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AJ Paulin**

# SEVEN GUITARS

BY **AUGUST WILSON**

PRODUCTION SPONSOR  
**APRIL BLANKFORT**

ASSOCIATE PRODUCTION SPONSOR  
**MARTHA FRANK**

## CAST

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

**RO BODDIE ◆** ..... Floyd  
**LAURENCE BROWN ■** ..... Canewell  
**YOLANDA FRANKLIN ◆** ..... Vera  
**ANTONIO TJ JOHNSON ◆■** ..... Hedley  
**GRANDISON PHELPS III** ..... Red  
**MILENA PHILLIPS** ..... Louise  
**YVONNE** ..... Ruby

**SEVEN GUITARS HAS ONE 15 MINUTE  
INTERMISSION**

## SPECIAL THANKS

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STAGE MANAGEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

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with Samuel French, Inc.

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# CYGNET THEATRE

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**AMY PERKINS**  
**KATIE SAPPER**

August Wilson's ten-play cycle portrays a vast sweep of storytelling that spans the African-American experience in twentieth century America.

At Cygnet, we have introduced you to *Gem of the Ocean*, *The Piano Lesson* and *Fences*. Now we share the powerful stories of *Seven Guitars* and *King Hedley II* which are set in the 1940s and Reagan's 1980s, respectively. But in these two plays, characters from the one turn up in the other. A young Ruby and her unborn baby in *Guitars* grow into the sixty year old Ruby and her son, King Hedley. In *Hedley*, Mister, who is the son of *Guitar's* Red, is living in the same backyard his father did. The off-stage Elmore from *Guitars* shows up a sixty year old man looking for Miss Ruby. And Floyd's musician Canewell in *Seven Guitars*, well...he plays a powerful role in King Hedley's fate.

Both Floyd and Hedley are men struggling to maintain their sense of dignity. They are fighting against enormous odds. As much as we want to say that great progress has been made, and it definitely has, these plays show us that there is so much more work to be done.

These plays are as timely today as the headlines we see on the news now. These men matter.



SEAN MURRAY | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

# CYGNET THEATRE

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**JENNIFER L. NELSON**  
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FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER  
**GEORGE YE** ■  
STAGE MANAGER  
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CHARGE ARTIST  
**RENE NIELSON**  
PAINTER  
**JULIE LORENZ**  
WARDROBE SUPERVISOR  
**SARAH MARION**  
CARPENTERS  
**Dan Ehara, Chris Wright**  
ELECTRICIANS  
**Levi Padilla, Jacob Martin, AJ Paulin**

# KING HEDLEY II

BY AUGUST WILSON

## CAST

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

**RO BODDIE** ◆ ..... Mister  
**LAURENCE BROWN** ■ ..... King  
**YOLANDA FRANKLIN** ◆ ..... Tonya  
**ANTONIO TJ JOHNSON** ◆ ■ ..... Stool Pigeon  
**GRANDISON PHELPS III** ..... Elmore  
**MILENA PHILLIPS** ..... Ruby

**KING HEDLEY II HAS ONE 15 MINUTE  
INTERMISSION**

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PROFILES



**RO BODDIE** ♦  
**Seven Guitars:**  
*Floyd*  
**King Hedley II:**  
*Mister*

La Jolla Playhouse and Kansas City Rep co-production); *The Mountaintop* (Martin Luther King, Jr., Cleveland Playhouse); *The Whipping Man* (John, Milwaukee Rep); *Hamlet, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Horatio, American Players Theatre); *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (Sylvester, CENTERSTAGE and Philadelphia Theatre Company co-production); *Dirt* (Studio Theatre); *Angels in America* (Belize, Helen Hayes Nomination); *Seven Guitars* (Floyd Barton, Helen Hayes Nomination). TV/Film: *Elementary, The Good Wife, Person of Interest, Unforgettable*. Education: University of the North Carolina School of the Arts. [www.roboddie.com](http://www.roboddie.com). **Ro Boddie is sponsored in *Seven Guitars* by Artist Advocates Suzy Fitch, Robin Lipman, and Barbara Zell & Bill McHarg, and in *King Hedley II* by Mike & Rhoda Auer and Robin Lipman.**



