

SIERRA MADRE *Playhouse*

Solo Shows Festival



BILLIE! BACKSTAGE WITH LADY DAY

WRITTEN BY AND STARRING
SYNTHIA L. HARDY



February
25-27



March
4-6



EINSTEIN!

Written by and starring
Jack Fry



April
2-3



Independence

The True Story of Dr. Mary Walker

written & directed by Lloyd J. Schwartz
starring Kathie Barnes



April
9-10



ONE MAD ACT CHANGED HISTORY FOREVER **AN EVENING WITH** **JOHN WILKES BOOTH**

BY
LLOYD J. SCHWARTZ & CLINTON CASE

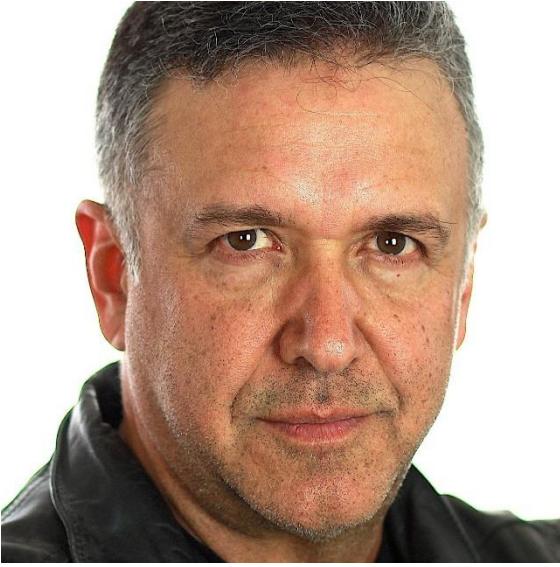
STARRING
STEPHEN SPIEGEL



April
23-24

Tickets: SierraMadrePlayhouse.org or 626.355.4318

FROM THE PRODUCER



Welcome to the Solo Shows Festival. When asked to produce 5 short theatrical events to ramp up SMP's return to live shows, I was honored to join this prestigious theater. Even more honored to be asked to be their Interim Artistic Director. Following in the footsteps of Christian Lebano is no small feat, even if it's just for a short time. His contribution to SMP was immeasurable and

we will strive to show the respect that he deserves by bringing you, our faithful audience, great theater and events. I handpicked these fabulous one-person shows that I think you'll love.

Synthia L. Hardy's *Billie!...* is a wonderful take, brilliantly performed show that was born in Sherman Oaks at the Whitefire Theatre and has played to full houses galore. Bringing Synthia's raw and expressive Billie Holiday to Sierra Madre is a gutsy move, but one I think our audiences deserve to enjoy. Once I had her involved, I went to one of Sierra Madre's own super talents, **Frank Ferrante**, whose ***GROUCHO*** is going to be featured in its own special on *PBS* in April. Seeing him live is a fun-packed family event filled with music and jokes. It's a show not to be missed LIVE! How do you follow-up on these two great artists? **Jack Fry's *EINSTEIN!*** was a perfect choice, as his exceptional take on Einstein's younger years is masterful and needs to be seen. This brought me to my dear, extremely talented friend, **Kathie Barnes**, playing **Dr. Mary Walker** in ***INDEPENDENCE...*** When she was creating this show with the fabulous Lloyd J. Schwartz, I was fortunate to work with her on her lines, so I knew how fabulous this show was from its start. I had no idea who Mary Walker was and the more I found out, the

FROM THE PRODUCER

more I knew women of all ages (and men) had to hear her story. Naturally, when this opportunity fell into my lap, I was overjoyed to bring her onboard. When she told me that Lloyd had another one-person show that he co-authored with Clinton Case about the infamous *...John Wilkes Booth*, I knew I had my fifth show. **Stephen Spiegel** is going to knock your socks off with his portrayal. When I read *Killing Lincoln* by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard, which described in detail so much of the assassination and JWB's story, I was enthralled. Seeing this one-man show was just too intriguing to pass up, especially at a time when our country seems almost as split as it was back then.

I hope you enjoy these shows and find this a great way to come back to live theater. Let these shows whet your appetite for the amazing season SMP has planned for the rest of the year.

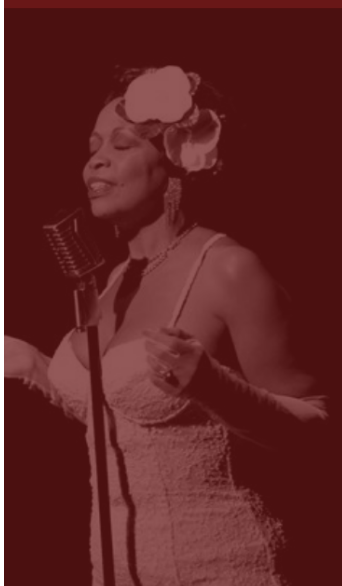
- Gary B. Lamb



SIERRA MADRE *Playhouse*

Solo Shows Festival

presents

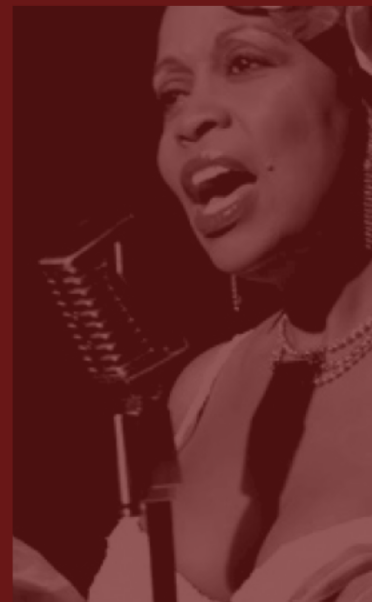


BILLIE!

