, but Phở is Delicious* in 2023. She is a scholar, teacher, and multidisciplinary performance maker whose recent credits include dramaturgy for *Boat Show* in the OTR New Play Reading series and *Colonialism is Terrible, But Phở is Delicious* by Dustin H. Chinn (Aurora Theater Company,

Chance Theater, Oregon Contemporary Theatre), *My Home on the Moon* by Minna Lee (San Francisco Playhouse), *love you long time (already)* by Katie Đỗ (South Coast Rep) and *Tiger Beat* by Kaela Mei-Shing Garvin (Bay Area Playwrights Foundation); and assistant directing *Poor Yella Rednecks: Vietgone Part 2*, and *Vietgone* (A.C.T.) and *The Luckiest* and *Seize the King* (La Jolla Playhouse). Natalia holds a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from UC Berkeley and is currently an Assistant Professor of Asian American studies and science and technology studies at UC Davis.

www.nataliaduong.com



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM



@ChanceTheater

HELP US WITH THE 10K FOLLOWER CHALLENGE



OÀNH NGUYỄN (EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR) has been serving as Chance Theater's founding Artistic Director since 1999. Oánh is a recipient of TCG's New Generations Grant and the TCG Nathan Cummings Young Leaders of Color Fellowship. He was awarded the Outstanding Artist Award by Arts Orange County, profiled in *Orange County Register's* "Most Influential People" series and *OC Weekly's* People

Issue, inducted into Anaheim High School's Hall of Fame, and was a commencement speaker for Chapman University College of Performing Arts. Oánh was Producing Associate at South Coast Repertory where he initiated and programmed the first three seasons of alternative offerings under the banner of StudioSCR. He also served on the advisory board of the Anaheim High School Performing Arts Conservatory, the board of Network of Ensemble Theatres, LA's 99-seat Transitional Committee, and OC Theatre Guild, as well as panels and committees for Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Alternative Theatre Los Angeles, National Endowment for the Arts, and Theatre Communications Group. His directing credits include productions at Chance Theater, East West Players, the J. Paul Getty Museum, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, South Coast Repertory, Ensemble Theater Company, Aurora Theatre Company, Oregon Contemporary Theatre, Chapman University, UC Riverside, Azusa Pacific University, AMDA, CSU Fullerton, and served as the Associate Director for the international tour of David Henry Hwang's *Chinglish* (Berkeley Repertory, South Coast Repertory, Hong Kong Arts Festival). His selected film credits include *Two Brothers*, *Rush Hour 3*, and *Lonely Boy*.



MUSIC BY **BRET SIMMONS** BOOK & LYRICS BY **DAVID HOWARD**

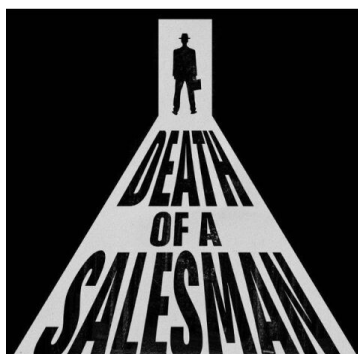
BASED ON "THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST" BY OSCAR WILDE

May 22-June 8

**Purchase tickets at
ACTCTICKETS.com**

**ACTC
PRESENTS**

**The Lyceum
Theater in
Costa Mesa**



June 19-29

**Contact our box office at
714-668-6145
boxoffice@vanguard.edu**

SHOW PRODUCERS



GUS & MARY CHABRE (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)

Native Californians, Gus and Mary Chabre met at USC in 1961, married and moved to Newport Beach four years later where they raised three children. During that time Gus received his MBA and JD while Mary received another BA in Studio Art. They still had time to volunteer in the OC Philharmonic and OCMA among other arts and community

groups. They are relative newcomers to understanding the workings of the theatre, although they have enjoyed attending local and international performances. They are grateful for the opportunity to embark on their newest adventure to become part of the Chance family.



