

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES 2026/2027 SEASON

**Season to Feature Three World-Premiere Musicals, Plus Two New Plays,
A Pulitzer Prize-Winning Broadway Hit, and the Annual WOW Festival in April**

**New Slate Marks Final Season Programmed by Christopher Ashley
Following 18-Year Tenure as Artistic Director**

La Jolla, CA — La Jolla Playhouse announces its 2026/2027 season, featuring three world-premiere musicals: ***The Family Album***, a Playhouse-commissioned work with a book by **Sam Chanse**, music and lyrics by **MILCK** (aka Connie K. Lim) and **AG** (aka Adrienne Gonzalez), directed by **Jess McLeod**; ***GRIM***, book by **Joey Orton** and **Brad Silnutzer**, music and lyrics by **Petro AP**, **Scott Hoying**, **Joey Orton** and **Brad Silnutzer**, directed by **Sammi Cannold**; and ***Particle Fever***, book by Tony Award winner **David Henry Hwang**, music and lyrics by **Bear McCreary** and **Zoe Sarnak**, directed by Tony Award nominee **Leigh Silverman**.

The season will also include the West Coast premiere of the Tony Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winning play ***Purpose***, by **Branden Jacobs-Jenkins**, directed by **Delicia Turner Sonnenberg**; the West Coast premiere of ***The Monsters***, by UC San Diego graduate **Ngozi Anyanwu**, directed by **Tamilla Woodard**, in a co-production with **Berkeley Repertory Theatre**; and the world premiere of ***A Black-billed Cuckoo***, by UC San Diego graduate **Mat Smart**, directed by **Shelley Butler**, marking the 13th piece to make the jump from the Playhouse's DNA New Work Series to the subscription slate. For more information on the 2026/2027 season, please visit lajollaplayhouse.org.

Prior to the start of the subscription season, La Jolla Playhouse will mount its annual **WOW Festival**, presented in partnership with UC San Diego, taking place **April 23 – 26, 2026** at UC San Diego.

The 2026/2027 subscription slate marks the final season curated by **Christopher Ashley**, the Playhouse's Rich Family Artistic Director, who will depart the organization in January 2026 after nearly two decades, to lead New York's Roundabout Theatre.

"After 18 years co-leading this amazing organization with my longtime partner Debby Buchholz, it is extremely bittersweet that this will be the final season I'll be sharing at the Playhouse, but I'm ecstatic about these six extraordinary productions – programmed in partnership with Artistic Producing Director Eric Keen-Louie – which will leave audiences feeling moved and inspired," said **Ashley**. "We'll kick off the season with the Pulitzer Prize-winning ***Purpose***, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' biting and funny play that was the toast of Broadway last season. Next up will be Ngozi Anyanwu's poetic and searing new piece, ***The Monsters***, which explores a sibling relationship through the dynamic lens of Mixed Martial Arts. We'll also be mounting the world premiere of ***A Black-billed Cuckoo***, a humorous and deeply affecting work by Mat Smart centering on a rift among friends in a tight-knit birding group. The season will continue with three brand-new musicals: ***The Family Album***, a poignant and powerful Playhouse commission by the acclaimed writing team behind the Women's March viral anthem "Quiet;" ***GRIM***, a delightfully irreverent and heart-forward piece about the exploits of the Grim Reaper's daughter; and ***Particle Fever***, a deeply moving work that shines a light on the passion and sense of wonder that drives our search for meaning in the universe."

Ashley continued, "These six bold, vibrant new works will ignite the Playhouse's stages in a season that marks both a grand finale and a new beginning. A huge piece of my heart will always remain at La Jolla Playhouse, and I look forward to celebrating the triumphs of this new season – and all the incredible seasons to come."

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ABOUT THE 2026/2027 SEASON***Purpose***

West Coast Premiere

By Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

Directed by Delicia Turner Sonnenberg

May/June 2026

Fresh from winning the Tony Award for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, *Purpose* is “a thumping, riveting, guns-blazing, major new American play” (*NY Daily News*). For decades, the influential Jasper family has been a pillar of Black American Politics: civil rights leaders, celebrity pastors and congressmen. When the youngest son returns home with an uninvited friend, long-buried secrets and tensions threaten to topple their empire. As *The New York Times* said: “*Purpose* showcases Jacobs-Jenkins’ vivid language, spitfire dialogue and sweeping sense of American history...you may have trouble catching your breath from laughing so hard.”

