

School of Performing Arts presents

Love Letters

by A.R. Gurney

Directed by Gregory Ramos



Krista Newkirk
President



Joe Modica
Director



Lara Baden
Student



Jakob Anderson
Student

One-Night-Only Fundraiser



Saturday, March 23, 2024
Glenn Wallichs Theatre

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UNIVERSITY OF
Redlands
SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

The University of Redlands
School of Performing Arts
presents

Love Letters

By A.R. Gurney

Directed by Gregory Ramos

Designed by Trevor Norton & Gregory Ramos

Featuring:

University of Redlands President—

Krista Newkirk

Director for the School of Performing Arts—

Joseph Modica

University of Redlands Students—

Jakob Anderson

Lara Baden

LOVE LETTERS was presented at The Long Wharf Theatre, M. Edgar Rosenblum, Executive Director; Arvin Brown, Artistic Director. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by Dramatists Play Services (DPS).

www.dramatists.com

Cast of Characters

ACT 1

MELISSA

Lara Baden

ANDREW

Jakob Anderson

ACT 2

MELISSA

Krista Newkirk

ANDREW

Joseph Modica

Meet the Actors



JAKOB ANDERSON (they/he) is a second year Computer Science major and is psyched to get to be a part of this show! He'd like to thank each one of you for supporting the arts and helping to make our productions possible!



LARA BADEN (she/her) is a Johnston student studying Theatre Business, Education, and Public Policy. Lara has been deeply involved in theatre, having served in a variety of capacities for 20 shows. She is excited to be included in this show because while the story may seem simple on the surface, the relationship and characters are complex and will resonate with many. She is looking forward to the next few years at the University of Redlands, and she would like to thank her family, friends, and faculty for all of the support and opportunities she has been given.

Meet the Actors cont.



KRISTA NEWKIRK is the University of Redlands President. In her third academic year at the University of Redlands, President Krista L. Newkirk is a visionary leader transforming the Redlands experience by developing a new student-focused strategic plan, overseeing the launch of the School of Performing Arts, completing a historic capital campaign, and securing the first Title V grant to support Redlands' Hispanic Serving Institution designation.

An avid supporter of the arts, Krista eagerly returns to the stage for *Love Letters*, her first performance since her third-grade debut. She is thrilled to perform alongside our outstanding students and faculty and showcase the exceptional talent within the School of Performing Arts. Krista extends her heartfelt gratitude to our donors and guests, whose generous support fuels our students and the University's continued success. Thank you, and enjoy the show!



JOSEPH MODICA is the University of Redlands Director of the School of Performing Arts and Conservatory of Music. Prior to coming to Redlands in 2011, he was a faculty member at Chapman University, Biola University, and the University of South Carolina. He is the Artistic Director of the Inland Master Chorale

and Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church of Redlands. He has performed roles including Gomez Addams in the *Addams Family*, Robert Martin in *Drowsy Chaperone*, Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Mr. Witherspoon in *Lucky Stiff*, and Emil in *South Pacific*. He is delighted to perform alongside University President Krista Newkirk in this production of *Love Letters*!

Joseph is grateful to each of you for your support of the School of Performing Arts! Your continued presence at performances, your time, (and of course your dollars!) will enable us to continue to build programs, collaborate on productions, and bring exciting guest artists to campus! Joseph is grateful to his family, Candice, Jeremy, Rachel, Taylor, and Tucker, and our furry family Grizzly, Franklin, Fluff and of course George Willis for their constant support and love. Enjoy the show!

Director's Note

GREGORY RAMOS



I see *LOVE LETTERS* as a statement about the dreams and aspirations of 20th century America. The characters are symbolic of different responses to the social constructs of the time. Andrew is representative of all the dreams and expectations that were placed in men at that time. That is, at least for men who had access.

