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A NOTE FROM THE A.L.C.

Welcome back, friends! The Artistic Leadership Committee is thrilled to welcome you to The Vault theater for *Barefoot in the Park*! We open our 26/27 season with a show that has heart, wit, and a lot of laughs. As our first go at a Neil Simon play, we couldn't be more excited to be doing *Barefoot* here, now, with you all. It's about time!

We won't lie, it's been a bumpy year. You've stuck with us, and we see you. The ALC is beyond grateful for all our amazing patrons' support over our Bridge the Gap Campaign, during our 100 Cases and annual Gala events, and especially for YOU for being here today! We have some amazing shows planned for you this season, and we hope you will come see every one, spread the joy of live theater, and continue supporting your local professional theater company.

We're going Back to B&B. Thanks for coming with us.

Sincerely,
The Bag&Baggage Artistic Leadership Committee

ABOUT BAG&BAGGAGE

Bag&Baggage Productions makes ambitious, professional theatre in, and for, Hillsboro, Oregon, using the timeless power of live performance to build connection, spark conversation, and remind audiences that great storytelling belongs to everyone.



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BAG&BAGGAGE PRESENTS:

BAREFOOT IN THE PARK

BY NEIL SIMON

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Ariel Puls

Samm Hill

Alex Lathrop

Anna Nicholas

Chris Patton

Corie Bratter

Telephone Repair Man

Paul Bratter

Mother

Victor Velasco

Production & Design Team

Jane Unger

Hailee Foster

Marion Richardson-Beatty

Kyra Sanford[&]

Karen Wingard[&]

Raquel Calderon

Violet Costales[&]

Rodolfo Ortega

Kristen Mun-Van Noy

Director

Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Manager

Scenic Designer

Costume Designer

Costume Designer

Lighting Designer

Sound Designer

Fight/Intimacy Choreographer

[&] = Bag&Baggage Company Artist

Special Thanks

Gabrielle D. Calvert

Clementine Dorsey

Annika Elliott

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PHOTOS: While we ask you to turn off your phones during the show, we're happy for you to take photos before or after the performance! If you post photos, please credit the designers who have brought the show to life and tag us (@bag_n_baggage).

Scenic Designer: Kyra Sanford
Costume Designer: Raquel Calderon
Lighting Designer: Violet Costales
Properties Designer: Karen Wingard

Please note that photos are prohibited during performances. Photos of the stage are not permitted if actors are present.

We ask all visitors to The Vault Theater to take a personal moment to acknowledge and honor the Atfalati band of the Kalapuya tribe, upon whose ancestral lands this building stands. We pay our respects to elders both past and present.



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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

"If Broadway ever erects a monument to the patron saint of laughter, Neil Simon would have to be it."

—*Time Magazine*

I fell in love with Neil Simon's plays when, as the Artistic Director of Profile Theatre, I produced eleven of his plays in our 2008-09 season. Given Simon's wide-ranging thirty-three play library we were scratching the surface. So, directing *Barefoot in the Park* is, for me, like visiting an old friend I haven't seen in years but with whom I can pick up as if no time has passed.

Except that a lot of time has passed since the early 1960's when the play was written and February, 1963 when the play is set. At that moment in time, John F. Kennedy was still alive, ground troops had not yet been sent to Vietnam (and would not be for two more years), the birth control pill had only been approved by the FDA three years earlier, Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* was just published and a three-act play was the norm. It can be alarming and not a little unsettling to look back at the vast changes in our world over these sixty-three years. It's also a great comfort to be reminded that some things never change, such as the vulnerabilities and human foibles we all possess that can lead us down some painful, scary pathways. Simon's singular brilliance



is the ability to find the funny in the painful. His career as a playwright spanned over fifty years but his career as a writer of comedy sprang from serving the King of Comedy himself, the great Sid Caesar on *Your Show of Shows*. These two giants of American entertainment provided our country with a fun-house mirror to our lives that always rang true.

Simon wrote: "The way I see things, life is both sad and funny. I can't imagine a comical situation that isn't at the same time also painful," and, "The line between comedy and drama sometimes is no wider than a strand of hair, but it must be as strong as a tightrope if you're going to try to balance yourself as you cross from one to the other."

Like so many of his plays, *Barefoot in the Park* is informed by the American optimism of a true Yankee Doodle Dandy. Simon was, in fact, born on the Fourth of July. As we may be struggling to find some optimism in this, the 250th year of our country, I believe that peering at the world through Neil Simon's sharp prism reminds us of our shared humanity and therein lies hope.

