

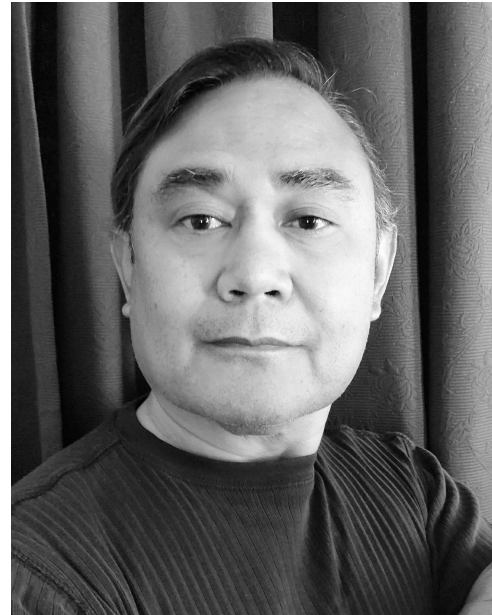
## Ray Baldonadé Becomes Newest Advisory Committee Member

By: Kevin Foster

Placer Repertory Theater welcomes the addition of Certified Music Practitioner Ray Baldonadé as the newest member on Placer Rep's Advisory Committee! I had the pleasure of interviewing Ray prior to his performance alongside our board member, Anne Merino. In addition to his work with therapeutic music, Baldonadé teaches Martial Arts, and is trained in both ballet and hula dancing.

**Kevin:** First off, welcome to the Placer Rep family! I'd like to start by asking what you are most looking forward to as we develop a legacy of professional theater in Placer County?

**Ray:** Anne Merino is a real good friend of mine and I enjoy working with her in ballet productions. I'm looking forward to working with Placer Rep in any capacity.



**K:** What is your take on Placer Repertory Theater's goal to seek and support underrepresented voices within our community?

**R:** I fully support it. I have many friends and family who are in marginal situations, and I have seen what a good company can do, coming from the Bay Area.

**K:** What inspired you to become a Certified Music Practitioner?

**R:** I had a friend who told me about it and I'd always kept it in the back of my mind. It wasn't until I had a situation where I was playing [music] for my wife in a post-surgery recovery room. Another patient came in, and she was very much in pain. She quieted down as soon as I started playing for her, which allowed the doctors to sedate her. The nurses thanked me for it, and that's when it occurred to me that it is a powerful means of expression. It's more than just playing music, sometimes.

**K:** How do you find music affects mental health and well-being?

**R:** Teaching at an elementary school, I see how it can inspire kids -- encourage them, make them feel better about themselves...In my experience, I've had kids come to me with low self-esteem and go off to attain other things. For example, one became an astronomer, some go on to play in orchestras or sing lullabies to their kids. There's that encouragement and the holistic effect playing music has on people. For myself, it allows me to get out whatever emotion I feel that is bound up inside of me. I never imagined I would be a musician. I discovered it sort of later in life.

**K:** Has that revitalized or rekindled something in you?

**R:** I have always been on a quest to learn things. I have three sons, and I like to think they have

inherited that love to learn things, and I hope I pass that on to the children that I teach. I enjoy my work there and I enjoy working with the kids.

K: I've found that it's very rewarding to teach the arts to kids. It's like a safe space, and you see things from them they otherwise wouldn't communicate.

R: When you plant the seed in a kid's head, and you see that thing start to grow, and they start to understand what you're talking about -- there's nothing better. Sometimes, you can get through to them where another adult could not, because you're presenting it in a different way. It's just like my kids. They won't take my advice, but they'll listen to my best track!

K: Would you say exposure to arts & culture is integral to the formative development of our youth?

R: Yes. Giving them something they can be good at or to strive for -- to take their mind off what's bothering them and give them something constructive to build on -- gives them self-esteem. That's how it was for me, at twelve years old, when I began Aikido.

K: You were the owner of the Rocklin Karate Academy. Why do you think they call it Martial Arts?

R: Martial Arts encompasses many forms. It can be martial art, martial sport, the art of protection, and it can also be a philosophy. I don't believe in a codified regimen. I teach to each person's individual strengths and weaknesses. The same thing goes for philosophy, or when someone comes to me for guidance.

K: What sort of current or upcoming projects are you working on?

R: Tonight's performance is a one-off. The other one I have coming up is also with Anne. Now that I'm older, I don't dance as much. Part of my role with her is to teach her young ballet students how to partner. Very much the old teaching the new.

K: I really appreciate you making the time for our interview. I have one frivolous question: What's your favorite PaRTy food?

R: [laughs] Can it be a drink? Let me think...I do love a caprese h'ordeuvre that my wife makes.

