

STAGEBRIDGE

**SPARK
YOUR
IMAGINATION
THIS
SPRING**

PERFORMING ARTS INSTITUTE
FOR PEOPLE **50+**

ENROLL TODAY @
[STAGEBRIDGE.ORG/PAI](https://stagebridge.org/pai)

SPRING 2023 | April 24 - June 30, 2023
Registration Opens March 27, 2023

REGISTER@STAGEBRIDGE.ORG
(510) 210-3773

Limited financial assistance available for new students



Spring 2023 Performing Arts Institute At-A-Glance

Stagebridge will be offering new classes with a deeper partnership with the City of Oakland. We will ensure that lifelong learners across the city have access to the magic of Stagebridge while offering comforting classics.

All class times are presented in Pacific Standard Time (PT), and all classes are held at the First Congregational Church of Oakland (2501 Harrison St, Oakland, CA 94612) unless stated otherwise. Classes are also held at the Downtown Oakland Senior Center (200 Grand Ave, Oakland, CA 94610) and the West Oakland Senior Center (1724 Adeline St, Oakland, CA 94607).

MONDAYS

Singing with Scrumby with Scrumby
Koldewyn
April 24 - June 26 | 10am - 12pm
Price: \$350

Storytelling Performance Masterclass
with Antonio Rocha
May 1 | 1 - 4pm
Price: \$75

Self-Directed Storytelling Coaching
with Joel ben Izzy
May 8 - June 26 | 2 - 4pm
Price: \$245

Black Historical Fictions with Devin
Cunningham
May 8 - June 12 | 3 - 4:30pm
Price: \$100

TUESDAYS

Singing with Scrumby with Scrumby
Koldewyn
April 25 - June 27 | 10am - 12pm
Price: \$350

Introduction to Performance with Rusty
Watson
May 9 - June 13 | 3 - 4:30pm
Price: \$100

Compassionate Tappin' Level 2 with
Lucia Fanelli
April 11 - June 27 | 12:30 - 1:30pm
Online
Price: \$225

Tap in Time with Sam Weber
April 11 - June 27 | 2 - 3pm
Online
Price: \$225

Playback Theatre with Martin Holtz
April 25 - June 27 | 3 - 5pm
Online
Price: \$300

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WEDNESDAYS

Story Coaching Soundlab with Andy Alabran
May 3 - 24 | 10 - 11:30am
Online
Price: \$115

Play Performance Lab with Ely Sonny Orquiza
April 26 - May 31 | 12 - 2pm
Price: \$245

Picking the Production: Shakespeare in the Park with Kim Saunders
June 7 - 28 | 12 - 2pm
Price: \$125

THURSDAYS

Singing with Scumbly with Scumbly Koldewyn
April 27 - June 29 | 10am - 12pm
Price: \$350

The Joy of Improv with Elana Isaacs
May 18 - July 6 | 11am - 12:30pm
Online
Price: \$200

Tackling Monologues and Short-form Playwriting with Julius Rea
May 4 - 25 | 1 - 3pm
Online
Price: \$145

FRIDAYS

GrimmWyn Studios III: The Production with Joanne Grimm & Scumbly Koldewyn
April 14 - June 16 | 10a - 1pm
Price: \$350

Words to Life with Jeff Lee & Jessica Stanton
May 5 - June 9 | 10a - 1pm
Price: \$315

SATURDAYS

SOL of Dance with April Axé Charmaine
May 20 | 12 - 3pm
Price: \$50

Making Musical Theatre Sound with Rusty Watson
May 27 | 12 - 3pm
Price: \$75

Dialects of the World Workshop with Andy Alabran
June 10 | 10am - 12pm
Price: \$50

STAGEBRIDGE

A MESSAGE FROM STAGEBRIDGE'S INTERIM DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING

Hi Stagebridgers!

First off, I want to commend all of you!

We have all been feeling the impact of the trekking on in the world, and it's hard to see what's next. With Stagebridge, we can continue to forge this community connected by our creative spirits—the one thing that will never disappear.

I took that as one of the inspiration points for this upcoming session. Of course, we are offering the long-time Stagebridge classics that we're known for.

Also, we are introducing new models to get our students to explore more, take more chances, or to lead their own artistic practices. You'll see our advanced acting students taking the lead in the next Stagebridge productions in **Play Performance Lab** and **Picking the Production: Shakespeare in the Park**.

You might also see new invitations for writers and storytellers in **Words Come Alive**, a storytelling and puppetry class, or **Tackling Monologues & Short-form Playwriting**, with yours truly.

There are even new classes offered for our friends at the Downtown Oakland and West Oakland Senior centers.

And, thanks to the larger Stagebridge community, we're inviting back international sensation Antonio Rocha for a **Storytelling Performance Masterclass** to help kick off the session.

There are surprises hidden in all of our classes this session so we can all share that creative spark—no matter where we are or what we do in life!