Andy is fortunate. He is born in to a family with means and he is able to get a good education, get married in the conventional way, and eventually become a U.S. politician. He fulfills, at least on the surface, all that America promised. Melissa is the opposite of Andy. She represents the dreams that could not quite be fulfilled. There were social expectations placed on her as a woman that included boarding school and debutante balls. At heart Melissa is a rebel to the social constructs of her time. She is unable to reconcile being an outsider and seeks comfort in art, men, and eventually alcohol. The play is about people who have abundance and access and struggle to make good on all that fate has provided them. Although privileged and in many ways oblivious to their own fortunate circumstances, they are just people trying to find meaning and love in a period of time that saw some of the most drastic advances in technology, communications, civil rights, and women's rights. The one thing that provides them both a sense of security and acceptance over the course of fifty years is their bond and their love for one another. At heart, the play has a sweetness in its simplicity and ability to capture a time gone by. While working on the play, it has been sobering to reflect upon how our social and cultural awareness has developed since the time the play was written in 1988. It stands now as a period piece that explores an imagined American dream that omitted many and privileged those who were lucky enough to be born in a certain time and in a certain place. But we cannot fault the characters in their love for and need for each other, and we cannot ignore the beauty of their tenacity in seeking to live purposeful lives.

I want to thank the talented student actors and crew that have been a part of this special presentation. Special thanks to Joe Modica, Director of the School of Performing Arts, and Krista Newkirk, our University President, who took time out of their very busy schedules to be part of this show! Finally, thank you to our generous sponsors (!) and to each one of you for supporting the creative work we do!

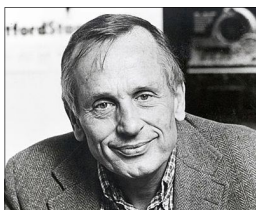
Design



TREVOR NORTON—Director of Production, Designer

Director of Production at University of Redlands. Regional credits include Lighting Designs with The Old Globe Theatre, San Jose Rep, San Diego Rep, Shakespeare Festival LA, Pasadena Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, A Noise Within, Lobero Theatre, Bottom's Dream, Wheeler Opera House, Mark Taper New Works Festival, LA Theatre Works, and many more. Trevor teaches Design and Stage Management and is proud of the work of his students past and present.

Playwright



A.R. GURNEY

Plays: *Scenes From American Life*, *Children*, *The Dining Room*, *The Middle Ages*, *Richard Cory*, *The Golden Age*, *What I Did Last Summer*, *The Wayside Motor Inn*, *Sweet Sue*, *The Perfect Party*, *Another Antigone*, *The Cocktail Hour*, *Love Letters*, *The Snow Ball* (Adapted From His Novel), *The Old Boy*, *The Fourth Wall*, *Later Life*, *A Cheever Evening*, *Sylvia*, *Overtime*, *Let's Do It* (A Cole Porter Musical), *Labor Day*, *Far East*, *Darlene* And *The Guest Lecturer*, *Ancestral Voices*.

Opera: Gurney wrote libretto for STRAWBERRY FIELDS, with music by Michael Torke, part of the Central Park Opera trilogy presented by the New York City Opera in the Fall of 1999. Novels: "The Gospel According to Joe," "Entertaining Strangers," and "The Snow Ball." Awards: Drama Desk, N.E.A., Rockefeller Foundation, New England Theatre Conference, Lucille Lortel, American Association of Community Theatres, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. Honorary degrees: Williams College and Buffalo State University. Gurney was on the faculty of M.I.T. until 1996. He is the husband of one, father of four, and grandfather of six.

A.R. Gurney died on June 13, 2017 at the age of 86.

Theatre & Dance Team

Gregory Ramos—Department Chair

Trevor Norton—Director of Production

Otinelis Iancu—Technical Director

Deborah Bradford—Costume Shop Coordinator

Alyssa Sherman Ordaz Dufresne—Scene Shop Coordinator

Melanie Luine—Department Coordinator/House Manager

Allison Jaye—Visiting Professor, Acting

Kirsten Johansen—Adjunct, Dance

Elaine Talamaivo—Adjunct, Dance

Thank You Workstudy!

