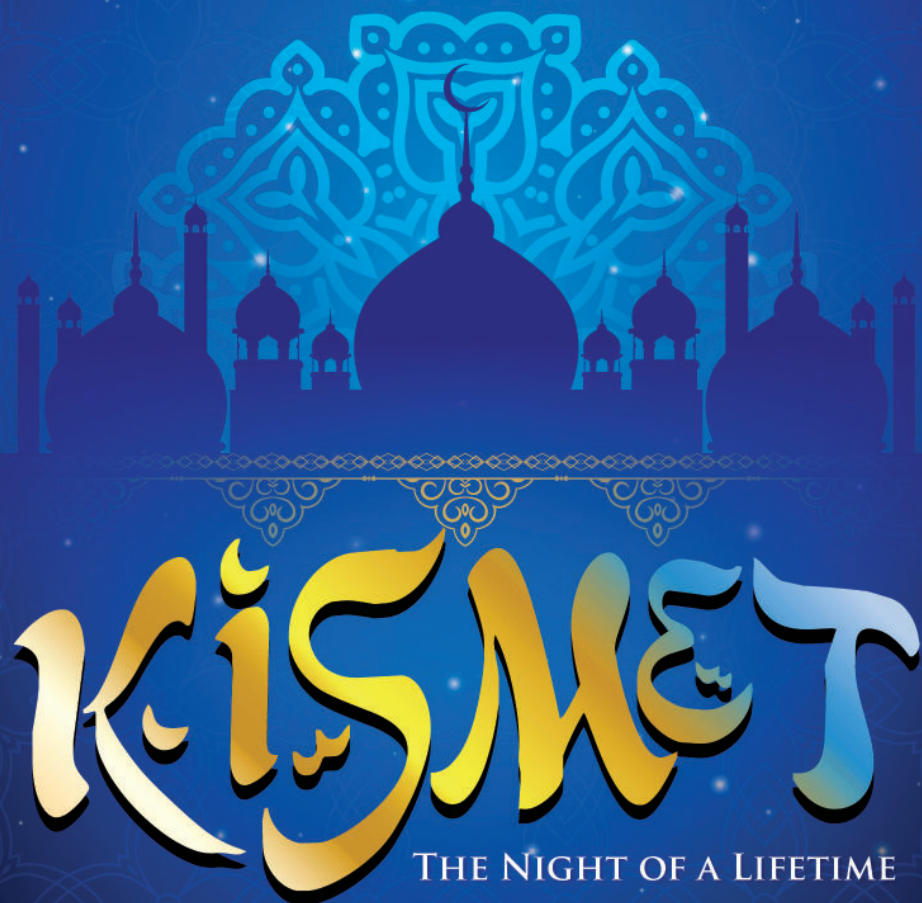


SARA MILLER MCCUNE
ALONG WITH
THE GRANADA THEATRE,
THE SANTA BARBARA SYMPHONY
AND STATE STREET BALLET
PRESENTS



THE NIGHT OF A LIFETIME



SARA MILLER MCCUNE

We honor one of the stars of tonight's performance of *Kismet* you won't see on stage—our producer, Sara Miller McCune.

Sara's interest, passion, and support of the performing arts is perhaps only exceeded by her passion for social justice. Sara, President and Founder of SAGE Publishing, established her company in 1965 with the belief that social science research can and must play an important role in shaping society. SAGE Publishing, now a global company with hubs around the world, continues to promote the belief and practice that supporting quality research transforms society and our understanding of individuals, groups, and cultures.

Here in the premiere venue in her adopted hometown, Sara was a driving force in the renovation of the Granada Theatre, continuing her tradition of being a patron of the arts. We are honored to support Sara's social science and artistic visions.

Thank you, Sara, for your commitment to the betterment of your local and global community.



Dear friends,

Growing up in New York during the 1950s turned me into a lover of Broadway theatre, especially musicals. By the age of 18, I'd been fortunate enough to see wonderful productions of *West Side Story*, *My Fair Lady*, and close to a hundred other musicals, dramas and comedies.

My very favorite musical turned out to be *Kismet* which opened on Broadway in 1953 and won a Tony Award in 1954 for best musical. Over the years, the music and the words have often played in my head and seemed to be calling out to me with a special message. For most of the last decade, I have had a burning desire to see *Kismet* once again live and on stage. I missed the songs and the splendor, the music and the magic!

After my 75th birthday, I realized that I should perhaps visualize what I had for so long considered an "Impossible Dream" (thinking of yet another favorite musical, *Man of La Mancha*). *Kismet* was so wonderful, yet rarely performed, and I wanted to share its beautiful melodies, witty lyrics, splendid costumes, and amazing opportunities for active and beautiful dances. I believed that our own Symphony and Ballet companies could showcase their amazing strengths to us—especially if they could have the advantage of input from a great director and the 6 leading roles played by strong, experienced Broadway talent.

I decided that I would bring Broadway to Santa Barbara with a live and beautifully staged production of this wonderful show with the leading roles played by Broadway talent, the music provided by Santa Barbara's Symphony, and newly choreographed dances performed by our very own, and much beloved State Street Ballet. I discussed this idea with my friend, Tony Award-winning Broadway producer Ken Davenport, who agreed to sign on as Executive Producer. We recruited Broadway director Lonny Price who has worked with some of my favorite Broadway stars including Audra McDonald, Norm Lewis, Patti LuPone, Emma Thompson and Glenn Close. Lonny and I had dinner at the Russian Tea Room in New York a year and a half ago and decided to plan this production to celebrate my 80th birthday in February of 2021.

When Covid-19 came along, of course our plans for *Kismet* had to be rescheduled. My 80th birthday is being celebrated during the entire year of 2021, rather than just February, so we moved our production forward to October of this year as a treat for myself, my friends, and my community, as we emerge (somewhat shell-shocked) from the pandemic and begin to create the "new normal" of whatever changes will follow with work, education, and how we live our lives in a post-COVID period!

Enjoy the show!

Sara Miller McCune

KISMET

THE NIGHT OF A LIFETIME

OCTOBER 23-24, 2021

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SARA MILLER MCCUNE
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FROM THE DIRECTOR



Welcome to *Kismet!*

Kismet is a musical comedy that was produced on Broadway in 1953. It starred Alfred Drake who had wowed audiences playing

Curley in the original *Oklahoma!*, and then again some years later as the lead in Cole Porter's *Kiss Me Kate*. Adapted from the Edward Knoblock play of the same name, *Kismet* has a book by Luther Davis & Charles Lederer and songs by George Wright & Robert Forrest. What is most unusual about *Kismet* is that Wright & Forrest based their score on the themes of classical composer Alexander Borodin. How they managed to turn these classical themes into some of the most ravishing and popular songs ever heard on a Broadway stage is still a mystery to me. I can't think of any other musical dramatists that ever attempted this particular feat. The songs "Baubles Bangles and Beads," "Stranger in Paradise," "And This Is My Beloved" have become part of the fabric of the American song book, sung by countless great singers through the decades—Frank Sinatra, Sarah Vaughn, and Antonio Carlos Jobim, to name a few. The show won the 1954 Tony Award as Best Musical, along with Mr. Drake and the conductor Louis Adrian taking home Tonys as well.

What's important to note is that up through the 1950's, songs from Broadway shows were a major part of popular music. And in fact, cast albums were on the record charts—Lerner and Loewe's *My Fair Lady* spent a whopping 480 weeks on the Billboard charts! All to say that the songs were the most important element of a show, and frequently the driving force, since they would have a life outside of the theatre and generate income for years to come. Many

of the shows that housed those songs are unreivable, hampered by books hastily constructed to accommodate the tunes—the shows were never meant to have an afterlife much beyond their time. (Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals are an exception.) In terms of accuracy in depicting places and cultures outside of the US, the writing was often spotty at best, with seemingly little attention placed on any kind of authenticity.

Happily, we are now in an era where respectful representation of cultures is imperative, which is vital, important and utterly correct. When working on a show such as this, as much as one has to understand the time in which it was written, one cannot continue to perpetuate stereotypes and tropes that have caused pain to a group—any group—of people.

In approaching *Kismet*, we reached out to Professor Naila Al-Atrash, Professor of Arab Theater and Film Studies at NYU for her guidance on the material. We made what we hope are substantial adjustments (including some cuts) in our effort to be fully respectful of the extraordinary culture this show celebrates. Interestingly, among many other significant things, Persians gave us the concept of Human Rights.

I think we are living in an exciting time. A time when we are more aware of our lack of sensitivity to members of our communities, and a time when we are making commitments to do better. And I am hopeful we will.

Now sit back and let this ravishing music, singing, and dancing transport you to our Arabian Night fantasy. I hope you enjoy the show!

