



CenterREP

The resident professional theatre
company of Lesher Center



Here life is beautiful.

Cabaret

May 26 - June 23, 2024



Lesher Center
FOR THE Arts

DiabloRegionalArts
ASSOCIATION

DIGITAL PROGRAMS

Beginning in 2022, Center REP adopted the use of digital programs meant to be viewed on mobile devices. By cutting our paper use and eliminating substantial printing costs we are sustaining our mission to elevate the arts in the greater Contra Costa region.

Please be considerate of other patrons and artists when viewing digital programs on your mobile devices.

View digital programs before the performance begins or during intermissions.

Patrons who create distractions may be asked to leave.

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RUN TIME: Approx 2 hours 25 minutes,
with one 15 minute intermission

NOTE TO AUDIENCE: The videotaping or
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CenterREP

MATT M. MORROW
Center REP Artistic Director

CAROLYN JACKSON
Center REP Managing Director

FROM CENTER REP'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Thank you for joining us for *Cabaret*, our final show of the 2023/24 season! One of the great American musicals, this remarkable cast and production team have brought forth all the vibrant urgency that the brilliant composer / lyricist team of Kander & Ebb infused throughout their masterpiece.

I'm excited to share with you the productions that make up our just announced 2024/25 season—my first at Center REP! This upcoming season upholds REP's legacy of staging powerful, classic works rooted in the human imagination, while forging new, dynamic artistic paths with stories that will tickle your funny bone, engage

your intellect, and deepen your sense of community.

Introducing the 2024-25 Center REP season!

I'm thrilled to launch our 57th year with ***Arsenic and Old Lace***. The grandmother of modern dark comedy, this classic farce will get a playful and mischievous makeover through a queer lens, and will feature a treasure of Bay Area theater, actor / artist **Danny Scheie**.

The nationally acclaimed musical adventure ***Dragon Lady*** comes next, written and performed by Broadway powerhouse ***Sara Porkalob***. This solo-musical tour de force has Sara transforming into a multitude of colorful characters, taking you on the wild ride of her grandmother's journey from Manila to America.

In the New Year I'll be directing something entirely new—a **world premiere theatrical event, *Froggy***. A digital noir thriller, *Froggy* centers on a young woman's quest for something missing in her life. I'll be joined by some of today's leading theatrical artists who will bring stunning immersive projections, an original score, and videogame like action to our stage. *Froggy* is next-gen storytelling and promises to knock your socks off!

Next comes Jen Silverman's acclaimed comedic mystery *The Roommate*—just announced for a Broadway run this fall—which features the lives of two dynamic middle-aged women rediscovering the art of friendship, and the lengths they'll go to take charge of their lives.

We'll end the season with the big splashy world premiere of *Happy*

Pleasant Valley, a sex-scandal-murder-mystery-musical set in a retirement village that promises to keep you guessing, and laughing, all the way to the curtain call.

If you like to laugh... if you like to be surprised... if you like a little mischief in your life, you won't want to miss our 57th Season! To learn more, you can click on the graphic following this letter—we'd love to have you join us.

Thank you for your continued support of live theatre and Center REP!

Warmly,



MATT M. MORROW
Center REP Artistic Director

CENTER REP 2024-25 SEASON

**MISCHIEF
MAGIC
MAYHEM**

**ARSENIC AND
OLD LACE**

**DRAGON
LADY**

**A
CHRISTMAS
CAROL**

FROGGY

**THE
ROOM-
MATE**

**HAPPY
PLEASANT
VALLEY:**

**A SENIOR SEX SCANDAL
MURDER MYSTERY MUSICAL**

**ALL SEAT - ALL DATES - ALL SHOWS
\$49 A PLAY**

LEARN MORE & ORDER TODAY AT [CENTERREP.ORG](https://centerrep.org)

Buy Tickets

CABARET

A PHOTO JOURNEY OF FIVE BROADWAY REVIVALS
(1966 - 2024)



Alan Cumming and Company (1998)

Eddie Redmayne and
Jessie Buckley (2024)



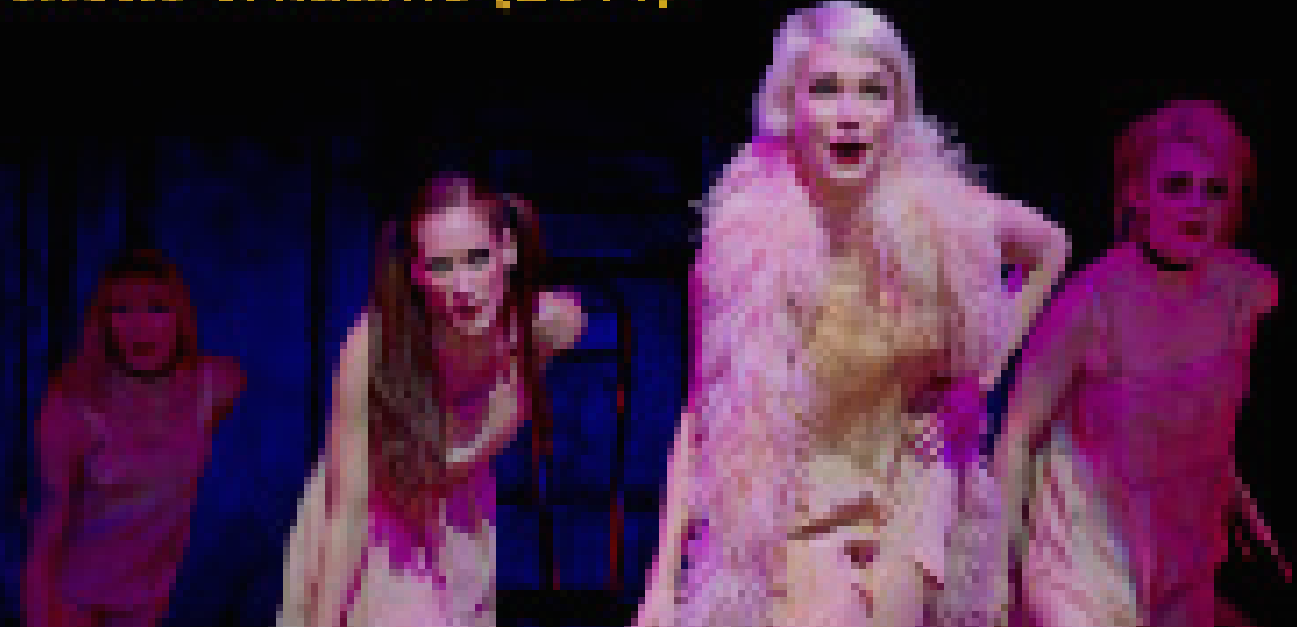
Jill Haworth and
Bert Convy (1966)



Alysson Reed (1985)



Michelle Williams (2014)



Neil Patrick Harris
(2014)