~Julius Rea

Interim Director of Programming



THEATER, PERFORMANCE & IMPROV

GrimmWyn Studios III: The Production with Joanne Grimm & Scrumby Koldewyn

April 14 - June 16 | Fridays, 10a - 1pm

In-person | First Congregational Church of Oakland

Never Too Late creators Joanne Grimm & Scrumby Koldewyn return to lead students in creating a new mystery musical for 2023! In this class, students will rehearse and bring their work to life in a final showcase performance of their original piece developed through the previous sessions. **Maximum enrollment: 12**

Note: The first hour will be dedicated to workshopping the script and rehearsal. The last two hours will focus on singing and vocal performance. Students who did not enroll in the Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 **GrimmWyn Studios** classes will not be accepted.

Price: **\$350**

Playback Theatre with Martin Holtz

April 25 - June 27 | Tuesdays, 3 - 5pm

Online

Playback theatre transforms true stories into theatrical pieces and reflects the true essence of those experiences. By developing each performer's skills with deep listening, dramatic spoken words and improvised movement, this class acts as a close-knit ensemble. While building up to an engaging and interactive showcase of audiences, this cathartic experience is both challenging and fun. **Maximum enrollment: 10**

Note: Returning students will have registration priority, in addition to individuals with previous experience.

Price: **\$300**

Introduction to Performance with Rusty Watson

May 9 - June 13 | Tuesdays, 3 - 4:30pm

In-person | West Oakland Senior Center

Ever dreamed of becoming as powerful and commanding as your favorite actor or singer? Bay Area phenom Rusty Watson will guide you through a new class in

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performance and acting which will offer introductory lessons on singing, voice control, acting, body movements, and understanding television, film, and play scripts. Learn how to step outside of the box and unlock the performer inside of you in an easy environment welcoming all—no matter your experience! **Maximum enrollment: 12**

Price: **\$100**

The Joy of Improv with Elana Isaacs

May 18 - July 6 | Thursdays, 11am - 12:30pm

Online

In this dynamic class, students will bring their full selves, dive into the imagination, and play their hearts out. Improv is a form of live theatre where stories are made up in the moment. Through both short games and group exercises, students will learn to explore objects as props and use their voices and bodies to become characters. While you laugh with new and old friends, get ready to shout “Yes, and!” No experience necessary. **Maximum enrollment: 15**

Price: **\$200**

Dialects of the World Workshop with Andy Alabran

June 10 | Saturday, 10am - 12pm

Online

Here is your ticket to master your voice for the stage and beyond. By exploring and performing monologues or speeches, students will learn British, Irish, French and New York dialects and more to make their next performance pop. Crafted as a fun and uplifting class for all, this workshop will help you expand your voice by taking a trip around the world. **Maximum enrollment: 15**

Note: There will be a discount offered for those who sign up for any other Storytelling & Writing or Theatre & Performance class for Spring 2023.

Price: **\$50**

Play Performance Lab with Ely Sonny Orquiza

April 26 - May 31 | Wednesdays, 12 - 2pm

In-person | First Congregational Church of Oakland | Angel Room

Welcoming all acting students, this special workshop invites students back to explore

the plays chosen from the Winter 2023 class, **Picking the Production**. This workshop will combine interactive discussion and text analysis, tips on producing, and staged readings. Students will read the plays and pitches created by fellow Stagebridgers. Then, they will work through each possible play to make a final decision on the next Stagebridge production to begin work in the Fall 2023 session! **Maximum enrollment: 15**

Price: **\$245**

Picking the Production: Shakespeare in the Park with Kim Saunders

June 7 - 28 | Wednesdays, 12 - 2pm

In-person | First Congregational Church of Oakland | Angel Room

Kim Saunders will lead a short workshop in exploring how to produce some of the Bard's best work for a short summer production. Working with Stagebridge staff, students will choose Shakespearean scenes, monologues, and poems to create a showcase during the summer (July, August or September). Then, the class will workshop and begin to rehearse leading up to a Shakespeare in the Park performance—suitable for all audiences! **Maximum enrollment: 15**

Note: No experience is required; however, familiarity with Shakespeare is encouraged. There will be a discount offered for those who sign up for any other Theatre & Performance class for Spring 2023.

Price: **\$125**

SINGING & VOICE

Singing with Scrumbly with Scrumbly Koldewyn

Week of April 24 - Week of June 26 | Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10am - 12pm

Mondays & Thursdays, In-person | First Congregational Church of Oakland | Angel Room

Tuesdays, In-person @ Downtown Oakland Senior Center

Are you ready to unlock your passion for singing? No matter your skill or experience, our resident maestro Scrumbly Koldewyn will build up your confidence by providing one-on-one singing coaching in a supportive class environment. Through performing any songs of your choosing and watching others work with Scrumbly himself, you will

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transform into a true vocalist while building up to an incredible final performance.

Maximum enrollment: 12

Note: For the Monday and Thursday classes, accommodations will be made for both online.

