

MICHAEL BUTLER (*Artistic Director*) This is Michael's eleventh season as Artistic Director of Center REP, where his directing credits include *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.

SCOTT DENISON (*Managing Director*) has been the General Manager for the Leshler Center for the Arts since it opened 26 years ago and has worked for the Arts in this area for over 43 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 19 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 Leshler 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.

OUR SPONSORS

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

Leshler Foundation (Foundation Sponsor) Since 1994, the Dean & Margaret Leshler 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 Leshler, 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 Leshler's estate in 1993 and 1995. In 1997, an additional endowment from Dean Leshler's estate followed the death of Margaret Leshler. A significant and final bequest from Mr. Leshler'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 Leshler who felt quality education, diverse art programs, and healthy children and families are the building blocks of a strong and vibrant community. The Leshlers 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 Leshler 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 Leshler 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. Many of the actors in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association; 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 Leshler Center for the Arts. Thank you for your support!








Center REPertory Company
 Michael Butler Artistic Director
 Scott Denison Managing Director

Production Manager Jeff Collister	Casting Director Jennifer Perry
Technical Director Joshua Lipps	Costume Shop Manager Bethany Deal
Master Electrician Del Medoff	Wardrobe Supervisor Alea Gonzales
Carpenters Gabriel Johnson	Costume Staff Lily Chhan
Caleb Salmon	Dresser Michelle Kincaid
Brennan Shreves	Leona Schrader-Dee
Asst. Stage Manager Joe Coe	Asst. to the Managing Director Gail Pfeifer
Props Manager Roger Anderson	Program/Webmaster Linda Nomura
Marketing Assistant Ariel Brewer	Education Jeff Draper
Production Assistants Miranda Ketchum	Education Directors Kerri Shawn
Casey Leugemors	

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

Production Services	Audience Services
Coordinator Toni Kilcoyne	Coordinator Courtney Egg
Technical Staff Steve Pino	Ticket Office Staff Jeremiah Vierling
John Iarla	Rami Kim
Alex Bull	Robert Nolan
Chris Currie	Cheyenne Clarke
Hanna Johnson	Vaughn Edward
Ian Roth	Jave Hernandez
Garrick Schuster	Kiersten Jones
Stephen Spleiss	Alyssa Montany
Josh Stouffer	Shannon Taylor
Josh Yarnell	Usher Coordinator Pat Mitchell

	
ARTS COMMISSION Polly Bradbury , Chair Anita Sagastegui , Vice Chair Joe Bologna Glynnis Cowdery Jane Emanuel	CITY COUNCIL Rich Carlston , Mayor Loella Haskew Cindy Silva Justin Wedel Kevin Wilk
	
INTERIM CITY MANAGER Fran Robustelli	DIRECTOR Arts + Rec Kevin Safine



CENTER REPERTORY COMPANY

Michael Butler, Artistic Director **Scott Denison, Managing Director**

presents

SISTERS MATSUMOTO

By **Philip Kan Gotanda**




<p>Scenic Designer Andrea Bechert</p> <p>Sound Designer Cliff Caruthers</p>	<p>Costume Designer Maggi Yule</p> <p>Dialect Coach Lynne Soffer</p> <p>Stage Manager Leslie M. Radin*</p>	<p>Lighting Designer Kurt Landisman</p> <p>Wig Designer Amy Bobeda</p>
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Cast



<p>Tasi Alabastro</p> <p>Keiko Shimosato Carreiro*</p>	<p>Carina Lastimosa</p> <p>Melissa Locsin*</p> <p>Alexander M. Lydon</p>	<p>Colin Thomson*</p> <p>Ogie Zulueta*</p>
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Directed by **Mina Morita**

Margaret Leshler Theatre
 March 31 - April 29, 2017
 Leshler Center for the Arts

<p>Season Sponsor</p> 	<p>Season Partner</p> 	<p>Foundation Sponsor</p> 
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Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States
 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)

Grace Keiko Shimosato Carreiro*
Rose..... Carina Lastimosa
Chiz.....Melissa Locsin*
Hideo Ogie Zulueta*
Bola Tasi Alabastro
Henry Sakai.....Alexander M. Lydon
Mr. Hersham.....Colin Thomson*



Tasi Alabastro **Keiko Shimosato Carreiro*** **Carina Lastimosa**



Melissa Locsin* **Alexander M. Lydon** **Colin Thomson***



Ogie Zulueta*

TIME and PLACE

1945, late Fall into Winter
Stockton, California
There will be one intermission.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