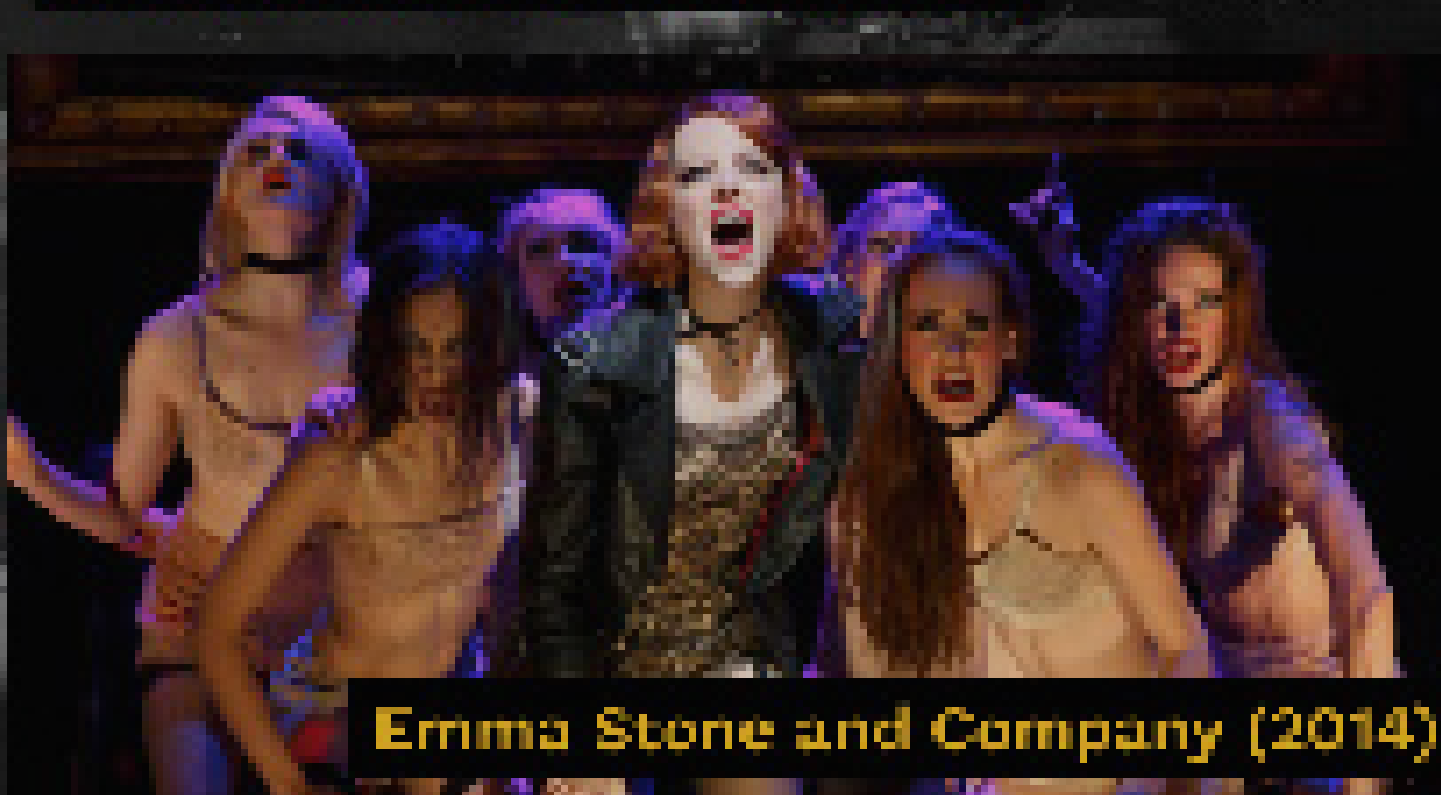
Natasha Richardson
(1995)



Joel Grey and Company (1966)



Lotte Lenya and Original Broadway Cast
(1966)



Emma Stone and Company (2014)

DIRECTOR'S AND CHOREOGRAPHER'S STATEMENT

Markus Potter and Jessica Chen on
Cabaret

In a recent Walnut Creek City Council meeting, a series of antisemitic remarks during the public comment period shattered the veneer of civic discourse. One caller, "Scottie," defended pro-white banners and accused Jewish individuals of suppressing such expressions while allegedly dominating media and government. This shocking outburst of ridiculous tropes underscored the pernicious disinformation lurking in our community. It is a stark reminder that such ignorance and hatred are not relics of the past but present threats that can infiltrate our communities if left unchecked.

This confrontation with raw ignorance

reminds us of the imperative to awaken from complacency, reject passivity, and actively engage in shaping the communities around us. As artists and storytellers, we recognize our role in reflecting and responding to these societal issues. Pope Francis speaks of the “globalization of indifference,” where people disengage from the world’s suffering, becoming desensitized to wars, injustices, and crimes. This indifference is insidious, hardening hearts and numbing consciences. *Cabaret* demands that we confront our own moral thresholds and the consequences of our disengagement.

When we begin the story, we are in the heart of a thriving Weimar Germany which had a bold and flourishing queer culture. Germany was thriving culturally and Berlin was booming, and the queer community was at the heart of this cultural renaissance. The

vibrant nightlife, the cabarets, and the artistic expressions of the time created a unique environment of freedom and innovation. However, this period of cultural liberation was fragile, constantly threatened by the rising tide of authoritarianism and hatred.

The story of *Cabaret* is a haunting reflection on human behavior in the face of moral crises. It compels us to question our own responses to tyranny and prejudice. Would we prioritize self-preservation at the cost of turning a blind eye to the suffering of others? The story forces us to grapple with these uncomfortable questions, serving as mirror to our own potential responses to societal turmoil, prompting us to consider how we might act in similar circumstances.

One of the most poignant moments in *Cabaret* comes from Fraulein Schneider's

song, "What Would You Do?" Her words lay bare the central question of the story: how do we respond when faced with the moral dilemmas that define our humanity? Fraulein Schneider's struggle between survival and resistance encapsulates the heart-wrenching choices that *Cabaret* compels us to consider. Her character's internal conflict is a microcosm of the larger societal battle between complicity and resistance.

The vibrant energy of Weimar Berlin is brought to life through these musical numbers, capturing an era of artistic liberation and social progress. This period of cultural freedom is juxtaposed against the ominous rise of authoritarianism, illustrating the fragility of such progressive moments. The Kit Kat Klub, with its decadent performances and its role as a sanctuary for the marginalized, represents the

last bastion of freedom before the encroaching darkness. The score and story's brilliance lie in their ability to convey the exuberance and underlying tension of the time, making the musical both a celebration and a cautionary tale.

Our decision to present *Cabaret* now is deeply rooted in the current socio-political climate. We are witnessing a troubling resurgence of antisemitism, Islamophobia, and hate against Black, Brown, People of Color, and LGBTQIA communities. The parallels between the societal issues of Weimar Germany and our current climate are striking and unsettling. *Cabaret* asks us to "wake up," as Cliff declares, and defend the principles of equality and human dignity. The historical lessons of Weimar Germany remind us of how quickly progress can be undone by oppressive forces, underscoring the urgent need for vigilance and advocacy.

As you experience this production, we hope it resonates profoundly, stirring your conscience and provoking reflection on your role in today's societal struggles. Let Fraulein Schneider's haunting question, "What would you do?" echo in your hearts, inspiring you to engage with empathy and courage in the face of injustice.



MARKUS POTTER⁺⁺

Director



JESSICA CHEN

Choreographer

THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF *CABARET*

Cabaret is set in 1929-1930 Berlin during the Weimar Republic, a postWorld War I era in which Germany established a short-lived democracy. In its Golden Era, citizens of the Weimar Republic lived extravagantly, expressing themselves through artistic movements such as Expressionism and Dadaism. Queer performance in cabarets boomed alongside the country's decriminalization of homosexuality. But by 1930, Weimar Germany was in extreme economic depression. Only a few years later, Germany transitioned from a progressive, avant-garde culture to an oppressive, totalitarian regime under Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party. This precarious position at the edge of the world is where we meet the Kit Kat Klub, and the characters within it.

Cabaret is based on *Goodbye to Berlin*, a 1939 semi-autobiographical novel by Anglo-American author Christopher Isherwood, and a 1951 play adaptation of Isherwood's novel called *I Am a Camera*. The original Broadway production in 1966, directed and produced by Harold Prince, broke many conventions of American musical theatre: it showed sex, drugs, and alcohol on stage; it omitted a traditional overture; and its plot dealt directly with antisemitism and the Holocaust. *Cabaret* has since received several celebrated adaptations, including a 1972 film starring Liza Minelli and Joel Grey, a restaging in 1993 by director Sam Mendes, which starred Alan Cumming, and the 2024 Broadway revival featuring Eddie Redmayne as Emcee.

Cabaret contains incredible production numbers, and one of the greatest musical scores in American musical

theatre history, but also stages serious themes. The show asks us to remember the six million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust. It reminds us that antisemitism is alive and well today, as shown by the Anti-Defamation League's latest reports showing dramatic increases in antisemitic incidents in the United States, with 2023 representing the highest annual number of incidents in America since ADL's tracking began in 1979. This included incidents at Jewish institutions rising by 237% over the previous year, and incidents on college and university campuses rising 321% over the previous year, most of which occurred after the October 7 Hamas terrorist attacks. Cabaret shows how fascism arises out of the restriction of free speech and political dissent. The show seduces the audience before provoking them to reflect on what they've been seduced

by. Perhaps most provocatively, this musical asks questions about how hatred becomes normalized, and makes us wonder: in these situations, what would I do?



JONAH GREENE

Dramaturg

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Check out the below reading list to dive even deeper into the history and legacy of *Cabaret*.

