



# Placer Repertory Theater

Performing arts, cultural & economic enrichment for Placer County

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Placer Repertory Theater: [Outreach@placerrep.org](mailto:Outreach@placerrep.org) | [PlacerRep.org](http://PlacerRep.org)

### **Transport Back in Time at *The Jane Austen Soiree* holiday event**

Sweep back to the time of Jane Austen on Saturday, December 11 at the Lincoln Civic Auditorium and sample the delights of the Regency period at *The Jane Austen Soiree*. The Rockstar Music Academy and Placer Repertory Theater present a holiday event: *The Jane Austen Soiree* at which audiences are encouraged to arrive early, dressed inspired by the period, to enjoy refreshments, listen to the music, and watch or join in the 'contra dance' just like in a Jane Austen film. Patrons will hear fascinating historical information and social graces of the period from the Event Social Director/Hostess Crystal Neher-Evans and may participate in the audience costume parade at intermission or win goodie baskets from local merchants and makers. The main feature of the evening is its entertainment: top-notch professional actors perform the stage-reading of *Persuasion: a holiday romantic comedy*, inspired by the Jane Austen novel, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., which includes a post-show Q&A to meet the actors, playwright, and the creative team.

The play is set in England in 1814 and the entire second act takes place during the winter holiday season in Bath, ending with a Christmas Party that defines the characters' fates. The story follows Miss Anne Elliot who spent the last 8 years dutiful and depressed amongst her comically dysfunctional family and social circle, since she was persuaded by her father and Lady Russell to break her engagement to Commander Wentworth. But now the love of her life returns from the war a wealthy Captain. Will she successfully persuade her social circle to accept Captain Wentworth – assuming she can help him overcome his bitterness, or shall she marry a charming gentleman she meets in Bath, who makes his interest abundantly clear at a Holiday concert? "This play is full of rich, eccentric characters and a surprising amount of action, which makes it the perfect holiday treat for the whole family," said playwright T.S. Forsyth.

The Jane Austen Soiree is the second milestone event of the Placer Rep Educational Outreach Program to middle and high school students, partnered with the Rocklin Friends of the Library, and a proof-point showing students how they may find their passion and be inspired by reading and engaging with the many resources and programs available to them at their local branch of the Placer County Library system, under the skilled direction of Mary George, Placer County Library Director.



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*The Jane Austen Soiree* is sponsored by Armrod Charitable Trust, Arts Council of Placer County, The Rockstar Music Academy and private donors. “We are so very grateful to our sponsors, without whom we could not offer this immersive educational and entertaining experience,” said Placer Rep Program Operations Manager Blaire Hartman.

“Placer Rep is particularly grateful to be partnered with The Rockstar Music Academy of Lincoln ([TheRockstarMusicAcademy.com](http://TheRockstarMusicAcademy.com)) and the Rocklin Friends of the Library for this exciting event. The Rocklin Friends promote and operate programs for and in conjunction with the Placer County Public Library to the enrichment of our local community. More information about the Rocklin Friends of the Library may be found on their web site, [RocklinFriends.org](http://RocklinFriends.org).

Audiences might recall Placer Repertory Theater as the professional company that commissioned and recently produced the “New Beginnings” event partnered with the Rocklin & Roseville Historical Societies, featuring a new play about Placer County railroad history in July of 2021. Placer Rep is also the performing arts organization that recently won Gold Country Media’s “The Best of the Best: Best Live Theatrical Group” for Rocklin.

Placer Repertory Theater ([PlacerRep.org](http://PlacerRep.org)) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit professional performing arts and culture nonprofit organization with the mission to offer educational and quality-of-life enriching professional performing arts and cultural programs relevant to the people of Placer County, while supporting local organizations and acting as an economic engine for the area. Follow Placer Repertory Theater on Facebook and Instagram: @PlacerRep.

Contact Kevin Foster, Outreach Director, at [Outreach@PlacerRep.org](mailto:Outreach@PlacerRep.org), or Teresa Stirling Forsyth, Producing Artistic Director, at [ArtisticDirector@PlacerRep.org](mailto:ArtisticDirector@PlacerRep.org).

