



South Coast Repertory

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES & FAMILIES

2024/25 SEASON • JULIANNE ARGYROS STAGE

The
INCREDIBLE
Book Eating

BOY

Book by **Madhuri Shekar**

Music by **Christian Magby**

Lyrics by **Christian Albright**

based on the book by **Oliver Jeffers**

Directed by **H. Adam Harris**

FEB. 28 – MAR 20, 2025

THANK YOU

ANNUAL SUPPORT

SCR gratefully acknowledges the following donors for generously providing special underwriting support during the 2024/25 Season of Theatre for Young Audiences & Families and other educational programs.

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES AND FAMILIES

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The long-term development of Theatre for Young Audiences and other educational programs at SCR is greatly assisted by the establishment of endowment funds. We deeply appreciate the following donors who have honored us with gifts:

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South Coast Repertory

DAVID IVERS
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SUZANNE APPEL
MANAGING DIRECTOR

DAVID EMMES & MARTIN BENSON
FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

PRESENTS



BOOK BY MADHURI SHEKAR

MUSIC BY CHRISTIAN MAGBY

LYRICS BY CHRISTIAN ALBRIGHT

BASED ON THE BOOK BY OLIVER JEFFERS

SET DESIGNER
FRED KINNEY

COSTUME DESIGNER
ADRIANA LAMBARRI

LIGHTING DESIGNER
AVERY REAGAN

SOUND DESIGNER
ERIC BACKUS

CHOREOGRAPHER
ANNIE YEE

CASTING DIRECTOR
JOANNE DENAUT, CSA

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
NATALIE FIGAREDO

MUSICAL DIRECTION
ZACHARY DIETZ

DIRECTED BY H. ADAM HARRIS

HONORARY PRODUCER
APRIEM ADVISORS

CORPORATE HONORARY PRODUCER

BANK OF AMERICA

*Commissioned and premiered at Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, CA
Susan V. Booth, Jennings Hertz Artistic Director,
Mike Schleifer, Managing Director*

Theatre for Young Audiences & Families is made possible in part by a major grant from
THE SEGERSTROM FOUNDATION

THE CAST

MS. PENNY/MOM/ARTIST/OTHERS..... Joslynn Cortes
 HENRY Adam Leiva
 DAD/HOST/OTHERS..... Brian Kim McCormick
 OLIVIA/DOCTOR/OTHERS Erica Schaeffer
 ROVER/JEFF/OTHERS Bradley Sharper

All Actors and Stage Managers affiliated with this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

As a courtesy to all patrons and the actors, please turn off all electronic devices or switch them to non-audible mode before the performance begins.

Photographing, videotaping or other video or audio recording during the performance is strictly prohibited.

Be sure to check out our website for the
The Incredible Book Eating Boy study guide,
 which features additional information about the play,
 plus a variety of other educational resources.

scr.org



Media Partner



THESE FOLKS HELP BRING ALL OF OUR SHOWS TO LIFE

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Artistic Director

SUZANNE APPEL
Managing Director

DAVID EMMES & MARTIN BENSON
Founding Artistic Directors

MAISIE CHAN
Production Manager

KIM MARTIN-COTTEN
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Marketing & Communications
Director

