



Placer Repertory Theater

Performing arts, cultural & economic enrichment for Placer County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Placer Rep Artistic Director steps into Voynitskaya role for UNCLE VANYA

Due to a sudden cast-member schedule conflict, Placer Repertory Theater Producing Artistic Director, Teresa Stirling Forsyth, steps into the role of MME Voynitskaya, mother of the title character in Anton Chekhov's ***Uncle Vanya: Scenes from a Country Life***, presented publicly **September 8 and 9** as the Placer Rep 2023-2024 season opener, which includes love triangles, dysfunctional family strife, a mid-life crisis and too much vodka, to mix the perfect tragicomic cocktail.

While Teresa Stirling Forsyth's artistic career predominantly features directing and playwrighting, her first experiences in professional theater were as a performer "too many years ago to mention; I had a pet mammoth," joked Tess, as she is known to her friends and colleagues. She began acting and legitimate voice/opera training at a young age, which led to a show tour of seven European countries as part of a singing/dancing troupe. She later performed in regional tours, which led to the opportunity to tour throughout Japan with The Western Stage Company's production of the musical *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Tess also acted on camera in independent films, as well as in local and regional commercials, and performed voice-overs for commercials, multimedia, and software companies. "I retired my headshot and dancing shoes years ago to be gratefully consigned to the dark recesses of the audience as a director, playwright and producer," Tess smirked. Her training includes an MFA in Dramatic Arts and an MS Business degree in Management & Leadership, "and a lifetime of engagement with people and classes and educational materials from a wide variety of sources on a vast array of topics – I absolutely love to learn," Tess shared passionately.

Teresa Stirling Forsyth as MME Voynitskaya is joined by cast-members Carol Anne Lopez as Marina, Ronnie Duska Fowler as Yelena, Cloud Adams as Professor



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Serebryakov, guest musician/actor Craig Dunlap as Telegin (Waffles), Arie Knyazev as Dr. Astrov, Kyla Quinn as Sonia and Matthew D. Heyer as Uncle Vanya. Most of the cast participate in Studium-Practicum, Placer Rep's professional growth program and have training and professional experience. For example, Kyla Quinn (BA) worked for Lifetime and Asylum Studios film/tv production companies, and Cloud Adams (BA) & Matthew D. Heyer (BFA) both have professional film acting credits.

Placer Repertory Theater's production of Uncle Vanya is a script-in-hand performance for **ONE WEEK ONLY** in Rocklin California on September 8 and 9, after which Placer Rep's *Uncle Vanya* is available for bookings throughout the region by contacting boxoffice@placerrep.org. Placer Rep turns the Rocklin Parkview Event Room into a black-box and includes costume pieces and select furnishings to bring this play to life. The show, full of humor and pathos, is punctuated by brief interludes of Eastern European folk music played live by Craig Dunlap, a regional musician/singer/songwriter. There will also be drawings for gift baskets full of prizes donated by local businesses. More information regarding the September 8 & 9 showings is found at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/placer-rep-presents-uncle-vanya-tickets-694205315787>.

"Huge thanks belong to the City of Rocklin and its Parks & Recreation department, who sponsored the performance venue," said Placer Rep company member Matthew D. Heyer, "and where would we be without our friend and partner, Tamie Rogers of Tamraloo Studios, phenomenal music, dance and theater training in Lincoln, who provides us with Studio E in Lincoln as the home for the Placer Rep Studium-Practicum professional growth program. And of course, huge thanks to all our wonderful supporters, including our donors and sponsors, who we're looking forward to promoting in the near future!" For more information on the September 8 & 9 performances, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/placer-rep-presents-uncle-vanya-tickets-694205315787>.

Placer Repertory Theater (www.PlacerRep.org) is a 501(c)3 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 and surrounding area, while supporting local organizations and acting as an economic engine for the region. Follow Placer Repertory Theater on Facebook (PlacerRep), Twitter and Instagram: @PlacerRep and subscribe to their YouTube Channel (Placer Repertory Theater).

