



SOUTH BAY MUSICAL THEATRE PRESENTS

Stephen Sondheim's
COMPANY
a musical comedy

Saratoga Civic Theater
13777 Fruitvale Ave.
Saratoga, California

Music & Lyrics by
Stephen Sondheim.
Book by George Furth.

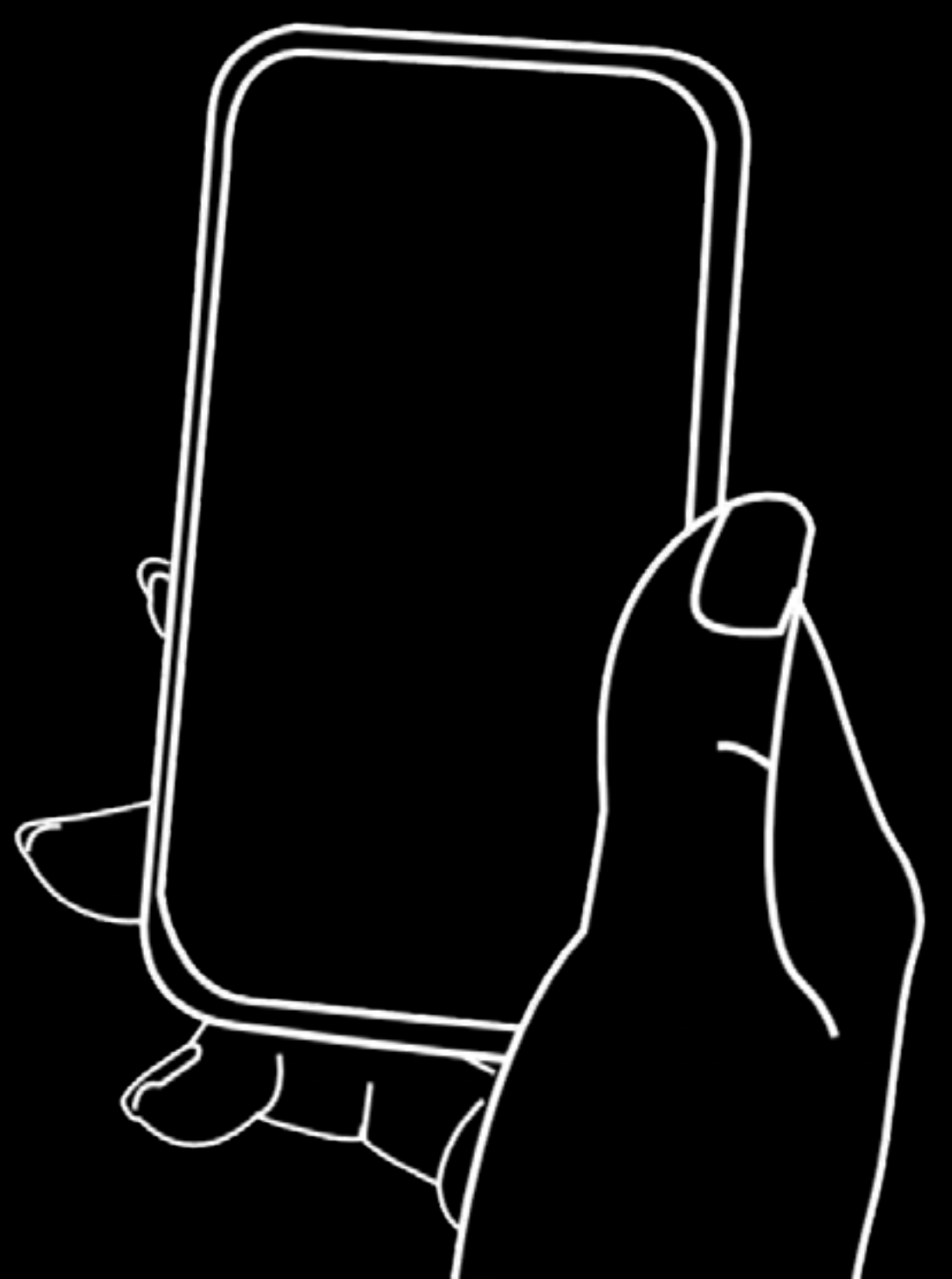
September 24 through October 15, 2022
SouthBayMT.com • 408-266-4734

Welcome to *Company*!

Enjoy this digital program before the show, and then please turn your phone off when the orchestra begins to play.

TOO SMALL TO READ?

To increase the size of the text, just turn your phone sideways.



WELCOME



CAST OF CHARACTERS



SONGS & SCENES



PRODUCTION STAFF



ORCHESTRA



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



MEET THE CAST



MEET THE STAFF



EXTERNAL LINKS



LOOKING AHEAD



introduction

SOUTH BAY MUSICAL THEATRE

presents

COMPANY

Music & Lyrics by **STEPHEN SONDHEIM**

Book by **GEORGE FURTH**

Originally produced and directed on Broadway by **Harold Prince**

Orchestrations by **Jonathan Tunick**

COMPANY

is presented through special arrangement with
Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com

While we encourage you to enjoy this digital program before
the show and during intermission, we ask that you please turn
off your cell phones once the performance begins.

Photography, videotaping, or recording
of this production is strictly prohibited.

With the exception of bottled water, food and beverages are
not allowed in the theater. Please consume anything purchased
during intermission before returning to your seat.

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes,
including one 15-minute intermission.

Please note the location of all exits.



director's note

“Phone rings,
door chimes,
in comes company.”

— Stephen Sondheim

In 1970, Stephen Sondheim premiered *Company*, a groundbreaking new musical inspired by George Furth’s 11 one-act plays spotlighting various couples in their relationships being visited by an observing outsider. The show became a prolific example of a musical theatre genre known as the “concept musical,” where the story is built around a central theme rather than a narrative plot. In his own words, Mr. Sondheim described the message of *Company* to be “the challenge of maintaining relationships in a society becoming increasingly depersonalized.”

When approaching this seminal show, I was eager to explore our protagonist Robert’s struggles to pursue and maintain meaningful connections, and its parallel between the original 1970s setting and one of today’s global pandemic. I am fortunate to be working with such a dedicated company of *Company*, who fully immerse themselves in the characters they portray and understand “it’s the little things” that make our production unique. While an



unprecedented nine-month COVID postponement has brought many changes to our cast and team, our vision, our values, and the integrity of our production stayed true—now with a little more urgency.

I hope that our production of *Company* (and theatre, in general) brings us together, inspires more empathy, and strengthens our personal bonds with one another, in a time when masks and social distancing challenge the ways we connect and maintain our relationships.

Thank you for being here with us, and I hope you enjoy the show.

Vinh G. Nguyen
Director of *Company*

welcome

*“**You** I love, and **you** I love,
And you and you
and **you** I love.”*

— Stephen Sondheim

From our initial auditions, until we finally opened *Company* on September 24, 2022, we have watched 410 days come and go. During that lengthy span of time, SBMT opened and closed two *other* shows, and I’ve sprouted many gray hairs while handling more than 20 COVID cases among our various teams. Despite the challenges, SBMT endured to enlist the talents of some 230 artists and volunteers in order to entertain more than 4,000 people. What a 59th season!