HISA TAKAKUWA
Conservatory & Educational
Programs Director

THESE FOLKS ARE HELPING RUN THIS SHOW BACKSTAGE

KYRSTEN GOODRICH – Assistant Stage Manager

DEREK MANSON – Assistant Director

LYLA FLASHMAN – Production Assistant

HANNAH CREIGHTON – Costume Design Assistant

KASSIA CURL – Assistant Lighting Designer

HANNAH FERLA – Light Board Operator

JORDAN BUCKELEW – Sound Engineer/A1

ETHAN SHANKLIN – Backstage Sound/A2

BEN MORROW, SHAYFAIR DIBBS DIBLEY – Deck
Crew

HANNAH ANDERSEN – Wig Technician

JILLIAN PRICCO, KORINNE MELVIN – Wardrobe
Supervisor/Dresser

JILLIAN PRICCO, KENDALL MONTUNNAS –
Additional Costume Staff

AND THESE FOLKS HELPED GET IT READY FOR YOU

THESE FOLKS BUILT THE SCENERY

JOHN GADDIS IV – Interim Technical Director

KELDEN DOWNS – Interim Assistant Technical
Director

MATTHEW MULLIN – Head Carpenter

CALEB MCKINNEY – Scenic Carpenter

BEN MORROW – Automation Carpenter

ANGI GROW – Scenic Charge Artist

LISA ERICKSON – Assistant Charge Artist

THE FOLLOWING MADE THE COSTUMES

AMY L. HUTTO – Costume Shop Manager

LAURIE DONATI – Full Charge Costumer

ISABELLA WEIAND – Cutter/Draper

THESE PERSON FIXED THE WIGS, HAIR & MAKEUP

JENNI GILBERT – Wigs, Hair & Makeup Supervisor

HANNAH ANDERSEN – Wigs, Hair & Makeup
Technician

THIS GROUP DEALT WITH LIGHTS & SOUND

JOHN FAVREAU – Sound & Video Supervisor

JORDAN BUCKELEW – Audio Engineer/Board Op

KARA RAMLOW – Lighting Supervisor

HANNAH FERLA – Electrician/Light Board Operator

ADAM MANNING – Electrician/Light Board Operator

SONG LIST

WELCOME TO THE THIRD GRADE

Ms. Penny, Henry, Olivia, Jeff

A SMART GUY

Henry, the Company

I ATE A BOOK

Rover, Henry

THE INCREDIBLE BOOK EATING BOY

Henry, Ms. Penny, Olivia, Jeff, News Reporters, Gameshow Host

HENRY ON THE MENU

The Books

THE PICTURES IN YOUR MIND

Artist, Henry, the Company

WELCOME TO THE FOURTH GRADE

Henry, Ms. Penny, Olivia, Jeff

INCREDIBLE BOOKS!

Choose a word from each column to create titles for the books on the side. Write your very best—or wackiest—titles on the covers!

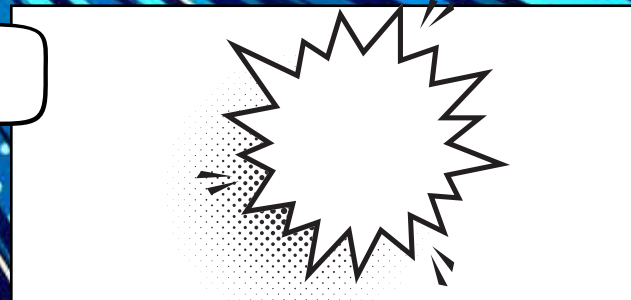
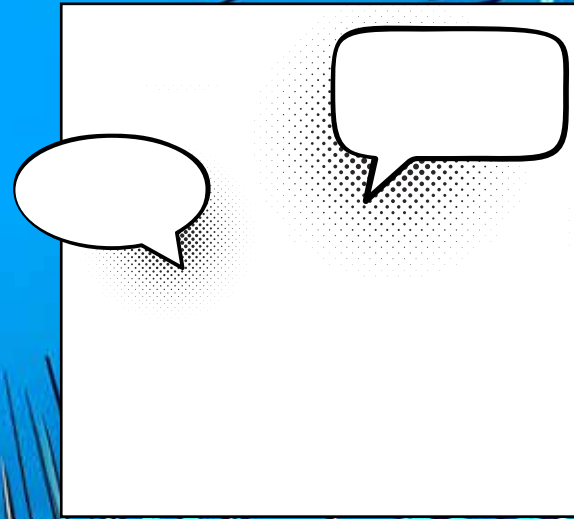
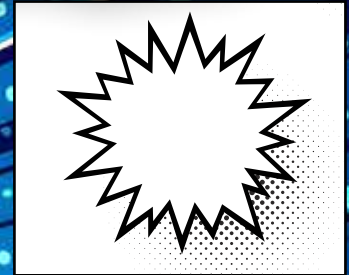
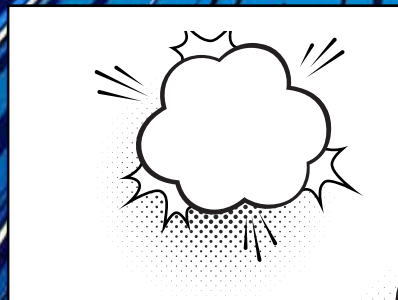
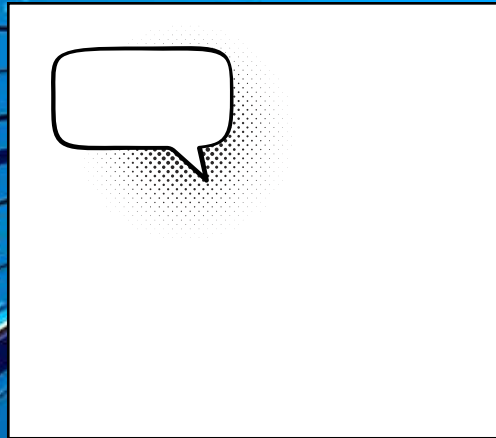
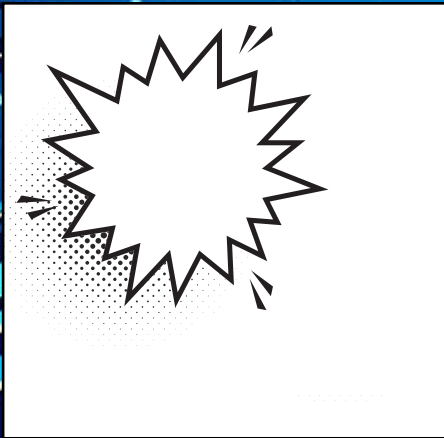


