SUMMER 2020 Performing Arts Institute
AUGUST 3 - SEPTEMBER 11, 2020
REGISTER ONLINE STARTING ON JULY 13

BREATHE & REVIVE

STAGEBRIDGE

SUMMER 2020 Performing Arts Institute
AUGUST 3 - SEPTEMBER 11, 2020
REGISTER ONLINE STARTING ON JULY 13

(510) 210-3773
info@stagebridge.org
stagebridge.org
Summer 2020 classes focus on improving mental health, reducing stress, and connecting with theatre arts in joyful ways.

--- Mondays ---

**Monday Singing** with Scrumbly
10am - 12pm — $187

--- Tuesdays ---

**Tuesday Singing** with Scrumbly
10am - 12pm — $187

**Beginner’s Tap — Level 1** with Lucia Fanelli
12:30 - 1:30pm — $104

**Intermediate Tap** with Sam Weber
2 - 3pm

--- Wednesdays ---

**NEW! Embodied Theatre** with April Axé Charmaine
10am - 11:30am — $142

**NEW! Social Clowning: Facilitating Play Class***
with Joan Howard and Hannah Gaff
1 - 3pm — $223

**15-minute Play Sessions**
1pm and 1:20pm — FREE

--- Thursdays ---

**NEW! Sing-along w/ Technique** with Scrumbly
10am - 12pm — $187

**Advanced Acting** with Ely Orquiza
12:30 - 3pm — $223

--- Fridays ---

**NEW! LGBTQIA+ Story Circle** with Bruce Bierman
10am - 12pm — $187

**StoryLab (II) with Joel ben Izzy**
1 - 3:30pm — $237

*Students registered for Social Clowning are required to participate in the Play Session. Read class info on pg. 7 for details.
A Letter on Solidarity

Stagebridge is committing to advancing the economic stability, political voice, and personal safety of Black and Brown people in addition to all bodies suppressed, victimized or murdered by any extension of white supremacy.

Stagebridge is thankful that we have an energetic community ready for introspection and change—as our performance classes teach moment-to-moment.

For the past three years, we have made efforts to support Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) by hiring six instructors of color since Fall 2018. Additionally, we have been building connections with senior communities with less resources such as the West Oakland Senior Center.

In late 2019, we established a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee to plan to break new ground in Stagebridge’s policies, enrollment and community engagement. The committee will continue its work moving into our Summer 2020 Performing Arts Institute session.

Still, we need to expand our efforts even further to strengthen Stagebridge’s community impact. We are committed to the following reforms and actions for our organization:

- We will modify our curriculum and class schedules to include more Black and Brown instructors to share their craft and to be supported financially. There will be an active push for the connection between restorative / healing arts to support well-being and health. This will begin with our Fall 2020 Performing Arts Institute Session.
- We will offer a selection of free classes for newcomers to meet our community where they are financially. This will begin with our Fall 2020 Performing Arts Institute Session.
- We will alter our scholarship policies to incorporate more resources for Black and Brown students to join and to continue participation in our programs, to go into effect by Fall 2020.
- We will update our code of conduct policy to reflect a need of honest and earnest racial discourse, to go into effect by Fall 2020.
- We will train our Board of Directors and instructors properly in the tenets of white supremacist systems, white privilege, and microaggressions to help inform our other active changes. With the formation of our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee in 2019, we raised $6,000 to obtain training on these subjects from StirFry Consulting with diversity trainer Lee Mun Wah.

All of this leads to a higher standard of community engagement including adhering to a stronger list of community guidelines protecting vulnerable bodies. We will not accept anyone, inside or outside of Stagebridge, to suffer from the weight of racist and inequitable policies and values that have led to universal inequity and death.

Still, we are aware that this work begins with us. With that, our final commitment is an invitation for open dialogue. We invite our students, returning and prospective, to center BIPOC individuals in discussion to listen and learn like never before. With accountability and honest discourse, Stagebridge will help hold our community up when discussing race and privilege.