Price: **\$350**

Mastering Musical Theatre Sound with Rusty Watson

May 27 | Saturday, 12 - 3pm

In-person | First Congregational Church of Oakland

Designed as a fun and easy environment for our Stagebridge singing students, local theatre performers and arts producer Rusty Watson will help you transform your voice to take on your favorite musical tune. Students will bring in their favorite showtune or musical number and Watson will offer vocal and performance coaching to sell this special moment. For those interested in learning from a Grammy-nominated artist, this workshop will be a special treat for all! **Maximum enrollment: 12**

Price: **\$75**

DANCE & MOVEMENT

Compassionate Tappin' Level 2 with Lucia Fanelli

April 11 - June 27 | Tuesdays, 12:30 - 1:30pm

Online

Are you ready to flap, hop, step, and shuffle? This class will learn new techniques while using skills from previous sessions to develop a fully completed tap routine. Tap master Lucia Fanelli will also guide students through the warm-ups, body isolation, and patient practice on simple movements designed for all bodies. With special care for students such as written instructions and adapted moves for those with limited mobility, this is your ticket to become a tap virtuoso! **Maximum enrollment: 12**

Note: Students who feel comfortable and confident in Level 2 should inquire about the intermediate class with Sam Weber, Tap in Time.

Price: **\$225**

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Tap in Time with Sam Weber

April 11 - June 27 | Tuesdays, 2 - 3pm

Online

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 Dorrance Dance, to name just a few. In this intermediate class, you'll learn how to build on the fundamentals, add sounds to the basic steps, and create fast and intricate rhythms.

Maximum enrollment: 12

Note: This class may include in-person meetings to be determined after classes begin. Interested students should have previous experience with tap dance or have taken Lucia Fanelli's tap classes.

Price: **\$225**

SOL of Dance Workshop with April Axé Charmaine

May 20 | Saturday, 12 - 3pm

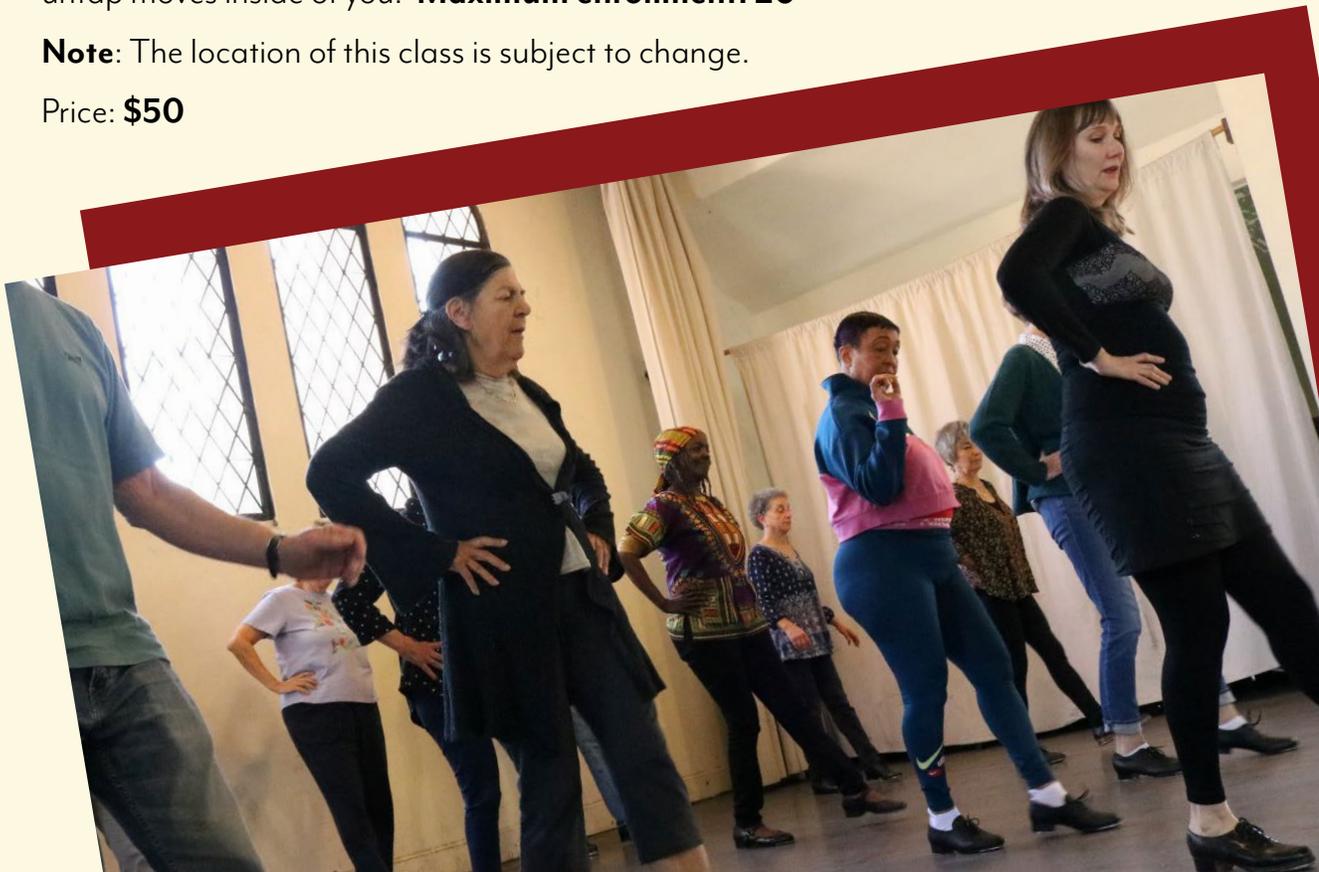
In-person @ First Congregational Church of Oakland | Gallery

Acclaimed dance instructor April Axé Charmaine returns to help you shake out the cobwebs and create a healthy and fun dance to restore your mind, body and sol!

