



Las Virgenes Unified School District  
4111 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302  
(818) 880-4000 • Fax (818) 880-4200  
<http://lvusd.org>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**DATE – January 3, 2018**

LVUSD & The Beacon for the Arts Fund proudly present ***NOW BOARDING, A Festival of Original Plays to Benefit the LVUSD Performing Arts***. All proceeds from the performance of this collection of short musicals, stories and plays will **BENEFIT THE PERFORMING ART PROGRAMS IN THE LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**.

Agoura Hills, CA – The Las Virgenes Unified School District is happy to announce that its fifth annual performance to benefit its Performing Arts programs will be held on Saturday, February 24th 2018, at the luxurious 650-seat, state-of-the-art Performing Arts Education Center on the campus of Agoura High School.

This touching performance will feature a talented selection of the District’s elementary, middle, and high school students, families, faculty, and alumni that will write, direct, or perform in an original collection of short musicals, stories and plays all created specifically for this event, including a special play written by our very own Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Dan Stepenosky. Other writers will include Cinco Paul, screenwriter of the “Despicable Me” franchise, among other amazing films; LVUSD board member, Angela Cutbill; Joe Hortua, NY and LA playwright and TV writer; among others. The pieces will be directed by Sherri Parker Lee, Abigail Herman, David Krassner, Katie Newcomer, Ray Saar, among others. Each play will be performed by 55 creative and adventurous students & their family members, teachers and staff, all drawn from the LVUSD family. Prior to the performance and during intermission, patrons will be invited to mingle in the lobby with their fellow supporters of the arts and enjoy some tasty treats, as well as have the opportunity win some great prizes. All proceeds will benefit the students in our District's Performing Arts Programs and the Performing Arts Education Centers.

“I am ecstatic at the opportunity to make my debut as a playwright in support of our amazing LVUSD Performing Arts Programs,” said Superintendent Dr. Stepenosky, “We are continuously grateful that the community passed the bond that allowed us to build these state of the art Performing Arts Centers on our High School Campuses, and to continuously support our dreams for both theaters as a ‘beacon for the arts’ in our community. LVUSD’s annual benefit is a celebration of our many talented students, faculty, community members, and of course our wonderful Performing Arts Education Centers!

All proceeds from the Benefit will go to support the performing arts programs in the Las Virgenes Unified School District and the Performing Arts Education Centers, which were established in 2012 to house the outstanding performing arts programs throughout the District. The PAEC’s were created to inspire, teach and motivate students, many of whom have gone on to professional careers in the performing arts. The purpose of the funds raised is two-fold: to ensure that the robust performing arts programs in Las Virgenes continue to thrive; and to provide for ongoing operation and maintenance of the theaters, assuring that these tremendous assets will benefit the students and community for generations to come.

Tickets for this wonderful event are available online at [www.thePAECs.org](http://www.thePAECs.org) and also during regular Performing Arts Education Center Box Office hours.



Las Virgenes Unified School District  
4111 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302  
(818) 880-4000 • Fax (818) 880-4200  
<http://lvusd.org>

**Calendar Listing for:**

**NOW BOARDING**

A Festival of Original Plays to Benefit the LVUSD Performing Arts

**Venue:** Performing Arts Education Center  
A-PAEC (on the campus of Agoura High School)  
28545 W. Driver Ave.; Agoura Hills, CA 91301

The A-PAEC on Google Maps: <https://plus.google.com/111824922548378607730/about?gl=us&hl=en>

**Two Performance Schedule:**

February 24th, 2018 at 2:00 and 7:00PM

**Tickets:** Tickets are available during regular A-PAEC Box Office hours, Monday-Friday, 2:00 to 4:00pm, and at all public PAEC performances in both Agoura Hills and Calabasas.

**Online:** Tickets are available at: [www.thePAECs.org](http://www.thePAECs.org), and [www.FaceBook.com/thePAECs](http://www.FaceBook.com/thePAECs)

For more information and a link to purchase tickets for all *Performing Arts Education Center* events online, visit: [www.thePAECs.org](http://www.thePAECs.org)

**Phone:** PAEC Box Office, 818-889-8058, ext. 1

**Mailing Address:** The Performing Arts Education Centers  
Las Virgenes Unified School District  
4111 Las Virgenes Road  
Calabasas, CA 91302

**Theatre Manager Phone:** 818-591-1209 x 2  
**Email:** [theatermanager@lvusd.org](mailto:theatermanager@lvusd.org)  
**Website:** [www.thePAECs.org](http://www.thePAECs.org)  
**FaceBook:** [www.FaceBook.com/thePAECs](http://www.FaceBook.com/thePAECs)  
**Twitter:** @thePAECs  
**Instagram:** @the\_paecs

LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PRESENTS

# NOW BOARDING

A FESTIVAL OF ORIGINAL PLAYS TO  
BENEFIT THE LVUSD PERFORMING ARTS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018, AT 2PM & 7PM

the

PAECs

The Performing Arts Education Centers

ON THE CAMPUS OF AGOURA HIGH SCHOOL  
28545 W. DRIVER AVENUE; AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

GET TICKETS AT [WWW.THEPAECS.ORG](http://WWW.THEPAECS.ORG)



Las Virgenes Unified School District  
4111 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302  
(818) 880-4000 • Fax (818) 880-4200  
<http://lvusd.org>

**The Las Virgenes Unified School District proudly presents:**

**NOW BOARDING**

**A Festival of Original Plays to Benefit the LVUSD Performing Arts**

**February 24th, 2018, 2:00 and 7:00 p.m.**

**at the**

**Performing Arts Education Center  
on the campus of Agoura High School (A-PAEC)**

Tickets for this inspiring event are available online at [www.thePAECs.org](http://www.thePAECs.org)

**ABOUT THE FIFTH ANNUAL EVENT TO BENEFIT THE LVUSD PERFORMING ARTS:**

The Las Virgenes Unified School District will present its Fifth Annual Benefit Performance in celebration of the generosity of its donors, and in support of the creativity and spirit of the amazing students involved in the Performing Arts throughout the District. The Benefit Performance will take place at the A-PAEC, the Performing Arts Education Center on the campus of Agoura High School.

This fifth Annual Benefit shimmers spotlights on the superb performing arts and educational experiences this school district offers to not only the students but the community as a whole. Alongside acknowledging the generosity of our donors and the local communities, the evening will help generate the imperative monies to reach our goal of raising and investing 5 million dollars in the LVUSD Beacon for the Arts Fund. In addition to acknowledging the commitment of our donors and the community to these inspirational facilities, this special evening will generate necessary funds to support the vision for these theaters as thriving performing arts hubs that reach, teach, challenge and inspire not only the students of Las Virgenes, but community members at large.

NOW BOARDING is a collection of short stories, musicals, and plays written by our very own local celebrities, including Dr. Dan Stepenosky, LVUSD Superintendent of Schools; Cinco Paul, screenwriter of the “Despicable Me” franchise, among other amazing films; LVUSD board member, Angela Cutbill; former LVUSD Board Member, Dave Moorman; Joe Hortua, NY and LA playwright and TV writer; among others. The pieces will be directed by Sherri Parker Lee, Abigail Herman, David Krassner, Katie Newcomer, and Ray Saar, among others. The plays will be performed by 55 creative and adventurous students & their family members, teachers and staff, all drawn from the LVUSD family.

**ABOUT THE PLAYS**

**Heading Home - a Play by Dan Stepenosky**

In the wake of her father’s death, a mother of two faces a challenge from her teenage children and



her own mother over where their lives are headed and what they call home.

**Dead Wait - a Play by Jake Marone**

When Arthur, a recently deceased accountant, tries to make his way down the jetway toward whatever the afterlife holds in store for him, he's challenged by Kylie, a surly teenage rocker whose dream of rock-n-roll stardom was cut short for no good reason. Will the Gate Agent prevail and usher Arthur on his way?

**Flying True - a Play by Liz Cangelosi & Angela Cutbill**

A young girl named Millie wanders the airport with her stuffed bear, Fred, and meets three women, each one living a different life at a different time and traveling to a different destination. Over the course of the play, Millie visits 1937, 1977 and 2017, and learns what makes each of these women tick, before ultimately deciding on a destination for herself.

**George and Manny - a Play by Joe Hortua**

Two men cross paths at LAX while waiting for their flights. When Manny, a bright, second-generation Mexican-American political science major returning for classes at Berkeley, sits down next to George, a widowed retiree and Vietnam vet sporting a "Make America Great Again" trucker hat, the brief connection between these two individuals allows them to put their suspicions about each other aside, if only for a moment.

**Lost & Found - a Play with Dance by Dave Moorman**

A woman on the verge of turning her life upside down to become a professional dancer waits for her flight next to a stranger who offers her some free advice on following your dreams. After she dances her way to a decision about what to do next, we learn the stranger is not at all who he seems.

