

PLAYBILL®

SILVER LAKE CHILDREN'S THEATRE GROUP



MARS OR DIE!

The Ultimate Science Fiction
Musical Trip

Fri, May 17 - 7pm
Sat, May 18 - 7pm
Sun, May 19 - 2pm

Fri, May 24 - 7pm
Sat, May 25 - 7pm
Sun, May 26 - 2pm

Written By
Sophia Menendez,
Elleni Samaras,
& Broderick Miller

Directed By
Broderick Miller

Assistance League Theatre
1367 N. St. Andrews Place

PROGRAM

The Silver Lake Children's Theatre Group presents

MARS OR DIE!

The Ultimate Musical Science Fiction Trip

Written By

Sophia Menendez, Elleni Samaras, and Broderick Miller

Directed By

Broderick Miller

Produced By

Beja Wolf

Music Director

David Joyce

Vocal Director

Samantha Sidley

Choreography

Aimee Hopkins

Costumes

Kathleen Nolen & Kelbe Bensingler

Set Design

Catarina Allen-Auerbach

Dan Schmit

Lighting Director

Jacob Nguyen

Lighting Assistant

Micah Menendez

Props

Monica Mitrani, Lisa Keller,

Annmarie Nee

Sound Designer

Brendan Beebe

Hair & Makeup

Kristie Menendez

Line Producer

Gabrielle Pascoe

Consulting Producer

Monica Mitrani

Print Producer

Audrey Austin Moore

Photography

Cheli Clayton Samaras

Concessions

Blithe Bock & Michelle Cox

House Manager

Gabrielle Pascoe

Stage Manager

Gonzalo Menendez

Program

Andrew Taylor

Artwork

Simon Bock

SCTG CFO

Mark Feldman

SCTG Website

Leslie Torres

Assistance League Theatre
Denise Simon & C.J. Flanagan

Cast

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Linus Allen-Auerbach | CAPTAIN MIIO BARKOV |
| Simon Bock | JOE LUMLEY |
| Julia Butters | DOROTHEA MYLONAS |
| Ben Cole-Calderon | GENE SAUNDERS |
| Izzy Cooper | ALEX WISNIEWSKI |
| Zoe Cox | ORENDA FASTHORSE |
| Leo Beebe | LUKAS ZELL |
| Wren Davies-Dickson | MICHAEL TRAVIS |
| Wyatt de Brito | NADIA NICE |
| Lucy Dorosin | ALEX WISNIEWSKI |
| Mady Fairey | SISTER CONI ALVAREZ-CHARDON / KATIE WALLACE |
| Kiran Fields | LUKAS ZELL |
| Lila Fields | ANOUK RESNAIS |
| Arlo Gagnon | NADIA NICE |
| Noa Geffen | MONICA MASINA |
| Nevin Green | JOE LUMLEY |
| Nora Greenfield | ANOUK RESNAIS |
| Toby Halaban | GENE SAUNDERS |
| Elliott Hamsch | HONOR FLEMING |
| Julia Ihly | OSMO BARKOV |
| Nikolai Jerrard | OSMO BARKOV |
| Lola Jones | MARY JANE "MADELEINE KENNEDY" BAXTER |
| Jasper Lutyens | ZHENYA VORONIN |
| Vera Perez-Manzanedo | SISTER CONI ALVAREZ-CHARDON / KATIE WALLACE |
| Sophia Menendez | TAMMY BAXTER |
| Zea Moore | MONTANA MILLS |
| Clover Nee | DOROTHEA MYLONAS |
| Georgia Nee | HONOR FLEMING |
| Quinn O'Malley | MICHAEL TRAVIS |
| Indigo Owen | MONTANA MILLS |
| Paloma Pascoe | TAMMY BAXTER |
| Samara Quinn | KEELEY TEMPLE |
| Elleni Samaras | KEELEY TEMPLE |
| Marty Simons | MAX VORONIN |
| August Swanson | MONICA MASINA |
| Noah Van Brunt | ZHENYA VORONIN |
| Ella Webber | ANASTASIA VORONIN |
| Margot Webber | MARY JANE "MADELEINE KENNEDY" BAXTER |
| Matt Whiting | CAPTAIN MIIO BARKOV |
| Jaden Willmott | OSMO BARKOV |

NOTE: Most roles are double-cast. Each performance will offer a different mix of actors.

Musical Numbers

Act 1/ Scene 2

Song: “**Fly Away**” – **Lenny Kravitz**

Featured Singers: Ensemble (Full Cast)

Act 1/ Scene 3

Song: “**Major Tom**” – **Peter Schilling**

Featured Singers: Original Recording

Act 1/ Scene 5

Song: “**Moonage Daydream**” – **David Bowie**

Featured Singers: Wyatt de Brito / Arlo Gagnon,
Sophia Menendez / Paloma Pascoe, Elleni Samaras / Samara Quinn

Act 1/ Scene 6

Song: “**Across the Universe**” – **Evanescence**

Featured Singers: Mady Fairey, Lila Fields, Vera Perez-Manzanedo

Act 1/ Scene 7

Song: “**Across the Universe**” – **Evanescence**

Featured Singers: Mady Fairey, Lila Fields, Vera Perez-Manzanedo

Act 1/ Scene 7

Song: “**Juice**” – **Lizzo**

Nikolai Jerrard / Julia Ihly / Jaden Willmott

Act 1/ Scene 7

Song: “**Space Oddity**” – **David Bowie**

Mady Fairey / Vera Perez-Manzanedo, Leo Beebe / Kiran Fields,
Lila Fields / Nora Greenfield, Nikolai Jerrard / Julia Ihly / Jaden Willmott

Act 1/ Scene 8

Song: “**Sleep to Dream**” – **Fiona Apple**

Featured Singers: Sophia Menendez / Nikolai Jerrard

Act 1/ Scene 8

Song: “**Suffragette City**” – **David Bowie**

Featured Singers: Wyatt de Brito / Arlo Gagnon,
Sophia Menendez / Paloma Pascoe, Elleni Samaras / Samara Quinn

INTERMISSION

Act 2/ Scene 1

Song: **“There She Goes, My Beautiful World”** –
Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds

Featured Singers: Wyatt de Brito, Nikolai Jerrard / Matt Whiting,
Julia Butters / Clover Nee

GREEK CHORUS:

Mady Fairey / Vera Perez-Manzanedo,
Sophia Menendez / Paloma Pascoe,
Elleni Samaras / Samara Quinn, Julia Ihly,
Linus Allen-Auerbach, Lila Fields, Ella Webber, Margot Webber

Act 2/ Scene 1

Song: **“Rock n’ Roll Suicide”** – **David Bowie**
Featured Singers: Paloma Pascoe / Samara Quinn

Act 2/ Scene 2

Song: **“Deeper Understanding”** – **Kate Bush**
Featured Singers: Julia Butters / Clover Nee

Act 2/ Scene 3

Song: **“What A Day That Was”** – **Talking Heads**
Featured Singers: Linus Allen-Auerbach / Matt Whiting / Wyatt de Brito,
Julia Butters / Nikolai Jerrard / Paloma Pascoe

GREEK CHORUS:

Mady Fairey / Vera Perez-Manzanedo,
Elleni Samaras / Samara Quinn, Julia Ihly, Lila Fields

DANCERS:

Leo Beebe, Ben Cole-Calderon, Izzy Cooper, Kiran Fields, Arlo Gagnon,
Noa Geffen, Nevin Green, Toby Halaban, Elliott Hamsch, Lola Jones,
Quinn O’Malley, Indigo Owen, Georgia Nee, Marty Simons,
Noah van Brunt, Ella Webber, Margot Webber

Act 2/ Scene 4

Song: **“Life on Mars”** – **David Bowie**
Featured Singers: Linus Allen-Auerbach / Matt Whiting

Act 2/ Scene 4

Song: **“Brain Damage / Eclipse”** – **Pink Floyd**
Featured Singers: Ensemble (Full Cast)

The Bittersweet Search for Wisdom

About eight years ago, a large and special class of students joined the SCTG for the first time as 10-11 year olds. These kids, distinguished by their singular personalities and eccentric artistries, bonded over the years of rehearsals and performances, creating a solid core of SCTG talent and camaraderie.

