

SONG LIST

- How High The Moon**
(Nancy Hamilton and Morgan Lewis)
- It Don't Mean A Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)**
(Duke Ellington and Irving Mills)
- Snake Hips Dance**
(Duke Ellington)
- The Apollo Theme: I May Be Wrong (But I Think You're Wonderful)**
(Harry Ruskin and Henry Sullivan)
- Love and Kisses**
(Sonny Curtis)
- Judy**
(Hoagie Carmichael and Samuel Lerner)
- Cow Cow Boogie**
(Benny Carter, Gene DePaul and Don Raye)
- I'll Never Be The Same**
(Frank Signorelli, Gus Kahn and Matt Malneck)
- (If You Can't Sing It) You'll Have To Swing It (Mr Paganini)**
(Sam Coslow)
- The Nearness of You**
(Hoagy Carmichael and Ned Washington)
- They Can't Take That Away From Me**
(George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin)
- Our Love is Here to Stay**
(George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin)
- A-Tisket, A-Tasket**
(Ella Fitzgerald and Van Alexander)
- Flying Home**
(Benny Goodman and Lionel Hampton)
- Night and Day**
(Cole Porter)
- That Old Black Magic**
(Johnny Mercer and Harold Arlen)
- Lullaby of Birdland**
(George Shearing and George David Weiss)
- 'S Wonderful**
(George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin)
- Cheek to Cheek**
(Irving Berlin)
- Let's Call The Whole Thing Off**
(George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin)
- My Buddy**
(Gus Kahn and Walter Donaldson)
- A-Tisket, A-Tasket**
(Ella Fitzgerald and Van Alexander)
- The Man I Love**
(George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin)
- Something To Live For**
(Edward Kennedy Ellington and Billy Strayhorn)
- Blue Skies**
(Irving Berlin)
- How High The Moon**
(Nancy Hamilton and Morgan Lewis)
- Oh, Lady Be Good**
(George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin)

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AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Ella Fitzgerald received hundreds of awards and honors during her career, including winning an astonishing total of 13 Grammy Awards.
- 1934 Won Amateur Night competition at the Apollo Theater
 - 1935 Won one week of performing at the Harlem Opera House
 - 1937 Top Female Vocalist, Down Beat magazine
 - 1938 First No. 1 song, "A-Tisket, A-Tasket"
 - 1954 Best Female Vocalist, Metronome magazine
Best Female Vocalist, Down Beat magazine
(both readers' poll and critics' poll)
 - 1956 All Star Female, Metronome magazine
 - 1958 First Grammy awards held;
won Best Female Vocal Performance for
"The Irving Berlin Songbook" (album) and
Best Individual Jazz Performance for
"The Duke Ellington Songbook" (album)
 - 1959 Grammy awards, Best Female Vocal Performance for
"But Not For Me" and Best Individual Jazz
Performance for "Ella Swings Lightly"
 - 1960 Honorary membership to Alpha Kappa Alpha,
the oldest and largest African-American sorority
in the United States Grammy awards, Best Female
Vocal Performance (single) for "Mack the Knife" and
Best Female Vocal Performance (album) for "Ella in
Berlin"
 - 1962 Grammy award, Best Female Solo Vocal Performance
for "Ella Swings Brightly With Nelson Riddle"
 - 1965 Received first ASCAP award in recognition of an artist
 - 1967 Grammy award, Bing Crosby Lifetime Achievement
award
Honorary chairmanship of the newly formed
Martin Luther King Foundation
 - 1974 University of Maryland names its new \$1.6 million,
1,200-seat theater and concert hall the Ella Fitzgerald
Center for the Performing Arts
 - 1976 (April 11) Ella Fitzgerald Day in Los Angeles
Honorary Doctorate in Music from Dartmouth College
Award of Distinction from National Association of
Sickle Cell Diseases
Women at Work organization's Bicentennial Woman
Grammy award, Best Jazz Vocal Performance for
"Fitzgerald and Pass... Again" (album)
 - 1979 Grammy award, Best Jazz Vocal Performance for
"Fine and Mellow" (album)
Kennedy Center Honors
 - 1980 Will Rogers award from the Beverly Hills Chamber of
Commerce and Civic Association
Honorary Doctor of Music from Howard University
Lord & Taylor Rose award for her outstanding
contribution to music
Doctor of Human Letters from Talladega College of
Alabama
Grammy award, Best Female Jazz Vocal Performance
for "A Perfect Match; Ella and Basie" (album)
 - 1981 Grammy award, Best Female Jazz Vocal Performance
for "Digital III at Montreux" (album)
 - 1982 Hasty Pudding Club Woman of the Year
 - 1983 Peabody Award for Outstanding Contributions to
Music in America
Grammy award, Best Female Jazz Vocal Performance
for "The Best Is Yet to Come" (album)
 - 1987 "A-Tisket, A-Tasket" entered into the Grammy Hall of Fame
UCLA Medal for Musical Achievements
National Medal of Arts
 - 1988 NAACP Image award for Lifetime Achievement
 - 1990 Grammy award, Best Female Jazz Vocal Performance
for All That Jazz (album)
Commander of Arts and Letters (France)
Honorary Doctor of Music from Princeton University
 - 1992 Presidential Medal of Freedom
Inducted into the Jazz Hall of Fame
 - 2007 U.S. Postal Service unveils the 2007 Ella Fitzgerald
Commemorative Stamp