**Standing By - a Musical written by Gilles Chiasson, based on story by Gilles Chiasson & Larry Iser**

Juliet just turned 18. She's running away from home, determined to fly across the country to convince

Romeo, her camp counselor from last summer and first "real" boyfriend, to dump his fiancée and marry her. But first, she's got to get a seat on the plane. Will Juliet's number get called as the airline works its way down the standby list? Will she realize her dream of becoming a wife? Will she realize her dream of becoming a wife isn't her only option?

**The Gate Family - a Play in Parts by The Ferguson Family**

The (real life) Ferguson family will be portraying the "Gate Family" in NOW BOARDING, a mythical family of five who, once their flight is cancelled, spends the rest of the play searching for the right gate that will finally allow them to board a plane and reach their destination. Will the Gate Family find that "golden ticket" that will finally allow them to be on their way? Follow their mad-cap antics throughout the airport to see how it ends...



## **ABOUT THE CAST**

Some of the 55 actors performing in *NOW BOARDING, A Festival of Original Plays to Benefit the LVUSD Performing Arts*, will include:

### **Joe Spano**

Actor Joe Spano, best known for his Emmy-nominated detective role on *Hill Street Blues* (1981), was born in San Francisco, the son of a doctor, and a Bishop Riordan High School and University of California-Berkeley graduate. His intention to be a pre-med major dissipated with the growing interest of acting. While in San Francisco he worked with the improv group The Wing. While at college he made his debut as Paris in a production of "Romeo and Juliet" in 1967 and the very next year helped found the Berkeley Repertory Theatre, appearing in its very first production of "Woyzek." He stayed with the company for 10 years and appeared in many of its plays including "Hamlet" and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof." In the late 1970s he decided to give Hollywood a try and in between guest shots on TV earned bit roles as hoodlums and other assorted urban troublemakers in the films *American Graffiti* (1973) and *The Enforcer* (1976). He also played a seductive vampire in the cult musical "Dracula: A Musical Nightmare" in a small LA theatre. After the success of his hit cop show in the 1980s, Spano appeared here, there and everywhere, but to less notoriety. He's had recurring roles in *Murder One* (1995) and *NYPD Blue* (1993), again as a detective. He has appeared regularly in mini-movies and other television shows as well. He made his Broadway bow in 1992 as Walter in a revival of "The Price" by Arthur Miller. In films, Spano worked alongside Tom Hanks in *Apollo 13* (1995) and Richard Gere and Edward Norton in *Primal Fear* (1996), among others.

### **Bill Garrett**

Bill Garrett has been a Theatre Educator at Calabasas High School for the past 18 years. He is proud to be working at his alma mater, where he found his passion for the arts. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Theatre Arts at California State University, Northridge and his Master's Degree in Education at Pepperdine University. During his time at CHS, Bill has directed over 40 productions. Bill is a strong advocate for the performing arts in education and is a board member of the Drama Teachers Association of Southern California, where he is busy helping to provide opportunities for both students and drama teachers. Awards include: LA County Teacher of the Year, LVUSD Teacher of the Year, two-time CHS "Golden C" recipient, and Los Angeles County's Most Inspirational Teacher.

### **Sami Harnick**

Samantha Harnick is a sophomore at Calabasas High School and has been performing in musical theater since the age of 5. Samantha's favorite roles include The Woman in White in *The Woman in White*, Esther Smith in *Meet Me In St. Louis*, and Brooke Windham in *Legally Blonde* performed at Calabasas High School. Samantha is also the director of *Bare Rhythm*, an award



**winning all girls Acapella group at Calabasas High School.**

### **Angela Levey**

Angela Levey is thrilled to return to the stage in “Now Boarding.” A Southern California native, Angela has been acting and singing since she was a little girl. From numerous Broadway style cabarets to the original cast of “The Hollywood High Tones,” an a cappella group at Universal Studios Japan, Angela has performed all over the world. Some of her fondest memories include entertaining children as Peter Pan’s Wendy at Disneyland. More recently, Angela lends her talents to various film and television series as a voice over artist and stars daily in the role of “Mom” to two wonderful boys.