Cabaret: The Illustrated Book and Lyrics—edited by Linda Sunshine (1999)

Sex and the Weimar Republic: German Homosexual Emancipation and the Rise of the Nazis by Laurie Marhoefer (2015)

Gay Berlin: Birthplace of a Modern Identity by Robert Beachy (2015)

Passing Illusions: Jewish Visibility in Weimar Germany by Kerry Wallach (2017)

The Cambridge Companion to Antisemitism—edited by Steven Katz



Center REP presents

CABARET

Book by

JOE MASTEROFF

Based on the play by

JOHN VAN DRUTEN

Stories by

CHRISTOPHER ISHERWOOD

Music by

JOHN KANDER

Lyrics by

FRED EBB

Originally Co-Directed and Choreographed by

ROB MARSHALL

Originally Directed by

SAM MENDES

Choreography by

JESSICA CHEN

Musical Direction by

ERYN ALLEN

Directed by

MARKUS POTTER⁺⁺



Center REP

***CABARET* PRODUCTION TEAM**

Assistant Choreographer ELIZABETH COWPERTHWAITTE

Scenic Designer DAVID GOLDSTEIN⁺

Costume Designer BECKY BODURTHA⁺

Lighting Designer WEN-LING LIAO⁺

Assistant Lighting Designer CHARLIE MEJIA

Sound Designer LYLE BARRERE

Associate Sound Designer MIMI DANIELS

Props Designer ALYSSA TRYON

Stage Manager PENNY PENDLETON*

Assistant Stage Manager JOE COE

Dramaturg JONAH GREENE

Fight Director BRANDON DIPAOLO

Scenic Construction by
CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER

Center REP would like to thank the following for their contributions to this production: Solano College Theatre, Ross Valley Players, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, and the Stanford Costume Shop

Cabaret is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC.
www.concordtheatricals.com

OPENING NIGHT MAY 26, 2024
LESHER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

CAST LIST

Emcee.....	Rotimi Agbabiaka*
Bobby [Kit Kat]/ Bodyguard.....	Landan Berlof
Understudy Cliff / Understudy Max / Understudy Kit Kat..... Faustino Cadiz III
Texas [Kit Kat] / Dance Captain.....	Sydney Chow*
Hans [Kit Kat]/ Sailor.....	Jesse Cortez
Frenchie [Kit Kat].....	Elizabeth Cowperthwaite
Lulu [Kit Kat] / Understudy Kost.....	Elizabeth Curtis
Kost.....	Michelle Drexler
Schultz.....	Richard Farrell*
Herman [Kit Kat], Sailor.....	Andrio Jordan Fong
Schneider.....	Kelly Ground*
Sally.....	Monique Hafen Adams*
Cliff.....	Jacob Henrie-Naffaa*
Ernst.....	Charlie Levy*
Max / Customs Officer/ Loudspeaker Voice.....	Paul C. Plain
Rosie [Kit Kat] / Deer.....	Antonia Reed
Helga [Kit Kat].....	Jillian A. Smith
Understudy Sally / Understudy Kit Kat.....	Adria Swan
Fritzie [Kit Kat]/ Sailor.....	Ann Warque
Victor [Kit Kat]/ Bodyguard.....	Dedrick Weathersby*

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

+ Member of United Scenic Artists Union

++ Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

ORCHESTRA

Keys 1/Conductor.....	Eryn Allen
Keys 2.....	Kenji Higashihama
Reed 1.....	Larry De La Cruz
Reed 2.....	Audrey Jackson
Trumpet.....	Marvin McFadden/ John Trombetta
Trombone.....	Jeanne Geiger/ Matt Hall
Guitar/ Banjo.....	Schuyler McFadden
Bass.....	Danny Min
Drums.....	John Doing

Alternate Musicians include: Peter Sembler (Trumpet),
Dick Mathias (Reed 1), Kelyn Crapp (Guitar/Banjo),
Ken Bergmann (Drums), and Juan Carreon (Drums).

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

WILLKOMMEN.....	Emcee & Full Company
WELCOME TO BERLIN.....	Emcee
SO WHAT.....	Fraulein Schneider
DON'T TELL MAMA.....	Sally & Kit Kat Girls
MEIN HERR.....	Sally & Kit Kats
PERFECTLY MARVELOUS.....	Cliff & Sally
TWO LADIES.....	Emcee, Bobby, & Lulu
IT COULDN'T PLEASE ME MORE.....	Fraulein Schneider & Herr Schultz
MAYBE THIS TIME.....	Sally
MONEY.....	Emcee & Full Company
MARRIED... Fraulein Kost, Fraulein Schneider, & Herr Schultz	
TOMORROW BELONGS TO ME.....	Fraulein Kost, Ernst, & Full Company

15-minute intermission

ACT II

KICK LINE NUMBER.....	Kit Kats
REPRISE: MARRIED.....	Herr Schultz
IF YOU COULD SEE HER.....	Emcee
WHAT WOULD YOU DO.....	Fraulein Schneider
I DON'T CARE MUCH.....	Emcee
CABARET.....	Sally
FINALE.....	Cliff & Emcee

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM



Weimar Cabaret (December 1979)

ROTIMI AGBABIKA*

(all) The Emcee

Rotimi Agbabiaka
is an actor, writer,
director, and
teacher. Most

recently, Rotimi

played Oberon and Theseus in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Folger Theatre, Washington D.C.) and originated the roles of William Craft in *The N****r Lovers* (Magic Theatre), James Baldwin in *In the Evening By The Moonlight* (Lorraine Hansberry Theatre), Hernia the Witch in *Sleeping Beauty* (Presidio Theatre), and Cellphone/Narrator in *If Pretty Hurts Ugly Must Be a Muhfucka* (Playwrights Horizons, Off-Broadway).



Other acting credits include roles at Yale Rep, A.C.T., Cal Shakes, Word for Word, and the SF Mime Troupe. Rotimi penned the solo shows *Type/Caste* and *MANIFESTO*; and co-wrote the musical, *Seeing Red*. Directing credits include *The Red Shades: A Trans Superhero Rock Opera* (Z Space) and this summer's *The Tempest* (SF Shakes). Rotimi also dazzles nightlife stages (as alter-ego Miss Cleo Patois); and teaches performance at Stanford University.

Website: www.rotimionline.com

Instagram: @saintrocosalamander

Facebook: @Rotimi Agbabiaka

MONIQUE
HAFEN
ADAMS*

(she/her)

Sally Bowles

Monique Hafen

Adams is thrilled to
return to Center REP!



She was last seen at Center REP in *Beehive! The 60s Musical*. Other Center REP credits include *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Liar**, and *The Storytelling Ability of a Boy*. She has been seen in productions throughout the Bay Area at ACT (*Top Girls*, *A Walk on the Moon*), Theatreworks (*Pride and Prejudice*, *The New Musical*), San Francisco Playhouse (*Harper Regan*, *My Fair Lady**, *Camelot**, *Company**, *Into the Woods*, *City of Angels*, *She Loves*

*Me**, *Noises Off*), San Jose Stage Company (*Chicago*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Threepenny Opera*, and *Avenue Q*), and San Jose Rep (*Spring Awakening*). (*BATCC Awards received). Monique dedicates each performance to her husband and beautiful little kiddos.