## BIOS – THE TEAM



### **TERESA STIRLING FORSYTH – Producing Artistic Director, Director / Playwright**

A resident of Rocklin, with an MFA in Dramatic Arts and an MS in Business Management & Leadership, this former Silicon Valley high-tech VP and critically acclaimed professional director/playwright also plays the role of Producing Artistic Director for Placer Repertory Theater. Previously, the artistic director for two San Francisco theater companies and founder/board president of an economic & workforce development nonprofit organization for Santa Cruz County, her performing arts background includes directing/playwriting for national and international touring productions with renown performing artists, such as Brenda Wong Aoki, and companies like Dell’Arte



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International. As an educator, she has instructed and/or directed at UC Davis, University of San Francisco, University of Minnesota and other educational institutions. Projects on which Forsyth worked performed at venues such as the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian, Dallas Theatre Center, San Diego Repertory Theatre and many other renown venues, and received Dramalogue Awards, Critics Circle Awards, Indy Award: Best Spoken Word Album, as well as numerous grants from the NEA, NEH, CAC and corporations. Most recently for Placer Repertory Theater, she is the playwright/director for *Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of the Four* and *Persuasion: a holiday romantic comedy*, co-author / dramaturg / director and actor mentor for *My Jekyll & Hyde*. and was the director / dramaturg / playwriting mentor for *New Beginnings: the new play about the historic Placer County Roundhouses*. She is a member of the professional organizations: The Dramatists Guild, The Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), TCG and NNPN/New Play Exchange.



### **BLAIR HARTMAN – Program Operations Manager, Stage Manager**

Roseville resident Blair Hartman is a graduate of Allegheny College with a BA in Theater and a demonstrated history of working in the performing arts on both east and west coasts. During her undergraduate career, Blair involved herself in both community and college theater, taking on technical, managerial, and creative roles, and completed her thesis by directing and writing a devised project entitled *Goddess*. She gained her post-graduate sea legs as a Production Manager at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City, managing Concert Halls

events and productions as well as community programming and outreach in the boroughs. This trajectory led Blair to delve into a career freelancing for such companies as Roundabout Theatre Company, SoHo Repertory Theatre, The New Group, and The Public Theatre. Blair is thrilled to join Placer Repertory Theater as Program Operations Manager in their 2021-2022 season!



### **KEVIN FOSTER - Outreach Director, Narrator / Mr. Hayter / Capt. Benwick**

Kevin Foster is an area local excited to work at Placer Repertory as Outreach Director. He began training in acting at UC Davis while earning his B.A. in Music Performance. After graduating, he performed at Davis Musical Theater Company in *Peter Pan*, *The King and I*, *Damn Yankees*, and the Elly Award winning production of *Chicago*. His other credits include *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Chautauqua Playhouse and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* at Sacramento Theater company, where he has taught youth performing arts classes. Kevin recently played

Dr. Watson in “An Evening with Sherlock Holmes,” and also may be seen as Dr. Watson in Placer Rep’s digital short series *Sherlock Holmes: Domestic Mysteries* on YouTube



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and Facebook. He currently teaches for Rockstar Music Academy in Lincoln and is working on his solo show commissioned by Placer Rep for a 2022 world premiere.



### **CRYSTAL NEHER-EVANS – Event Social Director/Hostess**

Crystal became a world traveler at five years old when her family moved to Papua New Guinea as missionaries. Having also lived in Southern California, Colorado, and Australia, she moved to the Sacramento area in 1993. In 2014 she became involved in areas theaters. Her notable roles include Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*, Kate Keller in *The Miracle Worker*, Doatsy Mae in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, Elaine in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Elvira in *Blithe Spirit*, and Diana in *California Suite*. Recently, Crystal played Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Forrester, Mrs. Smith and other characters in

Placer Rep's "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes." As the Social Director/Hostess for *The Jane Austen Soiree*, she will perform in the contra dance and share Regency period history and social customs to event patrons.