The Monsters

West Coast Premiere

By Ngozi Anyanwu

Directed by Tamilla Woodard

Co-Production with Berkeley Repertory Theatre

June 2026

Lil is obsessed with the art, strength and beauty of Mixed Martial Arts, inspired by her older brother Big, a star of the local MMA circuit. But they haven’t spoken in years — until she suddenly appears at his door. Ngozi Anyanwu’s searing new play explores sibling bonds, reunions and the fight to build a life you can be proud of. Through the propulsive lens of MMA, Big and Lil’s story fuses the poetry of words and symphony of movement into a stylish, gritty and action-charged love story between estranged siblings.

The Family Album

World Premiere

La Jolla Playhouse Commission

Book by Sam Chanse

Music and lyrics by MILCK (aka Connie K. Lim) and AG (aka Adrienne Gonzalez)

Conceived by MILCK and Jess McLeod

Story by Sam Chanse, MILCK, and Jess McLeod

Directed by Jess McLeod

July/August 2026

Singer-songwriter Mia Bing has been hustling and is desperate to break through in the music industry. Just as she receives the call that could change her career, she’s pulled back to her childhood home where she’s once again the “disappointing” daughter of her Asian immigrant parents, still haunted by an unresolved secret. In 2017, MILCK and AG’s “Quiet,” a song about MILCK’s survivor journey, became a viral sensation. That same spirit inspired them and acclaimed playwright Sam Chanse to draw on each of their personal stories to create *The Family Album*, a humorous and poignant original musical about finding your voice and using it for change.

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A Black-billed Cuckoo

World Premiere

By Mat Smart

Directed by Shelley Butler

September/October 2026

The elusive black-billed Cuckoo is notoriously hard to find, and it's exactly what Ruth has been searching for. Over 24 hours in Brooklyn's Prospect Park, a close-knit birding group is thrown into chaos when some members glimpse the rare bird and others don't. Award-winning playwright and UC San Diego MFA graduate Mat Smart introduces us to a fascinating community of people who revel in the idea that any given day might bring something they've never seen before. The 13th play to leap from the DNA New Work Series to the stage, *A Black-billed Cuckoo* is a comedy about healing, wonder and how to move on after missing out.

GRIM

World Premiere

Book by Joey Orton and Brad Silnutzer

Music and Lyrics by Petro AP, Scott Hoying, Joey Orton and Brad Silnutzer

Directed by Sammi Cannold

October/November 2026

GRIM is an irreverent, hilarious and heartbreaking world-premiere musical that celebrates life...and death. After 300,000 years collecting souls, the Grim Reaper is retiring, and his daughter Diana must pass a simple test to take over. That is, until she unexpectedly falls for dorky human Josh, and the beautiful chaos of humanity, planet Earth... and the DMV. If she loves life, can Diana be in charge of ending it? With an all-star creative team, an infectious score and sharp humor, *GRIM* will delight audiences with a bold and original theatrical experience.

Particle Fever

World Premiere

A musical based on the documentary film by Mark Levinson and David Kaplan

Book by David Henry Hwang

Music and lyrics by Bear McCreary and Zoe Sarnak

Story by David Henry Hwang, Bear McCreary and Zoe Sarnak

Directed by Leigh Silverman

February/March 2027

Based on the acclaimed documentary, *Particle Fever* hurtles audiences into the most ambitious experiment ever attempted. More than 10,000 scientists from around the world joined forces to build the Large Hadron Collider and solve one of the universe's greatest mysteries. With epic, high-voltage music and lyrics by Bear McCreary and Zoe Sarnak, and a book by David Henry Hwang, *Particle Fever* captures the thrill of discovery and the hearts of those who make it possible. Leigh Silverman leads this high-stakes adventure to the stage. Expect a love letter to curiosity itself — a roller coaster of ambition, resilience and hope, and a tribute to what humankind is capable of when we work together.