### **The Ferguson Family (Rob, Keri, Henry, Scarlett, and Samuel)**

The (real life) Ferguson family will be portraying the “Gate Family” in **NOW BOARDING**, a mythical family of five who, once their flight is cancelled, spends the rest of the play searching for the right gate that will finally allow them to board a plane and reach their destination. “Now Boarding” will be everyone’s theatrical debut, and they are all very excited to embark on this adventure together as a family. Rob and Keri met playing in the orchestra for Guys and Dolls at Moorpark College. They have been together for 19 years and married for 11. The Ferguson family has lived in Agoura Hills for 3 years and plans to stay indefinitely. Four dogs, a cat, and some chickens also call the Ferguson house home. Henry is a silly and easy going little guy. He loves to build legos, write stories, read, play baseball, and is learning to play the electric guitar. His red hair has always attracted attention, but his laugh is his best quality - loud and infectious. Henry is a 1st grader at White Oak Elementary. Scarlett is full of love and wonder. She “rolls” in a pink wheelchair and makes friends everywhere she goes. Cerebral Palsy does not stop this girl from enjoying life. Scarlett rides horses, dances with Infinite Flow Kids, and is taking Ukulele lessons. She wants to be a baker when she grows up. Scarlett is a 1st grader at White Oak Elementary. Samuel is a strong-willed, superhero loving 3 year old. He wants to do everything his big brother does. He especially enjoys jumping, climbing, learning how to play sports, and eating. He also likes movies, music, theater, and dancing. He wants to be “Thor” when he grows up. He is a future White Oak Lion.

### **ABOUT THE WRITERS**

Elizabeth Cangelosi is a 15-year Agoura resident and has worked in the area for over 30 years. By trade, Liz is a property manager, working with owners and developers for many of the local Conejo Valley shopping centers and is currently the property manager at The Shoppes at Westlake Village. She has also served on the PFC boards at Yerba Buena Elementary, Lindero Canyon Middle School and most recently as Co-President at Agoura High School. She wrote and starred in the popular 2010 Yerba Buena PFC Boosteritis ad, still in reruns on YouTube. Liz is also very proud to be part of the PAEC family, working in the Agoura PAEC box office since 2013. Liz’s theatre experience



Las Virgenes Unified School District  
4111 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302  
(818) 880-4000 • Fax (818) 880-4200  
<http://lvusd.org>

started when she took on the role of Robot #2 in the 3rd grade school play. She has also seen numerous local productions of *A Chorus Line* and has also read many biographies of Broadway stars, including Noel Coward, Bette Davis, Katherine Hepburn and Cary Grant. Liz, whose husband is Charlie, has two daughters, a UCSD freshman and an Agoura High school junior.

Gilles Chiasson currently serves as Theater Manager of LVUSD's Performing Arts Education Centers in Agoura Hills and Calabasas. Prior to that, he served as Producing Director of the Reprise Theatre Company in Los Angeles, where his productions of *Kiss Me, Kate* and *Cabaret* won Ovation and LA Drama Critics Circle Awards for Best Musical. Gilles served as Associate Director of the world premiere of *WAY OF THE WISEGUY* at the Chicago Center for the Performing Arts, and also directed Katya Lidsky's groundbreaking one-woman show, *I'm Sorry*, at The Lounge Theatre in Hollywood and the Fringe Festival in New York City. As an actor, Gilles originated roles in the Original Broadway Casts of *RENT*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *The Civil War*, and *Baz Luhrmann's La Boheme*; and he performed leading roles in the national tours of *Les Miserables* and *Forever Plaid*. Off Broadway, Gilles originated roles in the World Premieres of *Groundhog* (Manhattan Theatre Club), *Fermat's Last Tango* (York Theatre), and received an Obie Award for his work in the original production of *RENT* (New York Theatre Workshop). Gilles can be heard on the Original Cast Recordings of *RENT*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Fermat's Last Tango*, and *La Boheme*, as well as his solo CD entitled *Slow Down*. As a writer, Gilles wrote the words and music for the musical play, *chrysalis*; and conceived and co-wrote the living newspaper revue, *FISHWRAP*. Gilles is a founder and Emeritus Board Member of Upstate New York's Adirondack Theatre Festival, a long-time member of the New York Theatre Workshop's Usual Suspects, and a member of Bobby Moresco Actors' Gym in Los Angeles. Gilles dedicates his work on this production and everything in his life to his wife, Sherri, and their two boys, Hugo and Beau.

Angela Cutbill has been a member of the Las Virgenes Board of Education since 2013. Born and raised in Kansas, she graduated from college there and worked for both the Kansas Secretary of State and US Senator Bob Dole. She received her MA in Post War European Economic Reconstruction and Political Integration from Durham University in Durham, England in 1987. While living in the UK she worked for Dewe Rogerson Ltd, a government relations consultancy in London, and also in the House of Commons. She and her husband, David, relocated back to the US in 1993, and have lived in Agoura Hills for over 20 years. Before her election to the school board, she was an active school and community volunteer. All three of her children attended LVUSD schools.