### **RODGER MCDONALD – Sir Walter / Admiral Croft / Captain Harville**

Rocklin's own Rodger McDonald is a third-generation performer who hales originally from Los Angeles. He recently completed roles as Joseph Pulitzer in *Newsies*, Friar Laurence in *Romeo and Juliet*, Doctor Finache in *A Flea In Her Ear*, Ebenezer Scrooge in *Christmas Carol*, the lead in *The Miser*, Captain Hook in *Peter Pan*, and Judge Sorell, in *The Seduction of Judge Thomas Sorrell* at the Geery Theater, after directing *Evita* in which he played Peron for Runaway Stage. He has completed

his fourth season at Music Circus. At Woodland Opera House, he most recently directed *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Miser*, and *A Flea In Her Ear*. He has acted and directed in *The Imaginary Invalid* and has appeared as King Pelinor in *Camelot*, Cervantes/Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha*, Father in *Ragtime*, Harold Hill in *Music Man*, and Higgins in *My Fair Lady*. With Runaway Stage he has performed as the lead in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, the Pirate King in *Pirates of Penzance*, and Von Trapp in *Sound of Music*. With other local theaters he was Cladwell in *Urinetown* at River Stage, Captain Hook in *Peter Pan* at DMTC, and Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet* at Sierra Shakespeare.

He has performed with several major theater companies including the Alley Theater in Houston, Pacific Conservatory, Robert Redford's Sundance Theater, Rod Serling's Vooheis Theater in New York, Sherwood Shakespeare Festival, Utah Repertory, Solvang Theaterfest, Elizabeth Howard's Dinner Theater, the Great American Melodrama, the National Theaters of Guatemala and El Salvador and was selected for the Oregon Shakespeare Summer Shakespeare Company in 1978.



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He appeared as King James in the National PBS Drama, *Passionate Pilgrim*, and recently was featured in a new movie with Ellen Green and Kevin Corrigan which will debut in 2021. He has been awarded the Best Actor Award in the State of Utah, is a two time winner of Best Actor at BYU, where he both graduated and taught. He won a Los Angeles DramaLogue Award for *Macbeth* and performed in Europe and Asia with the USO as one of six members of the popular singing group "Collector's Item". Rodger is the winner of eight Chesleys and four Ellys with 18 Elly Nominations for Best Actor and Director. In 2015, Rodger was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by SARTA at the Annual Elly Awards in 2015.



### **ANNE MERINO – Mrs. Musgrove / Rose / Footman Cardiff / Viscountess Dalrymple**

Merino began her career dancing for notable companies such as American Ballet Theatre and the London Festival Ballet. A prolific choreographer, she won the Vanguard Award for Choreography. Merino's traditional theatrical training was received at Chicago's Goodman Theatre, Second City with Del Close and Jim Belushi and later trained under Alan Rickman at the British American Drama Academy. As an actress, and former member of AEA, SAG/AFTRA, Ms. Merino performed with The Groundlings and Tim Robbins' The Actors' Gang and is a member of the theatre department faculty at William

Jessup University. As a writer, she recently won film festival awards for her screenplay, "*The Season of the Wolf*," and received critical acclaim for her recently released novel, *Hawkesmoor*.



### **JUDY MERRICK – Lady Russell / Mrs. Sophia Croft**

Now a resident of Nevada City, Judy worked for 13 years in New York theater as a performer and director. Some of her professional performing credits include Portia in Merchant of Venice (Santa Monica Playhouse), Lysander in Midsummer Night's Dream (RADA), and Calpernia in Julius Caesar. She is the co-founder of the NYC theatre Company, The Amoralist, and her credits include The Cheaters Club (Abrons Art Center), Pied Pipers of the Lower East Side (Theater 80), Adam Rapp's Ghost in the CottonWoods (Theater 80), Happy in the Poor House and Bring Us The Head of Your Daughter (Gene Frankel Theatre). For Playwright's Horizon, she performed in The Bad and the Better, and performed in TACT

at the Manhattan Theatre Club. She also performed in Knuckleball, which performed in New York, San Francisco, London, and at the Edinburgh Fringe festival, for which she won best actress and the show won best play. She also performed in Adam Rapp's The Hallway Trilogy at the Rattlestick Theatre, off Broadway. Her education includes an MFA from USC, training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts London, and graduate training at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in NYC. Recently, Judy performed in Persephone's Tale with her new Nevada City theater company House of Fates, and currently teaches and performs improv with the House of Yes in Nevada City.



