

SIERRA



STAGES

the  
  
**MOORS**

by  
**Jen  
Silverman**

directed by  
**John Ficarra**



Tickets & Information

**sierrastages.org**

530.346.3210

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

First, let me thank you for coming out and supporting live theatre! I am continuously humbled and awed by the talent and generosity of this amazing local community and tonight you get to see the fruits of their tireless labor. Second, I am not a director who feels the need to explain the play or pontificate on its merits and intricacies. Really, who cares?!

The performance you are about to see is yours. There will never be another one like it. The actors will never do it exactly the same way, and the energy you and your fellow audience members bring to this space is unique.

So, celebrate this short time in another world and embrace its strangeness, fun, darkness, and humor.

Just do this for me: the next time you are alone, and things are quiet, and you are ready to be honest with yourself, ask this question “how much of the moors is in me?” I hope you are as shocked and surprised with yourself as you are about to be with this wonderful show.

Enjoy!  
John Ficarra





(in association with the Nevada Theatre Commission)

**PRESENTS**

# **THE MOORS**

**by Jen Silverman**

**STARRING**

CHASE ANDREW CONEY HEIDI GRASS SUE LEGATE-HALFORD  
MARION JEFFERY LAUREN LANGLEY JUDY MERRICK

**SET DESIGN**

PAMELA M HODGES

**COSTUME DESIGN**

JORI PHILLIPS

**LIGHTING DESIGN**

LES SOLOMON

**SOUND ENGINEER**

PAUL KRAUSHAAR

**PROP BUILDER**

KARL "HANK" MEYER

**MASTER BUILDER**

KRIS MEADOWS

**BACKSTAGE MANAGER**

PAIGE CARTZDAFNER

**STAGE MANAGER**

HOLLI HIRAOKA

## **DIRECTED BY**

# **JOHN FICARRA**

Off-Broadway premiere produced by The Playwrights Realm  
(Katherine Kovner, Artistic Director; Roberta Pereira, Producing Director) in January 2017

World Premiere produced by Yale Repertory Theatre, New Haven, Connecticut  
James Bundy, Artistic Director Victoria Nolan, Managing Director

**Thank you to Sierra Stages 2023 Season Business Sponsors**



**Special thanks to The North Star House  
and to Peter Mason & Ken Getz for everything.**

"The Moors" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf  
of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

# THE CAST

in order of appearance

Agatha .....	JUDY MERRICK
Huldegard .....	LAUREN LANGLEY
Marjory .....	MARION JEFFREY
The Mastiff .....	CHASE ANDREW CONEY
Emilie .....	HEIDI GRASS
The Moorhen .....	SUE LEGATE-HALFORD

# THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director .....	JOHN FICARRA
Stage Manager .....	HOLLI HIRAOKA-HURST
Scenic Designer .....	PAMELA M. HODGES
Lighting Designer .....	LES SOLOMON
Costume Designer .....	JORI PHILLIPS
Sound Engineer .....	PAUL KRAUSHAAR
Sound Designer .....	ORION SCHWALM

Huldey's Power Ballad; Music performed & recorded by ..... MICAH CONE

Backstage Manager .....	PAIGE CARTZDAFNER
Backstage Crew .....	LEO HILL
Wardrobe Manager .....	AUDREY DELGADO

Prop Builder .....	KARL "HANK" MEYER
Master Builder .....	KRIS MEADOWS
Master Electrician .....	CASEY BURKE
Carpenters .....	CASEY BURKE , BARRY DORLAND, EVAN NESBIT
Set Assitant .....	CAMEN HODGES

Poster Design .....	DANIEL NOFSINGER
Photography & Program Design .....	HEIDI GRASS
Production Photos .....	DAVID WONG

House Managers .....	VALARIE BUSH, JANET ROSSMAN
Production Manager .....	ARIEL ELLIOTT
Production Supervisor .....	MICHELE NESBIT

***The Moors is presented in 2 acts with a 15 min intermission.***

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

# ABOUT THE CAST



**Chase Andrew Coney (The Mastiff) (Sierra Stages' Grant Writer & Fundraising Manager)** is an enthusiastic local actor who is more grateful than ever to be performing for his community. He has appeared in over 20 productions, notably as Cripple Billy in *The Cripple of Inishmaan* with Sierra Stages, Eugene in *Biloxi Blues* with Legacy Productions, and Jerry in *The Zoo Story* with Quest Theatreworks. He has also produced and directed *The Strange Case of Dr. Jeckyll and Mr. Hyde*, as well as an original adaptation of *Rope*. He would like to specifically thank Michele Nesbit, the Executive Director of Sierra Stages, for her tireless effort under the weight of many hats.