WOW Festival

April 23 – 26, 2026

Presented in Partnership with UC San Diego, the 2026 WOW Festival will feature four action-packed days of theatre, dance, music, puppetry, spectacle events and more, with multiple performances by renowned local, national and international artists occurring throughout the weekend on the UC San Diego campus. A complete roster of artists and projects will be announced in the coming months.

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ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

LA-based producer/Grammy-nominated songwriter/mix engineer **AG (aka Adrienne Gonzalez)** (Music and Lyrics: *The Family Album*) is a powerhouse. With 600+ song placements to date, she has become one of the most prolific producers in the world of film and TV. AG's work has been featured in countless trailers, promos, films, and TV shows. She works closely with music supervisors, trailer houses, ad agencies, and film studios, including Universal, Lionsgate, Paramount, Warner Bros along with networks and streaming platforms such as HBO, STARZ, ABC, Netflix, Hulu and Amazon. AG's music has also been featured on national and global ad campaigns for Verizon, Samsung, Ford, Cadillac, Starbucks, P&G, Brawny and more. AG's catalogue has generated over 370 million streams and 430 million views on YouTube to date. AG is also in a band called The Rescues, who are currently working on a musical adaptation of *The Lost Boys* with award-winning director Michael Arden. It is set to open in April 2026. AG has made it her mission to bring diversity to the sync world in any way she can. Not satisfied with the status quo in this historically male-dominated industry, AG collaborates with and mentors the next generation of women producers, writers, and engineers as they take a solid step — and hold their ground.

Ngozi Anyanwu (Playwright: *The Monsters*) is a multi-hyphenated storyteller most recently seen performing in Nathan Alan Davis's *The Refuge Plays* at Roundabout Theatre with New York Theatre Workshop in 2023. Her upcoming play *The Monsters* will make its world premiere at Two River Theater, co-produced with Manhattan Theater Club, in the 25/26 season, for which she'll also direct. Her most recent play *Leroy and Lucy* premiered at Steppenwolf Theater (Jeff Award nomination) in the fall of 2024. She's a 2020 Steinberg Playwright Award winner. Previous productions include *Last of the Love Letters* at the Atlantic Theater Company, *Good Grief* (Vineyard Theatre – *New York Times* Critic's Pick/Center Theatre Group in LA) and *The Homecoming Queen* (sold-out world-premiere run and a *New York Times* Critic's pick at the Atlantic Theatre). *Good Grief* was on the 2016 Kilroys List, was a semi-finalist for the Princess Grace Award, and won the Humanitas Award. *The Homecoming Queen* was on the 2017 Kilroys List and was a Leah Ryan Finalist. Her play *Nike...* (2017 Kilroys List) was workshopped at The New Black Fest in conjunction with The Lark, and at The Strand Festival in conjunction with A.C.T and SPACE on Ryder Farm, and at New York Stage and Film. Anyanwu also has been commissioned by NYU, The Old Globe, Two Rivers Theatre, The Atlantic Theatre, and Steppenwolf Theater. Anyanwu has also received residencies from LCT3, The National Black Theatre, SPACE on Ryder Farm, the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, The New Harmony Project, New York Stage and Film and Page 73. She attended Point Park University (B.A.) and received her M.F.A. in Acting from UC San Diego.

Petro AP (Music and Lyrics: *GRIM*) is a Greek-American songwriter, producer, and musician building a world of sound from his studio in Los Angeles. His music lives in that space between pop precision and human messiness—sleek enough for radio, but raw enough to feel like real life. He produced several tracks on René Rapp's debut album *Snow Angel*—including "Willow," "I Do," and her breakout hit "Pretty Girls." The project helped define Rapp's bold, emotional pop sound and cemented Petro as a creative force behind one of music's most exciting new voices. His writing and production credits also include collaborations with Enrique Iglesias ("Only a Woman"), Dillon Francis ("All That"), Martin Solveig ("Hey Now" ft. KYLE), and FRANKIE & Marc E. Bassy ("Problems, Problems"). He has produced multiple songs for Grace Enger, including her standout track "The Neighborhood," and worked with Meg Smith on her viral single "Girls Just Wanna Be Famous." He is currently producing an album for Madeline The Person and regularly collaborates with emerging pop artists across Los Angeles. In the world of theater, he co-wrote *The Fast and the Furious: A Musical Parody*, now a Los Angeles staple that's been performed in San Francisco and made its NYC debut in 2025. The show received glowing reviews for its humor, creativity, and original music. Petro also collaborates frequently with Alexander 23 and tours with him playing keyboards in his band. Together, they've traveled the world performing to sold-out crowds and sharing stages with some of pop's biggest names. Earlier in his career, he engineered and sang background vocals on One Direction's hit "Best Song Ever" — and yes, it really was.

