2025 BEST OF MORGAN ★ HILL ★ THE TIMES

LIMELIGHT
presented by South Valley Civic Theatre

PRESENTS

# KIMBERLY AKIMBO

A PLAY BY
DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE



SVCT

AUG 29-SEP 14, 2025 | SVCT.ORG

LIMELIGHT THEATER 16300 CONDIT RD., MORGAN HILL, CA 95037

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRIS FOSTER




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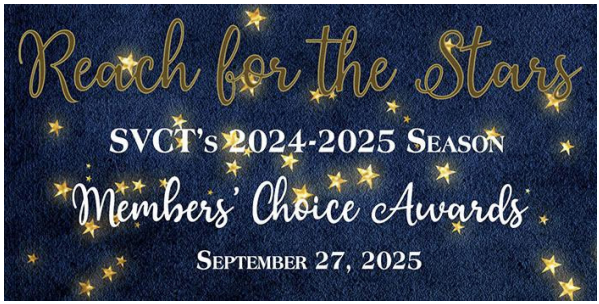
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KIMBERLY AKIMBO is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. www.dramatists.com

**Directed by Allie Bailey**

The play was initially produced at the South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa, California, from April 13 to May 13, 2001. Directed by David Petrarca. Lindsay-Abaire received the Kesselring Prize in November 2001 for this production. The production received the LA Drama Critics Circle Award for Writing in 2001.




*Join SVCT as we celebrate the highlights of our 2024–2025 season. Our gala evening will feature special performances and moments from each of the year's productions, along with recognition of outstanding contributions that made the season shine.*

*Your current membership includes an invitation to this celebration and the chance to cast your vote for your favorite performances. Voting closes Sept 9. Membership is also a wonderful way to support local community theater and stay connected throughout the year.*

*If you are unsure of your voting status, contact membership@svct.org. To join or renew now, visit svct.org/membership.*

## Welcome to the Limelight Theater!

LIMELIGHT
presented by South Valley Civic Theatre

Thank you for joining us for South Valley Civic Theatre's production of *Kimberly Akimbo*—the first show of our 2025–2026 season and our second in this intimate venue.

*Kimberly Akimbo* is a funny, heartfelt story about making the most of the time we're given, finding joy in unexpected places, and cherishing the people who matter most. We hope it makes you laugh, think, and leave with a little more appreciation for life's beautiful messiness.

We'd love to see you at our upcoming shows:

- *Disney's Descendants: The Musical* (Oct 3-18, Morgan Hill Playhouse): Comedy, adventure, Disney characters, and hit songs from the films.
- *Fun Home* (Nov 7-23, Playhouse): The Tony Award-winning musical about family, identity, and seeing our parents through new eyes.
- *The Other Place* (Jan 16-Feb 1, Limelight Theater): A gripping psychological drama where fact blurs with fiction and truth slowly emerges.

SVCT is a volunteer-run, nonprofit organization—our productions happen thanks to the passion of our cast, crew, and community. Visit svct.org to learn how you can join us in keeping live theatre thriving in the South Valley.

Enjoy the show, and we look forward to welcoming you back all season!

Peter Mandel and Emily Shem-Tov
Limelight by SVCT, limelight@svct.org

## Special Thanks

The producers would like to extend special thanks to Georgia Alves, Allie Bailey, The Bortolussi family, Andrew Cummings, Kelly Kobata, Jenni Meyer, Marilyn Pifer, Miriam Shem-Tov, Shachar Shem-Tov, Bill Tindall, The City of Morgan Hill, Starritt Construction, Sidney Stern Memorial Trust, Bullet Wireless, Crown Site Services, the Bay Area Panthers, our friends at WVLO, our cast, crew, and lobby volunteers, and everyone else who help to make this and all of our SVCT shows possible!