Publishers: FMI: contact Info@placerrep.org



UNCLE VANYA Team



TERESA STIRLING FORSYTH – Producing Artistic Director, Director, Adapter, MME. VOYNITSKAYA. 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, which includes all program oversight, including Placer Repertory Theater VAPA Academy of Colfax.

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 prior professional acting experience in touring theater, film, TV & voiceover, director/playwright credits for national and international touring productions with renowned professional performing artists, such as Brenda Wong Aoki (AEA/SAG/AFTRA), and companies like Dell'Arte Players (AEA). Projects on which Forsyth worked performed at venues such as the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian, Magic Theatre, Cowell Theater, Mark Taper Forum, 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, as well as numerous grants from the NEA, NEH, CAC, ACPC and corporations.

She is a member of the professional organizations: The Dramatists Guild of America (DGA), Stage Directors & Choreographers Society (SDC), The Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) and NNPN/New Play Exchange.



KYLA QUINN – SONIA. Kyla Quinn's background spans professional, academic and community performing arts. Despite receiving training for and being a talented performer, Kyla received their BA degree in Technical Theatre in 2020 from California State University Long Beach and worked in the art department for both Lifetime and Asylum Studios in southern California. In addition to professional work on set, Kyla worked on several academic productions as both a designer and crew member. Most notably they worked as a makeup designer for a collaboration piece between California State Long Beach and the Long Beach Opera entitled The Penal Colony.



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As a performer, Kyla starred in two independent films and particularly enjoys playing the roles of antagonists like Mr. Small in Placer Rep's production of Sherlock Holmes Sign of the Four, and Miss Henrietta Musgrove in Placer Rep's Persuasion: a holiday romantic comedy in 2021. Kyla was named a Placer Rep company member in January 2023, and is engaged in Placer Rep's professional growth program Studium-Practicum learning new theatrical theories, methods and tools, and the philosophies behind them.



MATTHEW HEYER – UNCLE VANYA. 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. Behind the scenes, Matthew is also a Costume Designer and Fabricator, a Set Designer and Constructor, and a Lighting Designer and Lighting Technician, and dabbles in Stage Management. His design credits include *The House that Will Not Stand*, *Completeness*, and *The Bard on Broadway*.

Matt studied IPA (the International Phonetic Alphabet) and performs duties as a Dialect Coach for Placer Repertory Theater productions. Currently, studying under PRT's Studium Practicum professional growth program, Matt has found new professional areas of concentration such as movement for the actor, vocal techniques, style acting and textual analysis. As an actor for Placer Rep in 2021, Matthew played George and Milo in two one-acts in the production known as *From the Mind of Scott Charles*, and the title role in *An Evening with Sherlock Holmes*. In 2022, Matt performed with Placer Rep in the ensemble show, *Haunting History*, and was nominated for two Broadway World Awards, including his performances for PRT's 2022 monthly show, *Rifts in Time*.



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RONNIE DUSKA FOWLER – Actor. Ronnie Duska Fowler studied at Cosumnes River College, where she performed in *Arcadia* and *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and she performed in *The Laramie Project* at Sacramento City College. She has been seen on the stages of *Big Idea Theater* in the Rover, in several productions at Freefall Stage and Theatre in the Heights where she performed in several Shakespeare plays and *Blithe Spirit*. More recently, she played Ann Deever in *All My Sons at The Stage at Burke Junction*. For Placer Repertory Theater, Ronnie performed professional readings for the masterclass “The Writer’s Workshop,” studies with the professional growth program Studium-Practicum and plays the key role of Yelena in *Uncle Vanya* this September.



CAROL ANNE LOPEZ – Actor. Carol is an actor with professional film and tv credits who attended American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Pasadena and has been acting for over 30 years and has played numerous theatrical roles in Arizona, Colorado and California. In Colorado, some of her stand-out credits include *The Man Who Came to Dinner* with Nomads in Boulder and *Auntie Mame*, *Annie* and *Nunsense* with the Longmont Theatre Company. During the pandemic, Carol performed two livestreamed productions with Falcon Eye Theater. She was seen more recently in The Lincoln Theatre Company productions of *Blyth Spirit* and *Lend Me a Tenor*. She currently receives professional growth training in Studium-Practicum with Placer Repertory

Theater and plays the nurse, Marina in *Uncle Vanya*, opening September 2023.