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### **STEVE CAMPBELL— Mr. Charles / Butler Merriman**

A resident of Roseville, this is Steve's first production with Placer Repertory Theater. Audiences may recognize Steve from his role as Charlemagne in the McLaughlin filmed production of Pippin last year. Steve has also performed with Big Idea Theatre in Sacramento playing MacBeth in MacBeth and Enobarbus in Shakespeare's Antony & Cleopatra. His background includes productions with Stand-Out Talent of Roseville including Fredrick Frankenstein in Young Frankenstein. His actor training began at San Jose State with a Minor in Drama, Voice Inflection course instructed by Rodger McDonald and was classically trained in Shakespeare with the great Jack Lynn. Steve currently works for Talkdesk and as a voiceover talent.



### **TADJA ENOS – Miss Anne Elliot**

While Tadjia lives in Auburn, she was raised in Grass Valley, CA, where she attended Ghidotti Early College High School and performed in Nevada County community theatre. She then went to UC Santa Barbara, where she earned a BFA in Acting. A few of her favorite roles were Hamlet, Catherine in *A View From the Bridge*, and Goneril in *King Lear*. She trained for a summer with Prague Shakespeare Company, where she performed Cassius in *Julius Caesar*. She also has a background in dance, devised movement, and crocheting. She received a Santa Barbara Indy Award for her performance as *Hamlet*. This is her third production with Placer Rep, having portrayed Maria Aguilar and several other characters in the ensemble cast of the July 2021 production event *New Beginnings: the Placer County roundhouse history play*, and Miss Mary Morstan in the November 2021 performance of "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes."



### **MATTHEW HEYER – Dialect Coach, Dr. Murphy / Mr. William Elliot**

Matthew Heyer is a recent graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where he received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre. He is the winner of the Irene Ryan award for his work in 2018 and for his 2019 performance as Elliot in *Completeness*. Among his favorite roles are Stanley in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Vince Fontaine in *Grease*, Charles in *As You Like It*, and as Shakespeare in *The Bard on Broadway*. This is Matthew's first season with Placer Rep, having played the title character at "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes."



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## **KYLA QUINN – ASM, Mrs. Clay / Henrietta / Mrs. Smith**

Kyla Quinn is a recent graduate from CSU Long Beach, where they received their BA in Technical Theatre. Born in San Luis Obispo, Kyla was raised in San Diego, and grew up taking classes at the San Diego Junior Theatre Company. Prior to moving to northern California, they worked with professional theater and film companies, such as the Long Beach Opera Company, Asylum Studios and Lifetime Studios. Kyla's favorite roles include Fred in *Once Upon a Mattress*, Olive in *The Female Odd Couple* and Carla in *A Thirties Affair*. This is Kyla's second production with Placer Repertory Theater, having performed in "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes," and they look forward to their participation in The Jane Austen Soiree in December 2021.



## **WILL MUELLER – Mr. Shepherd / Mr. Musgrove / Captain Wentworth**

From Denver Colorado, Will trained with Rocky Mountain Conservatory Theatre, Denver School of the Arts, The Denver Center of Performing Arts, The New York Film Academy, and other institutions. He graduated with honors from his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Acting at Illinois Wesleyan University while working professionally, both an actor and director. Will was a Core Company member at Gamut Theatre Group as an Actor, Teacher, Director and as the company's PR manager. Will now resides in Los Angeles California, is enrolled in the Groundings core track and works as a freelance artist. He previously performed with Placer Repertory Theater as Bill and Conner in two one-acts "From the Mind of Scott Charles."



## **KATIE HALLS – Elizabeth Elliot / Louisa Musgrove**

Katie hails from Fairfield, California, and received her Bachelor of Arts degrees from UC Davis in Theater and English. Some of her precious roles include Anne in *Anne of Green Gables: A New Musical* at the Woodland Opera House, Molly in *Peter and the Starcatcher* at UC Davis, Sophie in *Mamma Mia* at the Fair Oaks Theater Festival, and Jordan in *Ranked: A New Musical* during the 2019 Ground and Field Theater Festival at UC Davis. Among Katie's professional credits include the performance of the female lead, Miss Mary Morstan in the livestreamed stage reading of *Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of the Four* in July 2020, and Brittany in the staged reading of *Radio Free Scotland* for Placer Repertory Theater in September 2021.



