



# "A World of Opportunity"

A Day of Learning & Development  
for Actors, Presented by SDPAL

**Saturday, September 20th, 2025**

*9:00 am - 5:00 pm*

at San Diego City College

Sponsored by:



# EVENT SCHEDULE

**KEYNOTE: A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY**  
WITH STEPHEN GELPI IN THE SAVILLE THEATRE

9:00 AM - 9:50 AM

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## **BREAKOUT SESSION #1**

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

- MONOLOGUE AUDITION TIPS WITH **JACQUELYN RITZ** (SAVILLE THEATRE)
- HOW TO CREATE & PROMOTE YOUR ACTOR PERSONAL BRAND WITH **ALYSSA ANNE AUSTIN** (CLASSROOM)
- MUSICAL THEATRE AUDITION TIPS WITH **ROBBY ARMITAGE FROM DISNEY** (BLACK BOX THEATRE)

## **BREAKOUT SESSION #2**

11:00 AM - 11:50 AM

- HOW TO FIND, PREPARE FOR & EXCEL IN AUDITIONS WITH **GEORGE YE** (CLASSROOM)
- THE PATH TO BROADWAY: AUDITIONING, TOURING, JOINING THE UNION & MORE WITH **ALLISON SPRATT PEARCE** (BLACK BOX THEATRE)
- INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED DANCE WORKSHOP WITH **MELISSA GLASGOW & VICTOR FARINAS FROM DISNEY** (DANCE STUDIO)

**CHARACTER IMPROV ANIMATION WORKSHOP**  
FOR ALL LEVELS WITH DISNEY (DANCE STUDIO)

11:50 AM - 12:20 PM

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## **LUNCH + EXHIBITOR HOUR**

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

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**PANEL: HOW TO LEVEL UP YOUR SELF-TAPES**  
& ONLINE SUBMISSIONS (SAVILLE THEATRE) WITH

1:00 PM - 2:20 PM

- BRIDGET HOLMAN
- PARTH KICHLOO
- KIAN KLINE-CHILTON
- D. CANDIS PAULE (MODERATOR)

## **BREAKOUT SESSION #3**

2:30 PM - 3:20 / 3:50 PM

- HOW TO SHOW UP AUTHENTICALLY IN THE AUDITION ROOM WITH **KORRIE YAMAOKA** (2:30 - 3:20 PM IN BLACK BOX THEATRE)
- **PANEL: HEADSHOT & RESUME BEST PRACTICES** (2:30 - 3:50 PM IN SAVILLE THEATRE) WITH
  - KALI BOSTON
  - VICTOR FARINAS
  - HANNAH REINERT
  - JIMMY SABA (MODERATOR)

**PANEL: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER**  
THE BUSINESS OF BEING A WORKING ACTOR WITH

4:00 PM - 4:50 PM

- STEPHEN GELPI, DISNEY
- ALLEN LUCKY WEAVER
- KAY MARIAN MCNELLEN (MODERATOR)

# MEET THE SPEAKERS

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**Robert Armitage** began his entertainment career in New York City at age 18 working as a Dancer/Singer/Actor. After a successful career as a performer, he transitioned into production and worked as a Stage and Production Manager. After 21 years in New York City, he left to be the Executive and Artistic Director of TexARTS, a professional theatre company and performing arts academy, in Austin, Texas. Robby has spent the last ten years as a Casting Director for Disney Live Entertainment. He is based at Disneyland and his primary focus is union talent for the main stage and atmosphere entertainment offerings. As a performer he has worked on Broadway in Victor/Victoria, Disney's AIDA (Original Company), Contact the Musical, Thoroughly Modern Millie and 1st national tours of Victor/Victoria and AIDA. Other performing credits include City Center's Encore Series, Lincoln Center Theatre, Radio City Music Hall Christmas and Spring Spectacular, Disney World, Tokyo Disneyland and numerous regional theatre productions. Robby's stage and production management credits include Broadway: Disney's Tarzan, Disney's The Little Mermaid, Disney's The Lion King, All Shook Up and many off-broadway productions.



**Alyssa Anne Austin** is an award-winning Actor, Author, and Creative Entrepreneur. As an Actor, she has worked professionally throughout Southern California since reconnecting with her love of performing in 2016, including at La Jolla Playhouse, The Old Globe, La Mirada Theatre/McCoy Rigby Entertainment, Moonlight Stage Productions, North Coast Rep, and Cygnet Theatre, as well as numerous on-camera and commercial projects. When not performing, Alyssa is passionate about helping others discover and use their gifts as a Personal Branding Strategist & Career Coach through her company, PoisedandProfessional.com, which she founded in 2018 after leaving behind a 7+ year career in digital marketing. A published author, Alyssa's first book, "35 Days of Confidence: Find Your Voice, Fulfill Your Dreams & Focus Your Inner Power" became an Amazon best-seller in February 2019. She also serves as a Board Member of the San Diego Performing Arts League. Alyssa graduated from Penn State University with degrees in Public Relations & English Literature, and is a proud alumni of the Penn State Lionettes Dance Team. She is theatrically and commercially represented by FireStarter Entertainment.