Once raw and squirrely, these seventeen exceptional students have spent the last few years mentoring the new young squirrels in our company. It is a fun and fascinating process to watch: the torch of mentorship being handed from one generation to the next.

Through the years, I've described the essential SCTG play as "a search for wisdom with bittersweet results," and, for the first time, it's hit me how apt a description this is for the student's journey in the SCTG. For years, we do our best to teach and embody professionalism - largely succeeding; sometimes stumbling; always learning, growing, adapting. That's the beauty and the gift we get from working with young people.

And now, with this show, we have finally arrived at our bittersweet farewell to these remarkable young men and women who have all helped define and shape the SCTG with their soulfulness and artistry.

The SCTG salutes the following seniors - by far our largest graduating class - who have graced our theatre company with their talent, leadership, curiosity, example, mentorship, humor and humanity.

Sofia Abad
Linus Allen-Auerbach
Simon Bock
Benjamin Cole-Calderon
Arlo Gagnon
Nevin Green
Nikolai Jerrard
Sophia Menendez
Tingri Monahan
Clover Nee
Paloma Pascoe
Samara Quinn
Lily Blue Simmons
Ivanna Garza
Asa Stonebraker-Mahoney
Matthew Whiting

You have all left an indelible mark on this theatre company.

Thank you for inspiring me - and everyone in the SCTG.

You will be celebrated and greatly missed.

You are forever family.

Onward,

Broderick Miller
President/Artistic Director
Silver Lake Children's Theatre Group

SCTG: Who We Are

Described as “smart theatre for children” by the Los Angeles Times, the Silver Lake Children’s Theatre Group (SCTG) uses theatre to develop critical thinking and self-confidence, as well as to engage the imagination. Our plays and programs are designed to develop and nurture young talent while broadening their awareness of culture, politics, and aesthetics. Most importantly, the SCTG builds community.

Celebrating our 23rd anniversary in 2023, the SCTG began in the early 90s as a spring theatre program for kids based at the Hollywood-Los Feliz Jewish Community Center. Loanne Hamrin and Trish Boyer directed and produced several terrific musicals (*Guys and Dolls*, *The Music Man*, *Show Crazy*, e.g.) before retiring in 2000.

In 2001, Broderick Miller agreed to direct one play in order to keep the program alive – and he’s still here. The kids program officially became the Silver Lake Children’s Theatre Group a year later with Kelbe Bensinger, Brian Davis, William Delvac, Mark Feldman, Jayne Goldberg, Sandi Silbert, Kathleen Nolen, and Miller providing the key leadership. Incredibly, Bensinger, Feldman, Nolen, and Miller are still integral parts of the SCTG to this day. During his stewardship as Artistic Director, Miller inaugurated a second season of plays to be performed in the fall and established director and writing mentorships. Nearly every play is now co-written by one or more SCTG students. Miller’s creative philosophy was to explore

the human condition through dramas, comedies and musicals that challenged and inspired kids intellectually as well as emotionally. By approaching sensitive subject matter (divorce, peer pressure, controlling parents, gender issues, diversity, drugs, sex, politics, religion, etc.) openly and honestly, the SCTG became a safe and supportive community forum for teenagers trying to better understand themselves and their place in the world.

“The essential SCTG play,” suggests Miller, “is a search for wisdom with bittersweet results.”

The SCTG welcomes new members from the ages of 8-18 years old. Children will learn a great deal about the acting craft and theatre lore - things like voice control, physical movement, confidence, timing, and finding the truth. Knowledge and skills that will help them in future theatrical endeavors.

They will learn a lot more about professionalism - being prepared, being on time, responsibility, self-discipline, respecting the process, and collaborating with colleagues. Knowledge and skills that will help them in life, whether they are an actor, a plumber, a teacher, a businessperson, a social activist, or a rocket scientist.

If you would like to keep informed about upcoming SCTG events - including plays, classes, summer camp and auditions - please check out our website: sctgla.org



President/Artistic Director Broderick Miller

Broderick Miller is an Emmy Award-winning screenwriter with a B.A. in Film Studies from Claremont-McKenna College. His film career began at age 19 when he sneaked backstage at a London Theatre to thank director Lindsay Anderson for making the movie *O Lucky Man!* This meeting changed Miller's life – Anderson adopted him as his protégé and mentored him as a director. Broderick served as Anderson's assistant on several film projects, including First Assistant Director on *The Whales of August* (1986) starring Lillian Gish and Bette Davis. Broderick's first spec script, *Deadlock*, was turned into an HBO movie starring Rutger Hauer and Mimi Rogers and remained HBO's highest-rated original movie for over eight years.

In addition to his feature work, Miller has written network TV movies, direct-to-video features, prime-time TV pilots, and won a 2001 Emmy for writing *Grandfather's Birthday*.



Steven Spielberg optioned his script, *The Escape Artist*, for several years, and the project still attracts producers who buy expensive bottles of wine at dinners and say a version of “We have (Chinese) money and we’re definitely going to make it happen this year...” The wine is usually pretty good. Broderick has proudly served as the SCTG President and Artistic Director since its founding 24 years ago.

When he is not directing, Broderick enjoys exploring the world with his daughters, having enjoyed recent odysseys to Japan, Wales, England, Mexico, France, Prague, Patagonia, New Zealand, Australia, Antarctica, Argentina, Chile and Brazil. And, as always, baseball weekends in San Francisco with daughter Maddie and his beloved Giants.

Both of his daughters, Izzy and Maddie, grew up in the SCTG program and he is especially proud of his work with them. He is grateful for the large extended family of friends and surrogate sons and daughters he has adopted (and who have adopted him) through the misadventures of this theatre company.

Who We Are: Featured Profiles

Aimee Hopkins - Choreographer

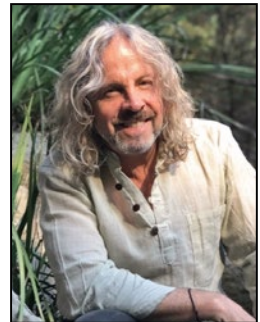
Aimee Young Hopkins has worked extensively in literacy and arts education since 1988. Originally from Rhode Island, Aimee achieved her B.A. Magna Cum Laude from Middlebury College in Vermont and her M.A. in Theatre from Trinity Rep Conservatory in Rhode Island. Aimee received the prestigious “Golden Apple Award” from LA Unified School District in 2002. She has taught English in Latin America and toured the U.S. as an Artist-in-Residence. Before settling in Los Angeles, she won First Place in Rhode Island’s NATS Vocal Competition and several honors at the Solo/Ensemble Competition for Vocal Music. Since coming to the west coast, Aimee has performed in musical theatre and in her own musical one-woman shows and original plays. With her company, Aimee Art Productions and with the Music Center of Los Angeles, Aimee continues to offer quality arts instruction at schools and non-profits throughout the Los Angeles area. She is passionate about using the arts as a tool to build literacy and self-esteem.