**Heidi Grass (Emilie) (Sierra Stages' Marketing Associate & Photographer)** is elated to be back on stage in her 12th production with Sierra Stages! Her credits include the Beggar Woman in *Sweeney Todd*; Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*; Rhoda in *A New Brain* & her toe-tap-shoe debut as Dainty June in *Gypsy*. She can also be seen locally on the Off Broadstreet stage. On a normal day, she can be found behind her camera (or computer) as a pro-photographer and retoucher; [heidigrass.com](http://heidigrass.com). Extra thanks to her amazing and multi-talented husband Casey for finally finishing that carpentry project ... hint, hint.



**Sue LeGate Halford (The Moorhen)** Owner/Producer of LeGacy Presents, this is Sue's second show with Sierra Stages, following her Elly nominated performance in *Cabaret*. Sue has directed the majority of LeGacy shows over the past 15 years, but occasionally gets to actually perform in some! Recipient of the Leland and Sally Lewis award for achievement in the performing arts, Sue has also won the Elly for Lead actress in *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (LeGacy Presents). Her greatest "role" is that of gramma to Pepper, Alice and Liam.



**Marion Jeffrey (Marjory)** is happy to be back on stage again in Nevada County, especially with this wonderful cast and crew! She was just here as Jack's Mother in *Into the Woods* and is so glad Theatre is up and running again. Other favorite roles include Emily Dickinson, Sarah Bernhardt, Titania (also for Sierra Stages), Volunnia in *Coriolanus*, the fastidious (male) Baxter in a show by A. A. Milne, and Lady M in a send-up of *the Scottish play*. Marion has two ever-interesting cats and loves plants, animals, mythologies, and stories of all kinds.



**Lauren Langley (Huldey)** is so excited to be in her third production with Sierra Stages. Her debut with the company was back in 2019 in *Cabaret* as Lulu. It was because of the pandemic that her role as Edith was cut short in *Blithe Spirit*. Looking forward to being a hot box girl in *Guys and Dolls* in the summer she couldn't be happier to be back in the Nevada Theatre! She'd like to shout out to the cast and crew for their dedication and hard work in making this an unforgettable experience.



**Judy Merrick (Agatha)** joins us from the New York theatre scene. Her credits include assistant directing *4000 miles* with Daniel Aukin and co-founding the theatre company, *The Amoralists*. She has performed in many roles, winning "best actress" at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for *Knuckleball*. She has an MFA from USC and has trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts London and ADAD in NYC. She is happy to call Nevada City her new home, where she can continue her love of theatre. She is a board member of the Lyric Rose Theatre Company and teaches improv & kid's theatre camps. Find her at [getyourimprovon@gmail.com](mailto:getyourimprovon@gmail.com). Love to her partner Sky and her dogs.

# ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM

**John Ficarra (Director)** is delighted to be working again with Sierra Stages after his performance in *The Thanksgiving Play* and directing the staged readings of *Italian American Reconciliation* and *Who's Holiday*. John has directed, acted and done fight choreography in well over 100 productions from San Francisco to New York City. He is a proud graduate of The Bristol Old Vic Theatre School in England and currently lives in Nevada City. He sends a heartfelt thanks to this wonderful cast and crew, and love to his son Cody.

**Holli Hiraoka-Hurst (Stage Manager) (Sierra Stages' resident Stage Manager)** has been involved in theatre since she was a teenager, both on stage and off. You may have seen her last year in the CATS production of the *Joy Luck Club*. She is excited to be stage managing again and is grateful to Sierra Stages for providing her with this opportunity!

**Pamela M Hodges (Set Designer)** A lifelong, full time visual artist, Pam has been designing and painting theatrical sets in Nevada County since 2000. She has worked on well over 165 productions to date, some of her favorites for Sierra Stages. She is also a graphic designer, illustrator, musician and award winning former glass artist. She is currently Artistic Director of the UpStart Theatre Company. She received the Dr. Leland & Sally Lewis Visual Arts award in 2019, and feels fortunate to be part of the wonderful art and theatre community of Nevada County.