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Shelley Butler (Director: *A Black-billed Cuckoo*) has worked extensively with writers on new plays and musicals and has directed over two dozen new works including the world premieres of Lucas Hnath's *A Doll's House, Part 2* (South Coast Repertory) and Kate Hamill's *The Scarlet Letter* (Two River Theater). Shelley spent two seasons as Artistic Associate in charge of New Play Development for Hartford Stage, three seasons as Artistic Associate for Great Lakes Theater Festival, and currently serves as Artistic Director for the newly created South Carolina New Play Festival. Shelley has directed and developed work nationwide for companies including: Ars Nova, Primary Stages, Ensemble Studio Theatre, WP Theater, Alliance Theatre, Geffen Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Yale Repertory Theatre, The Old Globe, Milwaukee Rep, Hartford Stage, South Coast Repertory, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Geva Theatre Center, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Pioneer Theatre Company, Contemporary American Theater Festival, New York Stage and Film, Partial Comfort Productions, New Georges, The Playwright's Center, The Playwrights Realm, Keen Company, and New Dramatists. Shelley is the recipient of a Drama League Fall Directing Fellowship, a 2018 Drama League Directing Resident, a 2005 Director's Guild of America Trainee, and a proud member of SDC. www.shelleybutler.com

Sammi Cannold (Director: *GRIM*) is a Broadway, film, and television director who is one of *Forbes'* 30 Under 30 in Hollywood & Entertainment, one of *Variety's* 10 Broadway Stars to Watch, and one of *Town & Country's* Creative Aristocracy. In 2023, she made her Broadway directorial debut helming *How to Dance in Ohio*, for which she won a Drama Desk Award. In 2025, she made her episodic directing debut helming episode 2204 of *Grey's Anatomy* and was selected to develop her first feature film in the Sundance Institute Screenwriters Intensive. She has directed work at The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, and more than 25 non-profit theaters around the country as well as for the National Symphony Orchestra, ABC, Cirque du Soleil, and more. She has spoken at the Aspen Ideas Festival, the Global Business Summit, and TEDxBroadway and is an alum of Stanford University, the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and the Sundance Theatre Lab. sammicannold.com @sammicannold

Sam Chanse's (Book/Story: *The Family Album*) plays and other work include *what you are now* (Ensemble Studio Theatre / Civilians); *Monument, or Four Sisters* (A Sloth Play) (Magic Theatre); *Disturbance Specialist* (NAATCO / The Public Theater); *P.S.* (Ars Nova); *Lydia's Funeral Video* (Kaya Press); and *Asian American Jesus*. An alum of Ars Nova's Play Group and the Ma-Yi Writers' Lab, her work has also been developed and supported by La Jolla Playhouse, New York Stage & Film, SF Arts Commission, Ojai Playwrights Conference, Sundance Theatre Institute, and Playwrights Realm, among others. She was a writer on ABC's *The Good Doctor*, and is a former MacDowell fellow, Venturous Fellow at the Lark, and resident playwright at New Dramatists.

