



Placer Repertory Theater

Performing arts, cultural & economic enrichment for Placer County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Placer Repertory Theater: Info@PlacerRep.org | PlacerRep.org

Placer Rep's Holiday Variety Show Features Local Performing Artists

Actors, singers, comedians, writers and more will take the stage on December 7 at Placer Repertory Theater's annual variety show with open mic that celebrates the completion of Season 2022 on Wednesday, December 7th at Studio E in Lincoln. Professional actor & singer Matt Heyer will provide levity and emcee this FREE annual variety show and mixer that includes games, contests with prizes, refreshments and more.

In addition to the various types of performances from prior seasons, Placer Rep will feature periodic stage-readings of works in progress from "The Writers Workshop" 2022 attendees. Writers participating with brief stage-readings during the evening include Allison Gylquist, Scott Charles, Michael Selvester, Kim Hlavac, Kevin Foster, and Anne Merino. Professional actors reading these works in progress will include Anne Merino, Ronnie Duska Fowler, Arie Knyazev, Kevin Foster and Matt Heyer.

Audiences may recognize some of these performers from local professional or community theater. For example, Anne Merino, adjunct faculty at William Jessup, is a former ballet dancer and award-winning choreographer, who is also a published novelist whose screenplays have won numerous film festival awards, and she recently played Dr. Dagmar in *Ghosts of Placer County*. Ronnie Duska Fowler most recently was seen with Freefall Stage in *The Mousetrap* and Arie Knyazev recently starred as Max in Lincoln Theater Company's production of *Lend Me A Tenor*. Kevin Foster portrayed Dr. Watson in Placer Rep's digital series *Sherlock Holmes: Domestic Mysteries* and played Kenny Greene in *Ghosts of Placer County* this October. Audiences may remember Matt Heyer as Sherlock in *An Evening with Sherlock Holmes*, and as Mr. Elliot in *The Jane Austen Soiree* with Placer Rep in November & December of 2021.

At this annual holiday event, Placer Rep provides professional entertainment each year and then opens the stage for all things related to culture, performing arts and the humanities. Anything goes during the open-mic portion of the evening, from a song, a poem, or a comedy bit, to showing off a new painting or sculpture, sharing newly uncovered local history, and of course self-promotion and partnership seeking. "It's such an inclusive, supportive environment that offers endless opportunities to meet and

network with creatives from all walks of life and cultural disciplines,” said Teresa Stirling Forsyth, Producing Artistic Director for Placer Repertory Theater.

Matt Heyer, emcee and a performer during the event, remarked, “The Annual Holiday Party is such a rich and vital variety show and networking opportunity that allows creative artists, patrons, and supporting civic and non-profit groups to gather together to celebrate our growth and engage each other in future projects for 2023.”

“This party truly is a celebration of local arts & culture and our creative community,” said Forsyth. “I must include a special shout out to our wonderful partner, Tamra Rogers of Tamraloo Studios, for lending us the Studio E Blackbox for this event and supporting us throughout 2022.”

While the event is FREE, donations at the door are welcome, and a donation of \$1 (or more) on Eventbrite.com reserves seats in advance for the Placer Rep Annual Holiday Party. “Patrons donate whatever they feel comfortable giving, which allows everyone to attend. Unfortunately, the Studio E Blackbox has limited seating, so early reservations are highly encouraged,” noted Robert Forsyth, PRT Box Office Manager. “I hope people will reserve their spots early to avoid any disappointment.” FMI:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/placer-rep-annual-holiday-party-tickets-446523141737>)

Audiences will remember Placer Repertory Theater as the professional company that recently produced the award winning mainstage world premiere of *Ghosts of Placer County*, a new play that wove threads of regional history through a poignant mother/daughter drama, and *New Beginnings* – an original play about Placer County railroad history, as well as *An Evening with Sherlock Holmes* and the award winning, critically acclaimed, *The Jane Austen Soiree featuring Persuasion: A Holiday Romantic Comedy*. Placer Rep was gratified to win “The Best of the Best: Best Live Theatrical Group” from Gold Country Media in 2021 and 2022, as well as four Broadway World Awards for our 2021 season.

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



BIOS – THE TEAM



HUNTER DAVIDSON FORSYTH – House Management

A Sierra College student, Hunter has supported Placer Rep during the 2022 season as a House Manager, Usher, Crew Member, and provided scouting story elements and was a scouting skills consultant for the new play *Ghosts of Placer County*. Hunter is an Eagle Scout and currently works for Quarry Park Adventures in Rocklin. Hunter also performed with PRT's monthly show *Rifts in Time: Interactive Adventure Theater*, and has been known to perform stand-up comedy from time to time and tell great fireside stories when camping or when the power goes out. He plans to get his Ph.D. in History and a degree in Creative Writing to become a history professor, and fiction & nonfiction author.