**Les Solomon (Lighting Designer)** Les Solomon (Lighting Designer) has been a professional stage manager and lighting designer for nearly fifty years. He has been resident lighting designer for New York's Symphony Space and The Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival. For many years, he was an Associate Artist with the late, lamented Foothill Theatre Company. Other companies that he has been associated with include Sacramento's Capital Stage, B Street Theatre and Sacramento Theatre Company. Other west coast theatres that he has worked at include The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Pacific Repertory Theatre, Folsom Lake College and Cal Poly/San Luis Obispo. Upcoming productions include *The Great Leap* for CATS, and *Over the River and Through the Woods* for the Jewel Theater in Santa Cruz. He is a proud member of Actor's Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

**Paul Kraushaar (Sound Engineer)** is a life long musician and multi instrumentalist. He began his professional career as performing musician at age 16 and gained his expertise by working with some of the best sound engineers and music producers in the business. He has toured as a performer with 3 major label acts, and was a live sound engineer for touring acts. He has done sound design and musical composition for indie movies and television commercials and is in charge of the house sound for The Silver Legacy and Pala Casinos. His career began in academia, studying music theory and composition, and grew as a studio musician, recording engineer and later record producer. He runs his own studio and record label at [psrrecording.com](http://psrrecording.com)

**Paige Cartzdafner (Backstage Manager)** is 21 years old and has been doing backstage work since she was 14! Some of her most backstage work includes Sierra Stage's *Sweeney Todd*, Upstart Theatre Company's *Fuddy Meers*, LeGacy's *Scrooge* and Lyric Rose's *Into the Woods*. She was also the Stage Manager of Nevada Union High School's production of *Be More Chill* in 2020. She's so excited to be a part of this crew, and very happy to be working with Sierra Stages again!

**Leo Hill (Backstage Crew)** is a senior in high school currently pursuing a career as a theatre technician. He worked as crew on *Sweeney Todd* and as the lighting programmer for Bear River High School's *Lines in Motion*. His introduction to this industry may have been an accident but he has since found a niche and is now here to stay permanently.

**Audrey Delgado (Wardrobe Manager)** Audrey Delgado relishes the opportunity to assist, when not performing on the Nevada Theatre stage, and is delighted to participate as Wardrobe Mistress. Audrey will be performing in upcoming local comedy shows, theatrical stage readings and in the graduating burlesque performance for Truth or Dare Productions in April.

# ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM



photo by Artemis Arthur

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**Sierra Stages welcomes Jori Phillips to our Costume Design team! Her creative spark & boundless energy brings our show to life! We admire you!**

**Jori Phillips (Costume Designer)** is a storyteller who works primarily as an actor, comedian and three dimensional visual artist. Rocketing to fame in 2013, after selling a dress to Ripley's Believe it or Not! Jori ran away from a small island circus and moved to America. Our Hero now makes dolls and gets to play dress up with humans, as if they were dolls. Whimsy abounds. In a checkered resume that includes: A 50 state comedy tour, Craigslist modeling jobs and film roles such as Nun/Prostitute and Gay Best Friend, Jori is proud to add "Costume Designer" for *The Moors*.

**Karl "Hank" Meyer (Prop Builder)** graduated 47 years ago with a BFA in Theatre. He worked for 44 years in the largest independent prop house in Hollywood and played in theatre all along.

**Kris Meadows (Master Builder)** is a carpenter by trade and a dancer at heart. He brings professionalism, a keen eye for detail and a whole lotta tools to every set he helps create. He is also a multi-faceted performer; actor, dancer and singer. Credits include Sierra Stages' *Chicago*; CATS' *South Pacific*; LeGacy Productions, *SCROOGE*, *Dearly Beloved*, *The Crucible* and was Stanley Jerome in *Biloxi Blues*. Though his days are full, he always finds time for his true love - salsa dancing.

**Casey Burke (Master Electrician)** is a triple threat; actor, comedian and handyman. You may have seen him on-stage; most recently as Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd* with Sierra Stages, or performing stand-up comedy around town. But usually he can be found backstage. He is the Technical Director for the Nevada Theatre and often gets wrangled into helping build sets and hang lights. He is grateful for his loving, amazing, gorgeous and brilliant wife Heidi Grass, *who plays Emile*, who designed this program and is writing his bio for him.