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Lareen Fender's The Ballet School
Massimo's Ristorante
Waters Moving and Storage
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Loella Haskew
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Ken Nordhoff
DIRECTOR
Arts, Recreation and
Community Services
Barry Gordon



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**THANK YOU TO OUR OPENING NIGHT
DINNER SPONSORS:**

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar
Oi-C Bowl
Scott's Seafood Grill and Restaurant

Center REPeritory Company

Managing Director - Scott Denison
Artistic Director - Michael Butler

<i>Production Services</i>	<i>Education</i>
Production Svcs Coordinator Toni Kilcoyne Technical Staff Michael Arlen John Earls Steve Pino Garrick Schuster Josh Stouffer Chris Currie Kieren Mc Entee Stephen Spleiss Hans Weichhart	Education Directors Jeff Draper Kerri Shawn Casting Director Jennifer Perry
<i>Audience Services</i>	<i>Production</i>
Audience Svcs Coordinator Courtney Egg Ticket Office Staff Jeremiah Vierling Karla Kopffhammer Britt Lauer Trevor Owen Andrea Toney	Production Manager Jeff Collister <i>Technical</i> Technical Director Joshua Lipps Master Electrician Del Medoff Carpenters Daniel Casini Jordan Scott Chris Swartzell Assistant Stage Manager Joe Coe Deck Manager Alex Logemann Set Design Assistant Maya Linke
<i>Costumes</i>	<i>Administration</i>
Costume Manager Max Hilsabeck Assistant Costumer Michael A. Berg <i>Marketing</i> Marketing Director Gabe Marin Marketing Assistant Ariel Brewer	Asst. to Managing Director Gail Pfeifer Program Linda Nomura