Lonny Price

SARA MILLER MCCUNE

in association with

THE GRANADA THEATRE, THE SANTA BARBARA SYMPHONY,
and STATE STREET BALLET

presents

KISMET

THE NIGHT OF A LIFETIME

Book by

CHARLES LEDERER & LUTHER DAVIS

(Founded on a play by Edward Knoblock)

Music and Lyrics by

ROBERT WRIGHT & GEORGE FORREST

(From themes of A. Borodin)

Starring

SHERZ ALETAHA* ANI DJIRDJIRIAN* AUSTIN DURANT*
JOSEPH KAMAL* ARIEL NEYDAVOUD* JONATHAN RAVIV*

With

PAUL AGUIRRE* RAMIN DOOSTDAR* COOPER GRODIN* CONSTANTINE PAPPAS*
LEXI RABADI* SAUM SEYED* CECELIA TICKTIN*

And

The *Kismet* Chorus:

BRIAN HOTCHKIN*, GAIA HUBBARD*, VALDIS JANSONS*, MIYUKI MIYAGI*, PETER OTTE*,
ANGELINE PETRONIJEVIC*, PHIL PRITCHARD*, ADRIEN ROBERTS*, JENNA LEA ROSEN*

Featuring

Members of the State Street Ballet Company:

TANNER BLEE, AMARA GALLOWAY, ARIANNA HARTANOV, AMBER HIRSCHFIELD, JULIA KAMILOS,
CALEB KNIGHT, MARIKA KOBAYASHI, RYAN LENKEY, AHNA LIPCHIK, MAKENA MALONSO,
EMMA MATTHEWS, HAROLD MENDEZ, DEISE MENDONÇA, ZHAN MISHEL PANCHUK,
ELIANA SWANBERG, NOAM TSIVKIN, NATHANIEL TYSON, SAORI YAMASHITA

And

The Santa Barbara Symphony

Scenic Design	Costume Design	Lighting Design	Sound Design	Wigs, Hair & Makeup
JAMES NOONE	TRACY CHRISTENSEN	KEN BILLINGTON	KAI HARADA	J. JARED JANAS

Casting	Cultural Consultant	Associate Director
PETER VAN DAM, CSA	NAILA ATRACH	MATT COWART

Production Supervisor	Executive Producer	Production Manager	General Manager
J. JASON DAUNTER*	KEN DAVENPORT	JUNIPER STREET PRODUCTIONS	ARCHITECT THEATRICAL RYAN CONWAY

Music Direction

NIR KABARETTI

Choreography

WILLIAM SOLEAU

Directed by

LONNY PRICE

**Members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States*

KISMET

is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.MTIShows.com



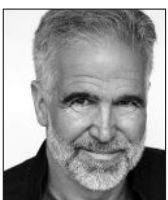
Sherz
Aletaha



Ani
Djirdjirian



Austin
Durant



Joseph
Kamal



Ariel
Neydavoud



Jonathan
Raviv



Paul
Aguirre



Ramin
Doostdar



Cooper
Grodin



Constantine
Pappas



Lexi
Rabadi



Saum
Seyed



Cecelia
Tickin



Brian
Hotchkin



Gaia
Hubbard



Valdis
Jansons



Miyuki
Miyagi



Peter
Otte



Angeline
Petronijevic



Phil
Pritchard



Adrien
Roberts



Jenna Lea
Rosen



Tanner
Blee



Amara
Galloway



Arianna
Hartanov



Amber
Hirschfield



Julia
Kamilos



Marika
Kobayashi



Ryan
Lenkey



Ahna
Lipchik



Emma
Matthews



Harold
Mendez



Deise
Mendonça



Zhan Mishel
Panchuk



Eliana
Swanberg



Noam
Tsivkin



Nathaniel
Tyson



Saori
Yamashita

CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

Imam	RAMIN DOOSTDAR*
Omar	JOSEPH KAMAL*
Hajj, the Poet	JONATHAN RAVIV*
Marsinah	ANI DJIRDJIRIAN*
Fig Seller	CONSTANTINE PAPPAS*
Hassan-Ben	COOPER GRODIN*
Jawan	RAMIN DOOSTDAR*
Chief of Police	COOPER GRODIN*
The Wazir of Police	AUSTIN DURANT*
Lalume	SHERZ ALETAHA*
Three Princesses of Ababu	AMARA GALLOWAY, MARIKA KOBAYASHI, SAORI YAMASHITA
The Caliph	ARIEL NEYDAVOUD*
Widow Yussef	CECELIA TICKTIN*
Samahris	DEISE MENDONÇA
Zubbediya	AHNA LIPCHIK
Marriage Arranger	CECELIA TICKTIN*
Ensemble	PAUL AGUIRRE*, RAMIN DOOSTDAR*, COOPER GRODIN*, CONSTANTINE PAPPAS*, LEXI RABADI*, SAUM SEYED*, CECELIA TICKTIN*
State Street Ballet Dancers	TANNER BLEE, AMARA GALLOWAY, ARIANNA HARTANOV, AMBER HIRSCHFIELD, JULIA KAMILOS, MARIKA KOBAYASHI, RYAN LENKEY, AHNA LIPCHIK, EMMA MATTHEWS, HAROLD MENDEZ, DEISE MENDONÇA, ZHAN MISHEL PANCHUK, ELIANA SWANBERG, NOAM TSVIKIN, NATHANIEL TYSON, SAORI YAMASHITA
Kismet Chorus	BRIAN HOTCHKIN*, GAIA HUBBARD*, VALDIS JANSONS*, MIYUKI MIYAGI*, PETER OTTE*, ANGELINE PETRONIJEVIC*, PHIL PRITCHARD*, ADRIEN ROBERTS*, JENNA LEA ROSEN*

State Street Ballet Understudies
CALEB KNIGHT AND MAKENA MALONSO

Dance Captain
AMARA GALLOWAY

**Members of Actors' Equity Association,
the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States*

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Setting: One day in a fictional Baghdad of the past.

ACT I

“Overture”	Orchestra
“Sands of Time”	Imam
“Rhymes Have I”	The Poet and Marsinah
“Fate”	The Poet
“Fate Reprise”	The Poet
“Bazaar of the Caravans”	Ensemble
“Ababu Dance I”	Ababu Princesses & Orchestra
“Not Since Nineveh”	Lalume, Wazir & Ensemble
“Baubles, Bangles and Beads”	Marsinah, Caliph, Bangle Man, Silk Merchants, Pearl Merchant & Ensemble
“Stranger in Paradise”	Marsinah and Caliph
“Gesticulate”	The Poet, Lalume, Wazir & Ensemble
“Fate - Finale Act I”	The Poet, Lalume & Ensemble

ACT II

“Entr’acte”	Orchestra
“Night of My Nights”	Caliph & Ensemble
“Stranger in Paradise (Reprise)”	Marsinah
“Baubles, Bangles, Beads (Reprise)”	Caliph
“Night Of My Nights (Reprise)”	Ensemble
“Was I Wazir?”	Wazir & Guards
“The Olive Tree”	The Poet
“Rahadlakum”	The Poet, Lalume, Ayah & Harem Girls
“And This Is My Beloved”	The Poet, Marsinah, Wazir & Caliph
“Samahris’ Dance”	Ensemble & Orchestra
“Zubbediya”	Marriage Arranger & Orchestra
“Ababu Dance II”	Ababu Princesses & Orchestra
“Finale-Act II”	Company

There will be one 20 minute intermission.

Orchestra

The Santa Barbara Symphony

Musical Director/Conductor: NIR KABARETTI

Associate Musical Director: DAN REDFELD

Artistic and Production Manager: SUSAN ANDERSON

Kismet Rehearsal Pianist: JASON YARCHO

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

SHERZ ALETAHA (*Lalume*) Sherz, which is pronounced like more than one Cher, has been seen on stage at The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Ars Nova, as Aldonza in *Man of La Mancha* (Triad Stage), in *Archetypes* (Prospect Theater Company), and in *Spring Alive* (Dixon Place). On Camera work includes "The Detour," "The First Wives Club," "Three Trembling Cities," "Wing Women," "Insomnia," and numerous commercials. Love and gratitude to this cast, crew, creative team, CLA, Peter, family, and friends. Follow her at @morethanonecher.

ANI DJIRDJIRIAN (*Marsinah*), a native New Yorker, is thrilled to be among *Kismet*'s cast of amazing MENASA talent. She appeared in the 1st National Tour of *Spamilton* as the Leading Lady (2019 Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Musical Actress). Off Broadway: *The Office Musical Parody*; *Kris Kringle: The Musical*; Regional: *The Thanksgiving Play* (St. Louis Rep). Television: Comedy Central's *Awkwafina is Nora from Queens*, NBC's *Late Night with Seth Meyers*. Parallel to her performance career, Ani is also a current graduate student of clinical social work and international policy at Fordham University. She is deeply grateful to her family, amazing husband Vrej, vocal coach Paul Lincoln, and the GBM team. Follow her at @itsyagirlnani!

AUSTIN DURANT (*The Wazir*) Broadway: *Moulin Rouge!*; *Macbeth*; *War Horse*; *You Can't Take It With You*. The Public: *Much Ado About Nothing*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Classic Stage Company, LCT3, Yale Rep, Geffen Playhouse, The Old Globe, Intiman Theater, Berkshire Theater Group. Television: "Search Party," "Succession," "The Good Fight," "Elementary," "Nurse Jackie," "Person of Interest." MFA Yale School of Drama.