**Kali Boston** - Originally from Massachusetts, Kali moved to California to pursue her passion in producing and directing. After graduating from the University of California, San Diego with a BA in Theatre, Kali has been a part of many different theaters and festivals including: La Havana Madrid, The Half-Life of Marie Curie, Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play, 8-TRACK: The Sounds of the '70s, The Color Purple, The 39 Steps, Fun Home, (Producer, NVA), Jewish Arts Festival 2024 (Production Manager), A Weekend with Pablo Picasso (Assistant Director, NVA), Heathers: The Musical (Producer/Director, Zorina Productions).



**Victor Farinas** began his Disney career as a performer in 2010 before eventually cross training into the training team. During that time, Victor performed in a range of offerings, such as Festival of the Lion King, Festival of Fantasy, Block Party Bash, Fantasmic, and more. In 2018, Victor joined SeaWorld Orlando as the Supervisor of Entertainment during the opening of Sesame Street land, leading the recruitment and casting process of dancers, characters, stilt walkers, dance captains, and assistant supervisors. Returning to TWDC in 2020 as a Production Representative at DCL, Victor contributed to the Triton project's blue-sky development for new Walt Disney Theatre productions before accepting the newly created position of Manager of Entertainment Operations with Virgin Voyages. In that role, Victor was involved in the casting and recruitment strategies for performance artists and entertainment leaders. Additionally, Victor oversaw audition tour planning and contracting processes before being promoted into the role of Manager of Fleet Experience and Continuous Improvement.

# MEET THE SPEAKERS

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**Stephen Gelpi** is the Manager, Talent Casting Strategy & Initiatives for the global Talent Casting & Booking team of Disney Live Entertainment. He joined The Walt Disney Company in 2015 as a Talent Casting Director supporting the identification of world-class talent for in-park entertainment offerings and resort-wide special events. Stephen has served as Casting Director for projects at the Disneyland Resort, the Walt Disney World Resort and Tokyo Disney Resort sites. Prior to his time with The Walt Disney Company, Stephen was the Talent Operations Manager at SeaWorld San Diego where his primary responsibilities centered around the casting, training and daily operational support of the live entertainment team. He also served in various production roles supporting the creation and installation of shows and events including SeaWorld Spooktacular, Madagascar Live! Operation: Vacation and the Seven Seas Food Festival.



**Melissa Glasgow** is excited to join the San Diego Performing Arts League for this event! She's toured nationally and internationally with Peter Pan, The Little Mermaid, and Rudolph...the Musical. Recent regional credits: The Janiead (Old Globe), The Curious Incident...(CCAETheatricals), Follies (Cygnet), Pippin (North Coast Rep), and The Prom (SDMT). Melissa is also an Associate Choreographer for Virgin Voyages, Associate Director for Rail Events Productions and teaches at Grossmont College and SDSU. Her aim as a teaching artist is to shape self-assured students who develop confidence, curiosity, and empathy through theater training. MFA Musical Theatre, SDSU 2022. Instagram: @melglas



**Bridget Holman** began her career with The Walt Disney Company in 2006 as a parade performer during Disneyland's 50th anniversary. She appeared in offerings including Block Party Bash, Parade of Dreams, Fantasmic!, A Christmas Fantasy, and Pixar Play Parade, while also working in the character department. Bridget left the resort to pursue a career in Casting, gaining experience with CBS and Paramount Pictures, serving as a freelance Casting Assistant on The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Parts 1 and 2, and spending several years in talent representation before ultimately finding her way back "home" to Disney. In 2014, she joined ABC Family (later Freeform), where she spent the next decade and rose to Manager of Talent and Casting. During her tenure, she oversaw shows for both Freeform and Hulu, including The Bold Type, Cruel Summer, The Other Black Girl, and Reasonable Doubt. Today, Bridget is living out her dream as Talent Casting Director with Disney Live Entertainment. Disneyland has always been her home away from home, and she is grateful to continue contributing to the magic at a place — and with a cast — she loves so dearly.



**Parth Kichloo** is proud to be a working actor based out of San Diego, CA. He has over 80 bookings amassing more than \$50,000 in earned income. He has completed hundreds—yes, HUNDREDS—of auditions. Some of his recent works include a Guest Star role in the Hulu series Deli Boys as well as national commercials for both J.P. Morgan Chase and Dominos. The best part: this has all happened within the last 3 years. When he's not acting he enjoys cooking, making his own short films, playing guitar, golfing, and his new obsession: padel (pickleball's older brother). He's both thrilled and honored to be a part of this event and he's looking forward to helping out our community of actors as much as he can. We're all in this together after all.