BACKSTAGE WITH LADY DAY

**WRITTEN BY AND STARRING
SYNTHIA L. HARDY**

**DIRECTED BY
BRYAN RASMUSSEN**



February 25 @ 8 pm, February 26 @ 8 pm,
and February 27 @ 2:30 pm

Tickets: SierraMadrePlayhouse.org or 626.355.4318

Billie! Backstage with Lady Day

Written by Synthia L. Hardy

Directed by Bryan Rasmussen

CAST

Billie Holiday.....Synthia L. Hardy

BAND

Piano (Piano Man).....Lanny Hartley

Drummer (Papa Joe Jones).....Bobby Wilkerson

Saxophone (Lester Young/"Prez").....Jay Flat

Bass (Gene Ramsey).....Dwayne "Augi" Augustine

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

SERIES UNDERWRITERS

Ward & Louise Calaway

David Gordon

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Please turn off all electronic devices.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....Bryan Rasmussen

Producer.....Gary B. Lamb

Production Stage Manager.....Jeanne Marie Valleroy

Technical Director.....Todd McCraw

Program, Poster, & Graphic Design.....Berrie Tsang

Publicist.....Phil Sokoloff

Billie Backstage with Lady Day

BIOGRAPHIES



Synthia L. Hardy (Author/Billie Holiday)

is an Award-winning actress, singer, dancer who has appeared in film, on T.V., commercials (radio and T.V.) and on stages nationally and internationally. She was recently featured in the film, *Sylvie's Love*. She won the 2011 NAACP Theatre Award for *Billie! Backstage With Lady Day* for Best One Person Show. She also won two Artistic Director Achievement

Awards (A.D.A.) for the same show (*Billie!...*) for Best Actress in a Musical or Comedy and Best One Person Show. Synthia won an Emmy Award for the documentary, *Precious Memories: A Stroll Down 47th Street* and has received other awards and nominations for her work, including another NAACP Theatre Award, Dramalogue Critics Award (twice), LA Weekly Award (just to name a few). Some of Synthia's work includes: *Home; Merry Wives of Windsor; Flyin' West; Rap Master Ronnie; The Little Dreamer: A Night in the Life of Bessie Smith* and *A Corner of Gold*. She has written and starred in her own cabaret show, *Dinner Musicale with Synthia & Friends*. Synthia has toured with various singing groups doing tributes to Oldies and Doo Wop girl groups. Synthia has sang backup for Della Reese in a gospel choir and other shows, Bruce Willis' blues Band and others. She has toured extensively in and out of the United States singing tributes to Motown, the Oldies and various girls' groups. Synthia is originally from the Windy City, Chicago. She decided to trade in the cold and snow for the Los Angeles sunshine and warmth. Stay tuned for more!!!

Billie! Backstage with Lady Day

BIOGRAPHIES

Bryan Rasmussen (Director) is an award-winning actor as well as a director, producer, teacher, coach, and Artistic Director of the Whitefire Theatre, he's proud to be celebrating its' 33rd anniversary season this year! Beside directing most of the last year's *Shorts* shows including Hollywood, Summer, Fall, and Spring Shorts, in the 10 years he has owned the Whitefire Bryan has produced well over 500 shows, as well as over 50 world premiere productions including *The Bellblower Session*, *Love Like Blue*, *Mark Twain in the 20th Century*, *Seasons of Change* and many others. He recently directed and acted in the world premiere of the critically acclaimed production of *FIREHOUSE* as well as directing the NAACP Best Solo Show of the Year award-winning *BILLIE! Backstage with Lady Day* about the life of Billie Holiday. He directed and starred in the 50th Anniversary production of Harold Pinter's *The Dumb Waiter* as well as produced and directed the world premiere of *Fetish*, and the world premiere of the kids show, *Old School*, as part of his Young Actors School. Bryan also directed the 35th anniversary production of Sam Shepard's *Buried Child*. Bryan is proud to be collaborating with Academy Award winning director/writer Bobby Moresco on upcoming theatre projects to be announced soon. Bryan founded the famous Itchey Foot Cabaret in downtown LA in the 80's as well as having been a member of the famed South Coast Repertory. He trained at ACT in San Francisco and received his BA in theatre from Cal State Long Beach. Having acted in over 60 plays, you can also catch him on screen in the critically acclaimed movie *Rampart* with Woody Harrelson as well as in the Shonda Rhimes primetime hit, *Scandal* on ABC as Howie. His new horror movie *Under the Bed* with Jonny Miller is out as well as the much anticipated *The Bronx Bull* coming soon.

Billie! Backstage with Lady Day

BIOGRAPHIES

Other Film/TV credits include *Sons of Anarchy*, *Prime Suspect*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Southland*, *Bones*, *Big Love*, *24*, and most recently worked opposite Jessica Lange in *American Horror Story* as Hank on FX as well as guest starring on the final season premiere of *The Mentalist* on CBS as well as the new feature film *Threshold*. Bryan is a proud member of the Actors' Gym.