Join this discussion and change by reviewing some resources we have collected for those wishing to learn more about the structures we are combating. This also includes ways to redirect money and economic power to Black and Brown businesses in the Bay Area.

Stagebridge proudly stands with the actions of the Black Lives Matter movement, recently inspired by the death of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Nina Pop, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and all people whose lives were murdered due to white supremacist violence.

And, most importantly, we are ready for the discourse necessary to improve everyone single person’s way of life.

~Stagebridge Staff
Singing with Scrumbly
Mondays (I) & Tuesdays (II) • 10am – 12pm • $187
One of Stagebridge’s best-loved classes. For singers, both experienced and aspiring, who want to broaden their singing experience. The class features group warm-ups and work on technique, plus individual work with an emphasis on finding and developing the real singer in you. Students should bring a solo to work on, sheet music, or just lyrics for fairly well-known songs. Scrumbly is a popular and well-known pianist, singer, performer, teacher and the composer of many musicals, including several Stagebridge productions.
Minimum enrollment: 9 — Maximum enrollment: 15

Sing-along w/ Technique — NEW!
Thursdays • 10am – 12pm • $187
Scrumbly will lead group vocal warm-ups interspersed with individual attention on technique - especially breath control. There will be emphasis on music theory, aimed at being able to read music as well as how to find the best key for your voice when looking for sheet music. Scrumbly will illustrate the voice technique and music theory learned with a comic song everyone will sing as a group. Examples of songs you’ll learn: “Friendship”, “Harvey and Sheila”, and maybe even one or two songs by Scrumbly himself! Scrumbly will continue to do individual work on solo songs per usual, but spending less time on that. Zoom is ideal for one-on-one spot work, vocal technique, and group lessons. Note: When group singing, all will be muted. Participants will not hear each other when group singing (only Scrumbly and his piano).
Minimum enrollment: 9 — Maximum enrollment: 15

Beginner’s Tap — Level 1
Tuesdays • 12:30 – 1:30pm • $104
More than ever, now is the time to keep the spirit and uplifting joy of tap dance in your life! In an effort to stay connected during this very unusual time, we will experiment with bringing your tap class to you via Zoom. The class will be structured differently than what you experienced in person due to Zoom’s constraints and the limitations of personal home spaces. Lucia will review much of what you learned in the Winter/Spring Session spending more time working one on one providing you an opportunity to learn from each other. If you are new to the class and have had minimal training with an idea of how to execute shuffles and flaps, then this class is for you. You will also learn more tap moves you can achieve in place to make it easier for you to dance at home until we can tap again in person.
NOTE: This class requires minimal tap training such as knowing the difference between a shuffle and a flap.
Minimum enrollment: 8 — Maximum enrollment: 12
**Intermediate Tap**  
*Tuesdays • 2 – 3pm*

The heyday of tap dance is no longer behind us! Tap has re-emerged as a vital, creative art through the work of the Jazz Tap Ensemble, Gregory Hines and, most recently, Dorrance Dance. In this class, you’ll learn how to build on the fundamentals, add sounds to the basic steps, and create fast and intricate rhythms. **Sam Weber**, a protégé of tap master Stan Kahn and former principal dancer with the Jazz Tap Ensemble, is the winner of numerous awards including the New York Dance Critics’ Bessie.

**NOTE:** This class is ongoing and not open to new registrants during Summer 2020.

Minimum enrollment: 6 — Maximum enrollment: 10

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**Embodied Theatre — NEW!**  
*Wednesdays • 10 – 11:30am • $142*

A low-impact movement class melding Laban technique with mind, body and health awareness. Have fun, move your body organically, release stress, learn where your center of power is and how to bring story and character to life through embodied theatrical expression. All levels class.

Minimum enrollment: 8 — Maximum enrollment: Unlimited

*Read more about new instructor Axé on the instructor bio page!*

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**Theatre & Acting**

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**Advanced Acting**  
*Thursdays • 12:30 – 3pm • $223*

In this course student-actors will be focusing on contemporary texts for scene work and performance putting into practice acting techniques and text analysis to examine dramatic literature, to build on character development, and to make strong authentic choices of actions. Additionally, students will be able to learn techniques on how to build virtual performances for new media performances. All classes will be held virtually on ZOOM. Performance materials will come from full length, one-act, and short plays. Scripts will be provided unless otherwise noted.

