



MARGARET BERKOWITZ*

CATHY

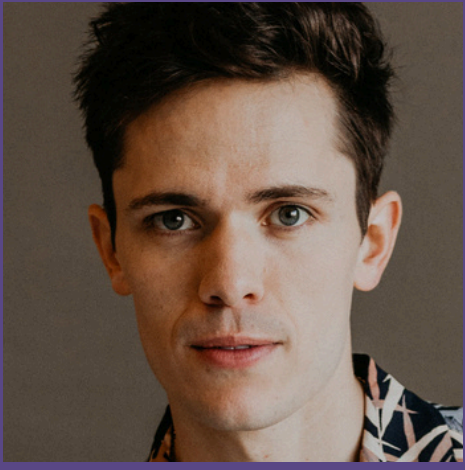
Margaret (SAG-AFTRA) is an actress, model, and producer based in Los Angeles. She is an alumna of The University of Oxford and NYU's Tisch School of The Arts. Margaret stars as Becca in Fox Searchlight's award-winning musical short, *Marriage Material*, and can be seen in the upcoming feature films *Things Like This* (2024) and *Him* (2024). Favorite stage credits include: *Once Upon A Mattress* (Winifred), *Legally Blonde* (Margot), *Spelling Bee* (Logainne), *Chess* (Svetlana), *Dog Sees God* (Tricia), *Dessa Rose* (Susannah).



JACKIE BONSIGNORE

CATHY

Jackie is a New York trained, California raised actor and vocalist, and a graduate of NYU Tisch and the Stella Adler Studio of Acting. Select stage credits include Miranda in *The Tempest* (NYU) and Eleven in *Stranger Things: The Experience* (Netflix/Fever/Mycotoo). Select screen credits include *Seeking Sugar* (Dir. Sam Coppolla) and *Great White Lies* (Prod. Doug Ellin, Teri Weinberg). She is also a singer for the band André Miguel and The Moment. Jackie would love to thank her friends and family for their unwavering love and support, as well as the entire team at Sierra Madre Playhouse for welcoming her onto this incredible production! Commercial/Theatrical: Aqua Talent Agency | www.jackiebonsignore.com



JAYDE MITCHELL

JAMIE

Selected career highlights include: 1st Place (National Opera Association - *Pirates of Penzance*), Tenor Resident Young Artist with Ohio Light Opera, Jeremy Heere (*Be More Chill*), Monty Navarro (*A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*), Sky Masterson (*Guys & Dolls*), Joseph (*Joseph...Dreamcoat*), Lysander (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) with Shakespeare's Globe, performances at Carnegie Hall, and guest artist for the 2018 St. Louis Literary Award presentation to Stephen Sondheim. It's an honor and a dream-come-true to get to share the story of L5Y. Berklee College of Music Alum. Forever thankful to his dear family, friends, and dog, Elphaba. Life and original music: @jayde.dm / jaydemitchell.com



BRYAN MITTELSTADT*

JAMIE

Bryan Mittelstadt is an actor, singer, and writer based in Los Angeles. After moving 14 times as a military kid, mostly in Texas, he graduated with an MFA in Acting from University of Connecticut. His work has been recognized in Academy and BAFTA qualifying festivals around the world and has also worked in regional theatres leading *The Cherry Orchard*, *Grease*, *Henry VI*, *As You Like It*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. He is passionate about creating his own work, whether that be in writing, editing, producing, or songwriting, and is looking forward to the projects releasing in 2024. In his free time, he loves to read, enjoy the great outdoors, and spend time with dogs and board games.



JOSH SHAW

DIRECTOR/SET/PROPS

Named as one of Musical America's Top 30 Innovators in Classical Music, Josh Shaw is the Founding Artistic Director and CEO of Pacific Opera Project (POP), which has been described as "L.A.'s most exciting new opera company." Over the past twelve seasons, Mr. Shaw has directed over 50 productions at POP, including *The Rake's Progress*, *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *La Calisto*, *Tosca: A Moving Production*; and *La Boheme: AKA "The Hipsters"*. A frequent librettist for English updates, his *Star Trek* inspired *Abduction from the Seraglio* and Nintendo inspired *Magic Flute AKA #SuperFlute* have gained national attention and have been produced at multiple companies, shattering attendance records.

Since turning his attention to directing in 2011, Mr. Shaw has directed over 100 productions at companies including Opera Santa Barbara, New Orleans Opera, Opera Orlando, Festival Opera, Gulfshore Opera, Intermountain Opera, Salt Marsh Opera, Opera Neo, and Opera in the Heights. Mr. Shaw's *Barber of Seville* at Opera Santa Barbara was described as "riotously funny" and "thoroughly amusing from overture to final bow." His work as a director has been described as "Brave and unflinching," "Ingenious," "Relentlessly and adorably rambunctious," "with enough good comic ideas for at least three productions." As a producer, he has been praised for his "supreme savvy" and "high level of production quality" with "the power to enthrall and captivate audiences."



