

# MorningStar

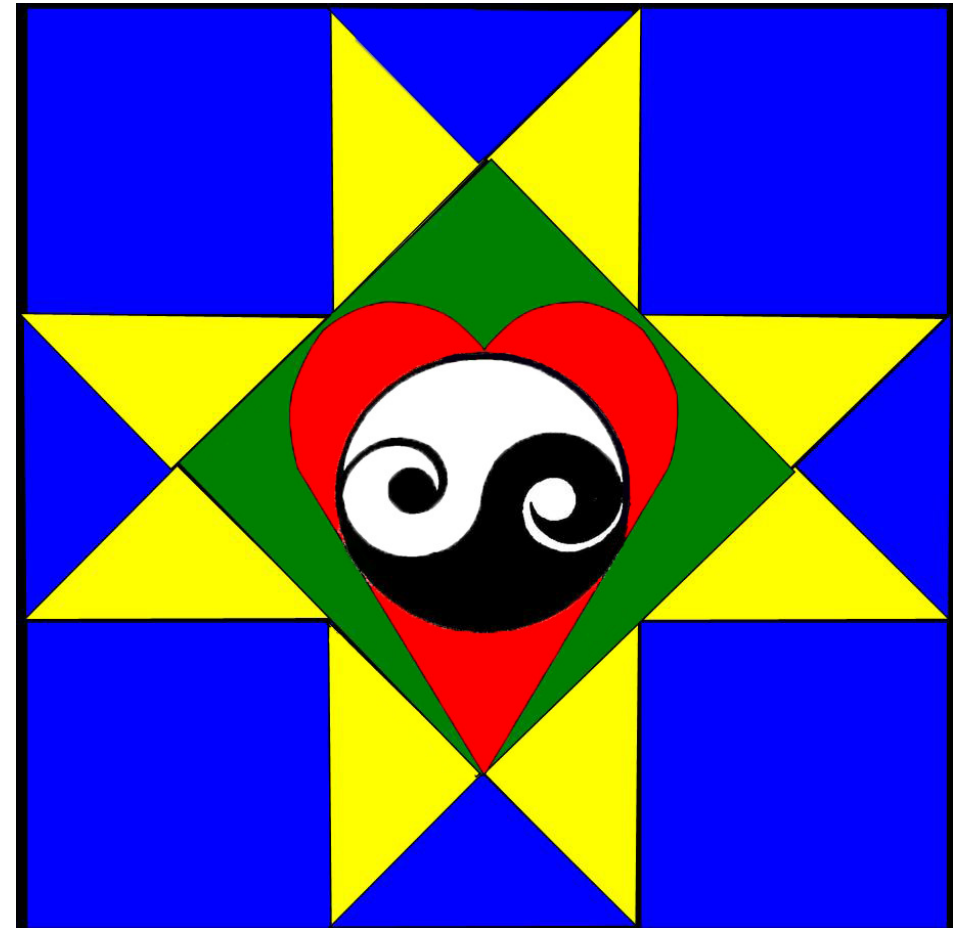
The Crew

Director	MICHAEL FONTAINE
Stage Manager	KELLY WALTON
Assistant Stage Manager	RONA HACKETT
Choral Director	TANYA BOONE-ALVA
Light Design	KRISTY HOTCHKISS
Light Design	KATRINA VAN WINKLE
Sets and Properties Master	JOSHUA WALTON
Costume Design	NADJA MASURA
Costume Manager	MICHELLE RANDALL
Divine Mother Costume	CLAUDIA LARSON
Web Page, Program and Logo	KELLY WALTON
Publicity	TANYA BOONE-ALVA
Digital Media Artist / Photographer	NADJA MASURA
Digital Media Technician	PETER ROGERS
Additional Digital Media	ALICIA BAY LAUREL
Additional Digital Media	BRUCE SHIPPEE PHOTOGRAPHY
Additional Digital Media	PHIL MORNINGSTAR
Photographer	JULIANNE ODELL
Bass Guitar / Harmonium	NICK ALVA
Percussion / Keyboards	CURTIS COOPER
Flute / Saxophone	CARRIE KRUEGER CRANDALL
Flugel Horn / Keyboards	RON KARP
Guitar	MICHAEL ROFKAR
Bass Viol	STEVE SHAIN
Guitar	BRIAN SKINNER
Guitar	JEFFREY JON WHITEBEAR