SOPHIE & LARRY CRIFE (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER) are dedicated theater enthusiasts who began their journey with the Chance Theater 16 years ago. Larry has been a member of the Chance Theater Board for 12 years and currently serves as the Board Treasurer. Sophie served as the Past President of the Board of South Coast Repertory (SCR) and has been on that board for 15 years. This marks the 14th time Sophie and

Larry have taken on the role of producers at the Chance Theater. Their past productions include *Parade*, *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*, *Ragtime*, and *In The Heights*, among others. Sophie's academic background includes a BA and MA in Speech and Theater from the University of Illinois, and she has contributed as a dramaturg for 13 Chance Productions. Larry holds a BA in Business Administration from Cal State Fullerton and has experience as a co-owner of a martial arts studio and an interactive murder mystery dinner theater. In their retirement, Sophie and Larry remain active in their passions. When not traveling or attending theater, they channel their energy and enthusiasm into archaeological interests. They are both involved with the Archaeological Institute of America, where Larry serves on the National Board and Sophie is President of the local Society.



SAMUEL & TAMMY TANG (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)

believe in the power of theater to bring both joy and empathy to their audiences. Sam and Tammy have been honorary producers of many new plays including Lauren Yee's *Cambodian Rock Band* and the Pacific Playwrights Festival. They are thrilled to be supporting the Chance Theater including the wonderful *Jane Austen's Emma*, *The Musical*. Sam was

past president of South Coast Repertory and is now on the board of Segerstrom Center of the Arts. Tammy serves on the board of South Coast Repertory.



MYRNA HAMID (ASSOCIATE PRODUCER) is a Chance Theater member with a lifelong love of theater and absolutely no previous experience as an Associate Producer. The Chance offered an opportunity to gain some experience and the story of *The Chinese Lady* appealed to me. I appreciate the opportunity to learn more about what happens behind the scenes. It is my great privilege to contribute my support to

Shinshin, the cast and crew, and Chance Theater.



SALLY ANN CATERING (CORPORATE SPONSOR) is a family owned business committed to servicing Southern California with the utmost personalized experience customized to each client's distinctive needs. Offering a variety of authentic cuisine menus and creative event coordination, we aspire to presenting our clients with a flawless plan to create unforgettable events.



Gus & Mary Chabre

proudly support

The Chinese Lady



CHANCE
THEATER @ South Asian Theater Arts Center

Sophie & Larry Cripe

proudly support

The Chinese Lady



CHANCE
THEATER @ South Asian Theater Arts Center

Samuel & Tammy Tang

proudly support

The Chinese Lady



CHANCE
THEATRE @ North-Haven Theatre Arts Center

Sally Ann Catering

proudly supports

The Chinese Lady



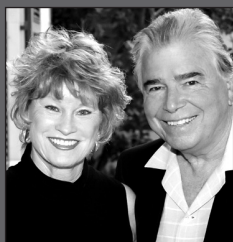
*Sally Ann
Catering*

Event Planning and Productions



CHANCE
THEATRE @ North-Haven Theatre Arts Center

SEASON PRODUCERS



BETTE & WYLIE AITKEN

(EXECUTIVE SEASON PRODUCER) Bette is a community, civic, and arts leader, recently featured in the *Orange County Business Journal's* Giving Guide as one of the Top Philanthropists in Orange County and received the Inaugural Legacy Arts & Humanitarian Award from Chance Theater for her Visionary Leadership. Bette first happened upon Chance

Theater a few years ago and has been at the forefront of its growth and expansion ever since, and now is serving on its board. In January of 2014, Chance Theater became part of the Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center. Wylie, better known as Bette's husband, is a nationally recognized civil trial lawyer and founding partner of the firm Aitken Aitken Cohn in Santa Ana, representing individuals and companies harmed by the bad conduct of others. An avid supporter of the arts, he was a past chairman of the State of California's Arts Council and serves on various theater and film boards and chair emeritus of Chapman University's Board of Trustees. By supporting the 2024 Season, Anaheim residents Wylie and Bette, joined by their daughter Mayor Ashleigh Aitken, are excited to contribute to the growing impact Chance Theater makes in the community at large both in Anaheim and all over Southern California and beyond.