Student-actors will perform scenes off-book and are expected to meet with a scene partner outside of class for rehearsals and provide their own prop materials and costume for scene work, if needed; a virtual showcase may occur at the end of summer session. All attendance is required.

Minimum enrollment: 10 — Maximum enrollment: 12

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**MAKE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL BLAST HERE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFO ON STAGEBRIDGE!**
**DO TELL!: An Intergenerational LGBTQIA + Allies Story Circle — NEW!**

**Fridays · 10am – 12pm · $187**

Telling stories is in our bones. Diverse generations telling and opening their ears to each other’s stories is how we grow in wisdom. In this warm, radically inclusive and humor filled workshop, the delightful craft of developing and telling personal life tales, fables, myths, and other stories takes center stage. Through fun story-telling prompts, improvisation, writing tasks and weekly practice, participants will soon discover how a well shaped story has the potential to not only change the teller, but the listener as well.

If you have questions about registering for this class, email Bruce at brucheb@yahoo.com.

Bruce Bierman created Stagebridge’s first satellite performing arts program serving elders at the Los Angeles LGBT Center. His work as a storyteller and playwright have been produced at such theaters as the Celebration Theater in L.A. and the New Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. Bruce is also an original member of Intergeneration: Building Queer Community through Art and directed several of their productions for the National Queer Arts Festival in San Francisco.

Minimum enrollment: 8 — Maximum enrollment: 10

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**StoryLab — FULL**

**Section I — Tuesdays · 1 – 3:30pm · $237**

**Section II — Fridays · 1 – 3:30pm · $237**

This summer session is an opportunity for experienced storytellers to develop stories in progress, working with feedback from Joel ben Izzy and fellow classmates. The format will be similar in the Winter and Spring session - sharing stories, supporting one another with feedback, and polishing those stories. StoryLab will be a 2.5 hour class each week to provide ample time for students to share and receive feedback with two five-minute breaks observed each class.

**NOTE:** Students who have taken Joel’s class previously have priority reservation. Both sections are currently FULL. To register, please select to Waitlist in either sections.

Maximum enrollment: 8
Social Clowning: Facilitating Play Class — **NEW!**
Wednesdays • 1 – 3pm • $223

**Zoom Play Sessions (Two 15-minute play sessions) — 1pm & 1:20pm • FREE**

For 6-weeks, Joan & Hannah will offer and facilitate two 15-minutes virtual ‘play sessions’ open to anyone in the Stagebridge community. Each 15-minute session welcomes up to six participants, or six ‘Zoom window pods’. To participate, one needs to have access to the internet, the ability to run Zoom and the willingness to show up for 15-minutes of play! Students in the Social Clowning class will be required to participate in the play sessions. Play Sessions are free for the public to participate! To register for a 15-minute play session, select your time preference on the registration form (1:00pm or 1:20pm).

Social Clowning

Enrolled students are required to participate in the virtual play sessions. Each week we will practice, reflect on and break down the clown skills and core qualities needed to hold space and facilitate play in an online environment, and then look at how they translate into facilitating play in the real world. We will look at a combination of hard and soft skills, including practical techniques and tricks of the clown trade, and fundamental principles and qualities such as openness, listening, saying yes, and playing with the What Is. Over the course of the 6 weeks, students will move from participants to clown facilitators and play-makers in the virtual play sessions!

Minimum enrollment: **10** — Maximum enrollment: **12**

*Read more about new instructor Hannah on the instructor bio page!*

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**Master The Medium**

**Learn to Zoom** with Ely Orquiza

a FREE 4-week workshop

**Thursdays 10-12:30pm**

**July 9th, 7/16, 7/23, 7/30**

Take advantage of this opportunity to learn about all things Zoom in preparation for Summer and Fall online classes at Stagebridge. You’ll learn how to utilize Zoom in your fullest capacity, enhancing your learning experience as an actor, teller, dancer, and singer online.