CENTER REPERTORY COMPANY

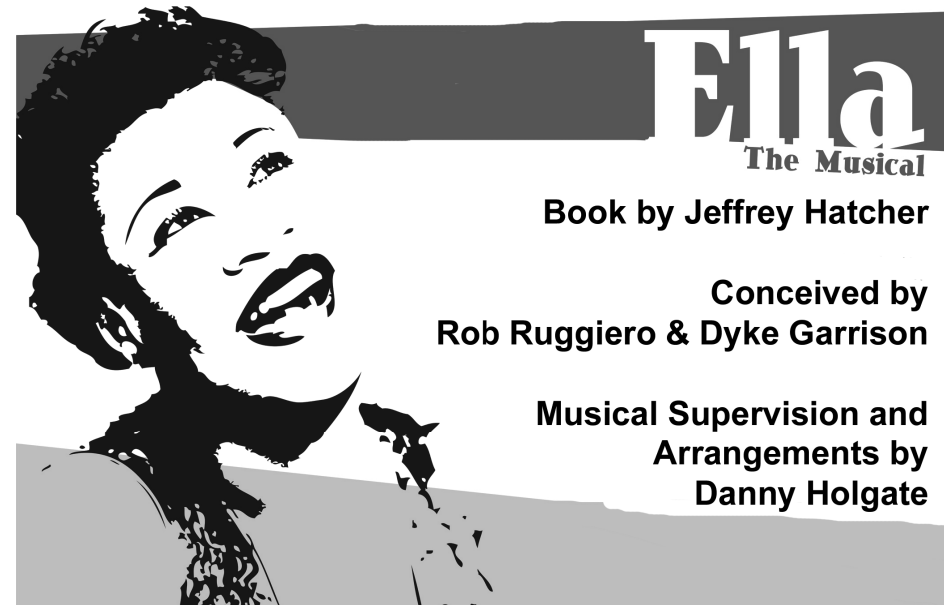
Michael Butler, Artistic Director

Scott Denison, Managing Director

presents

Yvette Cason*

in



Book by Jeffrey Hatcher

Conceived by
Rob Ruggiero & Dyke Garrison

Musical Supervision and
Arrangements by
Danny Holgate

Scenic Designer
J. B. Wilson
Sound Designer
Cliff Caruthers

Lighting Designer
Kurt Landisman
Stage Manager
Gregg Rehrig*

Costume Designer
Christine Crook
Wigs
Judy Disbrow

Cast

Cassidy Brown*
Kelly Park

Mark Lee
Anthony Rollins-Mullens

Joe McKinley
Mark Wright

Directed by **Robert Barry Fleming**

Originally produced as "Ella - Off the Record" at TheaterWorks, Hartford, CT.
The World Premiere of "Ella" was produced by Florida Stage, Manalapan, FL in June of 2006.
Original Production Directed by Rob Ruggiero with Musical Direction by George Caldwell.

Margaret Leshner Theatre
September 6 - October 12, 2013
Leshner Center for the Arts

Season
Sponsor



Season Partner



Foundation Sponsor



Production Sponsor



*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States
The Director of this production is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society
The Scenic, Lighting and Sound Designers are members 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 (in order of appearance)

Ella Fitzgerald.....Yvette Cason*
Norman GranzCassidy Brown*
The ManAnthony Rollins-Mullens
The Drummer.....Mark Lee
The Bassist.....Joe McKinley
The Pianist.....Kelly Park
The Trumpet Player Mark Wright

TIME and PLACE

1966, A Concert Hall in Nice, France

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Yvette Cason* (Ella Fitzgerald)

Broadway: *Play On!*, *Dreamgirls*. Pasadena Playhouse: *Under My Skin*, *The Little Foxes*, *Stormy Weather*, *Ray Charles: Live!*, *Play On!* (Ovation Award), *Sisterella* (NAACP Theatre Award). Regional Theatre: *Such a Pretty Face* (Beverly Hills Playhouse), *Smokey Joe's Café* (La Mirada Theatre), *Into the Woods* (Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities), *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities), and *The World Goes 'Round* (Sacramento Music Circus), *St. Louis Woman* (Center Theatre- N.Y.), *Thunder Knocking on the Door* (San Jose Rep), *Stevie Wants to Play the Blues* (Williamstown Theatre Festival). Television: *Hannah Montana*, *Notes from the Underbelly*, *ER*, *Alias*, *Boston Public*, *Judging Amy*, *The Parkers*, *The District*, *King of Queens*. Film: *Dreamgirls* (with Beyonce Knowles & Jamie Foxx). Education: Berklee College of Music, Boston Massachusetts. Yvette wishes to thank her family, friends and agent for their continuous love and support.



Cassidy Brown* (Norman Granz)

is pleased to return to Center REP, where he has previously appeared as Clown 1 in *The 39 Steps* and as Cohen in *The Underpants*. He recently appeared in *The Loudest Man on Earth* at Theatreworks, where he was also in *Doubt*, *Distraction*, and *The 39 Steps*. He has been seen at Marin Shakes in *Complete History of America (Abridged)* and *The Tempest*, and at Shotgun Players in *The Death of Meyerhold*, *Cabaret*, *The Just*, and *The Forest War*. Other credits include *Bosoms and Neglect* at The Aurora Theatre, *Hunter Gatherers* and *The North Plan* at Capital Stage, and numerous shows at Pacific Repertory Theater. Cassidy produces and hosts a monthly storytelling event called *The Shout*, and is a proud member of AEA and Theatre Bay Area.



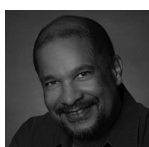
Mark Lee (The Drummer)

has a wealth of experience playing the San Francisco Bay Area music scene. As a freelance drummer, he has backed artists: Freda Payne, Charles Brown, Ernestine Anderson, The Pointer Sisters, Mary Lou Henner, Stephanie Powers and many more. He's also been active in the theater scene with productions of *Blues in the Night* and *Ain't Misbehavin'*.