Lanny Hartley (Piano Man) is a jazz pianist, conductor and composer who began his career as the pianist for his church in Burlington, New Jersey. With a solid gospel music background, he went on to study Music Education at Indiana University. Jazz piano became his love and he performed with such great jazz artists as Wes Montgomery, Dizzy Gillespie, Freddie Hubbard, Lou Rawls and Linda Hopkins. Lanny has also played for pop artists such as Thelma Houston, The Fifth Dimension, Joe Tex and Syreeta Wright. He has been the Musical Conductor/Director for such shows as *Ain't Misbehavin*, (Alaska): *Tracks* (Yolanda King); *The Late Great Ladies of Blues and Jazz* (Sandra Reeves); *The Delia Reese Musical Tour*; and *Dinah Was* (New York, Los Angeles, and Williamstown). Hartley's screen credits include the television movie *Sinatra* as a blind piano player, the motion picture *Harlem Nights* as a piano player, as the church organist in the ABC television series *Soul Man* starring Dan Ackroyd, and appearances in *Paradise Alley*, *Private Benjamin*, *Dallas*, and *Home Front*.

Bobby Wilkerson (Drummer/Papa Joe Jones) is an industry drummer for the groups Troop, LTD, Slave, Mark Wood of Lakeside and producer for Fox Sports and countless up-and-coming indie artists. He played on *Tribute to Motown and Oldies But Goodies* tours and various and special events. Bobby also teaches at organizations that help kids learn about music.

Billie! Backstage with Lady Day

BIOGRAPHIES

Jerry "Jay Flat" William (Saxophone/Lester Young/"Prez"), born and raised in Chicago, was exposed at a young age to many different types of music, giving him the tools and knowledge to play many different genres of music, such as funk, Latin, reggae, pop, jazz, Calypso, rock, Soca and R&B. While proficient on soprano, alto, tenor, and baritone saxophones, Jay Flat also plays flute, clarinet and steel pan. He has worked with distinguished musicians and artists such as Anderson.Paak, Dr. Dre, Marsha Ambrosius, Ella Mai, Damon Dash, Talib Kweli, Snoop Dogg, Ice Cube, Swizz Beats, Patti Austin, Louis Price, and Mary J. Blige just to name a few. Jay Flat earned his Bachelors of Music Performance Degree at Northern Illinois University.

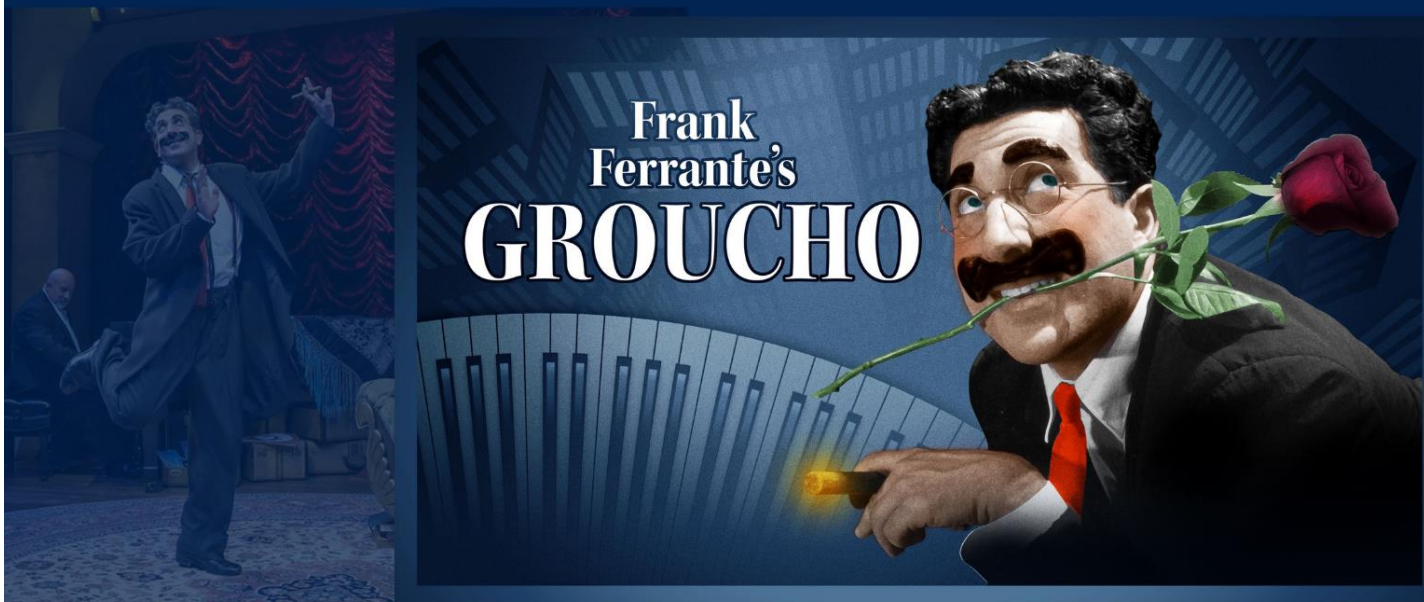
Dwayne "AUGI" Augustine (Bass/Gene Ramsey) was born and reared in Los Angeles. By the age of 18, he was playing in garage bands of every style of music (R&B, rock, pop, jazz, Afri-Latin, blues, etc.). He became the youngest member in the New American Symphony Orchestra in Los Angeles! Although he plays all styles of music, his forte is Afri-Latin Jazz. AUGI is also an excellent salsa dancer and popularly utilizes these skills on stage with his bass. In 2012 he released his debut CD "Citizens of the World". AUGI is in a rare class that only few artists ever achieve: multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, composer, producer, performer and engineer!