Sign-up NOW by emailing Lily at lily@stagebridge.org. Zoom invitation will be available by individual inquiry.

**DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED!**
**Instructor Bios**

**Bruce Bierman** is an award-winning director, choreographer and teaching artist known for his special way of inviting all into a safe supportive space to play, explore and create dynamic theater using each student’s special talent and unique expression. He has served on the teaching faculty of Stagebridge since 2006 and began the Musical Theater program with Ellen Robinson along with the first dance and theater movement programs (Joy of Dance & Viewpoints). He has directed and choreographed several original Stagebridge productions including: Grandfather’s Journey, Tomas & the Library Lady and Sylvia: How to Age Gracefully on the Planet Denial at the Ashby Stage.

Other productions include: Passion of Carmen (Celebration Theater *Backstage West Choreography Award*), Wade in the Water (Odyssey Theater Ensemble *NFJC award*), The Blue Dress (New Conservatory Theater *Dean Goodman Choice Award*), Di Megillah of Itzik Manger (Berkeley Jewish Music Festival) and Wonder (Phoenix Theater). As a dancer and dance educator, Bruce was a member of the Los Angeles Aman Folk Ensemble and is currently in the company of East Bay’s Dandilion Dance Theater. He is a celebrated Jewish dance master and travels throughout the U.S. with his Joy of Jewish Dance workshops.

**April Axé Charmaine** is a world-renowned, holistic dance and performing arts educator, choreographer, movement leader, empowerment speaker and author. Axé (ah-shay) has taught, performed, and trained in the United States, Ghana, Brasil, Guatemala, Colombia, France, and Spain. She has been using dance, expressive arts and nature as tools for healing justice for 30+ years. As the Founder of SOL VIDA™ she is a fusion artist/carrying embodied wisdom from the African Diaspora, SomaSource, Ecstatic Movement, Ballet, Jazz, Musical Theatre, Spoken Word, Guerilla Theatre, Performance Art Creative Movement, Yoga, and Modern Dance worlds in her being and is licensed Drama Teacher. She hones a gift for cultivating authentic expression, creating safe spaces and inspiring people of all ages and backgrounds to activate their true life dreams.

Project Highlights: West Side Story, The Producers, Lion King, Out of Site: SoMA, Fab Lab, Once On This Island, Nick Cave H.E.A.R.D., The Denver Dance Project, Unwind + Grind, SOL BOUND and One Race Woman.

**Lucia Fanelli** is a professional dancer who studied tap extensively with San Francisco tap master, Stan Kahn, and his protege, tap virtuoso Sam Weber. Fanelli studied ballet at Peninsula Ballet Theatre School under its founding director, Anne Bena and jazz dance with Dancer Synectics Studio in San Francisco. Her performance career is highlighted by shows with Mason-Kahn, Peninsula Ballet Theatre, Fascinating Rhythm Productions and industrial shows backing up such performers as Bing Crosby, Phil Harris and Julio Iglesias. Her teaching experience includes teaching tap to children and adults at Mason-Kahn Dance Studios, Peninsula Ballet Theatre School and for San Francisco Ballet Soloist, Claudia Alfieri at Studio C. Fanelli loves working with the students teaching tap at Stagebridge and is excited to be a part of this program!

**Hannah Gaff** is a theatre creator, acrobatic clown, movement director and teaching artist based in San Francisco. She is a core member of UpLift Physical Theatre, one half of the acrobatic clown duo, Max & Antoinette, and cofounder of ClownCorps, an organization that aims to transform individuals, bridge divides, and cultivate compassionate communities using tools of clowning and authentic play. She holds a MFA in ensemble-based physical theatre from Dell’Arte International. Hannah works as a hospital clown with the Medical Clown Project, serves as core faculty at the Clown Conservatory at Circus Center, and teaches clown, physical theatre, and circus classes locally and around the world. She works internationally with non-profit organizations including Clowns Without Borders and ClownCorps, performing for children and families in refugee camps, conflict zones, or with communities who have experienced trauma or crisis.

