

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Kate Hennig is a dear friend of Cygnet Theatre. I was working on Hennig's *The Last Wife* when she sent me her second play in her Queenmaker trilogy. I read it the way it moves—rapidly. I called her on the phone and told her I was aching to direct it. "The patriarchy seeks to control powerful young determined women," I remember her saying. I wrote that sentence on the title page of the script and continued to rehearse her first play.

Flash forward to 2019 and I'm beyond delighted to be immersed in the world of Tudor women once again. Hennig's plays are incredibly researched - she has taken documented moments and created their backstory. The rest, as she puts it, "must always favour the dramatic." Setting the Tudors to a contemporary voice echoes what women both present and past have dealt with.

Ultimately, this story is about Bess. And the questions around her remain. How was a child so good at deflecting questions? Why was a child held down by her mother while her husband cut her dress off? Why was her stepfather found in her bed at night on several occasions? Why did Edward Seymour not sign the death warrant for his brother Thomas? The play is a complex chess match of power play, shifting loyalties, and consent. It will have you asking, 'who is the puppet and who is the puppet master?'

The facts remain unchanged - Queen Elizabeth I, aka "The Virgin Queen," survived and thrived in spite of efforts to quiet, control and push her aside. She quite literally almost lost her head twice in her lifetime. She reconstructed her past, proclaimed herself married to the people of England, and died in 1603 after a 45 year reign.

All hail the Queen!



**ROB LUTFY**  
ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



DIRECTOR  
**ROB LUTFY**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
**JAEONNIE DAVIS-  
CRAWFORD**

SCENIC DESIGNER  
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■ CYGNET RESIDENT ARTIST

◆ MEMBER OF ACTORS' EQUITY,  
THE UNION OF PROFESSIONAL  
ACTORS AND STAGE  
MANAGEMENT IN THE UNITED  
STATES

# THE VIRGIN TRIAL

BY **KATE HENNIG**

ASSOCIATE PRODUCTION SPONSORS  
**MIKE AND RHODA AUER**

## CAST

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

**WIL BETHMANN**  
**BRITTNEY M. CALDWELL**  
**MONIQUE GAFFNEY ◆■**  
**LISEL GORELL-GETZ ◆**  
**OLIVIA HODSON**  
**STEVEN LONE**  
**TOM STEPHENSON ■**

SPECIAL THANKS  
**JOEL CASTELLAW**  
**VICTORIA DE LA TORRE**  
**SHARON LIEDER**  
**STEVE LONGFELLOW & SDMT**  
**RICK RINALDI**

THERE WILL BE ONE 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

THE VIRGIN TRIAL is staged by arrangement with Emma Laird, Gary Goddard Agency,  
[www.garygoddardagency.com](http://www.garygoddardagency.com).

*The Virgin Trial* was originally produced by the Stratford Festival of Stratford, Ontario, and  
premiered there on June 27th, 2017. Antoni Cimolino, Artistic Director & Anita Gaffney,  
Executive Director.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS  
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## FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT KATE HENNIG

"What's a virgin?" my eight year old sister asked my father one Christmas in our very brown 1970s family room deep in the suburbs of southwest Calgary. As a

sixteen year old I think my eyes bugged right out of my head while waiting with bated breath to hear how he would dig himself out of that one.

"A girl who is not yet married," he replied, without a batting of the eye.

Darn. Good answer, I thought, somewhat disappointed at his ease. Of course my father, being a Lutheran minister, was practiced in his response to this question, bombarded as he was at this time of year by curious Christmas-pageant performers.

Elizabeth the First would also be pleased with his answer. The fact that it makes no mention of sexual intercourse would support the cult of innocence that was constructed around her: she was Gloriana: the Virgin Queen.

But though my father's answer was enough to satisfy my younger sister, it was certainly not the whole truth. It was a convenient truth.

I would venture to say that the professed virginity of the second queen regnant of England is also a convenient truth. It has extensive dramatic possibilities, and we know how this princess loved dramatic possibilities. Might we even consider her a creative artist?

What if Elizabeth created a campaign of virginity to distract the masses from her dubious integrity? What if this girl-who-is-not-yet-married was in full control of her destiny even in her teenage years?

Out of necessity, she imagined her own pristine narrative in the face of a life-threatening scandal; a wily teenager, well-trained in the arts of deception, she then put a spin on the facts to whitewash her part in a variety of extremely suspicious circumstances; this young

Elizabeth was capable at a very young age of making choices that would determine her highly potent future.

But she was only a girl. Can a girl really be capable of such foresight?

Ha! We don't give girls enough credit.