**Evan Nesbit (Carpenter)** has enjoyed supporting the construction of *The Moors* set. Evan has helped with builds for numerous shows including Sierra Stages' *Sweeney Todd* and CATS' *Joy Luck Club*. He is a frequent volunteer for concessions. Evan brings his experience as a visual artist to the stage, and is always excited to see the show come together.-

**Camen Hodges (Set Assistant)** is a filmmaker, photographer, creator and lifelong resident of Nevada County. He is often mistaken for an elf with his twee shoes & scruffy beard. This comparison is only made stronger in that, much like magical elves, he seems to arrive in the night to fix sets and craft props and then ... just like that ... he disappears. Off on another adventure; usually involving his rigged-out Honda Element, shooting wild and crazy scenes for cross-country derby car races or *sometimes* cameraman jobs that actually pay him. He can be found most days living in the woods, of course, with his beloved fairy partner Jori.

# THE SIERRA STAGES TEAM

**Michele Nesbit (Production Supervisor) (Sierra Stages' Executive Director)** is excited for her first show as managing director of Sierra Stages. In 2019, Michele read the role of the Moor-hen in the Sierra Stages Theatre by the Book performance of *The Moors* at the Miners Foundry. A whole pandemic later, Michele supported this production in a variety of roles from wig master to sled dog. Michele's next role will be co-director for Sierra Stages' summer show, *Guys & Dolls*.

**Laura LeBleu (Sierra Stages' Marketing Director)** is thrilled to be a part of the Sierra Stages team. She is a Creative Director for a large tech company by day, actor and writer by night. NYC credits include originating the lead roles of Laura in *Laura's Bush* (Vital Theatre) and Jacqueline in *Scalpel* (NYC Fringe Festival), as well co-founding and performing with HoNk-Bark! Theatre Company (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Country Wife*, multiple cabarets). Bay Area credits include roles with 42nd Street Moon, Aurora Theatre, Marin Shakespeare, Theatre Rhinoceros, Thrillpeddlers, and many more. She's also got a couple of Emmy Awards from her work with TechTV.

**Ariel Elliott (Production Manager) (Sierra Stages' House Manager & Executive Associate)** Ariel is thrilled to have joined the Sierra Stages production team. She is a born and raised Nevada County local, who's been performing here since she was 12. Ariel has an AA-T in Theatre Arts from Sierra College. You may have seen her most recently in Joy Luck Club as Rose Hsu. Last year she directed the stage reading *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* for Sierra stages. Alongside her passion for theater, Ariel is pursuing her Native American Studies degree to help keep her own culture alive. She hopes to be a fluent speaker and story keeper.

**Jilline Henderson (Sierra Stages' Production Associate & Facilities Manager)** most recently was the stage manager for Sierra Stages' 2021-2022 seasons; for *Tiny Beautiful Things* at the Nevada Theatre and *The Bridges of Madison County* at The North Star House. She's also been part of the crew for the Sierra Stages' comic satire *The Thanksgiving Play*, and their outstanding productions of *Sweeney Todd*, *Cabaret*, *Hand to God* and *You Can't Take it With You*, as well as CATS' superb production of *M. Butterfly*. It's always an enormous pleasure to work with each and every talented cast and crew.

**Jozi Gullickson (Sierra Stages' Production Associate)** is happy to be back in Nevada City after finishing her theatre degree at Mills College in Oakland, where she stage managed *WOMYN*, a documentary theatre piece about the 1990 Mills student strike which reversed that administration's decision to go co-ed. She also wrote and directed her senior thesis, *Fool's Gold*, and was "on-stage" in their virtual production of *Alone Together*. Locally she has been involved with several Sierra Stages' productions including; *The Producers*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *End Days*, *Cabaret* and *The Bridges of Madison County* and *Sweeney Todd*.