The Band

## SPECIAL THANKS

Mary, Eddy, Andrew, & the Staff at Spreckels, the Cotati Recreation Department, Jud Snyder at the Community Voice, Pegasus Theater, the Occidental Center for the Arts, KRCB, Windhorse Foundation, Musical Consultant Carl Sokol, the Universe



Bette Condiotti Theatre, Spreckels Performing Arts Center

Alva Sound Art Studio

Presents

MorningStar

Directed by

Michael Fontaine

Book, Music and Lyric by

Nicholas Alva

Additional Music and Lyric by

Mother Mira Alfasa Tanya Boone-Alva Ramon Sender
Alicia Bay Laurel Joe Dolce Brian Skinner
Wilder Bentley Lou Gottlieb Kelly Walton

Additional Arrangements by

Paul Ammerman, Brian Skinner, and Gordon Stubbe

Costume Design and Digital Media by Nadja Masura

Choreography by Kelly Walton

Produced by Nick and Tanya Alva

Poetry by Margo Torelli

Production Photography by

Julianne Odell

Additional Digital Images by

Alicia Bay Laurel, Nadja Masura, Bruce Shippee and Phil Morningstar

Morning AllStar Band

Nick Alva, Curtis Cooper, Carrie Krueger Crandall, Ron Karp, Michael Rofkar, Steve Shain, Brian Skinner, Jeffrey Jon Whitebear

WHO'S WHO

The Greenhouse website is at www.celticfusion.org



Steve Shain (Bass Viol) Steve has been playing the string bass since 1963 in Chicago Heights, Illinois. Currently freelancing with poets, dancers, jazzers, and improvisers in the Bay Area, Steve was a founding member of the Rohnert Park Symphony



Jeffrey Jon Whitebear (Guitar) Jeffrey Jon "Whitebear" Domagalski has been playing music in Sonoma County and the Bay area since 1983 with bands such as Ecotonz, Coyote Moon, Biocentrics, Pans Landing and now Bear Bones. He also performs solo as well as joyfully sharing music with children, and those at elder and convalescent facilities. www.whitebearmusic.com

"Since I became aware of this topic I have been riding upon the crest of a wave. I have been gliding on a cycle that manifested in the recent past, by choice, in one way. And now that it is now perhaps, this wave will manifest, by choice, in a different way. Peace to you all and In Joy EnJoy" - Nick Alva

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Table with 2 columns: Song and Composer. Lists musical numbers such as 'And Be Free', 'Overture 1', 'Love to All in You that Loves', etc., and their respective composers like Nicholas Alva, Wilder Bentley, and Mother Mira Alfasa.

## WHO'S WHO



**Jonathan Van Nuys** (*Ramon Sender*) Jonathan Van Nuys is a Sonoma County native and has recently returned to Sonoma County after a ten year stint in San Francisco.

Jonathan caught the acting bug at an early age, watching a play and musical ragtime revue at the wonderful, (now defunct) Marquee Theater in Railroad square, Santa Rosa. After making his stage debut at age 5 as a Jack in the Box he took a long hiatus and returned to the stage in 1993 in SRJC's school for scandal. Over the past 15 years, he has enjoyed acting sporadically in mostly stage and a few film projects, in Santa Rosa and San Francisco. Over the years he has played everything from a romantic lead, to a stereotypical nerd, to a teenage hustler, to a flesh eating zombie, to a "rock and roll hootchie," to a suicidal world war 2 refugee, to a homicidal maniac and most recently was seen onstage as an 1800's era pastor in John Shillington's, Anatomy of Gray. This will be his first time onstage at the Spreckel's and he is excited to be part of this original work.



**Mike Vargas** (*Jimmy, Citizen*)

Michael-Enrique Vargas is a Senior at Sonoma Academy in Santa Rosa. After being overheard singing in a local shopping centre at the age of seven he joined the Santa Rosa Children's choir, effectively sealing in stone his interests in music. In elementary and middle school he began to act in school plays such as The Nutcracker, and The 13 Colonies. He Continued to work in both theatre and choral productions and now has under his belt larger pieces like; 4 Farcies and a Funeral, a piece based off a series of Anton Chekhov's plays and life, as well as The opera Orpheus and Eurydice, by Gluck. Michael currently lives with his father, step-mother, and siblings in Cotati, where they enjoy a cozy family life. Michael will be moving on to the University of Puget Sound in the fall where he plans to major in music, hoping to one day have a career in Opera performance.