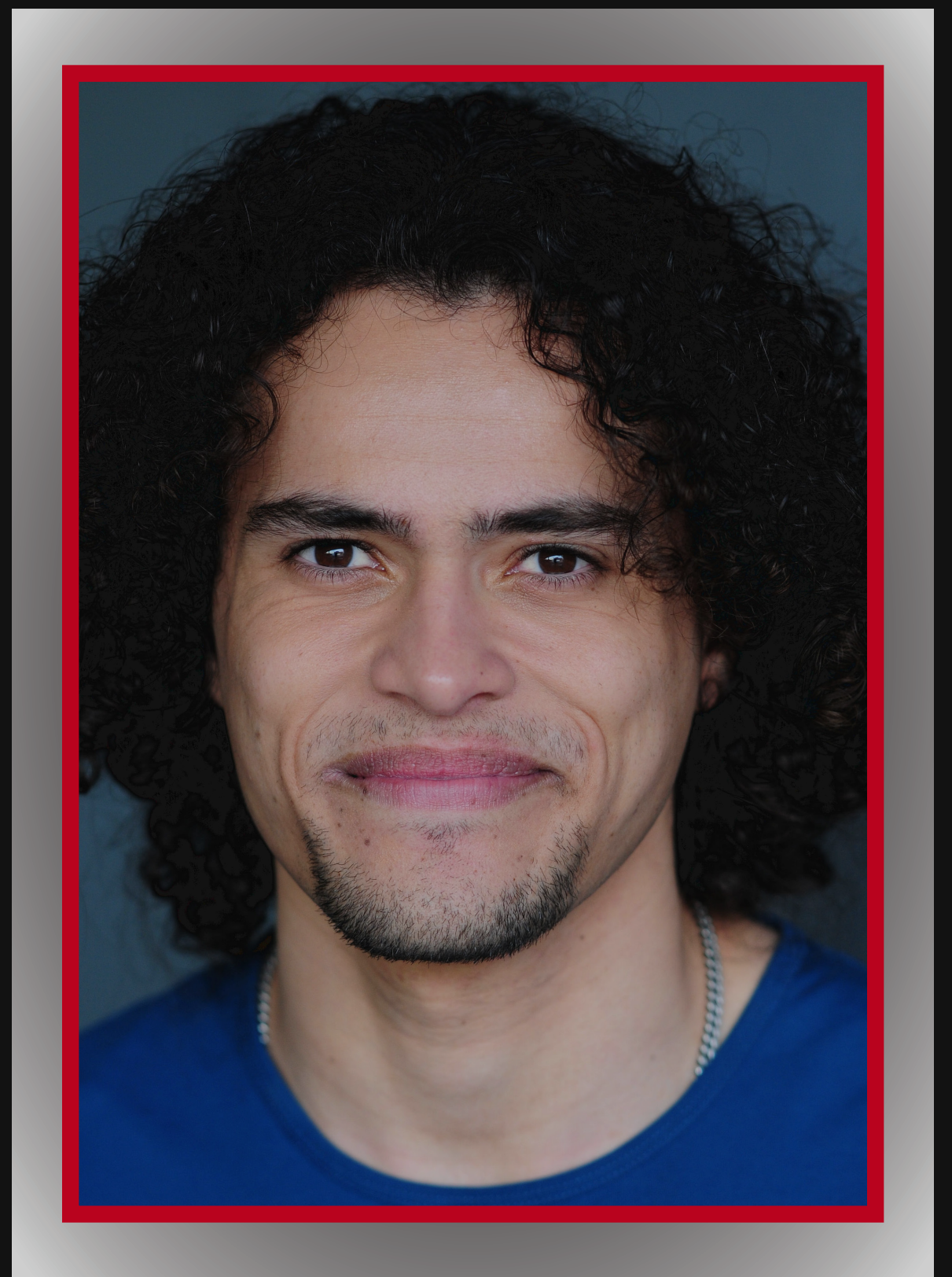
instagram: @monique_hafen_adams

JACOB
HENRIE-
NAFAA*

(he/him)

Cliff Bradshaw

Jacob is hyped to be back with Center REP after having a blast as Sonny in last season's *In The Heights*. Jacob has been performing



professionally around the Bay Area since the age of seven in Berkeley Playhouse's first production of *Peter Pan*. Recent stage credits include *In The Heights* (CenterRep, Berkeley Playhouse), *Returning to Haifa* (Golden Thread Productions), *Gypsy* (42nd St Moon) and *Bullshot Crummond* (Plotline Theatre).

Jacob has also been working on-camera since 2019, appearing in a large assortment of short films and commercials, recent credits including Robert Cuccioli's *She's Blown Away*, Samsung's *SmartThings* 2023 commercial and Jollibee's upcoming *Family Meal Deals* 2024 commercial. When he's not acting, Jacob likes LEGO, comic books, animals and doing stupid things with his friends. Jacob's goal in life is to get an EGOT or die trying.

Website: jacobhenrienaffaa.com

Instagram: @henrienaffaa52

MICHELLE DREXLER

(she/her)

Fraulein Kost

Michelle Drexler
is ecstatic to be
back working with
Markus Potter on

another American Classic! She was
last seen as Julia Gibbs in Center
Rep's 2022 production of *Our
Town*. Other regional collaborations
include productions with Berkeley
Rep, Theatreworks, The Jewel
Theatre in Santa Cruz, SF Playhouse,
Cutting Ball Theater, Shotgun
Players, Kingsmen Shakespeare
Company, Great River Shakespeare



Festival, and American Repertory Theater, among others. Her original comedy creations include *A Very Drexlet Cabaret* and the web series, *The Simpleton's Guide To Success*, both created with her twin sister, Lily. BFA Acting, Emerson College. This performance is dedicated to the 6 million Jews and 500,000 LGBTQ, physically and mentally disabled, Roma and Slavic individuals killed at the hands of the Nazis in WWII. May their memories be a blessing.

Website: www.MichelleDrexler.com,
www.SimpletonsGuidetoSuccess.com,
www.DrexlerTwins.com
Instagram: @ladydrexxy

KELLY GROUND*

(she/her)

Fraulein Schneider

Most recently appeared as Aunt Betsy in the world premiere of *David Copperfield, the Musical* at Jewel Theatre and the workshop of *Justice* at Marin Theatre Company, singing the role of Sandra Day O'Connor. Has performed at Theatreworks in, *Iron John, Something Wicked This Way Comes* (Dust Witch) & *The Trouble with Doug* (Lynn).

National Tour: *Les Miserables* (Fantine), *An Inspector Calls*, *Menopause, The Musical* (Iowa Housewife). Regional Credits: San Diego Rep, San Jose Rep,



Woodminster, Lawrence Welk
Village Theatre, 42nd Street Moon,
The Mountain Play (Dean Goodman
Award), Sierra Repertory Theatre,
Playground. *Cabaret* fellow at the
Redford Center (Utah) and O'Neill
Theatre Center (Conn), and overseas
with Cunard lines.

Educational Appointments: Stanford
University, Ohio Northern University,
Sonoma State University, Cal State
Hayward, ACT, Marin Shakespeare.

Proud member of AEA, member of
National Council since 2009.

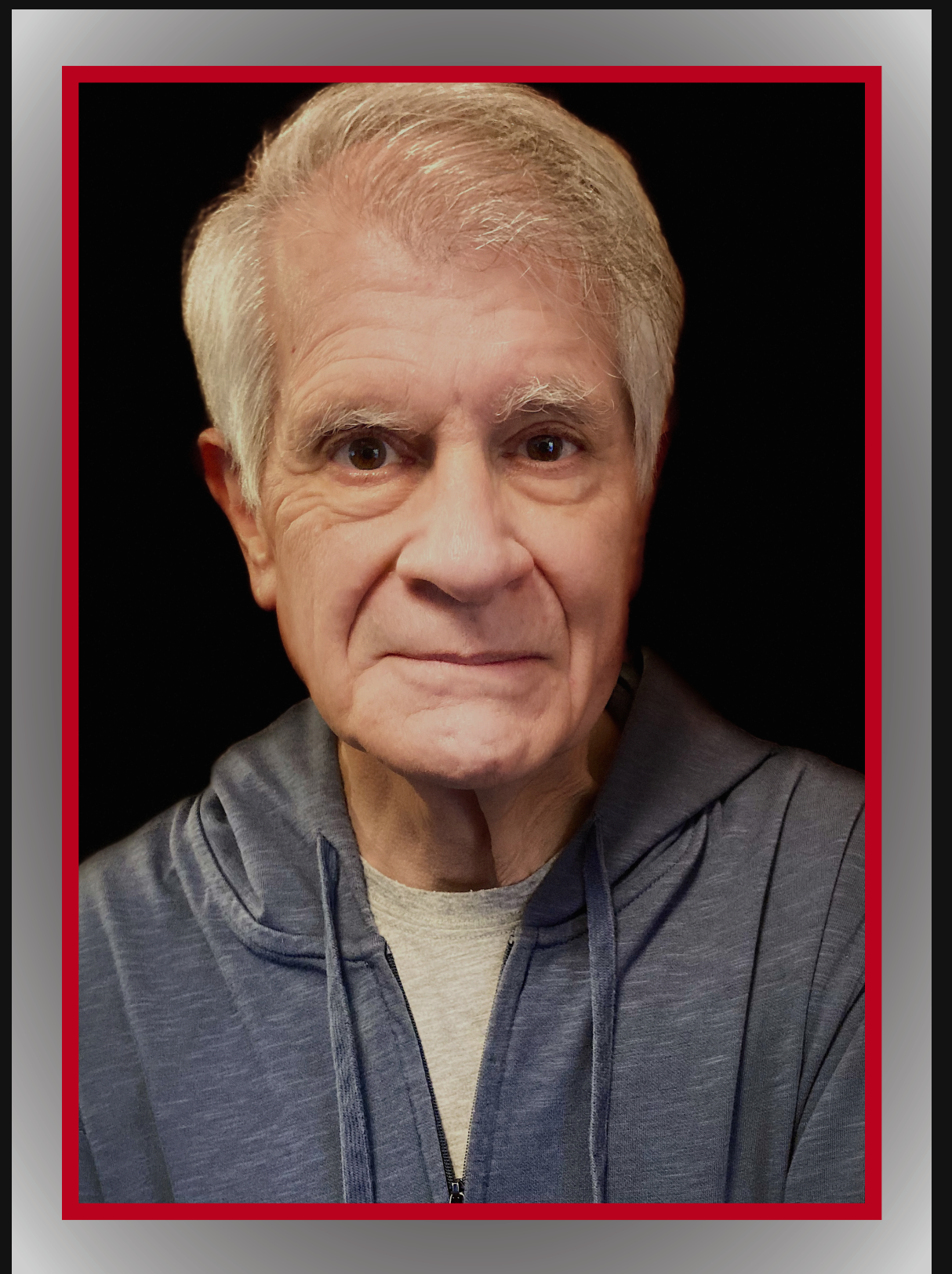
BA - Acting and Design, San Diego
State University, MFA- American
Conservatory Theatre.

