

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

My first experience with *Oklaboma!* was in the fall of 1995. I was a member of the Wesley Foundation at Middle Tennessee State University and we put on a musical every year. As a member of the student council, selecting a show for the year was always a battle. *Oklaboma!* was the show that was chosen because of the large cast possibilities and the fact that it was a well-known show and would bring people in.

I was cast as Slim (the chubby one always gets to play Slim) and rehearsals began. What I thought was going to be an old-style musical that I didn't think I would really enjoy, ended up being one of my most favorite musicals of all time. I began to understand why this show was so special to many people. The music, the story, and the characters were all very lifelike and real.

Oklabomal is the first collaboration by Rodgers & Hammerstein, and to quote another classic, it was the beginning of a beautiful friendship. *Oklabomal* is produced over 600 times each year in the United States and Canada and in 1993, during the 50th anniversary, over 900 productions were performed. Also in 1993, *Oklabomal* became the first Broadway musical honored with a commemorative U.S. postage stamp and was the recipient of a special Tony Award.

Oklahoma! is a classic. Like America itself, our greatest musical is about conflicting groups, asserting an unsentimental truth that is as relevant today as it was in 1943. It is part of the permanent music of American life.

To me, *Oklahoma!* is not only the love story of Curley and Laurey (and Will & Ado Annie) and the high-spirited rivalry between the Farmers and the Cowmen, it is also a story about community and family. These people, even though they had their differences, worked together and came to rely on each other, much like the family of community theater. Thank you to my wonderful staff and cast for making this a truly terrific experience and one that I will never forget.

I would like to dedicate this show to my special family, Griff, Michael, and George. You know that I couldn't be who I am without the support of the three of you.

– Howard L. Miller, Director

SARATOGA DRAMA GROUP

presents



Based on the play "Green Grow the Lilacs" by Lynn Riggs

PRODUCED BY: Kimberly Kay & Carla McCreight

DIRECTED BY: Howard L. Miller

MUSICAL DIRECTION BY: Jean Narunsky

> **CHOREOGRAPHED BY:** Rebecca Lipon

Produced by special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials supplied by Rodgers and Hammerstein Theatre Library, 229 West 28th St., New York, NY 10001

WARNING: Blank firearms will be used during the performance.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Listed in order of appearance.

Aunt Eller	Ruth E. Mullins
Curley	Michael Pease
Laurey	Carly Honfi
Jud Fry	Michael D. Reed
Ike Skidmore	Kevin Cornelius
Slim	Robert Snedegar
Will Parker	Matthew Tipton
Fred	Peter Woolhouse
Jess	Anthony Scott Feenan
Mike	George Fernandez
Cord Elam	Greg Goebel
Chalmers	Ron Ketelsen
Joe	Joey McCreight
Sam	Peter Schuurmans
Bonnie	Annie Donahey
Lily	Alex Wood
Ado Annie	Jessica Lynn Carroll
Ali Hakim	Jay Steele
Gertie	Afton Bolz
Ellen	Kim Fanzo
Ginger	Beverly Griffith
Louisa	Chenoah Johnson
Sylvie	Melinda L. Harper
Armina	KeriAnn Peterson
Aggie	Reggie Reynolds
Kate	Leighann Spivey
Ruth	Brittany Watts
Andrew Carnes	D. Scott Hartman
Understudy for Laurey	Afton Bolz

SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

Time: 1904

Place: Indian Territory (now Oklahoma)

Аст І

SCENE 1: FRONT OF LAUREY'S FARMHOUSE

Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'	Curley
The Surrey with the Fringe on Top	Curley, Laurey, Aunt Eller
Kansas City	Will, Aunt Eller, Men
I Cain't Say No	Ado Annie
Many a New Day	Laurey
It's a Scandal! It's a Outrage!	Ali, Men, Women
People Will Say We're in Love	Curley, Laurey

Scene 2: Jud's Smokehouse

Pore Jud is Daid	Curley, Jud
Lonely Room	Jud

SCENE 3: A GROVE ON LAUREY'S FARM

Out of My DreamsLau	rey, Women
Dream Ballet	Company

Act II

HOOC

SCENE 1: THE SKIDMORE RANCH

The Farmer and the Cowman	Company
All er Nothin'	Will, Ado Annie
People Will Say We're in Love (reprise)	Curley, Laurey