Joe Hortua is an American playwright and television writer. He has written such plays as *Other Parents*, *Making It*, and *Between Us* which have been performed at The Manhattan Theatre Club and South Coast Repertory Theatre. *Between Us* was translated into Hebrew and performed at the Be'er Theatre in Israel, and subsequently produced in 2010 at the Ensemble Theatre in Australia. In 2008, the play was published by Dramatists Play Service. The screen adaptation of *Between Us* began filming in May 2011 with stars Julia Stiles, Taye Diggs, David Harbour and Melissa George in the leading roles. Hortua has also written television pilots for the Showtime, FOX and the CW networks, and has been a television writer on shows for the FBC, ABC, NBC, NBC, TNT and CBS





Las Virgenes Unified School District  
4111 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302  
(818) 880-4000 • Fax (818) 880-4200  
<http://lvusd.org>

networks. Notable series include: **Bones, Leverage, The Night Shift, Betrayal**. Joe is married with two children, both of whom attend schools within the Las Virgenes Unified School District.

Larry Iser has been a trial lawyer for over 35 years. He is a founding member of KWIKA -- Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump & Aldisert, a boutique litigation law firm in Santa Monica. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan (B.A. 1976) and the University of California, Hastings College of Law (J.D. 1980) Larry specializes in the areas of intellectual property and entertainment litigation. He is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*, ranked in the prestigious *Chambers and Partners* directory, named as a *Top Music Industry Lawyer* by *Billboard* and a *Power Lawyer* by the *Hollywood Reporter*, listed on the *Honor Roll: Attorneys Who Helped Change the Face of Entertainment* by *Variety*, honored as an "Intellectual Property Trailblazer" by the *National Law Journal*, recognized by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal* as one of the *Top 10 California lawyers* in the area of *Entertainment Intellectual Property*, has been consistently named "Super Lawyer" by *Super Lawyer Magazine* and recognized in "Who's Who in Entertainment IP" by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*. Larry represents a large number of very cool clients, including *Mattel, Apple and SeaWorld*. Larry has long represented numerous clients in the music business including *The Beatles, Michael Jackson, Jackson Browne, Crosby, Stills & Nash, David Byrne, Axl Rose, The Doors, The Carpenters, The Wiggles, eBay/StubHub, The Estate of Ira Gershwin, The Estate of Janis Joplin* and jazz artists including *Branford Marsalis, Kevin Eubanks and Savoy Records*. During his time at the University of Michigan, Larry was a member of the *Michigan Marching Band and Michigan Jazz Band*, and served for two years as the *Music Director for MUSKET*, the student theatre organization. More recently, Larry served for 5 years as *President of the Reprise Theatre Company* in Los Angeles.

Jake Marone is 17 years old and is a senior at Agoura High School. He has written his first play for the *Beacon of The Arts* benefit, and is excited to share his work with everyone. Jake's background in theatre is quite extensive, having performed in over ten plays and musicals, and being a varsity player on the *Agoura High School ComedySportz* team. He hopes you enjoy the event, and asks everyone to stick to their dreams, no matter the cost.

Dave Moorman has been involved in the entertainment industry since 1979, when he oversaw technology for game shows such as "Tic Tac Dough", "The Joker's Wild" and many others. For several years in the mid 1980s he served as Advertising Director for PCH sportswear, where he produced early MTV commercials and some the first fashion music videos of the era. Dave created a production company in the late 1980s and produced commercials and corporate programs for companies like Anheuser-Busch, NEC, Hilton, and Hyatt. In the 1990s he helped design several post-production facilities in the Los Angeles area, culminating in creation of *Image Resources Film + Video*, a full-service post facility in Woodland Hills. Dave has been a producer on a number of TV shows and independent films, and has served as *Post Supervisor, Supervising Sound Editor, and Re-Recording Mixer* on hundreds of hours of television and scores of feature films. As a parent and resident of Agoura Hills, Dave got involved in the Las Virgenes schools, first as a PFA president, then as a two-term School Board member (2005-2013). While serving on the Board, Dave was instrumental in moving the bond measure forward that secured funding for the two *Performing Arts Education Centers*, and was a member of the District's *Facilities Committee*, overseeing the design and construction of the PAECs. His commitment to arts in education continues as he has



served on the PAEC Advisory Committee since its inception.

Cinco Paul grew up in Phoenix, Arizona dreaming of becoming a famous pop musician. He graduated summa cum laude from Yale University, abandoned his dreams of pop stardom, got an M.F.A. in screenwriting from USC and became a screenwriter instead. Life's funny that way. With Ken Daurio he has written the movies *Despicable Me*, *Despicable Me 2*, *Despicable Me 3*, *DR. Seuss Horton Hears a Who*, *DR. Seuss' The Lorax*, *The Secret Life of Pets*, *The Santa Clause 2*, and *Bubble Boy*. He also wrote the lyrics for the six songs in *The Lorax*, and is the recipient of the ASCAP Sammy Cahn Award for lyric writing and the Harold Arlen Award for the score of *Bubble Boy the Musical*, the original cast recording of which was just released on Sh-K- Boom Records. He currently lives in southern California with his wife Amy in a house that feels really empty now that his three children have grown up and left home.