During this same period of time, a Tony® winning revival of *Company* opened and closed on Broadway. We here at SBMT were just a few weeks into rehearsals—on November 26, 2021—when the show’s illustrious author, Stephen Sondheim, sadly passed away. The cast, staff, and I got together and shared our thoughts about the impact of this legendary artist and what his writing had meant to us. It was inspiring to hear which Sondheim lyrics had meant the most to them—especially as we worked together to craft our own interpretation of this tale about seeking connection in a time of isolation—a theme that is just as relatable today as it was in the 1970s.



I met our show’s director, Vinh Nguyen, in October 2019, and I was instantly taken with his energy, creativity, and boundless enthusiasm during our collaboration on a number of projects during the pandemic. Vinh was essential in crafting the vision of our Board’s “Community and Inclusion” committee, which helps SBMT ensure that all artists feel welcomed, represented, and a sense of belonging. *Company* is a complex show, and a challenging piece to assemble even in normal times, and Vinh has led our effort with passion and heart on what has become a very long journey.

You, our audience, are our motivation. We’ve worked, rehearsed, prepared, collaborated, laughed, and cried. And finally, we are so *excited* to welcome you into the “wild and crazy” life of 1970s New York City. Thank you for joining us as we celebrate reaching the destination of a detour-filled, but highly fulfilling, journey.

Sara K. Dean
Executive Director

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cast of characters

Robert..... Justin Kerekes

The Couples

Harry..... Benjamin Hatch

Sarah Emily Acosta

Peter Ethan Glasman

Susan Kimberly Kay

David..... James M. Jones

Jenny Amy Elizabeth Young

Paul..... Ted Sclavos

Amy Sarah Thermond

Joanne Grace Colón

LarryMichael Paul Hirsch

The Girlfriends

April Lauren Jiang

Kathy Francesca Cipponeri

Marta Chloë Angst

Understudies

Sarah, Kathy.....Emery Ronan Bacon

Marta, April..... Lauren Berling

Jenny, Amy..... Cordelia Larsen

Robert, Peter Guillermo Morales

Harry, David, Paul..... Don Nguyen

Joanne*, Susan Alison Starr

LarryMichael Rhone

* Alison Starr will play the role of Joanne on Sunday, Sept. 25



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songs & scenes

ACT I

Scene 1: Robert’s apartment

Overture.....	Orchestra
Company.....	Robert and Company

Scene 2: Sarah and Harry’s kitchen

The Little Things You Do Together.....	Joanne and Couples
Sorry—Grateful.....	Harry, David, and Larry

Scene 3: Peter and Susan’s terrace

Scene 4: Jenny and David’s den

You Could Drive a Person Crazy.....	Kathy, April, and Marta
Have I Got a Girl For You	Larry, Peter, Paul, David, and Harry
Someone Is Waiting	Robert

Scene 5: New York street

Another Hundred People.....	Marta
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Scene 6: Amy’s living room

Getting Married Today.....	Amy, Paul, Jenny, and Company
Marry Me a Little.....	Robert

ACT II

Entr’acte	Orchestra
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Scene 1: Robert’s apartment

Side by Side by Side / What Would We Do Without You?.....	Robert and Couples
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Scene 2: Robert’s apartment

Poor Baby.....	Sarah, Jenny, Susan, Amy, Joanne
Tick-Tock.....	Kathy and Orchestra
Barcelona.....	Robert and April

Scene 3: Peter and Susan’s terrace

Scene 4: Night club

The Ladies Who Lunch.....	Joanne
Being Alive.....	Robert

Scene 5: Robert’s apartment

Finale Ultimo (Company)	Robert and Company
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[@southbaymt](https://www.twitter.com/southbaymt)

production staff

Box Office Managers	Diane Hughes, Dan Singletary
Box Office Assistants	Denise Reynolds, Kama Belloni
Cast Deputies	Francesca Cipponeri, Cordelia Larsen
Casting Consultant	Dave Leon
Choreographer	Michael Saenz
Dance Captain, Fight Captain	Francesca Cipponeri
Costume, Hair, and Makeup Designer	Y. Sharon Peng
Wardrobe Supervisor / Dresser	Christine Ormseth
Development & Patron Manager	Kama Belloni
Director	Vinh G. Nguyen
Facilities Director	Jeffrey Henson
Graphic Design	Doug Hughes
House Manager & Volunteer Coordinator	Diane Hughes
Intimacy Director	Stacy Levin
Lighting Designer	Ed Hunter
Light Board Operator	Carla McCreight
Light Board Programmers	Christopher Morton, Dragon Neal
Follow Spot Operators	Don Masuda, Nita Rabe-Uyeno, Barbara Weissman, Terry Weissman
Marketing & Social Media Director	Doug Hughes
Facebook Advertising	Lisa Litchfield
Public Relations	Jonathan White
Musical Director	Joseph Kelly
Photographer	Dave Lepori
Producer & Executive Artistic Director	Sara K. Dean
Program and Website Design	Doug Hughes
Program Proofreaders	Sara K. Dean, David Mister, Jennifer Yuan
Properties Designer	Patricia Bilello
Props Runner	Laura Carlsen
Rehearsal Track Recordings	Michael Johnson
Set Designer and Scenic Painter	Brett Carlson
Set Carpenter Leads	Richard Cartwright, Jay Steele
Set Painters	Robert Carey, Mario Enriquez, Laura Flanders
Set Construction	Chris Beer, Lindsey Duran, Jeffrey Henson
Co-Sound Designers	Andy Switky, Angela Yeung
Sound Engineer	Michael Rhone
Stage Manager	Christopher Morton
Assistant Stage Manager	Anastasia Helfinstein
COVID Safety Lead	Carla McCreight
Deck Crew	Robert Carey, Mike Cuddy, Jonathan Jackle, Soni Kapoor, Kalyn MacKenzie, Tommy Peterson
Load-in Volunteers	Curt Anderson, Lisa Anderson, Ellie Brownson, Robert Carey, Marilyn Cartwright, Luca Felize, Laura Flanders, Arnav Gupta, Jonathan Jackle, Zach Mousharrafie, Jackson Paddock, Lucas Simone, Diane Thorne
Technical Director & Lighting Special Projects	Chris Beer
Truck Driver	Ed Hunter
Videographer	Keith Pennings
Vocal Director	Anita Hsiung Carey
Vocal Captain	Amy Young
Rehearsal Accompanists	Kathy Smith, Bob Sunshine

orchestra

Musical Director / Conductor
Joseph Kelly

Reed 1
D. Asa Stern

Reed 2
Jordan Selburn

**Reed 3
and Orchestra Manager**
Kathy Switky

Trumpet
Susan Schadeck

Trombone
Ken Rydeen (select dates)
John Fitzhugh (select dates)

Keyboard 1
Bob Sunshine

**Keyboard 2
and Vocal Director**
Anita Hsiung Carey

Bass
Andrew Amistoso

Drums
Dori Shimer



Top row, l to r: D. Asa Stern (reed 1), Susan Schadeck (trumpet), Ken Rydeen (trombone). **Second row:** Bob Sunshine (keyboard 1), Jordan Selburn (reed 2), Kathy Switky (reed 3 and orchestra manager). **Seated:** Andrew Amistoso (bass), Joseph Kelly (musical director and conductor), Anita Hsiung Carey (vocal director and keyboard 2), Dori Shimer (drums).

acknowledgments

Special thanks to Vince Ricco, Leo Lopez, Patti Reed, Braden Taylor, Daniel Hughes, Mary Pinto, Hank Lawson, Andrea Lornez, Elizabeth McClelland, and any other contributors inadvertently omitted from this program.