THE FAMILY OF MARY KAY FYDA-MAR

(ASSOCIATE SEASON PRODUCER) Mary Kay fell in love with Chance Theater after she attended *It's A Wonderful Life, The Musical* many years ago. She soon became a Chance Member and later joined the Board of Directors. After retiring from The Boeing Company, where she worked for 27 years, Mary Kay happily devoted as much time as she could to the

theater. Mary Kay was born in Pennsylvania, raised in Ohio, and moved to Orange County in 1977. She obtained Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Michigan State University and held a National Science Foundation Fellowship at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mary Kay served as a senior examiner for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Program and a judge for the California Awards for Performance Excellence. She was an active member of Altrusa International of Anaheim, where she served on the Board and was the chairperson of the literacy committee. She was also a proud quilter for Project Linus, an organization that provides handmade security blankets to children in trauma. Sadly, Mary Kay passed away in October of 2017. She is survived by her daughter Christina and two grandsons, as well as her siblings, nieces, and nephews. We at the Chance will always treasure the all-too-brief time we had with Mary Kay, and we proudly honor her memory and carry on her legacy.

Bette & Wylie Aitken

proudly support

The Chinese Lady



CHANCE
THEATRICAL & BOUTIQUE ARTS CENTER

The Family of Mary Kay Fyda-Mar

proudly supports

The Chinese Lady



CHANCE
THEATRICAL & BOUTIQUE ARTS CENTER

ENCORE LEGACY CIRCLE DONORS

Thank you to the following individuals who have notified us that they have included Chance Theater in their estate planning. Please consider joining this generous group of supporters by contacting our General Manager, Erika C. Miller, at emiller@chancetheater.com or (657) 549-0499.

Diane & Chimo Arnold • Martin & Wendy Benson • Susan Bowman & Freddie Greenfield • Robert E. Campbell • Donna Chesson • Sophie & Larry Cripe • Bruce Goodrich • Camille Goulet • Nancy Johnson • Elizabeth Jones • Lisa J. Keating • Andrew & Judith Lamb Family Trust • David & Danice Limberg • Rachelle Menaker & Eddie Schuller • Fran Riggs • Terry & Michelle Schomburg • Laurie Smits Staude • Norbert Tan • Scott & Georgia Well • Linda & Tod White • Lisa & Tom Zaradich

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

We are deeply grateful to the visionary donors whose generous endowments ensure the longevity and vitality of our productions for generations to come.

The Mary Kay Fyda-Mar Artists Endowment

The Mary Kay Fyda-Mar Artists Endowment was established posthumously by her daughter, Christina Mar, to honor Mary Kay's enduring legacy as a dedicated supporter and former Board Chair of Chance Theater. This fund provides a permanent and lasting source of financial support for artists and artistic personnel at Chance Theater.

The Bette Aitken \$50,000 Endowment Challenge

We're proud to announce the Wylie & Bette Aitken \$50,000 Endowment Challenge, honoring Bette Aitken's enduring contributions and passion for the performing arts. Every donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$50,000, creating a \$100,000 Chance General Endowment Fund. This fund will provide essential, lasting support for our artistic, education, and outreach programs.

Their support helps us create bold, inspiring theater. To learn more about contributing to our endowment or creating your own legacy of support, contact Erika Miller at erika@chancetheater.com or call (657) 549-0499.

PROGRAM FUND DONORS

We would like to thank the following generous individuals who help to provide dedicated programming support above \$600. Program Fund Donors receive additional benefits related to their support level. For more information on these benefits and programs, please contact Erika C. Miller at emiller@chancetheater.com.

2025 Producers Circle

Bette & Wylie Aitken • The Family of Mary Kay Fyda-Mar

Susan Bowman & Freddie Greenfield • Louise & Steven Koch • Rachelle Menaker & Eddie Schuller • Laurie Smits Staude • Linda & Tod White Charitable Fund

Gus & Mary Chabre • Sophie & Larry Cripe • Samuel & Tammy Tang • Myrna Hamid • David & Judy Joss • David & Danice Limberg • Bruce Goodrich • The Prepared Performer • Sally Ann Catering

Education & Outreach Fund

Christina & Tim Rice • Brad Feldman & Katheryn Baker • Marc Chessen
Scholarship Fund

Foundation for Sustainability & Innovation • Orange County Asperger's Support Group • Orange County Community Foundation • Marshall Fund for Dramatic Arts and Classical Music • Family Office Foundation • Asar Legacy, LLC

Daniel McCarthy & Theriault Todd, Ph.D. • Anaheim Community Foundation • Anaheim Hills Rotary Club • Anaheim Council Member Norma Campos Kurtz • Kiwanis Club of Greater Anaheim • Linda & Tod White Charitable Fund • Jocelyn A. & Kirk Brown • Louise & Steven Koch • Michael Bartels

