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ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PRESENT



MAY 6-13

EMCC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

## Cast

April.....Brenda Jean Foley\*  
Callie.....Natalie Andrews  
Trudy.....Shonda Royall  
Sapphire.....Maren Maclean\*

Understudies: Cassidy McDaniel (April), Kristen McDaniel (Callie),  
Andrea Obregon (Trudy), Kylee Larkin (Sapphire)

## Artistic/Production Team

Director.....Samantha Wyer Bello+  
Assistant Director.....Madison Vincelette  
Production Stage Manager.....Kailey Mattheisen  
Assistant Stage Manager.....Keller Hans  
Playwright.....Elaine Romero  
Scenic Director.....Tiana Torrihon-Wood  
Lighting Designer.....Stacey Walston  
Light Board Op.....Thomas Hoehl  
Costume Designer.....Lindsey Gardner-Penner  
Sound Designer.....Daniel Nishimura  
Sound Board Op.....Dylan Meyer  
EMCC Lead Producer.....Tim Butterfield  
Production Manager.....Antonio Hernandez  
Bridge Producing Artistic Director.....Brenda Foley  
Bridge Producer.....Will Rogers  
Covid Compliance Officer.....Elizabeth Brownlee Blair

**\* Courtesy of Actor's Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the U.S.  
+ Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society**



The Director is a Member of the  
**STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS  
SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.

## **PLAYWRIGHT ELAINE ROMERO**



An award-winning U.S. playwright, Elaine Romero's plays have been presented across the U.S. and abroad; she is also widely published and anthologized in over 50 publications. Her new play, *Prosperita*, was in last summer's Red Bull Short Play Festival in New York, starring Liza Colón-Zayas ("The Bear"). *Secret Things* received a critically-acclaimed production in November/December 2021 at 1st Stage where the play was named by DC Metro Theater Arts as one of the best Outstanding Professional Theatre Productions of 2021. Her work was featured in this year's Banned Together for the Dramatists Guild Legal Defense Fund on the Broadway Podcast Network.

The month-long, RomeroFest, featured her work at theatres nationally and internationally in March 2021 with over seventeen separate projects. Initiated by the Arizona Theatre Company, some of the collaborating companies included The Bridge Initiative, Artists Repertory Theatre, Scoundrel & Scamp Theatre, InterAct Theatre Company, Seven Devils New Play Foundry, Winding Road Theatre Ensemble, Teatro Travieso/Troublemaker Theater, Justice Theatre Project, and Foro Shakespeare in Mexico City.

*Revolutions/Revoluciones*, *Wetback*, *Like Heaven*, and *Bloody River* were all produced prior to the pandemic. *Revolutions/Revoluciones*, in Spanish translation, at LATC, under famed Mexican director, Bruno Bichir. *When Reason Sleeps* (Headlands Center for the Arts, A-I-R, O'Neill Finalist), *Graveyard of Empires* (16th St. Theatre), *A Work of Art* (Goodman Theatre/Chicago Dramatists), A-I-R), and *Martínez in Taos* (Arizona Theatre Company make up Romero's war pentalogy.

*Modern Slave*, commissioned by Ford's Theatre, was presented at the 2017 Seven Devils Playwrights Conference. It was developed at A Contemporary Theatre (Seattle), Victory Gardens Theatre (Chicago), and The Road Theatre (LA). From her Arizona/Mexico border trilogy (*Mother of Exiles*, *Wetback*), her Arizona Theatre Company commission, *Title IX*, was included in the 2017 Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference.

Romero has been the fortunate recipient of the TCG/Pew National Theatre Artist-in-Residence grant, the NEA/TCG Playwright-in-Residence Program, the Blue Ink Playwrights Award, the Sprenger-Lang New History Foundation Award, the Chicano/Latino Literary Award, and many others.

Romero's work has been published by Dramatists Play Service, Samuel French, Playscripts, Simon and Schuster, Vintage Books among others. She wrote the film, *A Sentiment* (Burning Coal Theatre/The Justice Theatre Project). Chatham Life and Style named the piece in the top five of the 19th Amendment Project. Two Viral Monologues were recently produced, *Oyster* (24-Hour Plays/ATC; DPS) and *Shackle* (24-Hour Plays).

Some upcoming publications include *Swastika*, *A Sentiment*, *Permission*, and a new play about Maria Irene Fornés and Harriet Sohmers for Cambridge University Press. She is putting the finishing touches on a new play collection.

Romero served as the Southwest Regional Rep for the Dramatists Guild of America. She has had the good fortune of being a member of NBC's Writer's on the Verge, the CBS Writers' Diversity Program, and the NHMC's Latino Writers' Program. She previously taught film and television writing at Northwestern University. She holds her MFA in Playwriting from UC Davis.