SIERRA MADRE *Playhouse*

Solo Shows Festival

presents



March 4 @ 8 pm, March 5 @ 2:30 pm & 8 pm,
and March 6 @ 2:30 pm

Tickets: SierraMadrePlayhouse.org or 626.355.4318

Frank Ferrante's GROUCHO

Written by Frank Ferrante

Directed Drea Weber

CAST

Groucho.....Frank Ferrante

MUSIC ACCOMPANIMENT

Accompanist.....Gerald Sternbach

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

SERIES UNDERWRITERS

Ward & Louise Calaway

David Gordon

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Please turn off all electronic devices.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....Drea Weber

Producer.....Gary B. Lamb

Production Stage Manager.....Jeanne Marie Valleroy

Technical Director.....Todd McCraw

Program, Poster, & Graphic Design.....Berrie Tsang

Publicist.....Phil Sokoloff

Frank Ferrante's GROUCHO

BIOGRAPHIES



Frank Ferrante (Groucho/Writer) The Chicago Tribune named long-time Sierra Madrean Frank Ferrante as one of the top ten performances of 2019 for his work in the cirque spectacular *Teatro ZinZanni*. In July 2021, Frank was the first actor to welcome back audiences to the Chicago Theatre district during the pandemic. Recently, Frank directed and performed at Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theatre's

production of Ken Ludwig's *A Comedy of Tenors*. There he directed and played the lead role, Pseudolus, in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, acknowledged by the Wall Street Journal as one of the top performances in the country for 2017. Described by The New York Times as "the greatest living interpreter of Groucho Marx's material," *Animal Crackers* and *A Night at the Opera* co-author Morrie Ryskind called him "the only actor aside from Groucho who delivered my lines as they were intended." Discovered by Groucho's son Arthur when Frank was a drama student at the University of Southern California, Frank originated the off-Broadway title role in *Groucho: A Life in Revue* (written by Arthur) portraying the comedian from age 15 to 85. For this role, 23 year-old Frank earned New York's Theatre World Award and an Outer Critics Circle nomination. He reprised the role in London's West End and was nominated for the Laurence Olivier Award for "Comedy Performance of the Year." Frank played the Groucho role in the off-Broadway revival of *The Cocoanuts* and has played Captain Spalding in several productions of

Frank Ferrante's GROUCHO

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Animal Crackers, winning a Connecticut Critics Circle Award for his portrayal at Goodspeed Opera House and a Helen Hayes nomination in Washington, DC at Arena Stage. In Boston, he played the Huntington Theatre in the record-breaking run of *Animal Crackers* that landed Frank on the cover of *American Theatre Magazine*. Frank has now performed the Groucho role over 3,000 times in more than 500 cities. Recently, Frank toured *An Evening with Groucho* for eight weeks in Australia playing 35 cities as well as extended runs at Milwaukee Repertory Theater and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. His other regional roles include Max Prince in Neil Simon's *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* at the Walnut Street Theatre (which Frank also directed); George S. Kaufman in *By George* (a one-man play written by Frank); Oscar in *The Odd Couple* and leads in *The Sunshine Boys*, *Lady in the Dark* and *Anything Goes*. Frank directed *M*A*S*H* star Jamie Farr in the Kaufman & Hart comedy *George Washington Slept Here* and at the Walnut revivals of Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Broadway Bound* and *Lost in Yonkers*. In 1995, he directed and developed the world premiere of the Pulitzer Prize finalist *Old Wicked Songs*. In 2001, Frank directed, produced and starred in the national PBS television program *Groucho: A Life in Revue*. Frank has played over 1,500 performances as the comic Latin lover Caesar in the cirque show *Teatro ZinZanni* in Seattle and San Francisco and in Palazzo in Amsterdam. On television, Frank played a speaking mime on Rob Corddry's Emmy Award-winning comedy *Children's Hospital* and can be heard on the animated series *Garfield* as the voice of Lyman, Odie's first owner, and on *SpongeBob SquarePants* as Patrick's boss. Frank stars in the web series *Caesar's World* now viewable on Funny or Die. He is a question on the TV

Frank Ferrante's GROUCHO

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program *Jeopardy*. “He took his portrayal of Groucho Marx to New York in 1986.” The answer: “Who is Frank Ferrante?” Last October, Frank received a 'star' on Palm Springs Walk of Stars. In April 2022, a filmed version of the show will be broadcast nationally on *PBS* as *Frank Ferrante's GROUCHO*.

Dreya Weber (Director) has directed extended runs of *An Evening with Groucho* at Seattle's ACT, the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, the Pasadena Playhouse, the Bucks County Playhouse and Cincinnati's Playhouse in the Park. Dreya recently directed and choreographed *Sensatia* at the Faena theater in Miami. Dreya produced and starred in *The Gymnast* and *A Marine Story*, collectively honored with 48 U.S. and international film festival awards including seven “Best Actress” honors. Dreya co-directed and wrote the recently released independent feature *Raven's Touch* in which she plays the title role. Her most recent film in which she stars and produces is *The Aerialist* released this year. She conceived and directed *Caesar's World*, now viewable on Funny or Die. Dreya writes extensively for many cirque/theater venues including Teatro ZinZanni, Palazzo and Le Studio. Her stage credits include *As You Like It* at Los Angeles Women's Shakespeare Company, *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings* at CTG and the award-winning West Coast premiere of Austin Pendleton's *Orson's Shadow* in which she played Vivien Leigh. On the East Coast, she appeared in the New York Shakespeare Festival's *Comedy of Errors*, *Childhood* (with Glenn Close), *Inadmissible Evidence* and *Macbeth*. Dreya conceived and choreographed Pink's performances at the 2010 and 2014 Grammy's and was associate choreographer for Michael Jackson's *This is It*. For more than a decade, Dreya has created the aerials for all of Pink's record-breaking international tours. Her creative direction and aerial choreography has

Frank Ferrante's GROUCHO

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been featured in over 15 international arena tours including those for Katy Perry, Taylor Swift, Rihanna, Madonna, Cher, Christina Aguilera, Britney Spears and Kylie Minogue. Her work as aerial choreographer on *Magic Mike Live* is represented in the ongoing West End and Las Vegas runs. Dreya performed a recent run at Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theatre in Ken Ludwig's *A Comedy of Tenors*. Dreya directed and edited the filmed version of '*Groucho*' to be broadcast nationally on PBS in April of 2022.