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Scott Hoying (Music and Lyrics: *GRIM*) is a three-time Grammy® Award-winning and Emmy® Award-winning singer, songwriter, producer, arranger, and artist. While studying music at USC, he discovered his passion for a cappella and started the a cappella group, Pentatonix. The vocal quintet quickly rose to international fame and has collaborated with Kelly Clarkson, Dolly Parton, Maren Morris, Jennifer Hudson, Stevie Wonder, and Andrea Bocelli, among others. With Pentatonix, Hoying has won three Grammy® Awards, sold more than 13 million albums, and received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The Pentatonix YouTube channel has 20 million subscribers and more than 5.6 billion views. In 2023, Hoying released his solo debut EP, *Parallel*, with Sony/BMG. The standout track “Mars” was featured on *The Today Show* and *The Kelly Clarkson Show*. Hoying’s solo song “Rose Without The Thorns,” a tribute to his husband Mark Hoying, earned him his first solo nomination for Best Arrangement, Instrumental or A Cappella at the 2025 Grammy® Awards. Hoying has a long history of championing youth and the arts. Notably, in 2023, Hoying received an Emmy® Award for “Outstanding Music Direction” of America’s Youth Choir at Super Bowl LVII. He co-created the girl group Citizen Queen and the all-kids a cappella collective, Acapop! KIDS. Hoying is very active in uplifting the LGBTQ+ and queer youth communities, working with GLAAD, LA Pride, and The Trevor Project. Hoying is a multi-hyphenate talent across all mediums. Other credits include: *Dancing with the Stars*, the *USA Today* best-selling children’s book with husband Mark Hoying, *How Lucky Am I?* and their upcoming children’s book, *Fa La La Family*; Disney+ *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series*; Netflix #1 film *Meet Me Next Christmas*; Meghan Trainor (vocal arranger/producer); Disney California Adventure Park’s World of Color Happiness.

David Henry Hwang’s (Book: *Particle Fever*) stage works include the plays *M. Butterfly*, *Yellow Face* (2024 Tony Award-winning Broadway revival broadcast on PBS Great Performances), *Chinglish*, *The Dance and the Railroad*, and *FOB*, as well as the musicals *Soft Power*, *Flower Drum Song* and Disney’s international hits *Aida* and *Tarzan*. Called America’s most-produced living opera librettist by *Opera News*, he has written thirteen libretti, including five with Philip Glass, *Dream of the Red Chamber* with music by Bright Sheng (San Francisco Opera 2016), and *Ainadamar* with music by Osvaldo Golijov (Metropolitan Opera premiere 2024). *The Monkey King*, his fourth opera with Huang Ruo, will open at San Francisco Opera in November 2025. Hwang was a Writer/Consulting Producer for the Golden Globe-winning television series *The Affair* and co-wrote the Gold Record “Solo” with the late pop legend Prince. He is a Tony Award winner and four-time nominee, a Grammy Award winner and two-time nominee, a three-time OBIE Award winner, and a three-time Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama. Hwang was inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame in 2018 and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Dramatists Guild in 2025.

Branden Jacobs-Jenkins (Playwright: *Purpose*) is a Brooklyn-based playwright. Recent theatre credits include *Purpose* (Tony Award, Pulitzer Prize; Broadway, Steppenwolf), *Appropriate* (Tony Award; Broadway, Second Stage), *The Comeuppance* (Signature Theatre), *Girls* (Yale Rep), *Everybody* (Signature Theatre), *War* (Yale Rep; Lincoln Center/LCT3), *Gloria* (Vineyard Theatre), *Appropriate* (Obie Award; Signature Theatre), *An Octoroon* (Obie Award; Soho Rep, Theatre for a New Audience) and *Neighbors* (The Public Theater). He currently teaches at Yale University and serves as Vice President of the Dramatists Guild council and on the boards of Soho Rep, Park Avenue Armory, the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, and the Dramatists Guild Foundation. Honors include a USA Artists fellowship, a Guggenheim fellowship, the MacArthur fellowship, the Windham-Campbell Prize for Drama, and the inaugural Tennessee Williams Award.