Mixing holistic healing movements with traditional and Afro Fusion dance, a calming yet energizing day is calling out to you. Designed for all levels, you will unlock and untap moves inside of you. **Maximum enrollment: 20**

Note: The location of this class is subject to change.

Price: **\$50**



STORYTELLING & WRITING

Storytelling Performance Masterclass with Antonio Rocha

May 1 | Monday, 1 - 4pm

In-person | First Congregational Church of Oakland

You will, during this exclusive class, experience the unique performing style of the award-winning Antonio Rocha. The Brazilian-born artist has 35+ years of storytelling performance experience focused on combining specific body language, mime techniques, and spoken word to inspire and transport audiences. During this workshop, Rocha will share a short performance and lessons on his unique artistic style, encourage students to practice their craft in real-time, and coach 1 to 2 participants on their storytelling presentation. Rocha loves to teach. His workshops are fun, while he shares and teaches techniques from the control of the eyes to gestures that will have a real and positive impact in your storytelling—no matter your level.

Maximum enrollment: 60

Note: Supplies will be provided to students. Also, students can bring ideas on which story or stories they would like to develop in class.

Price: **\$75**

Story Coaching Soundlab with Andy Alabran

May 3 - 24 | Wednesdays, 10 - 11:30am

Online

Do you want to master the art of storytelling performance? By bringing in your own work and using examples provided by the instructor, you'll learn how to create distinct voices for multi-character stories, improve your breathwork and speaking volume, and enhance your diction and dialect mastery. With Andy Alabran providing tips on how to activate your voice, you will breathe new life into your stories... and your life!

Maximum enrollment: 15

Note: Returning students will explore deeper material from the Winter 2023 session. There will be a discount offered for those who sign up for any other Storytelling & Writing or Theatre & Performance class for Spring 2023.

Price: **\$115**

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Tackling Monologues and Short-form Playwriting with Julius Rea

May 4 - 25 | Thursdays, 1 - 3pm

Online

Do you want to take first steps in writing plays, films, musicals and more? Join local playwright and theatre producer Julius Rea in developing a monologue or one-scene play. Rea will meet you where you're at to provide coaching in creating characters, finding narrative arcs, and developing interesting storylines. Experienced writers are encouraged to bring either a short scene or a monologue to further develop. New and aspiring writers will find an understanding environment when learning the craft of playwriting. **Maximum enrollment: 10**

Price: **\$145**

Words Come Alive with Jeff Lee & Jessica Stanton

May 5 - June 9 | Fridays, 10am - 1pm

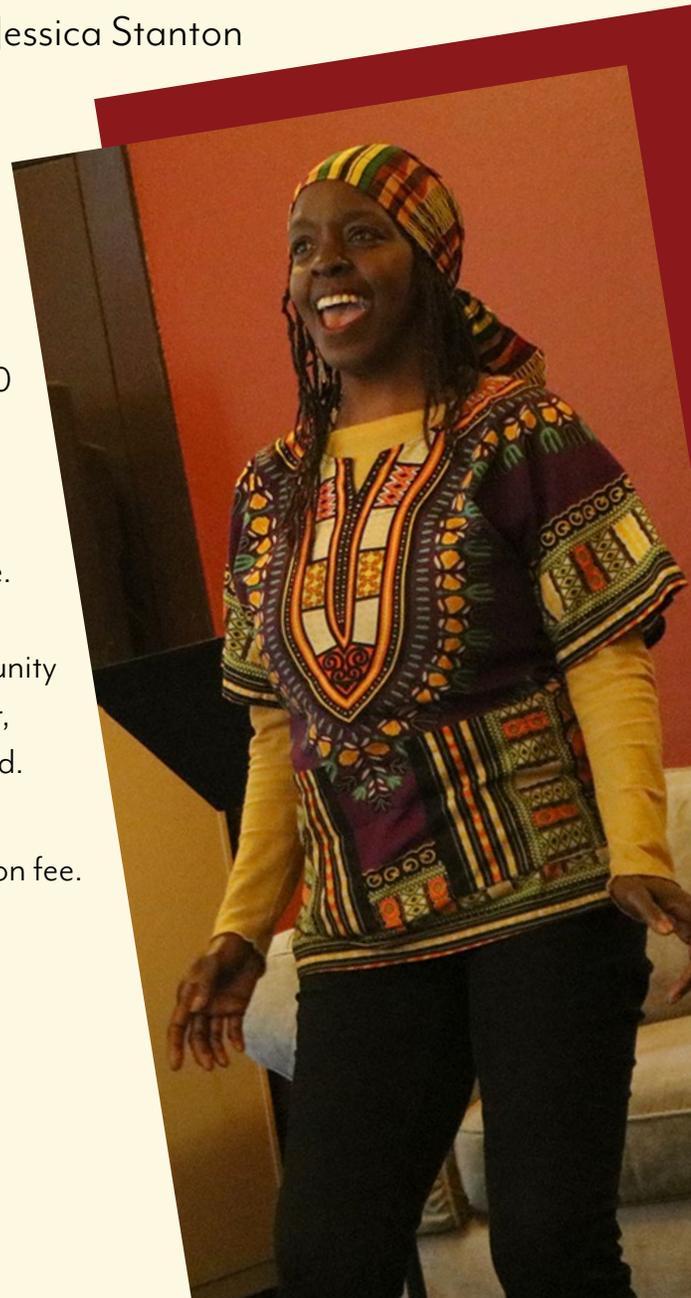
In-person | First Congregational Church of Oakland | New Oakland Room