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David Joyce - Music Director

David Joyce is a Grammy winning singer/keyboard player based in Los Angeles. He’s toured with the world and played with the likes of Burt Bacharach, Natalie Cole and many others, and sung with or for Frank Sinatra, U2, Michael Jackson, Oasis, David Byrne, Chris Isaac, Neil Young, and Harry Belafonte. David has sung for such movies as *Battle for the Planet of the Apes*, *Rogue One (Star Wars)*, *Star Trek: Beyond*, *Jurassic World*, *X-Men 2*, *Spiderman 3*, *King Kong*, *Matrix 2&3* as well as TV shows. He’s been the Vocal Department Head at the LA College of Music since 2015. In Italy and Spain, he leads clinics and workshops on a variety of musical topics.



Samantha Sidley - Vocal Director

Miss Samantha Sidley, declared “quietly radical” by the LA Times, is an artist with over 20 years in the music industry. Her talent was evident from an early age when she made her first stage appearance as Sarah Brown in SCTG’s *Guys and Dolls* when she was 12 years old.

After a full scholarship to Berklee College of Music, she debuted at the legendary Oak Room in NYC’s iconic Algonquin Hotel.

Since then, she has had the privilege of touring and recording as a background singer for renowned artists such as the The Foo Fighters and The Bird And The Bee. Samantha has also sung backgrounds for Paul McCartney, Queen, Nile Rodgers, and more.



In 2019, Samantha released her debut record, “Interior Person,” which garnered critical acclaim and was named in the Top 10 Albums of the Year in the LA Times. A front page feature wrote: “The lush but swinging sound happily conjures memories of Ella Fitzgerald, Blossom Dearie and mid-’60s Dionne Warwick.”

It has been a privilege and honor for Samantha to once again work with the wonderful SCTG family.

The SCTG Plays

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Stay Awake! | 2001 / Spring | Evil Schmeevil | 2007 / Spring |
| O Lucky Girl! | 2002 / Spring | Havana | 2007 / Spring |
| Cheyenne | 2002 / Fall | Dumb White Crackers / Turbulence | 2007 / Fall |
| The Puzzle People | 2003 / Spring | Teatro Della Morte | 2008 / Spring |
| Spamelot | 2003 / Fall | The Color & the Noise / Health Care | 2008 / Fall |
| Attack of the Killer Kids | 2004 / Spring | Insignificant Others | 2009 / Spring |
| The Community Producers | 2004 / Fall | The Rogues | 2009 / Spring |
| Buy America | 2005 / Spring | Jackpot / My Man Godfrey | 2009 / Fall |
| The Rocks / The Window | 2005 / Fall | Jail Birds | 2010 / Spring |
| Killing Time at the Rothrottens | 2006 / Spring | The Nature of My Game | 2010 / Fall |
| Free Will | 2006 / Spring | Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? | 2010 / Fall |
| Love & Hate / Thunderboard | 2006 / Fall | Frank & Stine | 2011 / Spring |

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Absolutely Fabulous / General Ed / Once Again in Eden | 2011 / Fall |
| Tomorrow... | 2012 / Spring |
| TERMINAL CONDITIONS: Arrival / Cancelled / Delayed / Departure | 2012 / Fall |
| Havana (revival) | 2013 / Spring |
| MIDNIGHT GALLERY: Aloha, Kiana / Genevieve / I Do...But I Really Don't | 2013 / Fall |
| Deadwood | 2014 / Spring |
| ERROR B&B: Ciao, Utah! / Mistake on the Lake / Red Scare | 2014 / Fall |
| O Lucky Man! | 2015 / Spring |
| BAD JUDGMENT: Between Me and the Sun / Everything / King Fear | 2015 / Fall |
| The Prairie Girls | 2016 / Spring |
| LITTLE MONSTERS: Grey Matters / The Outsiders | 2016 / Fall |
| Sweet Smell of Success | 2016 / Fall |
| Metropolis | 2017 / Spring |
| BLOOD RARE: Redrum Murder / Sacramento / Welcome to Your Murder | 2017 / Fall |
| Walk On By | 2018 / Spring |
| HOLIDAYS ON THE ROCKS: | 2018 / Fall |
| Guardian / Let's Think of a Game to Play / Until Eden | |
| Cat on a Hot Tin Roof | 2018 / Fall |
| American Euphoria | 2019 / Spring |
| SCARY CAMPFIRE STORIES: All That Glitters / Decision 12 / Gratitude | 2019 / Fall |
| The Nature of My Game (revival) | |
| Waiting for Vax | 2020 / Fall |
| ZOO STORIES: The Color and the Noise (revival) / The Window (revival) | 2021 / Spring |
| REVENGE OF THE BOURGEOISIE: Only Human / Red Scare (revival) | 2021 / Fall |
| I Had Too Much To Dream Last Night | 2022 / Spring |
| TRAINS & BOATS & PLANES: | 2022 / Fall |
| Dark Passage / The Pink Edition / Six Degrees | |
| The Magically Marvelous Traveling Circus Train | |
| Last Night on Broadway | 2023 / Spring |
| EN GARDE: | 2023 / Fall |
| The Bro Code / Flash Flood / The Glass House / Vows / A Whisper in the Night | |
| Mars Or Die! | 2024 / Spring |

SCTG Playwrights

- Phoebe Minette – *Buy America*, Spring 2005
Ivy Hammond – *The Rocks*, Fall 2004
Phoebe Minette – *Free Will*, Spring 2006
Robert Goldberg – *Thunderboard*, Fall 2006
Lindsey Horowitz – *Love & Hate*, Fall 2006
Robert Goldberg, Lindsey Horowitz,
Phoebe Minette & Tess Whittlesey
Havana, Spring 2007
Olivia Russin – *Turbulence*, Fall 2007
Ellie Bensinger – *Teatro Della Morte*, Spring 2008
Riley Smith – *Hellth Care*, Fall 2008
Josie Glore – *Jackpot*, Fall 2009
Sofi Shield – *Jail Birds*, Spring 2010
Leo Murphy – *The Nature of My Game*, Fall 2010
Madeleine Miller – *Frank & Stine*, Fall 2011
Lia Avraham – *General Ed*, Fall 2011
Nora Mathison – *Once Again in Eden*, Fall 2011
Madeline Stefani – *Tomorrow*, Spring 2012
Fiona Grey – *Cancelled*, Fall 2012
Lola Gutierrez and Niall Murphy – *Arrival*, Fall 2012
Yaari Sanderson – *Departure*, Fall 2012
Beja Wolf – *Delayed*, Fall 2012
Matthew Hammond and William Hammond
I Do..But I Really Don't, Fall 2013
Nicki Klar – *Aloha, Kiana*, Fall 2013
Madeleine Miller – *Genevieve*, Fall 2013
Olivia Harber and Molly Vendig
Deadwood, Spring 2014
LouLou Brazill Baltz – *Ciao, Utah!*, Fall 2014
Darla Lewis – *Mistake On The Lake*, Fall 2014
Madeleine Miller – *O Lucky Man!*, Spring 2015
Bear Basha & Julius Kopald – *Everything*, Fall 2015
Emmett Mathison
Between Me and the Sun, Fall 2015
Daniel Wild – *King Fear*, Fall 2015
Lilia Gabbro – *The Prairie Girls*, Spring 2016
Coco Goran – *The Outsiders*, Fall 2016
Ava Harrow – *Grey Matters*, Fall 2016
Ida Allen-Auerbach – *Metropolis*, Spring 2017
Sydney Andresen – *Redrum Murder*, Fall 2017
Isabelle Rose Basha and Sasha Ivanir
Sacramento, Fall 2017
Logan Polish – *Walk On By*, Spring 2018
LouLou Brazill Baltz and Nicki Klar
Let's Think of a Game to Play, Fall 2018
Simon Bock and Ben Cole-Calderon
Until Eden, Fall 2018
Cessa Desario and Stella Holt
The Last Christmas, Fall 2018
Madison Menendez – *Guardian*, Fall 2018
Raizoh Lippit and Daniel Wild
American Euphoria, Spring 2019
Harry Freeland and Max Goodman - *Epilogue*,
Fall 2019
Teo Langer – *Gratitude*, Fall 2019
Eva Lindholm and Bianca Maiocchi
Decision 12, Fall 2019
Lily Blue Simmons – *All That Glitters*, Fall 2019
Siena Viviano – **Everyday People*, Spring 2020
Julia Ihly – *Only Human* Fall 2021
Linus Allen-Auerbach, Simon Bock,
Ben Cole-Calderon
I Had Too Much To Dream Last Night,
Spring 2022
Raizoh Lippit & Jaden Willmott – *Dark Passage*,
Fall 2022
Tingri Monahan – *The Pink Edition*, Fall 2022
Paloma Pascoe – *The Magically Marvelous
Traveling Circus Train*, Fall 2022
Sofie Wilson – *Last Night on Broadway*, Spring 2023
Casey Sweat – *A Whisper in the Night*, Fall 2023
Lily Blue Simmons – *The Bro Code*, Fall 2023
Paloma Pascoe – *Flash Flood*, Fall 2023
Nikolai Jerrard & Samara Quinn – *Vows*, Fall 2023
Sofia Abad, Ivanna Garza, & Asa Stonebraker-
Mahoney – *The Glass House*, Fall 2023
Sophia Menendez & Elleni Samaras –
Mars Or Die! Spring 2024