OTR New Works Fund

National Endowment for the Arts • The Elizabeth George Foundation • Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation • Amanda Demaio • David & Judy Joss • Steven & Louise Koch • Rachelle Menaker & Eddie Schuller • Diane Silber

Artist Fund

Todd & Rachel Martinez • David & Danice Limberg • Rachelle Menaker & Eddie Schuller • Myrna Hamid • Louise & Steven Koch • Andy & Judith Lamb • Dean Mancina • Steve & Chris Sumpter • Lynn Weiser • The Mahoney-Dominguez Family • Bruce Goodrich



SUPPORT LOCAL TALENT!

DONATE TO THE ARTIST FUND

Your help ensures every artist gets the support and development they deserve. From actors to designers, sponsor your favorites (or the whole cast) today!

Sponsors receive special benefits that give them unprecedented access to their artist's production as well as invites to other Chance Theater special events.

ANNUAL FUND DONORS

Thank you to the following supporters for generously donating to Chance Theater from April 30, 2024 through April 30, 2025. Please contact Erika C. Miller at emiller@chancetheater.com with any errors or omissions.

\$50,000+

Bette & Wylie Aitken
The Family of Mary Kay Fyda-Mar
Google, Inc.
Linda & Tod White
The Prepared Performer

\$25,000+

Laurie Smits Staude
Louise & Steven Koch
Rachelle Menaker & Eddie Schuller
Sally Ann Catering
Susan Bowman & Freddie Greenfield

\$15,000+

Christina & Tim Rice • National Endowment for the Arts

\$8,000+

Mayor Ashleigh Aitken & Michael Penn • Brad Feldman & Katheryn Baker • Bruce Goodrich • City of Anaheim • David & Danice Limberg • David & Judy Joss • Elizabeth George Foundation • Gus & Mary Chabre • In Memory of Diane Arnold • Jay & Alisa Duffey • Marc Chesson Scholarship Fund • Molly Mahoney & John Dominguez • Myrna Hamid • Samuel & Tammy Tang • Sophie & Larry Cripe

\$3,500+

Amanda Demaio • Anonymous • Asar Legacy, LLC • The Catalano Family • Evangeline Thomson • Family Office Foundation, Inc. • Foundation for Sustainability and Innovation • GFS, Inc. • James Finnerty • Marilyn Larsen • Marshall Fund for Dramatic Arts and Classical Music (OCCF) • Martin & Wendy Benson • Microsoft Azure Grant • MJ Poptanich • Nancy Johnson • Orange County Asperger's Support Group • Robin Preiss Glasser & Robert Burman • Steve & Chris Sumpter • Todd & Rachel Martinez

\$2,500+

Byron M. Rabin Esp. & Gabriel Serrato-Buelna • Christopher Kim & Jeannine Torres • Daniel McCarthy & Theriault Todd, Ph.D. • Elizabeth & John Mahoney • Frances Riggs • Hoyle & Vinnie Leigh • Julie St. John & Charles Bream • Linda Maggard • Mary & Michael Lysik • Roger Friedman • Small Business Development Corporation of Orange County • So-Phis of Orange County

\$1,200+

Anaheim Community Foundation • Andy & Judith Lamb • Bill & Sue Shapiro • Bradley Kaye • California Bank of Commerce • Camille Goulet • Caplin Foundation • Dan Kee & Judy Todd • Dawn McRitchie • Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation • Diane Silber • Disney Matching Gifts • Dr. & Mrs. Rob & Audrey Greenfield • Dr. Arthur & Mrs. Rozie Strauss • Eileen & Henry Cohen • Ellen Pickler-Harris & Don Harris • Gregory & Annette Heiertz • James Markoski & Jordan Jones • Jim Vanderpool & Hernan Escobedo • Jolynn & Patrick Mahoney • Kathy & Bahram Esfahani • Kiwanis Club of Greater Anaheim • Linda Barnett • Marnie & Victor Ceporius • Marty Weintraub •

Pamela J. Lorenz, CFP • Robin Heckendorf • Ron & Susan Horn • Ron Rice • The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation • The Walt Disney Company