Huge thanks as well to all our donors and patrons who have sustained us during the pandemic.

Hats off to all our supporters! What would we do without you?



land acknowledgment

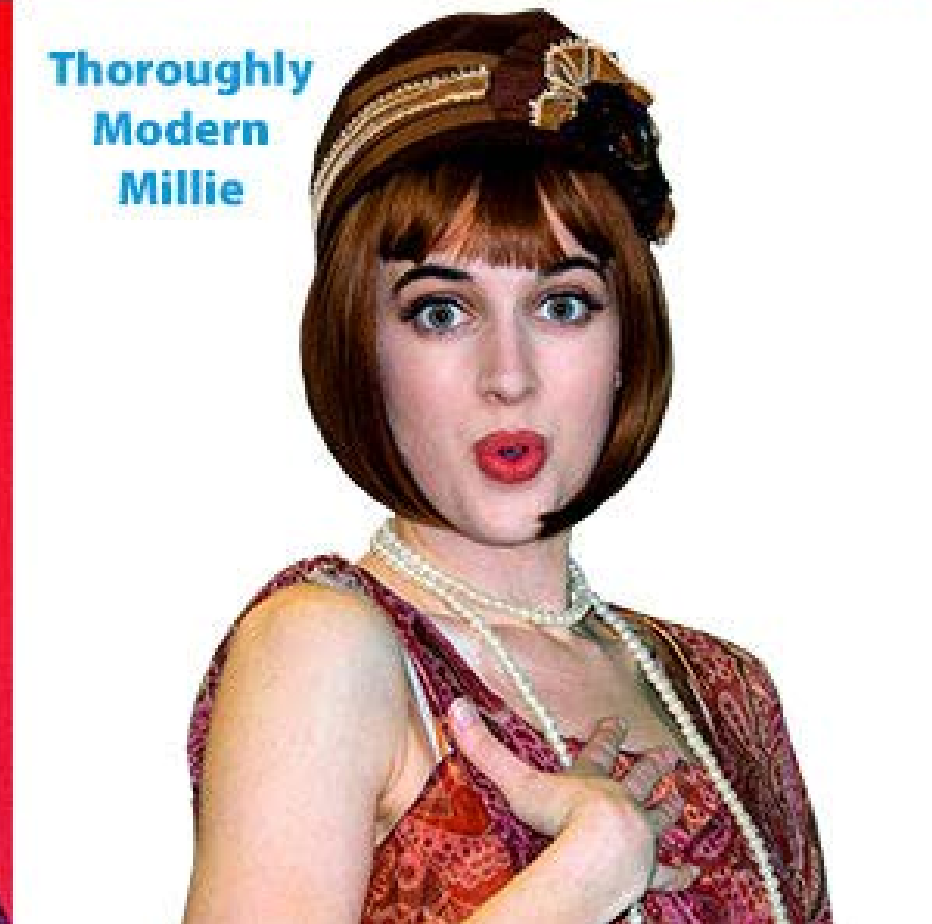
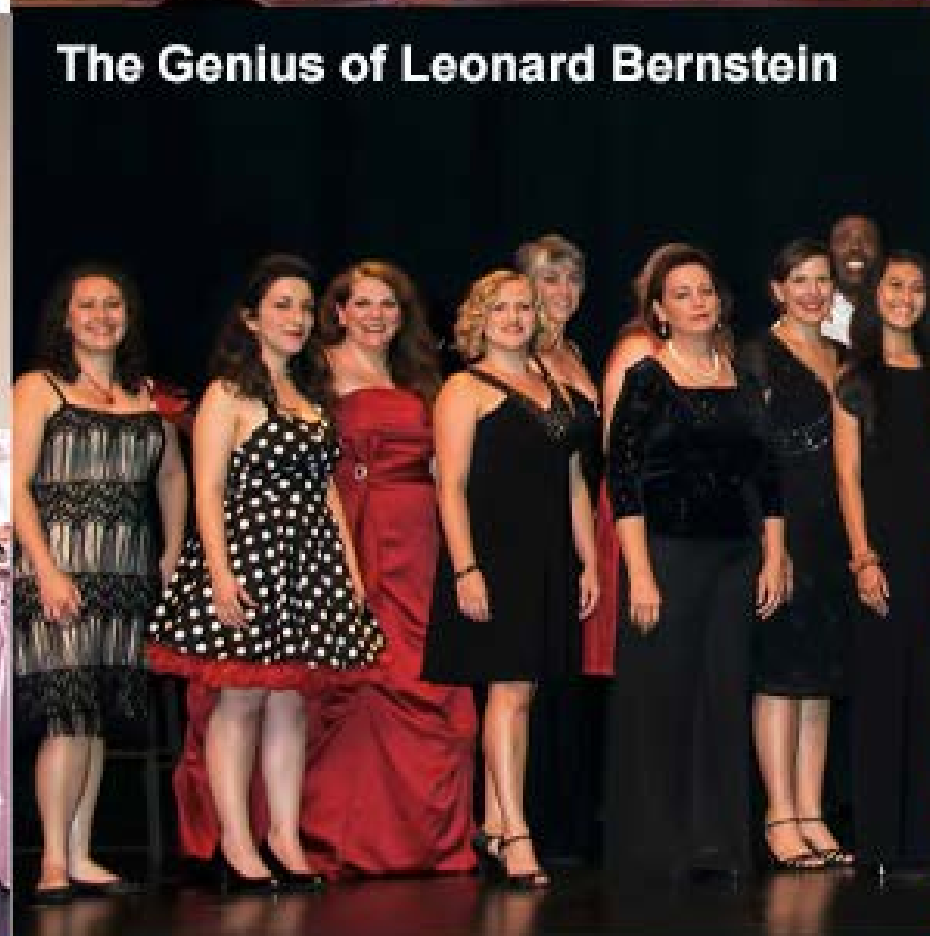
South Bay Musical Theatre acknowledges that its theater, rehearsal studio, and set shop are located on the ancestral home of the Muwekma Ohlone peoples of the Tamien Tribe who are the original inhabitants of the South Bay Area. We recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland, and we send our appreciation. For more information, visit muwekma.org or tamien.org To support Native theatre projects, SBMT recommends the Native Writers Project, based in Berkeley and led by Artistic Director, Matt Kizer. [playground-](#)

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In memoriam: Steve Stubbs

We pay tribute to frequent SBMT photographer and donor **Steve Stubbs**, who passed away last year due to complications from COVID.

