



**Palm
Canyon
Theatre**
PALM SPRINGS

29
SEASON
2025 - 2026

10086 →

SUNSET BLVD.



Palm Canyon Theatre
Presents



Music By
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

Book and Lyrics by
DON BLACK & CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON

Based on the Film by
BILLY WILDER

Directed and Choreographed by **DERIK SHOPINSKI**
Musical Director **STEVEN SMITH**
Scenic & Lighting Design **J.W. LAYNE**
Costume Design **DERIK SHOPINSKI**

Produced by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals

March 13-April 6, 2026



Proud member of the Desert Theatre League



PRODUCTION STAFF

Sound Designer	NICK CAMPBELL
Costume Assistants	VIRGINIA SULICK, COLLEEN WALKER
Spotlights	ALAN BERRY, BRAYDEN RYAN, KAYSON RYAN
Set Construction	JACKSON ENZLER, CHRIS LOPEZ
Scenic Painting	TOMAS GONZLEZ, AVA TETHAL
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
Show Photographer	ETHAN KAMINSKY
Head Usher/Coordinator	TIM STEELE
Graphic Artist	NICK EDWARDS

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

Thank you to our American Sign Language Interpreters
Sunday, March 22, 2026
Liisa Mendoza and Itai Harvard

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Prologue/Let Me Take You Back Six Months	Joe
Let's Have Lunch	Joe, Betty, Artie, and Ensemble
Betty's Pitch	Betty and Joe
Surrender	Norma
Once Upon a Time	Norma
With One Look	Norma
Salome	Norma and Joe
The Greatest Star of All	Max
Schwab's Drugstore	Joe, Betty, Artie, and Ensemble
Girl Meets Boy	Joe, Betty, Artie
New Ways to Dream	Norma and Joe
The Lady's Paying	Norma, Joe, Manfred, and Ensemble
New Year Tango	Joe and Max
The Perfect Year	Norma and Joe
This Time Next Year	Joe, Betty, Artie, and Ensemble
Auld Lang Syne	Artie, Betty, and Ensemble

15 - Minute Intermission

ACT II

Sunset Boulevard	Joe
There's Been a Call	Norma and Joe
As If We Never Said Goodbye	Norma
Paramount Conversations	Betty, Joe, Sheldrake, Max, Norma, and DeMille
Surrender (Reprise)	DeMille
Girl Meets Boy (Reprise)	Joe and Betty
A Little Suffering	Astrologer, Masseurs, Beauticians, Analyst, and Doctor
Too Much in Love to Care	Betty and Joe
New Ways to Dream (Reprise)	Max
What's Going on Joe?	Betty and Joe
The Final Scene	Joe, Norma, and Max

CAST

(In Alphabetical Order)

MARK ALMY	Max von Mayerling
KATHLEEN ANDERSON	Ensemble
NEIL BADHAM	Ensemble
LINDA MACK BERVEN	Joanna/Ensemble
MICHELE DAVIS	Ensemble
NICK EDWARDS	Sheldrake
STEPHEN GIBONEY	Artie Green
STEVIE GOLD	Ensemble
DANNY HARGREAVES	Ensemble
ADAM HEITER	Ensemble
TARA HOWARD	Betty Schaefer
THELMA IRVINE	Ensemble
ELISSA LANDI	Ensemble
SE LAYNE	Norma Desmond
DARIN MACLEOD	Cecil B. DeMille
LARRY MARTIN	Manfred/Ensemble
STEFFON MARTINDALE	Ensemble
CHRISTIAN QUEVEDO	Joe Gillis
JOHN RATHGEB	Ensemble
MARVIN REA	Ensemble
DENISE ROONEY	Ensemble
FIONA SARCHETT	Ensemble
STEVE SHANE	Ensemble
COLLEEN WALKER	Ensemble
MARK WILENSKY-ZIEMANN	Myron/Ensemble

THE ORCHESTRA

STEVEN SMITH	Piano, Musical Director
JIM WATSON	Drums
LARRY HOLLOWAY	Bass

THE CAST

Mark Almy (Max von Mayerling)

Mark Almy has performed more than 125 roles in opera and music theatre with, among others, Orlando Opera, Des Moines Opera, Oakland Opera, Sonoma Opera, West Bay Opera, Pacific Repertory Opera, Monterey Opera, Marin Civic Light Opera, Berkeley Symphony, Fremont-Newark Symphony, San Bernardino Symphony, Torrance Symphony, Florida Symphony, Redlands Bowl, and Glendale Center Theater. At the McCallum, Mark has performed lead roles in *Man of La Mancha*, *South Pacific*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, and *Jekyll and Hyde*. At PCT, he was most recently seen in *My Fair Lady* (Henry Higgins) and has essayed Sweeney Todd, King Arthur, *Sunset Boulevard* (Max), and *Amadeus* (Salieri).