\$600+

Anaheim City Council Member Jose Diaz • Anaheim City Council Member Norma Campos Kurtz • Anaheim City Manager Jim Vanderpool • Anaheim Hills Jewelry & Coin • Anaheim Hills Rotary Club • Brien Amspoker & Ellen Breitman • Dean Mancina • Elaine & Nathan Gochman • Helen O'Sullivan • Jason McPheron • Jean Abdalla • Joanne & Dennis Keith • Jocelyn A. & Kirk Brown • John Goodman & Pauline Merry • Joseph Dale & Judy Flindt • Karen Smits • Kroger Company • Laurene Schulze • Lynn Weiser • Maddy & Tommy Long • Mary & Joshua Lipp • Matthew Black • Michael & Marcie Shelansky • Michael Bartels • Michael R. Oppenheim • Michael Salimbeni • Michelle & Terry Schomburg • Mike & Lindy Michaels • Peggy Stewart • PRP Wine International • Sally Ann Haynes • Stephen J. & Susan Faessel • Susan & Bob Crowson • Tanya Bilezikjian • The Yata Family Fund

\$300+

Anaheim City Council Member Natalie Rubalcava • Barbara Benson • Barry Barnhill • Chris & Maureen Aitken • Christopher Garcia • Deborah & John Montevideo • Dominick Berardino • Eliza Jane Easdale • Elizabeth & Keith McDonald • Elizabeth Barnett • GEM Theater & One More Productions • Geralyn Aguinaldo • In Memory of Courtney Greenough • Jan Parks • Jeremy & Nicole Schlitt • Julie Rodriguez • Laura M. Hathaway & Matt Takahashi • Lisa C. & Thomas E. Zaradich, Jr. • Loan Wu & Marc Patterson • Lois Clarke • Musical Theatre Village • No MSG Added Comedy • Phyliss Alexander • Ray & Elizabeth Ward • Rey O'Day • Scott Friedman • Stephen & Kathy Smith • Willa Joslin & Max Espinoza

\$150+

Alan Lawson & Max Schmidl • Amanda Diaz • Angels Baseball • Art Partridge • Barbara Mooring • Brea Gallery • Brewery X • Brian Koch & Katie Sanford • Bruce Wilkinson • Caesars Entertainment • Caitlin Mueller & Robbie Robinson • Carol & Lindsay Latham • Carol Hellebrand • David Goodall • Dianne Parker & Dawn Nicolaisen • Electric Company Theatre • Elizabeth Ellis • Erin Herdeg-Kociela & Dick Kociela • Glen & Melissa Goldsmith • In Memory of Ernie Doe • In-N-Out Burger • James & Marsha Lindsey • Jenny Jacobs • Jenny Richenburg • Joan & Paul Herrick • Joe Mosqueda • Joseph Devlin • June Glenn • Kathleen Cooley • Kim McEntee • Kristianne Clarke • La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts • McCoy Rigby Entertainment • Laguna Beach Cultural Arts Center • Laura & Will Young • Marc & Debra Branson • Margi & John Murray • Marya Mazor • Michael Bender • Michael Buss & Autumn Browne • Monica Guillena • Nick Kremer & Susan Jundanian • Pace Paulsen • Pacific Symphony • Pamela Dickerson • Pasadena Playhouse • Pet Supply Warehouse • Ra Yoga Newport Beach • Rachel Knapp • Reynolds Family Foundation • Richard & Suzanne Priebe • Rolene Hamamoto • Segerstrom Center for the Arts • South Coast Repertory • Stephen Elders & Helayne Perry • Susann Cellier & Edward Edeson • The Escape Game - Irvine • The Philharmonic Society of Orange County • Valentine Wollnik • Visage Laser & Skin Care

JULY 11 - AUGUST 10, 2025

ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL PREMIERE

SPRING AWAKENING

**"THE MOST GORGEOUS BROADWAY
SCORE THIS DECADE"**

-- ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

**MUSIC BY DUNCAN SHEIK
BOOK AND LYRICS BY STEVEN SATER
BASED ON THE PLAY BY FRANK WEDEKIND
DIRECTED BY JOCELYN A. BROWN
MUSIC DIRECTED BY ROBYN MANION
CHOREOGRAPHED BY MO GOODFELLOW**



Theater Classes for ALL Ages

Ages 4-8

Ages 8-12

Teens

Adults

Seniors



\$125 off with Early Bird Discount

Code: EARLYBIRD125

Scan QR Code for expiration and info.