THE PICTURES (AND WORDS!) IN YOUR MIND

Using the space below, create the first couple pages of your very own graphic novel that combines illustrations and text.

Pro tip: Graphic novels often use some short text at the top of the first panel to establish the scene, but then use character thought bubbles and speech balloons to tell the rest of the chapter's story—along with the images, of course!

Need some inspiration? Tell the story of your favorite recent adventure, or your first day of school—or maybe the story of an original superhero!



WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



JOSLYNN CORTES (*Ms. Penny/Mom/Artist/Others*)

Hola I'm Joslynn and I am a Los Angeles based actor, singer and vocal teacher! I've been singing in front of people since I was 4 years old. After going on a field trip to see *Tarzan* on Broadway, I made the decision I was going to perform for a living. That's quite a big decision to make at 12 years old, but when you know, you know. In high school, I studied at the Apple Farms Theatre Academy in New Jersey and then studied at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy Conservatory in New York City and earned my BFA at AMDA Los Angeles. Before I made my move across the country to Los Angeles, I was afforded the opportunity to play some iconic roles of characters I grew up being obsessed with, like Junie B. Jones in *Junie B. Jones the Musical* and Arlene (Garfield's girlfriend) in *Garfield the Musical with Cattitude*. I also had so much fun on tour playing a Superhero Dog named Fiber in *Nick Nutrition and His Wonder Dog Fiber!* I absolutely love what I do and I know that my success would not exist if it weren't for the constant support, love, wisdom and constructive criticism gifted to me by my family and my teachers all throughout my elementary, middle and high school years. My advice to you would be: Pursue your dreams wholeheartedly. It's not going to be easy and sometimes you will want to quit, but if you are really passionate about it, go for it. Don't let anyone bully you out of it, or make you feel like your dreams are impossible. That passion and spark was given to you for a reason.



ADAM LEIVA (*Henry*)

I started to sing when I was 4 years old, it just was something I liked to do. I had no idea I'd found one of the things that makes me the most happy in life: music. When I was 11, I watched a Disney Channel show where I saw a young actor named Cameron Boyce who reminded me of myself. It was the first time I saw someone on tv who reminded me of me. Seeing him on TV showed me that I could be an actor too, and from that day on, I knew that's what I wanted to be. Mom: thank you for loving me with all your heart since I was born, and supporting me 100% in me following my dreams, I love you to infinity and beyond. To my best friends: thank you for always lifting me up and telling me to keep going, I love you all so much. To everyone at the Chance Theater: Thank you for giving me a safe haven to explore theatre storytelling in and for trusting me with wonderful stories. I am incredibly honored to make my South Coast Repertory debut as Henry in *The Incredible Book Eating Boy*; thank you to the entire creative team and H. Adam for trusting me with him. I hope you all enjoy :)



BRIAN KIM MCCORMICK (*Dad/Host/Others*)