JOSEPH KAMAL (*Omar*) was in the Broadway company of the Tony winning best musical *The Bands Visit*. He has appeared in world premieres by Pulitzer and Oscar winning authors Tony Kushner and Ethan Coen. TV includes *Blue Bloods*, *Animal Kingdom*, *Seal Team* and *Law & Order* among many others. Voiceover work includes the video game *Call Of Duty*. He

is currently voicing the title role of the animated sequel to the *Night At The Museum* franchise *Night At The Museum 4: Kamunrah Rises Again*. @JosephKamal8

ARIEL NEYDAVOUD (*Caliph*) An LA native, Ariel now resides full-time in NYC. Some of his favorite performances include *Sweet Charity* (directed by Kathleen Marshall and starring Laura Bell Bundy); *Chicago* (Maltz Jupiter Theatre, directed by Denis Jones); The Fakir in *The Secret Garden* (3-D Theatricals); *Mamma Mia!* (Marriott Theatre); TJ in *Sister Act, Beauty and the Beast*, and Disney's *When You Wish* (Tuacahn Center for the Arts); Gabriel in *Temple of the Souls* (NYMF); and *Oklahoma!* and *South Pacific* (Musical Theatre West). Endless love, thanks and gratitude for my family and friends.

JONATHAN RAVIV (*Haji*) was most recently seen in the Olney Theatre's streaming version of *The Humans* and is very happy to be returning to live theatre! An Emmy award winner and original cast member of the 10-time Tony Award winning musical, *The Band's Visit*, Jonathan has extensive Off-Broadway and Regional Theatre credits. He has worked at some of the most prestigious theatres in the country, including: Atlantic Theatre, Lucille Lortel, Cherry Lane, Steppenwolf, The Goodman, Arena Stage, Berkeley Rep, Portland Center Stage and Writers' Theatre. He has also had several guest star appearances in major network television and films and has done extensive voice over commercial and motion capture work. Jonathan can also be heard on the original cast albums of *The Band's Visit* and *The Lightning Thief - The Percy Jackson Musical*. Follow him: @jonathanraviv

PAUL AGUIRRE (*Ensemble*) NYC/Tours: *Billy Elliot*, *Seussical* (w/ Cathy Rigby), *The Who's Tommy*, *H2S*, *My Fair Lady*, *Giant Hoax*, and *Grinch...* (cast recording) at MSG. Regional: *In The Heights*, *Evita*, *Miss Saigon*, *Guys & Dolls*, and *Twist: An American Musical* directed/choreographed by Debbie Allen. For more, visit PaulAguirre.com. Paul is also the owner/creator of BroadwayDollsandGuys.com. Love to David, Nikki and Arya. Paul forever dedicates his work to Ma for her never-ending love and support.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

RAMIN DOOSTDAR (*Ensemble*) is very excited to be making his American Stage Debut! Select Europe: *The Phantom of the Opera* (25th Anniversary Concert), *Next to Normal* (German Premiere), *Company* (Austrian Premiere), *Mamma Mia!*, *Into the Woods* (Austrian Premiere), *Sister Act*, *Avenue X* (European Premiere), *Evita*, *On your Feet!* (German Premiere), *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Sweeney Todd*. Ramin is multilingual and is fluent in Farsi, German, and English. IG: @ramindoostdar

COOPER GRODIN (*Ensemble*) is an actor, singer, musician, and composer. Title role in *Phantom Of The Opera* National Tour, *Les Miserables* National Tour, *The Bands Visit* Lab directed by Hal Prince, Shakespeare In The Park's *Into The Woods*, *Annie* at Paper Mill Playhouse, Carbonell nominated Best Actor in the Carbonell winning Best Musical *Sunday In The Park With George*, Drama Desk Nominated *The Golden Land*, Henry Award winning Best Musical *Oklahoma!* at the Denver Performing Arts Center, NBC's *The Blacklist*, ABC's *Deception*. Cooper's Original album "It's The Little Things" is available on iTunes. W/The Price Group. @CooperGrodinOfficial

CONSTANTINE PAPPAS (*Ensemble*) National Tour: *The Phantom of the Opera* (US/Raoul). Regional: *A Comedy of Tenors* (Max), *First Date* (Aaron), *Into the Woods* (Cinderella's Prince), *Les Miserables* (Marius). OPERA: In My Mind's Eye (Nikola Tesla), *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Figaro), *The Secret of Luca* (Luca). Voiceover: Tales from the Creepery (Various). Represented by Avalon Artists Group. Facebook, Instagram, TikTok @constandpappas. www.constandpappas.com

LEXI RABADI (*Ensemble*) is honored to be sharing this story and beautiful score alongside such vibrant artists. Off-Broadway: *Hannah Senesh*, a one-woman play with music (National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene). Regional: Belle in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Fulton Theatre, Maine State Music Theatre), Laura in *The Glass Menagerie* (Fulton Theatre), Belle in *A Christmas Carol* (Actor's Theatre of Louisville).

Lexi is also a proud poet and yoga teacher. lexirabadi.com

SAUM SEYED (*Ensemble*) is so grateful to be back on stage sharing the magic of live performance. Favorite credits include: *Disaster!* (Off-Bway/LA) *Wonderful Town* (1st Nat'l tour), DCINY's world premiere of Grammy Award winning composer Christopher Tin's *The Drop That Contained The Sea* (Carnegie Hall). When not performing, the Las Vegas raised artist shuffles it up producing ESPN's live coverage of the "World Series of Poker."

CECELIA TICKTIN (*Ensemble*) National Tour: *Wicked* (Elphaba Standby). Regional: *Camelot*, *Kiss Me Kate*. Endlessly grateful to be a part of this extraordinary company! With love, as always, to the most supportive and loving family a gal could ask for. This one's for Richard Loatman, who taught me the music of *Kismet* when I was a teenager; and who has acted as a teacher, champion, and friend ever since.

BRIAN HOTCHKIN (*Kismet Chorus*) a Baritone, recently sang Filippo in Bellini's *Beatrice di Tenda* (London Bel Canto Festival) and performed leading roles in *Madame Butterfly*, *Carmen*, and *Don Giovanni* (Mediterranean Opera Festival). He has been a soloist with Quire of Voyces, the Mission Schola, and the SB Master Chorale. He is on the voice faculty at Ventura College.

GAIA HUBBARD (*Kismet Chorus*) is a Mezzo Soprano who graduated from the Conservatory of Florence. She debuted in *Gianni Schicchi* and was featured in the first world recording of *Zazà* by Leoncavallo. She performed in many concerts in Italy and Israel including Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. She is a member of Opera Santa Barbara Chorus.

VALDIS JANSONS (*Kismet Chorus*) is an internationally acclaimed opera singer who performed more than 50 main roles in 70 theaters around the world, including Teatro alla Scala, Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, NCPA in Beijing, Lincoln Center in New York, Teatro Municipal in Rio de Janeiro, Theater an der Wien in Austria and others.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

MIYUKI MIYAGI (*Kismet Chorus*) is an actor, singer, dancer, violinist, and multi-instrumentalist. Highlights: Peggy Maruyama, *Allegiance* (East West Players); Jasmine/Mulan cover, *When You Wish* (Tuacahn Center for the Arts); Liat, *South Pacific* (Culver City Symphony); Anne, *A Little Night Music* (Princeton Summer Theater). Princeton grad. www.MiyukiMiyagi.com. IG: @mkmiyagi

PETER OTTE (*Kismet Chorus*) was born in Santa Barbara at the old St. Francis Hospital. He joined the Opera Santa Barbara chorus for a production of *Aida* in 2013 and has appeared in numerous opera performances with OSB since then.

ANGELINE PETRONIJEVIC (*Kismet Chorus*) has performed all over the world. She began her opera career with Opera San Jose in 2012, singing in their outreach program, covering roles, and in chorus. In 2018 Angeline graduated from Chicago College of Performing Arts. She most recently performed with Opera Santa Barbara in *Madame Butterfly*.

PHIL PRITCHARD (*Kismet Chorus*) trained at the Mountview Conservatoire in London. Recent Credits include *Il Postino* at The Lobero Theatre with Opera Santa Barbara and *La Cenerentola* with Pacific Opera Project at the Ford Theatre in LA. Phil appeared in Beatles Musical *Backbeat* at The Ahmanson Theatre in LA and in the UK he has appeared in Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* in the west End, directed by Sir Trevor Nunn, and in the Cameron Mackintosh production of *Les Miserables*.