SCENE 2: FRONT OF LAUREY'S FARMHOUSE

Oklahoma	Company
Finale Ultimo	Company
Bows	Company

PRODUCTION STAFF AND CREW

Co Droducor	Vimborly Var
	Carla McCreight
	Howard L. Miller
	Jean Narunsky
	Diane Reynolds, Asa Stern, Michael Johnson
	Lynn Woolhouse, Michael Johnson
Fight Choreographer	Cosmo Hom
Sound Designer/Operator	Bob Nelson
Stage Manager	Ken McCreight
	Caren McCreight
Lighting Designer	Mike Muñoz
	David Yoder
	John Palmer
Properties	Geri Feenan
	Norma Hughes, Edie Pollock
	William Shepard
Set Construction	Jon Wenger, William Shepard
	Stephen Wathen
Drop Design/Painter	Stephen Wathen
	Kathy Burch, Michael Johnson
	Lynn Haydis
	Rande Harris
	Bobby Giraudo
	Gary Daum
	Barbara Reynolds
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ORCHESTRA

Not all players appear at all performances.

Mia Astar Agata Bugaj Lynell Miller Kari Sparks VIOLA **Carolyn Donnell** Margaret Elliott CELLO Lynda Bloomquist Pam Robinson

VIOLIN

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Clavton Bolz PIANO Lvnn Woolhouse GUITAR

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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And... our apologies and sincere thanks to any orchestra members, crew members or other special contributors whom we failed to mention due to the early publication deadlines of this program!

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



AFTON BOLZ (Gertie, Laurey understudy) is making her SDG debut, but has many prior credits including 42nd Street (Diane) with Sunnyvale Community Players, as well as productions of Side Show (Daisy Hilton), The Mystery of Edwin Drood (Drood, Rosa Bud), and Ruthless (Judy Denmark/Ginger DelMarco). Afton has a degree in music, dance and theatre from Brigham Young University, where she wrote, directed and starred in a one-woman show entitled *Just Say*, Yes! To her "perfect-enough" husband, Clayton, Afton says, "You are my best friend and constant inspiration!"



JESSICA LYNN CARROLL (Ado Annie) most recently appeared in TheatreWorks' New Works Festival as Leslie Nielsen in *The Funkentine Rapture*. Other Bay Area roles include *Heroes* (Kate) with City Lights Theatre Company, *Blood* Brothers (Linda) with Pacific Repertory Theatre, and You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Sally) with Theatre on San Pedro Square. Jessica won a 2004 Dean Goodman Choice Award for her role as Evelyn Nesbit in Foothill Music Theatre's Ragtime. She is a graduate of Southern Methodist University with a degree in acting. Lots of love to her fiancé, Robbie.



Kevin Cornelius (Ike Skidmore) was last seen at SDG as Joe in The Pajama Game. He has worked on over 150 productions in the Bay Area, New York and Los Angeles. Kevin has a theatre arts degree from San Jose State and studied acting with JoAnna Beckson in New York, and The Groundlings and bang Improv Studios in Los Angeles. He has appeared on Comedy Central and in the Sci-Fi Channel Series Sliders. Kevin is managing artistic director of Roberta Jones Junior Theatre in Santa Clara. Upcoming SDG roles include John Livingston in 1776 and Albin in La Cage Aux Folles.



ANNIE DONAHEY (Bonnie) is delighted to be in her second show with SDG. She debuted at SDG as Becky in the 2004 production of Annie. She has also appeared in Finian's Rainbow for 42nd Street Moon and Annie, The Hobbit, and The Sound of Music for Peninsula Youth Theatre. She has attended both Broadway by the Bay's Youth Theatre Conservatory and Peninsula Youth Theatre's School of Performing Arts. Annie dedicates this performance to all those who encouraged her to follow her dreams.