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Award-winning composer and recording artist **Bear McCreary** (Music and Lyrics: *Particle Fever*) began his career as a protégé of legendary film composer Elmer Bernstein, before bursting onto the scene scoring the revered series *Battlestar Galactica* in 2004. Since then, McCreary has won three Emmy Awards, including two for Disney's *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* and one for his theme for *Da Vinci's Demons*, a musical palindrome, and has won twelve International Film Music Critics Association Awards, including the award for Score of the Year in 2024, his second. Named the 23rd Most Definitive Bear in Popular Culture (*The Ringer*), he's also been the subject of a clue on *Jeopardy!*. Project highlights include *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power* (Amazon); *Foundation* (Apple TV+); the beloved series *Outlander* (STARZ); *Godzilla: King of the Monsters* (Warner Bros. and Legendary Pictures); *The Walking Dead* (AMC); and Netflix's Academy Award-nominated documentary *Crip Camp* (produced by Barack and Michelle Obama). McCreary's celebrated scores for Sony PlayStation's blockbusters *God of War* and *God of War Ragnarök* have earned him two BAFTA Awards and two Grammy nominations. In 2024, McCreary released *The Singularity*, a hard-rock concept album featuring legendary rock talent including Slash, Serj Tankian (System of a Down), Corey Taylor (Slipknot), Rufus Wainwright, and more. McCreary has collaborated with artists from across the musical spectrum, including Hozier, Fiona Apple, Shirley Manson (Garbage), and the late Sinéad O'Connor. In 2014, Maestro Gustavo Dudamel conducted a suite of McCreary's music with the L.A. Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl.

Jess McLeod (she/her; Story/Concept/Direction: *The Family Album*) is a proud first generation Asian American, director and social justice advocate specializing in risky new plays and musicals about America. She has directed and developed work in New York and all over the country at theatres such as Second Stage (*On the Evolutionary Function of Shame*), Roundabout, MTC, BAM, Atlantic, P73, Little Island, Ma-Yi and regionally at Steppenwolf (*The Thanksgiving Play*), Goodman, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Alliance, La Jolla Playhouse, Williamstown, Berkeley Rep and Woolly Mammoth (*There's Always the Hudson*), where she was also a BOLD Resident Director. Current Drama League TV/Film Fellow. McLeod served as Resident Director on *Hamilton* in Chicago for three years, Lead Curator for Roundabout's 2023 Refocus Project, Co-Chair (with Michael Korie) of the Dramatist Guild Foundation's Musical Theatre Fellows Program, Artist-In-Residence at the NYCLU (Creatives Rebuild NY Grantee), and a Tony Nominator from 2022-25. She grew up in San Francisco, spent a decade in Chicago after earning her MFA in Directing from Northwestern, and currently resides in New York.

MILCK (Connie K. Lim) (Story/Concept/Music and Lyrics: *The Family Album*) is a singer/songwriter/ recording artist and humanitarian who pens anthems for healing, bridge building, and freedom. Her breakout anthem "Quiet" was named a Billboard #1 protest song, NPR's featured "American Anthems," and a top feminist anthem of all time by *Harper's Bazaar*. In 2025 *Elle UK* named MILCK as a top 40 Women of Hope. MILCK composes anthemic songs for film, television, and artists, from *Girl Climber*, the documentary, to *Grey's Anatomy*; from John Legend to Natasha Bedingfield. MILCK self-released an album titled *Mother Tongue 2/14*, and has since gone viral again with another song titled "Sisters of Winter," which will be featured on ACLU's 2025 national campaign.

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Joey Orton (Book, Music and Lyrics: *GRIM*) is a songwriter, music producer, and librettist based out of Los Angeles. His professional music career started when Taylor Swift tweeted out a song he wrote, "New Obsession," calling it a "song to make your life more awesome." Since then, Joey has written songs featuring FRANKIE (RCA Records), Scott Hoying (RCA Records), and Marc E Bassy (Universal Republic), among others, which have amassed tens of millions of streams across platforms. The music video for Joey's song "Ghost," peaked at #4 on iTunes behind only Cardi B, Taylor Swift, and Childish Gambino. Joey's commercial music credits include ad campaigns for the NBA, Life 360, Chevrolet, Britney Spears' "Fantasy Twist" fragrance, and Cisco. He is the co-creator of *The Fast and the Furious: A Musical Parody*, which runs monthly at the Dynasty Typewriter and has sold out every show since its inception. *The Fast and the Furious: A Musical Parody* was praised by feminist author Roxanne Gay, and was lauded on the *Joe Rogan Podcast*, a sign that it can unite a divided America. Outside of music and musicals, Joey holds a degree in Neuroscience, has taught Salsa dancing in downtown LA and abroad, and has at least three great *Shark Tank* ideas no one will listen to.