**Martin Holtz** is a veteran of more than 30 years as a performer, award winning writer and artist-as-educator, in both South Florida and the San Francisco Bay Area. Over this span of time he has managed to interweave his love of teaching with the performing arts. He was a featured performer in the South Florida Shakespeare Festival, Miami Beach Art Deco Festival, the New World Festival, as well as creative director of Unexpected Company. He is a trainer and creative consultant for the Center for Domestic Peace dealing with domestic violence and founding member of the Bay Area Playback Theatre.

**Joan Howard** is a physical theater creator, teaching artist and clown. She is co-creator of Idiot String, an ensemble theatre company devoted to inciting delight and activating meaningful human connection through play, and she is the other half of the acrobatic slapstick clown duo Max & Antoinette. Joan teaches the next generation of professional clowns at San Francisco Circus Center’s Clown Conservatory, where she is also co-director of ClownCorps, a social clowning program serving local and international communities through laughter relief. Joan feels deeply grateful to visit hospitals with the Medical Clown Project and to have the opportunity to teach clown to children and adults of all ages locally and internationally, and she is incredibly excited to teach at Stagebridge!

**Joel ben Izzy** It was thirty-six years ago that Joel set off to travel the world, gathering and telling stories. Since then, he has performed and taught in some 36 countries and recorded six award-winning recordings. His memoir The Beggar King and the Secret of Happiness (Algonquin, 2003), which weaves together stories from his travels to tell his own remarkable story, is now in 18 international editions and in development as a musical. Izzy is a highly sought-after story coach and...
A Note on our Digital Shift

As of now, all classes will be scheduled via Zoom, a Google add-on application for video conferencing. We can get back to our community by following a few simple steps, and we’ll be here to make all of these changes easy and fun!

We have created a guide for using Zoom as well as a list of Frequently Asked Questions, both available on our website, stagebridge.org.

Marketing & Communications Manager Julius Rea (julius@stagebridge.org) and PAI Program Director Lily Nguyen (lily@stagebridge.org) will be available for guidance in this digital shift. Also, you can call our staff at (510) 210-3773 for real-time information on online courses.

Finally, there are several questions that we cannot answer at this time, because we do not know what is going to happen. Still, we will come together to explore and grow as artists!

Thank you for your patience, as this is a difficult time for everyone. No matter what, we are all focused on providing the highest quality of performing arts education for all creatives!

~Stagebridge Staff
Frequently Asked Questions

1. **How long are Summer classes scheduled for?**
   Summer PAI 2020 Session will run for 6-weeks from August 3 to September 11.

2. **When will summer registration begin?**
   Summer registration opens on Monday, July 13th. Visit www.stagebridge.org to register.

3. **How do I register for classes?**
   You can register online by visiting www.stagebridge.org/pai. You will have the option to register by filling out a form and selecting your preferred payment method at the bottom OR register by adding a class to your “shopping cart” and checking out using your PayPal account.

4. **How do I pay for my classes?**
   At this time we are not accepting cash payment. All credit card payments through an online invoice will have a 2.7% processing fee. Credit card payments are preferred however, you are welcome to mail your deposit ($75.00) or full payment via check to the Stagebridge office. Stagebridge address: 2501 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA 94612.

5. **Are scholarships available?**
   Yes! Visit www.stagebridge.org/pai-scholarships to fill out an application. We also offer payment plans. Reach out to Lily at lily@stagebridge.org to set-up a payment schedule.

6. **Do I need to purchase a Zoom account?**
   No. Stagebridge staff or your instructor will host your Zoom class(es). You will receive an invitation via email to join each class meeting.

7. **What is Zoom? How do I use Zoom?**
   See How to Use Zoom guide or visit www.stagebridge.org/pai-zoom.

8. **How do I join a Zoom class meeting?**
   You must be enrolled in a class in order to receive a Zoom invitation. You will receive an email Zoom invitation prior to your class (day before or morning of) with a link.