Daniel Stepenosky was born and raised outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Stepenosky attended Villanova University on a Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) scholarship. He graduated in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics. Dr. Stepenosky served four and a half years in the United States Navy, first on the Destroyer USS Waddell and then on the Cruiser USS Chancellorville. While in the Navy, Dr. Stepenosky was engaged in counter narcotics operations off the coast of South America and in Operation Southern Watch in the Persian Gulf. After the Navy, Dr. Stepenosky received his Teaching Credential from the University of San Diego. He taught Physics, AP Physics, Astronomy, and Physical Science at Beverly Hills High School from 1995-2000; served as Assistant Principal at Beverly Hills High from 2000-2003; and Principal of Beverly Hills High from 2003-2006. Dr. Stepenosky received his administrative credential and Masters in Education Leadership from California State University Northridge in 1999. He received his doctorate from UCLA in 2003 from the Graduate School of Information and Education Studies. His doctoral dissertation was on "Preventing School Shootings" and his research for this was conducted at Columbine High School. Dr. Stepenosky joined the Las Virgenes Unified School District in 2006 and served as Assistant Superintendent of Personnel until 2011. He was the District's Deputy Superintendent from 2011-12 and was appointed Superintendent of Schools in 2012. In 2016 Dr. Stepenosky was selected as Superintendent of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators. Dr. Stepenosky has lived in Calabasas since 2002 and has two children in Las Virgenes Unified School District.

#### **ABOUT THE DIRECTORS:**

Gilles Chiasson currently serves as Theater Manager of LVUSD's Performing Arts Education Centers in Agoura Hills and Calabasas. Prior to that, he served as Producing Director of the Reprise Theatre Company in Los Angeles, where his productions of *Kiss Me, Kate* and *Cabaret* won Ovation and LA Drama Critics Circle Awards for Best Musical. Gilles served as Associate Director of the world premiere of *WAY OF THE WISEGUY* at the Chicago Center for the Performing Arts, and also directed Katya Lidsky's groundbreaking one-woman show, *I'm Sorry*, at The Lounge Theatre in Hollywood and the Fringe Festival in New York City. As an actor, Gilles originated roles in the Original Broadway Casts of *RENT*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *The Civil War*, and *Baz Luhrmann's La Boheme*; and he performed leading roles in the national tours of *Les Miserables* and *Forever Plaid*. Off Broadway, Gilles originated roles in the World Premieres of



Las Virgenes Unified School District  
4111 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302  
(818) 880-4000 • Fax (818) 880-4200  
<http://lvusd.org>

**Groundhog** (Manhattan Theatre Club), **Fermat's Last Tango** (York Theatre), and received an Obie Award for his work in the original production of **RENT** (New York Theatre Workshop). Gilles can be heard on the Original Cast Recordings of **RENT**, **The Scarlet Pimpernel**, **Fermat's Last Tango**, and **La Boheme**, as well as his solo CD entitled **Slow Down**. As a writer, Gilles wrote the words and music for the musical play, **chrysalis**; and conceived and co-wrote the living newspaper revue, **FISHWRAP**. Gilles is a founder and Emeritus Board Member of Upstate New York's Adirondack Theatre Festival, a long-time member of the New York Theatre Workshop's Usual Suspects, and a member of Bobby Moresco Actors' Gym in Los Angeles. Gilles dedicates his work on this production and everything in his life to his wife, Sherri, and their two boys, Hugo and Beau.

**David Krassner** is thrilled to be here at Agoura High School. He has spent the previous six years downtown at GRAND ARTS overseeing productions of Anna Deavere Smith's **Twilight**, Los Angeles, **Suzi Lori Parks 365**, the student directed production of **Cannibal, The Musical**, as well as **Charley's Aunt**, two Student Outreach Shows and **The Laramie Project**. Some of his many acting performances include the original Broadway company of Harvey Fierstein's Tony award winning play **Torch**, off Broadway, several National Tours, as well as appearances in some of our country's finest regional theatres. He has appeared in over 40 television episodes most recently on **Castle**, **Medium**, **Arrested Development** and **Without a Trace**. He is the co-creator and co-director of **Camp Bravo**, an award winning Theatre Arts Summer Program now in its 23rd season and also served as artistic director of **Theater 40** in Beverly Hills. His previous Los Angeles directing projects have won numerous awards, including **Twilight of the Golds**, **The Immigrant**, most notably his production of **House of Correction**, which was listed by the LA Times as one of the "top 10 shows of the year". Most importantly, he is the proud parent of **Andrzej** and **Nina**, and he could not accomplish any of this work without the support and patience of his amazing partner, **Arthur**.