Zoe Sarnak (Music and Lyrics: *Particle Fever*) is a Drama Desk-nominated and Larson Award-winning composer, lyricist, and writer, as well as a finalist for the Ebb and Kleban Awards. Recent works include: *The Lonely Few* (with Rachel Bonds; *New York Times* Critic's Pick) at MCC and The Geffen; *Empire Records* (with Carol Heikkinen) at McCarter Theatre; *Galileo* (with Danny Strong and Michael Weiner) at Berkeley Rep. Additional works in development include: *A Beautiful Mind* (with Sarah Treem); *The Invisible Line* (with Christopher Oscar Peña and Mark St. Germain); *Eleanor* (based on the best-selling biography by David Michaelis); *Split* (with Michele Lowe) and others soon to be announced. Sarnak was named to the 2024 Broadway Women's Fund "Women to Watch" list. Her work has been presented by Second Stage, New York Stage and Film, The Public Theater, Roundabout Theatre, Williamstown, Geffen Playhouse, Barrington Stage Company, MCC, McCarter Theatre and others. Her music has been featured by the NY Times Live, The Guggenheim, the BBC and more. @zoesarnak

Brad Silnutzer (Book, Music and Lyrics: *GRIM*) is a stand-up comedian, writer, producer, and director based in Los Angeles, but proudly from New Jersey. He's been named one of Just For Laughs' "New Faces of Comedy", one of Comedy Central's "Comics to Watch," and a "Comedian to Watch," by more than one now-defunct comedy publication. He has a "Don't Tell Comedy" special on YouTube and can be seen doing standup on Comedy Central, Hulu, and shockingly on Disney+. Brad has written for comedians/hosts such as Joel McHale, Nikki Glaser, Daniel Tosh, Rebel Wilson, Ken Jeong, Nick Cannon, Jenny McCarthy, Penn and Teller, and David Dobrik. He has produced all sorts of reality shows from ABC's *The Bachelor*, to Max/CW's *FBoy Island*, to E!'s *House of Villains*, to *The Masked Singer*. Recently, he directed a series of comedy specials that have garnered over three billion views across platforms. Currently, Brad's musical *The Fast and the Furious: A Musical Parody* is enjoying a string of sold-out performances in LA. Before making the jump to entertainment, Brad was a writer for *Japan Times* in Tokyo, a facilitator at Phillips Academy Andover, and a sailing instructor on Catalina Island. As a child, Brad was the Ovaltine Boy, but retired from acting after consuming far too much of the chocolate milk.

Leigh Silverman (Director: *Particle Fever*) has directed over 60 world-premiere new plays and musicals. She received Tony nominations for her direction of the musicals *Suffs* and *Violet*, and received a 2011 Obie Award and 2019 Obie for Sustained Excellence. Broadway credits include *Yellow Face* (Roundabout), *Suffs* (Tony nomination), *Grand Horizons*, *The Lifespan of a Fact*, *Violet* (Tony nomination), *Chinglish*, *Well*. Select Off-Broadway: *The Seat of Our Pants* (The Public), *Harry Clarke* (West End; Berkeley Rep; Vineyard Theatre/Audible, Minetta Lane; Lortel nomination), *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* (Shed, Taper), *Soft Power* (Public Theater; Ahmanson Theater/Curran Theater; Drama Desk nomination), *Sweet Charity* (New Group). Encores: *Violet*, *The Wild Party* and Sutton Foster's streaming concert, *Bring Me to Light*. Other Audible projects include *Harry Clarke* and *Dykes to Watch Out For*, which was named Best of Year for Audible and Slate.

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Mat Smart (Playwright: *A Black-billed Cuckoo*) has written 27 full-length plays and currently has several television and film projects in development. *The Agitators*, his play about the true, untold friendship between Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass, has been produced at more than 20 different theatres from Maine to California. *Kill Local* premiered at La Jolla Playhouse and is being developed as a feature film with Depth of Field. In 2022, the play was translated into Korean and performed in Seoul at the Broadway Musical Center. Select productions include: *The Royal Society of Antarctica* (Gift Theatre, recipient of the Jeff Award for Best New Work in Chicago), *Eden Prairie, 1971* (National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere, Riverside Theatre; New Jersey Rep; BETC), *Samuel J. and K.* (Williamstown Theatre Festival; Steppenwolf), *Tinker to Evers to Chance* (Geva; Merrimack Rep), *The 13th of Paris* (City Theatre), and *The Hopper Collection* (Huntington; Magic). An avid traveler and baseball fan, Mat has been to all of the states, all of the continents, and all of the current MLB stadiums. He currently lives in Brooklyn where he is a proud member of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Birding Group. Undergrad: University of Evansville. MFA: UC San Diego.