### **Rifts in Time: Where in the VELD are we?**

By: Teresa Stirling Forsyth

In January 2022, we visited 1888 London and managed to escape our encounters with Jack the Ripper, but accidentally brought Zora, the "half-caste street urchin" back to our time bubble. In February, Sage returned Zora to 1888 London, while our other rift surfers discussed quantum physics, time travel, and found themselves as "outsiders" in 1692 Salem, Massachusetts. In March, our intrepid travelers were put on trial for witchcraft and barely escaped with their lives! Now they find themselves stranded in a veld...who-knows-where and who-knows-when!



Rifts in Time: Interactive Adventure Theater was SOLD OUT last month -- we had to extend allowed seating from 20 to 24 to accommodate additional reservations. Therefore, we recommend you RSVP now!

Join us on Sunday, April 24 at 7 PM in Roseville for this hilarious monthly show in which you

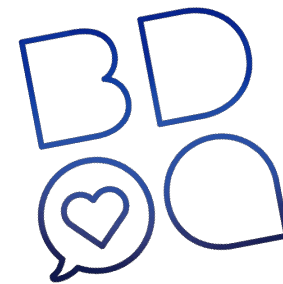
can affect the outcome of the adventure! Early registration is recommended due to limited seating. FMI: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pilot-program-interactive-adventure-theater-tickets-242594234887>.



### The Big (Birth)Day of Giving

By: Kevin Foster

The Big Day of Giving arrives May 5th and, for the first time, Placer Repertory Theater is qualified to participate in the biggest annual regional fundraiser for nonprofits!

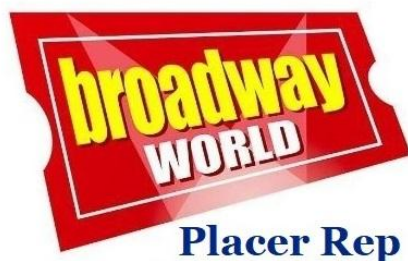


Being only two years old as of April 10th, we have accomplished a tremendous amount with the help of our loyal patrons, partners, and friends, including winning five regional awards in 2021! ([WATCH our 2021 Season in Review](#)) The Big Day of Giving is a reminder not only to support local nonprofit organizations, but also of the tremendous impact nonprofits such as Placer Repertory Theater have on society. Your generous support demonstrates an investment into the future of Placer County and beyond.

Visit our BDOG profile page to learn more about what we do and how your generous donations to Placer Rep affect area arts, culture and economic growth.

<https://www.bigdayofgiving.org/organization/Placer-Repertory-Theater>

Nominated for SEVEN  
Broadway World Awards...



Best Live Theatrical Group





## Seagull

By: Kathryn Carner

Ensemble member Yassen Peyankov adapts and directs Anton Chekhov's existential comedy, *Seagull*. Performed by Steppenwolf ensemble members, the play asks "What is love," "What is art," and "When is lunch," as the intellectual artist class in this play explore their existential angst and human needs. *Seagull* begins April 28 for a run through June 12, 2022 in the NEW in-the-round Ensemble Theater. This production, *Seagull*, is the first live theatrical production in this new Chicago theater.

FMI and to see additional rehearsal photos, visit <https://www.steppenwolf.org/tickets--events/seasons/2021-22/seagull/>.



## CAC Cycle B Grants Available Soon

By: Tess Forsyth

CAC Cycle B grant applications are set to open this month, and will be due in May 2022. These grants include Arts & Accessibility, California Relief Fund for Artists & Cultural Practitioners, and Individual Artist Fellowships. For more information on the Cycle B grants, visit <https://arts.ca.gov/grants/grant-programs/>.



Youth Development grants are still available through the Placer Community Foundation, as well. For more information and grant qualifications, visit <https://placercf.org/apply-for-a-grant/>.

---

## MAST HEAD

**Publisher:**  
Placer Repertory Theater

Published Monthly as of  
**April 2022**

**Editor-in-Chief/Graphic  
Layout:**

Kevin Foster, Outreach  
Director

**Contributors:**

Teresa Stirling Forsyth  
Kevin Foster  
Kathryn Carner

**E-mail : [info@PlacerRep.org](mailto:info@PlacerRep.org) • Facebook : [PlacerRep](https://www.facebook.com/PlacerRep) • Website : [PlacerRep.org](https://www.placerrep.org)  
2351 Sunset Blvd., Suite 170-209, Rocklin CA 95765**

Placer Repertory Theater | 2351 Sunset Blvd, Ste 170-209, Rocklin, CA 95765-4306

[Unsubscribe prt.outreach@gmail.com](mailto:prt.outreach@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data  
Notice](#)

Sent by [prt.outreach@gmail.com](mailto:prt.outreach@gmail.com)