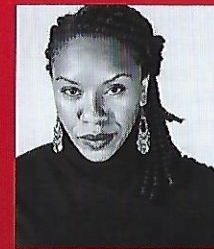
In 1549, Elizabeth was doing exactly what girls and young women are doing today: adapting, re-inventing her own image, pursuing her self as art, utilising her unique principles and prescient solutions to achieve her goals.

Call it girl power. Call it virgin power. Both then and now, it's the beating heart of my play.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS



**Bess**  
*a princess*  
intelligent, precocious,  
entitled, un-edited,  
sexual (fire)



**Mary**  
*a princess*  
private, cutting,  
wounded, capable,  
loyal (water)



**Eleanor**  
*a lady of the court*  
contained, obsessive,  
incisive, independent,  
vengeful (earth)



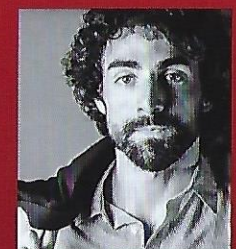
**Ashley**  
*a lady of the court,*  
*governess to Bess*  
guileless, reliable,  
effortless, unrefined,  
maternal (water)



**Thom**  
*Lord High Admiral,*  
*husband to Katherine*  
*Parr*  
athletic, reckless,  
impulsive, ineffectual,  
loving (air)



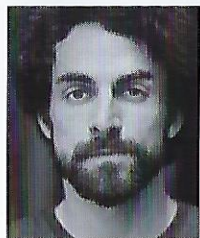
**Ted**  
*Lord Protector to*  
*Edward VI, brother*  
*to Thom*  
paternal, jovial,  
authoritative, patient,  
devoted (earth)



**Parry**  
*A lord of the court,*  
*secretary to Bess*  
buoyant, cheerful,  
sensitive, abrupt,  
nervous (air)



## PROFILES



**WIL BETHMANN**  
Parry

A New York based actor, Wil is thrilled to return to the Cygnet stage. Wil has appeared in theatrical and commercial roles across the country.

Most recently at Cygnet as Louis in *Angels in America* and King Arthur in *Camelot*. At Diversionary Theatre in *Significant Other* and up next in *The SantaLand Diaries*. On screen as the personality and creative mind behind ad campaigns for Smirnoff, AT&T, BrosBeingBasic, Applebee's, the NCAA, and coverage for the Governor's Ball and LoveLoud music festivals. Wil's on-site creative consulting and productions have been recognized with multiple nominations at the annual Shorty Awards social media award show in New York City. Wil studied at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, graduating with a BFA. **Wil Bethmann is sponsored by Artist Advocates Debbie Bodinger & Deb Pettry, Barbara Bolt, Di Carpinelli and Linda Lenhard & Mark Kritchevsky.**



**BRITTNEY M. CALDWELL**  
Mary

Brittney is from San Diego, CA. She recently completed her Masters of Fine arts in Acting at The University of Florida. She is

excited to be joining Cygnet in *The Virgin Trial* for her first show in San Diego since graduating. Recently, she performed in the play she wrote and directed, *From Colored To Black, It Shoulda Been You* (The Studio Theatre), *Wakey, Wakey* (Urbanite Theatre), *This is War* (ART), and *Stage Kiss* (The Hippodrome). Some of her favorite roles have been in *The Colored Museum*, *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*, and *The Gnadiges Fraulein*. **Brittney M. Caldwell is sponsored by Artist Advocates Rob & Betsy Watson.**



**LISEL GORELL-GETZ** ♦  
Eleanor

Lisel is thrilled to be returning to Cygnet Theatre with this wonderful ensemble. Previously seen at Cygnet in *Biedermann and the*

*Firebugs*. Recently: *This Random World* at North Coast Rep. Other San Diego credits include: *Measure for Measure* (Old Globe); *Current Nobody*, *Counterweight* (La Jolla Playhouse); Marie Antoinette in *The Revolutionists*, Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible*, Enron, *Skinless*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (MOXIE Theatre); *Sex With Strangers*, *Detroit*, *Exit Interview*, *In the Next Room*, *Intimate Apparel* (San Diego Repertory); *Now or Later*, *Valhalla*, *Cloud 9*, *Psycho Beach Party* (Diversionary); *Macbeth*, *Valparaiso* (Sledgehammer); *Twelfth Night* (New Village Arts); *9 Parts of Desire* (Mo'olelo). Lisel received her BFA at Ithaca College and trained with the British American Drama Academy. She is Master Teaching Artist with the Old Globe Theatre's Department of Arts Engagement where she is committed to advocating for the arts and encouraging the creative artist in everyone. [www.liseligorellgetz.com](http://www.liseligorellgetz.com). **Lisel Gorell-Getz is sponsored by Artist Advocates Debbie Bodinger & Deb Pettry and Alice & Doug Diamond.**