KIM FANZO (Ellen) is thrilled to be performing on the Saratoga stage for the first time in one of the most beloved of musicals. Local audiences have seen her recently at Sunnyvale Community Players in Jesus Christ Superstar, Fiddler on the Roof, as Mrs. Doris MacAfee in Bye Bye Birdie and also as a Geminae Twin in A Funny Thing Happened... She'd like to thank her biggest cheerleader, Lawrence, and hopes y'all enjoy the show now, ya hear!



ANTHONY SCOTT FEENAN (Jess, Dream Curley) is in his second year at DeAnza/ Foothill College. A performer since age 10, his past appearances include Aida (Zoser), Oliver! (Fagin), and Children of Eden (Father), with Peninsula Youth Theatre, and Seussical (Horton the Elephant) both there and at Children's Musical Theater San Jose. He received West Valley Light Opera's ERMA Award as Barnaby Tucker in Hello Dolly!, and two honorable mentions as best featured actor from American Musical Theatre San Jose's high school awards program. The cast and Anthony hope you enjoy this magical show.







Beverley Griffith (Ginger) began a dancing career at the Moulin Rouge in Paris, which took her on tour to Rio de Janeiro, to Germany with the USO, and finally ended 12 years later at the Lido in Las Vegas. Since then she's studied acting and singing and been involved in movies, including The Chick Magnet which was shown at this year's Cinequest. Beverley recently appeared in Pigeon Players' The Importance of Being Earnest (Lady Bracknell). She enjoys donating time to "Books Aloud" recording for the blind.

George Fernandez (Mike) returns to the Saratoga stage after playing multiple roles in *Flower Drum Song* with West Valley Light Opera last July. This is George's third production with SDG, following last season's The Pajama Game and *South Pacific*. George has performed with numerous groups from Sacramento to the Bay Area. By day, George is a project manager for CalTrans.

GREG GOEBEL (Cord Elam) makes his onstage SDG debut, after plaving trumpet

pianist), and 42nd Street (Abner Dillon). With a degree in accounting from Cal

Poly San Luis Obispo, Greg is currently a revenue manager with Cisco Systems. He sends special thanks to all those who have put their faith in him since last

for South Pacific and The Pajama Game. Other onstage roles include Jesus

Christ Superstar (Apostle John), Merrily We Roll Along (Mr. Spencer /

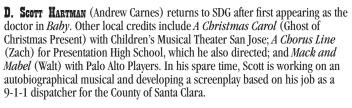
He looks forward to his next SDG assignment, 1776, in the spring.

summer when he embarked on his musical theatre adventure.



MELINDA L. HARPER (Sylvie) has danced professionally with the Spokane Ballet Company in Washington state, Festival Ballet of Idaho, and Alberta Ballet in Canada. This is her first SDG production and a return to the stage after two years. Credits include Crazy For You (Elaine) and Anything Goes (Virtue) with West Valley Light Opera, and A Funny Thing Happened... (Tintinabula) for Sunnyvale Community Players. Melinda is the director/instructor of her own business, GymKids USA, teaching children gymnastics, cheerleading and dance.







CARLY HONFI (Laurey) most recently appeared with Sunnyvale Community Players in 42nd Street (Gladys), Jesus Christ Superstar (Maid by the Fire), and Fiddler on the Roof (Tzeitel). A 1997 winner of the Thespian Award at Saint Francis High School, Carly attended DeAnza College and Muhlenberg College on a theatre scholarship. By day Carly works for the City of Sunnyvale and enjoys tap dancing, reading, and spending time with friends and family. She's excited and honored to be in her first show with SDG and looks forward to playing here again.



CHENOAH JOHNSON (Louisa), another newcomer to SDG, appeared with West Valley Light Opera in A Chorus Line (Vicky) and George M! and was assistant choreographer for Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. Chenoah appeared in, or choreographed, eight shows for The Gaslighter Theater and was assistant choreographer for Merrily We Roll Along at Sunnyvale Community Players. She thanks her family and friends for their support in helping her achieve her goals and get back onstage in a real musical.

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Ron KETELSEN (Chalmers) is new to SDG, but is not to theater. Originally from the Midwest, Ron founded a theater company near Cedar Rapids that's now one of the largest regional theaters in the Midwest. He has appeared in more than 30 shows and directed 22. Ron has directed *Oklahoma!* and also played the role of Curly, so he's enjoying being part of the SDG cast. Ron will soon be releasing his second vocal CD, *The Best of Broadway*.



