



**Palm
Canyon
Theatre**
PALM SPRINGS

29
SEASON



PRODUCED BY

Casa de la Música
**CLASSICAL
VOICES**

The Merry Widow

VISIT THE
Agua Caliente
CULTURAL PLAZA
PALM SPRINGS • CALIFORNIA

NAMED WORLD'S GREATEST PLACES
- by TIME -



AguaCalienteCulturalPlaza.com



Palm Canyon Theatre
Presents



Music By
FRANZ LEHAR

English Script by
JONATHAN HEAD

Directed by **DOUG NAGEL**
Choreography by **KEITH MATTOLA**
Musical Preparation by **LINDA MACK BERVEN**
Rehearsal Accompanist **CHUCK PEERY**
Scenic & Lighting Design **J.W. LAYNE**
Costume Design **DERIK SHOPINSKI**

May 22-24, 2026

Video or audio recording of any kind of this production is strictly prohibited.



PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager	RONJIA CLOUD TOMASKO
Sound Designer	NICK CAMPBELL
Costume Assistants	KATHRYN FERGUSON, VIRGINIA SULICK, COLLEEN WALKER
Makeup Consultant	WILLIAM SQUIRES
Lightboard Operator	DANNY HARGREAVES
Spotlight	ALAN BERRY, KAYSON RYAN
Set Construction	JACKSON ENZLER, STEPHEN GIBONEY
Scenic Painting	TOMAS GONZALEZ
Projections	NICK EDWARDS

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Managing and Co-Artistic Director	SE LAYNE
Co-Artistic Director/Set Designer	J.W. LAYNE
Resident Costume Designer	DERIK SHOPINSKI
Publicity Director	CARA VAN DIJK
Company Photographer	TARA HOWARD
Usher Coordinator	TIM STEELE
Head Usher	KEVIN HARRIGAN
Graphic Artist	NICK EDWARDS

Special Thanks to

Rosemarie Vacano

- COSTUME SPONSORSHIP -

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I – Pontevedro Embassy in Paris

Opening Chorus	Full Ensemble
The Dutiful Wife	Valencienne and Camille
In Marsovia	Hanna and Men’s Ensemble
Maxim’s	Danilo
Not That Long Ago	Hanna and Danilo
Finale	Full Ensemble

15 – Minute Intermission

ACT II – Hanna Glawari’s Garden in Paris

Opening Dance	Hanna and Dancers
Vilja	Hanna and Company
The Cavalier	Hanna and Danilo
Women	Zeta, Danilo, St. Brioche, Cascada, Bogdanovitsch, Njegus, and Kromov
Humming Scene	Hanna and Danilo
Love in My Heart	Valencienne and Camille
Finale	Full Company

No Intermission

ACT III – Hanna’s Ballroom

The Girls at Maxims	Zeta, Njegus, Grisettes, and Full Ensemble
I Love You So	Hanna and Danilo
Finale	Full Ensemble

THE ORCHESTRA

CHUCK PEERY	Piano
LARRY HALLOWAY	Bass
DAVID LATULIPE	Flute and Piccolo
JIM WATSON	Drums

CAST

(In Alphabetical Order)

LINDA MACK BERVEN	Ensemble
DAVID BROOKS	Njegus
JENNE CAREY	Hanna Glawari
TY CARSON BRUELLMAN	Vicomte Cascada
PAUL CRANE	Baron Zeta
MICHELE DAVIS	Ensemble
DARRIN DIKES II	Ensemble
RIC DURITY	Pritschitch
CHARLES GALLAGHER	Camille de Rosillon
STEVIE GOLD	Gigi
THELMA IRVINE	Margot/Ensemble
EDGAR MOYA	St. Brioche
LUKE RAINEY	Danilo Danilovistch
DENISE ROONEY	Lulu/Ensemble
JUDI RUSSO	Valencienne
FIONA SARCHETT	Sylviane/Frou- Frou/Ensemble
ANDREW TAINES	Bogdanovitch
NOAH WAHLBERG	Fifi/Ensemble
MATT WALKER	Ensemble
SHAUN WATERS	Dancer
MARK WILENSKY-ZIEMANN	Kromov
SANAI WRIGHT	Olga/Dodo/Dancer