# Cast of Characters

***in order of appearance***

Kimberly Levaco.....Soozee Shireman
Buddy Levaco.....Keith Larson
Jeff McCracken.....Alexander Grimm
Pattie Levaco.....Sindu Singh
Debra Watts.....Andy Kline

Setting
Bogota, New Jersey
Early 2000s

*THERE WILL BE ONE FIFTEEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION*

# Crew

Limelight Executive Director/Producer.....Peter Mandel
Limelight Managing Director/Producer.....Emily Shem-Tov
Director.....Allie Bailey
Stage Manager.....Clara Shem-Tov
Assistant Stage Manager.....Kelly Kobata
Costume Designer.....Sarah Birdsall
Lighting Designer.....Mykal Philbin
Sound Designer.....AJ Jaffari
Backstage Crew.....Kia Jones, Miriam Shem-Tov
Graphic Design.....Jason Leong
Publicity.....Elizabeth Mandel
Photographer.....Chris Foster
Box Office Manager.....Marilyn Pifer
Social Media Marketing .....Robin Harris and Natalie Fitzgibbon

# Meet the Cast

## Alex Grimm (Jeff McCracken)



Alex is excited to make his Limelight Theater Company debut! Originally from California, Alex began his theater journey with CMT and Dream Team before heading to New York to study Acting at Pace University. While in New York, he performed in productions like *Blue Ridge* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (a plethora of times), as well as numerous student and short films, including *Phantom Sound, Like Brothers*, and *Secret at Playland*. After returning to California last year, Alex is thrilled to reconnect with the local theater community and share the stage with such a talented cast. He would also like to thank his dad Michael for recommending this community to him - I'd better see you in the next one!

## Andy Kline (Debra Watts)



Andy is absolutely delighted to be returning to Limelight SVCT after performing as Maria Morelli in last summer's *A Comedy of Tenors*! An experienced professional vocalist and choral conductor, Andy usually finds herself working within musicals both onstage and off, and was last seen as the scheming Fastrada in WVLO's *Pippin*. If you enjoy trash-to-treasure furniture refinishing and makeovers, you can catch Andy over on YouTube, in her one woman show: Furniture Fables by Andy! @andy_kline_@furniturefablesbyandy

## Keith Larson (Buddy Levaco)



This is Keith's twelfth year of performing in Bay Area theaters, and he is thrilled to work with such a talented group of artists in *Kimberly Akimbo*. Previous credits include *Young Frankenstein* at West Valley Light Opera, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Oslo*, and *1984* at Los Altos Stage Company, *Girls Kill Nazis* and A*ugust: Osage County* at The Pear, and *A Christmas Story* at South Valley Theatre. He's an extremely proud father of two young men, Charlie (a junior at the University of Oregon) and Henry (a senior at Bellarmine), and loves nothing more than watching movies, live theater, and going to Disneyland with them. He cannot adequately express the gratitude he feels for the support and encouragement of his family, friends, and co-workers. Much love and many thanks to you all.

## Soozee Shireman (Kimberly Levaco)



Soozee is honored to be debuting on the Limelight stage. Most recently she was seen in LASC's production of *A Christmas Story* as the tap-dancing teacher, Miss Shields. Favorite roles include Peggy Sawyer in *42nd Street*, Edith Herbert in *My One and Only*, Winifred in *Once Upon a Mattress*, and Kathy Seldon in *Singin' in the Rain*. Before raising a family, she made her living performing a one-woman juggling & unicycling show as "Circus Soozee" with her dog, "Popcorn." She currently directs bilingual children's musical theatre. She is thrilled to share this touching story with her friends, family and her students (don't listen to the bad words! ;) She is excited to work with this talented cast and dedicated staff and thanks them for being so supportive. Special appreciation to her husband, Kurt, and mother-in-law, Darlynne, for making this project possible.

## Sindu Singh (Pattie Levaco)



Sindu is thrilled to return to SVCT. She has worked in over 35 productions with companies all over the Bay Area for the past 15 years. In 2014, Sindu co-founded Bay Area Drama Company, a South Asian theatre company highlighting social justice themes, and served as Co-Artistic Director from 2015-2020. Her recent favorite roles include Mary Perkins (*Accused!*, Central Works), Judy (*Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, SVCT), Dinah, (*Quality of Life*, Altarena Playhouse), and Mailer, (*Galatea*, Spreckels Theatre). Directing credits include *Boiled Beans on Toast, The Invisible Hand, Kanyadaan, Counter Offence, Wedding Album, Dance Like a Man*, and *Yoni ki Baat* (the South Asian version of *The Vagina Monologues*). In 2022, Sindu was nominated for 'Principal Performance - Drama' by the SF Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle. She won SVCT's 'Members Choice Awards - Best Supporting Actress' in 2024. She will be seen next as Margo Crane in *The Wisdom of Eve* at Altarena Playhouse.