**Abigail Margulis (Herman)** With nearly 30 years of experience in various capacities of theatre, Abigail considers arts education and working with aspiring performers one of her greatest passions. She attended Baltimore School for the Arts (high school) for theatre and studied musical theatre at Pennsylvania State University. She began her teaching career as an instructor in the children's program at Broadway Dance Center in NYC and has since had her choreography win praise at competitions such as New York City Dance Alliance and Tremaine. As a director, writer, and producer, she has mounted productions on both coasts and is the theatre specialist at Temple Judea. She is often sought out as a private coach for her deeply nurturing style while helping her students navigate the "business" of show. She continues to perform herself, most recently demo-ing vocals for the role of "Ivy" and creating the role of "Tink, the blogger" in **Comic Con- the Musical** at the 2017 Hollywood Fringe Festival and for the 2016 Stephan Schwartz ASCAP Foundation Musical Theatre Workshop. Abigail is a proud parent of two boys benefiting from the amazing arts programs in LVUSD.

**Katie Newcomer** began her career with LVUSD in 2016 as the front desk receptionist at the District Office. In June of 2017 she moved over to the Educational Services wing to become the co-pilot to **Ryan Gleason**, Director of Education and Leadership. Though she has only been with LVUSD a short time, she has fallen in love with the spirit of the district, and has been so grateful to have so many opportunities to bring her theatre background to the table. Katie holds a BA in Theatre from California Lutheran University and an MFA in Acting from The New School for Drama in NYC.



**She also attended conservatory at PCPA, a renowned regional theatre on the central coast, and completed her Teaching Artist training at Seattle Children’s Theatre. Katie looks forward to more wonderful opportunities like this where her love of theatre and education can commingle and make magic.**

**Sherri Parker Lee directed the voices for the animated series “My Favorite Towels” and has served as ADR and Looping Coordinator for “Shades of Blue”, “From Dusk ‘Til Dawn”, “Mixology”, and Disney’s “Descendants 2”, among others. As an actor, she originated the role of Eva Crane in the Broadway premiere of Tennessee Williams Not About Nightingales, after originating the role in the World Premiere of the play at the Royal National Theatre in London. She has been seen off-Broadway in The Vagina Monologues; Madagascar, Don Juan, Burning Blue, Lemonade. She won the National Broadway Award for Best Actress in a play for her work in the First National Tour of The Vagina Monologues. Around the country, she performed in four seasons as a company member of the Alley Theatre in Houston, as well as at The American Repertory Theatre and the Moving Theatre Company. She has been seen on television on such shows as “Major Crimes”, “NCIS”, “Touch”, “Hawthorne”, “Shark”, “Pretty Tough”, “Law & Order SVU” “Sex & the City”, “Slacker Cats”, “The Black Donnellys”, “The Jury”, “The Practice”, and “The Division”, as well as in the feature films Emit, Daydream Believer Mercury in Retrograde, Little Kings, and Just Within Reach, among others. Sherri is a graduate of the American Repertory Theatre Institute at Harvard University and now lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two wonderful children.**

**Raymond Saar has performed on concert stages and in theatres throughout the world. He starred as Raoul in Andrew Lloyd Webber’s *Phantom Of The Opera* in San Francisco. He toured with Sammy Cahn in his original musical, Words and Music. Mr. Saar played Marius, Enjolras, and Fuilley in *Les Miserables* on Broadway and in the Los Angeles productions and was one of the featured soloists on the international cast album. He played Lun Thau in the national tour of *The King And I*, starring Yul Brynner. Mr. Saar has been a guest soloist with many symphony orchestras including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Houston Symphony, Pacific Symphony, the Dallas Symphony, the Los Angeles Pops Orchestra, the Long Beach Symphony, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Mr. Saar worked with Peter Marshall and his singing group, Chapter Five as an opening act for such notables as Bob Hope, Bob Newhart, Joan Rivers, and a command performance at the White House. Mr. Saar has directed both professionally and locally with credits which include *The Best of Andrew Lloyd Webber*, *A Gershwin Celebration* and *Broadway Showstoppers* all National and International tours. Turning his attention to the new artists in our midst, Mr. Saar has directed and choreographed both operas and musicals for California State University, Northridge, Agoura High School, Teenage Drama Workshop, Lindero Canyon Middle School as well as working as the Artist Director for Youth Musical Theatre, a premier theatre arts program serving the greater San Fernando Valley.**