**LAURENCE BROWN**  
**Seven Guitars:**  
*Canewell*  
**King Hedley II:** *King Hedley II*

**Cygnnet Resident Artist.** Laurence Brown is a San Diego native and a member of SAG/Aftra. He attended Dillard University in New Orleans. His most recent production was Ion's *Jesus Hates Me*. Some more of his local theater credits include Cygnnet Theatre's *Fences, The Piano Lesson, Gem of the Ocean, and The Motherf\*\*ker with the Hat*. Moxie Theater's *WET, Devil Dog Six* and *A Rasin in the Sun*. Some of his national commercial and TV credits include: Buick, Hulu Plus, Chevy, Scrubbing Bubbles, *Monk* and *Icarly*. **Laurence Brown is sponsored in *Seven Gui-***

**tars by Artist Advocate Dugan Moore, and in *King Hedley II* by Laura Bretton.**



**YOLANDA FRANKLIN** ♦  
**Seven Guitars:**  
*Vera*  
**King Hedley II:**  
*Tonya*

After a successful Off-Broadway run in New York City, Critics Circle Award Winner, Ms. Franklin, is excited to return to Cygnnet Theatre. Ms. Franklin was Mrs. Webb in the Cygnnet production of *Our Town*. Other Theatre Credits: Peter J Sharp NYC/Ion Theatre: *Sea Of Souls* (Lila); Ion Theatre: *'night, Mother* (Jessie), *This Wide Night* (Lorraine), *Little Flower of East Orange* (Magnolia); La Jolla Playhouse: *Refuse or the Golden Door* (WOW Festival), *The Brothers Paranormal* (Delia, Reading); Moxie Theatre: *Our Lady of Kibeho* (Sister Evangelique), *A Raisin in the Sun* (Ruth Younger), *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Other Woman/Carlota), *Gibson Girl* (Ruth Gibson); New Village Arts: *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Calpurnia), *Trip to Bountiful* (Jessie Mae); Diversinary Theatre: *Divine Sister* (Sister Acacius), *Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler* (Mammy); Common Ground Theatre: *For Colored Girls* (Lady in Orange), *Handel's Messiah-A Soulful Celebration* (Host), *Four Queens No Trump* (Jocenia). **Yolanda Franklin is sponsored in *Seven Guitars* by Artist Advocates Jim & Claudia Prescott and Dr. Lynne Thrope & Joe Parness, and in *King Hedley II* by Karen Borowick & Katherine Brecka.**

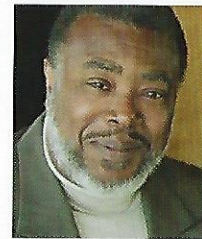


**ANTONIO "TJ" JOHNSON** ♦  
**Seven Guitars:**  
*Hedley*  
**King Hedley II:**  
*Stool Pigeon*

**Cygnnet Resident Artist.** Previously at Cygnnet: *True West, Fool for Love, Gem of the Ocean* (San Diego Critics Circle nomina-

PROFILES

tion), *The Piano Lesson, The Matchmaker* and *Fences* (San Diego Critics Circle Award, Patte Award). Other awards include Dramalogue Award (*Stories About the Old Days*), Playbill Award (*Buried Child*) and 2012/2013 Resident Artists at UCSD's Thurgood Marshall College. Antonio has become a cycling enthusiast traveling thousands of miles in support of causes he feels are valuable to society, specifically personal health and cures for diseases such as HIV and Diabetes, and social issues including support for the American veteran and homeless youth. Please find more info and support his many projects at [www.vagabond-projects.com](http://www.vagabond-projects.com). **Antonio "TJ" Johnson is sponsored in *Seven Guitars* and *King Hedley II* by Artist Advocate Jordine Von Wantoch.**