(he/him/his) I am a Korean adoptee who grew up in the "Land of 10,000 Lakes," also known as Minnesota, and is now based in Los Angeles. I graduated from St. Olaf College, majoring in Pre-Medicine, Psychology, and Statistics, but discovered my true calling was to be an artist after performing in the musical, *Bat Boy*. Whether as an actor, writer, director, or producer, the arts allow me to use all of my skills and education to bring people together through storytelling. As a musical theatre performer, you may have seen me in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*, right here at South Coast Repertory, or *The Sound of Music* with Musical Theatre West. As a voiceover artist, I have voiced characters for "Pokémon" and "Yu-Gi-Oh!" and narrated the YA Audiobook, *Winston Chu versus the Whimsies* by Stacey Lee. My advice: keep dreaming, and dream BIG!



ERICA SCHAEFFER (*Olivia/Doctor/Others*)

(she/her) When I was 3 years old, one of my favorite things to do was watch Disney movies (like *Hercules*) and act them out in my living room. My parents saw how much I loved to perform, so they put me in ballet lessons. Fast forward many years and classes later, I studied Musical Theatre at UC Irvine. As much as I enjoy telling serious and dramatic stories, I LOVE making people laugh. I also love teaching young artists, lifting weights and making jewelry. Whoever is reading this right now: Keep being your wonderful and multi-passionate self! It is your greatest superpower.



BRADLEY SHARPER (*Rover/Jeff/Others*)

I grew up in Southern Maryland, where I spent my childhood singing, acting, and dreaming of big adventures. After high school, I followed my dreams to The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City, where I studied acting, singing and performing. Later, I moved to sunny Santa Monica and taught acting classes to amazing kids like you—it was so much fun! I've always loved music, too. I started playing guitar when I was eight years old, and now I play in a rock band called Sharper's Florist. Back in New York, I played folk music at bars and cafes all over Manhattan, fueled by Chipotle burritos and Red Bulls (don't recommend). Now, as a Los Angeles-based actor, you might see me in commercials or hear my voice in video games and cartoons. I love bringing stories to life and inspiring others to follow their creative dreams!

ARTIST BIOS

MADHURI SHEKAR (Playwright). My name is Madhuri Shekar, and I wrote the “book” for *The Incredible Book Eating Boy*. The “book” of a musical is basically the story of the show, and all the dialogue that the characters speak. Everything that happens on stage that isn’t technically a song? That’s the stuff I helped to create and write! I’ve always loved writing. When I was a kid, I wrote a lot of poems, silly songs, and Harry Potter fan-fiction. In college, I fell in love with theatre. I wrote and produced plays with my friends, and wanted to keep doing it forever. So I decided to study playwriting for real. I got my MFA in Dramatic Writing at USC, not too far from here. Nothing makes me happier than writing for young people. I really hope you enjoy the show! And if you don’t, well, go home and write something better, I dare you. (I’m kidding, but also, I’m not.) I hope you make stuff and keep making stuff your whole life. We need your art and creativity in the world.

CHRISTIAN MAGBY (Music) is an actor and composer, who previously starred in the world premiere of the rock musical, *Galileo* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. He had a supporting role in the Oscar-nominated, Amazon feature, *One Night in Miami*, and was a recurring guest star for two seasons on The CW’s series, “The Flash,” and he also recurred on The CW series, “Legacies.” Born in Atlanta, Magby started his acting career with the Youth Ensemble of Atlanta. At 16, he wrote his first musical, *Love DOES Cost a Thing*, which premiered at 7 Stages Theatre. Since then, he composed the music for *The Incredible Book Eating Boy*, which ran at Alliance Theatre Company. He composed the music for *Milo Imagines the World*, which premiered at Chicago Children’s Theatre. In addition, Magby executive produced and composed the musical *Mother of God*, which premiered at the Southwest Arts Center in Atlanta. Magby has worked as an actor and music director in a number of Atlanta theatres, including Alliance Theatre,

Aurora Theatre, Horizon Theatre Company, Theatrical Outfit, and Kenny Leon’s True Colors Theatre Company. He is a graduate of SCAD and was commissioned to arrange the school’s alma mater.