9. **What happens if I withdraw from a class or if my class is cancelled?**
   If you decide to opt out completely of the Summer session, you will have to notify Lily at lily@stagebridge.org by Friday, August 14th at 5pm to avoid paying for the quarter in full. Students who have made a payment to the current session and face a cancelled class, will also have the option to use the payment as a credit towards a different class or a future session.

10. **When will in-person lessons and classes resume?**
    Stagebridge will continue providing online-only classes for our Performing Arts Institute until California enters a “Stage 4” in regards to reopening the state. While we are unsure of the exact timeline because of the constantly evolving situation and unprecedented uncertainty, a good indication of when it will be safe for us to re-open our doors aligns with the actions of the San Francisco Bay Area governmental bodies and the Centers for Disease Control. Stay connected with the CDC to receive timely updates on our plans through email, social media, and our website.

11. **When will Fall classes begin?**
    Fall classes will continue online on Zoom for 12-weeks beginning September 28 - December 18, 2020.
Who can I contact if I can’t join my Zoom class?
Call our digital customer service line: (510) 210-3773 and Lily or Julius will help. Digital office hours are Mondays - Fridays, 10am to 4pm.

To get the most out of your online classes...
- Take your online lesson or class in a distraction-free zone.
- Prepare for your lesson by having everything you need on hand (notebook, writing utensils, music, etc.).

Equipment for online learning will include:
- An internet connection – broadband wired or wireless.
- A device with speakers and a microphone – built-in or USB plug-in or wireless Bluetooth. A personal computer, cell phone, iPad, etc. are all workable solutions.
- A webcam or HD webcam – built-in or USB plug-in. Smart phones and more recent personal computers come installed with webcam.
- Classes through Zoom will be accessible via phone call as well.
- Get your technology set-up and your internet or wifi is connected 10 minutes before the class start time.

Online Registration Policies
Thank you for continuing your classes with Stagebridge! Since we have recently adopted online learning, we want to make clear our registration policies during this period of early transition. Please find more information below to help you as you prepare for the Summer PAI 2020 session.

What are Stagebridge’s goals in this transition?
- Providing the highest possible level of instruction with outstanding professional artists.
- Offering reasonable fees and payment plans that take into account our students’ financial situations.
- Continuing to expand our programs and class offerings according to the needs and interests of our student population.

What happens if I cancel a class or if my class is cancelled?
If you decide to opt out completely of the Summer session, you will have to notify Lily at lily@stagebridge by Friday, August 14th at 5pm to avoid paying for the quarter in full. Students who have made a payment to the current session and face a cancelled class, will also have the option to use the payment as a credit towards a different class or a future session.

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What aspects of the previous enrollment policy are still intact?
Prospective students are encouraged to visit any class during the first week of instruction. Please note that some classes fill before the session begins. Students will be able to access classes digitally during the first week of instruction, but may be asked to listen without participating. Contact Lily (lily@stagebridge.org) or Julius (julius@stagebridge.org) for access.
to any class during the first week of classes.

Each class must have a minimum number of students enrolled (See program class description to find class minimums and maximums) in order for that course to be offered. If a course is under-enrolled at the end of the first week, the class may be cancelled or shortened. Maximum class size will be at Instructor’s discretion. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Stagebridge is able to offer a limited number of full and partial scholarships. Students seeking scholarships should fill out the scholarship form, available online. Scholarship forms are due no later than two weeks before classes begin. The staff will review each form and applicants will be notified of their status no later than one week before the start of classes.

Credit Card Processing Fee: There is a 2.7% processing fee for all credit card transactions for online invoices (Visa, MasterCard, etc.). There is a 2.9% +$0.30 processing fee for all credit card transactions online via PayPal and over the phone.

Registration Confirmation: Your registration is not confirmed unless you have received an email receipt. We may not honor registrations left as phone messages or made in advance of open registration. To check your registration, contact us at info@stagebridge.org or call 510-210-3773.