Steve photographed numerous SBMT productions, including *Shout: The Mod Musical*; *1776*; *She Loves Me*; *Kiss Me, Kate*; *Curtains*; *Big River*; *Always, Patsy Cline*; and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* to name a few.



Congratulations to our award winners

Recognized for playing an integral role in our ensemble on this show is **Cordelia Larsen**, who was presented with the Legacy Robe Award on Preview Night, September 23. We also recognized **Anastasia Hel-finstein**, who was presented with the Mike Munoz Technical Award.



meet the cast



Emily Acosta (*Sarah*) is thrilled to make her SBMT debut in *Company*. A native New Yorker, Emily studied music at NYU before shifting to a career (and attaining a Master's degree) in food. Much of her academic work focused on the intersection of food and performance, and she wrote a play called *How to Make Picadillo* inspired by her passions for food and theater. When she's not on stage, Emily enjoys going on adventures with her amazing friends and

working with her wonderful colleagues at Second Harvest of Silicon Valley. She is beyond grateful to her husband Alfonso and her family and friends for their love and support. "Thanks to everyone involved in *Company* for making this experience a dream come true."

Chloë Angst (*Marta*) is excited to make her SBMT debut in *Company*! She holds a BM in vocal performance from CSUS and has been performing her whole life. She was recently seen as the title role in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* at FMT. Her favorite roles include Emcee in *Cabaret* (SCP), Eva in *Evita* (Landmark), Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Pintello) and Bridget in *Lizzie* (CLTC). When offstage, she nerds out as a grad student in anthropology, works as a licensed embalmer, and runs a little Etsy shop. As conditions ease up, she hopes to get back to fundraising for B.A.D. Theatre Company, a project she started pre-pandemic to advocate for diversity, inclusion, innovation, and progress in local Bay Area musical theatre. www.chloeangst.com



Emery Ronan Bacon (*Offstage Singer, Understudy: Kathy and Sarah*) Emery (she/they) is delighted to return to the SBMT family after performing in the ensemble of *On The Town*! They have previously performed with BareStage Productions as Heather Chandler (*Heathers*) and Helga (*Cabaret*), as well as worked behind the scenes as choreographer of *Curtains*, *Carrie the Musical*, and *A Chorus Line*. Emery holds a degree from UC Berkeley in Integrated Biology & Anthropology, and enjoys D&D, podcasts, D&D podcasts, and babying her beloved cat Sabrina. She would like to thank her partner Ethan for doing the little things together.

Lauren Berling (*Offstage Singer, Understudy: Marta and April*) is delighted to be a part of her first SBMT production with this Sondheim masterpiece! Past musical credits: *Beauty and the Beast* (Babette) at SVCT, *The Threepenny Opera* (Ensemble) and *Urinetown* (Josephine "Ma" Strong) at SJSU's Film & Theatre Department, Disney's *Newsies* (Specialty



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Dancer) at SSYPA. Other credits include *Antigone*, Presented by the Girls of St. Catherine’s and *The Living* (SJSU Film & Theatre Department). Lauren would like to thank everyone involved in this production for providing her with this amazing opportunity and experience; she has learned so much and had a blast!



Francesca Cipponeri (*Kathy*) is thrilled to be returning to SBMT! Francesca holds an MFA from Mills College in Performance and Choreography, and is a long-standing company member of A Pulso Dance Project in San Francisco. She has performed most recently in SBMT’s *On The Town* as Ivy Smith, and co-produced the anti-trafficking art show, *Hermana*, in Oakland. Francesca’s past stage credits include Ethel Peas in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and ensemble in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* with SBMT. She is so grateful to return to the theatre and wants to say a huge “thank you!” to her unconditionally loving and supportive friends and family. You are so very loved. Isaiah 41:10

Grace Colón (*Joanne*) is thrilled to be making her SBMT debut with this phenomenal cast and production team after a long (25 yrs!) absence from the stage. Favorite past roles include Desiree in *A Little Night Music*, Anita in *West Side Story*, Sarah in *Guys and Dolls*, Fastrada in *Pippin*, Fairy Queen in *Iolanthe*, Tessa in *The Gondoliers*, Melissa in *Princess Ida*, and Kate Hardcastle in *She Stoops to Conquer*. When she’s not performing, she enjoys spending time with her husband, three kids, and French Bulldog, running, doing yoga, reading science fiction, collecting sea glass, and running a biotech company developing groundbreaking new treatments for atrial fibrillation and other cardiopulmonary conditions.



Ethan Glasman (*Peter*) is honored that you spent money to watch him sing and dance with his friends. This is his third show with SBMT, having appeared in *She Loves Me* in early 2020 and *On The Town* this past spring. Before moving to the South Bay, he performed and directed with BareStage Productions at UC Berkeley. Ethan loves the LA Lakers, Ariana Grande, and thwarting the malicious ploys of his archnemesis, David Kautz. He wants to thank the SBMT staff for allowing him to do what he loves.



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Benjamin Hatch (*Harry*) is thrilled to return to SBMT for another incredible production and feels privileged to be part of this incredible group of artists. He was most recently seen with SBMT in 2020 as Georg in *She Loves Me* and 2019 as Huck in *Big River*. Favorite previous roles include Cladwell in *Urinetown* (SCP), Mordcha in *Fiddler on the Roof* (SCP), and in the ensemble of *The Drowsy Chaperone* (SCP) and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (SBMT). “Many thanks to my own little Company, Brittany and my boys, for your constant support. I’m grateful (but never sorry) to have you in my life.”



Michael Paul Hirsch (*Larry*) was last seen at SBMT in *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love & Murder* (The D’Ysquith Family), *Big River* (The Duke), *The Bridges of Madison County* (Bud Johnson), and recently as Will Rogers in WVLO’s *The Will Rogers Follies* and Edward Bloom in SCP’s *Big Fish*. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Michael studied art and theatre and has worked as a product manager for several internet companies. He is a resident of Santa Clara, a husband, father, kendo black belt shodan, and an avid board gamer—and is always sorry and always grateful to his family. michaelpaulhirsch.com

Lauren Jiang (*April*) is thrilled to make her SBMT debut as April in *Company*, a show that has quickly become one of her favorite musicals of all time. During COVID, Lauren has immersed herself in the local theater scene, with previous credits including *Pear Slices* (Pear Theatre), *All Together Now!* (Palo Alto Players), *Chess* and *Don’t Touch That Dial* (42nd Street Moon), and *Rhinoceros* (The Actor’s Space). Additionally, Lauren is a major K-pop aficionado who has flexed her knowledge as a local TV and YouTube host. “First and foremost, thank you God. Gratitude towards all my loved ones who are my treasures.”



James M. Jones (*David*) is excited to return to SBMT. His previous roles in theatre include Jimmy (*Thoroughly Modern Millie* – SBMT), Sir Robin (*Monty Python’s Spamalot* – WCT), and Davey (*Newsies* – HBT). He wants to dedicate this show to his friends. He can’t help but say thank you for our “latenights, quick bites, party games, deep talks, long walks, telephone calls” and more. Tacky...he knows. But he wants to say the following: “Thank you for letting me be that third wheel when we go out. Thank you for being that friend who can lend an ear during drinks or simply sit in silence when silence is needed. Thank you for being there for me during the good times and the hard times, even when we haven’t talked for a while. You all know who you are. Cheers to you good and crazy people. My beautiful friends.”