CHRISTIAN ALBRIGHT (Lyrics) is a playwright, songwriter and voice actor in Atlanta. He wrote the lyrics for *Milo Imagines the World*, which recently premiered at the Chicago Children’s Theatre, and will make its second premiere at Children’s Theatre Company in Minneapolis. Albright was born in New York and moved to Atlanta, GA in his late teens where he became a performer for the Youth Ensemble of Atlanta (YEA). There, he developed his performance skills and would eventually write skits and teach the newly inducted youth in the program. Albright briefly studied theatre at Oglethorpe University, where he did perform in the university plays & musicals. He went on to perform in Georgia Shakespeare’s production of *Macbeth*. Albright soon fostered connections with the Alliance Theatre, eventually becoming the lyricist for their musical adaptation of *The Incredible Book Eating Boy* and soon after, becoming a collaborative songwriter for their musical adaptation of the story of *Peter Rabbit, Into the Burrow*.

H. ADAM HARRIS (Director) My name is H. Adam Harris, but everyone calls me H! I’m an actor, teacher, and the director of this production of *The Incredible Book Eating Boy*. I got into theatre because I had an incredible high school theatre teacher (who won a Tony Award for teaching!) who inspired me. When I graduated from college, I acted on stages, narrated family concerts with orchestras and led story time with local libraries. As a director, I believe in telling heart-first stories that center possibility, tenderness and grit. All things you’ll see in this production. When I’m not directing, I work here at SCR as the Artistic & Audience Engagement Associate—enjoy the show! hadamharris.com

ZACHARY DIETZ (Music Director) Hello! I am a music director, conductor, and keyboardist who helps bring musicals to life! I’ve worked on big Broadway shows like *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *School of Rock*, *In the Heights*, *Wicked*, and *The Lion King*. I teach music at UC Irvine, where I help students learn how to lead and direct music for theatre. I love working with kids and young performers! I’m currently adapting a new children’s musical based on the *Catstronauts!* graphic novels.

FRED KINNEY (Scenic Designer) I build the models and create the drawings that the carpenters and the painters use to build the scenery that you see on stage. This is my 13th production at SCR. For past shows, I designed various locations such as the dark forest for *Snow White*, the neighborhood for *Last Stop on Market Street*, and interiors and exteriors that *Nate the Great* traveled to in order to unravel the mystery. For *A Year with Frog and Toad*, a marsh, the scaffold playground that lit up for *Pinocchio*, the woods for *Robin Hood* and the elephant for *The Emperor’s New Clothes*. When I was a small boy, I thought I might become a painter, sculptor or an architect. But in high school, I started to design the scenery for our school productions and really enjoyed it—and I still do. I’m the proud father of Gigi and Kate, who will be seeing *The Incredible Book Eating Boy*.

ADRIANA LAMBARRI (Costume Designer) When I was a kid, my interests were design, drawing, and all things theatre-related. I also enjoyed playing dress-up and took Halloween very seriously. (I still do!) I went to art school in San Francisco and learned all about design and how to build clothes, which later helped me when I began to pursue costume design. As luck would have it, I had an actor friend ask me if I could help him with the costume designs of a film he was working on, which I did and LOVED. I haven’t stopped designing since! Now I get to tell stories with other designers through clothing. My very first professional theater gig was sewing in the costume shop here at SCR, but my favorite gig is building my son Bramwell’s Hallow-

een costume every year. I hope you enjoy the show as much as I enjoyed designing it!

AVERY REAGAN (Lighting Designer) I am an Orange County-based Lighting Designer. I received my BS from the University of Evansville in Indiana, and I received my MFA from UC Irvine. Once upon a time, I thought I was going to be an actor. I spent so many years acting and singing in plays and choirs, but then I started helping with other jobs in the theatre and fell in love with lighting. I always loved math while in school, and lighting design allows me to combine my math brain with my art brain. Now that I’m a full-time designer, I travel all over the world turning lights on and off for a living. You might have seen some of my work at SCR with the Theatre Conservatory Summer Players productions of *Matilda* or *Seussical!*

ERIC BACKUS (Sound Designer) I work in Southern California and Chicago as a composer and sound designer. I am currently a graduate student at UC Irvine. I started playing music when I was in fourth grade, and developed an interest in theatre tech when I was in high school. After I graduated college, I moved to Chicago where I began to write music and sound design for theatre. Since then, I’ve worked on productions all over the country, including Off-Broadway. Many of the shows I’ve worked on have been adaptations of books like *Bunnicula*, *Peter Pan*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *War and Peace*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Hobbit*, *Cinderella* and *Sherlock Holmes*. If you want to listen to some of the music I have written, you can go to ericbackus.com

