

*In honor of the stories told in our play, The Bridge Initiative will be collecting new/UNused household goods to donate to A New Leaf. See a list of items on this page: <https://turnanewleaf.org/get-involved/donate-items/>*



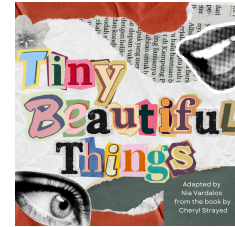
**A New Leaf Donation Center**  
2245 W. Ella Street, Building A, Mesa, AZ 85201  
**(480) 464-4648**  
**[donationcenter@turnanewleaf.org](mailto:donationcenter@turnanewleaf.org)**

ACESDV's mission is to end sexual and domestic violence in Arizona by dismantling oppression and promoting equity among all people.

Website link: [www.turnanewleaf.org](http://www.turnanewleaf.org)

To make a financial: <https://turnanewleaf.org/donate/>

**A list of item needed are on the next page and by clicking this link:**  
**<https://turnanewleaf.org/get-involved/donate-items/>**



### cleaning and hygiene

- **General purpose cleaning supplies (urgent need)**
- Laundry detergent
- Full size and travel hand sanitizer
- Clorox wipes
- Swiffer sweeper
- Mop and broom
- **Women's deodorant**
- **Men's deodorant**
- **Full size body wash**
- **Full size shampoo and conditioner**
- Men's Razors



### kitchenwares

- **Pots and pans (urgent need)**
- **Nonperishable food (urgent need)**
- **Manual can openers (urgent need)**
- **Paper, plastic, or glass dishes**
- Silverware and cooking utensils
- Cases of water
- Reusable water bottles
- Coffee pot
- Ziplock bags
- Baby - Toddler dishes
- Kitchen appliances
- Kitchen Towels
- Dish soap/Dishwasher pods



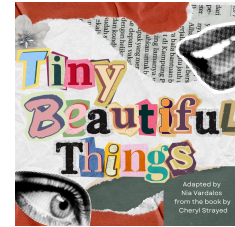
### housewares

- **Twin and Queen sheet sets (urgent need)**
- **Twin and Queen quilts**
- **Standard pillows (urgent need)**
- **Bath towels**
- **Hand towels**
- Shower curtains and liners
- Laundry baskets
- Trash cans and trash bags
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- General office supplies



### clothing

- **Men's and women's underwear**
- **Women's bras**
- **Men's and women's leggings/sweatpants (urgent need)**
- Men's, women's, and children's jackets
- Shirts and pants (children's 2T-16)
- Any size or gender shoes (especially larger men's)
- Diapers sizes 4-7
- Baby wipes



# TINY BEAUTIFUL THINGS

Based on the bestselling book by Cheryl Strayed and adapted for the stage by Nia Vardalos

DIRECTOR: Elena Conti

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER: Courtney Kenyon

CAST: Debra K. Stevens, Shelly R. Trujillo, Jillian Walker, Jodie L. Weiss

UNDERSTUDIES: Erin Buvala-Benites, Amanda Noel Trombley

SCENIC DESIGN: Cheryl Briley

LIGHTING DESIGN: Aurora J. Winger

COSTUME DESIGN: Richard Mickey Courtney

SOUND DESIGN: Clayton Cauffman

PROPS DESIGN: Kelly Jones

PROJECTION DESIGN: Dennis Tamblyn

SENSITIVITY SPECIALIST: Maren Maclean

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT: Amie Bjorklund, Brenda Foley

PHOTOGRAPHY: Laura Durant

VIDEOGRAPHY: Lights, Camera, Discover

RUN CREW: Megan Holcum, Samuel Brekan, Bre Jackson

## THE BRIDGE INITIATIVE

Producing Executive Director: Brenda Foley

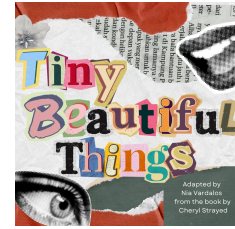
Artistic Director: Amie Bjorklund

Marketing Director: Shonda Royall

Board of Directors: Lynn Edwards, Natalie Andrews, Amie Bjorklund, Breona Conrad, Daniela Crispo, Brenda Foley, Drew Templeton, Greg Hayes, Christi Sweeney

*This project is partially funded by a City of Tempe – Community Arts Grant and supported in part by General Operating funds from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, which receives support from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts.*





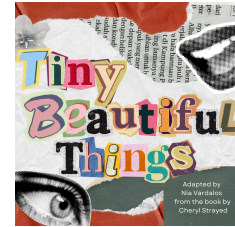
## Meet our Team:



**ELENA CONTI *she/her/hers* (Director)** is a social justice advocate, educator, and theatre artist. She is beyond grateful to work with The Bridge Initiative and values shared principles. She is a graduate of Arizona State University, holding a BA in Theatre from the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts in addition to a BAE in Secondary Education from the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College. Elena views theatre through the lens of drama-based instruction and pedagogy, drawing from her classroom and professional experiences to guide her process. She values being a multifaceted theatre practitioner as a facilitator, mentor, teacher and artist. She loves being on the stage and behind the table to experience all aspects of theatre. She hopes to continue doing the hard work that promotes cognitive, emotional, social, and physical resonance towards a better future. A special thank you to Jodie, Debra, Shelly, Jillian, Erin, and Amanda who artistically created a powerful influential healing experience. This production has been a masterclass in collective compassion, productive collaboration, and exceptional talent. To everyone involved in this empathetic and soul-stirring work: your health fuels your artistry, thank you for prioritizing it. Production credits: *Tiny Beautiful Things* (The Bridge Initiative, Director), *Our Town* (YETi, Director), *Until The Flood* (Stray Cat Theatre, Director) *Fairview* (Stray Cat Theatre, Assistant Director), *Cream!* (ASU, Cast), *Exposed* (NCTC, Director), *Marisol* (ASU, Director), *1984* (NCTC, Julia), *Julius Caesar* (NCTC, Cassius), *Adaptation* (NCTC, Doris), *42nd Street* (NCTC, Phyllis), *Oklahoma* (NCTC, Ellen), and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (NCTC, Ensemble).



THE BRIDGE  
INITIATIVE



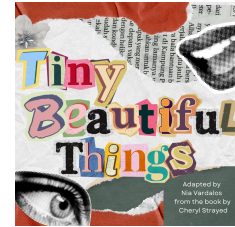
**Courtney Kenyon** (*Stage Manager*) (she/her) This is Courtney's second show with Bridge. She stage managed last season's production of *The Flora and Fauna*. Courtney is an award-winning stage manager, fight choreographer, and actor, and has worked throughout the Southwest since 2013. She is an Advanced Actor Combatant in good standing with the Society of American Fight Directors. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance with a minor in Film Production from ASU, her Masters in Management in International Arts Management from SMU and HEC Montreal, and most recently earned her AAFA in Theatre from PVCC and was the first to graduate with the CCL in Stage Combat. She currently teaches high school theatre production at Arizona School for the Arts and runs Pantheon Movement Arts, a stage and film combat company. Thanks go out to her family, Brenda, Amie, Shonda, Elena, and the cast and crew!



**Jodie Weiss** (*Sugar*) Jodie L. Weiss is thrilled to be performing with The Bridge Initiative. As an early member of the Bridge Team, Jodie assisted with fundraising events – now - she's on stage! Jodie has worked with Childsplay for over 30 years, where she has been: an actor, a teaching artist, a director, and is currently their Special Events/Volunteer Coordinator. She has directed and acted with a variety of theatres around the Valley including; Scottsdale Community Players, Greasepaint, Childsplay, Phoenix Theater, and the Hale Theater Center - Elsewhere at The Globe, San Diego Rep, La Jolla Stage Company, Oregon Cabaret Theater, and Starlight Musical Theater. Favorite roles include Truvy in *Steele Magnolias*, Gertrude in *Seussical*, Lucille in *Junie B Jones*, Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, Sister Robert Ann in *Nunsense*, and Hedy LaRue in *How To Succeed in Business*. Jodie has her BFA in Theater from ASU and her MFA in Musical Theater from SDSU.



**Debra K Stevens** (*Letter Writer #1*) is an Associate Artist who has been with Childsplay since 1982, where her acting credits include *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Charlottes' Web*, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *Pandora's Box*, *Still Life With Iris*, *The Yellow Boat*, *The Belle Of Amherst*, *The Miracle Worker*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and more. Other acting credits include *It's Only a Play*, *Calendar Girls*, and *Dr. Ruth* in the one woman show *Becoming Dr. Ruth* (TPTC);



Barbecue (Black Theatre Troupe); Next Fall, Rabbit Hole, Cat On a Hot Tin Roof, and The Archbishop's Ceiling (Actors' Theatre); The Roommate (Theatre Artists Studio); and Fuddy Meers (Nearly Naked Theatre). Debra has directed world premieres of Junie B Jones is Not a Crook, The Smartest Girl in the World, The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus, and Girls Who Wear Glasses (Childsplay). She has also directed extensively around the Valley for The Phoenix Theatre Company (Always...Patsy Cline), Theatreworks (Three No Trump), GCU (Frog and Toad), MCC (The Crucible), Greasepaint (Romeo and Juliet), and The Bridge Initiative (The Revolutionists). Debra holds a Bachelor's degree from Western KY University and a Master's degree from ASU.



