

Our 2024-2025 Sustaining Members

Each Sustaining Member level is essential. **Thank you!**

Platinum Members - \$1,000

George Cohen & Mandy Weaver
Cindi & Mike Deschane
Angela & Jeffrey Glosser

Ruth & Brooks Hilliard
Ginny Goll & Chuck Sowder
Candace & Jared McHatton

Gold Members - \$500

James Bowen & Jeanette Weeks
Betsy Brill
Susan Ciardullo
Gary Gilliam
Robyn Hansen
Maureen & David Horwitz

Deborah Jamieson & Scott Dewald
Hillary & Harry Kaminsky
Sandy & Jack LaBonte
Julie & Jack Linehan
Susan McGroder
Myra Feldman & Jeff Roames

Silver Members - \$300

Miriam & Paul Beers
Madelaine R. Berg
Christine & Lee Bergmann
Lora & Gary Blume
Georgeanne Bohn-Levy
Deborah Brackin
Kathleen Brimacombe
Laura Burke
Tracy Burns
Peggy Sharp Chamberlain
Kerri Christie
Patricia Clow & Jerry Rightnour
Randi Dalglish
Sandy & Dale Dauten
Nancy & Clark DesSoye
Elizabeth & Stephen Dokken
Francine Ebersman
Susan & Ken Felt
Eileen Friend
Iris Gold
Marilyn Griswold-Linde
Yolanda & Mike Haggerty
Peggy & Joe Hesley
Rachel Heyman & Daniel Lidawer
Sandra Hostetter
Bruce Howden & Brenda Sharkey
Sue & David Hutchison
Amy & Alan Isaacson
Carol & Norman Janoff
Marcene & Douglas Jones
Linda & Bill Jones
Carol Kadet
Mary & Allen Kaplan
Irene Karpiak
Kelly Kaye
Kay Grams & Robert Keiser

Elizabeth Knode
Diane Shapiro & William Kram
Jeri & Steven Kramer
Aleyne Lerner
Janet Lottman
Denise Lukens
Lori & Matt MacLeod
Kathleen MacLeod & Bob Ryan
Nance & Michael McKiernan
C Mesches
Alicia & Henry Messing
Arlene Minuskin
Molly & Mitch Mudick
Diane & Gordon Mueller
Judy & Don Newman
John Norris
Joanne Pamperin
Bronwyn & Walt Pedano
Fran Reich
Annie Rightnour
Laura & Herb Roskind
Harold Samloff
Edward Schlossmacher
Dr. Steve & Mary Serlin
Sherri & Jim Spring
Phyllis Stone
Paige Stone
Phyllis & Peter Strupp
Beth Ames Swartz & John Rothschild
Franciene Szniewajs
Vicki & Dan Valleroy
Richard Verschoor
Ross Wolman
Karen Sue & Michael Wroughton
Jackie and Bob Wszalek

The Theatre Artists Studio

Presents



Birthday Candles by Noah Haidle

January 17 - February 2, 2025

Directed by Ron May

Featuring: Maureen Dias, Patti Davis Suarez, Tom Koelbel,
Lauren Isherwood, Johnny Kalita, Seth Tucker

Ernestine Ashworth spends her 17th birthday agonizing over her insignificance in the universe. Soon enough, it's her 18th birthday. Even sooner, her 41st. Her 70th. Her 101st. Five generations, an infinity of dreams, and one cake baked over a century. This touching and beautiful play will take you through the highlights, heartbreaks and extraordinary moments that make up one woman's ordinary life.

Birthday Candles is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

Support for Theatre Artists Studio is generously provided by:



The show runs approximately 90 minutes. There is no intermission.

Cast

Ernestine Maureen Dias-Watson
Alice/Madeline/Ernie Patti Davis Suarez
Kenneth Tom Koelbel
Joan/Alex/Beth Lauren Isherwood
Matt/William Johnny Kalita
Billy/John Seth Tucker

Production Staff

Director Ron May
Project Producer Maureen Dias-Watson
Production Manager Mary Robinson
Stage Manager Stacey Walston
Assistant Stage Manager Zhara Negrete
Rehearsal Assistant Marcia Weinberg
Technical Coordinator/Dir, Lighting Design Stacey Walston
Sound Support Peter Bish
Background Mural Artist Maia Landau
Mural Installation Wall Sensations
Set Design/Set Construction Mark Baris
Set painters Kandyce Hughes, Tom Koelbel, Jeff Roames, Curt Hills
Booth Operator Stacey Walston
Props Delores Mendoza

Studio Staff

Artistic Director Carol MacLeod
Producer Theatre Artists Studio
Marketing, Video production Kandyce Hughes
Graphic Design Michael Fleck
Social Media, Program Clark DesSoye
Box Office Manager Mary Robinson
Photographer Mark Gluckman