**Cyrus Alva** (*Hippie Kid*)

Cyrus Alva is a very caring six year old boy. He likes building with Legos, talking to his "Little One" named Leaf, and giving his parents back massages when they are tired. Cyrus is a naturally graceful boy, and is also a thoughtful big and little brother.



**Petri Alva** (*Hippie Kid*)

Petri Alva is three years old and has one of the biggest hearts on the planet. He loves playing with trains, and being with his two big brothers. He gets dressed all by himself. He is already very strong, and will probably grow up to be the biggest of the three.



**Zachary Alva** (*Hippie Kid*)

Zachary Alva is a kind and loving nine year old who loves birds and has three ducks he takes care of - Ping, Hacky Sack, and George. His talents include piano, violin and soccer. He is also an amazing big brother.

**Sophia Celeste Orlando** (*Hippie Kid*) Sophia Celeste Orlando (yes, she is Sicilian) is seven years old and lives with her mother, Erin Lee Anderson. Sophia has studied

ballet and tap dance and has been in a few dance performances. Currently she is in an internationally acclaimed children's chorus called Voina.



**Cole Benjamin Duncan** (*Hippie Kid*) Cole is a ten year old resident of Petaluma. He has been in various school plays as well as several roles in Jungle Book with Live Oakes Theatre.



**Zara Amalia Walton** (*Hippie Kid*) Zara Walton is a brilliant six year old with an incredibly active imagination. She recently made her stage debut at Spreckels as a Party Girl and a Gingerbread Buffoon in Ballet Califfia's Nutcracker. Zara has studied tap, jazz and ballet at the Dance Center, and is a devoted student of Miss Shelly. She has a lovely singing voice, and enjoys writing and illustrating her own stories. She is doing a great job raising her parents, Kelly and Joshua Walton, as well as her grandmothers Carol Grogan and Sandra Walton, and her great-grandmother Zara Lindquist.



**Alicia Bay Laurel** (*Composer*)

Born May 14, 1949 in Hollywood, California, to sculptor Verna Lebow, MFA, and surgeon Paul Kaufman, MD, Alicia grew up in a bi-lingual, intellectual, artistic, musical and politically active household. At nineteen Alicia moved to the Wheeler Ranch Commune in Sonoma County, California and began writing, illustrating and designing Living On The Earth, a handwritten guide to bohemian country living illustrated with line drawings, initially as an informational pamphlet for fellow commune dwellers. Published in 1970 by The Bookworks in Berkeley, the book sold out its first edition of 10,000 copies in two weeks. Bennett Cerf, then president of Random House, purchased the rights to publish it for Random House. Alicia is currently based in Los Angeles, writing and illustrating a treatment for a children's animated television series and creating a new CD of songs for the show.

**Paul Ammerman** (*Arranger*)

Paul Ammerman, a recent graduate of the SSU music department, is a pianist and composer living and working in the Santa Rosa area. He gives occasional recitals, having most recently played a program featuring Beethoven's "Hammerklavier" sonata and a selection of Messiaen pieces. His performing repertoire ranges thus far from Bach to late Stravinsky, as well as his own music. As a composer his interests are predominantly in the field of modern music, though his studies have encompassed the entire history of Western music. His other interests include literature, art, modern and classical languages.

**Joe Dolce** (*Composer*) Wrote, produced and performed, 'SHADDAP YOU FACE,' Number One Hit in 15 countries, which holds the record for the most successful single in Australian music history for over 27 years straight. (breaking Slim Dusty's legendary 22 year longevity record for 'The Pub With No Beer!') Over 40 international cover versions in 12 languages including an aboriginal dialect and Papua New Guinean 'pidgin'.

**Ramon Sender** (*Composer*) Ramon Sender is a composer, writer and the co-founder, with Morton Subotnick, of the San Francisco Tape Music Center in 1961. He studied with

George Copeland, Elliott Carter, and Robert Erickson. At the Center Sender worked with composers Subotnick, Pauline Oliveros, Tony Martin, Joseph Byrd, and Terry Riley. Later Sender was involved with Lou Gottlieb's Morning Star/Wheeler (Ahimsa) Ranch communes and later the Peregrine Foundation (for people "living in or exiting from experimental social groups"). His writings include a novel, "Zero Weather", and short stories available on his web site. In 1989, Sender published "Death in Zamora", a book investigating the execution of his mother by Franco's forces during the Spanish Civil War. For "Death in Zamora", Sender used the pen name "Ramón Sender Barayón" both to differentiate himself from prior works by his novelist father, Ramón Sender, and to honor Amparo Barayón, his mother. His albums include Worldfood (2004, Locust 55) & "Desert Ambulance" (2005, Locust 70).