JOSHUA FOY

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Joshua Foy is a composer, conductor, pianist, and educator in Southern California. Joshua composed and directed the music to the theater production *Piedra del Sol* by director and playwright Maria Morett, which was put up at the Getty Villa. He was also the music director for the original musical *In Bermuda!* by playwright David Lalgman Murray and composer Bobby Halvorson which featured actors Bryce Dallas Howard and Josh Gad. Joshua has written music in a variety of genres including film scores to *The Newest Pledge*, and *(Romance) in the Digital Age*. Joshua has recently conducted the west coast premiere of Leslie Burrs' *"I Can't Breathe"* and conducted a fascinating iteration of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, both with the Pacific Opera Project (POP) in Los Angeles. His piece *Couplet for String Orchestra* will premiere with the Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra this May. He is also an orchestrator, arranger, transcriber and copyist. Joshua is currently a professor of music theory and history at the Young Americans College of the Performing Arts.

Jon Lee Keenan (Bass) grew up in Las Vegas, Nevada. Jon attended a performing arts high school and was able to perform in music musicals both as a singer and instrumentalist, even getting an opportunity to perform alongside Stephen Schwartz as a guitarist. While in Las Vegas, Jon began playing upright bass and discovered his love for jazz. You can see Jon perform in and around Southern California with his group "Citizen Kitten" and as a side man in many other projects.

Jessica Chen (Violin) is a dynamic violinist and musician based in Los Angeles who enjoys performing across a diverse range of musical genres and multidisciplinary arts settings. She is an active freelance player in Los Angeles, performing with groups including The Chamber Sessions, LA Film Conducting Intensive, and Opera NEO. In addition, Jessica is a passionate worship musician and serves regularly with the worship music group Stream of Praise 讚美之泉. She has participated in music festivals including Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, Brevard Music Center, Round Top Festival Institute, Meadowmount School of Music, Scotia Festival of Music, and International Lyric Academy. Jessica holds degrees in violin performance and music education from the University of Colorado Boulder and Ithaca College.

Alexander Elliott Miller (Guitar) is a composer, guitarist, and educator based in Southern California. His compositions have been described as "deceptively laid back in an LA way... inventive...unconventional (LA Times). Miller compositions have been performed at Carnegie Hall and by Grammy nominated musicians including Vicki Ray, Tony Arnold and Aron Kallay. He has performed as guitarist with Long Beach Opera, What's Next? Ensemble, saxophonist Danny Janklow and the new music piano duo HOCKET. He also performs as a soloist, presenting his own compositions for electric guitar and electronics.

As a teacher, Miller is on the faculty of California State University Long Beach, where he teaches all levels of composition, theory and musicianship at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music, and at Chapman University.

Betsy Rettig (Cello 2) (she/her) is a performer and educator dedicated to collaboration and experimentation in musical practice. She is a founding member of the Isaura String Quartet, working with outstanding composers and artists including Kitty Brazelton, Sofia Gubaidulina, Ulrich Kreiger, Gloria Coates, Dorian Wood, Jherek Bischoff, Alex Temple, Carmina Escobar and artist Charles Gains. Recent highlights include recording with ISQ for the 2024 Grammy nominated opera film *Black Lodge* by David T. Little with Timur and the Dime Museum and performances with acclaimed ballet dancer Tiler Peck on her tour *Turn It Out with Tiler Peck And Friends*. Betsy has recently been heard on releases by Man Man, Baths, Malachi (Milwaukee) Universalia Jane (Humboldt), and performing with Matt BcBanes LA iteration of Build.

Derek Stein (Cello 1) Described by the Los Angeles Times as “compellingly, vehemently virtuosic,” Derek Stein is a cellist whose active performance schedule knows virtually no bounds and is met with the same committed abandon he brings to his playing. Whether in the intimate intensity of a contemporary music concert, the rhythm section of an indie rock show, or in the cello section of an orchestra, his energetic and distinctive performing style can be heard in virtually any musical context and venue across Los Angeles and Southern California. He can be heard on the GRAMMY-winning Bridge Records release *Harry Partch: Plectra and Percussion Dances* performing on the composer's unique invention, the Adapted Viola. His recorded playing can also be heard on a number of releases from Bedroom Community, Cold Blue, Populist, New World, Bôlt, and The Industry record labels.

Hailey Springer (Costume Designer) is a Los Angeles-based costume designer with roots in Chicago. After earning a bachelor's degree in costume design at Columbia College Chicago, Hailey worked in many theaters across the Chicagoland area. Her roles have included Costume Designer, Assistant Costume Designer, Wardrobe Crew, and Stitcher. Hailey has recently relocated to the Los Angeles area where she has been the Assistant Costume Designer for Pacific Opera Project's *Die Fledermaus* and Independent Opera Company's *Lucia di Lammermoor*. This July, she will be working again with the Pacific Opera Project as the Costume Designer for *Rusalka*. Hailey uses refined technical skills, in-depth research, and unbridled imagination to create costumes that truly transport the audience into the world and minds of the characters.

