



# LIMELIGHT

presented by South Valley Civic Theatre

## ON GOLDEN POND



WRITTEN BY ERNEST THOMPSON

PRODUCERS

PETER MANDEL & EMILY SHEM-TOV

DIRECTOR

BRYAN FREEMAN

**MAR 29 - APR 13, 2024 | [WWW.SVCT.ORG](http://WWW.SVCT.ORG)**



Resident Company of the  
Morgan Hill Community Playhouse



SVCT.ORG

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# Welcome!



# LIMELIGHT

presented by South Valley Civic Theatre

Thank you for  
joining us here at  
the Morgan Hill

Community Playhouse for this Limelight by SVCT production of *On Golden Pond*. While the venue may be different than what you might have come to expect from Limelight over the years, we are proud to be continuing to hold up the long tradition of bringing high quality dramatic performances to our region.

Limelight was the brainchild of actor Kevin Heath who created the theater company in 2011. After 43 Limelight productions, Kevin and his husband and theater company co-owner Alan Obata moved away, and, effective January 2020, South Valley Civic Theatre (SVCT) assumed management of Limelight at its location in Gilroy. Unfortunately, as of the end of 2023, we no longer have access to that performance space.

We are actively looking for a new space in Gilroy that will offer the same artistic and patron environment (thrust stage, cabaret style seating, options for dining and bar) as our previous location. As an interim measure, we have scheduled both this show as well our next, *A Comedy of Tenors* (scheduled to open in August 2024), here at the Morgan Hill Community Playhouse.

SVCT is an all-volunteer organization and we appreciate everyone who helped out with this and our other shows. Please check out our website for ways that you can support a vibrant performing arts scene in the South Valley, and to enjoy being part of a group that works together to make magic happen!

Please sit back and enjoy your visit to Maine as we join the Thayers in their summer cabin. We're delighted to present this touching and funny study of a spirited and lovable elderly couple facing their twilight years and are excited to have you join us here *On Golden Pond*.

Emily Shem-Tov and Peter Mandel  
Limelight by SVCT  
[limelight@svct.org](mailto:limelight@svct.org)



# Cast of Characters

Norman Thayer, Jr .....	Bill Tindall
Ethel Thayer .....	Ruth E. Stein
Ethel Thayer, Understudy .....	Sheila Ellam
Chelsea Thayer Wayne .....	Kristin Lynn
Bill Ray .....	Doug Brook
Billy Ray .....	Miriam Shem-Tov
Charlie Martin .....	Kenny Silberberg

## Setting & Scenes

*The living room of a summer home on Golden Pond, in Maine 1993.*

*Act 1 Scene 1: The middle of May. Early Afternoon.*

*Act 1 Scene 2: The middle of June. Mid morning.*

*Act 1 Scene 3: The middle of July. Night.*

*Act 2 Scene 1: The middle of August. Early morning.*

*Act 2 Scene 2: The middle of September. Late morning.*

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FIFTEEN-MINUTE  
INTERMISSION

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# Crew

Limelight Executive Director/Producer  
Limelight Managing Director/Producer  
Director  
Stage Manager  
Scenic Designer  
Costumer  
Properties Manager  
Scenic Painter  
Lighting Designer  
Lightning Operator  
Sound Technician  
Promo & Cast Photographer  
Publicity and Photography  
Box Office Manager  
Rehearsal Prompter  
Social Media Marketing

Peter Mandel  
Emily Shem-Tov  
Bryan Freeman  
Coco Crowley  
Andrew Cummings  
Marianne Snook  
Lori Foster  
Jennifer Oliphant  
Clara Shem-Tov  
Allie Purtell/Clara Shem-Tov  
Oliver Oliphant  
Chris Foster  
Elizabeth Mandel  
Marilyn Pifer  
Donna Knippen  
Robin Harris



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# Director's Note

*Bryan Freeman*

Thank you for coming to support this amazing cast and crew who have helped to bring this production to life before you today and – in doing so – helping to support your local theatre. As you watch our production, similar to what you will see of Ethel and Norman, you are viewing only the twilight of its life. The crew and actors have been preparing this production for months. Its infancy was last year when it was selected and I was asked to direct. The prime of its life having been the rehearsals, for which I have been privileged enough to watch the actors grow into their roles.