Summer Session
JULY - AUGUST

Fall Session
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

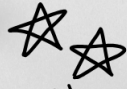
9.6.25
ANNUAL CHANCE GALA


Sponsorship opportunities are available
now! Early sponsors get an invitation to
the Underwriting Launch Party and more!

For more info, contact me!
(657) 549-0499
Erika@ChanceTheater.com



-- Erika C. Miller



BETTE AITKEN
THEATER ARTS CENTER
lll



We are looking for various items
including special experiences, gift
certificates, wine & spirits,
jewelry, and accessories for our
upcoming silent auction as well.
Scan the QR code to donate today!

OUR NEXT OTR OF 2025

JUNE 4 & 8



AND THOU SHALT BE HEALED

BY 2025 RESIDENT PLAYWRIGHT
BENJAMIN BENNE

Siblings Mary and Johnny were raised in the same Christian cult. Now in their 40s, the still religious Mary is having a crisis of faith and is in need of a miracle. Her now secular brother offers a controversial solution. When reunited on a remote mountain in New Mexico, surrounded by energy vortices, rumors of aliens, and a golden eyelash palm pit viper named Daisy, they wonder: Did they ever know the same God?



FREE FOR MEMBERS!

WORLD PREMIERE

Peril in the ALPS

by STEVEN DIETZ

A New Hercule Poirot Comic Mystery!

Based in part on "Poirot Investigates" by Agatha Christie

JUNE 11-29

The thrilling follow-up to *Murder on the Links!*

LAGUNA
PLAYHOUSE



949.497.2787x1 | LAGUNAPLAYHOUSE.COM

606 Laguna Canyon Rd. Laguna Beach, CA 92651



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL
ECHO

UP TO 20% OFF*

MAY 23 – JUNE 29

LAGUNA HILLS



GROUP OF 10+ SAVE 25%
sarah.hudson@cirquedusoleil.com

*SELECTED SEATS/DATES

MISSION

Chance Theater is dedicated to the creation of exciting theatrical experiences, taking artistic risks, and collaborating with gifted and diverse artists on passionate and provocative plays and musicals.

Our mission is to contribute to a more connected, compassionate, and creative community.

We accomplish this by:

- producing powerful, socially-conscious, provocative, intimate theater experiences
- generating participation and dialogue between our diverse communities
- nurturing and supporting local artists
- inspiring and empowering creative young minds
- promoting anti-racist and anti-oppression practices to ensure equity, diversity, and inclusion

HONORS / AWARDS

Named official "Resident Theater of Anaheim" by Mayor and City Council

Recipient of American Theatre Wing's National Theatre Company Grant

Recipient of National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) Grant

Winner of 42 OCTG Theatre Awards, including Best Musical, and 103 nominations

Winner of 8 Ovation Awards, including 4 for Best Musical, and 40 nominations

Winner of 5 LADCC Awards, including Polly Warfield Award for Excellence for Outstanding Season

Winner of 7 Orange Curtain Review Awards, and 22 nominations

Two "Outstanding Arts Organization" Awards from Arts Orange County

15 LADCC Award nominations

STAFF

Oánh Nguyễn, *Executive Artistic Director*

Erika C. Miller, *General Manager*

Bebe Herrera, *Production Manager*

Masako Tobaru, *Technical Director*

Shinshin Yuder Tsai, *Producing Associate*

James Michael McHale, *Literary Manager*

Karen O'Hanlon, *Education & Community Programs Director*

Jocelyn A. Brown, *Associate Artistic Director*

Ben Green, *Marketing & Administrative Associate*

Gwen Sloan, *Box Office Associate*

Jeff Hellebrand, *Box Office Associate*

Nicole Schlitt, *Company Manager*

Marc Sanford, *Associate House Manager*

Kylie Baumbusch, *Production Assistant*

Hannah Jepsen, *Production Assistant*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Bowman, *President*