ADRIEN ROBERTS (*Kismet Chorus*) most recently played Marguerite in *Faust* with VOPA Opera. She performs every year in BOTH with Jason Paige and Co. Adrien's operatic roles include: Cio Cio San in *Madame Butterfly*, Mimi in *La Boheme*, Rosalinda in *Die Fledermaus*, the Rooster in *The Cunning Little Vixen*, Yvette in *La Rondine*, Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro*, and Adina in *L'elisir d'Amore*. Adrien has performed in 19 opera choruses with Opera Santa Barbara and can't wait to make it past 20. adrienroberts.com

JENNA LEA ROSEN (*Kismet Chorus*) Regional theater: *Emma the Musical* (Harriet,

ETC), *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle, Moonlight Amphitheater), *Evita* (Mistress, PVPA), *Parade* (Monteen,3DT). Jenna voices multiple characters for the Disney Channel on "Sophia the First," "Elena of Avalor," "Fancy Nancy," and "DuckTales." Jenna has sung in concert with Patti Lupone, Richard M. Sherman, and on many TV and movie soundtracks.

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION ("*Equity*"), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks

CHARLES LEDERER (*Book*) Born: Dec 31, 1911 New York, NY, Died: Mar 5, 1976 Los Angeles, CA. Husband of Anne Shirley, nephew of Marion Davies, son of Reine Davies & George W. Lederer. Producer, Writer, Source Material. Awards and nominations: 1954 Tony Award® Best Musical *Kismet* [winner] Productions: *TIMBUKTU!* Based on the musical by Lederer [Original, Musical] (Mar 1, 1978 - Sep 10, 1978) *Kismet* Book by & Produced [Original, Musical] (Dec 3, 1953 - Apr 23, 1955)

LUTHER DAVIS (*Book*). In collaboration with Robert Wright and George Forrest, Luther Davis wrote *Kismet*, *Timbuktu* and two singular productions based on Vicki Baum's novel Grand Hotel: *At The Grand* for Los Angeles and San Francisco Light Opera Association and the famous Broadway musical version, *Grand Hotel-The Musical*. Among the plays he has written are: *Kiss Them For Me*, *They Voted Yes* and *Changing The World*. He has written fifteen movies, many television specials and co-produced Stephen MacDonald's play, *Not About Heroes*, Off Broadway. He has been nominated for three Tony Awards®, winning one. He has won two Mystery Writer of America Edgar Allen Poe awards and been nominated many times by the Writer's Guild of America and the League

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

of American Theaters and Producers. He is the father of two and an enthusiastic supporter of Zero Population Growth.

ROBERT WRIGHT (*Music & Lyrics*) born September 25, 1914, (Daytona Beach) died Wednesday August 2, 2005 (Miami) and George Chet Forrest (*Music & Lyrics*) born July 31, 1915 (Brooklyn), died Oct. 10, 1999 (Miami) wrote together in the longest continual partnership in the history of musical theatre. They got their start in Hollywood and were equally comfortable writing for the screen or stage. Their most famous musical is *Kismet*, in which they adapted the musical themes of Alexander Borodin creating a theatrical score filled with songs that became timeless hits including *Baubles, Bangles and Beads*, *Stranger In Paradise*, and *And This Is My Beloved*. Several of their works used classical compositions adapted into song form. Their works for the stage include: *Song Of Norway* (1944) (music adapted from Edvard Grieg), *Gypsy Lady* (1946) (music adapted from Victor Herbert), *Magdalena* (1948) (original music by Heitor Villa-Lobos), *Kismet* (1953) (music adapted from Alexander Borodin), *Kean* (1961), *Anya* (1965) (music adapted from Sergei Rachmaninoff), *The Great Waltz* (1970) (music adapted from Johann Strauss), *Timbuktu!* (1978) (reworking of *Kismet*), and *Grand Hotel The Musical* (1989).

LONNY PRICE (*Director*) On Broadway, Lonny directed Glenn Close in *Sunset Blvd* (also at the English National Opera) and *Lady Day At Emerson's Bar And Grill* starring Audra McDonald (also the film version for HBO, as well as on the West End). Other New York productions include *Sweeney Todd* starring Emma Thompson and Bryn Terfel, *Company* (starring Neil Patrick Harris, Stephen Colbert), *Sondheim: The Birthday Concert* (Emmy Award), *Passion* (Emmy Award), and *Candide* (starring Patti LuPone and Kristen Chenoweth). Other Broadway work includes *110 in the Shade*; *'Master Harold'... and the Boys*; *Sally Marr and Her Escorts* (which he co-wrote with Joan Rivers and Erin Sanders); *Urban Cowboy*; and *A Class Act*, for which he also co-wrote the book with Linda Kline and was nominated for a Tony Award. He

directed the documentaries "Hal Prince: The Director's Life" (for Great Performances) and "The Best Worst Thing That Ever Could Have Happened" which played the New York Film Festival, and is currently available on Netflix. Happy Birthday, SMM!

NIR KABARETTI (*Conductor*) Internationally acclaimed conductor Nir Kabaretti's artistic reach continues to expand around the world, thrilling audiences with his dynamic conducting style and vast knowledge of all facets of musical performing arts. Since joining Santa Barbara Symphony in 2005, Maestro Kabaretti has propelled the Symphony to new artistic heights, attracting the world's top musician talent as orchestra members and renowned guest artists, and engaging capacity audiences in his artistic vision of dynamic and diverse performances.

WILLIAM SOLEAU (*Choreographer*) has created over 100 ballets on companies around the world. As a principal dancer and resident choreographer with several companies, he performed in over 30 countries while personally working with world-renowned choreographers. In addition to concert work, he has also created choreography for Film, Theater and Opera. Mr. Soleau has been Resident Choreographer at State Street Ballet for 23 years and was named Co-artistic Director in 2018.

MATT COWART (*Associate Director*) Broadway: *Sunset Boulevard* starring Glenn Close (Associate Director); *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill* (Associate Director); *110 in the Shade* (Assistant Director). West End: *Man of La Mancha* starring Kelsey Grammer (Associate Director); *Carousel* (Associate Director); *Sweeney Todd* starring Emma Thompson and Bryn Terfel (Producer/Associate Director). Select Film / Television: Hal Prince: the director's life (Co-Producer, PBS); The Best Worst Thing That Ever Could Have Happened (Co-Producer).

TRACY CHRISTENSEN (*Costume Designer*) designed the Broadway revival of *Sunset Boulevard* starring Glenn Close, *Carousel* (English National Opera), the world premiere of *Scotland, PA* off-Broadway and *Sweeney Todd* with Emma Thompson, all directed by Lonny

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

Price. Other projects: *Souvenir* (Broadway), *Candide* at Carnegie Hall with John Lithgow, *Love's Labour's Lost* (Folger), *Noises Off!* (Asolo). Recent premieres: *Passing Through* (Goodspeed), *Anne of Green Gables* (The REV) and Kate Hamill's *Pride & Prejudice* off Broadway. Faculty: Purchase College SUNY. www.tracychristensen.com.

J. JARED JANAS (*Wig, Hair, and Makeup Design*) Broadway: *Jagged Little Pill*, *Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune*, *Gettin' the Band Back Together*, *Bandstand*, *Indecent*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *The Visit*, *The Real Thing*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*, *Motown*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*, and *All About Me*. Recent Off-Broadway: *Seven Deadly Sins*, *Sing Street*, and *Yours Unfaithfully* (Mint Theatre, Drama Desk nomination). Recent TV: "And Just Like That," "The Gilded Age," and "Gotham."

JAMES NOONE (*Scenic Designer*) Broadway: *Sunset Boulevard* (Revival) *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, *A Time to Kill*, *Match*, *A Bronx Tale* (play) *A Class Act*, *Jekyll and Hyde* (Original) *The Rainmaker*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *The Gin Game*, *Inherit The Wind* and many others. Off-Broadway: *The Boys In The Band*, *In Masks Outrageous and Austere*, *White Chocolate*, *Frankie and Johnny in The Clair de Lune* (Original) *Ruthless!* AWARDS: American Theatre Wing Design, Drama Desk, Helen Hayes, LA Ovation.

KEN BILLINGTON (*Lighting Designer*) has over 100 Broadway shows to his credit, including the original *Sweeney Todd*, *Waitress*, *Sunday in the Park with George* (2008 & 2017) *Act One*, *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *Footloose*. His Tony-Award lighting for *Chicago* has been seen in 36 countries. Other Projects: Hugh Jackman in Concert, the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, *Fantasmic!* at Disneyland, and award-winning architectural lighting for work NYC's Tavern on the Green. Ken is a member of the Theatre Hall of Fame.

KAI HARADA (*Sound Design*) Broadway: *Head Over Heels*; *The Band's Visit* (Tony, Drama Desk Awards); *Amélie*; *Sunday in the*

Park With George; *Allegiance*; *Gigi*; *Fun Home*; *On the Town*; *First Date*; *Follies* (Tony, Drama Desk Nominations); and *Million Dollar Quartet*. Other: *Soft Power* (Public); *Evita*; *Grand Hotel* (City Center); *Candide* (LA Opera); *Marie* (5th Avenue); *The Black Clown* (ART); *Tommy*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Music Man* (Kennedy Center); *Silent Night* (WNO); *Hinterm Horizont* (Berlin). Education: Yale.