**GRANDISON PHELPS III**  
**Seven Guitars:**  
*Red*  
**King Hedley II:**  
*Elmore*

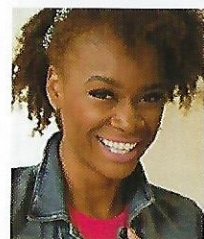
Grandison is thrilled to be a part of Cygnnet Theatre's repertory production of *Seven Guitars* and *King Hedley II*. This marks his fourth and fifth productions of August Wilson's plays with Cygnnet Theatre, which include *Fences, The Piano Lesson* and *Gem of the Ocean*. His credits include *To Kill a Mockingbird* and a reoccurring role in *An American Christmas* (Lamb's Players); *Carousel in Concert*, (The Barn Stage Company); *Bulrusher* and *As You Like It* (New Village Arts); *Sweet Bird Of Youth* (La Jolla Playhouse); *I'm Not Rappaport* (Patio Playhouse); *The Gospel at Colonus* and *God's Trombones* (Ira Aldridge Players) and *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* and the title role in *Othello* (Octad Productions) to name a few. Grandison wishes to thank his family and friends for their continued love and support. Especially the love and support of his wife without whom doing what he loves would not be possible. **Grandison Phelps III is sponsored**

**in *Seven Guitars* by Artist Advocates Dr. & Mrs. Canada, and in *King Hedley II* by Rob & Betsy Watson.**



**MILENA PHILLIPS**  
**Seven Guitars:**  
*Louise*  
**King Hedley II:**  
*Ruby*

Milena is extremely excited to make her Cygnnet Theatre debut. Her stage credits include: Jaclyn in *Rasheeda Speaking*, Ruth in the US Premiere of *Calendar Girls*, Dinah in *Dixie Swim Club*, and she was a nominee for Best Actress for her role as Marrell in *THIS* at the Patio Playhouse. Film/TV: *The Bold and The Beautiful, Sunset Beach, and Silk Stalkings*. She is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of The Jonathan Sellers and Charlie Keever Foundation whose mission is to educate children on how to stay safe. Milena with her long time friend, Deborah Dorn, co-authored the children's book *Always Fly Away* written in honor of her son's memory (available at amazon.com). Milena's love for singing comes naturally as she is the 2nd cousin to the legendary blues singer Muddy Waters. **Milena Phillips is sponsored in *Seven Guitars* by Artist Advocates Rob & Betsy Watson, and in *King Hedley II* by Di Carpinelli and Rick & Ginny Wisley.**



**YVONNE**  
**Seven Guitars:**  
*Ruby*

Yvonne graduated from San Diego State University May 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts and a few minors. As a solo artist, she has appeared on television shows such as *Duets, Fox's 3 Minutes to Stardom, Let's Make a Deal, and Chasing Destiny*. Yvonne has had the opportunity to sing for famous musicians such as John Legend, and more recently Kelly Rowland on BET. In addition, she has been in vari-

## PROFILES

ous musicals around San Diego and Los Angeles County including her standout role as Rizzo in *Grease* at the Welk Resort Theatre. Be sure to follow Yvonne on Instagram @officiallyvonne. **Yvonne is sponsored in *Seven Guitars* by Artist Advocate Elaine Kalin.**



**AUGUST WILSON**  
Playwright  
(1945 - 2005)

August Wilson authored *Gem of the Ocean*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *The Piano*

*Lesson*, *Seven Guitars*, *Fences*, *Two Trains Running*, *Jitney*, *King Hedley II* and *Radio Golf*. These works, often referred to as The Century Cycle, explore the heritage and experience of African Americans, decade by decade, over the course of the 20th century. In 2003, Mr. Wilson made his professional stage debut in his one-man show *How I Learned What I Learned*. Mr. Wilson's work garnered many awards, including Pulitzer Prizes for *Fences* (1987) and *The Piano Lesson* (1990); a Tony Award for *Fences*; an Olivier Award for *Jitney*; as well as eight New York Drama Critics Circle Awards for *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Fences*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Two Trains Running*, *Seven Guitars*, *Jitney*, and *Radio Golf*. The cast recording of *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* received a 1985 Grammy Award and Mr. Wilson received a 1995 Emmy Award nomination for his screenplay adaptation of *The Piano Lesson*. His early works include *The Janitor*, *Recycle*, *The Coldest Day of the Year*, *Malcolm X*, *The Homecoming* and *Black Bart and the Sacred Hills*. Mr. Wilson received many fellowships and awards, including Rockefeller and Guggenheim Fellowships in Playwriting, the Whiting Writers' Award, the 2003 Heinz Award, the 1999 National Humanities Medal by the President of the United States and numerous honorary degrees from colleges and universities, as well as the only high school diploma

ever issued by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. He was an alumnus of New Dramatists, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a 1995 inductee into the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2005, the Broadway theater located at 245 West 52nd Street was named the August Wilson Theatre. Additionally, Mr. Wilson was posthumously inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame in 2007. August Wilson was born and raised in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and lived in Seattle, Washington, at the time of his death. He is survived by his two daughters, Sakina Ansari and Azula Carmen Wilson, and his wife, costume designer Constanza Romero.