THE CAST

Linda Mack Berven (Ensemble)

Linda is a new member of Coachella Valley Classical Voices and is thrilled to perform in *The Merry Widow*. She has appeared at PCT in *Sweeney Todd* (Beggar Woman), *My Fair Lady* (Mrs. Eynsford-Hill), *Victor/Victoria*, and *Sunset Boulevard*. Other acting credits include *Bye Bye Birdie* (Mae Peterson), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Fruma-Sarah), and *The Mikado* (Katisha). Linda has served as music director for numerous PCT productions, including *Annie*, *I Do, I Do*, and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

David Brooks (Njegus)

David is celebrating his ninth season with PCT, having performed in more than 25 shows. Most recently, David directed *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. He also directed and played Michael in the musical comedy *I Do! I Do!* He has also appeared in *Victor/Victoria* (Toddy), *Light in the Piazza*

(Signor Naccarelli), *Elf* (Santa Claus), or *Shunned* (Michael Cunningham). He loves improv and teaches at the PCT Kids Summer Camp.

Ty Carson Bruellman (Cascada)

This is Ty's second show at PCT, having appeared in *Hair*, and his first operetta, a genre he's quickly learning requires significantly more lung capacity than he anticipated. While he's a proud member of the Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus, he's enjoying the chance to be almost as dramatic in this stunning production. You can find this first tenor performing throughout Southern and Central California, including right here at PCT.

Jenne Carey (Hanna Glawari)

Jenne made her PCT debut last season in *Mary Poppins* (Mrs. Banks). She is an active soloist with Coachella Valley Classical Voices. Previous credits include *The Sound of Music*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, and *The Secret Garden*. Recent performances include *Industrial Strength Broadway* at the McCallum Theatre, *Songs from the Heart* at Dezart Performs, and *Songs from my Closet* at Revolution Stage Company, the last of which earned her a Desert Theatre League Desert Star Award nomination. Jenne holds a Master of Music degree in vocal performance and pedagogy and is a professor of vocal music and music history at College of the Desert.

Paul Crane (Baron Zeta)

This is Paul's first time working with CVCV, PCT, and in an operetta. Local appearances include *Guys and Dolls* (Arvide), *The Cake* (Tim), *Christmas with the Crawford* (Christina), and *Mid-Century Modern* (Ernie). Paul was also the second year winner of *Cabaret Riot* in Revolution's competition. Paul was in the national tour of *All Shook Up* (Jim Haller) and spent two years in the national and international tours of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Maurice).

Michele Davis (Ensemble)

This is Michele's eighth season with PCT. Favorite performances include *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (Shirley), *Sordid Wedding* (Sissy), *La Cage Aux Folles* (Mme Renaud), *How to Succeed in Business* (Miss Jones), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Mrs. MacAfee), *Sordid Lives* (Sissy), *Elf* (Deb), *Steel Magnolias* (Ouiser; DTL Winner), *Little Women* (Aunt March), *Titanic* (Charlotte Cardoza; DTL Nominee). "Thank you, husband Rick, for supporting my creative endeavors."

Darrin Dikes II (Ensemble)

Darrin will attend Yucca Valley High School in August. He enjoys building and repairing things, riding his Quad, and playing soccer; he loves theater, voice training, and travel. Darrin has performed at PCT in *Elf* and *Bye Bye Birdie* and has worked backstage and done lighting for other shows. In addition he played in *Macbeth* (Fleance) with the Desert Shakespeare Festival at Revolution Stage Company.

Ric Durity (Pritschitch)

Ric is excited to return to the stage and make his first appearance at PCT. A lifelong musician and vocalist, he began singing as a soprano soloist in children's operettas, church choirs, and with the choir of the Washington National Cathedral. Favorite performances include *West Side Story* (Chino) and appearances with the Rochester (NY) Oratorio Society and the Denver Gay Men's Chorus. Ric thanks his husband, Robert, and supportive local friends for encouraging his return to the stage.