Gerald Sternbach (Accompanist) Jerry is one of the busiest musical directors in LA with 12 Ovation nominations (2006 win), seven Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle nominations (winning in 2006, 2007 and 2011). He has accompanied and worked with a variety of artists including Marilyn Horne, Jennifer Hudson, Josh Groban, Sarah Brightman, Carol Burnett, Adam Lambert, Nancy Wilson, Lainie Kazan, John Lithgow and Judith Light (most recently for her Emmy nominated performance on *Transparent*). For Mel Brooks, he not only played for his *Live at the Geffen* show (filmed for HBO), but Jerry made his West End debut at the Prince of Wales Theater playing a one night only concert with him. Southern California credits: the world premiere of *Wishful Drinking* (written and starring the late, great Carrie Fisher); *Stephen Sondheim's 75th Birthday Concert* at the Hollywood Bowl; *Grey Gardens* (associate conductor, Ahmanson Theater); *I Only Have Eyes for You* (arranger/musical director, Montalban Theater); *Sondheim on Sondheim* and *Closer than Ever* (International City Theater); and *Love, Noel* and *Enter Laughing* (by Carl Reiner, both at the Wallis Annenberg Center). Broadway credits include associate conductor for *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Merlin* and *The Tap Dance Kid*. National tour credits include *Les Misérables* (LA premiere company) and the national tour of Andrew Lloyd

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Webber's *Song and Dance* (starring Melissa Manchester). He has been an adjunct professor at Cal State University, Los Angeles for over eight years and was musical director at the Jerry Herman High School Music Theater Awards held at the Pantages Theater for four years. As a songwriter/composer, Jerry has contributed songs to three Ringling Brothers' Circuses; *Heartbeats* (with Amanda McBroom); *A-5-6-7-8!* (with Faye Greenberg); *Club Mom* (with Elin Hampton); and *Biting Broadway! The First Successful Vampire Musical* (with Jordan Beck, Richard Hochberg). His song (written with Faye Greenberg) "Mary," a tribute to Mary Tyler Moore, was sung by Eric McCormack on the 2004 TV Land awards in the presence of the original cast of the landmark sitcom, one of the thrills of his life. Jerry accompanied extended runs of *An Evening With Groucho* at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Cincinnati Playhouse and Bucks County Playhouse and a run of the Los Angeles premiere of the long running off-Broadway hit show, *Cagney*. Jerry appears on the upcoming PBS broadcast of '*Groucho*.'

Groucho Marx (Legend) The New York Times summed up the comedy genius Groucho Marx as "America's most gifted funny man." Born Julius Henry Marx on October 2, 1890, Groucho was the third of five sons born to poor immigrant parents Sam and Minnie Marx. Chico and Harpo preceded him. Gummo and Zeppo followed. Straight from the streets of New York's upper Eastside, Groucho was thrust onstage at age 15 as one third of the singing Leroy Trio. Eventually, brothers Harpo, Chico, Gummo and Zeppo joined the act that began as the singing Four Nightingales and evolved into the world's funniest vaudeville act known as the Marx Brothers. After twenty years of touring their act all over the country, the

Frank Ferrante's GROUCHO

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Marx Brothers finally hit pay dirt with a musical comedy called *I'll Say She Is*. Audiences and critics went wild over the Brothers' irreverent humor, the expert pantomime, the wisecracks, the physical shtick, the outrageous musical talent. Said one local Philadelphia critic about the show, "It was as if a tornado hit town. We've never seen anything like the Marx Brothers." *I'll Say She Is* moved to Broadway in 1924 and was an instant sensation legitimizing the Marx Brothers as world-class talents. Two more Broadway hits followed - *The Cocoanuts* and *Animal Crackers* introducing audiences to Groucho's most renowned incarnation - Captain Spalding, the African Explorer. In 1930, Groucho and his brothers moved to Hollywood and changed the face of film comedy forever. There they made *Monkey Business*, *Horse Feathers*, *Duck Soup*, *A Night at the Opera*, *A Day at the Races*, *Room Service*, *At the Circus*, *Go West*, *The Big Store*, *A Night in Casablanca* and *Love Happy* between 1931 and 1949. The Four Marx Brothers appeared on the cover of *Time Magazine* in 1932. As a solo, Groucho launched a career on radio and television with his Emmy Award winning work as the host of the comedy quiz show "*You Bet Your Life*." The show flourished for fourteen highly rated seasons from 1947 to 1961 on ABC radio then NBC television. Groucho was a major fixture in 1950's television with his "secret woid" and a duck that dropped from the sky to pay wacky contestants "an extra hundred dollars." In the late 1960's, a renewed interest in the anarchic hijinks of the Marx Brothers swept across the nation - particularly among college age students. Fortunately, Groucho Marx survived long enough to experience his renaissance. He made TV appearances, performed at Carnegie Hall at age 82 and received a special Academy Award in 1974 for "the brilliant and unequalled achievements of

Frank Ferrante's GROUCHO

BIOGRAPHIES

the Marx Brothers". On August 19, 1977 Groucho Marx died at age 86. His final request? "Bury me next to Marilyn Monroe."