Joe McKinley (The Bassist)

has been in the the Bay Area for over thirty years performing on string bass, electric bass and tuba. His versatility has allowed him to perform in various genres including: Pit Bands for stage productions, a circus or two, second line New Orleans style bands and orchestras. He has also accompanied a wide range of musicians from Earl "Fatha" Hines to Sun Ra; from Chuck Berry to Joe Henderson's Big Band (West Coast Version); as well as John Handy, Eddie Henderson, Marlena Shaw, Oscar Brown Jr., Jimmy Witherspoon, and many others. He can provide duos, trios, or whatever combination your situation calls for.



Kelly Park (The Pianist) is a lifelong professional musician, performing throughout the United States and abroad. He was a faculty member of the prestigious Berklee College of Music, Boston MA after earning his Bachelor's of Music (Jazz Composition and Arranging) from Berklee. Mr. Park was the Musical Director of the Razz Room in San Francisco from 2007 to 2012, where he performed with the likes of Keely Smith, Lorna Luft, the Shirelles, Cece Peniston, Pete Escovedo, the Flamingos, Joyce DeWitt, and many others. He has appeared on some thirty albums of local San Francisco Bay Area artists, including guitarist Terrance Brewer, vocalist Suzanna Smith, and America's Got Talent's Shawn Ryan. His love and respect for the music and musicians of the Jazz Age fueled his desire to be a part of this show.



Anthony Rollins-Mullens (The Man)

is so happy to be back on stage at the Leshner for Center REP! This family has done more for me than I can say. His theatrical credits include: Tom Collins in *Rent*, Tonton in *Once on this Island*, Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz*, Jafar in *Disney's Aladdin*, Aslan in *Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*, The Pimp/Big Bad Wolf in the original production of *Rent Boy Avenue: A Fairy's Tale*, Eddie Mackrel in the West Coast Premier of LaChuisa's *The Wild Party*, and Belize in the 20th Anniversary production of *Angels in America*, Fred in *Smokey Joe's Café*, Willie in *Master Harold....And the Boys* and Waymon as Hunter Priestess in the West Coast Premier of *Good Goods*. For more information please go to <http://www.wix.com/ARollinsMullens/ARM>



Mark Wright (The Trumpet Player)

trumpeter, flugelhornist, composer, arranger, has been an active part of the San Francisco Bay Area music scene for about 16 years. He studied music formally, at the Conservatory of Music at the University of Pacific. Mark has performed with many greats, including, Clark Terry, Ray Charles, Plas Johnson, John Handy, Pharaoh Sanders, Louie Bellson, Herb Geller, Grover Washington Jr., David Murray, Steve Turre, Rodney Franklin, Freddie Redd, Dave Ellis, Joshua Redman and Don Carlos. Born in Berkeley, California, his first teacher was Vernon Carlson. Strongly versed in the Jazz tradition, Mark places an emphasis on performing his own compositions, of which he has written over 250. In addition to performing with his own Jazz band, Mark also works as an independent contractor performing, arranging, and composing for diverse musical groups and styles, including Latin, R&B, large Jazz units, Reggae, and Pop. Mark's musical activities have taken him to Puerto Rico, Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Hawaii, Seattle, Idaho, and other locations throughout the country.



CREATIVE TEAM

Jeffrey Hatcher (Author) is a playwright and screenwriter. He wrote the stage play *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, which he later adapted into a screenplay, shortened to just *Stage Beauty* (2004). He also co-wrote the stage adaptation of *Tuesdays with Morrie* with author Mitch Albom. He wrote the screenplay *Casanova* for director Lasse Hallström, as well as the screenplay for *The Duchess* (2008). He has also written for the Peter Falk TV series *Columbo* and E! Entertainment Television. Jeffrey Hatcher is the author of *Ten Chimneys*, *Dr. Jeekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and co-author of *Work Song: Three Views of Frank Lloyd Wright*. Mr. Hatcher authored the book for the Broadway musical *Never Gonna Dance*. Off-Broadway, he has had several plays produced, including *Three Viewings* and *A Picasso* at Manhattan Theatre Club, *Scotland Road* and *The Turn of the Screw* at Primary Stages, *Tuesdays with Morrie* (with Mitch Albom) at Minetta Lane Theatre, *Murder by Poe* and *The Turn of the Screw* with The Acting Company, *Neddy* at The American Place Theatre and *Fellow Travelers* at Manhattan Punchline. His plays have been seen at major regional theatres in the U.S. and abroad.

