



CENTER REPERTORY COMPANY

Michael Butler, Artistic Director

Scott Denison, Managing Director

Shirley Valentine

By **Willy Russell**

Scenic Designer
Andrea Bechert

Sound Designer
Jeff Collister

Costume Designer
Michael A. Berg

Dialect Coach
Kimberly Mohne Hill

Lighting Designer
Scott Denison

Stage Manager
Sara Sparks*

Starring
Kerri Shawn

Directed by **George Maguire**

"Shirley Valentine" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

Margaret Lesher Theatre
March 30 - April 29, 2018
Lesher Center for the Arts

Season
Sponsor



Season Partner



Diablo Regional Arts Association

Foundation Sponsor



*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States
The Scenic Designer is a member of United Scenic Artists Union
Center REP is a member of Theatre Bay Area and Theatre Communications Group (TCG), The National Organization for the American Theatre



CAST

Shirley Valentine.....Kerri Shawn

TIME AND PLACE

The mid-1980s

The kitchen of a semi-detached house
and a Greek Island

Shirley Valentine will be performed
with one fifteen minute intermission.

PROFILES

KERRI SHAWN (*Shirley Valentine*)

In the past 19 years I have had the great honor of walking in Shirley's shoes five different times. The last time was in the summer of 2006 in celebration of Center REP's upcoming 40th anniversary season. When I left the LCA after my final performance I truly believed it was mine and Shirley's farewell to one another. Since then, in the past 13 years, I have helped my mom to die after she lived several years with cancer. I became a cancer survivor myself, and through the years had the great privilege of traveling to both England and Greece. I ate lunch and drank wine at The Hippie Fish in Mykonos, where the movie "Shirley Valentine" was filmed. I also swam in Shirley's ocean and even met and talked with a taxi driver in Mykonos who could have easily been Costas. To be able to return to Willy Russell's magnificent script and channel Shirley once more and share her stories with all of you is one of my life's greatest gifts. Thank you Center REP for this grand opportunity! Thank you to my director George Maguire for joining forces with me and Shirley yet again! I dedicate this journey with Shirley Valentine to all of you "marvelous, brave, living" people out there! My heart and soul is filled with gratitude!



Kerri serves as Co-Education Director with Jeffrey Draper for Center REPeritory Company. She has been co-director of Center REP's Young REP Theatre Training Program since 1995. (youngrep.org) Over the past four decades Kerri has gratefully worked often with Center REP where she has had the opportunity to be a part of many wonderful productions including *The Night of the Iguana*, *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, *Talley's Folly*, *Rumors*, *Our Town*, *The Mousetrap*, and *A Christmas Carol*. Over the years, Kerri has had the pleasure of performing with several other Bay Area theatre companies: Marin Theatre

Company, PlayGround, CCMT, DAE, Town Hall Theatre Company and she is a resident actress with Fantasy Forum Actor's Ensemble. Kerri has been the recipient of the Shellie Award, the Dean Goodman Award and was honored by the Eugene O'Neill Foundation with their special award, along with Richard James, for twenty five years of participating in Student Days at Tao House in Danville. She has performed in one other one woman show for Center REP. She played Ann Landers in *The Lady With All The Answers*, directed by her husband Scott Denison. Scott and Kerri have three beautiful daughters; Jennifer, Kelley and Amanda and two awesome granddaughters; Grace Dawn and Sadie May. All of them are "marvelous, brave, living women" and they inspire her each and every day! Kerri is deeply grateful to return to the role of Willy Russell's Shirley Valentine in celebration of Center REP's 2017-2018 50th Anniversary season.

WILLY RUSSELL (*Author*)

Born in Liverpool in 1947, Willy Russell left school at 15, became a women's hairdresser, and part-time singer/songwriter performing in the local folk scene before returning to education and becoming a teacher. Whilst at St Katharine's College, Willy began writing drama and, in 1972, took a programme of three one-act plays to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Russell's breakthrough work, *John Paul George Ringo...and Bert* transferred to the West End, winning the Evening Standard and London Theatre Critics Awards for Best Musical. Russell's first major hit, *Educating Rita* premiered in 1980 and enjoyed a long West End run. Now a modern classic, the play has been translated and produced in almost every part of the globe. In 1986, Willy Russell created the iconic *Shirley Valentine* which went on to an acclaimed West End run, earning Olivier awards for both Russell and its star, Pauline Collins, before transferring to New York for a highly successful Broadway run. Both *Educating Rita* and *Shirley Valentine* became highly successful feature films with Michael Caine, Julie Walters and Pauline Collins all winning Oscar Nominations for their respective roles, as did Russell for his "Educating Rita" screenplay. Willy Russell's other worldwide theatrical success has been *Blood Brothers*, a Liverpoolian folk opera, which won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Musical in 1983. The 1987 revival of *Blood Brothers* ran for over 10,000 consecutive performances during its 24-year West End run. Willy Russell continues to be one of the most celebrated and widely produced writers of his generation with works regularly being produced throughout the world as well as in



the UK. *Shirley Valentine* has been named "one of the 10 most influential British plays of the 20th Century."