*Completely written play that was not performed due to the 2020 COVID outbreak.

Siena Viviano deserves huge props and respect for the time and talent she invested in her excellent play. The SCTG hopes to produce *Everyday People* in the near future.

SCTG Writing Mentorship

Every season the SCTG offers a mentorship for students looking to develop writing skills through the experience of authoring a play. It's not easy. The time commitment is considerable, the responsibility and self-discipline even more so. However, those who survive learn craft while discovering their creative voices. They are also rewarded with the thrill of authorship – seeing a creation of theirs performed on stage that is also a lasting piece of work that represents their artistry and dedication. The fall plays authored by SCTG students tend to be one-act productions; and the student-written spring plays are always musicals with ambitious staging, scale, and thematic scope.



This season's student playwrights - [Sophia Mendez](#) and [Elleni Samaras](#) - posed a high-octane mix of old and new SCTG personalities. Sophia joined us way back in 2013 as a seven-year-old, playing a softly comedic wedding photographer assistant in the play *I Do...But I Really Don't*. She quickly became a fixture of the core SCTG stock company, distinguishing herself as one of our most exceptional dancers, singers, actors, and comediennes.

Two years ago, we thought we had forever lost Sophia when she moved to Atlanta. But the fates dealt us a sweet hand when she returned to Los Angeles last year, in time to wow audiences with a hard-hitting dramatic performance in last fall's *The Bro Code*. It also allowed her this final SCTG play to write and act in before graduation.

Mars or Die! co-author, Elleni Samaras, first joined the SCTG for 2018's musical, *Walk On By*. Although she played one of many kids attending

"Art Camp" in the story, we immediately took notice of Elleni's innate comic instincts and distinctive style. From play one, Elleni excelled at one of the most difficult challenges of acting (particularly for children) - appearing natural. Because of her own grounded confidence and unique personal style, all of her SCTG characters have breathed with impressive depth and authenticity.

Sophia and Elleni first approached me with great enthusiasm about a rough story idea they had about a rocket train headed for Mars. This initially confused me because I just couldn't put my head around railroad tracks extending from Earth to Mars. Who built them? How did they build them? Why a train and not a rocket ship? Finally - and taking more time than you might imagine - the rocket train became a rocket ship, and we were off and running.

Sophia and Elleni's original idea was to explore the different classes populating an epic (train!) journey, and eventually this was refined to a rocket ship without the separation of classes – mostly because we didn't have enough actors to create a meaningful and complex dual class system. The central idea of the play shifted more to a collection of personalities who all agreed to a one-way trip to Mars for various compelling reasons. We started with the characters and spent a great deal of time working on a surface personality and an interior personality that would be revealed in layers.

Writing sessions were great fun and hyper-productive. Elleni and Sophia were eager to learn the craft of writing and, from the start, the three of us established a rock-solid respect and trust for each other's voices and opinions. I cannot overemphasize how important this is to the writing process. There was little second-guessing and everyone freely voiced concerns and suggestions to improve the story, dialogue, and characters.

Among many wild and wonderful adventures with SCTG student writers, this experience with Sophia and Elleni will be one of my very favorites. Hopefully, their intelligent and sensitive exuberance for complex characters, engaging narrative, and concern for humanity is evident in the play you will see tonight.

Notes From Young Playwrights

Sophia Menendez: In my ten years with the SCTG, I thoroughly enjoyed acting in the plays and musicals. However, one thing always nagged me in the back of my mind - I never wrote a play. I deemed it too ambitious for me and believed I lacked the creativity to do so. I also figured it was too late for me to ever write one, as I only had one musical left. Can you see where I'm going here? Last summer, Elleni and I were discussing how we both hoped that the next musical was going to be spectacular because we had so many departing seniors. Then, a realization dawned upon us, "You know what? WE should write the next musical!" So after countless late nights, glitchy Zoom calls, and edited scripts, we have *Mars or Die!* I feel as if this endeavor represents a fitting conclusion to my involvement with the theater group. I truthfully could not have asked for a better co-writer to work with. Elleni has always been such a joy to have in this group, so to have been able to share this experience with her is beyond what I could have imagined. I particularly enjoyed creating the individuality of the characters. Because of all the seniors graduating, we wanted something memorable for everyone to enjoy and have creative freedom with. We spent months just developing these characters so each actor knows they play a character that has significance and purpose. While not everything about the writing process was easy, I can confidently say this has been one of the most rewarding adventures I've ever taken part in. Seeing how much fun our actors were having with the material truly made the experience. I cannot thank Broderick, Elleni, Beja, and all of our amazing actors enough for bringing this idea to life. Thank you all so much.

Elleni Samaras: *Mars or Die* began to form in June of last year, as the incredible Sophia Menendez and I laid upon the strange gray sand of Manhattan Beach. We came to the realization that the upcoming spring musical's cast party was going to be particularly devastating, and that we needed to be a part of it. The bones for the story were crafted in an Amtrak overnight train headed up the Pacific coast for Oakland with my dear friend, Helena Korzen. You'd be surprised how much inspiration can come from Newman's Own strawberry jam. Working with Sophia and Broderick has been incredibly impactful upon me as a writer and as a person. Meetings were always such a joy; we indulged in more than our share of inane brainstorming and oddly specific references (shoutout Succession!). One of the most significant parts of the writing process for us was character development. We wanted to have a very wide selection of unique characters to allow everyone to be as weird and out-there as they could, which was so, so successful. I'm grateful for the role I was allowed to play behind the scenes and to Brod for being so open to Sophia and I's vision. I love love love each and every person who contributed to *Mars or Die* individually (especially Beja – sorry for turning this in a week late) and I couldn't be happier about any of this!