**JENNIFER L. NELSON**  
Director

Ms. Nelson is a Washington DC-based theatre professional with a commitment to living and working a consistent prin-

ciple that values human dignity, justice, compassion and creativity. In her more than 40 years as a theatre professional, she has been an actor, director, playwright, administrator and professor. Her professional career began at Arena Stage with the Living Stage Theatre Company. She next served as Producing Artistic Director of the African Continuum Theatre Company, at that time the only professional African American theatre in Washington. During her tenure there she directed more than twenty productions and readings, including several world premieres. Directing credits include productions at Mosaic Theater, where she is resident director; Ford's Theatre, where she currently serves as Senior Artistic Advisor; Round House; Theatre J; Forum Theatre; Imagination Stage; Adventure Theatre; Washington Shakespeare; Rep Stage; Everyman Theatre; the Hangar Theatre; Penumbra Theatre; the Fulton Theatre; Manhattan Class

## PROFILES

Company; Young Playwrights Theater; and the Kennedy Center Youth and Family Programs. She has also directed at two campuses of the University of Maryland; George Washington University; Virginia Commonwealth University; and University of South Carolina. Ms. Nelson is also a working playwright: her play *Torn from the Headlines* won the Helen Hayes/Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play. Most recently the play *Run Home* was presented as part of the 2015 Women's Voices Festival. Ms. Nelson has taught at UCLA, George Washington University, George Mason University and American University, and most recently at Georgetown University where she taught Theatre for Social Change, encouraging young artists and scholars to put their creative intelligence in service to communities in need. She is past president of the League of Washington Theatres and served on the Board of Directors of the Theatre Communications Group. **Jennifer L. Nelson is sponsored by Artist Advocates Debbie Bodinger & Deborah Pettry.**



**LYDIA FORT**  
Associate Director

Ms. Fort has directed at Diversionary Theatre, Perseverance Theatre, Women's Project Theatre, Women Center Stage, Urban Stages, McCarter Theatre YouthInk! Festival, New Federal Theatre, Ensemble Studio Theater, Classical Theatre of Harlem, freeFall Theatre, Hangar Theatre, Planet Connections Festivity (where she was honored with the 2013 Best Director Award), as well as other festivals including the New Black Fest, 48 Hours in Harlem and the Fire This Time Festival. She was a Time Warner Foundation Fellow of the 2012-2014 Lab at Women's Project Theater, a TCG New Generations Future Leaders Grantee, New York Theatre Workshop Directing Fellow, and Drama League Directing Fellow. Lydia received a BA

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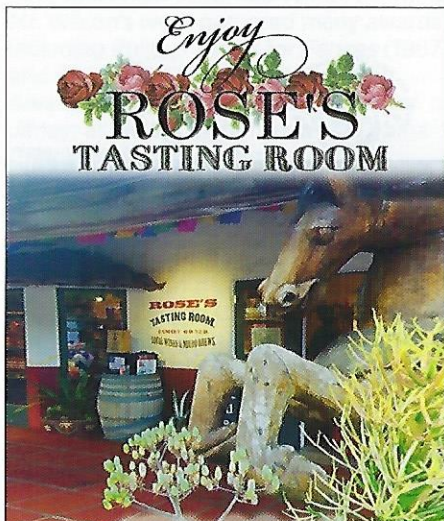
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## PROFILES

from New York University and an MFA in Directing from the University of Washington.

**CRAIG CAMPBELL** ♦ (Stage Manager) Craig is so thrilled to be back at Cygnet this season, having worked on last year's Coward Rep; *Hay Fever* & *The Vortex*. Other local area credits include: *42nd Street*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *West Side Story* (SDMT); *Peter Pan* & *The Music Man* (Moonlight); *The Tallest Tree in the Forest*, *Kingdom City*, *The Who and the What* (LaJolla Playhouse) Prior to this life, Craig worked as a Coordinating Producer & Production Manager for several award winning home makeover and lifestyle shows with HGTV, Style Network, Travel Channel and VH1.