ANNIE YEE (Choreography) I am a Los Angeles based choreographer. I love dance and have been dancing my whole life. I started at age 5 and took ballet, tap, jazz and hula. My Mom wanted me to see which style of dance I liked best, and it was all of them! She said I should learn all kinds of dance and the music of each kind because it tells you what the dances are about. I love theatre too! My Mom took me to my first musical when I

NATALIE FIGAREDO (Stage Manager) I started stage managing many years ago in a school called California State University, Long Beach, where I worked on musicals, plays and Shakespeare! Then I went to school in London, England where I learned how to build sets, focus lights and production manage. Plus, I got to see cool shows like *Matilda* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. I also used to work at Disneyland with Mickey, Minnie, Donald and Goofy! But my favorite thing to do is work on the Theatre for Young Audiences and Families plays here at SCR! I've worked on *Snow White*, *Amos and Boris*, *Tales of a 4th Grade Nothing*, *Junie B. Jones is Not a Crook!*, *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, *A Year With Frog and Toad*, *The Night Fairy* and *Robin Hood*. Also my favorite food is mac and cheese!

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THE SEGERSTROM FOUNDATION (Lead Sponsor) has been a longstanding supporter of SCR's Theatre for Young Audiences & Families series, and over the past twenty years has impacted the lives of nearly 200,000 young people through their program support. The Segerstrom Foundation, founded in 2000, was created to support Orange County cultural art nonprofits.

APIRIEM ADVISORS (Honorary Producer) are thrilled to add their support to *The Incredible Book Eating Boy*, underwriting a Theatre for Young Audiences production for the fifth time. Apriem has provided major and leadership support in numerous ways since 2016. Co-Founder Harmon Kong and his wife, Lea, an SCR Board Trustee, are passionate supporters of bold and creative initiatives. Founded in 1998 in Irvine, California, Apriem Advisors is a wealth management company serving multi-generational families worldwide by helping them achieve a life of significance beyond success. Apriem provides their clients with the highest degree of service while handling all facets of their finances, helping them reach the goal of financial security and peace of mind.

Acting Classes



SCR's Summer Players in Suessical

From students to parents to alumni, everyone has high praise for how acting classes in the SCR Theatre Conservatory provide guidance for success both on the stage and in life. It's no wonder that *ParentingOC* readers voted SCR tops for having "The Best" acting classes seven years in a row. Each year, more than 2,000 kids, teens and adults are enrolled (fall, winter, spring and summer) in basic acting skills classes, scene study, musical theatre, improvisation and more. The benefits include better communication skills, self-confidence and self-esteem, and analytic thinking.

"We tell our students that the skills it takes to succeed as an actor are the same skills that will help them enjoy a richer, fuller life," says Hisa Takakuwa, who directs the conservatory and education programs. She and the faculty delight in seeing students have those "a-ha" moments and watching lives changed for the better. Read on to hear about the benefits of studying acting at SCR.

“SCR had a huge impact on my life. I took classes with a great teacher and the atmosphere was fun, creative and encouraging. I really discovered a passion for drama here and am thankful for the experience.”

—Ryan Eggold, actor, “New Amsterdam,” “The Blacklist” and “Entourage.”

“We have seen each of our kids blossom as they developed confidence, self-esteem and skills that will help them in whatever fields they pursue. They have learned to think on their feet, to work well with others and to look within themselves for the answers.”
—*Laura Forbes, parent*

—Laura Forbes, parent

“SCR shaped me into the person I am. I feel like I grew up, made the most incredible friends and discovered my love for acting at this theatre. I feel lucky that I had the opportunity to study acting here.”
—*Rachel Charny, alumna*

—Rachel Charny, alumna



This Theatre operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States



The Scenic, Costume, Lighting and Sound Designers in LORT theatres are represented by United Scenic Artists Local USA-829, IATSE.



The theatre is a member of Arts Orange County, the official local arts agency.

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Session II: July 28 – Aug. 8

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