**MONIQUE GAFFNEY** ♦  
Ashley  
Cygnet Resident Artist.

Monique was last seen as Cynthia in *Sweat* at San Diego REP. San Diego credits:

*The Wind and the Breeze*, *The Piano Lesson*, *The Tragedy of the Commons*, *Man from Nebraska*, *Yellowman* (Cygnet); *Disgraced*, *Clybourne Park*, *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play*, *Doubt* (San Diego REP); *Red Velvet*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *All's Well That Ends Well* (Globe For All - Old Globe Theatre); *Cell*, *Hoodoo Love* (Mo'olelo); *Heddatron*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *A Raisin in the Sun* (ion theatre); *Medea*, *I Have Before Me a Remarkable Document Given to Me By a Young Lady from Rwanda* (6th @ Penn

Theatre); *Trouble in Mind*, *Blue Bonnet Court* (Moxie); *Gee's Bend*, *The African Company Presents Richard III* (North Coast Rep). New York credits: *Mamba's Daughters* and *American Silents*. UCSD (BA), Columbia University (MFA). AEA, SAG-AFTRA. **Monique Gaffney is sponsored by Artist Advocates Lynn O'Rourke Bride & Peter F. Bride and Debra Pantoni.**

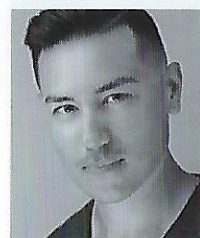


**OLIVIA HODSON**  
Bess

Olivia is incredibly honored to make her Cygnet debut with the role of Bess in *The Virgin Trial*. Regional Credits: Sophie in *MAMMA MIA!*,

Chava in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *My Fair Lady* (Welk Resorts); Amy March in *Little Women* (The Barnstage Company); Luisa in *The Fantasticks* (Scripps Ranch Theatre). You can currently see Olivia as Young Anna/Elsa in *FROZEN: Live at the Hyperion* (Disney Creative Entertainment). She has also worked in pre-show workshops: *Life After* (The Old Globe); various staged readings: *None of the Above* (La Jolla Theatre Ensemble), *The Finish Line Commission* (Cygnet), and as a directorial assistant/choreographer. Olivia is currently pursuing a career in Theatre and Film/Television. Thank you Rob Lutfy for trusting me with this beautifully complex girl and giving me a chance to grow as an actor. [www.oliviahodson.com](http://www.oliviahodson.com) @Oliviachodson.

**Olivia Hodson is sponsored by Artist Advocates Ruth Hayward and Robin J. Lipman.**



**STEVEN LONE**  
Thom

Steven is excited to be returning to the Cygnet Theatre stage. Steven was last seen here playing Mr. Darcy in *Pride & Prejudice*, Thom in *The Last*

*Wife* and Jackie in *The Motherf\*\*ker With The Hat*. Born and raised in San Francisco, Steven moved here to attend UC San Diego where he graduated with a degree in Theatre. His favorite recent credits include: *Ray in Roz & Ray* (Craig Noel Award Nominee, San Diego Repertory Theatre)

## PROFILES

The Uber Driver in *Car Plays: Interchange* (La Jolla Playhouse), Juan Julian in *Anna in the Tropics* (Moonlight Stage Productions), and Mace in *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Diety* (Craig Noel Award Nominee, Ion Theatre Co.). Steven would like to send his love and appreciation to all his friends and family for their continuous support, patience, and understanding through the years while he runs off to play every night on stage. **Steven Lone is sponsored by Artist Advocates Mike & Rhoda Auer.**



**TOM STEPHENSON**  
Ted  
Cygnet Resident Artist.

Tom is a 40 year veteran of the stage. He trained in Great Britain at The Royal Central School of

Speech and Drama and at the Interlochen Center for the Arts, in Michigan. At Cygnet Theatre Company he has been seen in over 15 productions notably as Hector in *The History Boys*, Joe Ryan in *When the Rain Stops Falling*, and Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*. Tom was awarded Actor of the Year in 2014 by the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle. **Tom Stephenson is sponsored by Artist Advocates Sandy & Danny Campbell and Barbara Zell & Bill McHarg, Jr.**



**KATE HENNIG**  
Playwright

Kate has been writing in one way or another for most of her life. Her writing includes plays, poetry, stories, articles for industry publications, a

dissertation, two blogs, and a research paper. Kate's play *The Last Wife* had its world premiere in the 2015 Stratford Festival season. *The Virgin Trial*, a second play in what Kate is calling The Queenmaker Trilogy, was commissioned by the Stratford Festival, and had its world premiere in the 2017 Stratford Festival season. The third play in the Queenmaker series, *Mother's Daughter*, was also commissioned by the Stratford Festival, and is currently having it's world premiere