GEORGE MAGUIRE (*Director*) is thrilled to return to Center REP and his endearing bond with both Kerri Shawn and *Shirley Valentine*.



It has been 13 years since the last foray into this remarkable journey for them. His other productions with REP are the Shellie Award winning *Our Town* and as an actor *Woman in Black* opposite Richard James. George has directed projects for A.C.T., the Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival, the Willows Theater, New Conservatory Theatre, SummerRep Santa Rosa, Broadway By The Bay, PCPA Theatrefest, Playground and the O'Neill Foundation/Role Players in Danville. George is Professor Emeritus at Solano College where he directed 50 main stage productions and received numerous Bay Area Theater Awards. He is a 54 year member of Actors Equity Association and his many film and TV credits include Wally in "13 Reasons Why," "The Pursuit of Happyness," "The Sweetest Thing," "True Lies," "Youth," "Yosemite," "Fight Club," and "Generations" which he Executive Produced. Future releases include a sound remake of "Nosferatu" with "Shape of Water"'s iconic river creature Doug Jones.

ANDREA BECHERT (*Scenic Designer*) has designed over 300 productions across the country, including *Sisters Matsumoto*, *Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike*, *Cowgirls*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Collected Stories*, and *Amy's View* at Center REP. Companies designed for include TheatreWorks, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, American Musical Theatre of San Jose, The Magic Theatre, The Cleveland Playhouse, The Starlight Theatre, Opera San Jose, and Marin Theatre Company. Her awards include three Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle awards, a Denver Ovation Award, and her designs have been included in the 2005 World Design Expo and 1996 Prague Quadrennial. She is currently teaching design at San José State University, and has taught at several other universities across the country. Ms. Bechert is a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829.

MICHAEL A. BERG (*Costume Designer*) is quite pleased to be returning to Center REP as the costume designer for *Shirley Valentine*. He has been working with Center REP for almost 20 years in the capacities of actor/costumer/stitcher. He has been an independent theater artist in the greater Bay Area for 35 years and has worked with The Mountain Play Association, Marin Shakespeare Company, Ross Valley Players, Contra Costa Musical Theatre, Theatre Rhinoceros and for the

Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation in the mountains of North Carolina for their yearly summer production of *Unto These Hills*. It's nice to be back home at Center REP.

SCOTT DENISON (*Lighting Designer/Managing Director*) has been the General Manager for the Leshner Center for the Arts since it opened 27 years ago and has worked for the Arts in this area for over 44 years. Scott has directed over 150 productions, including *The Wizard of Oz*, the musical hit *Cinderella*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *Hairspray*, *The Music Man*, *Les Misérables* and for the past 20 seasons Center REP's *A Christmas Carol* as well as all Fantasy Forum productions since 1970. He created and produces the annual Shellie Awards now celebrating 39 years. Scott has also designed lights for over 250 productions, including the national touring production of *Sylvia*. Under Denison's guidance the Leshner Center for the Arts presents over 850 public events each year. He coordinates performing arts activities with over 100 producers and producing organizations. Scott created the Chevron Family Theatre Festival which hosts over 7,000 guests each year. He is also the Managing Director of the Center REPeritory Company producing professional productions each season and is the director and co-founder of Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble, an adult family performing arts company which presents programs for the young and Young at Heart.