# MEET THE SPEAKERS

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**Kian Kline-Chilton** — pronounced key-on— is a theatre director, practitioner, proud San Diego native and the Artistic Producer of Diversionary Theatre. They are dedicated to pioneering new theatrical experiences that examine and celebrate stories of resistance and care. Kian attended San Diego State University and has directed and developed work with The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, Cygnet Theatre, Diversionary Theatre, and other theaters in SoCal. Credits include English, Exotic Deadly: Or The MSG Play, Taming of the Shrew (Old Globe) Hot Wing King, Life Sucks, La Cage Aux Folles, The Wind and The Breeze, (Cygnet Theatre) We Are Continuous, The High Table, This Bitter Earth, The Gentleman Caller (Diversionary Theatre) and Walks of Life (La Jolla Playhouse/Blindspot). Kian's life is enriched by a beautiful body of artists who continue to uplift, inspire and amplify their efforts to enrich the communities they serve through accessibility and intention. They aim to empower and lead spaces that center and honor the most authentic and joyous parts of yourself.



**Kay Marian McNellen** is a professional actor and director who has been working in the San Diego theatre world since the age of 11. Alongside her artistic career, she brings over 12 years of experience as a digital marketer. Noticing how many local theatres struggled to reach new audiences, Kay combined her passions and launched SD Stage Guide, a one-stop social media hub that showcases every production happening across San Diego, updated monthly and weekly. Since its launch, SD Stage Guide has reached hundreds of thousands of people and helped fill theatres across the county with new audiences eager to experience live performance.



**D. Candis Paule, CSA** is the owner of Candis Casting. Since 2003 she has been the premiere San Diego casting director and has cast over 300 commercials and 400 episodes of TV. She has been the primary or local casting director on a wide variety of vertical films, pilots, and features, and has worked on print jobs, voice over projects, and industrials. Ms. Paule is a trained Intimacy Coordinator, currently sits on three theatre boards, and is also an award-winning actor, director, and private coach.



**Hannah Reinert** has spent the last 10 years working as a San Diego non-profit arts administrator and educator, where she finds joy and passion in building opportunities for theatre makers, creatives, and audiences to connect to daring and empathetic work. Her current role at La Jolla Playhouse is Producing Associate and Local Casting Director, where she facilitates readings and workshops of new work and oversees the casting processes for mainstage productions. She previously served the organization as Learning & Engagement Manager amongst a myriad of other titles over the past 7 years where her main focus was creation of programming aimed to build the next generation of theatre artists & administrators, as well as helping to cultivate accessibility practices and programs within the institution. Prior to her time with the Playhouse, she worked with other San Diego non-profits including Malashock Dance and San Diego Musical Theatre/ SDMT Academy as well as worked within the Murrieta Valley Unified School District as a special assignment Teaching Artist. Her own personal artistic practice also led her to a strong interest in forum theatre, where she collaborated on work with PLNU's kNOW More program and multiple Imagine playback theatre productions. She still occasionally works as an actor but has found over time her heart is most interested in championing others' artistic work. She holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts & Communications from UC San Diego.

# MEET THE SPEAKERS

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**Jacquelyn Ritz** has held the position of director, producer, board member, acting teacher and long time actor in film and theatre from San Diego to Regional Theatres across the country. Notable Companies include The Kennedy Center, VeggieTales/Big Idea Productions, National Charity League and La Jolla Playhouse. She's worked with world class directors including Harold Prince and Rachel Chavkin. Since 2010 she has been proud to call Poway her home. She is thrilled to be Artistic Director of the newly formed Poway Shakespeare planning their first professional production for Summer 2026. [www.JacquelynRitzBiz.com](http://www.JacquelynRitzBiz.com).



**James "Jimmy" Saba** is Cygnet Theatre's Major Gifts Officer. A native San Diegan, Jimmy is the former Executive Director of San Diego Junior Theatre, where he began as a student. Jimmy spent 20 seasons at Hope Summer Repertory Theatre (HSRT), where he was Artistic Director of HSRT's Children's Stage. As a freelance director, he has worked at Webster University, Diversionary Theatre, Lamb's Players Theatre, and was assistant to the late Craig Noel on several productions at the Old Globe Theatre. James has a long history as a professional actor in regional theatre (Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Cincinnati Playhouse, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, San Jose Repertory Theatre, and Cleveland Playhouse) and on many local stages including Cygnet Theatre where he appeared in Spamalot and The Coward Rep. Jimmy is the Vice President of the San Diego Performing Arts League.