**MELANIE CHEN** (Sound Designer) Melanie is thrilled to be working with Cygnet Theatre again! She is a San Diego based freelance sound designer who has designed over 50 productions in San



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Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. This past summer, she assistant sound designer Sten Severson at the Old Globe on *Love's Labor's Lost* and *Macbeth* on the Festival Stage. Recent credits include: *Plays by Young Writers Festival 2015* with The Playwrights Projection at the Old Globe; *Our Lady of Kibeho* at Moxie Theatre; *Now You See It, Way Downriver*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Ain't Misbehavin'* and *The Cocktail Hour* at North Coast Repertory Theatre. Coming up, she will be designing *The Cherry Orchard* at Pomona College in Claremont, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* at North Coast Rep, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* with the USD/Old Globe MFA program, and La Jolla Playhouse's POP Tour in 2017. Melanie holds an M.F.A. in Sound Design for Theatre & Dance from UC San Diego. [www.melaniesound.com](http://www.melaniesound.com).

**SEAN FANNING** (Set Designer) **Cygnet Resident Artist.** Sean is a Southern California based scenic designer and Resident Artist of Cygnet, where he has designed over twenty productions including *Gypsy*, *Dogfight*, *Hay Fever*, *The Vortex*, *The Whale*, *Sons of the Prophet*, *Pageant*, *Maple & Vine*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Travesties*, *Shakespeare's R&J*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Parade*, and many more. Elsewhere: *Full Gallop* (Craig Noel Award Nomination), *A Doll's House*, *Plaid Tidings*, *Kingdom* (The Old Globe); *Everybody's Talkin': The Music of Harry Nilsson*, *Honky*, *In the Heights*, (San Diego Repertory Theatre); *My Mañana Comes* (Marin Theatre Company); *Brownsville Song* (Moxie Theatre); *Now or Later*, the World Premiere of *The Boy Who Danced on Air* (Diversionary Theatre); *West Side Story* (San Diego Musical Theatre); *The Improv at Harrah's* and *Menopause The Musical* (Harrah's Las Vegas). He holds an M.F.A. in Scenic Design from San Diego State University. See more of his work at [www.seanfanningdesigns.com](http://www.seanfanningdesigns.com).

**ANDIE FITCH** (Production Assistant) Andie recently began her professional stage management career at Cygnet as Assistant Stage Manger for *Gypsy*. She graduated from San Diego State Univer-

sity with a Bachelor of Arts in General Theatre Arts where she stage managed various productions such as *Water by the Spoonful* and *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*. And she just finished a nine month stage management internship at South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa where she was fortunate enough to work on shows such as *Pinocchio* and *Amadeus*.

**PETER HERMAN** (Wig & Makeup Designer) **Cygnet Resident Artist.** Cygnet Theatre: Costumes and Wig/Makeup Design for *Shakespeare's R&J*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. Wigs/Makeup Design for *Gypsy*, *Stupid F\*\*king Bird*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *When the Rain Stops Falling*, *Hay Fever*, *The Vortex*, *Dogfight*, *My Fair Lady*, *Sons of the Prophet*, *Pageant*, *Fool for Love*, *True West*, *The Motherf\*\*ker with the Hat*, *Spring Awakening*, *Maple and Vine*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Travesties*, *Company*, *Assassins*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Gem of the Ocean*, *Mistakes Were Made*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Dirty Blonde*, *Parade*, *A Behanding in Spokane*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Our Town*, *Cabaret*, *The Norman Conquests*, *Private Lives*, *Sweeney Todd*. Elsewhere: Peter has designed hair and wigs for over 300 productions, including the La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego Rep, San Diego Opera, Disneyland, and various film and television projects. Film: Costume design for *Ready? OK!* Peter currently teaches wigs and makeup at SDSU. **Peter Herman is sponsored in Memory of Daniel T. O'Connor, Md.**

**MARIA MANGIAVELLANO** ♦ (Assistant Stage Manager) Maria is delighted to be working with Cygnet Theatre. She was last with Cygnet this past spring stage managing *The Rocky Horror Show*. Previously at Cygnet: *Dogfight*. Most of her work in San Diego in the last 12 years has been with Lamb's Players Theatre. Favorite productions there include: *Wit*, *Metamorphoses*, *1776*, *Around The World in 80 Days*, *An American Rhythm*, *The Glory Man*, *Enchanted April*, *Thunder at*

## PROFILES

*Dawn* and many others. Locally, she has also Stage Managed for Moonlight Stage Productions, North Coast Repertory Theatre, San Diego Repertory Theatre and, long ago, La Jolla Playhouse. She holds an MFA in Theatre from UCSD.