JEFF COLLISTER (*Sound Designer*) was the Sound Designer for REP's previous productions of *Shirley Valentine*. For this production he dusted off the old show CD and transferred everything to the sound computer. It's good to learn new skills. Jeff's main job is that of Production Manager for Center REP, which he has been doing since 1995, when sound cues were put on cassette tapes and you'd cue them up using a pencil! In addition to being REP's Production Manager Jeff also has stage managed more than 50 productions since starting with the company in 1989. Favorites include *Boeing-Boeing*, *A Number*, *Almost Heaven – John Denver's America*, *Becoming Memories*, *Suds: The Rockin' 60's Musical Soap Opera*, *Godspell*, and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Jeff directed *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Xanadu* for REP and *Urinetown, The Musical*, and *Grease* for Contra Costa Musical Theatre. This Spring Jeff will be directing *Disney's Freaky Friday – The Musical* for REP. Jeff is a Shellie Award winning actor, a member of Actors Equity Association, an avid San Francisco Giants and Harry Potter fan. "It does not do well to dwell on dreams and forget to live." — J.K. Rowling

KIMBERLY MOHNE HILL (*Dialect Coach*) has coached over 120 shows for such companies as A.C.T., SF Playhouse, TheatreWorks, Berkeley Rep, San Jose Rep, Arizona Theater Co, CityLights, the Aurora Theater, Marin Theater Company and San Jose Stage Company. She is thrilled to be returning to Center REP for *Shirley Valentine* after having served as the original production's Dialect Coach the first time it was mounted here! Kimberly is an Associate Professor and the current chair of the Department of Theater & Dance at Santa Clara University where she teaches Acting, Voice & Speech, Dialects, Improv and Musical Theater along with directing shows in their theater season. Smith & Kraus publishers has published three of Kim's books – *Scenes in Dialect for Young Actors* and *Monologues in Dialect for Young Actors Volume I and Volume II*.

SARA SPARKS* (*Stage Manager*) is delighted to be working her first show with Center REP. She has worked all around the Bay, including TheatreWorks, Shotgun Players, Aurora Theatre Company, 42nd Street Moon, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, San Jose Stage Company, Pear Theatre, Palo Alto Players, Silicon Valley Shakespeare, Eugenie Chan Theater Projects and RE:ACT. She is also a lighting designer, recently designing *Uncanny Valley*, *Major Barbara*, and *Uncle Vanya* at Pear Theatre.

MICHAEL BUTLER (*Artistic Director*) This is Michael's twelfth season as Artistic Director of Center REP, where his directing credits include *The Liar*, *Women in Jeopardy*, *Baskerville*, *'Art,' Anything Goes*, *Clybourne Park*, *Real Housewives of Walnut Creek*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, as well as the Shellie and BATCC Award-winning productions of *Around the World in 80 Days*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Enchanted April*, and *Witness For The Prosecution*. His directing work has also been seen at San Jose Rep, Cleveland Playhouse, Seattle Rep, Laguna Playhouse, ACT in Seattle, Marin Theatre Company, Aurora Theatre Company, San Jose Stage, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and The Juilliard School, of which he is a graduate. As an actor, Michael has worked on Broadway (*Macbeth* with Glenda Jackson and Christopher Plummer and *Two Shakespearean Actors*), Off Broadway (*Roundabout*, *The Public Theatre*), in regional theatres (*The Guthrie*, *Arena Stage*, *Long Wharf*), film and television, as well as in REP's productions of *Mirandolina!*, *The Mousetrap*, *Noises Off* and *Rumors*. He is a published songwriter and the co-writer and composer of numerous music-theatre pieces, which have been produced in NY, LA, and at festivals in India and Morocco. In his career as a performer he has also danced with the Erick Hawkins Dance Company, portrayed the

villainous Pierre LeChance on "The Guiding Light," and played guitar and harmonica in many rock, blues, and country western bands at all the notable dives in NYC.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

In the 1998-99 season at Center REP, a wildly successful journey of joy began with Kerri Shawn and myself joining forces to create *Shirley Valentine* for the audiences. We repeated it again in the 2001 season and yet again in the 2005 season. So, here we are 19 years later since we first began, and 12 years older since our last run once again bringing this story of a woman's deep desire to experience and change back to the Leshner Center.

Much has happened in these years for all of us. Grandchildren were born, nieces were born, trips were taken (Kerri visited Greece where the story takes place, while I did a sabbatical living in Berlin). Tenuous and glorious times were had by us and yet again – here we are.

Although I have never been one to have a bucket list, Shirley's journey into self has brought me a sense of not wasted time. I mean ANYTHING is possible if we dream it, actuate it, and lovingly fulfill it.

To be in a room with my dear Kerri speaking Shirley's words and actuating her story is truly a rare dream come true.

I hope it brings you courage, happiness, peace, laughter and above all an idea of unlimited possibilities. Find Greece in your heart as I have!