## PROFILES

in the 2019 Stratford Festival Season. As a playwright Kate has been a member of the Groundswell Playwrights' Unit 2003 (More), Tarragon Playwrights' Unit 2004 (More), the Banff Playwrights' Colony 2007 (More) and 2008 (Waterworks), and the Leighton Artists' Colony 2016. Her play, *The Eleventh David* was produced in August 2006 as part of the SummerWorks Festival, to great critical and audience acclaim. Kate has written a monologue for movement and voice called, *The Penelope Principle*. Her play *Waterworks* was given a reading at the Stratford Festival in 2012. Kate is a member of the Playwrights' Guild of Canada. She lives and writes in both Stratford and Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario in Canada.



**ROB LUTFY**  
Director

Rob is the Associate Artistic Director at Cygnet Theatre. Cygnet Theatre: *Pride and Prejudice*, *Marie and Rosetta*, *Hir*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *The Wind and the Breeze*, *The Last Wife*, *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*, *Shockheaded Peter*, *Bad Jews*, *Stupid F\*\*king Bird*, *When the Rain Stops Falling*, *Hay Fever*, *Sons of the Prophet*, *The Motherf\*\*ker with the Hat*. Elsewhere: *Bodas de sangre*, *The Heir Apparent*, Grossmont College. He has worked on plays in development at The Theatre at Boston Court, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 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 2014-2015 National New Play Network Producer-in-Residence at Marin Theatre Company, and the 2012-2013 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.

**JAEONNIE DAVIS-CRAWFORD** (Assistant

Director) Jaeonnie is working with Cygnet for her first time, and she is so grateful for the opportunity! Before this show, she was the Director of the Sweetwater Kids Theatre, and the co-director of the 41st annual Bonitafest Melodrama. She also has a few directing and acting credits under her belt from her time at San Diego State University, from which she graduated with a B.A. in General Theatre Arts.

**RACHEL HENGST** (Properties Designer) **Cygnet Resident Artist.** Rachel is delighted to work with Cygnet Theatre again. Recent prop design credits include Cygnet Theatre's *Pride and Prejudice*, *Shockheaded Peter*, *On the 20th Century*, *Bad Jews*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, and *Gypsy*. Lamb's Players: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *West Side Story*, *Mixtape*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Dinner With Marlene*, *The Miracle Worker*, *American Rhythm*, and *Equivocation*. She also contributes to Lamb's Players Theater and Cygnet Theater as an Assistant Stage Manager/Production Assistant. She thanks her family for their endless support and for God's guidance in her life.

## PROFILES

**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 *Rock of Ages*, *Angels in America*, *Marie and Rosetta*, *Hir*, *Spamalot*, *The Last Wife*, *Shockheaded Peter*, *On the 20th Century*, *Bad Jews*, *Seven Guitars*, *King Hedley II*, *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 and Disneyland. Peter currently teaches wig and makeup design at SDSU.

**VERONICA MURPHY** (Costume Designer) **Cygnet Resident Artist.** Veronica is the Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Write Out Loud. Costume Design for Cygnet Theatre includes: *The Last Wife*, *Seven Guitars*, *King Hedley III*, *Stupid F\*\*king Bird*, *Sons of the Prophet*, *Fences*, *A Number*, *Yellowman*, *Bug and Turn of the Screw*. As the Resident Designer at Lamb's Players Theatre, favorites include: *Tartuffe*, *The Sneezes*, *Amadeus*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Diviners*, *Becoming Memories*, *Oklahoma Rigs*, *The Lion*, *the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. **Veronica Murphy is sponsored by Artist Advocates Barbara Bolt, Dr. Lynne Thrope & Joe Parness, and Jordine Von Wantoch.**

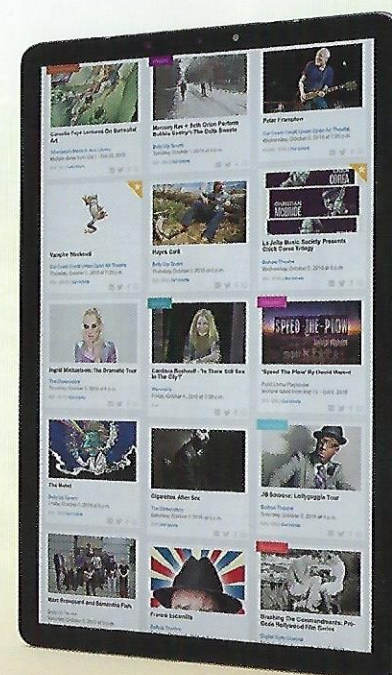
**ELIZABET PUKSTO** (Scenic Designer) Elizabeth Puksto is a scenic and production designer who received her BFA in Design & Production from University of North Carolina School of The Arts. For years she has been working as a freelancer for many major companies in United States and Europe designing sets and productions for theatres, TV shows, music videos,



