

Julie Benitez has taught in public schools for the last 27 years and thrives on the creativity required in creating noteworthy sets in less than ideal theatre spaces. Julie has an MFA in Theatre for Youth from Arizona State University and is the co-creator of Teach Tech Theatre.

Loren Keagle's extensive background in technical theater and sound design has covered a wide spectrum of volunteer and professional positions. He has worked as an audio engineer, lighting technician, and general stagehand for several theater programs throughout California. He began his semi-professional career with the famous Lamplighters musical theater company in San Francisco. He continued to work as an assistant sound engineer and stagehand in San Luis Obispo, working for dozens of touring bands and Broadway musicals, including West Side Story, Grease, Cats, Stomp, and Phish. Loren then moved fully into professional concert sound, working with renowned acts such as Tower of Power, Kool & the Gang, Rascal Flatts, and many more. He now lives in San Diego working primarily in CyberSecurity, but moonlights as a performing musician with a number of local classical ensembles. He also provides recording services for various classical and jazz groups. Loren greatly enjoys spending time supporting local arts education, and has provided sound design services to the Mira Mesa High School theater department for many years.

Kirsten Giard has taught Middle School and High School for 32 years. She has experience teaching theatre in comprehensive high schools as well as alternative school settings. In the Fall, Kirsten will move out of the classroom and into the District role of Visual and Performing Arts Teacher on Special Assignment.

Kirsten has an MA in Theatre Production and Design and is co-creator of Teach Tech Theatre.

[Chris Rynne](#) is a lighting and scenery designer of theatre, opera, museum exhibitions, and architectural features. His theatrical design work has been seen in productions around the country including The Old Globe, San Diego Rep, San Diego Opera, Cygnet Theatre, Pasadena Playhouse, Madison Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Hartford Stage, Geffen Playhouse, Laguna Playhouse, Berkeley Rep and Off- Broadway. He has been responsible for lighting a number of independent touring theatrical productions that have played around the United States as well as in London, Paris, and Tel Aviv. In addition to his lighting design work, Chris also specifies theatrical, entertainment, and architectural control systems for theatres, houses of worship, hospitality, theme parks, schools, museums, and archtainment features (including Balboa Park) and consults regularly with local San Diego County area school districts on theatre lighting modernization plans, technical theatre curriculum matters and equipment modernization with CTE and VAPA programs, and educator training.

Chris grew up in the San Diego Unified School system attending Longfellow Elementary, Bell Junior High, and Morse High School. While attending UCSD he began working with the theatre department at UC High School as scenic/lighting/sound designer and technical director and

continued to do so, after finishing college, as a side project for eighteen years/ twenty-five productions