

# PLAYBILL®

Arizona Musical Theatre Orchestra  
All Saints Lutheran Church  
June 15, 2024, 7:00 PM



# The Arizona Musical Theatre Orchestra

PRESENTS

## THE PAJAMA GAME

Music and Lyrics by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross

Book by George Abbot and Richard Bissell

Based on the novel "7 1/2 Cents" by Richard Bissell

Conducted by

**Dylan Suehiro**

Chorus Direction by

**Stephen Schermitzler**

*The Pajama Game* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.  
[www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk) • [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com) • [www.mtishows.com.au](http://www.mtishows.com.au)

The unauthorized recording of this production, in whole or in part, is strictly prohibited. AZMTO thanks you for your cooperation.



## THE PAJAMA GAME

The concept for *The Pajama Game* was adapted from the book *7 1/2 Cents*, originally written by Richard Bissell. Bissell collaborated with stage director George Abbott to conceive a musical adaptation for the work, and in 1954, with the help of the composer/lyricist team of Richard Adler & Jerry Ross, *The Pajama Game* held its premiere at the Saint James Theatre in New York City.

Richard Adler & Jerry Ross had burst onto the Broadway music scene in 1953 by writing a famous number for Tony Bennett called "Rags to Riches". They were young protégés of Frank Loesser (*Guys and Dolls*), who mentored them and even helped them pen some of the music to *The Pajama Game* without taking credit. A lover of classic musicals may notice Loesser's influence through the songs "There Once Was a Woman" and "A New Town Is a Blue Town." After *The Pajama Game* and *Damn Yankees* (1955), Jerry Ross passed away from lung disease, and Adler never achieved quite the same level of fame after Ross's passing.

The choreography was originally designed for Jerome Robbins (*Fiddler on the Roof*, *West Side Story*). But Robbins declined the role, offering instead to be a supervisor for a new recommend: Bob Fosse. Fosse, a successful Broadway actor and dancer at the time, incorporated his now-signature style on the show: jazz hands, turned-in knees, shuffles, and rolled shoulders. *Steam Heat* is an iconic example of Fosse's work.

The show launched the career of actress Shirley MacLaine (*Sweet Charity*, *Terms of Endearment*). Two weeks into the production, Carol Haney broke her ankle and MacLaine filled in for her with no chance to rehearse beforehand. Her performance would gather the interest of Hollywood producers and land her a starring role in Alfred Hitchcock's *The Trouble With Harry* (1955).

*The Pajama Game* concluded its show run with 1,063 performances over two different venues, which would cement the show's place in Broadway history. Its run received three TONY awards: Best Musical, Best Choreography, and Best Supporting Actress: Carol Haney. The show's success would later beget a motion picture (1957; John Raitt, Doris Day) and multiple revivals.

AZMTO's performance acknowledges the late Janis Paige, who originally played Babe Williams in the show and passed in early June at the age of 101.

---

# ABOUT...

---

## The Arizona Musical Theatre Orchestra

The Arizona Musical Theatre Orchestra (AZMTO) welcomes you to its second season!

If you have never seen an AZMTO production before, you are in for a real treat. You'll notice within the first few minutes that AZMTO's casts are much larger than most traditional theatre ensembles, which is by design: this organization exists so that you can hear the music of Broadway's biggest shows soaring grander than you've ever heard.

Hearing a full complement of musicians playing a Broadway show is a luxury these days, but folks who don't attend theatrical performances may never realize why that is...and that's because, surprisingly, they might not notice a problem exists. Many shows mount productions where musicians are unseen; even in New York, musicians can be in 3-4 separate rooms, even across the street from their performance venues! And did you know that many cast recordings employ larger-than-standard orchestras in order to add dimension to a show's audio legacy?

How can people tell what they're really missing? And where can people go who want to hear a full symphonic musical theatre experience today? Sadly, with Broadway pit sizes and orchestrations transforming (read: shrinking) in the name of regional authenticity (i.e. *Come From Away*), technical advancement (*Hamilton*), or even karaoke-style storytelling (*Here Lies Love*), the only feasible remaining answers is at the symphony...but even they won't play full shows in concert style. That's where AZMTO comes in!

We believe that music's joys are found in the circumstance of its storytelling. When you come to an AZMTO performance, you actively empower musicians to refine their craft in a unique environment. In turn, we thank you by providing a truly unique sensory experience.

Music heightens our natural emotions while revealing new subtext about plot and character. Thus, attending a Showcase reminds us that music doesn't only tell us what to feel...it shows us how. AZMTO participants & audience members grow from these experiences because they feel a different depth of significance and validation here -- not just from combining their talents or learning about something new, but from sharing their humanity.