George Maguire
Director

OUR SPONSORS

Chevron (Season Sponsor) has been the leading corporate sponsor of Center REP and the Leshar Center for the Arts for the past eleven years. In fact, Chevron has been a partner of the LCA since the beginning, providing funding for capital improvements, event sponsorships and more. Chevron generously supports every Center REP show throughout the season, and is the primary sponsor for events including the Chevron Family Theatre Festival in July. Chevron has proven itself not just as a generous supporter, but also a valued friend of the arts.

Diablo Regional Arts Association (DRAA) (Season Partner) is both the primary fundraising organization of the Leshar Center for the Arts (LCA) and the City of Walnut Creek's appointed curator for the LCA's audience outreach. DRAA's role in the community is all about building partnerships with the focused goal of enhancing artistic quality at the LCA and providing opportunities for everyone to enjoy the arts. Through partnerships with the LCA and its producers, individual donors, corporate and foundation sponsors and the City of Walnut Creek, DRAA plays a vital role in advancing the arts for the betterment of the community. Please visit us online at www.draa.org.

Leshar Foundation (Foundation Sponsor) As the namesake family for the Leshar Center for the Arts, the Leshar Foundation has provided funding to Center REP and the Leshar Center since the Center opened in 1990. Their support has had a profound impact on the quality of Center REP's productions and has greatly enhanced the experience for Center REP's audiences. Grant-making decisions are based on the vision of Dean and Margaret Leshar who felt quality education, diverse art programs, and healthy children and families are the building blocks of a strong and vibrant community.

ABOUT CENTER REPERTORY COMPANY

Center REP is the resident, professional theatre company of the Leshar Center for the Arts. Our season consists of six productions a year – a variety of musicals, dramas and comedies, both classic and contemporary, that continually strive to reach new levels of artistic excellence and professional standards.

Our **mission** is to celebrate the power of the human imagination by producing emotionally engaging, intellectually involving, and visually astonishing live theatre, and through Outreach and Education programs, to enrich and advance the cultural life of the communities we serve.

What does it mean to be a producing theatre? We hire the finest professional directors, actors and designers to create our productions at Center REP. These are not touring productions – they're conceived and developed here, the sets and costumes are built in our shops, and the actors rehearse in our rehearsal hall. Whether the production is a Bay Area premiere or a Shakespearean classic, each is devised to be a one of a kind, artistic creation that will be a unique theatre experience for our audience.

What does it mean to be a professional theatre? It means that all our artists and artisans are career theatre-practitioners. We hire many actors that are members of Actors' Equity Association; many of our directors and designers are members of professional unions. All do theatre because it is their profession and their passion.

We are very proud to have the opportunity to produce professional theatre for our community in the beautiful theatres here at the Leshar Center for the Arts. Thank you for your support!

UP NEXT FROM CENTER REP

"Freaky Friday captures the best of great Disney musicals. The catchy, surprisingly deep score by Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey is their best work since Next to Normal."
 – BuzzFeed



BOOK BY BRIDGET CARPENTER **MUSIC BY TOM KITT** **LYRICS BY BRIAN YORKEY**

Based on the novel *Freaky Friday* by **MARY RODGERS** and the Disney films

Directed by **Jeff Collister**
 Music Direction by **Daniel Feyer**
 Choreography by **Jennifer Perry**

May 25 - June 30

www.CenterREP.org

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Center REPeritory Company
 Michael Butler Artistic Director
 Scott Denison Managing Director

Production Manager Jeff Collister	Costume Shop Manager Bethany Deal	Marketing Associate Morgan Mitchell
Technical Director Joshua Lipps	Costume Staff Michelle Kincaid	Education Directors Jeff Draper
Master Electrician Del Medoff	Wardrobe Supervisor Alea Gonzales	Kerri Shawn Casting Director
Carpenters Kevin Bennett	Props Manager Roger Anderson	Jennifer Perry Asst. to the Managing Director
Trevor Frey Gabriel Johnson	Asst. to the Scenic Designer Lynn Grant	Gail Pfeifer Program/Webmaster
Caleb Salmon Brennan Shreves	Production Assistant Miranda Ketchum	Linda Nomura
Asst. Stage Manager Joe Coe		

THANK YOU TO THE STAFF OF THE LESHAR CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Production Services	Audience Services
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Technical Staff Steve Pino	Ticket Office Staff Jeremiah Vierling
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Chris Currie	Robert Nolan
Hanna Johnson	Jennifer Haga
Garrick Schuster	Laina Hare
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Josh Stouffer	Elizabeth Martinie
Josh Yarnell	Shannon Taylor
Security Emmaline Coartney	Gabrielle Wood
Nick Dowd	Usher Coordinator Pat Mitchell
Johnny Silveira	