Robert Barry Fleming (Director)

Center REP: *Lucky Stiff*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Blues in the Night*, *She Loves Me* (2011 SFBATCC Award for Best Direction of a Musical), *All Shook Up* (2010 SFBATCC Award for Best Direction of a Musical, Shellie Award for Direction), *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Shellie Award for Best Direction of a Musical). Other credits include: Lydia Diamond's *Stick Fly* (Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company), *The Little Dog Laughed* (The Diversionsary) Upcoming 2014: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Perseverance Theatre) and *Milvotchkee, Wisconsin* (Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company). Robert is currently represented Off-Broadway as an Associate Producer for the NYC revival of *Tennessee Williams' The Two-Character Play* starring Amanda Plummer and Brad Dourif.



J. B. Wilson (Scenic Designer) marks his second design for Center REP with *Ella*. Previously, he designed the settings for *Witness for the Prosecution*, and his set for the Marin Theatre Company/Center REP co-production of *Fugitive Kind* played the Leshner Theatre, while his Theatreworks set for *Ragtime* was adapted for the Hoffman Theatre. Upcoming work includes *Clybourne Park* for Center REP. Wilson has designed extensively in both national and Bay Area venues, and is grateful to have been honored with many awards for his work. He is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829 and is a Professor of Theatre Arts at San Francisco State.

Kurt Landisman (Lighting Designer) Local audiences will be familiar with his work through past productions designed for Center REP including *Sweet Charity*, *The 39 Steps*, *Old Wicked Songs*, *Xanadu*, *Arms and the Man*, *Blues in the Night*, *Dracula*, *She Loves Me*, *Noises Off*, *All Shook Up*, *Cabaret*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Mousetrap*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, and *Fugitive Kind*. His designs have been seen throughout the Bay Area at many theaters including San Francisco Opera, ACT, Berkeley Rep, San Jose Rep, Theatreworks, California Shakespeare Festival, The Magic Theatre, and Marin Theatre Company. Locally his work has garnered 16 Bay Area Critics Circle Awards, 5 LA Dramalogue Awards and 4 Shellie Awards. Nationally, his work has been seen at many regional opera & ballet companies, including the Los Angeles Opera, Minnesota Opera, Virginia Opera,

Tulsa Opera, and Ballet Arizona. His designs have also been presented off-Broadway, represented at Circle Rep, and the Douglas Fairbanks Theatres. Other designs internationally include world premieres of plays by Sam Shepard in Japan, and Singapore, as well as the San Francisco Opera in Shanghai, China, and the Moscow Circus in Tokyo, Japan.

Christine Crook (Costume Designer) has designed costumes for theatre, dance, and opera in the Bay Area with companies like Opera Parallèle, Cal Shakes, Aurora Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, Boxcar Theatre, San Francisco Playhouse, UC Berkeley, Just Theater, Festival Opera, Berkeley Playhouse, and with the Shotgun Players where she is a proud company member. Besides *Ella*, with Center REP she designed costumes for *Lucky Stiff*, *Sweet Charity*, and *Spring Awakening*. She has an MFA in costume design from UC San Diego and is the recipient of a 2011 SF Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award. Check out her online portfolio at christinecrook.squarespace.com.

Cliff Caruthers (Sound Designer) has created soundscapes and original music for over 200 theatrical productions, and his work has been heard in theaters from coast to coast. Recent projects include *American Night* and *The Tempest* for California Shakespeare Theater, *Elektra* and *Dead Metaphor* for A.C.T.; *Troilus and Cressida* for Oregon Shakespeare Festival; *Pelleas and Melisandé* for Cutting Ball Theater; *Circle Mirror Transformation* for Marin Theatre Company, *TRAGEDY: a tragedy* for Berkeley Repertory Theatre; *The Happy Ones* for Magic Theatre; *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* for Aurora Theatre Company, *Happy Days* for Guthrie Theater; *Julius Caesar* for The Acting Company; *On the Waterfront* for San Jose Stage Company; *Bug* for SF Playhouse; and *Dracula* for Center REP. Upcoming projects include the world premiere of *Lasso of Truth* at Marin Theatre Company, and *Hound of the Baskervilles* for TheatreWorks.