TASI ALABASTRO (Bola) is all kinds of tickled to be sharing his Center REP debut with such a fine ensemble of artists! In addition to stage and film, Tasi is also a filmmaker, content creator on YouTube, and broadcaster on Twitch. He was most recently seen as The Mayor in Epic Immersive's *Matthew Briar and the Age of Resurrection*, an immersive play. He also recently shared the story of Orestes with audiences in Dragon Theatre's production of *The Libation Bearers*. Mr. Alabastro is a proud member of the Red Ladder Theatre Company and is currently working with inmates in Salinas Valley State Prison as part of the Arts-in-Corrections program; The program re-engages participants with their creativity and imagination through carefully selected theatre and improv activities. For more info on the program, and updates, please visit <http://www.tasialabastro.com>.

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Massimo's Ristorante
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KEIKO SHIMOSATO CARREIRO* (Grace) has been a principal actor, designer and director for the Tony Award-winning San Francisco Mime Troupe from 1987 to the present. She arrived in San Francisco with the Horse Drawn, Caravan Stage Company of Canada. Since then, Ms. Carreiro has performed and designed for many Bay Area Theater companies including Berkeley Rep, Aurora Theater Company, S.F. Shakespeare in the Parks, The Asian American Theater Company, African American Shakespeare Company, Crowded Fire and Custom Made Theater as well as the San Francisco Mime Troupe. She directed *City for Sale* and *Gotta Getta Life* for the Mime Troupe, and *Cowboy versus Samurai* for the Asian American Theater Company. Directing is something she would like to get back into, as well as playwriting. I am so deeply grateful to be bringing to life this beautiful world that Philip Kan Gotanda has created. It has made me dig deep again into what it means to me to be a Japanese American, and the daughter of first generation immigrants. Now more than ever I feel the need to reexamine the lessons and experiences of my elders.

CARINA LASTIMOSA (Rose) is thrilled to be working with Center REP for the first time! SF/Bay Area credits include: *A Dreamplay* (Cutting Ball Theater), *Dogeaters* (Magic Theatre), *Peter Pan* and *Hairspray* (Berkeley Playhouse), *The Day The Crayons Quit* (Bay Area Children's Theatre), *The Desk Set* (No Nude Men), *A Merry Forking Christmas* (PianoFight), *Slaughterhouse-Five* and *Top Girls* (Custom Made Theatre Co.), *Marat/Sade* (Thrillpeddlers), world premieres of *The Crazy* (Central Works) and *A Kind of Sad Love Story* (Bindlestiff Studio) and as a performer/educator for Kaiser's Educational Theatre. www.carinalastimosa.com

MELISSA LOCSIN* (Chiz) is an actor, singer, and teaching artist. She was last seen in *Monstress* with American Conservatory Theater and *Margaret of Anjou* with Those Women Productions. Melissa has performed with Red Ladder Theatre Company, San Jose Rep on Tour, San Jose Stage, Ferocious Lotus, St. Louis Black Repertory Company, and St. Louis Shakespeare. She teaches at Bay Area Acting Studio in San Jose, and is a proud member of the Multicultural Artists Leadership Institute. You can catch her in the recent award-winning indie feature films, "Remember Me" and "East Side Sushi." www.melissalocsin.com

ALEXANDER M. LYDON (Henry Sakai) is happy to be making his Center REP debut. Past credits include *It Can't Happen Here* (Berkeley Rep), *Untitled Cambodian Pop Play* (Berkeley Rep Ground Floor), *King of the Yees* (Ashland New Plays Festival), *The Four Immigrants: An American Musical Manga* (TheatreWorks, workshop), *The Rover* (Shotgun Players), *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* (Bay Area Children's Theatre), *410[Gone]* (Crowded Fire Theatre).

COLIN THOMSON* (Mr. Hersham) last appeared at Center REP in *Born Yesterday*. Previous Center REP productions include *Anything Goes* (as Moonface Martin), *Mirandolina!...*, *Deathtrap*, *Sweet Charity*, *Lucky Stiff*, *All in the Timing*, and *The Voice of the Prairie*. Other local performances include *Noises Off* and *Mountain Days* with the Willows. He has appeared at American Conservatory Theater in *1776* (directed by Frank Galati) and in *Happy End*, as well as the show's original English cast album. He recently performed at TheatreWorks in readings of *Something Wicked This Way Comes* by Neil Bartram and Brian Hill. Film and television work include "Blue Jasmine" and NBC's "Trauma." He has performed with San Jose Repertory Theatre, San Jose Stage Company, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, P.C.P.A. Theaterfest, Idaho Shakespeare Festival and American Musical Theatre of San Jose. Career favorites include *Dirty Blonde* with Portland Center Stage, *A Christmas Carol* with A.C.T., *Company* with Marin Theatre Company, *All My Sons* with TheatreWorks, P.C.P.A.'s *Yours*, *Anne* and Center REP's *All Shook Up*. He has been a member of Actors' Equity Association for 20 years.