Performance is a symbiotic relationship. What is created together in this room is equally as spellbinding for our performers as it can be for audience members. So tonight, when you feel moved, take a good look around. You might catch a glimpse of our performers feeling something special...something they can't quite define or explain. This experience is known as "theatre magic": it's the way stories weave together inexplicably to remove us from our own situation. The performers feel it because of how they see a show unfold right before their eyes. And however you find that "magic" -- whether through the power of the dialogue, the beauty of the music, or just by allowing yourself to experience something new in a unique way -- we are grateful that you're here, sharing in these moments with us.

---

# SONGS

---

## ACT I

The Pajama Game Opening .....	Hines
Racing with the Clock .....	Hines, Anderson, Eddie, Sara, Sandra, Carmen, Rita, Brenda, Virginia, Mara, Mary, Chorus
A New Town is a Blue Town .....	Sid
Racing with the Clock (Reprise) .....	S/A Chorus
I'm Not at All in Love .....	Babe, S/A Chorus
I'll Never Be Jealous Again .....	Mabel, Hines
Hey There .....	Sid
Her Is .....	Prez, Gladys
Sleep Tite .....	Company
Once-a-Year Day .....	Babe, Sid, Poopsie, Chorus
Her Is (Reprise) .....	Prez, Mae
Small Talk .....	Sid, Babe
There Once Was a Man .....	Sid, Babe
Slow Down .....	S/A Chorus
Finale Act One .....	Sid

## ACT II

Steam Heat .....	Gladys, T/B, Chorus
Hey There (Reprise) .....	Babe
Think of the Time I Save .....	Hines, S/A Chorus
Hernando's Hideaway .....	Gladys, Chorus
Seven-and-a-Half Cents .....	Prez, Babe, Chorus
There Once Was a Man (Reprise) .....	Babe, Sid
The Pajama Game Closing .....	Company
Seven-And-A-Half Cents (Reprise) .....	Company

# CAST

## Cast Members

Babe Williams	Ashley Ziolko
Sid Sorokin	Zach Wetzel
Vernon Hines	Todd Corbeil
Hasler	Craig Spaulding
Gladys Hotchkiss	Taylor McGlone
Mabel	Elizabeth Reeves
Poopsie	Sarah Cassidy Otis
Mae	Madelyn Fickel
Prez	Owen Grover
Brenda	Lindsay Decoste
Virginia	Christina Epp
Rita	Jennifer Couldry
Joe	Cris Mory Barron
Mara	Natalie Booth
Mary	Robyn Pitman
Max	Stephen Lazer
Sara	Alicia Langstraat
Sandra	Jennifer Michele
Carmen	Vanity Lang
Charlene	Laural Olsen
Pop	Michael Torla
Charlie	Stephen Schermitzler
Ann	Ann Pastor
Doris	Kyra Neves
First Helper	Mark Knoblauch
Second Helper/Anderson	Zack Wells
Waiter	Marla Stringham
Narrator	Kerri Christie

# CAST

## Production / Creative

Conductor ..... Dylan Suehiro  
Chorus Director ..... Stephen Schermitzler  
Rehearsal Pianist ..... Joni Van Rossum

## Orchestra

Violin ..... Sylvia Depta, Gabby Getty, Heidi Kosiorek, Josh Lynch,  
Sofia Murillo, Christian Ortega  
Viola ..... Vanessa Bisaha, Danelle Kennedy  
Cello ..... JoAnn Cleland, El Faussane, Abbey Hunt, Samuel  
Turner  
Bass ..... Lauren Burchell  
Reeds ..... Lisa Ballard, Mandy Gifford, David McConaughey, John  
Shepherd, Tim Solarz  
Trumpet ..... Leah Hodge Hughes  
Brandon Kollmorgen  
Brian Stoneberger  
Trombone ..... Ryan Diefenderfer, Erik Ketcherside, David Willers  
Guitar ..... Andrew Gonzalez  
Percussion ..... Sonja Branch

<b>Soprano 1</b> Jennifer Couldry Christina Epp Mary LaValley Sarah Cassidy Otis Robyn Pitman Mandy Ressler Jessica Torla Joanna Torla	<b>Alto 1</b> Andrea Ball Natalie Booth Taylor McGlone Jennifer Michele Ann Pastor Lauran Stanis Marla Stringham	<b>Tenor</b> Cris Mory Barron Mark Knoblauch Craig Spaulding Michael Torla Zack Wells
<b>Soprano 2</b> Pepper Aguilar Kerri Christie Alicia Langstraat Melissa Myhlhousen Laural Olson Mary Beth Orson Elizabeth Reeves Ashley Ziolko	<b>Alto 2</b> Nancy Browne Lindsay Decoste Madelyn Fickel Tara Furcini Vanity Lang Kyra Neves Jan Schmidt Lynne Traverse	<b>Bass</b> Todd Corbeil Owen Grover Stephen Lazer Brian Reece Stephen Schermitzler Zach Wetzel

---

# CREW

---

## Special Thanks

AZMTO Volunteers ..... Edie Chudnow, Octavia Chudnow, Lacey Dixon, Gillian Lunn, Dan See, Kyle Varble, Susan Woods