Gregg Rehrig* (Stage Manager) Credits include Center REP - *Arms and the Man*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Dracula*, and *Back Home Again - A John Denver Holiday Concert*. TheatreWorks New Works Festival 2012 - *The Trouble With Doug*. American Musical Theatre of San Jose - *Cabaret*, *On The Twentieth Century* (w/ Jo Anne Worley, Mark Jacoby and Judith Blazer), *Dreamgirls* (tour w/ Frenchie Davis), *A Chorus Line*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Miss Saigon*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *My Fair Lady*. Puppeteer - Audrey II in AMTSJ's *Little Shop of Horrors*, with Hal Linden and Christiane Noll. Actor: Harold - *The Full Monty*, Uncle Ernie - *The Who's Tommy*, Thenardier - *Les Miserables*, Narrator/Dr. Scott - *The Rocky Horror Show* and the King in *Big River* - Barn Theatre, August MI. Kaleidoscope - MGM Grand, Las Vegas. Other Stage Managing credits - 5th Avenue Theatre, Ordway Center, Wheeler Opera House - Aspen CO, Sacramento Music Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival.

Alex Logemann (Deck Manager) is celebrating his 38th show backstage with Center REP. Alex has been backstage for eleven seasons and is beyond pleased to be involved with such an amazing company. Alex has also worked backstage for Contra Costa Musical Theatre and with Diablo Theatre Company. Alex is a proud member of the Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble. He is very thankful for our community and the fun it provides. " As Eric Dolphy said 'Once you play the music, it's in the air. It's gone'. And that's true. But when you record it, it comes back to haunt you sometimes." John Abercrombie

Michael Butler (Artistic Director) This is Michael's eighth season as Artistic Director of Center REP, where his directing credits include *The Underpants*, *A Number*, *Dracula*, *Boeing-Boeing* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, as well as the Shellie and BATCC Award-winning productions of *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *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 and off, in regional theatres, film and television, as well as REP's productions of *The Mousetrap*, *Noises Off* and *Rumors*. He is a published songwriter and the co-writer and composer of numerous music-theatre pieces, which he has directed and performed 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.

Scott Denison (Managing Director) has been a leader in the Arts for 37 years for Walnut Creek and the surrounding communities. Under Denison's guidance for the last 21 years as General Manager for the Leshner Center for the Arts, he oversees over 850 public events each year. He coordinates performing arts activities with over 85 producers and producing organizations. He is also the Managing Director of the Center REPeritory Company producing 8 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. Scott directed CCMT's hits *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*, and *Hairspray*, and for the past 14 seasons Center REP's *A Christmas Carol*. Denison has directed over 150 productions including most recently REP's *The Lady with all the Answers* starring Kerri Shawn. In 1979 he created the Shellie Awards, which annually honors outstanding performing arts achievement in Contra Costa County. In 2007 he created the Chevron Family Theatre Festival bringing adult nationally acclaimed performances together for one day performing to over 7,000 guests of all ages.

OUR SPONSORS

Chevron (Season Sponsor) has been the leading corporate sponsor of Center REP and the Leshner Center for the Arts for the past nine 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 Leshner 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.

Leshner Foundation (Foundation Sponsor) Since 1994, the Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation has awarded grants totaling more than \$40 million and reaching citizens in all parts of Contra Costa County. True to the original wishes of Dean and Margaret Leshner, the Foundation continues to build on the strengths of the community by supporting organizations and programs that provide help and support to people in need; enhance and enrich the lives of all citizens; and promote a healthy and exciting future for the community. Established in 1989, the Foundation received its principal assets from Dean Leshner's estate in 1993 and 1995. In 1997, an additional endowment from Dean Leshner's estate followed the death of Margaret Leshner. A significant and final bequest from Mr. Leshner's estate was received in 2003. As a family foundation, support for the Contra Costa community will be carried on by the next generation of family members. Grant-making decisions are based on the vision of Dean and Margaret Leshner who felt quality education, diverse art programs, and healthy children and families are the building blocks of a strong and vibrant community. The Leshners defined the "spirit of giving" as "investing in the community and its people." By providing financial support and direction in these critical areas, the Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation is investing every day, every week and every year in the health and well-being of this county that Dean and Margaret so loved.

ABOUT CENTER REPERTORY COMPANY

Center REP is the resident, professional theatre company of the Leshner Center for the Arts. Our season consists of eight 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. Many of the actors in this production 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 Leshner Center for the Arts. Thank you for your support!



The Director is a member of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.