J. JASON DAUNTER (*Production Supervisor/Production Stage Manager*) Broadway: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Meteor Shower*, *A Doll's House, Part 2*, *Shuffle Along*, *Chicago*, *Wicked*, *Glory Days*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*. National Tours: *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *Chicago*, *Joseph...Dreamcoat*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and *Wicked*. Regional: Kennedy Center, Muny, Pittsburgh CLO, Stages St. Louis, Chita Rivera at Carnegie Hall. Upcoming: *The Power of Sail* at the Geffen Playhouse. Founder/Artistic Director of Projects with Jason. Member of Actors' Equity Association. Many thanks to Lonny, Matt, Sara, and the entire "SB Team" for this wonderful experience. Dare to Dream!

COLYN W. FIENDEL (*Stage Manager*) Broadway: *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Frozen*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Bandstand*, *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*. Off-Broadway: *Trip Of Love*, The Public Theater, The Vineyard Theatre, Second Stage. National Tours: *The King And I* (LCT), *Joseph... Dreamcoat*, Dance: American Ballet Theatre. Love to my parents, sister, Jackson and Johnny.

LETITIA CHANG (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is a CA convert transplanted from NYC & VA, respectively. She's worked primarily with East West Players, the nation's longest running theatre of color, based in Los Angeles, and the odd waiver theatre outside of EWP--Playwrights' Arena, Hero & hereand-now. She's grateful to Jason for bringing her onboard for this production of *Kismet*. Thank you, audiences for the love! Cheers!

NAILA AL-ATRASH (*Cultural Consultant*) is a Syrian director, actor, and a scholar of Arab Theatre with an MFA, from International Academy of Theatre Arts and film, Sofia, Bulgaria. She served as the head of the Damascus

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

High Institute of Theatre for several years, where she taught and designed the acting curriculum. A frequent performer in Arab film and television, winning the best actress award at the Carthage International Film Festival. During her forty-year career she directed more than 50 productions throughout the Arab World, Europe, Africa, and United States. She's a prominent opposition figure and came to NYU in 2012 on a Prins Fellowship in collaboration with Scholar at Risk.

ARCHITECT THEATRICAL / RYAN CONWAY (*General Manager*) Architect Theatrical, founded by Ryan Conway, is a Broadway and Off-Broadway general manager based in NYC. Past and Current Productions include: *Once on the Island* (Tony Award), Deaf West's *Spring Awakening*, *Getting' The Band Back Together*, *West Side Story* ('19 revival), *Rock Of Ages*, *Avenue Q*, and *Daddy Long Legs*.

KEN DAVENPORT (*Executive Producer*) is a Tony Award-winning Broadway producer whose credits include *Once On This Island* (Tony Award), *Gettin' the Band Back Together*, *The Play that Goes Wrong*, *Groundhog Day* (Tony nomination), Deaf West Theatre's *Spring Awakening* (Tony nomination), *It's Only a Play*, *Macbeth* starring Alan Cumming, *Godspell*, *Kinky Boots* (Broadway - Tony Award, National Tour, Toronto, Australia, and West End), and more, including multiple Off-Broadway productions! Ken's shows have been produced internationally in over 25 countries around the world. He is the founder of TheaterMakersStudio.com, a one-of-a-kind "masterclass" community that provides training and inspiration from Broadway's best to writers, directors, producers and more. Ken also serves as the Executive Producer for North America for Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group. Outside of theatre, he has produced award-winning content for both film and TV. Ken's unique production and marketing style has garnered him international attention in numerous publications, including Vanity Fair and The New York Times. Upcoming projects include *A Beautiful Noise: The Neil Diamond Musical*, *Broadway Vacation*, *Joy the Musical*, *My Life In Pink*, *Harmony* (written by Barry

Manilow and Bruce Sussman), and a musical based on the life of Harry Belafonte. For more information, visit www.KenDavenport.com.

SARA MILLER MCCUNE (*Producer*) is the founder and executive chairman of SAGE Publishing, based in Southern California and subsidiary companies and sales offices in Washington D.C., London, India, East Asia, Melbourne, and Latin America. McCune remains actively involved in the company's ongoing expansion and development. McCune is also co-founder and president of the McCune Foundation, based in Ventura, California, which supports productive change through building social capital in two counties on California's Central Coast. She is currently a member of the Social Science Research Council's board of directors and is a past chair of their Visiting Committee. Previously, she was a long-serving member of the board of directors of both the American Academy of Political and Social Science and Stanford's Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Science. McCune is a graduate of Queens College and the recipient of honorary doctorate from Queens College (CUNY), University of Sussex, University of Bath, and California State University Channel Islands. She has also been recognized as an honorary alumna of the University of California, Santa Barbara; an honorary Fellow at Cardiff University and Pembroke College, Oxford; and is a recipient of the prestigious London Book Fair Lifetime Achievement Award. As of 2019, McCune is a member of the American Philosophical Society (founded by Benjamin Franklin).

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KISMET

THE NIGHT OF A LIFETIME



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Casting Associate: Afsheen Misaghi

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PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGERJ. Jason Daunter*
Stage ManagerColyn Fiendel*
Assistant Stage Manager.....Letitia Chang*
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Assistant DirectorAshley Kauk
Dance CaptainAmara Galloway
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Architect Theatrical InternTheresa Carroll
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CREDITS

Scenery fabrication by F&D Scene Changes Ltd.,
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PRG Lighting. Sound equipment provided by
D & B Design. Costumes by Ingrid Helton, Bethany
Joy Costumes, Arnold S. Levine,
Kjersten Lester-Moratzka. Wigs by Backstage
Artistry. Kismet rehearsed at Ripley Grier Studios,
State Street Ballet Studios, Music Academy of the
West, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.
Cars provided by Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

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Deann Nguyen - Stage Coordinator
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THIS PRODUCTION ARE MEMBERS OF ACTORS' EQUITY
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THE SANTA
BARBARA
SYMPHONY





THE SANTA BARBARA SYMPHONY

MISSION

The mission of the Santa Barbara Symphony is to enrich the lives of Santa Barbara residents by producing and presenting the highest quality musical experiences performed with artistic excellence, which is accessible to the entire community; and to inspire a passion for symphonic music in the next generation of audience members, musicians and funders. The Santa Barbara Symphony believes that through music, there exists the power to bring us together and to lift up all the voices in our community.

ABOUT

The Santa Barbara Symphony: International, Unparalleled, and Completely Santa Barbara.

Under the artistic leadership of charismatic Italo-Israeli conductor Nir Kabaretti, the Santa Barbara Symphony is consistently lauded for its unique ability to present brilliant concerts, engage the community, and deliver dynamic music education programs. The organization prizes innovation and artistic excellence and is widely recognized as one of the region's premier cultural institutions. Its award-winning Music Education programs serve over 7,000 students in Santa Barbara County through regular and special programming each year.

The Santa Barbara Symphony was founded in 1953, on the belief that a special city deserves a special orchestra. For over 67 years, Santa Barbarans driven by passion and dedication to sharing excellence with others have been the backbone of the Symphony's vision. The long-term investment in artistic excellence has paid tremendous dividends. Increasing production values, attracting talented soloists, and retaining high-caliber musicians is crucial to inspiring audiences.

It's clear this community craves the highest quality concerts and that our children can be moved by the power of music. Santa Barbara Symphony is deepening its roots and expanding its impact as an integral part of the cultural life of Santa Barbara County.

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP



The artistic reach of internationally acclaimed conductor Nir Kabaretti (Music & Artistic Director) continues to expand around the world, thrilling audiences with his dynamic conducting style and vast knowledge of all facets of musical performing arts. Since joining Santa Barbara Symphony in 2005, Maestro Kabaretti has propelled the Symphony to new artistic heights, attracting the world's top musician talent as orchestra members and renowned guest artists, and engaging capacity audiences in his artistic vision of dynamic and diverse performances. In 2018, Kabaretti was appointed Music Director of the Israel Sinfonietta Be'er Sheva while continuing his tenure with the Southwest Florida Symphony.

Upon his graduation from the prestigious University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, Kabaretti began working as coach and chorus master at the Vienna State Opera and the Salzburg Festival. He subsequently advanced to positions as assistant to the Music Director at the Teatro Real in Madrid and personal assistant to Maestro Zubin Mehta at Teatro del Maggio Musicale in Florence, Italy. He collaborated with some of the world's most distinguished conductors of the time, including Claudio Abbado, Lorin Maazel, Seiji Ozawa, Valery Gergiev, and Riccardo Muti.

He received the America-Israel Cultural Foundation Grant for Young Conductors and won the Forum Junger Künstler Conducting Competition



in 1993. In 1994 he was among the finalists in the International Competition for Conductors in Douai, France.