RICHARD FARRELL*

(he/him)

Herr Schultz

Richard Farrell's
productions with
Center REP include
Noises Off and *She
Loves Me*.



In the Bay Area he has performed
on the stages of ACT, Berkeley
Repertory Theatre, TheatreWorks,
Marin Theatre Company, San Jose
Repertory Company, Word for Word
and The San Francisco Opera.

He has performed with theatre
companies and Shakespeare
Festivals throughout the country as
well as off Broadway.

CHARLIE LEVY*

(they/him)

Ernst Ludwig

Originally from the
Bay Area, Charlie
returns home after

two decades as an NYC-based
theatre artist.



Charlie is no stranger to the Lesh, but *Cabaret* marks their Center Rep debut. Their work has taken them worldwide. Some favorite onstage lives were Fred, *June Moon*, Enjolras, *Les Miserables*, and Younger Brother, *Ragtime*. They've created roles in original works, like *New Hamlin*, the story of what happens next in the Pied Piper of Hamlin, and collaborated with Christina Crawford, playing her brother,

Christopher, in an adaptation of her novel, *Mommie Dearest*.

A proud member of the LGBTQIA+ community, Charlie's dedication to furthering equality and representation resonates in their work.

"I'm a Queer with Jewish family, and I'm honored to share this story. *Cabaret* illuminates marginalized people's persecution throughout history. Entire generations are lost to hate, disease, and injustice. With profound love and respect, I remember those lost and dedicate this project to their memory."

Instagram: @keyzandchords

LANDAN BERLOF

(he/they)

Bobby / Bodyguard

Coming from NYC,

I am so excited to

be a part of my

first production at Center REP and

so grateful for everyone who made

it possible for me to be here!! My

most recent project was being

an Audience Wrangler for *Here*

Lies Love on Broadway and some

other credits include being in the

companies of *Bright Star*, *Into the*

Woods, *Pirates of Penzance*, and

more at Montclair State University

where I received my BFA in Musical

Theatre!! ENJOY THE SHOW!!

Instagram: @berlobster

Facebook: @Landon Berlof



FAUSTINO CADIZ III

(he/him)

Understudy Cliff /
Understudy Max /
Understudy Kit Kat



Faustino Cadiz

III is a Filipino-American San Francisco Bay Area Educator and Performing Artist. He is ecstatic to return to CenterREP after understudying Mr. Green/ Ensemble Men in *Clue*. Additionally, he has also collaborated with local theatre companies such as SFBATCO, Bindlestiff Studio, 42nd Street Moon, CCCT, CCMT, TVRT, MST. Performance Highlights: *A Chorus Line* (Paul), *Yellow Face* (HYH&Others), *The Song of the Nightingale* (Bing Wen), *Assassins*

(Czolgosz), *RENT* (Benny).

Training: Solano ATP, Studio ACT.

Much love to family, friends, and this dedicated and exuberant cast and creative crew!

Instagram: @cuhdeezee

**SYDNEY
CHOW***

(she/her)

Texas / Dance

Captain

Sydney Chow is a
NYC based actor

who grew up in the Bay Area! She has been seen in regional theatres across the country and recently played Anne Egerman in *A Little Night Music* at the Denver Center



for the Performing Arts. Some of her other favorite credits are *Camelot and Chess* (The MUNY), *Man of La Mancha* (Asolo Rep), *Oliver* (Maltz Jupiter Theatre), *White Christmas* (Engeman Theatre), *Hair* (Forestburgh Playhouse), and *Spamalot* (Northern Stage). She is a proud member of AEA and a 2021 Theatre & Dance graduate of Wagner College. Rep: Pantera/Murphy the Agency.

Website: www.sydney-chow.com

Instagram: @sydchow

JESSE CORTEZ

(he/him)

Hans / Sailor



Jesse is thrilled to be returning to Center Rep after last performing in *Rock of Ages* back in 2016 to be a part of this incredible show! Member of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, his most recent theater credits include *Once* (Hillbarn Theater), *Rent* (Hillbarn Theater) and *Kinky Boots* (Berkeley Playhouse). Other favorite theater credits include *The Producers* (Hillbarn Theater), *Assassins* (Hillbarn Theater) and *In the Heights* (Berkeley Playhouse). He would like to thank his boyfriend, Timothy, for his support and love during this busy theater year.

Instagram: @jessecortezmusic

Facebook: @jessecortezmusic

TikTok: @jessecortezmusic

ELIZABETH COWPERTHWAIT

(she/her)

Frenchie

Is thrilled to be a part
of this iconic show! A

Marin County native

currently based in New York City, she

is delighted to be performing in the

Bay Area close to her roots. She is

especially excited to be the assistant

choreographer to Jessica Chen,

who she has worked with for several

years in New York City as a dancer in

the modern dance company J CHEN

PROJECT. National Tours: *Blippi:*

The Wonderful World Tour and



Blue's Clues and You! Live on Stage.

Thank you to the creative team and to my friends and family for their continued support!