Kimberly Kay (*Susan*) Past credits include: *Shout!* (Gwendolyn Holmes); *My Fair Lady* (Mrs. Hopkins); and *Promises, Promises* (Ms. Olson) at SBMT; *Spamalot* (Patsy) and *Into the Woods* (Cinderella’s Step-mother) at TIM; *Wizard of Oz* (Wicked Witch) at LASC; *Bells Are Ringing* (Gwynne) at WVLO; and *Bullets Over Broadway*, *Cinderella*, *9 to 5*, and *She Loves Me* at FMT. “Much love to my family and friends for their support!”



Justin Kerekes (*Robert*) is making his SBMT debut in one of his favorite Sondheim musicals about life and love. Prior to the pandemic, other roles included Freddy Eynsford-Hill in *My Fair Lady* (WCT), Robby Hart in *The Wedding Singer* (RCCT), and Charlie Brown in *You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown* (PSP). Most recently he played Carl in *A Nice Family Christmas* at SVCT’s Limelight Theatre and Charlie Price in *Kinky Boots* (RCCT). He is grateful for the support from all of his friends, family, and coworkers.

Cordelia Larsen (*Offstage Singer, Understudy: Jenny and Amy*) (they/them) is ecstatic to be part of *Company* after performing in the 2020 production of *She Loves Me* (Ensemble & Dance Captain). Cordelia continued to participate in online productions like *Anon(ymous)* as assistant director and several staged readings of plays conducted via Zoom. When they aren’t on stage, Cordelia can most often be found gardening, playing video games, or volunteering with mutual aid programs. “All my love to my incredible family, chosen and blood alike, for supporting my passions!”



Guillermo Morales (*Offstage Singer, Understudy: Bobby, Peter*) Guillermo is beyond excited to be taking part in his first show at SBMT! Previous musicals include *Mamma Mia!* (Ensemble), *Smokey Joe’s Cafe* (Adrian) and most recently *Addams Family* (Fester) with WVLO. He has also recently performed in SVCT’s production of *The Outsider* (Dave), and is looking forward to performing in *Spamalot* later this year. “Very special thanks to my wonderful sister and loving parents for all their support.”

Don Nguyen (*Offstage Singer and Understudy: Paul, Harry, David*) is excited for his second SBMT show and first Sondheim musical. Recent favorite credits include *She Loves Me* (Maître D’) with SBMT, Opera San Jose’s chorus member (2018-2019 season), *Bernstein’s Mass* (Street Singer, Projection Designer) with SJSU, *Urinetown* (Fipp, Dr. Billeaux) with SJSU



and West Valley College, *The Emeryville Horror* with Same Boat Theater Collective. Don enjoys petting cats, listening to Beyoncé, eating pho, and getting vaccinated per Fauci’s orders. As an understudy for this show, Don is having lots of fun observing the cast/crew/director’s collaborative process to make Sondheim’s text and music come alive.



Ted Sclavos (*Paul*) is excited to be making his SBMT debut in *Company*. Past favorite roles include Motel in *Fiddler on the Roof* (SCP), Anthony in *Sweeney Todd* (CMT Marquee), Harry Houdini in *Ragtime* (CMT), and Doody in *Grease* (BBB). “Love and gratitude to family and friends. Welcome back to live theatre!”

Alison Starr (*Offstage Singer, Understudy: Joanne and Susan*) is thrilled to be working on her first SBMT show and returning to the Bay Area theatre scene! Previously, she was in *All Together Now!* musical revue with PAP. For the last six years, she’s performed in numerous community and professional productions throughout the Ohio and Maryland/ Washington DC area. Favorites include *Disgraced* as Emily (Greenbelt Arts Center), *The 39 Steps* as Annabella, Margaret, and Pamela (Valentine Theatre), Alais in *The Lion in Winter* (Village Players Theatre), and Magenta in *The Rocky Horror Show* (Zoot Theatre Company). Alison hopes you enjoy this wonderful Sondheim show!



Sarah Thermond (*Amy*) is thrilled to make her SBMT debut, especially in a show by one of her favorite composers! Recent credits include Winnifred in *The Square Root of a Sonnet* (BADDC), Charlotte Corday in *The Revolutionists* (SBMT eStudio), and Charlotte Lucas in *Pride & Prejudice* (SBMT & SVS eStudio). Past roles include Witch/Doctor in *Macbeth*, Rosalind in *As You Like It*, the Prioress in *The Hood of Sherwood*, Horatio in *Hamlet*, Queen Anne in *The Three Musketeers* (SVS), Lily St. Regis in *Annie* (Hillbarn), the title role in *Educating Rita*, Carol in *Black Comedy*, and Gwendolen in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (CTC). Proud graduate of the USC School of Dramatic Arts and USF School of Education, and full-time Theatre teacher and program director at Palo Alto High School. Love and gratitude to her family, friends, colleagues, and students for all of their support!

Amy Elizabeth Young (*Jenny*) is a native of Florida, where she attended FSU, earning a Bachelor of Choral Music Education. She taught music, theatre, and musical theatre before moving to the Bay Area to get her Master’s in Choral Conducting from SJSU. She has performed in over 20 stage musicals



—most recently Rapunzel in *Into the Woods* at Cabrillo Stage in 2019, and Jenny in *Threepenny Opera* at SJSU in 2020. She holds several awards for performance-based scholarships and competitions, and currently directs the vocal music department at Monta Vista High in Cupertino. Some fun gigs from the past few years include singing backup for Josh Groban on his Bridges tour in 2019, and performing with Game of Thrones on tour at Shoreline Amphitheatre as well as the SAP Center. She loves spending time in nature with her partner, Claire, and pretending like she’s on the Great British Bake Off in her kitchen.

meet the staff



Patricia Bilello (*Props Designer*) is a professional mother of three, as well as a wife, artisan, photographer, and multitasking expert currently working on her certificate in Theatre Technology. She is also a costumes associate at Starting Arts, and the creative designer at Crafts Out of the Blue Studio. In her free time, she designs props for various community theatres in the Bay Area. She designed props for *Shrek*; *Shout! The Mod Musical*; *Beauty and the Beast*; *Elf, the Musical*; *Legally Blonde*; *The Wiz*; *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder*; *Matilda*; *Sweat*; and many more. This is her third show at SBMT and she is loving every minute of it.