In this class, writer Jeff Lee and artist Jessica Stanton will combine their talents and art forms to give your words substance and life. Every week, you'll spend the first 90 minutes creating a vibrant, new character and a monologue in their voice. Then, you'll build a realistic puppet to perform your work in preparation for a performance. By matching traditional writing with puppeteering, this class is a unique opportunity to expand your range as a writer, storyteller, actor or visual artist. No experience required.

Maximum enrollment: 15

Note: All materials are included in the tuition fee.

Price: **\$315**



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Black Historical Fictions with Devin Cunningham

May 8 - June 12 | Mondays, 3 - 4:30pm

In-person | West Oakland Senior Center

What would happen if Harriet Tubman and Shirley Chisholm ever spoke? What about James Baldwin and Langston Hughes? Martin Luther King? Henrietta Lacks? Jesse Owens? In this class, students will create their own fictional short stories, poems and monologues from the perspective of Black historical figures. While researching and learning about the world's most influential individuals, this class will inspire you to imagine and re-create the conversations, feelings and personal thoughts of important people throughout Black history. **Maximum enrollment: 15**

Price: **\$100**

Self-Directed Storytelling Coaching with Joel ben Izzy

May 8 - June 26 | Mondays, 2 - 4pm

In-person | First Congregational Church of Oakland

Are you looking to elevate your stories with Joel ben Izzy? With him and a group of collaborative students, you'll bring in your own stories to work on, revise and boost them for the stage. While self-directing which stories you want to develop and testing out new ideas, you'll get a seven-week crash course in painting personal stories lifted from your world and beyond. **Maximum enrollment: 10**

Note: There will be no class on Memorial Day (May 29, 2023).

Price: **\$245**

PERFORMING ARTS INSTITUTE INSTRUCTORS

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 9 10 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 a 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, SOLBOUND and One Race Woman. solvidaworldwide.com



Andy Alabran received his M.F.A. in Acting from the American Conservatory Theater and his B.A. in Theater from UMass Amherst. He has taught acting, voice, and speech at A.C.T.'s Studio and Young Conservatory, Oakland School for the Arts, Mission High School, Burton High School, 826 Valencia, Cal Shakes Summer Conservatory, Voice One, and throughout the Bay Area. He served as voice coach for productions such as Begets, Hookman, and The Wolves. He is a company with the Shotgun Players where his acting credits include: Mother Courage, Loot, Woyzeck, and A Seagull in the Hamptons. andyalabran.com



Devin Cunningham is an actor, singer, and writer from Oakland, CA. He studied acting on California's central coast at PCPA- Professional Actor Training Program. He has worked with the Lower Bottom Playaz on Amiri Barka's, The Toilet and with African American Shakespeare Company on multiple productions, most notably: Leon, Black Eagles; Prince Charming, Cinderella; and all male roles in The Trial by Karani Marcia Leslie Johnson. His most recent credits include Courtney Berringers, At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen by Terry Guest and Youth, Passing Strange with Shotgun Players, Berkeley, CA. Devin made his directorial debut with African-American Shakespeare Company's annual production of Cinderella in 2022.



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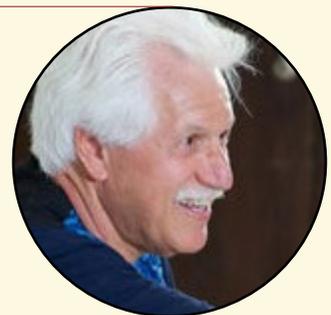
Lucia Fanelli is a professional dancer who studied tap extensively with San Francisco tap master, Stan Kahn, and his protege, tap virtuoso Sam Weber. Fanelli studied ballet at Peninsula Ballet Theatre School under its founding director, Anne Bena and jazz dance with Dancer Synectics Studio in San Francisco. 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!



Joanne Grimm has been a Stagebridge cast member for over 20 years and the director of *Never Too Late* for over 10 years. She performed with Generation Theatre, a Bay Area based repertory company. She started out as a storyteller and keeps her hand in telling tales at assisted living facilities. She has appeared in numerous *Grandparent's Tales* plays produced by Stagebridge. Grimm's background includes training in radio, public speaking, oral interpretation, improv, acting, and children's theater. She's been acting in one venue or another since elementary school.