**Curtis Cooper** (*Percussion, Keyboards*)

Curtis Cooper received a BA in Music Education in 2005 from Sonoma State followed by his teaching credential in 2007. Since moving to Sonoma County in 2001 he has been working as a percussionist, playing operas and musicals in local theaters. Curtis began performing as a musician almost forty years ago while touring the west coast with Drum and Bugle Corps at age 11. He became a professional drummer at age 15, and remained a very busy drummer and percussionist for 31 years, living in the south bay area, when he wasn't on the road. He began conducting in 1984 at Cupertino High School, where he acted as musical director and resident composer for the percussion ensemble and the CHS marching band. Curtis conducted his first opera last summer with the Raven Player's highly successful production of Evita. He remains active as an educator, directing percussion ensembles at SRJC, SSU and Cazadero Music Camp, as well as conducting school bands in Healdsburg, Petaluma, and Windsor. He was Choir Director for three years at The Church of Divine Man in Santa Rosa and Berkeley, and is also the author of several music books published by BMP.

**Ron Karp** (*Flugel Horn, Keyboards*)

Ron began his music career with classical piano. Adding the trumpet at age 10, he played in marching bands, jazz ensembles, school plays and orchestras. In 1994 Ron joined the Biocentrics, a Sonoma County folk and rock band, and has been playing music with Jeffrey Jon Whitebear ever since.



**Michael Rofkar** (*Guitar*)

Since picking up a guitar for the first time as a teenager, Michael Rofkar has played folk, country, and rock 'n' roll by himself and in numerous ensembles. However, since meeting Dublin singer Sean Oglesby in Sonoma County in the 1980s, Celtic music has become his great love and main focus. In 1991, Michael formed the band Greenhouse as an outlet for playing Celtic (Irish, Scots, etc.) music. Many of the North Bay's finest folk and trad musicians have graced the band's ranks over the years. Today, Greenhouse is going stronger than ever, having been voted Best Celtic Band in the 2005 North Bay Music Awards. Greenhouse has released three CDs and is working on a fourth. When gigging with the group, Michael plays guitar, bouzouki, tin whistles, and sings. He also gets his ya-yas out by rocking with jam band The Syncopaths.

## CAST

**Pam** ..... NADJA MASURA  
**Divine Mother** ..... CLAUDIA LARSON  
**Lou Gottlieb** ..... DAVE STRUFFLES  
**Russ Nelson** ..... LARRY SCHARF  
**MC** ..... BRIAN SKINNER  
**Ramon Sender** ..... JONATHAN VAN NUYS  
**Gina** ..... GLORIA STRASBURG  
**Feodora** ..... ERIN ANDERSON  
**Pete Peterson** ..... LEN IMPROTA  
**John Butler** ..... BRIAN SKINNER  
**Wildier Bentley** ..... ART KOPECKY  
**Jimmy** ..... MICHAEL VARGAS  
**Rick** ..... JORDAN TORRES  
**Digger** ..... RUSTY THOMPSON  
**Hippie Kid** ..... CYRUS ALVA  
**Hippie Kid** ..... PETRI ALVA  
**Hippie Kid** ..... ZACHARY ALVA  
**Hippie Kid** ..... SOPHIA ANDERSON  
**Hippie Kid** ..... COLE DUNCAN  
**Hippie Kid** ..... ZARA WALTON  
**Hippie** ..... CRISTIAN CAETANO  
**Hippie** ..... DANA HAWKE  
**Hippie** ..... TANYA BOONE-ALVA  
**Professor Harold Dagsley** ..... STEVE FOWLER  
**Gabriella Von Ritchie** ..... MICHELLE RANDALL  
**Near** ..... ERIN ANDERSON  
**D.A. Ramsy** ..... LEN IMPROTA  
**Judge** ..... ART KOPECKY  
**Court Clerk** ..... NADJA MASURA  
**Citizen** ..... ERIN ANDERSON  
**Citizen** ..... NADJA MASURA  
**Citizen** ..... LARRY SCHARF  
**Citizen** ..... GLORIA STRASBURG  
**Citizen** ..... MICHAEL VARGAS  
**Appellate Judge** ..... STEVE FOWLER  
**Inspector Stetson** ..... LARRY SCHARF  
**Waldo Thoreau Perot** ..... JOSHUA WALTON  
**Deputy** ..... GLORIA STRASBURG  
**Probation Officer** ..... RUSTY THOMPSON  
**Pamona Paste** ..... CRISTIAN CAETANO  
**Mr. Snyder** ..... CRISTIAN CAETANO  
**Old Man Paul** ..... DAVID CREETH  
**Miss Penngrove** ..... GLORIA STRASBURG  
**Primitive** ..... RUSTY THOMPSON  
**Pilgrim** ..... CLAUDIA LARSON  
**Phil Charles** ..... LEN IMPROTA