**Allison Spratt Pearce's** global upbringing, shaped by a father in the military, exposed her to diverse cultures and experiences that inspired her journey into the arts and coaching. She holds a B.F.A. in music theatre from Elon University, an M.F.A. in drama from the University of San Diego, a 500-hour Yoga Certification, and has spent 25 years performing on Broadway and in Film/TV. She's a public speaking coach to corporate companies like Youtube and Google and coached for 11 years for MTCA ([www.mtca.com](http://www.mtca.com)). She balances her life being a mom, performing on stage, camera, hosting for NBC, leading in global commercials & campaigns, and speaker coaching because she loves it! For more information, please visit: [www.Pearce-Studios.com](http://www.Pearce-Studios.com) & [www.AllisonSprattPearce.com](http://www.AllisonSprattPearce.com) and follow her on LinkedIn & Instagram @PearceStudioscoaching



**Allen Lucky Weaver** (he /they) is unique to say the least. He was born and raised outside of Los Angeles, grew up in an artistic family, and went to study Musical Theater at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, where he received a BFA in Theater Arts. As a proud member of the Actor's Equity Association, Lucky has had the privilege to perform on stages all over the United States. Lucky is also the Casting Director of Cygnet Theatre in San Diego, and East West Players, the Nation's largest and longest running Asian American Theater, in Los Angeles. He has extensive stage experience from principal roles, ensemble roles, to understudying, and dance captain experience. Lucky offers many skills depending on the production / project including independent castings, assistant directing, directing, and choreographing. His home base is in Southern California with his fiancé David, where he is looking into branching out into Film / TV / VO world, along with pursuing his passion of storytelling. As a person from a multi-racial background and a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community and Reform Jewish Congregation: Lucky wants to continue to promote, educate, and represent diversity in Hollywood, on Broadway, regional stages across the country, and all other forms of media.

# MEET THE SPEAKERS

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**Korrie Yamaoka** (she/her) is a songwriter, singer, music director, and vocal coach. She was recently seen as a performer in *Piano Women* at CCAE Theatricals (2024). Selected music direction credits: *White Christmas* (Gateway Playhouse, NY), *Phantom* (Gateway Playhouse), *Beth Malone: So Far* (New York and San Diego), *Everybody's Talkin'* (San Diego Repertory Theatre with Alice Ripley and Greg Jbara), *Violet* (San Diego Repertory Theatre), *Fun Home* (New Village Arts). Korrie is also a teaching artist at The Old Globe and has been a faculty member at AMDA (LA campus) and guest lecturer at North Central College, Virginia Commonwealth University, and San Diego State University. She received her M.F.A. in Musical Theatre, San Diego State University. [www.korrieyamaoka.com](http://www.korrieyamaoka.com)



**George Ye** is currently Chair of the Dramatic Arts Program at San Diego Mesa College where he also is the artistic director for the Mesa College Theatre Company, a two-year program training students in acting, design, and technical theatre. He has been teaching performance for over twenty years, has worked as a director, fight choreography, and sound designer in theatre and in film. Credits include work with the La Jolla Playhouse, The Old Globe, Cygnet Theatre, Backyard Renaissance, Diversionary Theatre, San Diego Rep, New Village Arts. He is a member of Actors Equity, and the Society of American Fight Directors.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**The San Diego Performing Arts League is proud to host this landmark event!  
SDPAL Board & Staff Members include:**

Jay Henslee, President	Doug Friedman, Director
James Saba, Vice President	Melissa Jordan Grey, Director
Jacole Kitchen, Executive Director	Gina M. Jackson, Director
Alyssa Anne Austin, Secretary	Jena Joyce, Director
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Sandra L. Simmons, Finance Committee	Wendy Farris, Membership Specialist, SDPAL
D. Candis Paule, Immediate Past Present	Christian St. Croix, Content Coordinator, ArtsTix

*To learn more about the SDPAL and stay in the know about future events, as well as our other programs, ArtsTix and Cast & Crew, visit [SDPAL.org](http://SDPAL.org).*

**Many thanks to Disney Live Entertainment for their generous sponsorship of  
“A World of Opportunity. Special thanks to:**

Robert Armitage  
Chase Cowart  
Victor Farinas  
Stephen Gelpi  
Melissa Glasgow  
Bridget Holman

**Thank you also to the contributions of the following volunteers whose time and energy helped to make today possible:**

<u>Event Planning Committee</u>	<u>Volunteers</u>
Alyssa Anne Austin, <i>Event Chair</i>	Melissa Jordan Grey
Deepti Kingra-Mickelsen	Taylor Lemkuhl
D. Candis Paule	Jimmy Saba
	Floyd Strayer
	Tori Waner

**And thank you to all Speakers, Attendees and Registrants for making our first ever “World of Opportunity” event such a success!**