Anita Hsiung Carey (*Vocal Director*) is grateful to be back in the theatre and to be a part of this fabulous production of *Company*. She has vocal directed *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder*; *Man of La Mancha*; *Avenue Q*; *Working*; *Chess*; *A Chorus Line*; *Fiorello!*; *Oklahoma*; *Promises, Promises*; *Guys and Dolls*; *42nd Street*; *Mack and Mabel*; *Hello, Dolly*; *Chicago*; *Ragtime*; *South Pacific*; *Camelot*; *A Little Night Music*; *Damn Yankees*; and *The Fantasticks*. She has music directed or assisted on *Cabaret*, *Ain’t Misbehavin’*, *Into the Woods*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. She is proud to have been associated with SBMT, WVLO, SCP, TheatreWorks, Lyric Theatre, LASC, as well as theatres in the Boston area. She sends her love to MMY.



Brett Carlson (*Set Designer*) is delighted to create another set for SBMT, although you may be tired of seeing his work as he’s done the sets for *Shout!* this very season, and *She Loves Me* immediately before the COVID shutdowns. Three in a row! Brett is also the technical director at Notre Dame High School.

Sara K. Dean (*Producer; Executive Artistic Director*) is pleased to be in her sixth season with SBMT. She received her BFA in directing and management from Tisch School of the Arts at NYU. Locally, Sara was the Company Manager at AMTSJ, and worked for San José Rep and CMTSJ. In New York, she was a Production Assistant on Broadway with Disney’s *The Lion King*. She was last seen onstage in *The Book of Will* with FMT. Sara is the creator of Glitz Dance Fitness, a broadway-based fitness class, and teaches at the Southwest Y in Saratoga. “Special thanks to the excellent team of amazing artists who brought this story to our stage.”



Anastasia Helfinstein (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is so excited for her first show with SBMT! Pre-transition she performed with LASC, SCP, and RCP, and is excited to get back into theatre after her hiatus as a more authentic version of herself.

Doug Hughes (*Marketing Director*) has been SBMT’s “graphics guy” since 2018. In that capacity, he has designed a dozen programs, edited around 200 videos, and created countless logos, collateral items, and social media posts. Doug appeared in SBMT’s production of *Big River*, as well as WVLO’s *Sister Act*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone*, BPP’s *Little Shop of Horrors*, and SCP’s *Once Upon a Mattress*. He and our box office manager, Diane Hughes, have been happily married for nearly 42 years.



Edward Hunter (*Lighting Designer*) has worked with many companies in the South Bay including PAP, Lyric Theatre, SCP, TheatreWorks, The Pear, and SBMT. His most recent designs pre-pandemic: *Jekyll & Hyde* and *Urinetown* (SCP), *Shakespeare in Love* (PAP), and *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love & Murder* (SBMT). During the pandemic he has designed *Elliot: A Soldier’s Fugue*, *Full Fathom Five*, and *Under Milk Wood* for The Pear. His most recent designs for a live audience were *The Revolutionists* (PAP), *Native Gardens* (CLTC), and *HMS Pinafore* (Lyric Theatre).

Joseph Kelly (*Music Director*) returns for an eighth stint in the last five seasons as Music Director after leading runs of *She Loves Me*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (TBA Award Finalist), *Big River*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (TBA Award finalist), *1776*, and *My Fair Lady*. Joe has music-directed many shows for WVLO and Fremont HS and played his French horn for countless productions, bands, and orchestras



across the South Bay. He is the Instrumental Music Director at Fremont HS in Sunnyvale, serving over 200 students in several fine ensembles, and he lives in Sunnyvale with his lovely and supportive wife, Deborah, and his two adorable daughters, Hannah and Sophia (“Fia”).



Dave Leon (*Casting Consultant*) is an SBMT veteran, working with the group as an actor (*The Producers*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and *City of Angels*, to name a few), producer (*Gypsy* and *1776*), and director (*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*). Dave has performed with companies throughout the Bay Area from Gilroy to Livermore to San Francisco.

Stacy Levin (*Intimacy Director / Fight Choreographer*) is so honored to work with SBMT’s incredible cast and staff. For those not yet familiar with this new role in the theatre industry, Intimacy Directors specialize in bringing both physically and emotionally intimate moments to the stage while focusing on the holistic safety of the performers, staff, and audience. Stacy is a Bay Area theatre director, musical director, vocal director, and choreographer in addition to being an Intimacy Director.



Christopher Morton (*Stage Manager*) is excited to join the SBMT family once again on his favorite Sondheim musical, after serving as ASM for *Shout! The Mod Musical*. Previously, he has stage managed *The Curse* at WVC and *The Three Penny Opera* at SJSU, where he earned his BA in Theatre Arts with honors. He has also worked as a production assistant for SJSC’s *Adiós Mamá Carlota* and *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*.

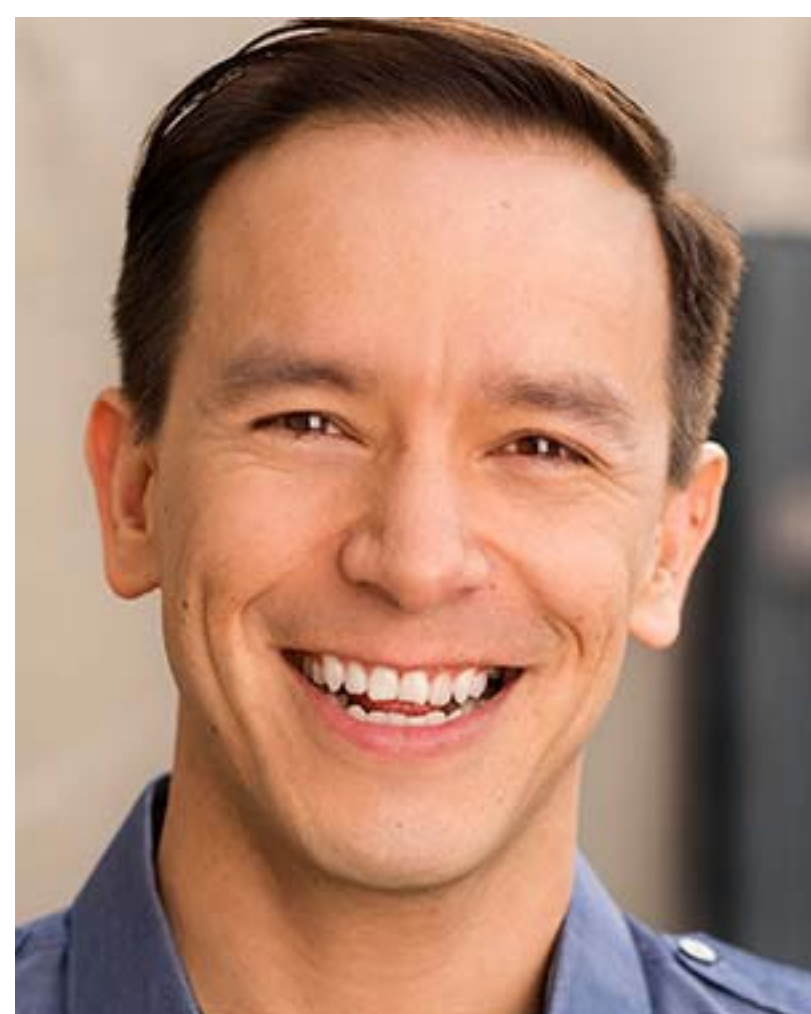
Vinh G. Nguyen (*Director*) (he/him/his) is honored to be directing this seminal Sondheim masterpiece. Vinh has worked in various capacities as an actor, director, choreographer, casting director, and EDI consultant for local companies such as South Bay Musical Theatre, San Jose Stage Company, Cabrillo Stage, 42nd Street Moon, Palo Alto Players, and Hillbarn Theatre. He is currently a Program Manager at Montalvo Arts Center and an adjunct professor in the Film and Theatre Department at SJSU. Vinh holds an MFA in Musical Theatre from SDSU, and is a member of the Stage Directors & Choreographers Society and the Musical Theatre Educators Alliance. Next up, he will be directing *Next to Normal* at SCP in spring of 2023. MrVinhNguyen.com