## WHO'S WHO



**Nick Alva** (*Playwright, Producer, Composer*) A graduate of Sonoma State University in History and a self-taught musician/composer, Nicholas has tons of experience composing and performing, chiefly as co-founder of the music group, The Round, which performed and received radio play throughout Northern California in the 1990's. Nicholas then moved into composing and recording for theatre: musicals, soundscapes and dance pieces – collaboration being the key. Using these experiences, Nicholas wrote this living history play with music and dance, which he actually did not intend to do. The subject floated into his hands and, due to certain events and conditions he ended up writing MorningStar, with the help of many of the original participants.



**Tanya Boone-Alva** (*Composer, Producer*) Tanya Boone-Alva is a songwriter and self-taught musician. Songs from her band, The Round received

local radio play and recognition from Ian Anderson, flautist and lead vocalist for the band, Jethro Tull. She was choral director for the musical, A Wrinkle in Time, produced by the Santa Rosa Performing Arts Center in 1997, and Morning-Star Idyll, a pastoral version of MorningStar which played in fall 2006. Tanya is a credentialed teacher with seven years experience teaching singing in the public schools. She directed the holiday program at Liberty Elementary School in Petaluma for three years and Harmony Elementary School in Occidental for one year. Her first official chorus class is with the sixth grade at Venetia Valley Middle School, under the guidance of Jan Pederson-Schiff.



**Michael Fontaine** (*Stage Director*) Michael's regional theater directing credits include dozens of musicals, dramas and opera productions for companies including Cinnabar Opera, Actors Theater, The First Stage Company, Pacific Opera Theater, Pacific Alliance Theater Company, Summer Repertory Theatre and Sonoma City Opera. He has received American College Theatre Festival recognition in acting and directing categories for productions including three premiere's by Emmy winning writer Carol Flint, and has, in addition: performed in dozens of productions as a singer and actor; received a Dean Goodman Bay Area Theatre Award for acting; and recently served as stage director for a Tango production at Lao American College in Vientiane, Laos. Michael holds an M.F.A. in Directing from UC Davis, and an Ed.D. in Organization and Leadership from the University of San Francisco. Upcoming directing assignments include Donizetti's Don Pasquale for Sonoma City Opera.

**Rona Hackett** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Rona Hackett is delighted to be part of the MorningStar team. Originally from New Jersey, she had her first taste of the footlights at age eight when she produced a show of music and skits with a cast of neighborhood kids as a fundraiser for the new wing of her local hospital. She has a B.A. in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University. She's attended Squaw Valley Writers' Conference and was a finalist in the Pacific Northwest Writers' Association Literary Contest. She is currently writing

her first play, a romantic comedy set in Alaska.

**Kristy Hotchkiss** (*Light Designer*) Kristy Hotchkiss began doing theatre at the advanced age of 38, working backstage with Mendocino Magic Company. She then moved to onstage roles with Mendocino Performing Arts Company. When her kids grew up, she finally went to college. Sonoma State Theatre Department is where she met some lifelong friends, many of whom are involved with the production of Morningstar. It's wonderful to be working/playing with some of her theatre family again.