Romero is an Associate Professor in the School of Theatre, Film, and Television at the University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz., and the Playwright-in-Residence at Arizona Theatre Company. She is currently writing plays for American Blues Theater, Our Towns Theatre Initiative, and a special project bringing together the mythology of Tucson's El Tiradito with social justice issues on the border for theatre artist Alba Jaramillo.

She is ever-grateful she can stand on her head.

## Cast & Creative Team Bios



**Brenda Jean Foley (April)** is ecstatic to be working with this company of dear friends. AZ credits include: *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Jewish Ensemble Theatre at SCA); *The Music Man* and *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Arizona Theatre Company); *Orange Flower Water* (canceled Tempe Center for the Arts March 2020); *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* and *Love Disorder* (iTheatre Collaborative); *Now.Here.This* (ACTC), *Carousel*, *The Full Monty*, and *August: Osage County* (MET); *The Sound of Music* (DBFRT). NYC/regional credits include *Almost, Maine* (Access Theatre), *Emma* (NYMF), *The Secret Garden* (Fulton), *As Thousands Cheer* (New Harmony). Various film and commercial credits including *Tombstone: Rashomon* (dir. Alex Cox) and *Monsoon* (with Eve Plumb). She co-founded and serves as producing artistic director for The Bridge Initiative. Currently executive producing feature-length documentary film *See Jane Run: An American Indo Story*. Favorite role is wife and mother to Brian and Rob. Grateful to all who support working artists. Proud member Actors' Equity Association since 2000. [brendajfoley.com](http://brendajfoley.com) @seejanerun\_film

**Natalie Andrews (Callie)** is thrilled to be onstage with The Bridge Initiative after producing and working behind the scenes since 2017. Some of her favorite roles she has played include Chris in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, Desdemona in *Othello*, Emmy in *The Dada Play*, Cathy in *The Last Five Years*, Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Matt in *Matt and Ben*, Marcus Andronicus in *Titus Andronicus* and Hedda Gabler. Natalie earned her BFA in Acting from the University of Oklahoma School of Drama. She is also a singer, musician and songwriter and is currently recording her first demo, which is a collection of folk & bluegrass songs based on Shakespeare's sonnets. As a teaching artist, she runs her own studio Heartspark Voice, and has partnered with Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute, Commonwealth Theatre Center, Idyllwild Arts, the Orme School, Arizona State University, Phoenix Conservatory of Music, and the University of Oklahoma to provide collaborative voice instruction and creative group experiences. Natalie can also be seen in the award-winning indie horror film *Maya*, currently circulating film festivals internationally. Natalie would like to thank her family and friends, especially her husband Brian, for their love and support, the cast and crew for all of their hard work, and our audiences for coming out to support live theatre! @nataliewannabee @thecursedkates



**Shonda Royall (Trudy)** hails from the windy city of Chicago, but currently resides in Phoenix, AZ. Within the past year, Shonda's performance credits have included Jane Bingley in *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (Arizona Theatre Company), Amina in *SheepDog* (Stray Cat Theatre) and Vee in *Being Black Outside* (Boise Contemporary Theatre). Most recently, Shonda has starred as Black Barbara in *BBQ*, Molly Cunningham in *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (both produced at Black Theatre Troupe), Boise Contemporary Theatre's *Tiny Beautiful Things* and Childsplay Theatre's production of *Hula Hoopin' Queen*. Shonda is honored to be working alongside such amazing actors as she steps into the role of Trudy in this new work, *Like Heaven*.



**Maren Maclean (Sapphire)** has loved acting, instructing, dancing, directing, special-effecting and dramaturg-ing all over the country. She attended Southern Utah University and has taught all kinds of theatre across the Valley. Favorite roles: Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at The Utah Shakespearean Festival, Belinda in *Noises Off* at Phoenix Theatre, and Hilda in *Venus Observed* at Verse Theatre Manhattan. She's a member of Actors' Equity Association. Originally from New York, Phoenix is home with her handsome husband and darling, dramatic kiddos. BIG love to Mom, BJF, the Bridge Core, Sam, Elaine, Kailey, and Tim for making the magic. AOE. [www.marenmaclean.net](http://www.marenmaclean.net)



**Cassidy McDaniel (April Understudy)** Hello! This is my final semester at Estrella Mountain Community College. I have participated in the school's student one act! I am so glad to be part of this program

**Kristen McDaniel (Callie understudy)** Hey!! I'm a first year at EMCC and it's been such a fun year so far! I've recently done another understudy role in Tanya Saracho's "Fade". I'm amazed with how much I've learned here and the stellar people I've met. Stay stellar!!(^v^)