Delicia Turner Sonnenberg (Director: *Purpose*) is a San Diego-based director whose work has been celebrated for its boldness, creativity, and commitment to diverse storytelling. Delicia has directed *Derecho*, *The Garden*, *Hoopla!* (POP Tour), and *#Super Shiny Sara* (POP Tour) for La Jolla Playhouse. Other credits include the Old Globe, the Alley Theatre, South Coast Rep, New Jersey Rep, Utah Shakespeare, Theatre Squared, Island City Stage, Two River Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Theatre Calgary, Roundhouse Theatre, Center Rep, Cygnet, Diversionary and San Diego REP, among others. She is a founder and former Artistic Director of MOXIE Theatre, which she helmed for 12 acclaimed seasons.

Tamilla Woodard (Director: *The Monsters*) is a resident director at Yale Repertory Theater, Chair of the Acting Program at the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale and the co-founder of the site-specific international partnership, PopUP Theatrics. Previously, Tamilla served as the inaugural BOLD Associate Artistic Director at WP Theater and Co-Artistic Director of the Working Theatre in New York. Tamilla also served as the associate director of the Tony Award-winning *Hadestown* on Broadway in its premier season. Tamilla has directed at theaters nationally and internationally, including at WP Theater, Alliance Theatre, Guthrie, Baltimore Center Stage, American Conservatory Theater, Classical Theater of Harlem, and The Atlantic Theater, among others. Recent highlights include Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* at The Folger Theater in DC; Christina Anderson's *the ripple, the wave that carried me home* at Yale Rep; the site-specific work *The Democracy Project* at Federal Hall written by Tanya Barfield, Lisa D'Amour, Larissa FastHorse, Melissa James Gibson, Michael R. Jackson and Bruce Norris; Gab Reisman's *Spindle, Shuttle, Needle* for Clubbed Thumb's Summerworks and Lynn Nottage's *Sweat* at the Guthrie. Tamilla is represented in film and other media by the concert film *Weightless* by The Kilbanes, *Where We Stand* (Steppenwolf NOW), Theater for One's *Here We Are* series by Nicole Salter and Delanna Studi, *The Parsnip Ship*, MCC's audio sci-fi *This Is Where We Go* and the audio drama *The House of the Negro Insane* by Terence Anthony, produced by the Contemporary American Theater Festival. Tamilla is a Usual Suspect at New York Theatre Workshop and a proud board member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. She was named one of 50 Women to Watch on Broadway and is a recipient of the Josephine Abady Award from the League of Professional Theatre Women.

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Berkeley Repertory Theatre (co-producer, *The Monsters*) has grown from a storefront stage to an international leader in innovative theatre and has provided a welcoming home for emerging and established artists since 1968. Over 6 million people have enjoyed more than 500 shows at Berkeley Rep, including 88 world premieres. Berkeley Rep's shows have gone on to win eight Tony Awards, nine Obie Awards, 11 Drama Desk Awards, one Grammy Award, one Pulitzer Prize, and many other honors. Berkeley Rep received the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre in 1997. The Ground Floor: Berkeley Rep's Center for the Creation and Development of New Work was launched in 2012. Berkeley Rep's School of Theatre ensures broad access to dynamic arts educational activities, especially for Bay Area youth, and provides immersive training for current and future theatre makers. Learn more at berkeleyrep.org.

La Jolla Playhouse is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what's new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, the Playhouse is currently led by Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse, and Managing Director Debby Buchholz. The Playhouse is internationally renowned for the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 120 world premieres, commissioning 70 new works, and sending 37 productions to Broadway, garnering a total of 42 Tony Awards, as well as the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. lajollaplayhouse.org

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