Y. Sharon Peng (*Costume, Hair & Makeup Designer*) has been designing at SBMT since *My Fair Lady* in 2017. A member of IATSE 706, her works range from stage to editorial to film & television. She is head of Hair & Makeup at Opera San José. Recent stage productions include *Men On Boats* (PAP), *Mozart & Salieri* (OSJ), and crewing productions such as *Fidelio* (SFO), *Nutcracker* (SFB), and *Stranger Things* Season 4 (Netflix). Commercial credits include working ad campaigns featured at Sephora and Nike. Beyond being a guild member, Sharon also holds a degree in Fashion Design from the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising and trained in bespoke wig making & ventilation in London with wig masters of the English National Opera. ysharonpeng.net.

Michael Saenz (*Choreographer*) is a frequent performer on Bay Area stages, seen most recently in all his taxi-flipping hijinx as Chip in SBMT's *On The Town*. He has danced professionally with sjDANCE-co and enjoyed several featured solos/roles in José Limón's masterworks as well as sjDANCEco's Company works. You may have seen his musical theatre choreography as the assistant to Janie Scott and Lee Ann Payne in *Anything Goes* and *The Full Monty* (HBT), *Chicago* (PAP), *Mary Poppins* (Cabrillo Stage), and *Gypsy* (SBMT). You can catch his upcoming work next in WVLO's *Something Rotten* as co-choreographer. He would like to thank SBMT for the opportunity to share his love of dance with audiences from



the "other side of the table" as a choreographer as well as his husband for continually cheering him on and believing in him. #loveyoumeanit



Andy Switky (*Co-Sound Designer*) has been shaping the sound of SBMT shows for the past five years from the sound board, and has recently moved into sound design. "Thanks to Angela, Chris, and Dan for their patience!"

Angela Yeung (*Co-Sound Designer*) is delighted to be back at SBMT after serving as Sound Designer for *Big River*, Co-Sound Designer for *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and sound operator for *My Fair Lady*. Other sound design credits include *West Side Story*, *Freaky Friday*, *Urinetown*, *The Wiz*, and *Grease* at SCP, *The Will Rogers Follies* and *Mamma Mia!* at WVLO, and *The Revolutionists* at ACT. By day, Angela works as a product manager at Hinge Health. She sends love to her family and friends for their constant support. "Special thanks to Dan Singletary and Andy Switky for their help with the sound design for this production!"



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List of Abbreviations in this program

AMTSJ=American Musical Theatre of San Jose; BADC=Bay Area Drama Company; BBB=Broadway By the Bay; BPP=Blue Plaid Players; CLTC=City Lights Theatre Company; CMTSJ=Children's Musical Theatre of San Jose; CSUS=Cal State University, Sacramento; CTC=California Theatre Center; FMT=Foothill Music Theatre; FSU=Florida State University; HBT=Hillbarn Theatre; LASC=Los Altos Stage Company; NYU=New York University; OSJ=Opera San José; PAP=Palo Alto Players; SBMT=South Bay Musical Theatre; SCP=Sunnyvale Community Players; SDSU=San Diego State University; SFB=San Francisco Ballet; SFO=San Francisco Opera; SJSC=San José Stage Company; SJSU=San José State University; SSYPA=StarStruck Youth Performing Arts; SVCT=South Valley Civic Theatre; TIM=Theatre in the Mountains; WCT=Woodside Community Theatre; WVC=West Valley College; WVLO=WVLO Musical Theatre Company



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SouthBayMT.com/workshops

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external links

Want to know more about SBMT or *Company*? We invite you to visit any of the following external links.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Read about the current members of the [SBMT Board](#). Look for some of them (wearing name tags) in the lobby during intermission and share your ideas.



MEET OUR DONORS: A huge tip of the hat to our many donors whose generosity sustained us through the pandemic and beyond. If you'd like to join their ranks, there are [several ways](#) to help.



HISTORY: Formerly called Saratoga Drama Group, SBMT has been staging musicals in this community since 1963. Read about [how it all started](#) on our website.



ACCOMMODATION: Do you have [special needs](#)? Questions? Our front-of-house staff is happy to help. Please let us know how we can make your visit more comfortable.



[VIDEO:](#) Vinh Nguyen (Director) discusses the show and his artistic vision in bringing it to the stage.

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Multimedia links. Learn more about *Company* from the team that created it. **Please note: these links contain audio, so please do not access them while inside the theater.**