We all welcome you into the summer home of Ethel and Norman Thayer, where they have summered together for almost fifty years. Ethel, even longer! Their home may seem familiar in any number of ways:

Somebody coming to terms with their continual loss of faculties and own mortality.

A loving partner being the caretaker of someone who may not be their best when being taken care of.

A damaged child of parents starting their own family with its own damaged child.

Or where witty rapport and sardonic sarcasm are considered an attempt or substitute for affection.

We present family tonight in all its flawed perfection. There will be love. There will be growth. There will be resentment. There will be laughter.

Ultimately, there will be truths in all of these which cannot be escaped while on vacation - even on Golden Pond.

Welcome to the family...



# Meet the Cast

## Doug Brook (Bill Ray)

Doug Brook is in his first Limelight production. He most recently appeared in CLTC's *Kinky Boots* (Mr. Price), and SVS and Tabard's one-man play *Shylock*. Past roles include WVLO's *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tevye), LASC's *Bat Boy* (Sheriff), BBB's *Kiss Me, Kate* (Baptista), SCJT's *Driving Miss Daisy* (Boolie), CSP's *Tuesdays With Morrie* (Mitch), The Pear's *Superior Donuts* (Max), and Coastal Rep's *Noises Off* (Lloyd), among others. Past Executive Director of Silicon Valley Shakespeare and Artistic Director of Theatre Chevruta at the APJCC. He's directed numerous musicals including LASC's *[Title of Show]* (TBA Awards finalist for directing) and several for SBMT bookended by *Finian's Rainbow* and *Big River*, and plays including SVS's *The Three Musketeers* and *Shakespeare in Hollywood*. He's written twenty plays staged nationwide, including SVS's *The Hood of Sherwood* and two plays off-off-Broadway. A Dramatists Guild member, he studied writing and theatre at Carnegie Mellon University. <http://brookwrite.com/>



## Sheila Ellam (Understudy, Ethel Thayer)

Sheila is excited to be joining Limelight and this wonderful cast and crew. Favorite roles include Catherine in *And Miss Reardon Drinks A Little*, Gabrielle in *When The Rain Stops Falling* (Dragon Productions), Big Mama in *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* (Los Altos Stage Company), Lady Catherine de Bourgh in *Pride And Prejudice* (Silicon Valley Shakespeare), Linda in *Death Of A Salesman*, Boo in *Last Night of Ballyhoo*, and Doctor Armstrong in *Then There were None* for Broadway West Theatre Company. Sheila would like to thank you for supporting live theatre.



## Kristin Lynn (Chelsea Thayer Wayne)

Kristin is grateful to be making her Limelight debut with this amazing cast, director, creative team, and crew. Kristin is a graduate of Santa Clara University (B.A., Theatre Arts) and the Stella Adler Conservatory of Acting (now Stella Adler Studio of Acting) in New York. She is also trained in voiceover, music, and dance. Favorite productions over the years include *Twelfth Night* (Maria), *The Art of Dining* (Tony Stassio), *Cloud Nine* (Mrs Saunders), and *The Actor's Nightmare* (Dame Ellen Terry). Kristin is excited to be back on a Bay Area theatre stage, having gotten her start at Northside Theatre Company many years back.



## Miriam Shem-Tov (Billy Ray)

Miriam is 13 years old and in 7th grade at Oakwood School. She has been in 30+ productions, and *On Golden Pond* is her 7th acting with SVCT. Favorite recent roles include Michael/Nigel (*Matilda*), Ugly Duckling (*Honk Jr.*), and Schwartz (*Christmas Story*). You'll also often find her helping out backstage or at concessions at SVCT shows and she recently served as House Manager for SVCT's teen-run production of *The Lightning Thief*. Next up for Miriam will be the role of Jennie in Oakwood's production of *The Canterville Ghost*, followed by a turn as Young Charie in SVCT's upcoming *Kinky Boots*. When not rehearsing, Miriam enjoys crocheting and spending time with friends. She's happy to have helped expand the vocabulary of her castmates as Billy and thanks the cast and crew for making this such a fun learning experience.