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.



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Elana Isaacs is a seasoned actor, singer, director, and Improv teacher. She founded Improvalicious in 2007 and her drop-in class and workshops are still going strong! For 30 years she has been dedicated to both the craft of improvisation, and its power for personal and social transformation. Elana's background includes using Theater of the Oppressed tools to enliven adult learners around social justice issues, and Applied Improvisation to support business leaders in team-building. Her classes are connective, thought-provoking, and build beloved community. Elana creates opportunities for embodied creativity and laughter for all ages and for a multitude of intentions. Clients have included CIIS, Rossmoor, Belmont Village, Toyota, and Google. For the last 10 years she has specialized in working with seniors from all walks of life. Elana is a proud graduate of Tamalpa Institute School For Expressive Arts Therapy and Education. She is delighted and honored to join the Stagebridge community. Check out some current work at dotorgshow.com



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. Joel is a highly sought-after story coach and consultant, both to individuals and organizations. storypage.com



Scrumby Koldewyn is an accomplished composer who has performed with the Cockettes, the Distractions and the Jesters Vocal Trio, touring throughout Europe. He has been musical director at many Bay Area theatres including Berkeley Rep and 42nd Street Moon. His awards include the Bay Area Critics Circle and Bay Area Cabaret Gold Awards. Revivals of his shows with the Cockettes have been playing at Thrillpeddlers in SF for 4 years. For Stagebridge, he has been musical director for *Comedy Tonight* and currently co-directs the touring show *Never Too Late*. He also created the music for Stagebridge's world premiere musical *Sylvia's Advice on How to Age Gracefully on the Planet Denial*, based on the works of Nicole Hollander.



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Jeff Lee is excited to be teaching at Stagebridge this quarter. He is a graduate of the Creative Writing Program at Stanford University, and writes a monthly column of personal essays for Seattle's Child Magazine. He is the author of *Catch a Fish, Throw a Ball, Fly a Kite*, a book that teaches classic kid skills to parents and children, as well as *True Blue*, a middle grade fantasy novel. He teaches at the Northwest Writers' Weekend, the Caz NW Family Arts Camp and at the Songwriters in Seattle workshop. Last year he released *Over That River Wide*, his first album of original songs. For his "day job," Jeff works as a family physician in one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the United States.



Ely Sonny Orquiza is a freelance San Francisco-based theater maker. Orquiza is the Director of New Works at Gritty City Repertory and a faculty member at the American Conservatory Theater's Young Conservatory and Education & Community Programs. He is a Founder and Co-Artistic Director of The Chikahan Company, a new Filipinx American theater company based in San Francisco. Locally and regionally his directing credits have been critically acclaimed, working in theaters such as the American Conservatory Theater, Academy of Art University, Bindlestiff Studio, Playground, UC Berkeley, Theater Rhinoceros and more. As an actor he has appeared in select productions at Cal Performances, Cal Shakes, New Conservatory Theater, Playwrights Foundation, San Francisco Opera and Studio 52nd in Amsterdam. He most recently appeared in Jimmy Kimmel Live! and Bank of the West national commercials. Elysonnyorquiza.org



Kim Saunders received her BA in Theatre from Marymount Manhattan College, then went on to perform at: The Nat Horne Theatre, Neighborhood Playhouse, Academy Arts Theatre Company and American Ballet Theatre at Lincoln Center and many other companies in NYC. She then ventured west to The Oregon Shakespeare Festival where she performed for 6 years. Since moving to California she has performed with: San Jose Repertory Theatre, San Jose Stage, Napa Valley Shakespeare, African American Shakespeare, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre and other companies around the country. Kim is a company member of Custom Made Theatre and Left Coast Theatre. She has been nominated twice by BATCC for best female principal as well as choreography. She also received a nomination from TBA for choreography. Kim is a professional director and works as a teaching artist. kimsaunders.net



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Jessica Stanton is a mixed media artist living in Berkeley. She started her art career in intaglio printmaking at Sev Shoon Printmaking Studio in Seattle, and received a certification in scientific illustration from the University of Washington. She has studied oil painting and portraiture at the Gage Academy in Seattle and Studio Escalier in France, and has taught various paper engineering and visual arts classes to both kids and adults through the University of Washington and Cazadero Family Performing Arts Camp. She is excited to be joining StageBridge as a new instructor.



Julius Ernesto Rea is a Bay Area writer and arts producer. He co-founded The Forum Collective, which produces projects blending live performance and journalistic reporting. In addition to his work as a playwright and poet, he works with Lorraine Hansberry Theatre as a current recipient of the Theatre Bay Area Arts Leadership Resident. He is also the Interim Director of Programming at Stagebridge.