**Nadja Masura** (*Digital Media Artist, Photographer, Costume Designer, Pam, Court Clerk, Citizen*) Nadja Masura recently received her Ph.D. in Theatre and Performance Studies from the University of Maryland; where she was a Maryland Institute for Technologies Fellow, specializing in Digital Theatre. She holds an MA from the University of Michigan, degrees in Multimedia from the College of Marin, and a BA in Theatre from the University of Puget Sound where she received acting and voice training. She has appeared in such musicals as Amadeus, Chorus Line, Grapes of Wrath, Peace Child and The Fantastics. Recently, she has been an active collaborator in original multi-site online performances like Interplay, Elements, and Outside/In with ArtGrid and the Digital Performance Group; including directing, scripting, tech./media production and performance.

**Peter Rogers** (*Digital Media Technician*) Hailing from the Pacific Northwest, Peter Rogers was born and raised a third generation Seattleite, but calls the beautiful Sonoma County California home. Between wrestling with tricky software applications and working full time as a Business Coach, he occasionally finds time to pursue his love of writing, and even acts up now and then, having appeared in Interplay: Loose Minds in a Box, and Interplay: Dancing on the Banks of Packet Creek. Peter holds a Masters in Theatre Arts, but don't hold that against him. Peter is the Technical Director of the Ugly Duckling Theatre, and Chief Executive Director of the independent film company: Rubber Chicken Productions.

**Julianne Odell** (*Photographer*) Julianne Odell was born August 16th, 1963 in Fort Carson, Colorado, yet raised in Sacramento, California in a very typical 60's neighborhood suburb. She was not yet aware of the 60's movement until, inevitably, the Vietnam War clips on the news, as well as, the protests. Upon living in San Francisco, in the Haight-Ashbury, in the early part of the 80's did the desire to understand what actually took place in the 60's get somewhat revealed. After spending many years in the City, Julianne felt it was time to move on to the land of trees, first Colorado in the Rocky Mountains, and then Alaska. This was a time for her to be "On the Road", and a "Dharma Bum", which has only gifted her with the ability to enjoy life as it is, in the moment. This is where her love for photography stems from, capturing life in the moment. Currently she is working as a Freelance Photographer for the Community Voice newspaper, and operates her own photography business.

**Katrina Van Winkle** (*Light Designer*) Katrina Van Winkle is a resident of San Francisco and an alumni of SSU. Morning Star has

been a magical time of reuniting with old friends and working with new ones. Katrina has worked around the Monterey Bay and Bay Area creating lights for various theatres and other venues. She spent a couple of years working on the MS Wind and the SS Norway as the lighting director for Jean Ann Ryan Productions.



**Joshua Walton** (*Sets & Properties Master, Waldo Thoreau Perot*) Joshua has a background in sculpture, fine food, and sustainable design. Special skills include reuse materials and thrift purchasing. He is a Northern

**Kelly Walton** (*Stage Manager, Choreographer*) It doesn't seem that long ago, holding hands in the circle dance with Deborah Hay, or watching Twyla Tharp do Dancing in the Streets of...at the Wadsworth. But

it's been over thirty years! Crazy. Since then Kelly has studied dance doing tap, jazz and ballet at Pofahl's Dance Studio, modern, contact improv and African Dance at Sonoma State University, Duncan dance, more ballet, more modern and more African at New York University, Samba and the dances of the Orixás with Leah Weiss of EGAP at Templo Guaracy, and many other moving experiences along the way. She studied choreography with Renata Celchowska, Douglas Dunn, and Anne Woodhead, and did the choreography for the MorningStar Idyll, as well as numerous original works in various styles and movement modalities.

**Erin Anderson** (*Feodora, Near, Citizen*) Erin Lee Anderson was born in Berkeley, California, but was raised mainly in Sonoma County, where she witnessed the Cotati hippy era in the 70's (Erin could tell you some stories!). Her mother took her to Morningstar to visit because she was thinking of moving to a commune. Erin obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts at Sonoma State University (where she was also a music major and classical voice scholarship student). She also holds a Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology from University of San Francisco. Some of her roles at SSU include Maria in Most Happy Fella, Phobia in Pizza Con Funghi (she performed in this opera for the King of the Fiji Islands) and Florence Pike, in Benjamin Britten's Albert Herring; along with numerous classical recitals, chamber music and cabaret shows. She is also played Buttercup, in the HMS Pinafore; and Juno, in Orpheus and the Underworld and sang in numerous Cabaret shows at Redwood Empire Lyric Theatre. After a long hiatus, she recently has been singing with the Cinnabar chamber singers and has an occasional church or wedding gig. She is currently a Cotatian (again), works full-time as a mental health case manager in Marin and is, happily, mother to 7-year-old, Sophia.