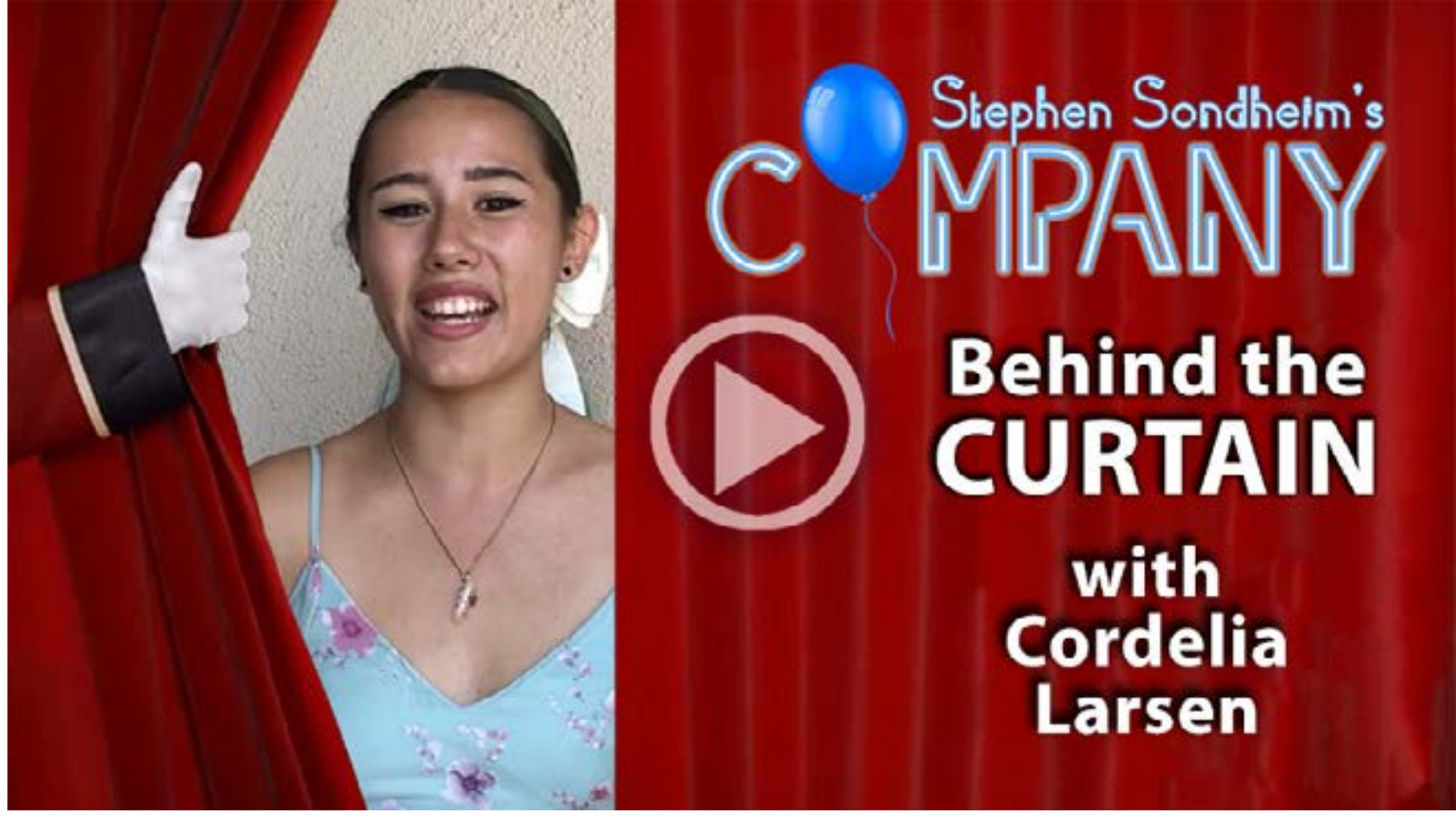
[VIDEO](#): Sarah Thermond (Amy) discusses her comedic character and shows us what it looks like when she gets tongue-tied singing the super-fast song “Getting Married Today.”



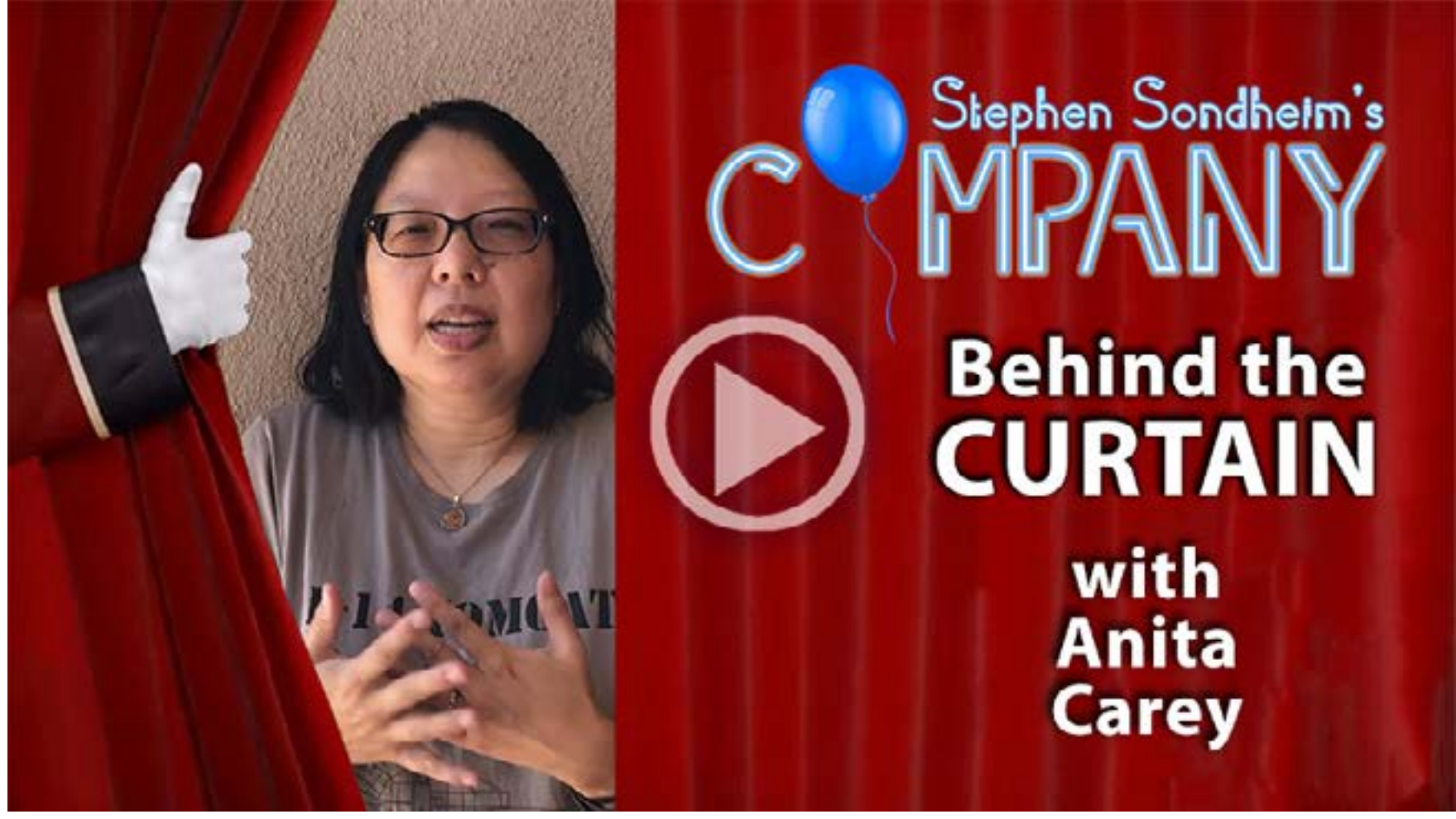
[VIDEO](#): Amy Young, who plays the role of “Jenny,” shares what it’s been like returning to rehearsals after a Covid-prompted pause.



[VIDEO](#): Interview with Grace Colón, who plays Joanne and sings the iconic song “The Ladies Who Lunch.”



[VIDEO](#): Interview with Cordelia Larsen, who understudies two different roles in *Company*.



[VIDEO](#): Interview with *Company* Vocal Director Anita Carey, who talks about the show’s composers and what makes the music so special.

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South Bay Musical Theatre is a non-profit organization that is largely driven by donors and volunteers. We're always looking for friendly folks to assist our efforts in a wide variety of ways:

- ❖ Ushering
- ❖ Concessions
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- ❖ Event planning
- ❖ Grant writing
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- ❖ Fundraising
- ❖ Box office
- ❖ Costumes
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- ❖ Props

Whether you're experienced or just keen to learn, SBMT has opportunities for you to join the fun of live musical theatre.

If you're curious, please email chairperson@southbaymt.com, call us at 408-266-4734, or go to SouthBayMT.com/volunteer to let us know how you'd like to get involved.



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