Kathleen Anderson (Ensemble)

Kat is excited to be a part of this production. She was last seen in *Annie* (Boylan Sister), *La Cage aux Folles* (Colette), and *Bye Bye Birdie* (Mrs. Merkle). Other PCT shows include *Brigadoon* (Jane Ashton), *Daddy's Dyin'* (Lurlene; DTL nomination), *Palm Springs Getaway*, *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, *Damn Yankees*, *Sister Act*, and *Footloose*. She is happy to be part of the PCT Company.

Neil Badham (Ensemble)

Neil is honored and excited to be performing at PCT again. You have seen him in *Annie* (Bundles), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Mr. Salt), *Titanic*, *Something Rotten*, and *Victor/Victoria*, to name a few, with more exciting and fun performances to come.

Linda Mack Berven (Joanna/Ensemble)

This is Linda's fourth show at PCT, having appeared previously in *My Fair Lady* (Mrs. Eynsford-Hill), *Sweeney Todd* (Beggar Woman), and *Victor/Victoria*. Her acting credits include *Bye Bye Birdie* (Mae Peterson), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Fruma-Sarah), and *The Mikado* (Katisha). She has sung with the Robert Shaw Festival Singers and conducted the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, the Durango Choral Society at Carnegie Hall and in Prague, Greece, Zagreb, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Linz, and Florence, Italy. In addition to acting and singing, Linda has served as music director for numerous productions, including *Pirates of Penzance*, *Chicago*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Sweeney Todd*, and, most recently, *Annie* and *I Do, I Do* here at PCT.

Michele Davis (Ensemble)

This is Michele's eighth season with PCT where she was last seen in *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."

Nick Edwards (Sheldrake)

This is Nick's 12th season at PCT. He previously appeared in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Martini), *Cyrano* (Carbon/Cuigy), *Spamalot* (Sir Robin), *Deathtrap* (Clifford Anderson), *August: Osage County* (Bill Fordham), *Cinderella* (Coachman), *Seussical the Musical* (The Grinch), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Apostle), *9 to 5* (Dick), and *Les Misérables*. Nick is also PCT's award-winning prop master and graphic designer. He is thrilled to be part of PCT's exciting season.

Stephen Giboney (Artie Green)

Steve was seen at PCT most recently in *Annie* (Bert Healy) and *Forever Plaid* (Frankie) and has been doing musical theatre since 1990. He played roles in *Sweeney Todd* (Toby), *Crazy for You* (Bobby), *Singin' in the Rain* (Cosmo), and *Avenue Q* (Brian). This is Steve's sixth show in the desert since moving here in 2014. He has performed in Desert Theatreworks' *Tootsie* (Ron Carlisle), *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Barry Mann), *Jersey Boys* (Tommy Devito), and *Legally Blonde* (Kyle the UPS guy).

Stevie Gold (Ensemble)

This is Stevie's fifth show at PCT. Past shows here include *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Cherry Sundae); *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*; *Annie*; and most recently, *Hair*. This is Stevie's first Andrew Lloyd Webber show, and she's very excited about that!

Danny Hargreaves (Ensemble)

Danny has been at PCT for 24 years since he came to Kids Camp in 2001. He has appeared in numerous PCT shows, most recently *Annie*, *Mary Poppins*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Titanic* (Lightoller), and *Shrek*. When he's not on the stage, he'll be doing spotlight for other shows. Danny would like to thank his family and friends for their support, especially a huge thank-you to his mother.

Adam Hieter (Richard, Ensemble)

Adam's recent PCT credits include *Annie*, *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (Miss Understanding), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Grandma Josephine), *Victor/Victoria* (Henri Labisse), *Mary Poppins* (Chairman, Park Keeper), *La Cage aux Folles* (Mercedes), *How To Succeed* (Wally Womper), *Boys in the Band* (Larry), *Something Rotten* (Brother Jeremiah). Other local credits include Jacob Marley/Bob Cratchit in *Dickens Writes A Christmas Carol*.