Who's Who

Once again, we forego the usual program biography for something more fun and hopefully revealing about what's on our actors' minds.

We typically ask a question that relates to the theme of the season's play(s). For the first time, answers to this question were shared in a group conversation – befitting a play where our massive senior farewell lives at the heart of the show. Some answered as themselves, some as their characters.

We feel that what we've recorded gives you a pretty good idea of the SCTG camaraderie. And if you have further questions, go hunt down Ben, Simon, Linus, and Matt and ask them to tell you this joke they know...

This year, we asked:

If you were going on a one-way trip to Mars, what would you bring and why?



Linus Allen-Auerbach

(Captain Miio Barkov / Greek Chorus)

LACES, 12th Grade, Age 18

I would bring infinite wishes. Ok, just kidding. Probably I'd bring Matt to Mars. He has this really funny joke he tells...



Leo Beebe

(Lukas Zell / Cameraman / Dancer)

Burbank High School, 9th Grade, Age 14

If I went to Mars, I would just bring the vending machine from our rehearsal space. Why? Because it has really, really good prices.



Simon Bock

(Joe Lumley)

LACHSA, 12th Grade, Age 18

I'd bring infinite wishes. Oh, I can't? Then I'd bring mineral mining devices. To mine minerals.



Julia Butters
(Dorothea Mylanos / Greek Chorus)

OPIS, 9th Grade, Age 14

I would bring a crowbar for the vending machine that doesn't work. But first, the vending machine has to be there. Oh wait! It's already going to be there because of Leo – he's going to Mars too. And even if the vending machine isn't there... It would be lovely to travel to Mars with the company of a crowbar. It can protect you. And lift heavy things...maybe a few inches.



Ben Cole-Calderon
(Gene Saunders / Dancer)

North Hollywood High School, 12th Grade, Age 18

When I go to Mars, and it's when, I am bringing with me Broderick's satchel. For a few reasons. Number one, I've always wondered what kind of curios he has in that neat satchel over there. I feel like it would be enough to entertain me for a lifetime. And maybe there's water in there. Maybe there's food. Maybe there's some kind of pop-up habitat builder that could provide me with oxygen on Mars. On second thought, I'd just bring a fully furnished Costco. And it would have all the amenities I would need to survive and, you know, repopulate the planet.



Izzy Cooper
(Alex Wisniewski / Dancer)

South Pasadena Middle School, 8th Grade, Age 14

This is a lot of pressure, but if I was to bring something to Mars, it would probably be television to watch FIFA.



Zoe Cox
(Orenda Fasthorse)

AGLA (Aveson), 8th Grade, Age 13

If I went to Mars, something I would bring was a bouncy house with my bed in it. I love my bed, and it's wonderful, and I love a bouncy house, and that would be cool on Mars, right?



Wren Davies-Dickson

(Michael Travis)

Eliot Middle School, 8th Grade, Age 13

I would bring a spaceship so I could fly back and then get more things and bring them to Mars one by one. Also I could get off the planet if I needed to.



Wyatt de Brito

(Nadia Nice / Greek Chorus)

La Canada High School, 11th Grade, Age 17

(in Russian accent) I am Nadia Nice, uh, drag queen of sorts. And, uh, I would bring the vending machine man (Leo Beebe). Very good, very good.



Lucy Dorosin

(Alex Wisniewski)

South Pasadena High School, 9th Grade, Age 15

I would bring a computer or something that can play movies and television, because that'd give you a wide range of entertainment. I would bring Airplane and I would bring...not Me and Earl and the Dying Girl. I'd bring Apocalypse Now. Freaks and Geeks. And Succession (because I'm not done)!



Mady Fairey

(Sister Coni Alvarez-Chardon / Greek Chorus / Katie Wallace)

Fusion Academy, 10th Grade, Age 16

So I would bring a luxurious, expensive set of oil pastels, paper, and I would want to draw the earth as I fly away from it. Also two rat companions. Companions who are rats. Because they would keep me company and keep me sane and make me feel a little more human or a little more rat, depending on what I would need.



Lila Fields

(Anouk Resnais / Greek Chorus)

Walter Reed Middle School, 8th Grade, Age 14

I'll answer as my character, Anouk. And if you're wondering why I'm doing an American accent when my name is obviously French, it's because, well, I don't know if you guys know, but I'm an actress, and it's not a big deal. So I'm doing this new TV show. Again, it's not really a big deal. But basically, I was on this really big TV show a while back called Survivor – season three, if you're wondering. And I would bring my portfolio of all the shows I've been in, and specifically Survivor, because I was really good in that, just so everyone can be entertained by me.



Kiran Fields

(Lukas Zell / Cameraman / Dancer)

Irving Middle School STEAM Magnet, 6th Grade, Age 12

I'd bring ten dollars. And Broderick's satchel. There's probably another ten dollars in there. So I'd have twenty dollars.



Arlo Gagnon

(Nadia Nice / Dancer)

Crescenta Valley High School, 12th Grade, Age 18

I think I would bring one of my good friends, Harry, because he could kind of use a start over on Mars. I don't know. I think he'd like it there, and we get along great, and I think I will always be entertained if Harry is there.



Noa Geffen

(Monica Masina / Dancer)

Franklin Elementary, 5th Grade, Age 10

Anything but a pet. I would take a friend instead because I would have company and it would be a bit more like I had someone there. Probably my friend Glory.



Nevin Green
(Joe Lumley / Dancer)

Verdugo Hills High School, 12th Grade, Age 18

Hello everyone, my name is Nevin, and I would bring nothing. Because I'm a really down to earth, worldly person. The kind of person you'd trust with 10 dollars to spend responsibly, and on things they really need. Once again, my name is Nevin Green, spelled N-E-V-I-N G-R-E-E-N.



Nora Greenfield
(Anouk Resnais)

LACHSA, 10th Grade, Age 15

I think if I only had a tiny amount of time to pack, I would probably bring my red boots. I'd love to wear those on Mars.



Toby Halaban
(Gene Saunders / Dancer)

John Marshall High School, 11th Grade, Age 17

I would bring our peace. All of our peace. I'd miss my own peace, so I'd bring it with me.



Julia Ihly
(Osmo Barkov / Greek Chorus)

FSHA, 12th Grade, Age 18

I would bring my pocketbook Constitution because I always love to have it on me and literally it calms me down when I'm reading it. So if you have any legal problems, maybe when you're on Mars and you're trying to start your own country, I can be your legal advisor. And don't worry because I'm extra fair.



Nikolai Jerrard

(Osmo Barkov / Greek Chorus)

John Marshall High School, 12th Grade, Age 18

If I was going to Mars, I would want the ability to be going for the rest of my life.



Elliott Hamsch

(Honor Fleming / Dancer)

LILA, 6th Grade, Age 12

I think if I went to Mars, I'd bring my own private comedy show so I could laugh until I die.



Jasper Lutyens

(Zhenya Voronin)

EF Academy, 9th Grade, Age 14

Some kind of magical terraforming machine that just makes the whole place nice. And, releases animals and stuff, you know? Because living on a red rock your entire life, that seems like the most boring thing ever. Okay, you've got all the mountains, all the valleys, you've got Mons Olympus, the tallest mountain in the solar system, but it's all just dead. You've just got iron dust everywhere around you. I guess you could take an internet connection device instead, but if you had a terraforming machine you could explore the whole planet, which could take a lifetime if you wanted it to, and it would be filled with trees and animals.