Grace Berry (Lighting Designer) is honored to be a contributing artist in Jason Robert Brown's *The Last Five Years* at Sierra Madre Playhouse! Her previous credits include *Blood at the Root* (Atwater Village Theatre), *Chérubin* (USC Thornton School of Music), *The Wizard of Oz* (Bishop Amat Memorial High School), *Let Me In* (Theatre 68), *Spring 2024 BFA Showcase* (USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance), *Guys & Dolls* (Crescendo Theatrical Productions), and *The Thanksgiving Play* (Dailey Theatre). She is grateful for the family and friends who support her and continue to push her as an artist, technician and leader.

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Bri Westad* (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working at the Sierra Madre Playhouse! Originally from Upstate NY, Bri received their BA in Theatre Studies from Ithaca College before moving out to sunny Southern California to earn their MFA in Stage Management from UC Irvine. *The Last Five Years* is one of Bri's favorite shows and they are honored to be working on it with such an amazing team!

Carolyn Wasson (Assistant Stage Manager) is grateful for the opportunity to work on *The Last Five Years* with Sierra Madre Playhouse, where she has previously run shows as a lighting and sound board op. Other theatrical crew credits include *Cinderella* (stage manager), *Twelfth Night* (stage manager), *Guys and Dolls* (stage manager), *The Phantom of the Opera* (assistant stage manager), *Willy Wonka Jr.* (director), and *The Greek Mythology Olympiaganza* (director). Aside from stage managing and directing, she enjoys working on lighting, audio, sets, props, costumes, and projections, aka anything that allows her to work with her hands. Carolyn would like to thank her family, her roommate/other half, and everyone at Storybook Theatre back home in KCMO for their continual love and support.

Colton Bassett (Substitute Stage Manager) is an LA based theater educator, lighting designer, and master electrician. He previously served as Theater Technical Coordinator at A Place Called Home, a nonprofit which provides after school programming for youth in South Central, LA; and as Technical Director for *El Centro Del Sur: Tu Hogar*, APCH's yearly Latinx theater festival. In January, Colton joined the Production & Design Conservatory at California School of the Arts - San Gabriel Valley as their lighting teacher and master electrician, a role he has performed for over a dozen of their productions so far. Colton joined the team at the Sierra Madre Playhouse in 2023 and has worked on a number of shows there since, and is excited that they finally gave him keys to get in the building.

Jeanne Marie Valleroy (Substitute Stage Manager) is a stage manager based in Los Angeles. She is also the Operations Manager for Panda Roja Design. She has worked with The Sierra Madre Playhouse, The Wallis, Long Beach Landmark Theatre, Windward School, Rogue Artists Ensemble, Santa Monica Playhouse, The Complex Theater, Bootleg Theater, The Fountain Theater, Long Beach Playhouse, and more.

Matt Cook (SMP Artistic & Executive Director) is the artistic and executive director of the award-winning Sierra Madre Playhouse, a dynamic Southern California cultural hub with a rich history spanning nearly a century that energizes audiences and the community with distinctive theatrical productions and captivating live performances. Before coming to the Playhouse, he served as executive director of the Los Angeles-based Blue 13 Dance Company. Previously, he was executive director of the noted Pacific Opera Project, and held development and production positions with the critically acclaimed Wild Up new music ensemble. In the dance field as a producer and artist, Cook has collaborated with Martha Graham Dance Company, Akram Khan Company, Heidi Duckler Dance, among others. Cook is a Grammy Award-winning percussionist and six-time nominee who has toured extensively and whose work is heard on studio and film recordings, such as *Aquaman* and various Netflix series. He is on the faculty of Fullerton College.

Todd McCraw (SMP Technical Director) moved here from NYC where he spent 28 years working in all aspects of theater tech, in nearly every theater in NYC. He is head rigger for Fly-By-Night Dance Theater. He rigs for many other silk acts, trapeze acts & other theatrical productions. Todd spent four years in Big Apple Circus, assisting world-famous horse trainer & performer Katja Schumann. Todd is starting a new production company, "Mad Cackle Productions", that focuses mainly on stand-up comedy, live music, and all aspects of live entertainment. As SMP's Technical Director, Todd is responsible for all aspects of the technical demands for each show. Todd has been involved in all mainstage productions at SMP since *The Glass Menagerie* in 2016.

Berrie Tsang (SMP Company Manager) has been working for Sierra Madre Playhouse since June 2019, and has worked in some sort of capacity in every SMP production since then. She manages SMP as a company, its productions, and operations. She previously coordinated SMP's marketing, social media, outreach, fundraising, group sales, and has worked as an in-house photographer/videographer and graphic designer, and as a Properties Designer and Production Assistant for past SMP productions such as *The Joy Luck Club*, *Virtual Off the Page Reading Series*, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and *The Right Is Ours!*

** Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre, Sierra Madre Playhouse, and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.*