Tara Howard (Betty Schaefer)

Tara is thrilled to be back at PCT for her second production, having previously appeared in *Annie* (Grace). She received a Desert Star Award for her portrayal of Carole King in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* and was also nominated for *The Last Five Years* (Cathy), both at Desert Theatreworks. A graduate of Northwestern University's musical theatre program, Tara spent over a decade living and performing in New York City. Among her favorite roles was in Broadway Asia's *The King and I* (Anna). Tara now loves calling the desert home, where she works as a professional photographer. She would like to thank PCT for the opportunity to be in her favorite musical of all time.

Thelma Irvine (Ensemble)

Thelma is delighted to be back for her sixth show with PCT. You've seen her recently in *Hair*, *Annie*, and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Thelma is a happily homeschooled eighth-grader who enjoys growing her aquariums, playing softball, and spending time with her pets.

Elissa Landi (Ensemble)

Elissa is happy to take part in her ninth season at PCT. Other credits here include *My Fair Lady* (Mrs. Higgins), *Palm Springs Getaway*, *The Wedding Singer* (Rosie), *Gypsy* (Tessie Tura), *Evita*, and *Pippin* (Fastrada). She has a performance career from ballet to Broadway. Credits include the Boston Ballet, the Chicago Ballet, ballet soloist in *The Christmas Show* at Radio City Music Hall, *The Grand Tour* with Joel Grey, *Woman of the Year* with Lauren Bacall, Raquel Welch, Debbie Reynolds, and Harry Guardino, and as Tessie Tura in *Gypsy*, starring Carol Lawrence.

Se Layne (Norma Desmond)

Se is a graduate of Morehead State University, and she received her MFA in classical theatre from Michigan State University. She worked in NY for several years during which she performed extensively with the NYC Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company and did two of their national tours. She has appeared in many independent films, commercials, and shorts.

She has performed, choreographed, directed, costume-designed, and constructed all over the country. She loves the theatre and has been with PCT for 29 years.

Darin MacLeod (Cecil B. DeMille)

This is Darin's 13th show with PCT; he was most recently seen in *Victor/Victoria* (Squash Bernstein), and has appeared in *My Fair Lady*, *How to Succeed* (Mr. Gatch), *Sweeney Todd*, *Something Rotten*, *Brigadoon* (Archie Beaton), *Little Women* (Mr. Lawrence), *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (St. Cyr/Ben), and *Titanic*. A graduate of Boston Conservatory, he has graced the stage in many productions. Darin also plays clarinet with the Desert Wind Ensemble and is a member of Modern Men.

Larry Martin (Manfred/Ensemble)

Larry is excited to be back for his 22nd season at PCT. He was last seen at PCT in *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and at Desert Ensemble Theatre in *Loot*. Award-nominated performances include *Titanic* (Frederick Fleet) and *The Boys in the Band* (Emory) at PCT, and *Nunsense A-Men* (Sister Mary Leo) and *Lend Me a Tenor* (Bellhop) at Desert Theatreworks. Some favorite credits also include *Chicago* (Billy Flynn), *Oklahoma!* (Curly), *The Full Monty* (Ethan), and *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (Miss Understanding). A dentist for 43 years, he likes working jigsaw puzzles.

Steffon Martindale (Ensemble)

Steffon made his PCT debut in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Mike Teavee) and was recently seen in *Hair* (Hud) and *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. Previous local musical credits include *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Neville Landless), *Dogfight* (Stevens), and *Curtains* (Johnny Harmon). He brought his theatrical passion for collaboration and creativity to Los Angeles, creating numerous award-winning short films while graduating from ASU. Upon his return to the Desert, he has performed in RSC's *Spring Awakening* (Otto) and Desert Theatricals' *Hairspray* (Duane).

Christian Quevedo (Joe Gillis)

Christian Quevedo is an award-winning artist and a Coachella Valley native. His versatile skills as a singer and actor have made him highly visible in opera, musical theatre, choral work, oratorio, and as a soloist. Noted for countless musical endeavors and performances regionally and nationally, Quevedo has made several appearances on the Palm Canyon theatre stage. Some of his previous credits include *Footloose*, *Wedding Singer*, *Oklahoma*, and *Sweeney Todd*. Christian is happy to be back on the PCT stage.

John Rathgeb (Ensemble)

John is happy to be performing again at PCT where he was most recently seen in *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. Some of John's favorite roles include Beverly Carlton in *The Man Who Came To Dinner*, Melvin P. Thorpe in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, and The Wolf/Prince in *Into the Woods*.