**Cristian Caetano** (*Pamona Paste, Mr. Snyder, Hippie*) Cristian has been on stage since he was a tot. He began tap dancing, which led to acting and singing in his first musical, Oliver, in which he played the lead. Since then, he has performed

in Santa Rosa at Sonoma State, Santa Rosa Jr. College, The M Theater and Santa Rosa Players. He has been on stage at the Melodrama Express and Vaudeville in Bakersfield CA., and Sonora Rep. During this time he became a licensed cosmetologist, and taught theater exercises in elementary schools in both Sonoma and Marin Counties. He wrote and performed at the Marsh Group in San Francisco performing an original show he co-wrote. Cristian is delighted to be back performing in Sonoma County.



**Steve Fowler** (*Professor Harold Dogsley, Appellate Judge*) Steve Fowler was one of Morning Star's friendly neighbors, starting in 1968 when he bought a home just up the road, where he still lives.

Lou, Ramon, "Near" and "Gina" became his close friends, and Lou used Steve's house as an office the last years of his life. After a year of graduate work in dramatic arts (1962-62) at U.C. Berkeley, Steve helped to start "Open Theater" with a couple who were among the first visitors to what was to become Morning Star Ranch, Roland Jacopetti and Alexandra Hart. After a long hiatus from the stage Steve joined Pegasus Theater Company ten years ago with his partner, Andrea Van Dyke. They have collaborated on many projects since, playing Chasuble and Prism in The Importance of Being Earnest, Regina and Horace in The Little Foxes, and staging the annual Hour Day Show at Pegasus. "Getting back to an intimate relationship with nature, voluntary simplicity, dropping out of the waraddicted economy – these were some of the best and most enduring motives of the 60's counterculture; all were beautifully exemplified, for all too brief a time, at Morning Star."



**Dana Hawke** (*Hippie*) Dana has always felt inspired and invigorated by live theatre. She grew up in the still hippy-like culture of Marin in the 70's and felt a familiarity with the Morning Star story as well as recognition as to why this story is important to tell in our modern times. She is also the proud mother of Jordan Torres and Cole Duncan.



**Len Improta** (*DA Ramsy, Pete Peterson, Phil Charles*) Lenny has lived in Sonoma County for the past 17 years. He is a veteran of many musicals including Jesus Christ Superstar, Evita, Guys and Dolls, Oklahoma, Hair and The Mikado. He has also been active in numerous dramas, most recently After the Fall, Othello and Much Ado About Nothing. Having done three small parts in movies last summer, Lenny would like to continue to alternate between the stage and screen.



**Arthur Kopecky** (*Wilder Bentley, Judge*) In the late '60's, like some of the characters in the play, Art Kopecky became immersed in the counter-culture. Originally from NYC, these adventures led him from California to New Mexico where he worked for the New Buffalo Commune for eight years. His books "New Buffalo: Journals from a Taos Commune" and "Leaving New Buffalo Commune" (UNM Press), chronicle the happenings and ideas of the era. Presently a contractor and finish carpenter he lives with his family amidst many gardens in

## WHO'S WHO

Sebastopol. Active with the current communities movement he is a great believer in the importance of our society learning to share property.



**Claudia Larson** (*Divine Mother, Pilgrim*) It was her Dad's incredible tenor voice, his tuneful whistling and the meadow-larks on the family's North Dakota farm that inspired Claudia Larson's singing. Whether it was sitting at the family upright piano playing songs from the 30s and 40s or singing in the Christmas programs at the country school and church, music was every day present. Life moved on and Claudia continued to sing and perform, taking up the guitar and folk songs in her hippie days. Her opera, musical theatre, jazz, country and even rock found their way into her repertoire. Teaching singing became a way to share the mystery of singing, a way to let folks know that singing is inherent in everyone. She graduated with a degree in music from Sonoma State University after leaving Concordia Lutheran College in Minnesota. Today she sings with her three grandchildren and keeps the piano open for them. Her three grown children and two sons in law all live in the area for which she's every day grateful.