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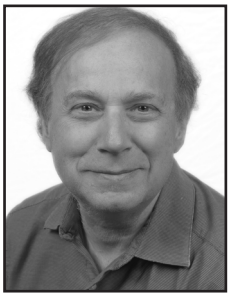
# Meet the Crew

## Allie Bailey (Director)



Allie is delighted to be directing with Limelight by SVCT for a fourth time! Audiences may remember her as the director of last season's farces, *Unnecessary Farce* and *A Comedy of Tenors*, or the family comedy from 2021, *A Nice Family Christmas*, for which she won the members' choice best direction award. Additional favorite directing credits include *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress, The Crucible, Deathtrap* (Coastal Rep), *Legally Blonde, Young Frankenstein* (WVLO), *La Llorona* (Opera Cultura), F*our Old Broads* (Santa Clara Players), *Into the Woods* (PSP), and *Pippin* (SCP). Up next, Allie will be directing *The Crazy Quilt Club* opening this October at Santa Clara Players. Allie would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her artistic endeavors and you, the audience, for helping to keep theatre alive and thriving within our community!

## Peter Mandel (Limelight Executive Director/Producer)



Peter is Executive Director at SVCT's Limelight, does lighting and projection design, and acts with theater groups throughout the Bay Area. Most recently he performed in SVCT's *The Prom* (Sheldon), *Kinky Boots* (George & Richard Bailey), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Man in Chair), *The Outsider* (Ned Newley) at Limelight, and *Cabaret* (Herr Schultz). Previously, he was seen in Los Altos Stage Company's production of *Oslo*, as well as many favorite roles including *1776* (John Adams), *The Odd Couple* (Murray), *It's Only A Play* (James Wicker), *Act One* (Moss Hart), *God of Carnage* (Alan Raleigh), *The Producers* (Max Bialystock), *Guys and Dolls* (Nathan Detroit), *Miracle on 34th Street* (Fred Gailey), and Gypsy (Herbie).

### Volunteer with SVCT!

We have an extremely exciting and ambitious season and are reaching out to the community to join us… not just as audience members but also as volunteers. What better time to establish a fun, new, and worthwhile connection with your community?

To get an idea of the types of volunteer roles we have, learn more at **www.svct.org/volunteer**.

## Sarah Birdsall (Costume Designer)



Sarah is delighted to participate in her second SVCT show, this time from behind the scenes! She was last spotted as Karen in *Unnecessary Farce* last spring. Though she is more commonly onstage, Sarah does have an extensive background in sewing and fiber arts, thanks to her late mother, Jo-Ann, a beloved South Bay costumer. Previous roles include: Marie (*Cinderella*, WVLO), Elizabeth (*Young Frankenstein*, WVLO) and Mollie (*The Mousetrap*, Santa Clara Players). While not at the theatre, she enjoys knitting and playing her ukulele (sometimes on social media!). She holds a B.A. in Dramatic Arts from UC Davis and a Certificate in Business Administration from De Anza College.

## AJ Jaffari (Sound Designer)



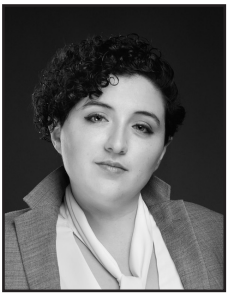
AJ is excited to return to Limelight, sound designing his very first play. Recent credits: Trent in *The Prom*, Eric in *Unnecessary Farce,* Emmett in *Legally Blonde* and Motel in *Fiddler On the Roof* (SF Bay Area BroadwayWorld Nominee). When not on stage, AJ enjoys working on his own music as well as hosting a weekly theater podcast "Broadway with AJ and Sarah." Many thanks to Allie Bailey for being a rockstar director and trusted friend. @ajjaffari

## Kelly Kobata (Assistant Stage Manager)



Kelly is so excited to be working as ASM for *Kimberly Akimbo!* She is a junior at Oakwood High school, and loves Chemistry. When she's not in a theater she also loves to crochet and bake. This will be Kelly's second show being an Assistant Stage Manager and can't wait. She hopes you enjoy the show!

## Mykal Philbin (Lighting Designer)



Mykal is excited to return to Limelight with this funny play. Mykal is a local Bay Area stage manager and lighting designer, who enjoys working as both at many theaters in the area. They are currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from San Jose State University. Favorite theater credits include *Wedding Singer* and *Young Frankenstein* (WVLO), *The Crucible* (Coastal Repertory Theatre), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* (Los Altos Stage Company), *Into the Woods* (Cabrillo Stage). Mykal would like to thank her community for their kindness and support.