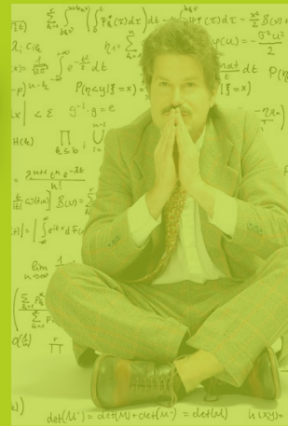
SIERRA MADRE *Playhouse*

Solo Shows Festival

presents

EINSTEIN!

Written by and starring
Jack Fry



April 2 @ 2:30 pm & 8 pm, and April 3 @ 2:30 pm

Tickets: SierraMadrePlayhouse.org or 626.355.4318

EINSTEIN!

Written by Jack Fry
Directed by Tom Blomquist

CAST

Albert Einstein.....Jack Fry

There will be no intermission.

SERIES UNDERWRITERS
Ward & Louise Calaway
David Gordon

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PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....Tom Blomquist
Assistant Director/Vocal Coach.....Peggy O'Neal
Producer.....Gary B. Lamb
Production Stage Manager.....Jeanne Marie Valleroy
Technical Director.....Todd McCraw

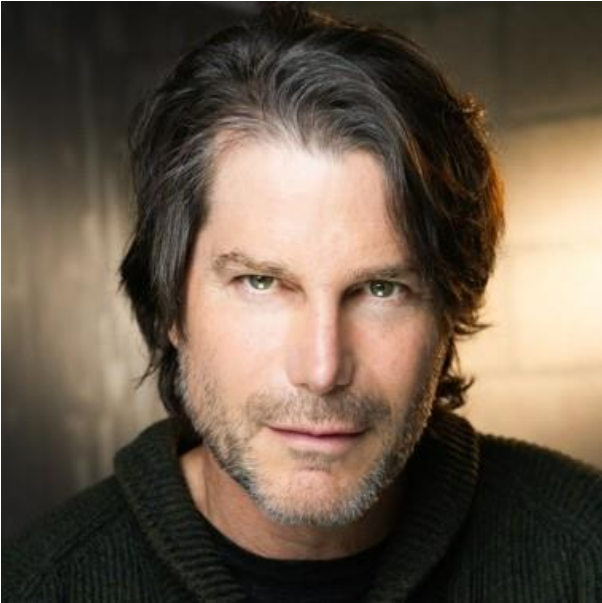
Program, Poster, & Graphic Design.....Berrie Tsang
Publicist.....Phil Sokoloff

OTHER CREDITS

Physicist Advisor.....Ron Mallett
Voice of Mileva.....Alexandra Kovacs

EINSTEIN!

BIOGRAPHIES



Jack Fry (Author/Albert Einstein), also known as “Mr. Fry” because of a previous work entitled *They Call Me Mister Fry*, is an award-winning playwright, actor, solo artist and fully credentialed teacher who lives in Los Angeles, California. *EINSTEIN!* is Jack Fry’s latest creation for the solo world. *EINSTEIN!* was the HIGHEST GROSSING SHOW for the STEM Festival in NYC. It was the only SOLD-OUT RUN in the

festival where multiple shows were added. He was just recently selected as one of the BEST PERFORMANCES from the New York, Delaware, Philadelphia, and New Jersey stages for his New York performances of *EINSTEIN!* by DC Metro Theater Arts in Washington, DC. *EINSTEIN!* was a PICK OF THE FRINGE and an ENCORE WINNER from the Hollywood International Fringe Festival and selected as TOP 10 SHOWS TO SEE at the New York International Fringe Festival. Another distinction includes being selected BEST ACTOR of the London Fringe Festival for his portrayal of Albert Einstein by the London Free Press in Ontario. During this time, he also received rave reviews whose show was considered one of the best of the festival. *EINSTEIN!* is a labor of love and a project that has been 3 years in the making.

Tom Blomquist (Director) is an award-winning writer, producer, and director. His television credits include such popular titles as *Farscape*, *Quantum Leap*, Catherine Marshall’s *Christy*, *Nightmare on Elm Street: Freddy’s Nightmares*, *Swamp Thing*, *The A-Team*, *Walker Texas Ranger*,

EINSTEIN!

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and *Hunter*, as well as the classic late-night NBC talk show *Tomorrow with Tom Snyder*. Tom additionally directed music videos for ACM Best New Female Artist of the Year Kellie Coffey (*Walk On* and *I Would Die For That*) and wrote and directed a feature documentary about Ms. Coffey's music career, *Kellie Coffey: I'm Still Here*. He also served as Production Consultant for Jack Fry's critically acclaimed stage play, *They Call Me Mister Fry*. Last year, Tom received International Gold CINDY and Special Achievement in Directing Awards from Cinema in Industry for *Missed Communication*, a corporate communication video. *Whoa!* a comedy pilot that he directed starring Academy Award Nominee Linda Blair, Emmy Winner Leslie Jordan, Streamy Winner Mark Gantt -- and featuring the inimitable Jack Fry -- won top honors at the Independent Film Quarterly festival in Hollywood and the Los Angeles Sunset Film Festival. Tom is a tenured professor of film and television production at California State University, Long Beach. He co-authored the textbook *Eye of the Storm: Directing for Film, Television & Emerging Media* (Kendall Hunt Publishers, 2013).



SIERRA MADRE *Playhouse*

Solo Shows Festival

presents

Independence

The True Story of Dr. Mary Walker

written & directed by Lloyd J. Schwartz

starring Kathie Barnes



April 9 @ 8 pm and April 10 @ 2:30 pm

Tickets: SierraMadrePlayhouse.org or 626.355.4318

INDEPENDENCE: The True Story of Dr. Mary Walker

Written & Directed by Lloyd J. Schwartz

CAST

Dr. Mary Walker.....Kathie Barnes

There will be no intermission.