Charles Gallagher (Camille de Rosillon)

This is Charles' first show at PCT and he is excited to work with this talented cast. Charles graduated from the Manhattan School of Music in 1984. He received his law degree from Pepperdine University and has been practicing law in the Valley since 2000. Charles has performed regularly with the Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus and, since 2023, with CVCV. He would like to thank his parents for inspiring his love of theater and opera.

Stevie Gold (Grisette – Gigi)

This is Stevie's first show with CVCV and sixth show at PCT, past shows include *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Cherry Sundae); *Sunset Boulevard*; *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*; *Annie*; and *Hair*. She is honored to be able to sing in her first operetta and be a grisette!

Thelma Irvine (Grisette – Margot)

Thelma is delighted to be back for her seventh show with PCT. You've seen her recently in *Annie* and *Sunset Boulevard*. Thelma is a happily home-schooled eighth-grader whose interests include fast cars and spending time with her pets.

Edgar Moya (St. Brioché)

Edgar is excited to be involved in his first production at PCT, and looks forward to participating in more productions in the Coachella Valley. He studies voice with Doug Nagel and has been part of The Coachella Valley

Classical Voices in multiple concerts. He is currently taking scene study with Terry Ray, as well as piano lessons with Dennis Siebenaler.

Luke Rainey (Danilo Danilovistch)

Luke has worked with PCT since 2008. He most recently directed *Hair* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*; he also appeared in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Grandpa Joe), *Falsettos* (Marvin), *Mary Poppins* (Bert), and *La Cage aux Folles* (Georges). Last season he appeared onstage in *The Boys in the Band* (Hank), *Brigadoon* (Jeff), and *Sweeney Todd* (Ensemble). Past favorite roles include *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (Bob), *The Crucible* (Paris), and *Yellow* (Bobby). PCT directing credits: *Rent*, *Spring Awakening*, *Avenue Q*, and *Blithe Spirit*.

Denise Rooney (Grisette – Lulu)

This is Denise's eighth season at PCT. She was last seen in *Sunset Boulevard*. Her first show at PCT was *Sister Act*; she has been in more than 25 shows since, including *Damn Yankees*, *Oklahoma*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *My Fair Lady*. Denise holds a degree in music and enjoys teaching the language of music to the young and young at heart. She is excited to be in her first operetta.

Judi Russo (Valencienne)

Judi is delighted to make her debut with PCT in her first operetta. She has appeared in ten productions at College of the Desert, with favorite credits including *Anything Goes* (where she met her husband, Lou), *Jekyll and Hyde* (Red Rat Girl), *The Addams Family* (Alice), and *Guys and Dolls* (the General). A classically trained vocalist, Judi has been a member of the California Desert Chorale since 2007 and has performed with Coachella Valley Classical Voices for the past three years. She is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this production.

Fiona Sarchett (Sylviane/Grisette – Frou-Frou)

This is Fiona's tenth show at PCT; she has previously appeared in *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Sunset Boulevard*; *Hair*; *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*; *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Veruca Salt); *Victor/Victoria*; and *My Fair Lady*. She is excited to be a part of this production, and she thanks PCT for this opportunity and hopes for many more to come.

Andrew Taines (Bogdanovitch)

Andrew currently sings with CVCV. While living in NYC, he sang the entire Gilbert and Sullivan canon, including leading roles in *Patience* and *Ruddigore*. With New York Grand Opera, Andrew sang in the ensemble for many Verdi operas, as well as concerts in Carnegie Hall of the Verdi

Requiem and Beethoven's 9th Symphony. Andrew has sung in *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Count) and *Così fan Tutte* (Don Alfonso). Pursuing his love of early musical comedies, he presented a production of the 1924 Jerome Kern musical, *Sitting Pretty*.