**Christi Colombo (Sierra Stages' Music Manager)** Christi Colombo is excited and honored to be stepping into a management role for Sierra Stages. She has performed most recently as Tobias in *Sweeney Todd* and as Francesca in *The Bridges of Madison County*. Christi graduated from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy with a Bachelor in Fine Arts. She is committed to continuing the high level of music quality our audiences expect from Sierra Stages. Christi has spent her whole life working in professional and community theater, comes from a performing family, and even met her husband in a production of *Oliver* when she was 10 and he was 13. She is looking forward to collaborating with the rest of the team of brilliant designers, board members and staff at Sierra Stages on all things musical!



## SIERRA STAGES IS A NONPROFIT, TAX-EXEMPT COMMUNITY THEATRE.

Bringing professional-level community theatre to Nevada County for 15 years.

Sierra Stages incorporated in October 2008, and received tax-exempt status in March 2009. Our mission is to enrich the cultural life of Nevada County by providing high-quality, affordable, and accessible performances for everyone.

Now in our 15th season, we have presented or co-presented 43 full productions at the Nevada Theatre, Off Center Stage, Miners Foundry Cultural Center, The Center for the Arts, and outdoors at The North Star House:

**Side by Side by Sondheim, The Sound of Music, How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying, She Loves Me, Into the Woods, Babes in Arms, Lend Me A Tenor, A Grand Night for Singing, Marry Me A Little, Old Explorers, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Death of a Salesman, I Want It All: A Broadway Revue Celebrating Women, The Music Man, Assassins, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Avenue Q, Closer Than Ever, Company, Proof, Peter Pan, You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, The Producers, Falsettos, The Cripple of Inishmaan, The Last Five Years, Little Shop of Horrors, Dead Man's Cell Phone, End Days, Chicago, Ordinary Days, A New Brain, Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach, You Can't Take It With You, Hand to God, Cabaret, The Thanksgiving Play, Blithe Spirit, The Bridges of Madison County, Tiny Beautiful Things and Sweeney Todd.** We also have co-presented ten seasons of Theater by the Book play readings with the Miners Foundry—more than 52 play readings over ten years!

We strive for quality in all aspects of our productions, while working with local actors, directors, designers, technical staff and musicians. The members of our board of directors are Erin Beatie, Valarie Bush, Ken Getz, Jonathan Hansard, Laura LeBleu, JR Lewis, Keith Porter, Kirsti Powell, and Janet Rossman. Our executive director is Michele Nesbit.

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We are grateful for everyone who donates to Sierra Stages throughout the year.

*Our list reflects gifts received after October 1, 2022 and as of March 01, 2023. We apologize in advance for any errors or omissions.*

## **ROBERTA FRANK** THEATRE ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

**In 2015, Sierra Stages established an annual scholarship in memory of local musician and actress Roberta Frank.**

Roberta was active in many local arts organizations, including InConcert Sierra and Sierra Master Chorale, Music in the Mountains, and Sierra Stages. The scholarship recognizes and provides financial assistance to deserving local high school students who wish to pursue a degree in theatre, technical theatre, or music or musical theatre. Sierra Stages is proud to be able to offer this scholarship to graduating local high school students with a proven interest in any of the theatre arts.

**For more information, talk to the scholarship coordinator at your local high school or call Sierra Stages at 530.346.3210**

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SIERRA



STAGES

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**Frank Loesser**

co-directed by  
**Michele Nesbit & Sara Noah**

music direction  
**Christi Colombo**

**JUL 13 - AUG 05**

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401 Broad Street, Nevada City

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**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SIERRA STAGES!**

You can keep the good karma going by making a tax-deductible donation or volunteering for a production. People like you keep our performances alive, so we hope to see you (and your friends) in the theatre for the next show!

# MEET THE NEW SIERRA STAGES TEAM



**MICHELE NESBIT**  
Executive Director



**LAURA LEBLEU**  
Marketing Director



**JILLENE HENDERSON**  
Production Associate &  
Facilities Manager



**CHASE CONEY**  
Grant Writer &  
Fundraising Manager



**ARIEL ELLIOTT**  
House Manager &  
Executive Associate



**HEIDI GRASS**  
Marketing Associate &  
Resident Photographer



**JOZI GULLICKSON**  
Production Associate



**CHRISTI COLOMBO**  
Music Manager



**HOLLI HIRAOKA-HURST**  
Resident Stage Manager

Sierra Stages has been entrusted to a new group of enthusiastic theatre lovers. We are thrilled to carry on the tradition of providing Nevada County with top-notch performances!