JOEY MCCREIGHT (Joe) is appearing in his first SDG show with *Oklabomal*. He has done more than 20 shows with Children's Musical Theater San Jose, including favorites *Starmites* and *West Side Story*. He has also been active in theater behind the scenes, running spotlights for Children's Musical Theater and Teatro Vision. Joey is currently studying computer programming at Gavilan College.



RUTH E. MULLINS (Aunt Eller) returns for her fifth SDG show; audiences will remember her performance as Mama Rose in *Gypsy* as well as *Annie*, *Fiddler* on the Roof (Yente), and Mame (Sally Cato). By day a communications director for Wells Fargo, Ruth E.'s recent appearances include 42nd Street (Dorothy Brock) for Sunnyvale Community Players, Sweeney Todd with Foothill Music Theatre, and Nunsense II (Mary Amnesia) for which she received West Valley Light Opera's ERMA Award for best character actress. You can see her next as Vera in Smoke on the Mountain at Tabard Theatre.



MICHAEL L. PEASE (Curly) appears for the first time at SDG, but has no shortage of other stage credits including The Western Stage's *Pippin* (Pippin), Hillbarn Theatre's *It's a Wonderful Life* (George Bailey), Bus Barn Stage Company's *The Secret Garden* (Dr. Craven), and West Valley Light Opera's *Guys & Dolls* (Sky) and *How to Succeed...* (Finch). Michael has also appeared with TheatreWorks, Northside Theatre Company, Foothill Music Theatre, Mystery by Design, and Broadway By The Bay. His other interests include tennis, improvisational comedy, and writing songs.



KERIANN PETERSON (Armina) is making her SDG debut. She has a degree in dance from San Jose State University, where she performed as part of Company One with Janie Scott. Other local credits include *Annie Get Your Gun* at Cabrillo Stage, and *A Woman A Gift*, a new musical by Duo Tap Inc. By day Keri is a dance instructor and choreographer with Dance Attack! Los Gatos, Harmony Dance Center Sunnyvale, Infinity Dance Center San Jose, and Dance Connection.



MICHAEL D. REED (Jud Fry) is an award-winning actor and singer, proud to be in his first SDG show. Regional credits include *Les Miserables* (Jean Valjean), *The Music Man* (Harold Hill), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Caiaphas), *Li'l Abner* (Li'l Abner), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tevye), *The Wizard of Oz* (Cowardly Lion) and *The Pirates of Penzance* (Frederic). Michael recently had the opportunity to understudy his dream role of Sweeney in Foothill Music Theatre's *Sweeney Todd*. He sends thanks to his family, friends, this wonderful staff and, most of all, God.



Receip: Reynolds (Aggie) joined a ballet company when she was eight years old and has not stopped entertaining audiences since. Saratoga audiences will recognize Reggie from many previous SDG productions including *South Pactfic*; *No*, *No*, *Nanette*; *Sweet Charity*; and *Cabaret*. Reggie has also performed with American Musical Theatre San Jose, West Valley Light Opera, Palo Alto Players, Hillbarn Theatre, and Broadway by the Bay.



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Robert is excited that *Oklaboma!* has allowed him to fulfill a childhood dream of being a cowboy. **LEIGHANN SPIVEY** (Kate) first appeared with SDG at age seven in 1992's *Kiss Me, Kate,* returning for 1993's *Oklaboma!* and 2001's *Mame.* In the meantime, she collected credits in *Li'l Abner, Pirates of Penzance, How to Succeed...* (Miss Jones) and as a dancer with Children's Musical Theater San Jose. A licensed

esthetician, Leighann calls makeup her hobby and soon to be her job; she loves

PETER SCHUURMANS (Sam) is pleased to add "dancing cowboy" to his list of diverse characters. Favorite roles include Ambrose Kemper, the dancing artist

in Hello, Dolly! and Gregory Gardner, the dancing egotist is A Chorus Line,

not dancing, Peter collects DVDs of 1970s TV shows and trivia on the Miss Universe Pageant. He'd like to thank Heather for all her support.