**Michelle Randall**, (*Costume Manager, Gabriella Von Ritchie*) My involvement with singing and dramatic endeavors began back in high school. I was in the Cupertino High School choir for four years with Rocco DiStasio as the Choral director, and dabbled in the high school drama productions as well. In college, I joined the Foothill Madrigal Chorus and the San Jose Symphony Chorus. Later on I became involved with local community theater in San Jose and performed in Hello Dolly as Ernestina Money and the ensemble singing cast, I performed as Rose Seller in Oliver, and as part of the supporting cast for South Pacific. Through the years I have been involved with a number of vocal choral groups, including an all female group of six called the Mamatones. I've spent the past 18 years living in Sebastopol, CA, and have kept myself involved with a local church choral group. Two years ago, I reentered the world of dramatics and auditioned for the American Dream Theatre and landed a singing role in All Hallows. I performed with the Pegasus Theatre's production of Holly Days last fall, and the American Dream Theatre's Warp 60's. I have recently joined the River Choir under the expert guidance of Sonia Trubidy.



**Larry Scharf** (*Russ Nelson, Inspector Stussen, Citizen*) Larry took a permanent break from being a real estate broker a few years back, and stays busy fixing up older homes. This is his first acting role. Since signing up for this production, he has met many people who claim to have lived at Morning Star.



**Brian Skinner** (*Composer, John Butler, MC*) Brian Skinner has been involved in music performances and recordings for 15 years. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Sonoma State University in 1996. Since that time, he has had an international music program on the campus radio station, has been part of various theatrical productions including Macbeth, and



**Jordan Antonio Torres** (*Rick*) Jordan is a fifteen year old who loves to act. He has been in school plays such as Elenore of Aquitaine, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged and The Fall of Ra, as well as a role in Jungle Book at Live Oakes Theatre.

Rosenkrantz and Guildenstern are Dead, performed with his own group The Round, a well as with such groups as Hook Boog and Maribou, and has published music columns in the SSU campus newspaper as well as Sonoma County's own music magazine, Section M.



**Gloria Strasburg** (*Gina, Citizen, Deputy, Miss Penngrove*) I have been singing and acting since I was a small child. I am deeply aware of what music and theater means to me. Music is my soul essence. From this, my life springs forward and I am compelled to follow the magic of theater. I am delighted to be a part of Morningstar. This is a creative innovative look at the life of an enlightened man who generosity of spirit touched many lives, whilst in the flesh and long after his passing.



**Dave 'Diz' Struffles** (*Lou Gottlieb*) Diz grew up in the Bay Area, and has toured with several award winning bands including - Whisper, Snapp, Hank Williams, Lost

Highway, The Marshall Tucker Band, J Legend, and INXS. After winning the San Francisco Battle of the Bands with Tesla drummer Troy Luckettta, he became a weekly performer on NYC's Seaport Line of ships. His previous musical "Frankenstein", is based on the music of Edgar & Johnny Winters Theatre audiences and concert goes in the U.S. will have seen him on stage in more than 200 productions as an actor, singer, harmonica player, and orchestral & electric bassist. He recently finished scoring and recording his Rockin' Blues musical, Smokehouse... in Nashville with Broadway's own performer/composer Brent Moyer, Matthew Klinedinst, Jeff "Ske" Moore (George Jones Nephew), and Porter Wagner produced Curtis Alan. Diz toured 131 cities in 2006 including CMA FEST in Nashville, Van's Warped Tour, The Marshall Tucker Band, Wyoming's Frontier Days (opening for Dierks Bentley), the Southeastern premiere of "Hank Williams, Lost Highway", "The Guys", at The Federal Building, and the Bailey's World Tour with John Legend. "Musical Theatre is my passion. Folk, Old Country, Blues, & Rock keep me breathing.



**Rusty Thompson** (*Digger, Probaton Officer, Primitive*) Rusty Thompson has been acting ever since he realized that it was the only way to be a fireman, an astronaut, and a brain surgeon all in one lifetime. He has been seen all over the North Bay area, having played such memorable roles as the Mad Hatter in Napa's production of Alice in Wonderland, Lord Burleigh in Santa Rosa's The Beard of Avon, Levi Straus in Novato's Ghosts of Olompali, and most recently as Gabe in Dandy Rascal's production of Outcast State. Rusty wishes to thank his Love for her brilliance and support.



**Jordan Antonio Torres** (*Rick*) Jordan is a fifteen year old who loves to act. He has been in school plays such as Elenore of Aquitaine, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged and The Fall of Ra, as well as a role in Jungle Book at Live Oakes Theatre.