## Kenny Silberberg (Charlie Martin)

Kenny is proud to make his SVCT debut as Charlie Martin in *On Golden Pond*. He often commutes from Union City. He has been with plenty of theatre groups. Favorite past roles include Pinocchio (*Pinocchio*, OrSVP), Ernst Ludwig (*Cabaret*, Chanticleers), Daniel (*Almost Maine*, NDNU), Harry Houdini (*Ragtime*, Lyric), TJ (*Sister Act*, Stage 1), and Stanford (*Bright Star*, WMT). Kenny works full time as a teacher's aid in Union City. He has had this job for 5 years, and plans on it eventually being 30 years. Kenny thanks his friends and family for support, and Bryan Freeman for allowing him to do this show. This summer, Kenny will be back with SVCT as an Angel in *Kinky Boots*. Kenny also thanks you in the audience, and hopes you enjoy the show.



## Ruth E. Stein (Ethel Thayer)

Ruth E. Stein brings her 60 plus years of theatrical experience back to the Limelight stage. She was last seen as that wacky nun, Sister Robert Ann, in her one-woman musical turn a few years ago. This award-winning actor/vocalist has performed extensively throughout the Bay Area. Some of her recent favorite roles are: Benjamin Franklin (*1776*, Female Version), Mama Rose (*Gypsy*), Auntie Juju (*Hedda Gabler*), Mrs. Lovett (*Sweeney Todd*), and Marge (*Bridges of Madison County*). RuthE has appeared in several industrial films, been a session recording vocalist, producer, director, musical director, props' goddess, scenic designer and set dresser, costumer, mentor, etc. for over 400 projects. Thank you and love to Mom and Dad...my own loony Norman and Ethel. RIP





## Bill Tindall (Norman Thayer Jr.)

Bill is so happy to be back on stage and to play this iconic role. He feels that his past roles in shows like *Out Going Tide* and *Tru* have prepared him for the emotional roller coaster that he – and he hopes the audience – will experience in this production. His last two adventures into theater were *Later Life* at Limelight as Director of a very interesting story of love lost and previous to that in SVCT's *Cabaret*. In *Cabaret* playing the bizarre MC, he got to dance and sing the audience into Nazi Germany and the worst of mankind. Bill loves theater and is so blessed to be able to perform for you. Bill is 69 years old, a native of the Mississippi Delta and blessed with an interesting upbringing. Bill has a degree in Psychology and later studied to be an Interior Designer. His recent studies in Theater were at the Berkeley Rep School of Theater. He has been proprietor of Brotin Design Inc since 1989. Thank you for coming and enjoy the show.



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## About the Playwright: Ernest Thompson

Ernest Thompson has won an Oscar, two Golden Globes, a Writers Guild Award and a Broadway Drama Guild Award for Best Play. His work has been nominated for a Tony, an Emmy and a British Academy Award. His more than 35 plays have been seen in theatres around the world. The most enduring, *On Golden Pond*, has been translated into 30 languages, and played in more than 40 countries on six continents including three runs on Broadway, the most recent starring James Earl Jones and Leslie Uggams. His films include *On Golden Pond* (Katharine Hepburn, Henry Fonda and Jane Fonda), *Sweet Hearts Dance* (Susan Sarandon and Jeff Daniels), *The Lies Boys Tell* (Kirk Douglas), *1969* (Robert Downey Jr. and Bruce Dern), *The West Side Waltz* (Shirley MacLaine and Liza Minnelli), *Out of Time*, and the live *On Golden Pond* (Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer), the last four of which Ernest also directed, as he has his latest films, *Time and Charges* and *Heavenly Angle*. Both were produced by his company, Whitebridge Farm Productions. More at [ernestthompson.us](http://ernestthompson.us)

# Meet the Crew

## Bryan Freeman (Director)

As an actor and director in the Bay Area for longer than he would care to admit, Bryan is thrilled to finally be inducted into the Limelight community, having previously directed *God of Carnage* with SVCT. A few of Bryan's favorite productions he has previously directed are *Closer* at Northside Theatre Co., *The Real Thing* at Broadway West, and *Tuesdays With Morrie* at Center Stage Productions. He is proud to have worked with such an amazing cast and crew on this production of *On Golden Pond*. This story of family leads him to dedicate his directorial efforts to his beautiful family with his sincerest hope they remain more functional than the Thayers.