Maestro Kabaretti keeps a busy international conducting schedule. Notable appearances include the Israel, Tokyo, Zagreb, Belgrade, Bogota and Rochester Philharmonic Orchestras, Orchestra del Teatro dell' Opera di Roma, Orchestra Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini, Orchestre Philharmonie Royale de Liège, the Philadelphia, Mantova, Lausanne, and Vienna Chamber Orchestras, the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestras, Orquesta Filarmonica de Buenos, Orquestre National du Theatre du Capitole de Toulouse, Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano "La Verdi, Bochumer Symphoniker, the Jerusalem Symphony, and the Real Orquesta Sinfónica de Sevilla.

Kabaretti's operatic and ballet experience includes productions at Teatro alla Scala di Milano, the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Teatro Real, The Israeli Opera, Opéra de Lausanne, Avenches Opera Festival, The New National Theatre in Tokyo, The Bregenz Festival and Expo 2000 in Hannover and Teatro San Carlo di Napoli. In 2019 Kabaretti debuted at the Puccini Festival in Torre del Lago Italy, with *Madame Butterfly*.

Nir Kabaretti has worked with some of the world's most sought-after musicians. Some of his most well-known collaborators include Lang Lang, Plácido Domingo, Joyce Di Donato, Angel Joy Blue, Vadim Repin, Gilles Apap, Héléne Grimaud, and André Watts.



THE SANTA BARBARA
SYMPHONY
Nir Kabaretti, Music & Artistic Director



Santa Barbara Symphony's Crescendo is a donor-funded initiative strategically aligning giving commitments with the multi-year artistic vision of Artistic & Music Director Maestro Nir Kabaretti. The following visionary donors have pledged a 5-year commitment of support to bring this artistic vision and operational framework to life.

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If you would like information about our Crescendo initiative, please contact Juli Askew at 805-898-8785 or JAskew@TheSymphony.org, or visit us online at TheSymphony.org/Support/Crescendo



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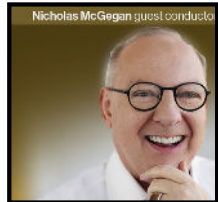
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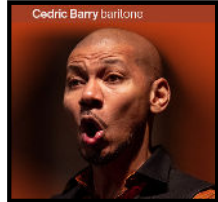
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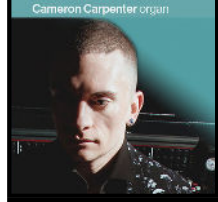
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The image shows the interior of a grand theater. The ceiling is highly decorated with intricate, colorful patterns in shades of gold, red, and blue. The walls are also ornate, featuring arched niches with decorative elements and a large section of the wall covered in a grid of small, square, embossed tiles. The seating area is filled with rows of plush, red upholstered seats, arranged in a semi-circle. A balcony with a white railing is visible on the left side of the stage area. The overall atmosphere is one of classic elegance and historical grandeur.

THE GRANADA THEATRE



THE GRANADA THEATRE

MISSION

The Granada Theatre, owned and operated by the Santa Barbara Center for the Performing Arts, serves Santa Barbara by providing a vibrant, state-of-the-art venue where world-class artistic performances are available to the widest possible audience, promoting appreciation for the performing arts and enhancing the quality of life in our community.

ABOUT

A local landmark for almost a century, The Granada Theatre is the central coast's premier performing arts venue. Located in the heart of Downtown Santa Barbara, The Granada is home to eight resident companies and serves as a venue for regional and national touring productions. Featuring a new custom sound system and an all-digital, 4K HD resolution cinema system in addition to outstanding natural acoustics, The Granada Theatre offers a state-of-the-art, world-class production experience with every performance.

HISTORY

In 1997 the Santa Barbara Center for the Performing Arts (SBCPA) began a two-year exploration of potential performing arts center sites in Santa Barbara. After commissioning and reviewing several feasibility studies, the SBCPA board concluded that renovating a downtown theater was a better alternative than building an entirely new performing arts center. The SBCPA board settled on The Granada Theatre as the ideal site for several reasons — its downtown location, excellent natural acoustics, and the opportunity to undertake a restoration rather than the far more expensive creation of a completely new structure.

The main goal of The Granada Theatre restoration project was to create an extraordinary performance hall that would meet or exceed the needs of the Santa Barbara region's performing arts companies for the next century. Input was solicited from Santa Barbara's premier performing arts companies regarding what technical and structural enhancements of the 85-year-old grande dame structure would be required for each to make The Granada Theatre their permanent home.

The Santa Barbara Symphony required better natural acoustics, a significantly wider proscenium arch, and a stage with a shell and wing space. Opera Santa Barbara required a wider proscenium as well as a much deeper stage. State Street Ballet needed a flexible floor to help protect dancers' physical well-being. UCSB Arts & Lectures needed all the above plus lighting and sound reinforcement technology consistent with the needs of contemporary touring dance and music attractions. All eight companies were unanimous in their expressed desire for more, and better, dressing rooms.

Based on the feedback from the eight organizations that would become The Granada Theatre's resident companies the renovation's scope was intentionally expanded to ensure that all the resident companies' needs would be met. This required the removal of the existing stage house and the construction of an entirely new building that was then attached to The Granada Theatre's historic and familiar façade.

Moving in this direction guaranteed that the SBCPA board would create one of the finest performing arts venues on California's Central Coast — a facility blessed with state-of-the-art updated electrical systems, lighting systems, a new fly system, contemporary audience amenities, large and up-to-date dressing rooms, and new restrooms — all for the benefit of the



resident companies and the region's discerning arts patrons.

In 2005, with work on the project already underway, the SBCPA was informed that a seismic retrofit of the historic site would now be required. Accordingly, costly changes to the original design were made and resulted in a structure which would protect theatergoers in the event of even a major earthquake. The SBCPA board pursued an aggressive effort to complete the project by Spring 2008 for the benefit of the resident companies and the community. The decision to expedite construction, together with a world-wide increase in the cost of raw building materials — particularly

structural steel, copper and cement — increased project costs.

Despite these many changes in the project's scope, the SBCPA Board's findings that a restoration project would result in an exemplary building at a cost far less than would be the case with new construction proved true.

On April 9th, 2008 the beautifully restored Granada Theatre reopened to the community. The Santa Barbara Center for the Performing Arts, with the support of many generous individuals and businesses, has ensured that future generations will inherit a beautiful Santa Barbara landmark — a theatre combining the charm of the past with the cutting edge technological features patrons expect.

THE GRANADA THEATRE

The Granada Theatre exists due to the support of audiences like you.



Your contribution helps to ensure that the Granada Theatre continues to bring the finest in arts and entertainment programming to the Santa Barbara region. We would be honored if you would add your name to our growing list of Annual Fund members by making a gift today.

To learn more about why your support of the Granada Theatre is so important, visit GranadaSB.org/GIVE



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STATE STREET BALLET

ABOUT THE COMPANY

State Street Ballet, founded in 1994, is an internationally acclaimed dance company based in Santa Barbara, CA under the bi-coastal artistic direction of Rodney Gustafson and William Soleau. It is a pioneering collaborative that employs dancers from around the world, consistently striving for new and innovative artistic opportunities that serve a broad audience. Each season is dedicated to bringing the highest standards of artistry and originality to tried and true classical favorites, plus new works that reflect the contemporary nature and talent of the ensemble. The company is comprised of 20 dancers representing seven different countries.

Choreographers whose works have been performed by State Street Ballet include Robert Battle, Autumn Eckman, Kevin Jenkins, Gina Patterson, Peter Pucci, Margo Sappington, Cassandra Taylor Newberry, Edgar Zendejas, and the legendary Agnes de Mille and George Balanchine. Visionary new works draw from a team of resident choreographers including Artistic Directors Rodney Gustafson (*The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, *Romeo & Juliet*) and William Soleau (*Carmen*, *An American Tango*, *Carmina Burana*).

State Street Ballet values artistic collaborations and arts outreach opportunities, and is committed to enriching all communities, large and small. Inspiring future generations and reaching a broader, more diverse audience is consistently a priority. Successful collaborations with the Santa Barbara Symphony, Opera Santa Barbara, Music Academy of the West, and the Santa Barbara Choral Society have become very popular and much-anticipated Santa Barbara traditions.

State Street Ballet tours both nationally and internationally, boasting a 90% rebooking rate, rave reviews, and standing ovations from coast to coast. In 2015, the company embarked on a

nine-week tour throughout China, performing *Beauty and the Beast* in 25 different cities, and the summer of 2017 brought the company an invitation to perform at the International Ballet Gala in Santiago, Chile, showcasing the versatility of the repertoire and dancers. Annual tours across the United States have allowed the company the opportunity to fulfill its mission of making the beauty and power of dance accessible to all.

ARTISTIC STAFF



RODNEY GUSTAFSON
(*Executive and Artistic Director*) founded State Street Ballet in 1994 after a successful performing career with American Ballet Theatre.

He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Business Administration and Organizational Management, and combining these skills with the experiences of a performing career has allowed him to build a successful ballet company respected for its versatility, artistic excellence, and intelligently-designed productions. His innovative approach, mastery of the classics, and business savvy have empowered State Street Ballet to become an internationally acclaimed dance company that tours throughout the world.