Noah Wahlberg (Grisette – Fifi)

Noah was most recently seen at PCT in *Hair* (Claude) and *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (Felicia). He has loved theatre from a young age and was involved in community theatre throughout high school. He has also appeared in PCT's *My Fair Lady* (Freddy Eynsford-Hill), *Sordid Wedding*, *Mary Poppins*, and *La Cage aux Folles*, and appeared in College of the Desert's productions of *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Peter) and *Guys and Dolls* (Nicely Nicely).

Matt Walker (Ensemble)

Matt is excited to appear in a PCT musical for the first time. A native of Hawaii, he graduated with a law degree from the University of Denver. As a child he performed in touring versions of *Carousel* and *Oklahoma*. He taught dance for many years in Orlando working with Disney stars. He sings with CVCV, Modern Men, and Coachella Valley Men's Chorus. He has also appeared at the Dezart Theater.

Shaun Waters (Ensemble/Dancer)

This is Shaun's PCT debut. He studied performing arts at The Governor's School for the Arts in Virginia, concentrating in dance with Virginia Ballet Theater. He has appeared in *The Will Rogers Follies* (Wrangler), *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *A Chorus Line* (Mike), and *Into the Woods*. He is a member of the Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus and is excited to work with this exceptional group of actors! Special thanks to Patrick, my love.

Mark Wilensky-Ziemann (Kromov)

Mark is excited to be part of this joint venture with CVCV and PCT! A vocal performance major at the University of the Pacific, Mark sang full time professionally earlier in his career. After 30 years of teaching elementary music, he retired to Palm Springs and has performed frequently with PCT, most recently in *Sunset Boulevard*. Other appearances include *Man of La Mancha*, *The Stops*, PSGMC, Modern Men, and Coachella Valley Classical Voices. Mark gives much thanks to his leading man, Bill, for adapting quickly to his role of "Theatre Widow."

Sanai Wright (Olga/Grisette - Dodo)

This is Sanai's 28th show at PCT. Previous appearances include *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*; *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*; *My Fair Lady*; *Mary Poppins*; *La Cage aux Folles*; *How to Succeed*; *Bye Bye Birdie*; *Sweeney Todd*; *Elf*; *Annie*; and most recently *Hair*. She attended PCT's kids camp for several years, loves all things theatre, and hopes to continue living out her dreams of acting. She is thankful to have the opportunity to share the stage with such an outstanding cast!

Doug Nagel (Director)

This is Doug's first time directing at PCT. He has sung more than 80 operatic roles, including Count, Scarpia, Dracula, Dutchman, Figaro, John the Baptist, and Germont. He is heard on Albany Records in *Nosferatu* as the title role of Orlock (Dracula). Doug was Artistic Director of multiple regional opera companies, directing more than 50 operas, including *Magic Flute*, *Così*, *Traviata*, *Butterfly*, *Crucible*, *Barber*, *Bohème*, *Figaro*, *Elixir*, *Tosca*, and *Carmen*. He also directed more than 20 opera school tours. Doug retired as an Associate Professor from Montana State University Billings and resides in Cathedral City with his husband, Steve Baker. Nagel is Founding Artistic Director of *Coachella Valley Classical Voices* and teaches at PCT's Kids Camp.

Keith Mattola (Choreographer)

Keith has staged and choreographed musicals, concerts, parades, fashion shows, and special events for some of the biggest entertainment companies and venues, world-wide. His list of loyal clients includes Disney, Six Flags International, Hershey Park, Boston Opera, as well as multiple theatres, universities, and celebrated Vegas showrooms. He owned and operated the acclaimed theatre and performing arts academy, Steps Off-Broadway in New England, where he developed and premiered original works, and helped launch the careers of many of today's Broadway and regional artists. He is currently collaborating on the development of new live-show attractions and an exciting new musical-fantasy for producer Dennis D'Amico and creator Michael La Fleur. Keith is thrilled to be a part of the theatrical and creative community in Palm Springs and to make his PCT debut with *The Merry Widow*. He dedicates this production to the memory of his father.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

VOLUNTEER USHERS

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO!

If You Would Like to Join...