Lola Jones

(Mary Jane "Madeleine Kennedy" Baxter / Dancer)

Franklin Elementary, 4th Grade, Age 10

As Madeleine Kennedy, not Mary Jane, I'd bring a dictionary, cause it has good words. And as me, I'd bring a phone, cause it has DoorDash, and I could order food.



Vera Manzanedo

(Sister Coni Alvarez-Chardon / Greek Chorus / Katie Wallace)

Oakwood School, 11th Grade, Age 17

If I went to Mars, I would bring Samantha (vocal director) so that she could narrate everything live. And I'd feel like I was in like a play or something.



Sophia Menendez

(Tammy Baxter / Greek Chorus / Writer)

El Segundo High School, 12th Grade, Age 17

I'm bringing a gumball machine. And some quarters. That's all it takes for me to survive. I like chewing gum. Plus, gum lasts a lot longer than gummy bears and other candy.



Zea Moore

(Montana Mills)

AGLA (Aveson), 8th Grade, Age 14

I think I'd bring my house. My house is just awesome.



Clover Nee

(Dorothea Mylanos / Greek Chorus)

Sky Mountain Charter, 12th Grade, Age 17

If I were to go to Mars and I were never to return, I think that I would bring Adam of Adam and Eve. Because I think that we just did fine. I just think that we did such a good job the first time with humanity, we might as well... do it again. I think it would do the universe a world of good, literally.



Georgia Nee
(Honor Fleming / Dancer)

Sotomayor Middle School, 7th Grade, Age 12

I'd bring Jimmy, my dog, and he'd carry all my stuff for me. Because he's amazing – how do you not know how amazing Jimmy is?



Quinn O'Malley
(Michael Travis / Dancer)

Campbell Hall, 9th Grade, Age 15

Um, people. I'd bring my friends and family cause I need them. And I think that I would get very lonely and sad on Mars by myself. So to keep the civilization going, I would bring friends and family who could help start the civilization. Plus the gravity is a little lighter there, so we would just jump around and have a really fun time.



Indigo Owen
(Montana Mills / Dancer)

Bridges Academy, 10th Grade, Age 15

One thing which I would bring is a bag. It can fit absolutely everything I want into it. It's an expanding pocket bag. There's oxygen in it, so you can basically bring anything in it. That way I can bring all my friends.



Paloma Pascoe
(Tammy Baxter / Greek Chorus)

Immaculate Heart High School, 12th Grade, Age 17

I would take my cat Pearl to Mars because I love her very much and I think that she would provide great moral support.



Samara Quinn

(Keeley Temple / Greek Chorus)

John Marshall High School, 12th Grade, Age 18

If I went to Mars, I'd bring Simon with me. Anything I tell Simon to do, he does it. When I tell Simon to wash my dishes at my house, he does it. When I tell Simon to go upstairs and get Linus, he does that too. When I'm like, let's go eat dinner, he's like, dinner's on me. That's why I love him and that's why I'm bringing him to Mars with me.



Elleni Samaras

(Keeley Temple / Greek Chorus / Writer)

John Muir High School, 11th Grade, Age 17

Plays entirety of "Ring of Fire" by Johnny Cash for the cast. I'd bring that song. And that's it. Because you see how it brought everyone in this room together, and I think it would bring the aliens together too. Or just the red dust.



Marty Simons

(Max Voronin / Dancer)

Irving STEAM Magnet, 6th Grade, Age 12

As myself, I would bring my best friend Henry Forgang. F-O-R-G-A-N-G. I've known him since I was less than a year old. And, yeah, he's always been a great friend to me. As my character... I would bring, for me and for my dad, big Russian arsenal of weapons. Because I'm from Russia, and my dad is a big deal Russian gangster.

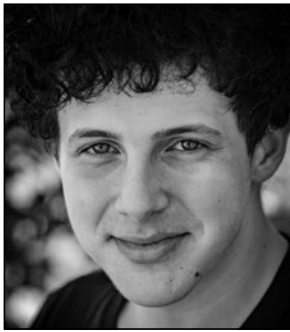


August Swanson

(Monica Masina / Dancer)

GALA, 8th Grade, Age 14

I would bring my friend Emily, because I miss her. She's not dead – just living in Colorado, which is mean. And maybe the vending machine too.



Noah van Brunt

(Zhenya Voronin / Dancer)

Pilgrim School, 9th Grade, Age 15

Ok, this might not be that helpful in retrospect, but...I would bring an endless supply of tangerines. I've had a deep, expansive connection with tangerines that's changed my life. If I had them with me, not only would I feel so much closer to my Earth life, but I could do so much with them. I could stack them on each other and make a house, and if it rots, just make another. I could make tangerine juice. I bet a Gelsons will pop up at some point, so I could buy ingredients and make a tangerine cake. I could control the tangerine market on Mars.



Ella Webber

(Anastasia Voronin / Greek Chorus / Dancer)

Atwater Elementary, 5th Grade, Age 11

I would bring this whole shebang (the theatre group). No, just kidding, I wouldn't. I'd bring my sister, but we fight. So maybe my cat Oreo – she's nicer to me.

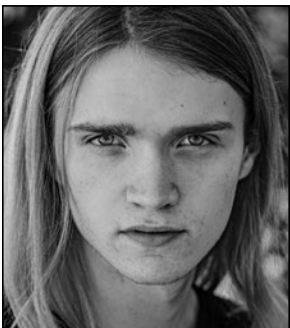


Margot Webber

(Mary Jane "Madeleine Kennedy" Baxter / Greek Chorus / Dancer)

Atwater Elementary, 5th Grade, Age 11

I think I would bring... just a basic old water bottle cap. There's so many possibilities. You can flick it around on the table. If you get hungry, you can chew on it. It's just like gum, but with a more extreme choking hazard. You can share it with your friends if you haven't bitten on it already. And if it gets gross and old, you can just throw it away and get a new one. Well, I guess I couldn't just go down to the 7-11 on Mars. Maybe I can bring a couple of water bottles. Why didn't I think of that?



Matt Whiting

(Captain Miio Barkov / Greek Chorus)

Campbell Hall, 12th Grade, Age 18

My favorite animal has to be a snow leopard, because it's catlike, but it can go in the snow...oh, sorry, that's not the question? What am I bringing to Mars? The Meet the Fockers trilogy – Meet the Parents, Meet the Fockers, Little Fockers. Because in the second one, there's a snow leopard that I just really like...

Awards

El PhoeBax Award

Each year we honor an actor(s) for outstanding achievement in character. This is not an acting or popularity award. The award was instituted in 2001 as the “PhoeBax” award, named after its two founding winners, Phoebe Minette and Baxley Andresen. These two actresses defined the exemplary kind of character we seek to encourage and nurture. They arrived on time for rehearsals; they were focused on the process; they took direction and worked hard on their notes; they were quiet when they needed to be; respectful to the crew and cast; sensitive and generous with their peers; and, most important of all, they brought a special kind of positive energy to the experience. In 2012, the PhoeBax Award underwent a name change to reflect the remarkable contributions actress Ellie Bensinger made to the SCTG, and has hence been known as the “El PhoeBax Award.” Having your name on this trophy is the highest honor within the SCTG.

The El PhoeBax Award winner is given an individual trophy as well as having their name engraved on a perpetual trophy.

Last Season’s Award Winners

2023 Fall *The Bro Code* - Lily Blue Simmons | *Flash Flood* - Jasper Lutyens

Immaculate Heart Girls’ Award

In the fall of 2004, five newcomers— Lauren Dellara, Josie Glore, Mackenzie Morrison, Sara Rajo-Miller and Kelly Rappleye (okay, Kelly was in *Stay Awake!* – but that was a long time ago) - infused *The Community Producers* with extraordinary positive energy. Their impact on the SCTG was so exhilarating, we felt compelled to recognize it. Hence, the Immaculate Heart Girls Award, which honors the “Most Inspiring Newcomer.”