**Andrea Obregon (Trudy Understudy)** Andrea has been attending EMCC since the Fall of 2021 and will be graduating this upcoming May with an Associates of Fine Arts, emphasis in Theatre. She has been active in the EMCC Theatre program since the Spring of 2023, she is the Historian and Student Representative of the EMCC Drama Club, and has appeared in some of the productions as Cindy in *Fefu and Her Friends*, Lucia in *Fade*, Liz in *Lockdown*, and played the role of Black in *The Candidate*. She has also performed extensively at Millennium High School, appearing as Brooke Wyndham in *Legally Blonde the Musical*, Dale Harding in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Nina "The Nina" O'Neil in *Airness*, and many more productions. Andrea will be attending Marymount Manhattan College in New York City this upcoming Spring where she will be pursuing a B.F.A in Acting.



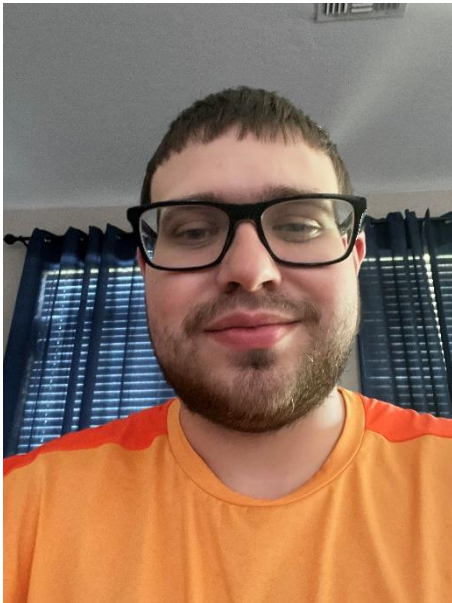
**Kylee Larkin (Sapphire Understudy)** This is Kylee's last semester at EMCC as she will be graduating with her associate in fine arts with an emphasis in theatre. She has appeared in many productions here at EMCC including *Blue* in *The Candidate*, Sarah in *Lockdown*, Julia in *Fefu and Her Friends*, Colonel Redfern in *Look Back in Anger*, and was the Understudy for *No Exit*. She has performed extensively around the valley within theatre and film and has studied and performed in Los Angeles over the past few years. Kylee plans to continue her education and acting career by studying at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia to receive her BFA in Acting in the fall of 2023.

**Madison Vincelette (Assistant Director)** This is Maddy's final semester at EMCC. She will be graduating this Spring with an associates degree in fine arts, theater. She will be attending Grand Canyon University in the Fall of 2023. During her time at EMCC Maddy has played the role of Christina in *Fefu and Her Friends* and student directed *The Candidate*. Maddy looks forward to continuing her career as a director and an educator in the arts.



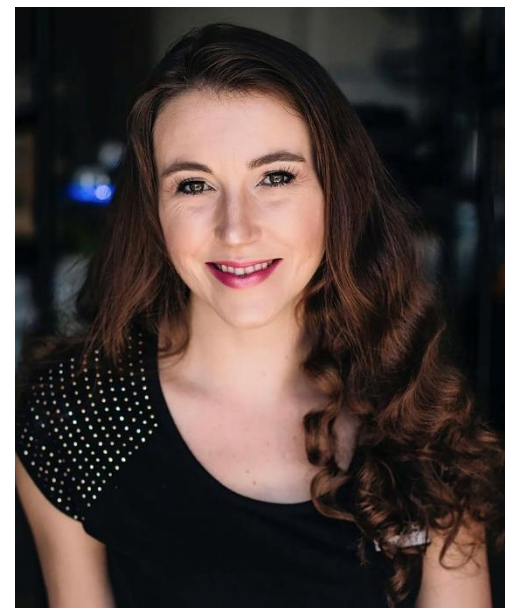


**Kailey Mattheisen (Production Stage Manager)** is quite excited to be working alongside EMCC and The Bridge Initiative as PSM for Like Heaven. She recently has acted in Jekyll and Hyde, Willy Wonka Jr and Pit Girl. She is a Production Stage Manager and has previously worked on shows including Passing Strange, Veronica's Room, Permanent Collection, The Trial of the Cantonsville Nine, and The Pajama Game. She completed an internship at Arizona Broadway Theatre and worked on A Christmas Carol, Camelot, and Jesus Christ Superstar. When she is not working in the theatre, she is creating films, modeling, teaching swim lessons, and working out all the while dancing through life. She would like to thank God, her mentor Charles St. Clair, Brandon, Mercedes, Elle, Chris Haines, Mom, Dad, Sean, and all of her other wonderful friends and family for their love and support!