—Jane Unger

ACTOR, DESIGNER & DIRECTOR BIOS



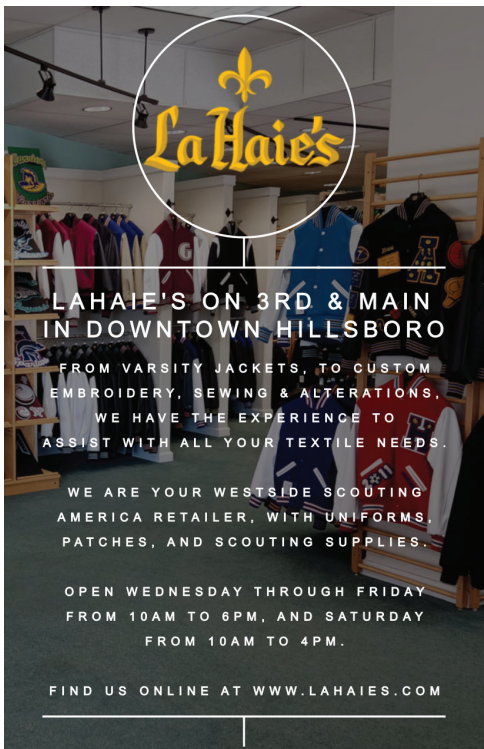
Ariel Puls (Corie Bratter)

Ariel is an actress and artist based in her hometown of Portland. She earned her BFA in Theatre from the University of Portland and her MFA in Acting from Columbia University in New York City. This is Ariel's first production with Bag&Baggage and she is so honored to be part of this classic romantic comedy. Other recent roles include Carol Wyman in *Laughter On the 23rd Floor* at Clackamas Repertory Theatre, Ophelia in *Hamlet* at Rose City Stage Company, Laura Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie* at Lakewood Theatre, and Margot Wendice in *Dial M for Murder* at Clackamas Repertory Theatre. She is so very grateful to Jane Unger for this opportunity... Thanks to the cast and crew for creating such a fun and heartfelt experience. Love to her family. And thank you all for supporting live theatre! Shama Shama! Learn more at: <https://arielpuls.wixsite.com/actress>



Samm Hill (Telephone Repair Man)

Graduate of The University Of Houston's School Of Theatre, Second City LA and Upright Citizens Brigade. Previous roles include Dr. Sutton in *The Baby* with Visceral Theater Co in LA, *Beaten Up By A Girl* at the FronteraFest in Austin, Tx.. Reverend Hale in *The Crucible*, Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, Ensemble in *Everybody* and The Amazing Karnak in *Ride The Cyclone* at Twilight Theatre Co.. Also seen as Jacques in *As You Like It* with Canon Shakespeare Co., Ensemble in *Love & Information* at PSU, Rev. Chasuble in *The Importance Of Being Earnest*, Scrooge in *A Drunk Christmas Carol* (three years in a row!) with Experience Theatre Project and the independent feature film *The Great Divide*. Samm also directed *I'm Going To Pray For You So Hard* and *Mr. Marmalade* at Twilight Theatre Co. and the short film *Gayproofing*.



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Alex Lathrop (Paul Bratter)

Alex trained in the theatre department at UCLA and with Portland acting coach Brooke Totman. He spent much of his time in Los Angeles acting in national commercials and made his stage debut at the Knightsbridge Theatre in Glendale. Alex recently starred in two productions of 100 Lives Repertory's inaugural season: *Orange Flower Water* and *The Pavilion*, earning a Broadway World Regional Award nomination for his work in *Orange Flower Water*. He just completed filming his first major feature role and is thrilled to be making his Bag&Baggage debut with *Barefoot in the Park*.



Anna Nicholas (Mother)

Has enjoyed playing characters for over 50 years, assisted by multiple talented acting and voice teachers along the way; including Larry Moss, Kristin Linklater and Alice Spivak; at HB Studios, UCLA, USC and others. She began her career off-off Broadway in New York moving into commercials and soap operas, then went to LA to be Sue Ellen's secretary in the original *Dallas*. She appeared in shows such as *Remington Steele*, *Mary Tyler Moore*, *Reno 911*, *Perfect Strangers*; a slew of TV and B-movies that shot in gorgeous places, and did a lot of plays. Favorites include *Absurd Person Singular*, *Pinter's Old Times* and *The Clean House*. Lately, she's been writing plays and screenplays. Her play, *We're All Going to Make it*, had its first developmental production at Theatre 33 in Salem last season, and she's currently preparing to shoot her 4th ultra-low budget feature film, *Gone to the Dogs*, with her son, Darius, who's also a filmmaker. You should see her soon in Prime's *Criminal*, shot in Portland last year, if they ever release it. Anna is excited to be making her debut at Bag&Baggage performing classic Neil Simon (and giving up her AEA status to do so) and is grateful for the opportunity to get back on the boards. Arnicholas.com, [@tryharddontquit](https://twitter.com/tryharddontquit)