As a dancer with American Ballet Theatre, Mr. Gustafson worked with many of the greatest dancers and choreographers of the time, including Mikhail Baryshnikov, Alvin Ailey, George Balanchine, Rudolph Nureyev, Jerome Robbins and Anthony Tudor. He appeared in the films *The Turning Point* and Baryshnikov's *Nutcracker*, and performed in several Live from Lincoln Center specials airing on PBS. During his tenure as Artistic Director of State Street Ballet, Mr. Gustafson has created many original full-length ballets for the company, including *The Nutcracker*, *Romeo and Juliet*,



Cinderella, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and The Jungle Book.



WILLIAM SOLEAU (*Co-artistic Director and Resident Choreographer*) has created over 100 ballets on companies around the world. As a principal dancer and resident choreographer with several companies, he performed in over 30 countries while personally working with such notable choreographers as Alvin Ailey, John Butler, Toer van Schayk, Antony Tudor, Joyce Trisler, Gray Veredon and Norman Walker.

His works can be seen in the repertoires of Ballet BC, Shanghai Ballet of China, Ballet de Montreal, Ballet Austin, The Icelandic Ballet, Richmond Ballet, American Ballroom Dance Theater, Ballet Florida, Sarasota Ballet, Dance Kaleidoscope, Ballet Met, Ballet NY, and The Louisville Ballet, among many others. Besides concert work, he has also created choreography for Film, Theater and Opera. As Resident Choreographer at State Street Ballet over the past two decades he has produced such popular productions as *An American Tango*, *Appalachian Spring*, *Carmen*, *Carmina Burana* and *Starry Night*. Mr. Soleau was the recipient of the Choo San-Goh Award for Choreography in 2006.

He presently serves as the Executive Director for the John Butler Foundation, Inc., dedicated

to preserving and protecting the master works of this influential American Choreographer. He is also the film editor for the Antony Tudor Ballet Trust. Mr. Soleau is a graduate of Amherst College and was named Co-artistic Director of State Street Ballet in 2018.



TIM MIKEL (*Managing Director*) is a Founding Member of the State Street Ballet Board, was Board President for thirteen years, and has been Managing Director of the company since 2007. He has danced professionally and semi-professionally for Plexus Dance Theatre, Channel Islands Ballet, and Pacific Coast Ballet, among others, and continues to attend ballet class daily. He is a professional Marine Biologist involved in water pollution research, and is the President and Owner of Aquatic Bioassay and Consulting Laboratories in Ventura. Mr. Mikel holds both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Marine Biology.

He has danced professionally and semi-professionally for Plexus Dance Theatre, Channel Islands Ballet, and Pacific Coast Ballet, among others, and continues to attend ballet class daily. He is a professional Marine Biologist involved in water pollution research, and is the President and Owner of Aquatic Bioassay and Consulting Laboratories in Ventura. Mr. Mikel holds both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Marine Biology.

LEILA DRAKE (*Director of Communications*) is from Santa Cruz, CA, and graduated from UC-Santa Barbara with a double major in Art History and Film Studies. She joined State Street Ballet in 2005 and performed in nearly every production in the company's repertoire, including the principal roles in *Carmen*, *An American Tango*, *Carmina Burana*, *Appalachian*



STATE STREET BALLET

Spring, and *Scheherazade*. Leila was a featured soloist in works by Robert Battle, Nancy Colahan, Autumn Eckman, William Soleau, Josie Walsh, and Edgar Zendejas, appeared as a principal Guest Artist with The Ithaca Ballet in their full-length *Swan Lake*, and has toured extensively both nationally and internationally. She was the recipient of the 2016 Apogee Award for Excellence in Dance Performance and also received the Indy Dance Award for “Best Duet” for Arabian in *The Nutcracker*. Leila retired from the stage in 2018, transitioning into new roles in the company’s leadership.

MARINA FLIAGINA (*Rehearsal Director*) was born in Russia, and graduated with distinction from Perm State College of Choreography in Russia. In 1990, she was admitted to the Moscow State Theatre Kremlin Ballet where she worked with the renowned Vladimir Vasiliev and Ekaterina Maximova. She has performed roles in all of the famous classical ballets and has toured internationally with the Russian Imperial Ballet, Moscow Classical Ballet, and the Moscow Festival Ballet. Fliagina joined State Street Ballet as a dancer in 1998, and was promoted to Repertory Director in 2000. In addition to her duties as Repertory Director, she continues to appear in character roles such as the Stepmother in *Cinderella* and the Nurse Maid in *Romeo and Juliet*.

DENISE GRIMM (*Company Manager*) was born in Switzerland where she danced for ten years in Ballet de Genève. Mrs. Grimm served under the artistic direction of George Balanchine, and as an assistant to Ballet Master Patricia Neary she staged Mr. Balanchine’s ballets throughout Europe. After her dancing career Mrs. Grimm created and operated the world-renowned Swiss Ski School in Florida. Following her tenure in the world of competitive water skiing, she has now returned to her roots in the world of ballet. Using her numerous skills as a former dancer and business owner, Mrs. Grimm brings years of knowledge and

experience to her role as State Street Ballet’s Company Manager.

SAMMY JELINEK (*Production Manager and Lighting Designer*) is a graduate from Wright State University, where she received a BFA in Lighting Design. She is based in New York City, but works nationally and internationally designing and managing theatre, opera, dance, and other live events. Recent Design Credits include *A Little Night Music* (OPERA America’s Robert L.B. Tobin Director-Designer Prize), *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Nutcracker* (State Street Ballet), *The Glass Menagerie* and *#your-memorial* (Pigeonholed Theatre Co.), *Gala de Internacional de Ballet* (Teatro Municipal de Los Condes) and Aspen Music Festival’s 2018 and 2019 Feast of Music. This is her 6th season with State Street Ballet. Sammy is absolutely honored to be part of such a collaborative and beautiful show, and is thrilled for everyone to finally be back in this inspiring theatre and dance community.

CECILY MACDOUGALL (*Associate Executive Director*) is from Santa Barbara, CA and also serves as the Director of Education for State Street Ballet as well as the Founder and Director of Library Dances, part of the company’s education programs. She danced professionally with New York Theatre Ballet, Allegro Theatre Company, Richmond Ballet, and State Street Ballet. Cecily has choreographed numerous pieces for State Street Ballet. She received the Indy Award for *Anne’s Window* in 2015, and in 2020 earned the Apogee Award for her successful arts outreach initiatives. Cecily graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.A. in Performing Arts from St. Mary’s College and is an ABT Certified Teacher.

MEGAN PHILIPP (*Professional Track and Rehearsal Director*) was born and raised in Southern California. She graduated from Butler University in 2002 with a degree in Dance Pedagogy and after receiving her Simonson



STATE STREET BALLET

Jazz Teaching Certification in 2003, she spent eight years in NYC teaching, performing, and choreographing. She was on faculty at Dance New Amsterdam, Ballet Tech School, Ballet Arts, Connecticut Performing Arts Center, and the Staten Island Ballet School. She danced for BBBallet and was a soloist with the Staten Island Ballet. In 2010 she graduated from NYU with a Master's Degree in Dance Education, focusing on ABT Ballet Pedagogy, and relocated to Chicago to become a full-time faculty member and curriculum coordinator for the Joffrey Academy of Dance. After three and a half years at the Joffrey Ballet, Megan and her husband returned to southern California. She joined the SSB faculty in 2013, serves as Coordinator of the Professional Track program, and assists in State Street Ballet rehearsals and staging.

DANCERS

TANNER BLEE, from Grand Junction, CO, started his training with Absolute Dance. He received additional dance training at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Boston Ballet, and Pacific Northwest Ballet, and has danced with Orlando Ballet II and Nashville Ballet II. Tanner has performed as Bluebird and Prince Florimund in *The Sleeping Beauty*, as Conrad in *Le Corsaire*, as the Lead Male in *Raymonda*, and as James in *La Sylphide*. He joined State Street Ballet in 2018 and has since performed the roles of Cavalier and Snow King in *The Nutcracker*.

AMARA GALLOWAY, from Fairfax, VA, has been with State Street Ballet since 2017. Her lead and soloist roles include Clara, Chinese, and Russian in *The Nutcracker*, Spring Fairy in *Cinderella*, a Harlot in *Romeo and Juliet*, and Canary Fairy and Little Red Riding Hood in *Sleeping Beauty*. She has been featured in solos created by Autumn Eckman, as well as in choreography by William Soleau, Kevin

Jenkins, Cassandra Taylor Newberry, Edgar Zendejas, and Laurie Eisenhower.

ARIANNA HARTANOV, from Denver, CO, trained with Pacific Northwest Ballet, Houston Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theater, and Kansas City Ballet. She then joined State Street Ballet's Professional Track Program, where she had the opportunity to work with Cassandra Taylor Newberry, Kevin Jenkins, Edgar Zendejas, and Autumn Eckman. Arianna joined SSB as an apprentice in 2018 and was promoted to full company member in 2019. Since joining the company, some of her favorite moments have been choreographing for *Modern Masters* and performing as Carabosse in *The Sleeping Beauty*.