Las Virgenes Unified School District  
4111 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302  
(818) 880-4000 • Fax (818) 880-4200  
<http://lvusd.org>

## **ABOUT THE LVUSD BEACON FOR THE ARTS FUND**

The LVUSD Beacon for the Arts Fund is a segregated, secure fund that is held and managed by the California Community Foundation, one of the oldest and largest charitable fund administrators in southern California. The Beacon Fund can be used strictly for the support of LVUSD performing arts programs and the operation and maintenance of the Performing Arts Education Centers. Expenditures from the Fund are directed solely by The LVUSD Performing Arts Education Center Advisory Committee, comprised of community members, performing arts teachers, principals, school Board members and LVUSD business officials, all of whom have a deep commitment to the role of the arts in a complete education and as a meaningful part of community life.

Make a gift that keeps on giving. This is a unique opportunity to honor a family member or graduate, or to pay tribute to a wonderful teacher or friend, while simultaneously providing vital support to the LVUSD performing arts programs and their new, state-of-the-art homes, the PAECs.

Your donation of \$1000 or \$2500 will permanently name a seat in the MainStage Theater illustrated by a plaque prominently displaying any name you designate. Your donation of \$5000 or higher will permanently name a PAEC room, theatre, lobby, or even the building. Two beautiful plaques bearing the name you designate will be prominently featured next to the room or space you name as well as on the Donor Wall in one of our Main Lobbies.

Become an LVUSD Beacon for the Arts Fund Donor in the way that suits you best. Download the appropriate pledge form for all donations at [www.thePAECs.org](http://www.thePAECs.org), and then submit the completed form to:

The Performing Arts Education Centers, LVUSD, 4111 Las Virgenes Rd. Calabasas, CA 91302

Payments may be processed with the pledge form or made directly to the California Community Foundation (CCF) by one of the following methods: by check made payable to The LVUSD Beacon for the Arts Fund, by credit card, or by gifts of appreciated securities. You can also contribute through corporate matching gifts or another Donor Advised Fund. A variety of Installment Payment Plans are also available.

Contact Gilles Chiasson, Theatre Manager, at [gchiasson@lvusd.org](mailto:gchiasson@lvusd.org) or 818-591-1209, ext. 2, to discuss the many ways you can support the Fund to determine the one that best suits you.

The Fund's current goal is \$5 million. Join us by making a gift today! For more information, visit [www.thePAECs.org](http://www.thePAECs.org).



Las Virgenes Unified School District  
4111 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302  
(818) 880-4000 • Fax (818) 880-4200  
<http://lvusd.org>

## **ABOUT THE PERFORMING ARTS EDUCATION CENTERS**

Thanks to a significant community investment, the dream of having state-of-the-art performance venues in the Las Virgenes community has been realized. By passing the Measure G construction bond in 2006, the community enabled the Las Virgenes Unified School District to build two professionally-equipped theatres designed to enhance the educational opportunities for all students, as well as bring top-quality arts programming to the community as a whole.

Each PAEC features a 650-seat Main Stage Theater and a Black Box Theater with a flexible seating configuration up to 100. In addition, each PAEC features advanced technology for classroom instruction and lectures, a full orchestra pit with hydraulic lift, professional acoustics, lighting and sound systems, high-quality dressing rooms, a scene shop, a costume shop, a green room, a full fly gallery, rear projection capabilities, as well as a concession booth and a box office in each lobby. For more information, visit [www.thePAECs.org](http://www.thePAECs.org).

## **ABOUT THE LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The Las Virgenes Unified School District is located in northern Los Angeles County and encompasses the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills and Westlake Village. It is a destination public school district, well known for its educational excellence in both academics and the performing arts. The District and its individual schools have received numerous accolades including, most notably, College Board's AP Honor Roll, National Blue Ribbon Schools Award, California Gold Ribbon Schools Award, California Distinguished Schools Award, U.S. News Best High Schools Award, and named High Performance District in American Institute for Research. It is ranked in the top 2% in the California Advanced Placement Index. The District offers a wide variety of programs including Dual-Immersion; L-STEM; International Baccalaureate; Arts & Media Academy; STEAM; AP Capstone; Waldorf-inspired school; preschool; and world-class arts, drama, music and dance programs. For more information, visit [www.LVUSD.org](http://www.LVUSD.org).