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## **JORDAN MILLS – Mary Musgrove / Miss Carteret**

Originally from Vancouver, Washington, Jordan Mills has been acting on the stage and screen since she moved to California at the age of fourteen. She earned her AA in Theatre Arts at Allan Hancock College and continues her theatre education at California State University, Fullerton. Jordan was recently honored to provide narration for the staged reading of *Marilyn, Mom & Me* in partnership with the charity Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Previous stage roles include Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Adriana in *The Comedy of Errors*, and Theodora in *The Haunting of Hill House*. Jordan currently works as a full-time actress and model,

appearing in film and commercial roles for production companies across Northern California.

## **THE EVENT**

### **WHO:**

Placer Repertory Theater - <https://PlacerRep.org>

### **WHAT: Event:**

*The Jane Austen Soiree*

### **WHERE:**

The Lincoln Civic Auditorium, 511 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, CA

### **WHEN:**

Saturday, December 11, 2021

Stage reading at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Doors open at 1:15 and 6:15 for the Soiree

### **TICKETS/FMI:**

General seating.

Please purchase tickets in advance. Seating is limited due to social distancing.

FMI/Tickets: Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/194079556177>





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THREE GRAPHICS BELOW:



## PRESENTS

Placer  
Repertory  
Theater

# The Jane Austen Soiree

*Featuring 11 professional actors in costume  
performing the new play*

## Persuasion

A holiday romantic comedy

By T.S. Forsyth, adapted from the Jane Austen novel

**Saturday, December 11 at 2 & 7 p.m.**

Lincoln Civic Auditorium

General audiences (ages 8 and up)



Rodger McDonald



Anne Merino



**Sponsored by**  
ARMROD CHARITABLE TRUST  
The Rockstar Music Academy



Event includes

- Music**
- Dance**
- Costumes**
- Refreshments**
- Meet the Actors**



Steve Pagano



T.S. Forsyth



Steve Campbell



Judy Merrick



Katie Halls



Jordan Mills



Matt Heyer



Tadja Enos



Will Mueller



Kyla Quinn



Crystal Neher-Evans



Kevin Foster

**FMI / Tickets:**





**Placer Repertory Theater**

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**PRESENTS**

**Placer  
Repertory  
Theater**

*PlacerRep.org*

# The Jane Austen Soiree



*Featuring 11 professional actors  
performing the new play*

## **Persuasion**

**A holiday romantic comedy**

By T.S. Forsyth

Adapted from the Jane Austen novel

Event includes music, dance, costumes and a post-show Q&A

**Saturday, December 11 at 2 & 7 p.m.**

**Lincoln Civic Auditorium**

Sponsored by

**ARMROD CHARITABLE TRUST**

**The Rockstar Music Academy**



**FMI / Tickets:**



General audiences (ages 8 and up)



# Placer Repertory Theater

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**WINNER: Best Live Theatrical Group**

## Placer Repertory Theater provides cultural enrichment and economic growth



Placer Repertory Theater became a nonprofit organization in April 2020. Placer Rep provides professional performing arts and cultural programming for Placer County.

The organization seeks cultural enrichment and economic growth through the incubation and development of voices and works reflective of the community served, and champions partnership and cultural exploration across a breadth of disciplines within the arts, culture and humanities.

There are live and digital productions, events and

educational programs.

Placer Rep sets a high bar of professional excellence. Its focus is on talent development and professional growth through new plays and reimagined works relevant to Placer County.

The organization was founded as a place for seasoned professionals to exercise their craft as it bridges the gap for early career professionals from preparation programs to professional employment.

Placer Rep's seasoned performers, creatives, administrators and technical team members are educated, credentialed and possess prior professional experience.

### PLACER REPERTORY THEATER

- **BUSINESS OWNER:** Teresa Stirling Forsyth, Founder/President
- **WHERE:** 2351 Sunset Blvd., Suite 170-209
- **INFO:** 916-884-0055, [placerep.org](http://placerep.org)



Season 1, episode 1: Water Under the Bridge

THANK YOU for selecting

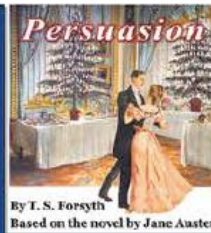
**Placer Repertory Theater**

**BEST OF THE BEST**

Live Theatrical Group



Professional performing arts and cultural programs For Placer County and beyond



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