Chris Patton (Victor Velasco)

Chris is an alumnus of the University of Houston School of Theatre, with over thirty years experience acting in and directing live theatre. Being fairly new to the Portland area, *Barefoot in the Park* marks his Bag&Baggage debut. Other companies include The Alley Theatre, Main Street Theater, and Stages Theater (in Houston), Theatre Charlotte and DC Players (in Charlotte, NC), and more. Favorite roles include: *1984* (as Winston Smith); *A Christmas Carol* (as Bob Cratchit); *Dracula* (as Dracula) and *The Rocky Horror Show* (as Riff Raff). Chris is also an award-winning director, having helmed productions of *American Idiot*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Head Over Heels*, *Reefer Madness*, and more. Big love to his partner, Hart, and their two amazing cats!

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ACTOR, DESIGNER & DIRECTOR BIOS



Jane Unger (Director)

Jane Unger, PNW based free-lance director and the founding Artistic Director Emerita of Profile Theatre, Portland, Oregon. Profile is the only theatre on the West Coast with the unique mission to celebrate the writer by presenting a full season of plays by a single playwright. Jane has produced and directed work by Arthur Kopit, Tennessee Williams, Constance Congdon, Arthur Miller, Harold Pinter, Edward Albee, Romulus Linney, Terrence McNally, Lanford Wilson, Wendy Wasserstein, Neil Simon, John Guare, Horton Foote, Lee Blessing and Athol Fugard, working directly with many of these great writers on new play development.

She has also directed at Artists Repertory Theatre, Portland Center Stage, Triad Stage, Actor's Theatre of Indiana, The Inge Festival, Creede Repertory Theatre, Idaho Theatre for Youth, Great Plains Theatre Conference, Storefront Theatre, Miracle Theatre, CoHo Theatre, New Rose Theatre, Portland Literary Arts and is pleased to now add Bag&Baggage to that list. Upcoming: *The Best Medicine* with Caroline Aaron at The Odyssey Theatre in LA. She is currently working with Book-It Rep co-founder Myra Platt on the stage adaptation of Brian Doyle's *Mink River* which she will co-direct in Seattle this November at Book-It Rep. Among the awards Jane has received, she is especially proud of Portland's Award for Best Director for Arthur Kopit's *Wings* and Portland's Lifetime Achievement Award. www.janeunger.com



Hailee Foster (Stage Manager)

Hailee Foster (she/her) is a stage manager, production manager, actress, and occasional lighting designer. She holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Linfield University. Her list of productions include: *Oklahoma* (2018), *Steel Magnolias* (2019), and *Legally Blonde the Musical* (2019) at Theatre In The Grove; *Fox on the Fairway* (2021) and *Crimes of the Heart* (2021) at H.A.R.T.; the Bay Area Playwrights Festival Production Coordinator at The Playwrights Foundation (2020); the Company Management Assistant at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (2021); *Blink* (2022), *I'm Black When I'm Singing*, *I'm Blue When I Ain't* (2023), *Mary Jane* (2023), and the Assistant Production Manager (22-23 season) at Third Rail Repertory; *Leading Ladies* (2022) and *Holiday Inn* (2023) at Lakewood Center for the Arts; *Our Utopia* (2023) and *Tartuffe* (2024) at Bag & Baggage; *Wild/Caught* (2024) at Artist Rep; *Empty Spaces* and *A Merry Xmas & A Happy New Year* at Fertile Grounds 2024 Festival.



Marion Richardson-Beatty (Assistant Stage Manager)

Marion Richardson-Beatty is a stage manager, a scenic designer, and a properties master. He has a BA in Theatre from Lewis and Clark College, and has worked with Bag&Baggage, Imago Theatre, and the San Francisco Mime Troupe.



Kyra Sanford (Scenic Designer)

Kyra Sanford is a freelance scenic designer, painter, technical director, and props designer, working for companies such as Corrib, Experience Theatre, Lakewood, Broadway Rose, CoHo, and various others. Previous B&B designs include *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Ballad of Iron Jo*, and *Who's Holiday*. Additionally, she is the technical director and resident scenic designer at Clark College. She received her BFA in Scenic Design from The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University.

Instagram: @sanfordscenic

ACTOR, DESIGNER & DIRECTOR BIOS



Karen Wingard (Props Designer)

Karen has a Bachelor of the Fine Arts in Theatrical Design from Lewis & Clark College. She has collaborated with Bag & Baggage as props master many times since 2022; recently she joined the company as an associate artist. Some of her favorite productions include: *A Tuna Christmas* for Bag & Baggage (scenic and props design), *Dracula* for Portland Center Stage (asst. costume design), and *Medea* for Lewis and Clark (scenic design). Her other hobbies include gardening and taking long walks to look at other people's gardens.