Antonio Rocha, a native of Brazil, began his career in the performing arts in 1985. In 1988 he received a Partners of the Americas grant to come to the USA to perform and deepen his mime skills with Mime Master Tony Montanaro. Since then he has earned a Summa Cum Laude Theater BA from USM (University of Southern Maine) and studied with Master Marcel Marceau. Mr. Rocha's unique fusion of mime and spoken word has been performed from Singapore to South Africa and many places in between including 20 countries on 6 continents and 44 US States. Some of the venues include The Singapore Festival of the Arts, Wolf Trap, The National Storytelling Festival, The Kennedy Center, The Smithsonian Institution, The National Geographic, The Tales of Graz in Austria, Dunya Festival in Holland as well as many other Storytelling Festivals and educational institutions around The USA. Mr. Rocha is a two time TEDx presenter and is the recipient of the coveted Oracle Circle of Excellence Award presented by the National Storytelling Network for his exceptional commitment and exemplary contributions to the art of storytelling.



Rusty Watson, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, now, residing in Oakland, California, for the last 30 years, serves as minister of music as a part of the Ecclesial council of the LoveCenterMinistries founded by the late Bishop, Walter, L Hawkins, and National Conference Coordinator of the Edwin Hawkins Music & Arts Seminar until his retirement in 2018 and has been an industry professional for the last 45 years.



Sam Weber is an award-winning artist who has gained a global reputation in the world of tap dance and is in demand internationally as a performer, master teacher and choreographer. A protege of tap master Stan Kahn in San Francisco, he was a principal dancer and choreographer with the Jazz Tap Ensemble from 1986 to 2009, receiving acclaim in the U.S. and abroad while touring with the company. He was the first tap dancer to receive New York's Bessie award for outstanding artistic achievement. He continues to appear at international tap festivals since being at the first Colorado Tap Festival in 1986. Sam has taught and performed with such legendary tap masters as Charles "Honi" Coles, Jimmy Slyde, Steve Condos, Buster Brown, Gregory Hines and the Nicholas Brothers. He has taught at UCLA, Cal State U. Fullerton, Cal State L.A and San Francisco State U. He currently teaches in San Francisco at ODC Dance Commons and Stagebridge (Oakland). Sam is the recipient of numerous tap dance awards, including the Legacy Award from the Third Coast Rhythm Project, the Giant Steps Award from the San Francisco Tap Festival, the Juba Award from the Chicago Human Rhythm Project and the Hoofers Award, from the American Tap Dance Foundation.



Bios are provided by and written by instructors. They do not necessarily represent the views of Stagebridge or the content of classes.

PAI REGISTRATION POLICY

Class Registration & Payment

Registration: All class registrations must be made at www.stagebridge.org/pai-register during the open registration period. All registrations are processed in the order they are received. Students will receive an email confirmation after submitting their registration form. Stagebridge does not honor registration requests made prior to the open registration period or left as phone messages, unless specified or announced.

If additional assistance is needed, contact Stagebridge staff as soon as possible at register@stagebridge.org or **(510) 210-3773**.

Waitlists: Students who register for a class that is at full capacity will be placed on a waitlist. Staff will reach out to waitlisted students if a spot becomes available. Similar to registrations, waitlisted students are accepted in the order their registrations are received.

Payment: Registered students must submit full payment by the Sunday prior to the second week of class instruction. For short-term classes or workshops, registered

students must submit full payment 48 hours before the first day of class instruction. Any payment made prior to the open registration period will not secure earlier registration in classes.

If a student does not submit payment, the student will not be admitted into class, and enrollment will be nulled. Exceptions may be granted due to special circumstances; however, previous arrangements must be made with staff via register@stagebridge.org or (510) 210-3773.

Digital payments and checks are accepted, and digital payments are preferred. Stagebridge uses a secure portal for all debit and credit card transactions. Checks must be made payable to “Stagebridge” and be mailed to or dropped at 2501 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA 94612. For information on financial assistance and payment plans, visit www.stagebridge.org/pai-financial-assist.

Withdrawals & Reimbursements: For students dropping a class, withdrawals must be made by the Sunday prior to the second week of class instruction. Students who have paid for the class can divert their tuition to any following session or can request a full refund. Class withdrawals made after this deadline will not be refunded and tuition credit cannot be offered.

For short-term classes or workshops, withdrawals must be made at least 48 hours prior to the first day of class instruction in order to receive a full refund. Any withdrawals made within the 48 hours prior and up to the start of any short-term classes or workshops will not receive a refund.

If Stagebridge staff cancels a class for any reason, students who have paid for the class can divert their tuition to any following session or can request a full refund.

Stagebridge staff have final authority in refunds and reimbursements. Withdrawals requests must be sent to Stagebridge staff at register@stagebridge.org or (510) 210-3773.

Class Cancellation: Stagebridge reserves the right to cancel a class if enrollment is insufficient, or for any other administrative reason. If a class is canceled, students who have paid can divert their tuition to any following session or can request a full refund.

Add / Drop Period: The first week of class instruction is an Add / Drop period; students are encouraged to register for any classes that interest them. Registered students must inform staff of class withdrawals by the Sunday prior to the second week of class instruction. The Add / Drop period is only applicable to full-term classes

during full-length PAI sessions. Short-term classes and workshops do not have an Add / Drop period. Rules for class withdrawals and cancellations are stated above.