Costume Shop—Lillian Abild, Rokitaou Diop, Kristiana Disenbacher, Mikal Ennis, Sophia Johnson, Charly McShane, Amya Smith, Evander Burgess

Scene Shop—Lara Baden, Emma Birmingham, Jamie Pearcey, Jamie Schwartz, Jacob Fernandez, Sadhuni Jayaratna, Charly McShane, Ramon Ramirez, Cesar Sanchez, Catie Whitwood

Theatre Office—Julia Cox, Grace Miles

*Thank you to Ferny Murillo-Sanchez for graphic design services!

Upcoming Productions



ROE

By Lisa Loomer

Directed by Allison Jaye

April 5-7, 12-14

*Post-Show talkback w/ Dr. Jennifer Nelson on
Saturday, April 13th

“Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 case that legalized abortion, is still fiercely debated over 40 years later, and was recently overturned in 2022. The play, ROE reveals the divergent personal journeys of lawyer Sarah Weddington and plaintiff Norma McCorvey (“Jane Roe”) in the years following the fateful decision. ROE is shocking, humorous, poignant, and brings urgent history into the here and now, a time when once again a woman’s right to choose is unprotected. Acclaimed writer Lisa Loomer reflects the polarization in America today while illuminating the heart and passion each side has for its cause. ROE received the Jane Chambers Playwriting Award, the PEN Award, and is currently under option for a Broadway Production.”



TICKETS

The World Goes ‘Round

Songs by Kander & Ebb

Directed by Gregory Ramos

May 30 & 31, 2024

Ticket info coming soon!

**This show will be the final presentation of a May semester special topics course:
Musical Theatre Process.*

Filled with humor, romance, drama and nonstop melody, this title is a thrilling celebration of life and the fighting spirit that keeps us all going. Five individuals find themselves careening through the world of love, babies and coffee.

From Cabaret to Chicago, the nonstop hit-parade features unforgettable gems, including "Mr. Cellophane," "Maybe This Time," "Cabaret" and "New York, New York," seamlessly interwoven into a passionate, harmonious, up-tempo evening of musical theatre.

CSMA—Summer Theatre Intensive



Summer 2024—Dates TBA

Open to ages 13-18

Two-week training program immerses young artists in classes that awaken and grow their talent, curiosity, and enthusiasm for performing.

Led by actor and University of Redlands instructor Allison Scarlet Jaye and other industry professional guest artists.

Includes training in acting, musical theatre performance, voice and movement, and audition techniques, and conclude with a showcase performance of monologues, scenes, and musical numbers.

Emphasis is placed on developing authenticity and supporting each young artist's individuality.

Other CSMA Summer Camps:

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Youth Choir Camp

Summer Cello Workshop

Piano Camp

MORE INFO: csma@redlands.edu / 909-748-8844

School of Performing Arts



Collaborative. Contemporary. Courageous.

Housing the Conservatory of Music and the Department of Theatre and Dance, the School of Performing Arts offers an interdisciplinary approach to artistic expression. Students witness the value of a liberal arts education through experiential learning, workshops with industry professionals, and collaboration with faculty members and classmates from other disciplines.

Ways to Give & Support:

The School of Performing Arts provides a wide range of student opportunities in the performing arts and produces a wide range of events throughout the year. These include dance concerts, musical theatre, operas, plays, and recitals. Students also experience a wide range of guest artist and travel opportunities to see world class performance.

Specifically, The Department of Theatre and Dance will continue its tradition of performing at Festival Fringe in Edinburgh, Scotland in Summer 2025.

If you would like to support these amazing student experiences, visit:

<https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/31789/donations/new?designation=theatreopportunityfund&>



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Contact:

909-988-5054

info@karconstruction.com



A special thank you to:

Department of Theatre & Dance	Alumni & Community Relations	<u>Sponsors:</u>
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Town & Gown		

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The University of Redlands is on the land of the Serrano and Cahuilla peoples, and we acknowledge the important contributions of this community, their elders both past and present, as well as future generations.