Bios

Maureen Dias-Watson (Ernestine) joined The Studio at its inception (ahem years ago) and has played on this stage for most of those years! Maureen has been Artistic Director of Scottsdale Community Players/ Greasepaint for the last 15 years where she watches young actors learn and perfect the craft she loves and then go on to do amazing work in the world!! A life in the arts is long hours, hard work , not always financially rewarding and exhausting. It is also a life where you meet the most interesting, talented, smart people you'll ever know. Thank you to Carol for creating this home, to Ron for suggesting and directing (!!), to this cast for being the BEST playmates and to YOU for seeing this show and supporting the arts! Maureen has two daughters, Breagh & Johnna, both wonderful artists in their own right, currently living and working in London.

Patti Davis Suarez (Alice/Madeline/Ernie) Her lifelong passion for theatre and the arts has taken Patti all over the world... acting, singing, reporting, bringing her (gratefully) here to the Studio. Too many roles to list, but following her New York

career (4 Broadway Shows) and another career as a TV News Anchor (LA's GOLDEN MIC AWARD and EMMY Nomination) life continued in Arizona, with 9 ariZoni Awards, and most importantly, a continuing creative life with THEATRE ARTISTS STUDIO. Patti and husband Peter are grateful to golden Scooter for allowing them to share his home.

Tom Koelbel (Kenneth) is an Artistic Member of The Studio where, last season, he appeared as John Cleary in *The Subject was Roses* and Jon Brody in *Marjorie Prime*. He most recently was in *God's Favorite* at Don Bluth's Front Row Theatre. And you may have spotted him in recent commercials for Casino Arizona and Goodwill. Tom is grateful to get to work with Ron and this wonderful cast and crew. And he would like to thank Lidia, Courtney, Calvin and Megan for their love and support. Tom is represented by Dani's Agency.

Lauren Isherwood (Joan/Alex/Beth) has loved every minute of bringing these three characters to life. She was most recently seen at The Studio in *Twist of the Magi* and has participated in *Summer Shorts*, *First Look*, and *SOS*. Her other Arizona credits include *Silent Sky*, *The Fox on the Fairway*, and *Collected Stories* (SLP), *Seminar* (ETC), *Perfect Arrangement* (PVCC), and *Rumors* (FHT). When she's not pretending to be someone else, Lauren trades her script for spreadsheets as an accountant. A huge thank you to Ron, Stacey, the incredibly talented cast, and her friends and family for their love and support.

Johnny Kalita (Matt/William) is delighted to make his debut at Theatre Artists Studio and work alongside a brilliant cast and director on this wonderful play! Previous credits include *THE MINUTES* and *GLORIA* (Stray Cat Theatre), *MUCH ADO* (Southwest Shakespeare Co), and understudy in *WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME* (The Phoenix Theatre Company). Johnny can be seen in numerous films and commercials including The Arizona Lottery, Five Star Franchising, and Planet Fitness. Johnny also performs and teaches at The Bridge Improv Theatre. He is ever grateful to his family and his traveling life companion Elizabeth for their never-ending love and support.

Seth Tucker (Billy/John) is queer, Latino, artist, Realtor, producer, and native Arizonian making his TAS debut. Off-Broadway: Miss West Coast in *Pageant the Musical* (Original Cast Recording). Leo Frank in *Parade* (ART & Mesa Outback Theatre, AriZoni Nom), Charlotte in *I Am My Own Wife* (BLK BOX PHX), Iñigo Montoya in *The Puppet Parody Princess Bride* (APP, Original Cast Recording), Adam in *Next Fall* (OCTC), Jacob in *La Cage*, and Harry in *Lucky Stiff* (ABT). Marcus in *Murder For Two*, and Coneybear in *The 25th Annual Putnam...* (AriZoni Winner, Encore Award Winner) at PTC. Education: B.S. Business Marketing & B.M. Vocal Performance (ASU). "Much love to my hubby. This show is for Mama." Follow: @azspotlights & @setho705

Ron May (director) is the Founding Artistic Director for Stray Cat Theatre where he most recently appeared in *The Minutes*. He has directed many shows for Stray Cat and all over the valley. Thanks to Maureen Dias for asking me to come play with her and for saying yes to my suggestion of this play; to Patti Davis Suarez for also saying an immediate yes; to Stacey Walston for literally making it all seem to happen; and to everyone at Theatre Artists Studio for their kindness and support. In May, you can find him directing Stray Cat's season closer *Little Shop of Horrors*. This one's for my mom. And for your mom. And for Brooke.