**Keller Hans (Assistant Stage Manager)** I've been in theatre since my freshman year at Desert Edge High School. Since that time, I have enjoyed being in theatre. My first show was "The Crucible" and I played the character Ezekiel Cheever. That was during my sophomore year and all three nights, I was super nervous. My second show was during my junior year and it was "Luchadora" and I played Yellow Luchador. I also learned that Cutting Edge Theatre was the first group to showcase "Luchadora" in Arizona. The third show was "CLUE" and I played The Motorist. Sadly, that show was during the COVID pandemic, so we had to record the show. Not a great way to end my senior year, but I still had an amazing time. I also worked as a tech for Cutting Edge's spring musical "We Will Rock You" and we also had to record that show too. This show, "Like Heaven", is my first and only performance at EMCC, also my first time being an assistant stage manager. I will be moving on to Grand Canyon University in the fall to be part of their theatre program.

**Tiana Torriolhon-Wood (Scenic Director)** is an entertainment designer and commercial paint specialist. She received an MFA in theatrical design & production from CalArts where her specialization was scenic art. She has worked professionally for many entertainment companies including NBC/Universal and Walt Disney Imagineering. Recent theater work includes: Antony & Cleopatra (Southwest Shakespeare Company), Rocky Horror Picture Show (Phoenix Theater), La Ruta (Stray Cat Theater), Black Nativity (Black Theatre Troupe), and Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (Fountain Hills Theater) Instagram: @TianaTdesign "Big thank you to my friends and family for your support!"





**Lindsey Gardner-Penner (Costume Designer)** graduated from Northern Arizona University in Theatre with an emphasis in Costume Design. She has worked professionally as a hair/wig artist with the Utah Shakespeare Festival in Cedar City, UT, Arizona Theatre Company, as Wardrobe Supervisor for North Shore Musical Theatre in Beverly, MA, and wig designer for the Hale Center Theatre in Salt Lake City, UT. She returned to Arizona to raise her young family. She joined forces with the Bridge Initiative in 2016 and served as the Board President for four seasons and designed costumes for the Bridge Initiatives' production of *A FEMININE ENDING* and designed wigs for *THE REVOLUTIONISTS*. Lindsey also works in mental health and is passionate about healing our society through the arts and fully supports the Bridge Initiative's mission to provide space for underrepresented voices. Lindsey wants to thank The Bridge Initiative and Brenda Foley for the community we have built but especially for the lifelong friendships she has found.

**Thomas Hoehl (Light Board Op)** is very excited to be working on this production, and this is his first semester at EMCC. He is currently studying theater and can't wait to see what later semesters will bring. His interests are video games, computers, and theater.



**Tim Butterfield (EMCC Lead Producer)** earned a B.A. in Theater from Brooklyn College and an M.F.A. in Directing from the New School for Drama. He has studied with Joe Mantello, Baz Luhrman, Doug Hughes, Jon Robin Baitz, Eric Bogosian, Jo Bonney, Kate Loewald, Lou Jacobs, Elinor Renfield, Bob LuPone, Casey Biggs, Austin Pendleton and Arthur Storch. He served as Artistic Director for Wide Eyed Productions and Literary Manager for Rising Sun Performance Company. Tim worked Off and Off-off Broadway as both Director and Fight Director. He broke into film with his direction of many projects, including two short films and a parody video for Funny Or Die. Tim celebrated the work of other artists by partnering with the New York Innovative Theater Foundation, where he directed the NYIT awards show honoring emerging theater artists on Off-off Broadway.

Tim has taught classes, workshops, and has lectured for various educational and private institutions in both NY and AZ. He taught Creating Devised Work at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Stage Combat, Dramaturgy and Acting for Rising Sun Performance Company, Meyerhold & Biomechanics for the Eugene Lang College Theater Department, and Playwriting for Wide Eyed Productions and The Straphanger Collective. His method of providing feedback for artists, especially young playwrights, was sought out to lead talk-back and development sessions for many writers and NY theaters. Tim's production company, Straphanger Productions, recently produced the short film *Recoil*. The film was written and directed by EMCC alumni and shot entirely in the West Valley. Since returning to AZ in late 2014, Tim has been teaching in the Film, Theater, and Dance departments for multiple Maricopa Community College schools. He is currently the Coordinator of Fine Arts Facilities and Instructional Technology at Estrella Mountain Community College, where he oversees the Performing Arts Center.



### THANK YOU

Megan Holcomb, Sebastian Kunnappilly, Nancy Burton, Brian Foley, Rob Foley, Susan Bendix, Elaine “E.E.” Moe, Laura Durant, Rick Meinecke, EMCC staff and students, Costume Connection, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Arizona Theatre Company, The Phoenix Theatre Company, Southwest Shakespeare Company, Theatre Artists Studio, TheatreWorks, and The Bridge Initiative donors, especially the monthly Rainbow Unicorns!

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