Instagram: @eliz_cowperthwaite

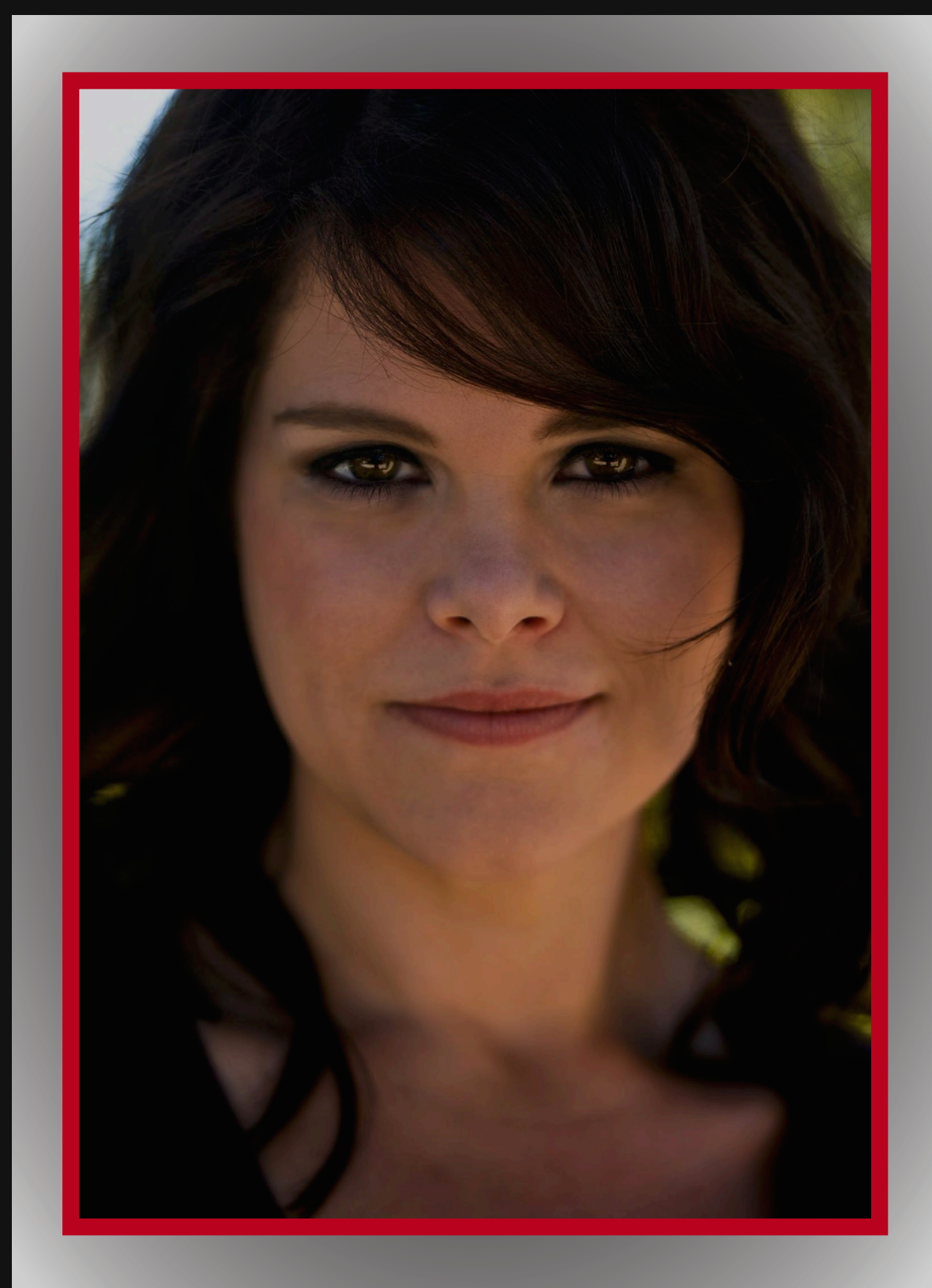
Facebook: @elizabeth.
cowperthwaite

ELIZABETH CURTIS

(she/her)

Lulu / Understudy
Kost

is delighted to be back on the Center REP stage in one of her favorite musicals of all time! She was previously seen on the Center REP stage as Laura in *Beehive!*, Jenny in *It Shoulda Been You*, and



Regina in *Rock of Ages*.

Past credits include Yitzhak in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Shotgun Players), Lizzie in the Bay Area premier of *Lizzie* (Ray of Light), and Rose in *Dogfight* (OMG I Love That Show). A big thank you to Mom & Joey for their never-ending support and love, Mim for her cuddles when I get home, and to Jorge for everything.

Thank you for supporting live theatre!

Instagram: @ecurtis1215

ANDRIO JORDAN FONG

(he/him)

Herman / Sailor

Andrio Jordan

Fong is a versatile

performer who has extensive experience in hip hop, ballet, jazz, contemporary, and modern dance.

He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in 2023 with a double major in Dance and Business Marketing from Saint Mary's College of California. His first major production was Netflix's *13 Reasons Why* as both a dancer and a Senior student.

He has performed internationally such as Beijing, Manila, California, Arizona, and Oregon. His past productions include *Spamalot & Addams Family* by Venus Basas,



Cabaret by Jon Tracy, and *Charlotte's Web* by William Huddleston.

Instagram: @andrio.jordan

PAUL C. PLAIN

(he/him)

Max / Customs Officer
/ Loudspeaker Voice

is happy to return
to Center Rep after
appearances in *Our
Town* (Narrator),

Diary of Anne Frank (Mr Krauler) and *It
Shoulda Been You* (Uncle Morty/ Walt),

this is his fifth trip to the Kit Kat Club.

Recent work includes *Legally Blonde*
(Mr. Woods) with Tri Valley Theatre as

well as work with Berkeley Playhouse in
the world Premiere of *Becoming Robin
Hood* (Little John) and *Billy Elliot* with



CCMT. A vocalist with recent screen work that includes *Oppenheimer* for Christopher Nolan and *MATRIX 4* with the Wachowskis and Keanu.

Instagram: @pcpb

Facebook: @paulplainon

ANTONIA REED

(she/her)

Rosie

is ecstatic to be in this amazing project. The prior show she was in was *Crowns* playing as Yolanda. Some of

her favorite shows she has performed in were *Freaky Friday* as Hannah, *Legally Blonde* as Pilar, *The Addams Family* as Ensemble and *Pugsley Understudy*, and *Singin' in the Rain* as Kathy Selden. She



would like to thank the casting director and director for bringing her on. She would also like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her and being there. She would like to say welcome and enjoy the show.

JILLIAN A. SMITH

(she/her)

Helga

is stoked to be making her Center REP debut as Helga in *Cabaret!*

Her regional credits

include *A Chorus Line*

(Bebe Benzenheimer) and *As You Like*

It (De Boys Dancer) at SF Playhouse,

Anything Goes (Erma) and *Mame*

(Gloria Upson) at 42nd Street Moon, *The*

Comedy of Errors (Adriana) and *Life is a*

Cabernet (Polly McCaw) at SPARC, *The*



25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Olive u/s) at Theatreworks Silicon Valley, *Kinky Boots* (Maggie) at Ray of Light, *Blood at the Root* (Toria) at Custom Made Theatre, and *The Last Five Years* (Jamie) at Barestage Productions.

Jillian trained in ballet at the Bolshoi Academy in Moscow, and received her BA in Computer Science from UC Berkeley. She'd like to thank her family, friends, and teachers for their unwavering support and kindness.

Toodle pip!

Instagram: @jillians_1

Facebook: @jillian.smith.714049

ADRIA SWAN

(she/her) Understudy
Sally / Understudy Kit
Kat

is excited to be
working with Center
Rep for the first time



on her all-time favorite show *Cabaret!*

She is a Bay Area based performer.

Some recent credits include: *The 39*

Steps and *A Chorus Line* (SF Playhouse),

Who's Got Me? (Jewel Theatre

Company), *West Side Story* (Connecticut

Repertory Theatre), *Snoopy!* (TUTS in

Houston), and *Spelling Bee* (Contra

Costa Musical Theatre). She also spent

two years sailing the globe as a principal

vocalist onboard Holland America Line

cruise ships. When not performing,

Adria works as a choreographer and

dance teacher. BFA in Musical Theatre

from Texas State University.

ANN WARQUE

(she/her)

Fritzie / Sailor

is a Filipina-American musical theatre artist born and raised in the Bay Area. Select



credits include: Lori (Larry) in *A Chorus Line* (SF Playhouse), Vanessa in *In the Heights* (Strub Theater), Mei Lin in *The Song of the Nightingale* (Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre), Angela in *Nanay* (Town Hall Theatre), and Kasey in *Baked! The Musical* (FaultLine Theater). She is a Loyola Marymount University graduate with a B.A. in Dance and a Minor in Theatre Arts. She would like to thank her family, friends, and loved ones for supporting her dreams!

Instagram: @warque.af

DEDRICK WEATHERSBY*

(he/him)

Viktor / Bodyguard



Dedrick makes his
Center Rep debut with
Cabaret. An Emmy

Award Winner for Best Interview and
Discussion with Theatre Corner on
PBS, NAACP Winner for Best Actor in a
Musical and Multiple Broadway World
Awards Winner. Notable Credits include
the National Tour of *Dreamgirls* and
*Remembering James The Life and Music
of James Brown*, along with appearances
with African American Shakespeare
Company, Hillbarn Theatre, Sierra
Repertory Theatre, Contra Costa Musical
Theatre, Broadway Under The Stars,
Broadway by The Bay, 42nd Street Moon,
The Carnegie Theatre, The Guild Theater,
Harrah's Casino Theater (Vegas/Atlantic

City), The Legendary Apollo Theater and The Barnsdall Theatre in East Hollywood, to name a few. Dedrick can be seen in numerous If you're a video game enthusiast, grab a copy of NBA 2K24 and enjoy Dedrick's *My Player* character. All Glory Goes to GOD for his never failing Favor, Grace and Mercy.

Website: www.dedrickweathersby.com

Instagram: @dedrickweathersby

Facebook: @officialdedrickweathersby

MARKUS POTTER⁺⁺ (he/him)

Director

Markus Potter was the Acting Artistic Director of Center Rep, and serves as Artistic Producer through the end of this season. Prior directing for Center Rep includes *Red Speedo* by Lucas Hnath and *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder.