**Shelly Trujillo** (Letter Writer #2) (she/her) is so grateful for this opportunity to bring this beautiful show to life. Some of her favorite roles include : Lola (Ghosts of Bogotá - Stray Cat Theatre), Pauline Kael (Roger and Gene - Space 55 - Zoni Award Winner) , and Tweedle Dee (Devising Cast -Curiouser and Curiouser - TheaterWorks). Design credits include La Ruta, and Fairview (Costume/Hair/ Makeup - Stray Cat Theatre), Romeo & Juliet (Hair/Makeup - Southwest Shakespeare Company), and being a founding member of Harmondo!Musical Improv (Ampersand Theatre, MKE). Much love and gratitude to the incredible cast and production team, Margo, Danny T, Tennille, and Mr. Big. To Justice, Parity, Equity, and Fairness. IG: @divakleo



**Jillian Walker** (Letter Writer #3) is thrilled to finally be working with Bridge Initiative on this tiny beautiful project! She holds a BA in Theatre from Arizona State University. Favorite past roles include Danni in *Always Plenty of Light At the Starlight All Night Diner* (Mesa Encore Theatre), Vera/Evil Gabbi in *She Kills Monsters* (Scottsdale Community College), and #8 in *The Wolves* (Stray Cat Theatre). Endless thanks to everyone at Bridge for trusting her with this role, all of you for coming out to see the show, and her partner in everything, Rylan.

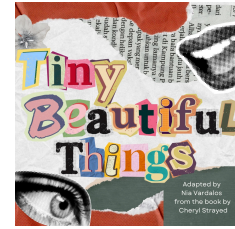


**Erin Buvala-Benites** (Understudy Sugar/Letter Writer #1) discovered her passion for performance as a child, first catching the acting bug while playing a witch in a school carnival haunted house. She honed her craft at Phoenix College in the 1990s, co-founded a small repertory theater company, and performed across the United States over the span of a decade. In 2020, she earned a certificate in Performing Arts Essentials from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Further expanding her knowledge, Erin completed the Beth Morrison Projects Producers Academy in 2023. She is the Artistic Director of *Virtual Theater Lab*, an Arizona-based experimental theater company dedicated to amplifying marginalized voices in the performing arts, and serves on the board of *B3 Theater* as well. She is grateful to *The Bridge Initiative* for the opportunity to understudy the magnificent roles of Sugar and Letter Writer 1.

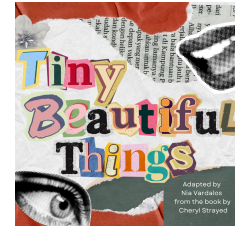


**Amanda Noel** (Understudy Letter Writer #2/#3) A native Arizonan, Amanda Noel Trombley has been involved with theatre around the valley as an actor (Diane in *Bards and Beasts*, Sister James in *Doubt*, countless Shakespeare roles, and more), director (PT 24 Hour Theatre Project, *How I Learned to Drive*, *The Tempest*, *The Taming*, *Anatomy of a Hug*, and more), writer, text coach, and teacher. Amanda earned a Bachelor's from Pepperdine University and an MFA in Shakespeare and Performance from Mary Baldwin College in association with the American Shakespeare Center. She is grateful for this opportunity to work on this beautiful script and create art with wonderful people. When she's not involved in theatre, Amanda is probably with her three kids and partner in chaos, or out running on the beautiful Phoenix trails. Serve, Love, Mend.

**Richard "Mickey" Courtney** - *Costume Designer* Mickey has been costuming for the past 20+ years all around the valley. Mickey is so excited to be working with Bridges Initiative for the first time. His most recent costume works are *Legally Blonde* at Starlight Community Theater and *Lightning Thief* at Scottsdale Desert Stages. Mickey wants to thank the Cast and Crew for trusting in his vision. He wants to thank his kids Becca and Matt for their support and patience. Miss you Rhea every day.







***The Bridge Initiative wishes to thank...***

Taco Bell manager Francisco, Costume Connection, Mesa Encore Theatre, Childsplay, our board, Bill Swartz, Brian Foley, MJ Okawa, Arizona Theatre Company, The Phoenix Theatre Company, Drew Templeton, Stacey Walston, The Opportunity Tree

[CLICK HERE](#) TO SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER  
TO KEEP UP WITH ALL THINGS BRIDGE INIT!

[Click here](#) to donate to The Bridge Initiative directly and help us continue our mission to  
*bring theater to our community*

**Join us Friday January 31st, after the show, for a talkback with A New Leaf**

**COMING SOON FROM BRIDGE...**



Feb 24 at 7:30

@ ASU Kerr

“Bethany- Unplugged and Unforgettable”

with Bethany Baca

Community sing at 7:00 - bring your sheet  
music