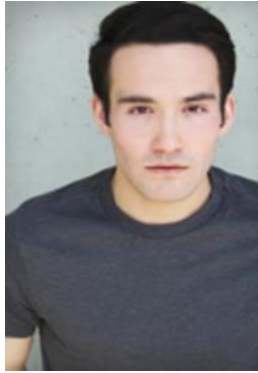
TERESA STIRLING FORSYTH – Producing Artistic Director

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 international tours as an actor/singer/dancer, and director/playwright for national and international touring productions with renowned performing artists, such as Brenda Wong Aoki, and companies like Dell'Arte International. As an educator, she has instructed and directed at UC Davis, University of San Francisco, Shawnee State University, and other educational institutions. Projects on which Forsyth worked performed at venues such as the Kennedy Center, Smithsonian, Dallas Theatre Center, San Diego Repertory Theater, and many other renowned venues, and received Dramalogue Awards, Critics Circle Awards, Broadway World Awards, the Gloria Burt Fellowship in Literature, finalist for SDC Denham Fellowship, as well as numerous grants from the NEA, NEH, CAC, ACPC and corporations. She is a member of the professional organizations: The Dramatists Guild, SDC Stage Directors & Choreographers, The Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE).



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KEVIN FOSTER - Performer, Playwright

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 taught youth performing arts classes. He is currently working on his solo show set during his time as a performing artist in New York. Kevin also may be seen in Placer Rep's digital short series *Sherlock Holmes: Domestic Mysteries* on YouTube and Facebook, in Placer Rep's 2021 productions "The Jane Austen Soiree" and "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes," and in 2021 won a Broadway World award as the best supporting actor for *Persuasion / A Jane Austen Holiday* from December 2020.



ANNE MERINO – Performer, Author

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 novel, *Hawkesmoor*.



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MATT HEYER - Emcee, Performer

Graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where he received his BFA in Theatre, Matthew won the Irene Ryan award for his ensemble work in 2018 and for his performance as Elliot in *Completeness* in 2019. His favorite mainstage productions include Stanley in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Charles in *As You Like It*, Thomas Putnam in *The Crucible*, and Shakespeare in *The Bard on Broadway*. Matt studied IPA and performs duties as a Dialect Coach for Placer Repertory Theater productions. As an actor, for Placer Rep in 2021, Matthew has played the characters George and Milo in *From the Mind of Scott Charles*, and the title role in "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" featuring a new play based on *The Sign of the Four* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.



ARIE KNYAZEV - Stage Reading Performer

Ghosts of Placer County is Arie's first opportunity to work with Placer Repertory Theater. Recently he starred as the character William Gillette in Ken Ludwig's play *The Game's Afoot*, produced by the State Theatre Acting Company at the Auburn State Theatre in Auburn, CA. A software engineer by day, he says he would happily give up his lucrative high-tech career to become a starving professional actor.



RONNIE DUSKA FOWLER - Stage Reading Performer

Ronnie Duska Fowler previously performed at Theatre in the Heights in *Done To Death*, *Twelfth Night*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Blithe Spirit*, and *Don't Dress For Dinner*. Favorite rolls elsewhere include Susanna in the workshop production of *The Chisera* by Paula Cizmar, Ronnette in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Carlotta/The Other Woman in *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, and Angelica Bianca in Aphra Behn's *The Rover*. More recently, she performed in *The Mousetrap* with Freefall Stage.



THE EVENT

WHO:

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

Performers: (performers of the stage reading excerpts)

Matt Heyer

Anne Merino

Ronnie Duska Fowler

Kevin Foster

Arie Kynazev

Writers: (stage readings of passages from their works)

Scott Charles

Kim Hlavac

Allison GylInquist

Anne Merino

Kevin Foster

Michael Selvester

WHAT: Event:

The Placer Rep Annual Holiday Party 2022

WHERE:

Studio E, 578 E Street Lincoln, Lincoln, CA 95648

WHEN:

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

TICKETS/FMI:

General seating. Event is free, donations accepted at the door.

- For \$1 (or more) donation, you may reserve your seats in advance. Due to **limited occupancy** of the blackbox venue, reservations are highly recommended.

FMI / Reservation: **visit Eventbrite.com:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/placer-rep-annual-holiday-party-tickets-446523141737>



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TWO GRAPHICS BELOW:



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**Placer
Repertory
Theater**

**Wed, Dec 7
@ 7 p.m.**

**Holiday
Party!**

- Open Stage
- Games
- Contests
- Prizes
- Network

eventbrite

Studio E, 578 E Street, Lincoln

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