Andy Lamb, *Vice President*

Larry Cripe, *Treasurer*

Rachelle Menaker, *Secretary*

Bruce Goodrich, *Immediate Past President*

Bette Aitken

Freddie Greenfield

Steven Koch

Molly Mahoney

Oánh Nguyễn

Terry Schomburg

Laurie Smits Staude

Julie St. John

Elizabeth Jones, *emeritus*

Martin Benson, *legacy*

Mary Kay Fyda-Mar, *legacy*

RESIDENT ARTISTS

Oánh Nguyễn, *founder*

Erika C. Miller, *founder*

Jeff Hellebrand, *founder*

Casey Long, *founder*

Jocelyn A. Brown

Jocelyn L. Buckner

Rachel Oliveros Catalano

Cynthia C. Espinoza

Robert Foran

Ben Green

Laura M. Hathaway

Bebe Herrera

Megan Hill

Darryl B. Hovis

Jenny Jacobs

Glenn Koppel

Robyn Manion

James Michael McHale

Karen O'Hanlon

Marc Sanford

Nicole Schlitt

Matt Takahashi

Masako Tobaru

James Tran

Shinshin Yuder Tsai

Robin Walton

Amanda Zarr

Alex Bueno, *emeritus*

Tia Ramos-Fantone, *emeritus*

Jennifer Ruckman, *emeritus*

Kelly Todd, *emeritus*

Courtney Greenough, *legacy*

David McCormick, *legacy*

Myrna Niles, *legacy*

Karen Webster, *legacy*

Wade Williamson, *legacy*

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

A donation to Chance Theater can be directed to any one of our many programs. Chance Theater is committed to producing diverse, high-quality live theater while keeping ticket prices affordable, and your support makes this possible. Scan any of the QR codes with your phone to learn more about a specific program or fund.



ANNUAL FUND

A contribution to our Annual Fund allows the Chance the flexibility to direct monies where they are most needed. Whether your gift is used to pay for dry cleaning costumes or paying Box Office Staff, for buying lumber to build the sets or ensuring that the lights stay on, your generosity will have an impact on all that we do.

ARTIST FUND

By increasing our artist compensation, we will better maintain and support our current artists and make it possible for us to work with the more than 7,000 union artists in our region (including past Chance artists). This will allow us to broaden our repertory and bring a greater dimension to our work.



OTR NEW WORKS FUND

Chance's On the Radar (OTR) New Works Program supports emerging U.S. playwrights through reading series, playwright residency, and commissioning program. OTRs aim to foster long-term relationships with playwrights, offering them a supportive community and the freedom to explore their creative boundaries.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

We believe that engaging theatergoers at a young age will help to ensure a well-rounded life. We believe that there are people out there, like you, who want to see at-risk teens, people diagnosed with Autism, and local veterans find their voice and be heard. Education and Outreach helps us accomplish all this and so much more!



PRODUCER'S CIRCLE

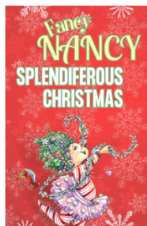
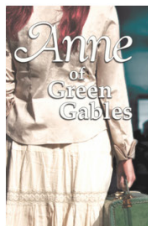
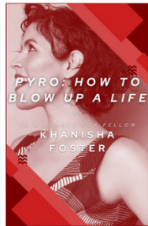
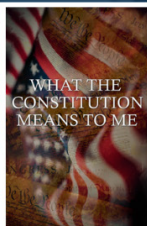
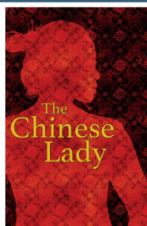
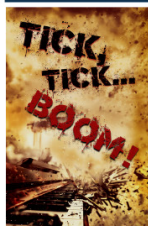
Your vital support will benefit our artists, productions, organization, and community. As a Producer, you'll enjoy exclusive benefits and gain unique insights into our creative process. Connect personally with our talented artists and witness the magic of theater up close. You can ensure our theater continues to thrive.

ADOPT A CHAIR

Adopt a Priority or Premium Chair on the Cripe Stage or Fyda-Mar Stage and a plaque with your name will be permanently displayed on that chair. To show our appreciation, we will also display your name in our lobby along with other donors and have recognition in our show programs for the current season.



2025 SEASON 27TH ANNIVERSARY SUBSCRIBE TODAY



WIN TWO
FREE TICKETS



LEARN ABOUT
2025 SEASON