OGIE ZULUETA* (Hideo) SF/Bay Area Theatres: Magic Theatre – *Dogeaters*; A.C.T. - *Monstress* (The Strand Theatre), *After The War*, *The New Americans* (First Look Workshop); Crowded Fire Theater – *100 Flowers Project*, *The Late Wedding*; Ferocious Lotus – *Lu Shen, the Mad*; Playwrights Foundation – Bay Area Playwrights Festival. Other Regional Theatre: La Jolla Playhouse – *Bay and the Spectacles of Doom*; South Coast Rep. – *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Dogeaters* (Pacific Playwrights Festival); Mark Taper Forum – *Architecture of Loss*, L.A. Stories - *900 miles from Iraq*; Antaeus Theatre Company/Boston Court – *Pera Palas*; Singapore Rep. – *Hamlet*; East West Players – *The Tempest*; Cornerstone Theatre Company/ East West Players – *As Vishnu Dreams*; Playwrights' Arena – *Sleepwalk*, *Gumsimao*; Nevada Shakespeare in The Park – *Othello*; Deaf West – *Romeo and Juliet*; East L.A. Classic Theatre - *Midsummer Night's Dream*; Sledgehammer Theatre – *Three Sisters*; Theatre Nada – *The Battles of Coxinga*, SoHo Rep. – *Malibu*. Film & T.V.: "Day Without A Mexican," "Pink as the Day She was Born," "How to Make your First Billion & Save the World," "My Bad Dad," "One West Waikiki," "First Years," "2 Guys and a Girl," "L.A. Heat," "Models Inc." Member of Ferocious Lotus Theatre Company. <https://sites.google.com/site/ogiezulueta/home>

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OPENING NIGHT DINNER SPONSORS:
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Scott's Seafood Grill and Restaurant

PRODUCTION TEAM

PHILIP KAN GOTANDA (Playwright) Over the last three decades, playwright Philip Kan Gotanda has been a major influence in the broadening of our definition of theater in America. Through his plays and advocacy, he has been instrumental in bringing stories of Asians in the United States to mainstream American theater as well as to Europe and Asia. Mr. Gotanda holds a law degree from Hastings College of Law and studied pottery in Japan with the late Hiroshi Seto. Mr. Gotanda is a respected independent filmmaker; his film, "Life Tastes Good," was presented at the Sundance Film Festival. Mr. Gotanda, alongside Michael Sasaki, had a chinglish version of "My Boyfriend's Back" with Joan Chen singing lead on the Hong Kong pop charts before it was banned. Mr. Gotanda is the recipient of a Guggenheim as well as other honors and awards. He resides at Gotanda Art Plant in the Berkeley Hills with his writer-producer wife, Diane Takei, and their famously ill-behaved dog, Toulouse.

MINA MORITA (Director) is the Artistic Director of Crowded Fire Theater, a critically acclaimed, intrepid, female-led company dedicated to developing a fierce contemporary theater canon that reflects the plurality of our world. Previously, she served as the Artistic Associate at Berkeley Repertory Theatre—and a founding member of its Ground Floor program; as Board President of Shotgun Players; as a 2014 Lincoln Center Director's Lab participant; as a founding member of Bay Area Children's Theatre; and as a panel member with the Zellerbach Family Foundation.

Mina has directed and developed plays at several Bay Area theaters including Berkeley Rep's "Ground Floor" & "Fireworks Festival," Shotgun Players, Magic Theatre's "Virgin Play Festival," ACT's "Strand Reading Series & MFA program," UC Berkeley's "Zellerbach Playhouse," Aurora Theatre's "Global Age Project," Just Theatre, Ferocious Lotus, and Playwrights Foundation. In 2014, Mina won the Theatre Bay Area (TBA) Award for Outstanding Direction of a Musical and in 2016 was recognized as a TBA 40@40 for her impact on Bay Area Theater. In 2015, Mina was honored to share her story on TEDx, and this year, she was chosen as one of the YBCA100, for "asking questions and making provocations that will shape the future of culture."

ANDREA BECHERT (Scenic Designer) has designed over 300 productions across the country, including *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.