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## PROFILES

photo shoots, commercial installations and advertising. Recent completed projects: *Marie and Rosetta* at Cygnet Theatre, *Ariadne Auf Naxos*, *La Rondine*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Peter and Wolf*, Chamberlain, Moncler installation, *Pips Island*, Pink - "Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken", Solange - "Metatronia" Partnership with Uniqlo, Kali Uchis - "Just A Stranger", ECPI University, Comedy Central, Preme - "Coastline", Kilo Kish - "Void". Elizabet is also a visual artist & sculptor. She recently did an exhibition working with Charles Long at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles.

**DEAN REMINGTON** ♦ (Stage Manager) **Cygnet Resident Artist.** Dean is thrilled to return to the Cygnet having completed successful runs of *Pride and Prejudice*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *The Wind and the Breeze*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*, *Shockheaded Peter*, *When the Rain Stops Falling*, and *Stupid F\*\*\*ing Bird*. National Tours include *The Lion King* and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*. In the UK he was delighted to work with Cameron Mackintosh on his musical, *Hey, Mr. Producer!* Other highlights include *The Luckiest*, the Annual Gala and the WoW Festival for La Jolla Playhouse; *Outside Mullingar* and the world premiere of *Manifest Destinities* at San Diego Repertory Theatre; as well as international productions of *Grease*, *42nd Street*, *Anything Goes*, *A Chorus Line* and *Meet Me in St. Louis*.

**MAEANN ROSS** (Sound Designer) MaeAnn Ross is a third-year UC San Diego MFA Sound Design candidate. She was born and raised in Texas and holds a BFA in Technical Production from Texas State University. TXST design credits: *Fool For Love*, *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, and *5 Women Wearing the Same Dress*. Professional design credits: *Lost in Yonkers*, *The 39 Steps*, *Wait Until Dark* (Wimberley Playhouse); *She Loves Me* (St. Edward's University); *And Then There Were None*, *All Shook Up* (TEXArts). UC San Diego design credits: *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.*, *53% Of* and *S.E.R.E.* (WNPF 2018), *A Beautiful Day in November* on the *Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes*, *Life is a Dream*, *An Iliad*, *Monster* and *Shame Spiral* (WNPF 2019). maeannrossdesigns.mypportfolio.com.

**CHRIS RYNNE** (Lighting Designer) **Cygnet Resident Artist.** Cygnet Theatre: *Pride & Prejudice*, *Angels in America*, *Spamalot*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Last Wife*, *Shockheaded Peter*, *On the Twentieth Century*, *Gypsy*, *When the Rain Stops Falling*, *My Fair Lady*, *Sons of the Prophet*, *Spring Awakening*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Travesties*, *Company*, *Assassins*, *Gem of the Ocean*, *Parade*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Cabaret*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (2003). Off-Broadway: *The Pianist of Willesden Lane*. Additional credits include The Old Globe, Geffen Playhouse, San Diego Opera, South Coast Repertory Theatre, Madison Opera, Pasadena Playhouse, San Diego Repertory Theatre, Michigan Opera Theatre, Berkeley Rep, Cleveland Playhouse, Hartford Stage, San Diego Musical Theatre, North Coast Repertory Theatre, Houston Grand Opera, Diversionary Theatre, Laguna Playhouse, and Starlight Theatre. Chris also designs lighting for museum exhibitions, special events, architectural features, and lighting systems for new venues. **Chris Rynne is sponsored by Artist Advocates Adrian Jaffer & Ann Laddon.**

**CHASE THOMPSON** (Assistant Stage Manager) Chase is very excited to be joining *The Virgin Trial* for his first show at Cygnet! He is originally from Sacramento, where he worked in various roles such as assistant stage manager, light board operator, and master carpenter. He is now focusing on stage management at San Diego State University, where he has been the assistant stage manager for *Más* and *James and the Giant Peach*. He would like to thank the cast and crew for making this experience such an enjoyable one!



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Questions? Please call **Barbara Bolt**, Cygnet Social Circle Chair, at 619-889-7121 or e-mail [barbarabolt@me.com](mailto:barbarabolt@me.com).

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