**KYLE MONTGOMERY** (Assistant Lighting Designer) Kyle recently graduated from SDSU with his BA in Design and Technology for Theatre. While attending SDSU he became involved with Cygnet Theatre assisting local San Diego lighting designers. As an assistant lighting designer for last year's production of *A Christmas Carol*, Kyle is excited to be returning this year as the lighting designer for the remount of the show. Previous credits at Cygnet include: assistant lighting designer for *My Fair Lady* and *The Motherf\*\*ker with the Hat*. **Kyle Montgomery is a Jeffrey & Sheila Lipinsky Family SDSU Fellow.**

**VERONICA MURPHY** (Costume Designer) **Cygnet Resident Artist.** Cygnet Theatre: *The Turn of the Screw*, *Bug*, *Yellowman*, *Fences*, *A Number*, *Sons of the Prophet*, *Stupid F\*\*king Bird*; Lamb's Players Theatre: *The Sneeze*, *Tartuffe*, *Amadeus*, *Flight*, *Oklahoma Rigs*, *Let-tice & Lovage*, *The Diviners*, *Becoming Memories*, *The Lion*, *the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Boys Next Door*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Barefoot in the Park* and a host of others. Veronica is the Artistic Director and Co-Founder, with partner Walter Ritter, of Write Out Loud. She is the 2013 recipient of the Deborah Salzer Excellence in Arts Education Award and a 2015 10News Leadership Award. **Veronica Murphy is sponsored by Artist Advocate Jean & Gordon Kelly, Tim Mulligan & Sean Murphy, and Jim & Claudia Prescott.**

**R. CRAIG WOLF** (Lighting Designer) **Cygnet Resident Artist.** R. Craig Wolf has taught and designed lighting nationwide for both theatre and dance. Credits include designs for New York's Dance Theatre Workshop, Theatre Artaud in San Francisco, Japan America Center in Los Angeles, SRT in Santa Rosa, and the Old

## PROFILES

Globe Theatre in San Diego. In addition, Craig is resident designer for Native Voices at the Atrium (Los Angeles). Former Head of the Design Area and Professor Emeritus of Stage Design at San Diego State University, Mr. Wolf is the co-author of *Scene Design and Stage Lighting*, now in its tenth edition. Craig is pleased to be designing for Cygnet Theatre again this season.

### TAYLOR M. WYCOFF (Dramaturg)

Previous dramaturgical credits include *Gypsy*, *Stupid F\*\*king Bird*, *When the Rain Stops Falling*, *Hay Fever*, *The Vortex*, *Dogfight*, *The Whale*, *My Fair Lady*, *Sons of the Prophet*, *True West*, *Pageant*, *The Motherf\*\*ker with the Hat*, *Spring Awakening*, *Maple & Vine*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Playwrights in Process*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Travesties*, *Shakespeare's R&J*, *Gem of the Ocean* (Cygnet); *Red Planet Respite* (Circle Circle dot dot); *Kita y Fernanda*, *Yellow Face* (Mo'olelo). She has taught for Playwrights Project and Kids Act, and is a graduate of Young Audiences Teaching Artist Institute. Taylor received her BA in Theatre & International

Relations from the University of San Diego.

### GEORGE YE (Fight Choreographer)

**Cygnet Resident Artist.** Credits include: *Stupid Fucking Bird*, *True West*, *The Motherf\*\*ker with a Hat*, *Bug*, *Communicating Doors*, *Shakespeare's R&J*, Cygnet Theatre; *Macbeth*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Twelfth Night*, *Double Indemnity*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, 2013 Shakespeare Festival, *Allegiance the Musical*, *August: Osage County*, *God of Carnage*, *The Whipping Man*, *Dancing in the Dark*, *The Old Globe*; *Up Here*, *The Ether Dome*, *Kingdom City*, *Peter and the Star Catchers*, *Blood and Gifts*, *Hands on a Hard Body*, *A Dram of Drummhicit*, La Jolla Playhouse; Other favorites include: *Oedipus El Rey*, *Claybourne Park*, San Diego Rep; *The King's Guard* with Ron Pearlman and Eric Roberts. George is head of performance training at San Diego Mesa College, MFA, SAFD, AEA.