ROBERT SNEDEGAR (Slim) is making his SDG debut with this production of

stage appearances including The Sound of Music and Man of La Mancha.

Oklahoma!. Although a newcomer to the Saratoga stage, Robert has previous

both with West Valley Light Opera, and Mr. Blum, the straight-jacketed cross-

dresser who did absolutely no dancing in Bad Habits for Cañada College. When

to make people feel beautiful and create new looks no one would think of. **JAY STEELE** (Ali Hakim) is an SDG veteran — in fact, audiences had trouble avoiding Jay last season, when he played Prez in *The Pajama Game*, Billis in *South Pacific* and Charlie in *Annie Get Your Gun*. Beware: He's also cast in our next production! Jay's credits include leading roles with The Lamplighters, West Valley Light Opera, and many college, community and regional productions on the East Coast. He is the co-author of two published humor

books, Stuck in the Seventies and Bless This Mess.



MATTHEW TIPTON (Will Parker) returns to SDG after appearing as Bob McCaffrey in last season's *South Pacific*. Other local performances include West Valley Light Opera's *Big River* (The King) and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (Matt); Sunnyvale Community Players' *42nd Street* and *The Music Man* (Tommy Djilas); and credits with Homestead High including *A Funny Thing Happened...* (Senex), *Oklabomal* (Jud Fry), and *Into the Woods* (Mysterious Man). A graduate of Stanford University, Matt enjoys sports, computer games, and the San Francisco Giants.



BRITTANY WATTS (Ruth) is excited to be in her first SDG show, although *Oklahoma!* marks her 20th theatrical production. She has been performing since age nine with Children's Musical Theater San Jose and has been in 12 of their productions. Favorite roles include *Bye Bye Birdie* (Gloria Rasputin), *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (Widow Douglas), and *Guys & Dolls* (Nicole). A high school freshman, Brittany enjoys gymnastics, dancing, singing, and shopping, and plans to be a kindergarten teacher some day.



ALEX WooD (Lily) is 11 years old and a sixth-grader at Castillero Middle School. She returns for her second SDG show, following her appearance as Tessie in *Annie*. Recent featured roles with Children's Musical Theater San Jose include *The Boy Friend* (Fay) and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (Susie Rodgers). Alex loves to sing, act and dance; she studies tap, jazz, lyrical and hip-hop at Studio 10 Dance. She's thrilled to be working with Howard again, and thanks him for all his encouragement and support!



PETER WOOLHOUSE (Fred) is a student at West Valley College. He's in his first show with SDG, although he just finished appearances in *42nd Street* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* for Sunnyvale Community Players. He recently was finally exposed to New York City, where *real* musical theater happens. He enjoys singing, playing the trumpet and meeting people, and would like to take up drumming sometime soon. He is greatly thankful to Howard for inviting him to join the cast. Enjoy!

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES



KATHY BURCH (Costumer) is usually seen onstage, with recent appearances in Sunnyvale Community Players' 42nd Street (Maggie Jones), City Lights Theater Company's Assassins (Emma Goldman) and Foothill Music Theatre's Ragtime and She Loves Me (Ilona; Goodman Award & Bay Area Theater Critics Circle nomination). SDG performances include Fiddler on the Roof, The Music Man, and A Grand Night for Singing; for West Valley Light Opera she appeared in Guys & Dolls and How to Succeed..., and directed George M! and Hello, Dolly!.



MICHAEL JOHNSON (Costumer) is familiar to SDG patrons from appearances onstage (*The Sound of Music*, 1776, *Company*, *The Music Man*, *Sweet Charity*, *Camelot*) or in the orchestra pit as keyboard player and musical director. But he also does costumes! He was costume coordinator for SDG's *Company* and Walking Sideways Theater's *Wayside Motor Inn*, and created his own costumes as King Pellinore in SDG's *Camelot*. Michael is pleased to help his friend Howard and very excited to work with Ms. Burch in adding a new touch to this classic American musical.



KIMBERLY KAY (Producer) is taking on her first show as a producer, but definitely not her first show with SDG. You may have seen her on the SDG stage in *South Pacific; Gypsy; No, No, Nanette; Baby;* or *Camelot*. She has also performed with West Valley Light Opera (*Hello, Dolly!*), Studio Theater of California (*Pillow Talk*) and Pacifica Spindrift Players (*Lucky Stiff*). She sends her thanks to her family and to her many teachers and friends for helping her stretch her wings.