Marvin Rea (Ensemble)

Marvin is happy to make his second appearance here at PCT, as he was recently seen in *Annie*. This is Marvin's 45th musical production and he is happy to be back on the stage again. He is a former Walt Disney Imagineer, Universal Studios Creative Designer, and MC&A Creative Director. His creative work has been featured in theme parks worldwide. He is now retired and living in Palm Springs.

Denise Rooney (Ensemble)

This is Denise's eighth season at PCT. Her first show here was *Sister Act* and she has been in more than 25 shows since, such as *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.

Fiona Sarchett (Ensemble)

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

Steve Shane (Ensemble)

Steve is grateful to join his third cast at PCT. He was last seen in *Annie* (Lieutenant Ward). His favorite roles include *Cabaret* (Herr Schulz), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Hysterium), and *Guys and Dolls* (Big Jule). As always, he would like to thank his husband, Cliff, and his father, Arnold, for their unwavering support.

Colleen Walker (Ensemble)

This is Colleen's 23rd season at PCT. She was raised in the Coachella Valley and has appeared with both of her talented daughters, Bethany and Jamie Leigh, in numerous PCT productions. Now retired after 37 years as a law enforcement officer, she can fully indulge in her passion! Favorite performances include *Stepping Out* (Rose), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Mrs. McAfee), *The Man of La Mancha* (Maria), *Sister Act* (Sister Mary Martin de

Tours), *The Pajama Game* (Brenda), and *The Sound of Music* (Sister Sophia). “Thank you to my wonderful husband, Wayne, for his unwavering support.”

Mark Wilensky-Ziemann (Myron/Ensemble)

Mark sang with the San Francisco Opera Chorus while studying voice at the University of the Pacific. Chosen by Edo DeWaart and Margaret Hillis, he was a rehearsal vocalist with the San Francisco Symphony. Mark received scholarships to study in Austria, performing under Leonard Bernstein and Claudio Abbado. After 30 years teaching music, he retired to Palm Springs, where he has performed with PCT, COD, The Desert Rose, Modern Men, and Coachella Valley Classical Voices. “And a big thanks to Bill, my best leading man and theatre widow.”

Derik Shopinski (Director/Costume Designer)

Derik has been the Resident Costume Designer here at PCT since 2005. His costumes have received multiple DTL Nominations, and several wins. He is a 6-time Best Director of a Musical recipient for PCT’s productions of *Oklahoma!*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *The King & I*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Sweeney Todd*, and most recently, *My Fair Lady*. He is also an award-winning Choreographer, Dancer, and Hair and Make-up Artist. Derik credits his high school Theatre teacher, Rosemary Mallet, for recognizing and encouraging his talents as both a costumer and director. “*I am always thrilled when I get the chance to direct a show with such crazy talented performers, and co-creatives.*”

Steven Smith (Musical Director)

Steven has conducted over 100 musicals, from operettas such as *The Student Prince* to Sondheim’s *Merrily We Roll Along* for which he received a Los Angeles Drama Critic’s Award. Among his many accomplishments, he was musical Director for Long Beach’s CLO, spent 4 years at Berlin’s Theatre Des Westins conducting the European premieres of such musicals as *Grand Hotel*, *Follies*, and *La Cages Aux Folles*, and has more conducting credits around the USA than can be listed in this small space.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES:

SUNSET BOULEVARD is arguably one of the best films produced. It blends 1940s film noir, Hollywood, love, and the cost of fame. It makes us examine our own dreams and ambitions, and the inherent fear of aging into obscurity.

After seeing the film again after many years, it's remarkable how almost all of the film's dialogue is intact in the musical's book, either in dialogue or song lyrics. In my opinion, it is one of the best movie-to-musical adaptations, and is one of Andrew Lloyd Webber's most iconic shows.

I first heard the score with the release of the London OBCR featuring Patti Lupone. I had the great thrill of seeing the legendary Diahann Carroll and Rex Smith in the Toronto production and was captivated by the complex score and brilliant storytelling.

So, join us, out there in the dark, as Norma Desmond gets ready for her close up!



Coming soon...



Music by John Kander
Lyrics by Fred Ebb
Book by Terrence McNally
Presented by arrangement with
Concord Theatricals

Set in a brutal South American prison, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* is a daring, poignant musical about fantasy, love, and survival. As two prisoners form an unlikely bond, haunting visions of a mysterious diva blur reality, and illusion. Passionate and provocative, it's a stunning exploration of human connection.



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