Last Season’s Award Winners

2023 Fall *A Whisper in the Night* - Julia Butters | *Flash Flood* - Noa Geffen
A Whisper in the Night / *Vows* - Clover Nee | *Vows* - Izzy Cooper

Brian Davis Award

Brian Davis was not just a founding member of the SCTG, he was the heart and soul of the company, making sure the plays happened with his trademark low-key, out-of-the-spotlight efficiency. Brian produced many of our plays and spent hundreds of unseen hours tending to the production details that rarely received the appreciation they deserved. In 2011, we honored his retirement with an award in his name to acknowledge adult service to the SCTG.

Last Season’s Award Winners

2023 Fall *En Garde* - Brendan Beebe

ANKAKELALIMA Award

The ANKAKELALIMA Award honors lifetime service in the Silver Lake Children’s Theatre. The award is meant to recognize and honor adults and actors whose span of SCTG involvement was defined by exceptional service, character, and humanity.

This award is not named for some favorite hideaway bar in Kauai. It is an anagram representing six individuals who have heroically served this theatre group over the years.

In alphabetical order (of first names): ANna Tugnoli / KATHleen Nolen / KEIbe Bensinger / LAna Chirco Baltz / LIsa Keller / MArk Feldman

Award Winners

2015 Madeleine Miller
2022 Ellie Bensinger, Kelbe Bensinger, LouLou Brazill Baltz, Lana Chirco-Baltz,
Mark Feldman, Lisa Keller, Kathleen Nolen, Anna Tugnoli

SCTG Rituals & “Often Heard At Rehearsal”

Michael Travis

There has been a Michael Travis in nearly every play since *The Puzzle People*. Michael Travis is the name of the main character in the Lindsay Anderson film, *O Lucky Man!* and is Broderick Miller’s pseudonym when writing screenplays of dubious quality.

The Name Fine

It is the belief of this company that every actor be treated with equal respect regardless of age, background, or talent range. When the director forgets or confuses a name, he fines himself and awards the actor with a dollar to acknowledge and apologize for the disrespect. Siblings – especially twins - are especially challenging. The director conservatively estimates that he’s given out over \$1000 in name fines over 19 years. Eventually he will learn to address Mady Fairey as Mady and not Amanda.

“My Apologies To The Cast”

Beyond all, the SCTG teaches professionalism – self-discipline, preparedness, ownership, and respect for colleagues and the process. Arriving late for rehearsal is not only disruptive, it is disrespectful. When an actor arrives late, they are expected to hurry into the room with alacrity and then apologize to the entire cast for their lateness. The cast then rates the urgency of their arrival and the sincerity of their apology out of 10 points (10 being best). If you get a 10/10, your apology is appreciated and acknowledged. If you rank 6/10 or lower, your disrespect is compounded. The director is held equally accountable.

The Gold Coins

Frank Miller was possibly the most generous man to ever walk the planet. He would put a handful of gold dollar coins in his pocket every morning and give them to random people throughout the day. This was his way of spreading cheer and goodwill. Frank Miller died on May 13, 2004, the day of dress rehearsal for *Attack of the Killer Kids*. The following day, Broderick gave a golden coin to each young actor to honor his dad’s memory and generosity. Ever since, the gold coins are passed to each actor before the final performance of that year’s spring play.

“Stay Awake”

Listen carefully: every play one character will say the line “stay awake!” as a nod to our very first SCTG production *Stay Awake!*

Favorite Excuses For Not Knowing Lines

“I memorized all my lines, Brod – I just don’t know where they go.”

“It was a dramatic pause.”

“I’ve been busy.”

Often Heard At Rehearsal:

“This is the best play we have ever done....”

“This scene has officially died.”

“As the applause ebbs....”

“Why are you still holding a script?” (to actors who should be off book)

“Projection! Energy! Commitment! Truth!”

“Passion, for god’s sake!”

“No joke is too cheap. Except one....”

“You live in darkness.”

“(Actor’s name) stop. Where is the audience?” (When actors upstage themselves)

“What is the scene about?...Okay, but what is it *really* about?”

“Why is everyone standing in a straight line?”

“This is a popcorn moment.”

The SCTG Would Like To Thank....

Abilio Salguero (Sexton, Hollywood Lutheran Church)

Annie Simons (School Liaison)

Bianca Ramirez (Parish Administration, Hollywood Lutheran Church)

Cheli Clayton Samaras (Program & Show Photographer)

C.J. Flanagan

(Assistance League Theatre, House Manager/Technical Director)

Dan Schmit (Projections & Art Design)

Denise Simon (Assistance League Theatre)

Haley Geffen (Promotion & Social Media)

Yi-Ping Hou (Flowers & Candygrams)

Windy O'Malley (Tickets)

Julia Cole (Tech Dinners, Art Department Aid)

Katrina Gagnon (Art Department Lead)

Lara Schnitger & Matt Monahan (Studio Space)

Matt Monahan (Art Department Lead)

Scott Milano (Videographers)

Aaron Nee

Abby Kadell

Amanda Fairey

Annmarie Nee

Ashley Novak

August Swanson

Charlotte Swanson

Chris Bensinger

Clover Nee

Darci Beebe

Darrin Butters

David Jones

Elizabeth Dorosin

Ella Webber

Eva Van Brunt

Jaden Willmott

Laurence Dumortier

Lauri de Brito

Linus Allen-Auerbach

Lorelei Hill

Lucy Dorosin

Margot Webber

Martin Allen-Auerbach

Matt Gagnon

Matt Whiting

Michelle Cox

Nic Moore

Nicholas Van Brunt

Nikki Monninger

Scott Webber

Tara Davies

Timothy Simons

Val Jones

Ineffable gratitude and appreciation to **OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS** – the parents who head and support our various departments. You guys devote countless hours to costumes, set design, props, scenic, graphics, program, concessions, and other behind-the-scenes endeavors. Without your time, dedication and commitment, these plays could never happen. You know who you are...and we certainly know who you are.

And a big shout out to all the **parents** who support our efforts through their creativity, their love, and the thankless hours of drop-offs and pick-ups. Whether it is picking up a paint brush, wrangling a rehearsal, or chasing down props – your contributions are noticed and appreciated. It is through your example that our children learn a sense of responsibility towards art and community through participation.

And, as always, infinite love to **Izzy** and **Maddie** for being the director's greatest inspirations.

The SCTG Will Return *In* **East Side Stories**



Rebounding from the loss of 17 graduating seniors, the SCTG will continue our mission to explore the human condition with three alternately hilarious, sad, and bittersweet dramatic tales.