Waitlists: If you would like to sign up for a class that is full, please contact us to be placed on a waiting list. You can also add your name to a waiting list if you register online. If you’re on a waiting list, you can come to class on the first day and we’ll let you know before the beginning of the second week if there is room in the class.

Discounts: We offer a 5% discount for individuals and households signing up for 3 or more classes. Some classes are not eligible for discounts. Discounts are not transferable. Please check with a staff member if you are unsure.

Class Costs: Our basic cost for classes is approximately $225 for a 10-week session. Costs might be lower in the case of shorter classes, and might be higher in the case of new classes, classes with more than one instructor, classes that meet more than once per week, last longer than 2 hours, or classes that meet off site and/or culminate in a public performance. We do our best to make our classes accessible and affordable. If you have concerns about class affordability, please contact our office about a scholarship or payment plan.

Liability: Stagebridge is not liable for any injury incurred during class time, performances, or related activities. By signing that you have read our enrollment policy, you release Stagebridge from any liability in the case of injury or other harm incurred during class time, performances, or related activities.

Scholarships

We have a limited number of full and partial scholarships and work-study opportunities, which are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, pending Executive Director and Program Director approval. Unfortunately, we are not always able to award scholarships to everyone who requests them. Some classes will not be eligible for full and/or partial scholarships.

You can fill out a scholarship application online here.

If you have any questions about the Performing Arts Institute including enrollment, our current session, and scholarship policies or process, please contact Lily at lily@stagebridge.org.
About Stagebridge
Stagebridge’s mission is to transform the lives of older adults and their communities through the performing arts. Stagebridge uses the performing arts to change the way people view and experience aging. For more than 40 years, our innovative workshops and critically acclaimed performances have had a dramatic and wide-ranging impact on the lives of seniors and their communities. Alongside our Performing Arts Institute is our Seniors Reaching Out program, which brings storytelling workshops and a variety of performances to thousands of seniors in retirement communities, convalescent hospitals, senior centers and community organizations. We also hold our Storybridge program to bring elders trained in storytelling to classrooms throughout the Bay Area. In addition to preparing them for success in the schools, Storybridge gives children a chance to experience empowering intergenerational relationships while building their language skills and self confidence.

The Performing Arts Institute (PAI)
Our Performing Arts Institute will help you develop the skills and confidence in a fun, supportive community. Stagebridge’s PAI program is the nation’s first professional performing arts program for older adults. Our classes are customized for beginning to advanced students with instructors drawn from prestigious local theater programs such as Studio ACT, CalShakes, the Theater Department of California State East Bay, and the Drama Therapy Program of CIIS.

Staff
Shannon McDonnell, Executive Director
Lily Nguyen, Director of Performing Arts Institute & Seniors Reaching Out
Clara Kamunde, Director of Storytelling & Schools Programs
Julius Rea, Marketing & Communications Manager
Barbara Johnson, Community Outreach Manager

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Digital Office Hours
Monday - Friday
10AM - 4PM
stagebridge.org • info@stagebridge.org • (510) 210-3773
Stagebridge is supported by:
Alameda County Art Commission, Arts for Oakland Kids, Bernard Osher Foundation, California Arts Council, City of Oakland Cultural Funding Program, Clorox Company Foundation, East Bay Community Foundation, Dean and Margaret Lesher Foundation, Lowell Berry Foundation, Sam Mazza Foundation, Walter & Elise Haas Fund, West Davis Bergard Foundation, and donations from individuals like you!

Our community partners include:

Local businesses that support Stagebridge include:
Amazon Smiles, Barefoot Wine, Books Inc. Alameda, C.L.P. Specialties, Grand Copy Center, Grocery Outlet, Momo’s Flowers and More, Noah’s Bagels, Numi Organic Tea, Oaklandish, Oakland Athletics, Oracle, Piedmont Grocery, The Piedmont Post, Piedmont Spa, Roast Co. Coffee, RustRidge Winery, Salesforce, Solano Express, Sprouts, The Saap Avenue, Whole Foods, Z Café and Bar, and 7-Eleven (at 2350 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA)

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Stagebridge was founded in 1978 by Dr. Stuart Kandell