## PROFILES

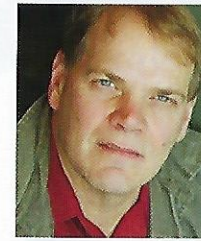


### SEAN MURRAY Artistic Director

Mr. Murray co-founded Cygnet Theatre in 2002 along with partner Bill Schmidt. Cygnet Theatre: *The Rocky Horror Show*, *The*

*Vortex*, *Dogfight*, *My Fair Lady*, *Fool for Love*, *True West*, *Spring Awakening*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Travesties*, *Company*, *Assassins*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Dirty Blonde*, *Parade*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Our Town*, *Cabaret*, *The Tragedy of the Commons*, *The Norman Conquests*, *Private Lives*, *Sweeney Todd*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Noises Off*, *Bed and Sofa '09*, *The History Boys*, *A Christmas Carol*, *A Little Night Music* (SD Critic's Award, Best Director), *The Receptionist*, *The Invention of Love*, *Bed and Sofa '04* (SD Critic's Award, Best Director, Best Musical Revival), *Las Meninas*, *Escanaba in da Moonlight* (SD Critic's Circle, Set Design), *The Book of Liz*, *Pageant*, *Bug*, *Hedwig and the Angry*

*Inch*, *St. Nicholas*, *The Matchmaker*, *Desire Under the Elms*, *Santaland Diaries*, *Firebugs*, *Fully Committed*, *Arcadia*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Little Foxes*, *My Fair Lady*. Elsewhere: North Coast Rep: *The Elephant Man* (Patté Award, Direction), *Man of La Mancha*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Travesties*; Diversionary: *Never the Sinner, Love! Valour! Compassion!*. Education: University of North Carolina School of the Arts (BFA). In 2000, Sean was named one of San Diego Magazine's "50 People to Watch" and in 2005 he was named Producer of the Year by the San Diego Critic's Circle.



### BILL SCHMIDT Executive Director

Bill co-founded Cygnet Theatre with Sean Murray. Bill has served as Executive Director of Cygnet since the founding. During Bill's tenure

the company budget has grown from

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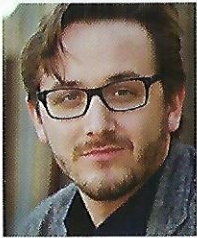
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## PROFILES

\$200,000 in year one to just under 2.6 million this year, and has established itself as one of San Diego's largest and most exciting live theatre companies. During this time Cygnet has produced over 60 productions and been awarded over 100 awards. Prior to taking the helm at Cygnet, Bill worked as a Software Development Director for Peregrine Systems. Bill holds a BS in Computer Science and Mathematics from St Peters College in New Jersey.



**ROB LUTFY**  
*Associate Artistic  
Director*

Rob is the Associate Artistic Director at Cygnet Theatre. He was the 2014-2015 National New Play Network Producer-in-Residence at Marin Theatre Company. Cygnet Theatre: *Stupid F\*\*king Bird*, *When the Rain Stops Falling*, *Hay Fever*, *Sons of the Prophet*, *The Motherf\*\*ker with the Hat*. Elsewhere: *Clown Play*, NYC International Fringe Festival; *The Gin Game*, Anacostia Playhouse; *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, Threshold Repertory; *The Sunset Limited*, 3M Productions; *Time Stands Still*, Collaborative Arts. He has worked on plays in development at The Kennedy Center, The O'Neill Theatre Center, Burning Coal Theatre, The Hub Theatre and The Rensing Center. He has assisted directors at Shakespeare Theatre Company, Folger Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre, Arena Stage, The Kennedy Center and Marin Theatre Company. He was the 2012-13 William R. Kenan, Jr. Directing Fellow at The John F. Kennedy Center. Rob is a graduate of the directing program under Gerald Freedman at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.



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the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org)

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