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ARIE KNYAZEV plays Dr. ASTROV. Arie is an early career actor whose formal education at UC Davis led to the receipt of a BS in Computer Science, BS in Mathematics, and a minor in Psychology. Currently, outside of his acting career, Arie works as a Software Engineer touching signal processing and machine learning in the defense sector. Arie's actor training includes musical theater training with a private instructor, several years of acting study at Studio 24 and current participation in Placer Rep's Studium-Practicum, the professional growth program, as well as experiential education through on-the-job performance.

Some of Arie's favorite roles include William Gillette in *The Game's Afoot*, Max in *Lend Me a Tenor*, Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and of course his first role: Cogsworth in *Beauty and the Beast*. Arie's first work for Placer Repertory Theater began in 2022 as a member of the ensemble cast that performed at the *Haunting History* events in Lincoln and Rocklin and performed stage readings of early drafts of the new play *Ghosts of Placer County* in Foresthill, Sacramento and Roseville.



CLOUD ADAMS plays Professor SEREBRYAKOV.

Cloud's passion for theater and acting has been evident throughout his life. His initial foray into theater and acting began as the lead performer in theatrical works during his primary and secondary education. After 10 years of military service, during which he entertained soldiers when off duty, Cloud left the military and sought a college degree. Upon graduation from Sacramento State University with a B.S. in Judaism Theology, Cloud became quite serious about his acting career.

Cloud's most recent works include the character George Spelvin in *The Actor's Nightmare* by Christopher Durang, Apollo Host in *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* by Alan Janes, and as an extra in the film "In Broad Daylight," and produces digital shorts on YouTube and Switch. Cloud recently was named a 2023 Company Member for Placer Repertory Theater and participates in their Studium-Practicum professional growth program.



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CRAIG DUNLAP plays TELEGIN (Waffles) / musical accompaniment & acoustic sound cues. Craig Dunlap is well known on the greater Sacramento Region stages as a musician/singer/songwriter. Placer Repertory Theater became aware of Craig's talents during his performances at Collaboration LAB (a free Placer Rep new works/talent incubator & networking program). This is Craig's first professional role as an actor, and his bravery in taking on this role is applauded. In addition to playing Telegin in Uncle Vanya, he also plays Eastern European folk music within the play, and as underscoring, as well as provides acoustic sound cues, like a window slam, sounds of thunder and rain.



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WHAT

Placer Repertory Theater's performance of

UNCLE VANYA: Scenes from a Country Life

DETAILS

A famous classic play performed on renowned stages throughout the world, Uncle Vanya is a tragicomedy that explores the humor and pathos of a dysfunctional extended family. In addition to the script-in-hand performance of the play, there will be live acoustic music, drawings for gift baskets, and post-show Q&A/mingle with the actors.

WHERE

Parkview Room, Johnson Springview Park 5460 5th Street Rocklin, CA 95677

FMI/Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/placer-rep-presents-uncle-vanya-tickets-694205315787/>

WHEN

Uncle Vanya public performance, ONE WEEK ONLY: **September 8 & 9, 2023 @ 7 p.m.**

(Or by booking: boxoffice@placerrep.org)

FMI

To reserve seats for events & shows: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/placer-rep-presents-uncle-vanya-tickets-694205315787/>.

For Bookings & Questions: Email: boxoffice@placerrep.org

WHO

Placer Repertory Theater company members & affiliates

- T.S. Forsyth, Producing Artistic Director, Director, Adapter, MME. VOYNITSKAYA



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- Kyla Quinn, Actor, Make-up Specialist, plays SONIA
- Matthew D. Heyer, Actor, Costume Specialist, plays UNCLE VANYA
- Ronnie Duska Fowler, Actor, plays YELENA
- Carol Anne Lopez, Actor, plays NURSE MARINA
- Arie Knyazev, Actor, plays DR. ASTROV
- Cloud Adams, Actor, plays PROFESSOR SEREBRYAKOV
- Craig Dunlap, Guest Musician/Actor, plays TELEGIN (Waffles)

GRAPHIC x3: Teresa Stirling Forsyth





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