SERIES UNDERWRITERS

Ward & Louise Calaway

David Gordon

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PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....Lloyd J. Schwartz

Producer.....Gary B. Lamb

Co-Producer.....Tina Dwyer

Production Stage Manager.....Jeanne Marie Valleroy

Technical Director.....Todd McCraw

Program, Poster, & Graphic Design.....Berrie Tsang

Publicist.....Phil Sokoloff

INDEPENDENCE: The True Story of Dr. Mary Walker

BIOGRAPHIES



Kathie Barnes (Dr. Mary Walker) is honored to portray this amazing woman on stage. Other favorite stage roles include *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Beverly Hills Outlook Award nomination / Best Actress); *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs*; *The Old Neighborhood*; *What Are We Going to Say to Her?*; *Poems for Mary*; and for Ray Bradbury's Pandemonium Theatre Company: *Bradbury x 2* (ADA Award

nomination / Best Actress), *A Medicine for Melancholy*; *The Swan*; and *The Day It Rained Forever*. Television and films include *Jimmi*; *Speechifyin'* (as Susan B Anthony); *Bridge of Laughter*; a series regular in WB's online series *Deception*; a regular role on *All My Children*; and Laura in *The Guiding Light*. A most important interest is Saving the Tiger. A lifelong dream came true when she went to India, living with and tracking tigers in the wild.

Lloyd J. Schwartz (Author/Director) Though a prolific writer/producer in TV and Movies (*Brady Bunch*, *Gilligan's Island* etc.), Lloyd is proudest of his accomplishments in theatre. He has had 43 produced plays. He has won 16 Valley Theatre League Awards in directing and writing for comedies, dramas, musicals and children's theatre. Currently running at Theatre West is his comedy *Classic Couples Counseling* about a therapist for Shakespearean couples. His original musical *The Babies* recently ran Off Broadway at the St. Luke's Theater. He has co-written and directed *An Evening with John Wilkes Booth*, a one-person show starring Stephen

INDEPENDENCE: The True Story of Dr. Mary Walker

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Spiegel which is also part of the Sierra Madre Playhouse Solo Shows Festival.

Tina Dwyer (Co-Producer) Once completing her degree in Women's and Gender Studies at The College of New Jersey she pursues her passion in bringing untold stories of the many women who have marched before us and for us. As producer, Tina contacts venues, universities and theaters, creates bookings, negotiates contracts and for some productions gives cues in the booth. For *INDEPENDENCE*, she also spearheads and books outreach workshops in association with performances, as well as she and Kathie guest lecturing in classes on Women's Studies.

THANK YOUS

Thank you to Jan Betor; George DeMass, Oswego town historian; Chris DiGiovanni; Ian Gregory; Doug Haverty; Lattice Productions; Barbara Mallory; Sheena Metal; Mylette Nora; Kiff Scholl; Stephen Spiegel; and Justin White, Oswego County historian and the talented people of the Sierra Madre Playhouse. A very special acknowledgement to Theatre West where *INDEPENDENCE* was first developed.



SIERRA MADRE *Playhouse*

Solo Shows Festival

presents



ONE MAD ACT CHANGED HISTORY FOREVER
AN EVENING WITH
JOHN WILKES BOOTH

BY
LLOYD J. SCHWARTZ & CLINTON CASE

STARRING
STEPHEN SPIEGEL



April 23 @ 8 pm, and April 24 @ 2:30 pm

Tickets: SierraMadrePlayhouse.org or 626.355.4318

An Evening with John Wilkes Booth

Written by Lloyd J. Schwartz & Clinton Case

Directed by Lloyd J. Schwartz

CAST

John Wilkes Booth.....Stephen Spiegel

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

SERIES UNDERWRITERS

Ward & Louise Calaway

David Gordon

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Please turn off all electronic devices.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....Lloyd J. Schwartz

Producer.....Gary B. Lamb

Production Stage Manager.....Jeanne Marie Valleroy

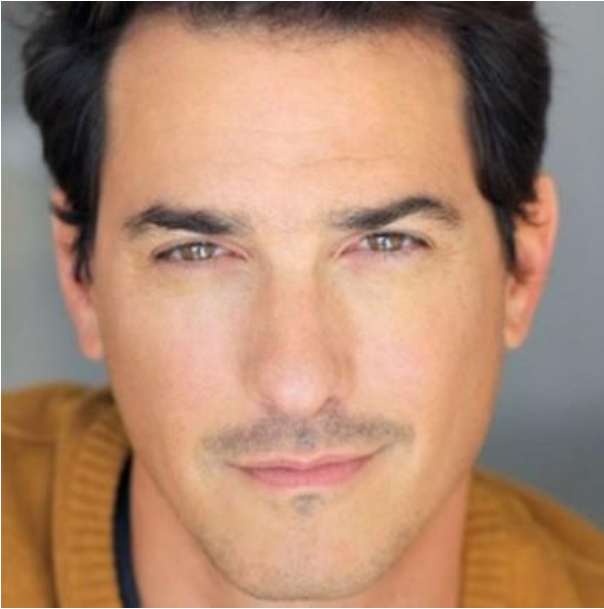
Technical Director.....Todd McCraw

Program, Poster, & Graphic Design.....Berrie Tsang

Publicist.....Phil Sokoloff

An Evening with John Wilkes Booth

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Stephen Spiegel (John Wilkes Booth) was born in Philadelphia Pa. He started doing theater at a young age and when the time came he attended school at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. After moving to Los Angeles, Stephen did a three-year acting program with Stephen Book and he also spent many years studying with the incomparable Judith Weston. His recent theater credits include