MAGGI YULE (Costume Designer) is happy to be working with Mina Morita again, and excited to be working at Center REP, for the first time. Local credits include costume design for Bay Area Children's Theatre, Aurora Theatre, Shotgun Players, Crowded Fire, Town Hall Theatre, Theatre First and Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Her costume design for *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* was nominated for a TBA award and *Pygmalion* and *Sly Fox* were nominated for Shellie awards. Originally from New York, she designed for theatre, film, television and industrial shows with companies including HBO, Scholastic Productions, Laurel EFX Television and Columbia Pictures. Maggi is currently the Costume Director at Berkeley Repertory Theatre.

KURT LANDISMAN (Lighting Designer) Local audiences will be familiar with his work through past productions designed for Center REP including *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*, *Anything Goes*, *Mirandolina*, *Deathtrap*, *Life Could Be a Dream*, *Ella*, *the Musical*, *Sweet Charity*, *The 39 Steps*, *Old Wicked Songs* and *Xanadu*. 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 19 Bay Area Critics Circle Awards, 5 LA Dramalogue Awards and 5 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. kurtlandisman.com

CLIFF CARUTHERS (Sound Designer) has created soundscapes and music for over 200 productions, including *Dracula*, and *Ella: The Musical* for Center REP. Recent work includes *American Night*, *The Tempest*, and *The Seagull* for California Shakespeare Theater; *Elektra*, *The Homecoming*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, and *Race* for American Conservatory Theater; *Crime and Punishment* and *TRAGEDY: a tragedy* for Berkeley Repertory Theatre; *Gross Indecency* and *The Diary of Anne Frank* for Kansas City Repertory Theatre; *Troilus and Cressida* for Oregon Shakespeare Festival; *Ubu Roi*, *Pelleas and Melisande*, and *A Dreamplay*

for The Cutting Ball Theater; *The Happy Ones* for Magic Theatre; *The Loudest Man on Earth*, *The Clean House* and *Outside Mullingar* for TheatreWorks; *We Are Proud To Present*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *Venus in Fur* for San Jose Stage Company, *Julius Caesar* for The Acting Company; *Happy Days* for The Guthrie Theater; *Circle Mirror Transformation*, and *9 Circles* for Marin Theatre Company, and *Bug*, and *Dead Man's Cell Phone* for San Francisco Playhouse. Mr. Caruthers is also co-curator and technical director of the San Francisco Tape Music Festival and has performed his electronic music compositions internationally. His music for the IOS app "Earth: A Primer" was featured at the GDC's Experimental Gameplay Workshop in 2015.

LESLIE M. RADIN* (Stage Manager) is very pleased to be back at Center REP after previously working on *Sweet Charity* and *Rumors*. She has worked at American Conservatory Theater, Aurora Theatre Company, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, California Shakespeare Theater, and Santa Cruz Shakespeare. She has traveled with Berkeley Rep productions to the Hong Kong Arts Festival and the New Victory Theater in New York. Leslie is also the production coordinator for the Aurora. Her favorite past productions include *Aubergine*, *Wittenberg*, *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)*, *Passing Strange*, and *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*.

LYNNE SOFFER (Dialect Coach) has coached over 250 theater productions at A.C.T., Berkeley Rep, Magic Theatre, Marin Theater Company, Theatreworks, Cal Shakes, San Jose Rep and SF Opera among others including nine for Center Rep. Her regional credits include the Old Globe, Dallas Theater Center, Arizona Theatre Company, the Arena Stage, Seattle Rep and the world premier of *The Laramie Project* at the Denver Center. Her film and television credits include "Fruitvale," "Metro," "Duets," "The Land of Milk and Honey" and "America's Most Wanted." Soffer works frequently as a professional actor and acting teacher and is the recipient of the 2011 Actors' Equity Lucy Jordan Humanitarian Award.

AMY BOBEDA (Wig Designer) is thrilled for her first show at Center REP. Her Bay Area wig credits include Shotgun Players, Aurora Theatre, Marin Theatre, Broadway by the Bay, Mountain Play, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Town Hall Theatre, UC Berkeley, Bay Area Children's Theatre, Cal Shakes and Berkeley Rep. Other credits include Roundhouse Theatre and Yale Rep. She is both the Associate Costume Director and Hair and Makeup Supervisor at Berkeley Rep, where she enjoys buying actors expensive socks and giving dramaturgically accurate haircuts. A graduate of UC Santa Cruz and Alameda Beauty College, she also spends her time managing social media and designing costumes for Bay Area Children's Theatre, cutting and coloring the hair of Bay Area artists, and cultivating an Instagram account of nature photography.