Fees & Discounts: Class fees depend on class length, availability, amount of instructors, meeting times, and other factors. Stagebridge works hard to ensure that our classes are accessible and affordable while compensating instructors at a fair rate. Students concerned about class affordability should submit a financial assistance request at www.stagebridge.org/pai-financial-assist.

Discounts on classes are subject to availability. Discounts are not transferable and cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts, payment plans or financial assistance.

Donations: For donations, digital payments and checks are accepted. Checks should be made payable to “Stagebridge” and mailed to or dropped at 2501 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA 94612. Any donations should include “Donation” in the Memo line. Additionally, students must specify the donation amount if tuition payment is included in the same check. Any other online donations can be made at www.stagebridge.org/donate-now.

Additional Assistance & Questions: For general information, questions regarding registration, or to announce class withdrawal, students are encouraged to contact staff at register@stagebridge.org or the Digital Customer Service Line at 510-210-3773.

Financial Assistance

Stagebridge offers limited financial assistance for its Performing Arts Institute, dependent on the availability of funds. Financial assistance priority will be given to new students and / or students who have not previously received financial assistance.

Financial assistance requests will be reviewed and approved by Stagebridge staff. Requests are accepted until two weeks prior to the first week of class instruction, unless stated. Students will be notified of their granted assistance one week prior to the first week of class instruction.

A complete financial assistance request includes:

1. A completed Registration Form for the upcoming PAI session at www.stagebridge.org/pai-register, and
2. A completed Financial Assistance Request form at www.stagebridge.org/pai-financial-assist.

Please ensure both forms are submitted. Incomplete financial assistance requests may result in delays in replies, approval and any related communication with Stagebridge staff.

Some financial assistance awardees may be asked to complete a minimum of 10 hours of volunteer service to be completed prior to the following Performing Arts Institute session. Examples of volunteer service may include assisting during in-person events, making phone calls, delivering promotional materials to local community centers, assisting with fundraising, and other related jobs.

If Stagebridge is unable to offer financial assistance, flexible payment plans can also be offered.

If you have any questions, please contact Managing Director Elissa Glickman at director@stagebridge.org.

Terms & Conditions

Liability: By acknowledging that they have read our registration policy, students release Stagebridge from any liability in the case of injury or other harm incurred during class time, performances, or related activities. Students are required to acknowledge that they have read the registration policy during the class registration process. During registration, students must accept a waiver related to COVID-19 safety and participating in in-person classes or events with Stagebridge.

Recording: Video or audio recording (including taping, recording, photographing, screen capturing and other methods of capture) by participants for purposes other than instruction is prohibited without prior consent from the PAI Director and instructor.

Media Release: By registering for the Performing Arts Institute, students grant permission to Stagebridge to record in-class work or other items, hereinafter referred to as “Materials.” These materials may be used for Stagebridge’s website, newsletters, social media accounts, and any and all published materials.

Students also release Stagebridge, representatives, employees, managers, members, officers, parent companies, subsidiaries, and directors all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with any use of said “Materials,” including, without limitation, all claims for invasion of privacy, infringement of my right of publicity, defamation and any other personal and/or property rights.

Students also acknowledge and agree that no sums whatsoever will be due to Stagebridge as a result of the use and/or exploitation of the “Materials” or any rights therein.

For further questions about Stagebridge’s registration policies or the Performing Arts Institute, contact staff at register@stagebridge.org.

COVID-19 Protocols and Guidelines

To ensure the safety of our community, students are required to adhere to the following:

All students meeting in-person must be fully-vaccinated against COVID-19, including booster shots. If not fully vaccinated, then students must be able to provide negative test results weekly available when entering classes.

Government issued verification of fully vaccinated status or pre-entry negative test result (within 24 hrs before each class) is required for all attendees. Students must provide:

- COVID-19 Vaccination Record (any one of the following):
- COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card
- Photo or copy of a COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card as a separate document
- Documentation of COVID-19 vaccination from a health care provider
- Digital record of COVID-19 vaccination

In accordance with the City of Oakland, Alameda County and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Students are strongly recommended to wear masks, but are not required to while indoors. Should local health conditions change, masking requirements and other health precautions may be reimposed.

Further masking policies during in-person classes will be discussed with instructors and staff.

STAGEBRIDGE

About Stagebridge

Stagebridge, based in Oakland, California, is the nation's oldest and most renowned performing arts organization for older adults. Founded in 1978 by Dr. Stuart Kandell, the company's mission is to foster a vibrant community where all lifelong learners are celebrated and enriched through the performing arts.

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.

Stagebridge Staff

Elissa Glickman | Managing Director

Julius Rea | Interim Director of Programs

Barbara Johnson | Outreach & Seniors Reaching Out Coordinator

Lauren Nearhoff | Grants Manager

Amitis Rossoukh | Public Engagement Coordinator

Stagebridge Board of Directors

Claire Wahrhaftig | Board Chair

Prescott Cole | Secretary

Mel Terry | Treasurer

Eleanor Clement Glass

Digital Office Hours

Monday - Friday | 10am - 4pm

stagebridge.org • register@stagebridge.org • (510) 210-3773

STAGEBRIDGE

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