Raquel Calderon (Costume Designer)

Raquel holds an Associate of Arts degree from Mt. Hood Community College where her theatre career began. This is Raquel's second production with Bag&Baggage; you might have seen her work last season with Bag&Baggage's production of *Tuna Christmas* (Costume Designer). Previous credits include Stumptown Stages productions of *Pippin* (Costume Designer); *Rock of Ages* (Assistant Costume Designer) and *Jekyll and Hyde* (Costume Designer) to name a few. Raquel was the recipient of the 2017 Portland Area Musical Theatre Award for Outstanding Costume Design for her work on *Jekyll and Hyde*. When she is not in the theatre; she works as a Pharmacy Technician at a local hospital. She wants to thank her family and friends for all their love and support of her creative ventures.

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*-Karl & Patricia
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ACTOR, DESIGNER & DIRECTOR BIOS



Violet Costales (Lighting Designer)

Violet is a lighting designer, video & projections designer, 3D artist and animator. She was awarded Best Lighting Design in Portland 2019 by Broadway World. Some of Violet's previous and current productions from the 25-26 season include; *The Ballad of Iron Jo*, *Rossum's Universal Robots*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Hardboiled Eggnog*, *Beta Bitches*, *Birds of North America*, *Ride the Cyclone*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Las Adelitas*, *Our Utopia*, *Worry Dolls*, *Red Velvet*, and *The Play You Want*. Violet is also a video game developer/programmer and 3D printing enthusiast.



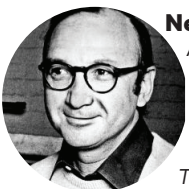
Rodolfo Ortega (Sound Designer)

Rodolfo received his Bachelor's Degree in Music from the University of Arizona and his Master's of Music degree from Manhattan School of Music where he studied piano and composition. He has composed the music for The Oregon Shakespeare Festival (*Romeo and Juliet*, *The Tenth Muse*), Denver Center Theatre Company (*The Three Musketeers*, *Romeo & Juliet*). Santa Cruz Shakespeare (*Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Man in the Iron Mask*, *Henry V*) Cleveland Playhouse (*Native Gardens*) South Coast Repertory Theater (*The Monster Builder*) Actors Theater of Louisville's production of *Flex and Nicole Clarke is Having a Baby* for the Humana Festival. At Seattle Rep he has composed and designed sound for *Metamorphoses*, *Laughs in Spanish* and *The Play That Goes Wrong*.



Kristen Mun-Van Noy (Intimacy Choreographer)

Kristen Mun-Van Noy was born and raised on the island of Oahu. Since 2012 she has been working as a fight choreographer and teacher in the city of Portland, OR. She owes her training to Dueling Arts International and her time as assistant fight choreographer at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (2009-10) with resident Fight Director U. Jonathan Toppo. She has received her intimacy training from Theatrical Intimacy Educators and IDC Professionals. Recent intimacy and fight work include *Fat Ham* at PCS, *Dear Evan Hansen* at Broadway Rose and *X* with Third Rail Rep.



Neil Simon (Playwright)

American playwright and screenwriter Neil Simon (1927-2018) is widely regarded as one of the most successful, prolific and performed playwrights in theatre history. In addition to *Lost In Yonkers*, which won a Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize, his plays and musicals include *Come Blow Your Horn*, *Little Me*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple*, *Sweet Charity*, *The Star-Spangled Girl*, *Plaza Suite*, *Promises, Promises*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *The Good Doctor*, *California Suite*, *Chapter Two*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *I Ought to be in Pictures*, *Fools*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Broadway Bound*, *Rumors*, *Jake's Women*, *The Goodbye Girl*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *London Suite*, *Proposals*, *Hotel Suite*, *The Dinner Party*, *45 Seconds from Broadway*, *Oscar and Felix*, and *Rose's Dilemma*.

In addition to the film adaptations he wrote of many of his plays, his screenplay credits include *After the Fox*, *The Out-Of-Towners*, *The Heartbreak Kid* (original 1973 version), *Murder by Death*, *The Cheap Detective*, *Seems Like Old Times*, *Only When I Laugh*, *Max Dugan Returns*, *The Slugger's Wife*, *The Marrying Man* and *The Odd Couple II*. For television, Mr. Simon wrote series, teleplays and motion pictures, including *The Tallulah Bankhead Show*, *The Sid Caesar Show*, *The Phil Silvers Arrow Show*, *The Phil Silvers Show*, *The Garry Moore Show*, *The Trouble with People*, ABC's *Broadway Bound* and *Jake's Women*. Mr. Simon received more Academy and Tony nominations than any other writer.

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