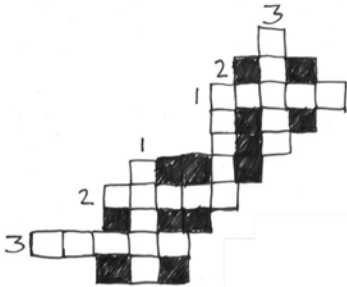
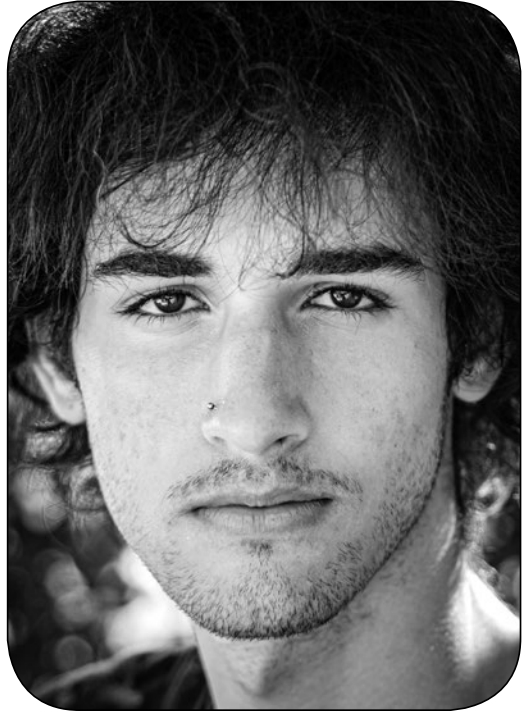
East Side Stories will feature plays authored by SCTG students Mady Fairey, Lila Fields, and Nora Greenfield and Vera Perez-Manzanedo.

By the way, if you enjoyed *Mars or Die!* and are thinking to yourself “Wow, those kids really seem to be having a lot of fun” - they are! And this fall would be an EXCEPTIONAL time to join the SCTG since 17 students have graduated out of our program - meaning there is now a great big opening for featured roles and participation for newcomers. So join us!

Sign up to join the SCTG at sctgla.org/interest-form and poke around our [website](https://sctgla.org) to learn more about us.

Ben!

Congratulations on completing an amazing journey with SCTG! You have grown into such an incredible young man, actor, writer, collaborator, musician, and friend. We couldn't be more proud of you. Love, M, D, E.



Across

- 1 Famous SCTG actor (first role was as an M.D. with a degree from HARVERD)
- 2 Pauling (won Noble Prize for discovery of Vitamin C structure)
- 3 Engineer and founder of Yale Lock Manufacturing Company (first name)

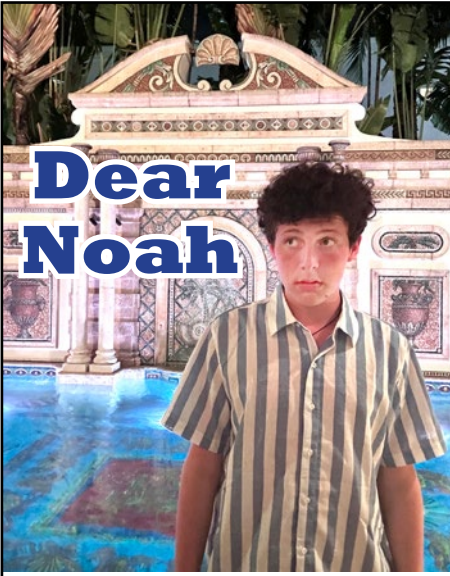
Down

- 1 Well known LA bicycle company (named after 1-Across)
- 2 Lucy van Pelt's (of Peanuts fame) little brother
- 3 Given name of creator of Linux software (..... Torvald)

Ad?

Done.





We are so excited to see you in this awesome production! We love you....THIS BIG. Break a Leg! Love, Mom, Dad & Cyrus





From Julia's college essay: "I have immensely enjoyed theatre as a means of self-expression and true artistic collaboration. SCTG brings me joy. In theatre, there is no feeling quite like the coming together of a play or musical. Your nerves fire, your mind focuses, you adapt to circumstances, and you feed off the audience and support of your peers.

For those moments, you feel on top of the world." We hope you enjoy your last SCTG musical, Mars or Die!

We love you infinitely and are incredibly proud of the beautiful person you are,

Mama. Dad. and Chance



Wren..

“The one thing that you have that nobody else has is you. Your voice, your mind, your story, your vision. So write and draw and build and play and dance and live only as you can.” – Neil Gaiman Keep being your brilliant, beautiful self. Can’t wait to see what’s next. Love, M & D



*Zoe,
Congrats
on another
great show.
We love you.*

A young girl with brown hair, wearing a colorful striped dress and green boots, is walking on a paved driveway. She has a joyful expression with her mouth open. The background shows a residential street with a white SUV, a green trash bin, and some foliage.

**Break
a leg
Nora!**

**Love,
M & D
& N &
M & B**

Lucy



Zoe

Quinn



*We love you to Mars
and back .*

Like infidels and floozies, these three girls found each other and have thrived throughout the years. We are forever proud of them together and individually. We can't wait to see what barriers you three burn down metaphorically and literally. God save us.

With so much love, Brandon & Michelle, Erin & Windy, Elizabeth & Kathleen.



Congratulations Niko!

You are such a joy!



**May your light glow and expand into
more and next iterations of life!**



**With all our love,
Mom and Dad**

Paloma,

It's nearly time for your final bow.

But what an amazing run you've had with the SCTG.

So many roles. So many songs. So many friends.

The two plays you wrote made us prouder than you can possibly imagine.

Your light is so bright. And while the final curtain draws closed,
for you, this is just the beginning!

love,

Mom, Dad, and Blaise





Mady,

**your passion
and talent
inspires all of us.**

**Keep up the
amazing work! Love
Mom, Dad, Vivienne,
Mom C, Pops,
and the pups**

Wyatt

**Believe in yourself - and
know that we are always
here for you! Love, Mom,
Walt, Beena & Matthew,
Kiki, Shaney & the amaz-
ing Scouter!**



Condragulations

Julia B!

We are so proud of
all of your hard

WERK



Congratulations Marty!

*You are the
sweetest kid
around and we
are so proud of
you.*

*Love Mama,
Papa, and Hopper*



*Arlo...
Running
into life
like...
It's been so
great to watch
you shine!*

**Encore!
Jasper!**

love,
mommy,
dede,
y jayla



Join Us,

**Bring your talent
and passion for
theatre next season.**

sctgla.org





IZZY STARDUST

***“And I’d rather play here
With all the madmen,
For I’m quite content
They’re all as sane as me”***

*Please accept the above David Bowie lyrics in lieu of any past, present or future parental wisdom, as the most inspirational words of our childhood came from the songs we listened to.

We are eternally proud and blown away to be in your orbit . . .

With so much love and hugs NOT DRUGS from your mom & dad,
your Snake, your worst Nightmare, and your first/last/best sister.

Margot & Ella!

We love you to Mars and back!

Love, Mom, Dad, Oreo, Goldie, & Spot



**Sports in Space® played by Astroletes®
in equal space - where the absence
of gravity levels the playing fields.
More challenging than anything
on Earth or Mars!**



TOY ROBOT

Motion Graphics

Presentation Design

Hybrid & Virtual Events

Television

ToyRobot.TV

Audrey Austin Moore

Account Director

Audrey@ToyRobotMedia.com

(818) 660-6050



Own Your Precious Moments



Magical moments live forever in the video recordings of our SCTG plays. The joys, epiphanies, highs (and maybe some hilarious lows) of your children's performances are now available for purchase from our archive of professionally recorded plays.

For only \$20 (per play), you can own a video record of your children's plays to forever immortalize, eternally embarrass, and otherwise celebrate their childhood acting performances.

We also have available thousands of stunning images from the past nine plays (and more to come) which can be purchased in packages – \$10 for 1, \$25 for 3, \$50 for 10, and \$75 for 20. Scan through our photo gallery at sctgla.org/past-productions.

Visit our website - sctgla.org – and navigate to PHOTOS & VIDEOS to purchase from our photo gallery and list of video recordings.

Great gifts for family members who missed the play for whatever reason, just sayin'.



For more information and tickets,
visit sctgla.org