SIMPLY GO TO:

tinyurl.com/PCTUSHER OR

OR CALL TIM AT 714.875.3941

OPEN YOUR
CAMERA AND
POINT YOUR
DEVICE AT THE
QR CODE



The Story of Palm Canyon Theatre

The Backstory: Once Upon a Time... a family from Kentucky who loved theatre and valued education visited the Coachella Valley, and realized, they could bring the joy of live stage productions to the area.

Dr. William "Bill" Layne, his wife Sylvia, his son, J.W., and other members of their family submitted the winning proposal to the City of Palm Springs for how to repurpose the historic Frances S. Stevens School with a cultural, nonprofit organization. After extensive tenant renovations, the Palm Canyon Theatre opened its doors in September 1997 with Romberg and Hammerstein's operetta "The Desert Song." One of the leading roles was played by none other than Bill and Sylvia's daughter, Se Layne, who was at the time, a working actress in New York City. It wasn't long before Se moved to the desert with her family to cultivate the family's passion in a place they all had grown to love. Eventually, Se had two children, Wyatt and Ava; they are now the third generation to live and love theatre life at PCT.

Beyond the Laynes, Palm Canyon Theatre is a huge family of people who come together to create something special!

Now Playing: The Palm Canyon Theatre incorporates education into every production, hiring professionals as needed to teach aspiring performers and technical crews specialized skills. PCT has a small part-time staff and about 600 volunteers, which includes on-stage and off-stage talent. The regional repertory theatre opens casting calls several times a year to people of all experience levels. In designing the season's lineup, the PCT team is thoughtful to ensure that parts for actors of various ages are available throughout the season. For those not looking for a role on center stage, PCT is always looking for volunteers of all skill levels and abilities for a variety of responsibilities behind the scenes including ushers, costumes, painting, set building, lighting and more.

PCT's casts and technical crews earn honors each year for the theater's well-rounded line-up. In 2014, Dr. Layne received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Desert Theatre League. In 2015, the Layne Family was honored with the 382nd star on the Palm Springs Walk of Stars, placed directly in front of the theater.

The regular main stage season runs about 12 musicals and classic productions from September to May, with a summer performance usually in July. PCT holds six weeks of children's theater camp in June and July, which culminates with a full-stage production of about 70-100 participants. The theatre also hosts a limited number of events for other organizations throughout the year.

The Palm Canyon Theatre is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that operates under a board of directors, which still includes members of the Layne family.



Coachella Valley
CLASSICAL VOICES

Sunday, August 23 - 3:00 pm



For Tickets: 
PalmSpringsPlazaTheatre.com

Coachella Valley Classical Voices makes its Palm Springs Plaza Theatre debut.

Directed by CVCV founding director Doug Nagel, 30 local singers, accompanied by a six-piece combo, will perform an afternoon of selections from *The Tales of Hoffmann*, *Finian's Rainbow*, *La Sonnambula*, *Lakmé*, *Gypsy*, *Candide*, and much more.

Coachella Valley Classical Voices (CVCV) is a vibrant addition to Coachella Valley's cultural landscape, dedicated to bringing the timeless art of Opera and Broadway to a broader audience, performed by local singers. Visit CVCV's website to learn more.

CoachellaValleyClassicalVoices.com

TRIO

WHERE PALM SPRINGS EATS

“

The hottest new restaurant in Palm Springs is... Trio!
A Palm Springs tradition since 2009, Trio has reinvented
their formula to deliver a refreshing and amazing dining
experience...

-Trip Advisor

”



Join us at TRIO before or after the show and enjoy
a complimentary beverage with any entree purchase.

Limit 1 per customer, must show ticket stub or receipt to redeem

We'll see you soon, enjoy the show!

707 N PALM CANYON DR | 760.864.8746 | TRIOPALMSPRINGS.COM



Revivals fashion and home decor interpreted by Lucie Dougherty | photographed by Anna Grace Lynch

What They Thrifted. And How They Styled It.
Re-Love the Pre-Loved™

revivals