All Saints Lutheran Church Staff ..... Shari Clark  
Bill Dunlop  
Jerry Gunderson  
Dan Hoeger

Audio Technicians ..... Andrea Gudeyon  
Nat Marquez

Percussion Equipment ..... All Saints Lutheran Church  
Pro Musica Orchestra  
Sonja Branch



## Dylan Suehiro

Born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i, Dylan Suehiro (Conductor) studied trombone & music education at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and earned a Master of Music in Conducting from ASU. Highlights of Dylan's career include leading the AMEA Junior High All-State Orchestra, directing the inaugural ASU Gold Band, and conducting the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra (Bulgaria). In 2021, he was selected as a finalist candidate to conduct the "Pershing's Own" US Army Band in Washington, DC.

Dylan is currently the director of the North Valley Youth Orchestra, and was previously part of the performing arts faculty at Shadow Mountain High School and North Canyon High School. An avid multi-instrumentalist, he has spent several seasons in the North Valley Symphony Orchestra bass section, and has played flute, violin, and horn in pit orchestras for various musical theatre productions. Outside of music, Dylan is an enthusiastic supporter of the local food community.



## Joni Van Rossum

Joni Van Rossum (Collaborative Pianist), an accomplished musical director and composer, has been leaving a harmonious trail in the theatre world for over 15 years. Originally hailing from the Netherlands, Joni's passion for musical theatre led him on a journey to citizenship in the US.

In 2007, Joni's career took off in Amsterdam, where he found a mentor in the Dutch musical theatre pioneer, Frank Sanders. Recognizing Joni's talent, Frank welcomed him into the renowned Academy for Musical Theatre, where he flourished and secured a faculty position.

Joni has been associated with remarkable productions, including Blood Brothers, Hair, Beauty & The Beast, The Lion King, and many more. Since April 2016, Joni has been enriching the local musical landscape. He was the Music Director for the Scottsdale Musical Theatre Company, and now serves as the Director of Media & Production at a local Tempe church.



## Stephen Schermitzler

Stephen Schermitzler is the Founder of the Arizona Musical Theatre Orchestra. An Arizona native, Stephen is a local music director, singer, and collaborative pianist. After earning a BFA in Music Composition from ASU in 2010, Stephen became the resident music director for Detour Company Theatre and the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, along with several independent local community productions.

He has collaborated with artists who have performed Broadway and National Touring runs of 1776, Dear Evan Hansen, Waitress, Hamilton, Camelot, and 42nd Street Stephen has also been a featured vocal soloist or choral section leader with Arizona Musicfest, the Arizona Bach Festival, Symphony of the Southwest, and the West Valley Symphony, among others. He is intensely devoted the nurture of authentic artistic development of young

---

# SPECIAL THANKS

---

All Saints Lutheran Church staff -- Shari, Jerry, and Dan -- for graciously facilitating venue arrangements, storage needs, sheet music supervision, etc, with full hearts and open minds. Thank you for being such generous hosts and for being a part of our story.

AZMTO Volunteers -- for all you do behind the scenes to keep operations running smoothly. You are the lifeblood of this organization and we simply could not do what we do without your support. Special thanks to Edie Chudnow, Susan Woods, and Gillian Lunn for additional volunteer coordination, concessions, score maintenance, and so much more!

Andrea Gudeyon and Nat Marquez -- for your broad technical knowledge & expertise, sound cue operation, and technical equipment facilitation. Thank you!

Sonja Branch, Pro Musica, and the All Saints Music Ministry - for generously lending the use of your own percussion equipment for tonight's performance, and for your support of future musical generations. Thank you!

Dylan Suehiro and Joni Van Rossum -- for your care shown in your devotion to artistry, camaraderie, and community artistic growth, and for the hours of preparation that go vastly underappreciated. You made this happen, and I'm so grateful to you!

Generous AZMTO Donors for ongoing financial support and in-kind donations of flights, equipment, snacks, etc., that keep us running strong! Your support helps us become leaders of artistic education & appreciation in our community. Thank you!

Music Theatre International -- for providing the licensing for this and many other AZMTO productions.

Satellite Collective - for being the nonprofit fiscal sponsor that makes all AZMTO events possible (and all donations tax-deductible!).

AZMTO Participants -- for literally buying in to this concept, using every ounce of passion you have to create Art for Art's Sake. As with every show, you go above and beyond to give our shows life beyond what I could ever imagine. Congratulations!

Audience -- for your support and celebration of 100% LIVE theatre! The Arizona Arts community is strong because of people like you. Thank you!

## WHAT'S NEXT?



### SHOWCASE: BIG FISH

September 21, 7:00 PM

All Saints Lutheran Church



### SHOWCASE: RAGTIME

November 16, 7:00 PM

All Saints Lutheran Church

**Tickets & Info: [www.azmto.org](http://www.azmto.org)**