## Coco Crowley (Stage Manager)

Coco is a seasoned actor but a second time stage manager. She has been working with the SVCT/Limelight company for many years, and she is very proud of how far the actors have come since the beginning of rehearsal. She has grown to appreciate the story and characters from the show, and she wishes you an enjoyable time at Golden Pond.



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Jenn Oliphant

Ingrid Rottman

Bill Tindall

Kathy Tom

## Special Thanks

**Shachar Shem-Tov** for all the help with many things, especially countless hours of set construction, moving, and fixing.

**Marianne Snook** for taking on costumes, program advertising, volunteer wrangling, and many other tasks along the way.

**Lori Foster** for the tremendous work on props for the show and keeping the fresh biscuits coming.

**Jenn Oliphant** for her amazing painting skills and so much more.

**Donna Knippen** for her patience and calming presence throughout.

**Oliver, Claire, Brenden, Cady, Genie, and Izzy Oliphant, Bella Tankersley, Miriam Shem-Tov and Allie Purtell** for mastering the art of faux wood painting and providing general moral support.

**Donna Knippen** for helping us all get all these lines just right.

**Javier Garcia, Kris Snook, Edgar Flores, Denee Lewis, and Scott Lynch** for helping with move-in and set-building.

**Marilyn Pifer** for all sorts of box office magic in turbulent times.

To the lobby volunteers who kept the front of house running smoothly!

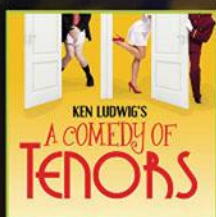
And everyone else who helped to make this show possible!



# SOUTH VALLEY CIVIC THEATRE

## 2024-2025 SEASON

Resident Company of the Morgan Hill Community Playhouse



 **A Comedy of Tenors**  
Limelight Play  
Aug 23 - Sept 8, 2024



**Finding Nemo JR**  
Youth Musical  
Sept 20 - Oct 12, 2024



**Pippin**  
"There's Magic To Do"  
Nov 15 - Dec 7, 2024



**Mean Girls**  
Teen Production  
Feb 21 - March 15, 2025



**Unnecessary Farce**  
Slapstick Comedy  
Apr 25 - May 17, 2025

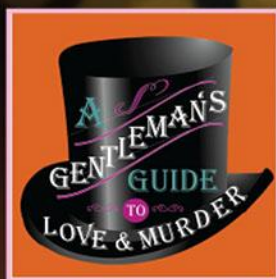


**To Be Announced**  
Award Winning Musical  
June 21 - July 13, 2025

# SOUTH VALLEY CIVIC THEATRE

## REMAINDER OF 2023-2024 SEASON

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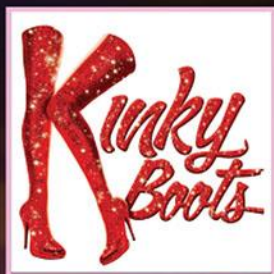
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***A Murderous Romp***

April 26 - May 18, 2024

A distant heir to a family fortune, sets out to speed up the line of succession by using a great deal of charm... and a dash of murder. Can he knock off eight unsuspecting relatives without being caught and become the ninth Earl of Highhurst?

A murderous romp filled with unforgettable music and non-stop laughs, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* was the winner of four 2014 Tony awards, including Best Musical.



### ***Kinky Boots***

***Tony Award Winning  
Ode to Individuality***

June 21 - July 13, 2024

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Enter Lola, a fabulous drag queen, who gives Charlie the idea to create ladies' shoes for men. Soon, the factory is turning out "kinky boots" under the supervision of Charlie and Lola, but can this scheme actually work? And can these two extremely different men find common ground and become real friends?