Markus received the Outer Critics Circle Award nomination, New York Times Critic's Pick, and was a Callaway Award finalist for the off-Broadway production of *Stalking the Bogeyman* at New World Stages. Markus is the former Founding Artistic Director of NewYorkRep and Interim Artistic Director of Theatre Aspen, and currently serves as Artistic Director of the University of Kansas. Other directing projects include *Church & State* at New World Stages (Off-Broadway Alliance Nominated for best new play), *Why You Beasting?* (Time Out NY Critics' Pick), and the Associate Director for the Donmar Warehouse production of *Blindness* at the Daryl Roth Theatre. Regional: *Lost Boy Found in Whole Foods* by Tammy Ryan at The Portland Stage Company, London's *Southwark Playhouse* (Off-West End Award nomination for Best Production and Best Direction), Kansas Repertory

Theatre production of *Chasing Gods* by Paris Crayton III. As an actor, several seasons at The Guthrie, Denver Center, Long Wharf, tour of *Death of A Salesman* with Christopher Lloyd, and many more. As Producer, he was on the team that brought the Arena Stage production of Eric Cobble's *The Velocity of Autumn* to Broadway, starring Estelle Parsons, who received a Tony Award nomination. Markus received his MFA from Columbia University.

Website: MarkusPotter.com

Instagram: @MarkusPotter

X: @MarkusPotter

JESSICA CHEN (she/her)

Choreographer

Jessica Chen is an American dancer, choreographer and founder of J CHEN

PROJECT, a contemporary dance company based in New York City. She is thrilled to be making her Center REP debut choreographing *Cabaret!* Her work has graced stages at New York Fashion Week, Lincoln Center, MACY's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and World Expo-USA Pavilion in Shanghai. Chen has choreographed for productions including Rodger and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Jersey Boys*, and *Spring Awakening*. She was Assistant Director for the World Premiere of *The Messenger* by Jenny Connell Davis. She is an adjunct professor at Montclair State University, Theater and Dance. Chen's accolades include being a 2021 GALLIM Moving Women Artist-in-Residence, a 2021 Dance Lab New York Choreographer, and a 2023 Bessie Award nominee for Outstanding Choreographer/Creator. She is currently adapting her critically acclaimed show

AAPI HEROES for an open run starting in June 2024 in NYC.

Instagram: @jessicachen.arts

ERYN ALLEN (she/her)

Music Director

Eryn Allen is an award-winning SF Bay Area Music Director & Pianist. Local: *Beehive!* (Center Rep), *Once* (42nd Street Moon), *Matilda* (CCMT), *Billy Elliot* (CCMT), & *Broadway Cares* (ft. the cast of *SIX*, National Tour). National Tours: *Lion King*, *MJ the Musical*, *Mean Girls*, *A Christmas Carol* (Associate Music Director), *Wicked*, *Les Misérables*, *Miss Saigon*, *A Bronx Tale*. She has also performed with Andrea Bocelli & the San Francisco Symphony (Chase Center SF, 2019). Outstanding Music Direction Awards: *Once* (42nd Street Moon, TBA),

Matilda (CCMT, Shellie Award) & *Billy Elliot* (CCMT, Shellie Award). You can find her behind the keys at Martuni's Piano Bar every Tuesday in SF.

Website: erynallen.com

Instagram: @eryncallen

DAVID GOLDSTEIN⁺ (he/they)

Scenic Director

David Goldstien is excited to be working with Center Rep! Off Broadway: *Black Odyssey, Emojiland, Mr. Parker, Winnie The Pooh Show, Church and State, Stalking the Bogeyman, That Golden Girls Show, The Portal, Very Hungry Caterpillar Show, Soul Doctor.* Regional: *Senior Living Portland Stage, Supadupa Kid Barrington Stage, Next to Normal Zoetic Stage Miami, Christmas Foundling, Clue, Misery, Sierra Rep, Into*

the Woods, Newsies, Little Mermaid, Timberlake Playhouse, Joseph, West Side Story, Tibbets Opera House, Hungry Caterpillar Seattle Children's Theatre, Stalking the Bogeyman NCStageCo, Anything Goes, All Shook Up WVPublic Theatre, Souvenir Penguin Rep, and many others.

Website: davidgoldsteindesigns.com

Instagram: @davidgoldsteindesigns

BRANDON DIPAOLOA (he/him)

Fight Director

Brandon Dipaola grew up in Hawaii but originally from the Bay Area, Brandon DiPaola is an actor, fight director and instructor with Dueling Arts International. Brandon started his training at the Hawaii

Conservatory of Performing Arts where he found a love for theater. His passion for the craft lead him to study at the East 15 Acting School in England where he holds a Bachelor's in Acting and Stage Combat.

Brandon was performing in theaters all over the Island such as Paliku Theatre, UH Manoa, and Kumu Kahua Theatre. He has appeared

in many seasons of the Hawaii Shakespeare Festival in prominent roles as Cuddy Banks (*The Witch of Edmonton*) and Edgar (*King Lear*).

Some of his fight directing credits include the Center REPs production *The Three Feathers*, multiple

productions of *She Kills Monsters* and *Midsummer Night's Dream*. He

was honored with the Excellence in Service Award from Paliku Theatre at the 2020 Po'okela Awards.

Instagram: @dipaola.brandon

JONAH GREENE (he/him)

Dramaturg

Jonah Greene is a PhD Candidate and Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Theatre & Dance Department at the University of Kansas. Originally from Fayetteville, Arkansas, he has a theatrical background in directing, dramaturgy, acting, and administration. Favorite directing credits include *Airness* (KU); *Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play* (3P's); *Thom Pain [Based on Nothing]* (Independent Production); *Lungs* (Tufts University Capstone); [title of show] (Torn Ticket II); *Into the Woods Jr.* (Ramah Bamah), and *Godspell* (Torn Ticket II). Favorite

acting credits include *The Realistic Joneses* (3P's); *Speech and Debate* (3P's); *Lysistrata* (Tufts University); and *Chicago* (Torn Ticket II). He has also worked with the Jewish Plays Project, SpeakEasy Stage Company, TheatreSquared, JELLY Theatre Workshop, New Threshold Theatre, The Hatchery, and Arts Live Theatre.

Instagram: @jonahgreene1

WEN-LING LIAO⁺ (she/her)

Lighting Designer

Wen-Ling Liao is happy to be back. Her previous credit with Center Rep are *Native Garden* and *In The Heights*.

Selected Bay Area credits: *The Headlands*, *Gloria* and *Vietgone* with American Conservatory

Theater; *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Mrs. Christie* with Theaterworks; *Quixote Nuevo*, *House of Joy*, and *The Winter's Tale* with California Shakespeare Theater; *The Glass Menagerie*, *Chinglish*, *Indecent* and *King of the Yees* with San Francisco Playhouse; *The Catastrophist*, *Georgiana & Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley* and *The Wickhams Christmas at Pemberley* at Marin Theatre Company; *The Chinese Lady*, *Oedipus El Rey* and *The Resting Place* with Magic Theater.

Her works have also been seen at Denver Performing Arts Center, Hartford Stage, People's Light Theater, Actors Theater of Louisville, Dallas Theater Center, Huntington Theater Company, Merrimack Repertory Theatre.

She got her BA from National Taiwan University and her MFA from University of California, San Diego.

Website: wenlingliao.com

Facebook: @Wen Ling Liao

CHARLIE MEJIA

Assistant Lighting Designer

BECKY BODURTHA⁺

Costume Designer

Becky Bodurtha is thrilled to be back at Center REP! Center REP credits include *Red Bike*, *Sweat* and *The Legend of Georgia McBride*.

Recent credits include *Bald Sisters* (San Jose Stage), *Drowning in Cairo* (Potrero Stage), *Felix Starro* (Theatre Ma-Yi), and *Open* (The Tank). Other

credits: *Constellations* (Wilma), *The Strangest* (East 4th Street), *Among the Dead* (Theatre Ma-Yi) *Passover* (Cherry Lane), *The Wong Kids in the Secret of the Space Chupacabra, Go!* (Theatre Ma-Yi), *Livin' La Vida Imelda* (Theatre Ma-Yi), and *This Lingerin' Life* (HERE Arts). International credits include *Betrayal, Anna in the Tropics* (Repertory Philippines), *Movement for Humanity and Africa's Hope for the Ubumuntu Festival in Kigali, Rwanda*. Alongside her professional design work, she teaches design at Stanford University. She received her MFA in Theatre Design from University of Iowa.