The Cause, My Soul (winner best play at the NAACP awards) which was a prequel to *Othello*. *The Journals of Osbourne P. Anderson* (theater/theater) and *Blood in the Cats Neck* (Goethe Institute). Stephen's recent TV and Film credits include *Selena* (Netflix series); *Obsessed*; *Mountain Man*; *Out of the Blue*; *Uncorked* (web series); *In Transition* (web series). Stephen has also done over 20 national commercials during his time in Los Angeles. Stephen is super excited to put up his one man show after a Covid hiatus of 2 years. He is super excited to do a show at the Sierra Madre Playhouse. He would like to thank Gary Lamb, Berrie Tsang and the rest of the gang at SMP for making that possible. He would also like to give a huge thanks to Lloyd J. Schwartz and Clinton Case for writing this masterpiece of character development.

Lloyd J. Schwartz (Co-author/Director) Though a prolific writer/producer in TV and Movies (*BRADY BUNCH*, *GILLIGAN'S ISLAND*, etc.), Lloyd is proudest of his accomplishments in theatre. He has had 43 produced plays. He has won 16 Valley Theatre League Awards in directing and writing for

An Evening with John Wilkes Booth

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comedies, dramas, musicals and children's theatre. Currently running at Theatre West is his comedy *CLASSIC COUPLES COUNSELING* about a therapist for Shakespearean couples. His original musical *THE BABIES* recently ran Off Broadway at the St. Luke's Theater. He has written and directed *INDEPENDENCE*, a one-person show starring Kathie Barnes which is also part of the Sierra Madre Playhouse Solo Shows Festival.

Clinton Case (Co-author) Clint Case's background was theatre. His early training was in Houston before moving to Los Angeles. While pursuing a comedic stand-up and dramatic acting career, Clint's love of American history melded into *AN EVENING WITH JOHN WILKES BOOTH*. It was a labor of love to research and co-author this play. The research phase offered Clinton the opportunity to literally follow in Booth's footsteps not only in the swamps and boardinghouses, but exclusive access to certain areas of Ford's Theatre not afforded the general public.

THANK YOUS

Very special thanks to: Akbar, Kathie Barnes, Debbie Case, Carolyn Chu, Lattice Productions, Barbara Mallory, Kiff Scholl and the talented people of the Sierra Madre Playhouse.



SMP SOLO SHOWS FESTIVAL PRODUCTION TEAM

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Gary B. Lamb (Interim Artistic Director/Producer) had an amazing 2019, touring as Juan Peron in the National Tour of *EVITA*, followed by playing Macbeth in *MACBETH* at Shakespeare @ The Castle (S@TC) in Ohio, then directing *EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD* here at SMP, for which he received a Scenie Award for Directing. 2020 and 2021 wasn't as exceptional, but Gary did find his way back to S@TC as Theseus/Oberon in *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* as well as directing and/or acting in several podcasts for SMP, OpenDoorPlayhouse and Parson's Nose Theater. Gary's association with SMP began when he directed *CHARLOTTE'S WEB* in 2017. Prior to that Gary was Co-Artistic Director for Crown City Theater for 12 years for whom the production of *CABARET* he directed, ran for 6 months and was listed as Best Production by BitterLemons and Broadwayworld as well as grabbing Scenie Awards for Outstanding Production, Ensemble, and Direction of a Musical. Gary has written, produced, acted and directed for professional live theater going on 41 years and has been seen on TV and film as well as having written and directed several short films. He is honored to be here at SMP.

Jeanne Marie Valleroy (Production Stage Manager) is thrilled to welcome you back to SMP and to live theater. Some of her past credits include *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Sierra Madre Playhouse In Memorial Park), *Cowboy Elektra* (Rogue Artists Ensemble at The Getty Villa), *The Joy Luck Club* (Sierra Madre Playhouse), *EINSTEIN!* (Santa Monica Playhouse and Sierra Madre Playhouse), *Princess Magic* (The Complex), *The Radiant* (The Other Space), *I Carry Your Heart* (Bootleg Theater), *Solve It Squad Returns* (Tin Can Brothers), *Mañana Comes* (The Fountain Theater), *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* (Long Beach Playhouse). She would like to thank

SMP SOLO SHOWS FESTIVAL PRODUCTION TEAM

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her family and friends for their support. Thank you for supporting live theater.

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

**SIERRA
MADRE**
Playhouse

THE SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE

CEO.....David Gordon
Associate Company Manager.....Berrie Tsang
Interim Artistic Director.....Gary B. Lamb
Technical Director.....Todd McCraw
Production Manager.....Jeanne Marie Valleroy
HR Manager and Volunteer Coordinator.....Pamela Winters
Assistant to the Technical Director.....John Dimitri
Patron Services Manager.....Mary Baville
Special Projects/Box Office Manager.....Ward Calaway
Accountant.....Louise Calaway
Bookkeeper.....Paulene Calaway
Publicist.....Phil Sokoloff

Associate Artist – AKT Academy.....Alison Eliel Kalmus
Off the Screen Movies Coordinator.....Rich Proctor
Organizational Consultant.....Tim Dang
Grant Writer.....Jesse Ruskin

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Louise Calaway (Treasurer), Frank Costello (Secretary)
Eileen Walker (Development Chair), Estelle Campbell
Paul Scranton, Vanessa Silberman, David Zeidberg

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SMP thanks the following members of The Circle of Angels for their generous contributions in support of our work. The gifts listed were received between January 1, 2021 and February 14, 2022.

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David & Maggi Gordon

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THE CIRCLE OF ANGELS

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