REBECCA LIPON (Choreographer) joins SDG for the first time, but has a long list of credits as both a performer and choreographer. Regional credits include *Paint Your Wagon* and *She Loves Me* at Sacramento Light Opera Association, while local audiences have seen her in *A Chorus Line* (Cassie) at West Valley Light Opera and *Bye Bye Birdie* (Rose) at Sunnyvale Community Players, where she also choreographed *Merrily We Roll Along*. Coming in December she will repeat last February's highly successful run as Peggy in *The Taffetas* with Tabard Theatre.

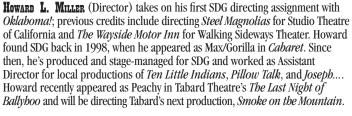


CAREN MCCREIGHT (Assistant Stage Manager) has been performing all over California for more than 15 years, appearing in *Songs for a New World*, *Ragtime*, *Titanic*, and *Chess*, to name a few. She has often worked off-stage alongside her father as crew or light board operator, or onstage with her sister and brother while Dad moved the sets. Whether off-stage or on, a passion for theater has kept her very busy and that's the way she likes it. Caren would like to thank everyone who supports live theater and fine arts in our schools.









GARLA McCreight (Producer) is pleased to return to SDG, where she has been

involved for four years. Starting first onstage, in Fiddler on the Roof, Carla then

and Gypsy. Carla is also very involved with Children's Musical Theater San Jose,

where she appeared in *Chess* and many alumni productions. Carla would like

to thank Kim and Howard for their continued support, and her family for

KEN McGreight (Stage Manager) got his start stage-managing at Children's Musical Theater San Jose, working with his kids. Credits include *How to Succeed..., The Secret Garden, Pulse*, and many others. He has also done

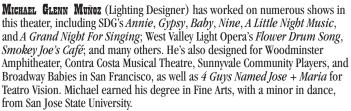
technical work with West Bay Opera & American Musical Theatre San Jose. Theater has always been part of his family, and he is happy to be back.

joining the crew and making this show extraordinarily special.

transitioned behind the scenes, working on shows including Camelot, Baby,







JEAN NARUNSKY (Music Director) returns to SDG after conducting 2001's *A Little Night Music* and 2002's *Fiddler on the Roof*. Credits with other theaters include *Last 5 Years* for Delite Productions, *The World Goes 'Round* for Pear Street Theater, *Sweet Charity* for San Jose State University, and a number of favorite shows with Sunnyvale Community Players. A graduate of Hartt College with a degree in music education, Jean is a self-described chocoholic; her hobbies include continuing to learn woodworking while maintaining a 10finger count.



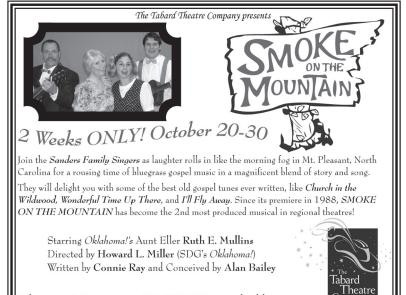
BOB NELSON (Sound Designer) designs lights and sound all over the Bay Area. Credits include SDG's *Annie, Baby, Fiddler on the Roof*, and *The World Goes Round*; West Valley Light Opera's *Smokey Joe's Café, Big River, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*; and many others. Currently teaching technical theater classes and serving as resident sound and lighting designer for Presentation High School, Bob is also the Technical Manager for Actors Theatre Center of Sunnyvale.



JOHN PALMER (Technical Director) is a stage veteran both onstage and backstage. John has worked countless shows as stage manager or backstage crew, at SDG and elsewhere. Onstage appearances include *The Pajama Game* for SDG, *Phantom* and *Carousel* for West Valley Light Opera, *Brigadoon* for Foothill Music Theatre, *Man of La Mancha* for Sunnyvale Community Players, and *10 Little Indians* with Studio Theatre of California. A member of SDG's board of directors, John is also resident technical director for Tabard Theatre.

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