Website: www.beckybodurtha.com

ALYSSA TRYON (she/her)

Props Designer

Alyssa Tryon has been the Resident Properties Designer for Center Repertory Company since 2019. Originally from New Jersey, she worked in New York for six years prior to moving to the Bay Area. Her work has been featured Off-Broadway, at Sacramento Broadway at Music Circus, and this summer with the Merola SF Opera Program.

She has a Bachelor's in Theatre Performance & Theatrical Design from Marymount Manhattan College. She would like to thank her family, friends, and fellow creatives for all of their love and support!

LYLE BARRERE (he/him)

Sound Designer

Lyle Barrere is thrilled to still be returning to CenterREP 20 years after his first REP show in 2004! He began his theatre career when he was 11 and has now worked over 600 shows as a producer, director, sound or lighting designer, and stage manager for many professional companies in the Bay Area and Los Angeles. His Sound Designs have been nominated for Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award and Shellie Awards, and won TBA Awards. Lyle is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, with a degree in Physics. Lyle lives in Oakland with his loving husband Alejandro, when not in the theatre Lyle enjoys working with his nonprofit trust, hiking, camping and scuba diving. He is the owner of Desired Effect, a full service theatrical effects

company in the Bay Area.

Website: desiredeffect.com

Instagram: @lylebarrere,

@desiredeffect

Facebook: @sfdesiredeffect

PENNY PENDLETON

(she/her)

Stage Manager

Penny Pendleton trained in

Stage Management at the Pacific

Conservatory of Performing Arts.

Recent Stage Management credits

include: *A Christmas Carol, Crowns,*

Sweat (CenterREP), *Oklahoma!* (North

American Tour), *Big Data, Wizard of Oz*

(American Conservatory Theatre), *Panto*

in the Presidio Sleeping Beauty (Presidio

Theatre), *In Every Generation, Sense*

and Sensibility (TheatreWorks), *Lauren*

Graham's Unscripted (Curran Theatre)
Neil deGrasse Tyson's Astronomy Bizarre
(Orpheum Theatre), *Nigella Lawson's*
Cook, Eat, Repeat (Sydney Goldstein
Theatre), *A Christmas Carol* (Golden Gate
Theatre).

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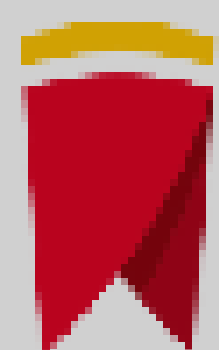
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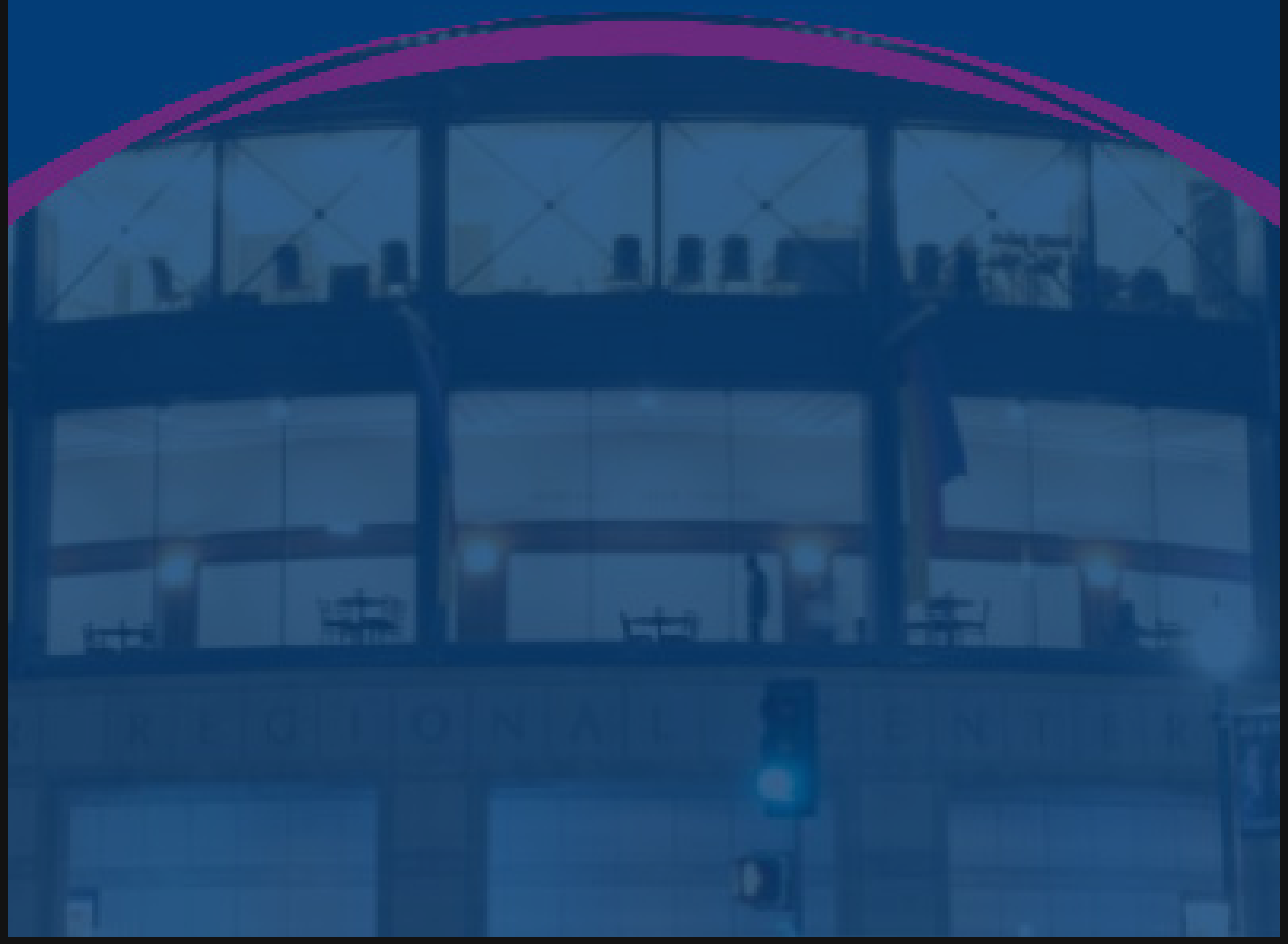


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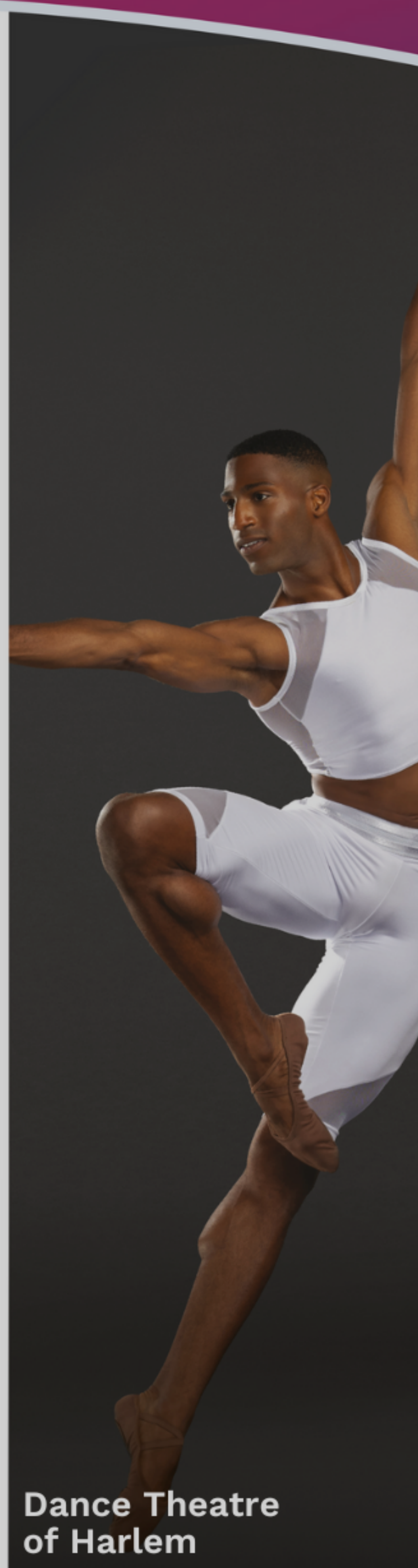
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