## Clara Shem-Tov (Stage Manager)



Clara is thrilled to be back working on another Limelight by SVCT production and delighted to be working with director Allie Bailey again, as well as other familiar faces from previous shows! She has previously stage managed SVCT shows including *Dear Jack, Dear Louise; A Comedy of Tenors, A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, and *Matilda the Musical*, and has done tech for various others. Most recently she was the rehearsal stage manager and set designer for SVCT's production of *The Prom*. You might also have seen her on stage in SVCT's productions of *The Wolves* (#00) and *A Christmas Story* (Helen). When she's not immersed in theater, Clara enjoys baking, crafting puppets, and creating edible props (or ones that look good enough to eat), and participating in her school's robotics and tennis teams.

## Emily Shem-Tov (Limelight Managing Director/ Producer)



This is the ninth SVCT show that Emily has co-produced, having previously worked on *The Outsider, Later Life, Becky's New Car, Wolves, A Christmas Carol, On Golden Pond, A Comedy of Tenors*, and most recently, *The Prom*. She extends her heartfelt thanks to the cast, crew, and the many volunteers who helped bring this show to life. Just as *Kimberly Akimbo* reminds us to embrace each moment and find family in unexpected places, this production has been a joyful reminder of the power of community. Emily is deeply grateful to everyone who stepped up to make it possible—and to you, our audience, for joining us on this journey and keeping the magic of live theater alive.


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# About the Playwright: David Lindsay-Abaire




David Lindsay-Abaire is a Pulitzer Prize–winning playwright, screenwriter, lyricist, and librettist. His plays include *Rabbit Hole* (Pulitzer Prize, five Tony nominations), *Good People* (New York Drama Critics Circle Award, two Tony nominations), *Fuddy Meers, Kimberly Akimbo,* and *Wonder of the World*. He also wrote the book and lyrics for *Shrek the Musical* (eight Tony nominations, four Olivier nominations, a Grammy, and the Kleban Award for lyric writing).

His screen credits include the film adaptation of *Rabbit Hole* (Oscar nomination for Nicole Kidman), *Rise of the Guardians*, and MGM's *Poltergeist* reboot.

*Kimberly Akimbo* premiered at South Coast Repertory in 2001, winning the Kesselring Prize and LA Drama Critics Circle Award, and later ran Off-Broadway at Manhattan Theatre Club in 2003. A musical adaptation debuted at Atlantic Theater Company in 2021, then opened on Broadway in 2022, where it won five 2023 Tony Awards including Best Musical, Book, and Score.

# Anagram Corner

*Anagrams are the letters of a word, name or phrase jumbled up, often making another word or phrase. The really clever ones make an anagram that is witty or relevant to the original subject.*

*Can you identify which musicals are scrambled here?*

1. BARE ACT
2. MALIGNERS
3. MATH LION
4. A FEATHER TENTH HOOP MOP
5. FAME MAYOR COW
6. BARBEQUES GASP NONSTOP
7. ARENA HAND SEVEN
8. SEA WRIST
9. BIN TOOK SKY
10. FAMILY YARD



*Answers can be found later in the program...*

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### ANAGRAM ANSWERS

*1. CABARET*
*2. MEAN GIRLS*
*3. HAMILTON*
*4. THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA*
*5.COME FROM AWAY*
*6. SPONGE BOB SQUARE PANTS*
*7. DEAR EVAN HANSEN*
*8. WAITRESS*
*9. KINKY BOOTS*
*10. MY FAIR LADY*

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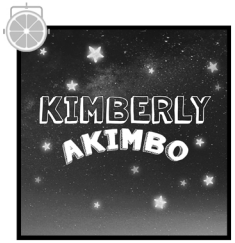
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Aug 29 - Sep 14, 2025




***Disney's Descendants***
*Youth Musical*
Oct 3 - 18, 2025




***Fun Home***
*Musical Memoir*
Nov 7 - 23, 2025




***The Other Place***
*Psychological Mystery*
Jan 16 - Feb 1, 2026




***High School Musical***
*Teen Musical*
Feb 20 - Mar 14, 2026




***Comic Potential***
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