AMBER HIRSCHFELD, from Southbury, CT, trained with The Nutmeg Conservatory, Orlando Ballet, and State Street Ballet's Professional Track Program for two years. With the Professional Track she performed the principal roles in *Giselle* and *Paquita*, as well as the pas de deux from *Diana and Actaeon*. She was invited to tour with the company in *The Nutcracker* in 2018, joined State Street Ballet as an apprentice in 2019, and was promoted to full company member in 2020.

JULIA KAMILOS, from Sacramento, CA, trained at The Sacramento Ballet School and Texas Christian University where she graduated cum laude with a BFA in Ballet. While at TCU, Julia performed principal and soloist roles and worked with renowned choreographers. After graduation, Julia became a member of SSB's Professional Track Trainee Program where she toured with the company in *The Nutcracker* and *Sleeping Beauty*. She joined State Street Ballet as an apprentice in 2020 and was promoted to full company member in 2021.

MARIKA KOBAYASHI, was born in Japan and received her early training at Epris Ballet Studio. She continued her training at Elmhurst School for Dance in the United Kingdom where she won the "Grand Prix" and "Most Promising



STATE STREET BALLET

Female” awards in school competition. Marika then studied at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre’s graduate program on full scholarship before joining State Street Ballet in 2015. Since joining SSB she has performed the leading roles of Clara and the Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker* and the dual roles of Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake* as a Principal Guest Artist at Fresno Ballet Theatre.

RYAN LENKEY is from Wheeling, WV, and started his dance training at Oglebay Institute. He continued his training at Pittsburgh Youth Ballet and Next Generation Ballet, attending summer programs at Boston Ballet, Ballet West, Manhattan Youth Ballet, the Rock School for Dance, and The School of American Ballet. Ryan was a trainee with Boston Ballet and Ballet West before joining Ballet West II, where he danced for two seasons. He joined State Street Ballet in 2021.

AHNA LIPCHIK, from Milwaukee, WI, trained at the Milwaukee Ballet School and attended the University of North Carolina School of the Arts where she performed the principal roles in ballets by Sir Frederick Ashton, George Balanchine, Marius Petipa, and August Bournonville. She also competed at Youth America Grand Prix and the World Ballet Competition, earning high marks and an award for best choreography at both, and an invitation to perform in the final gala alongside principal dancers from around the world. Ahna danced professionally with San Diego Ballet and as a guest artist with ballet schools across the US before joining State Street Ballet in 2018. Since joining the company she has performed the leading roles in Chaplin and Appalachian Spring, and has been featured in works by Cassandra Taylor Newberry, Robert Sund, and Autumn Eckman.

EMMA MATTHEWS, from Vernon, NJ, attended The Rock School for Dance Education, was a Trainee with Orlando Ballet, and danced with Nashville Ballet II. Emma has performed

in George Balanchine’s *Western Symphony*, as Gulnare in *Le Corsaire*, as a Demi Soloist in George Balanchine’s *Symphony in C*, and as the Principal Female role in *Raymonda and La Sylphide*. Since joining State Street Ballet in 2018, some of her favorite roles have been Clara in *The Nutcracker*, a fairy in *Sleeping Beauty*, and William Soleau’s *Chichester Psalms*, *Nuevo Tango*, and *Appalachian Spring*.

HAROLD MENDEZ was born in Havana, Cuba, and received his dance training at Cuba’s National Ballet School, Sarasota Cuban Ballet School, and San Francisco Ballet School. As a student, he had the opportunity to perform with the school and company in most of the popular classical ballets. Harold has competed in numerous ballet competitions, receiving the Bronze Medal at YAGP, the Gold Medal at the World Ballet Competition, the Bronze Medal at the USA IBC, and most recently was a competitor in the prestigious Prix de Lausanne. He joined State Street Ballet in 2021.

DEISE MENDONÇA, from Brazil, was a Principal Dancer with The Bolshoi Company in Brazil, and performed with Teatro Alla Scala in Milan, Ballet Municipal of Rio de Janeiro, and Ballet de Santiago in Chile. Deise joined State Street Ballet in 2013, and has performed the Principal roles *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Cinderella*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. Deise was a semi-finalist on “So You Think You Can Dance” in 2014, and has been a principal guest artist in the US and abroad, including an invitation in 2020 to perform principal roles with Ballet Nacional del Sodre in Uruguay. Deise is accomplished in classical ballet, neoclassical, contemporary and Latin styles.

ZHAN MISHEL PANCHUK was born in Kyiv, Ukraine and began his dance training at the Kyiv State Ballet School where he studied with Honored Artist of Ukraine Konstantin Vinovoy and People’s Artist of Ukraine Vladimir



STATE STREET BALLET

Denisenko. He received a Bachelor's Degree in choreography from Kherson State University before joining the Kyiv Municipal Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre where he rose through the ranks to become a principal dancer in 2018. He was also a principal dancer with Syracuse City Ballet and Kingsport Ballet and has toured throughout the US, Ukraine, Japan and Canada. Zhan Mishel joined State Street Ballet in 2021.

NOAM TSIVKIN, from New York City, received his dance training from Merle Sepel and his mother, Rebecca Tsivkin. He continued his training at the School of American Ballet where he performed with New York City Ballet in productions of *The Nutcracker* and *Romeo and Juliet*. He received further training from the Alvin Ailey School, French Academie of Ballet, and State Street Ballet's Professional Track program before joining State Street Ballet in 2016.

SAORI YAMASHITA was born in Sapporo, Japan. She received her dance training at the Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington D.C. and the Joffrey Academy of Dance Trainee Program. She was invited to join The Joffrey Ballet's Studio Company in 2014 where she performed works by Christopher Wheeldon, Alexander Ekman, Stanton Welch, Sir Frederick Ashton, Gerald Arpino, Alexei Kremnev, and Krzystof Pastor. She has performed at Lincoln Center in New York City as part of the YAGP Gala and was invited to compete in the Japan Grand Prix IBC and Moscow International Ballet Competition. Since joining State Street Ballet in 2017 she has performed the leading roles in *The Jungle Book*, *Chichester Psalms*, *Flirting*, *Five by Gershwin*, and *Nuevo Tango*.

Butler, Eliana had the privilege of performing in various ballets and contemporary works and participated in a tour across Europe during the summer of 2018. After graduation, Eliana joined State Street Ballet's Professional Track Program and is excited to join the company as an apprentice for the 2021/2022 season.

NATHANIEL TYSON is originally from Valley Forge, PA. He began his formal ballet training at the Greater York Center for Dance Education in York, PA and then attended Butler University, receiving his BA in Dance-Pedagogy. During his time at Butler he performed featured roles in *The Nutcracker*, *Giselle*, *Cinderella*, and *Sleeping Beauty*. He also performed works by Cynthia Pratt and Susan McGuire, and performed in the world premiere of Patrick de Bana's *Falling Sky*. Nathaniel was a member of State Street Ballet's Professional Track program, and joined the company as an apprentice in 2021.

APPRENTICES

ELIANA SWANBERG was born in Modesto, CA and began her training at the Juline School of Dance. She graduated cum laude from Butler University with a BFA in Fine Arts. While at



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SANTA BARBARA

RODNEY GUSTAFSON & WILLIAM SOLEAU, ARTISTIC DIRECTORS



On stage live. Join us.

State Street Ballet at The Granada

The Nutcracker DEC 18 - 19 2021

Sleeping Beauty MAR 5 - 6 2022

At the Gail Towbes Center for Dance

Evenings JAN 21 - 22 2022

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A Quarter Century Celebration

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SCAN ME



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A SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE GRANADA TO
SARA MILLER MC CUNE

Happy Birthday, Sara!

GRANADA
THEATRE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SARA!

Thank you for BEING INSTRUMENTAL in strengthening our impact on our community. We applaud you and thank you for your continued support and passion for the Santa Barbara Symphony and live orchestral music!

With Love,
The Santa Barbara Symphony Family



THE SANTA BARBARA
SYMPHONY
Nir Kabaretti, Music & Artistic Director



Happy
Birthday

Dear Sara,

Happy Birthday! All of us at State Street Ballet celebrate this incredible milestone with you and thank you for the many beautiful ways you have impacted our lives. With this gift of *Kismet* you have given us an incredible return to the stage and empowered us through the strength of collaboration. Being a part of your dream has been an honor and a privilege, and it will be an experience we will treasure for a lifetime. A toast to you, your wonderful global impact, and the inspiration you bring to all of us in Santa Barbara.

With love and gratitude,
your State Street Ballet family

Photo credit: Andre Yew

State St
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SANTA BARBARA



Sara, it was kismet that brought you into all of our lives. We are all so fortunate to have had the opportunity to support you in your work. You bring light and magic into all that you do. We cherish you! Congratulations on achieving your dreams of bringing KISMET to our community!

Love,

Sara's Sunshine Soldiers

