



"The theatre is the only institution in the world which has been dying for four thousand years and has never succumbed. It requires tough and devoted people to keep it alive."

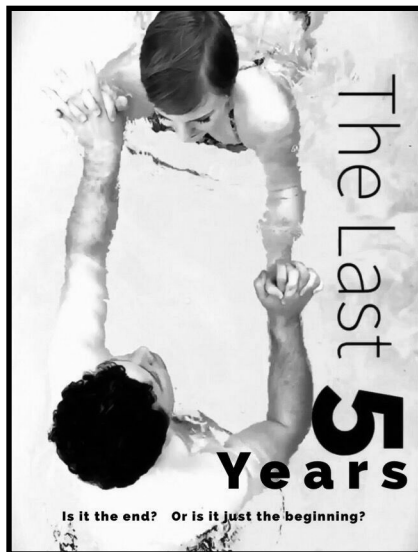
John Steinbeck

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What's coming next?

The Last Five Years

A musical by Jason Robert Brown



April 8—24th, 2016

Starring

Melanie Portney & Cody Pettit

Directed by **Gregg Wolff**

Musical Direction by **John Laird**

Presented at:



VILLA

SAN-JULIETTE

VINEYARD & WINERY

6385 Cross Canyons Road
San Miguel, CA 93451

Since its Off-Broadway premiere in 2002, Brown's funny, poignant, and devastatingly honest two-person production has enraptured audiences around the world with its spellbinding and emotional score and libretto.



Project Theatre Foundation's
WINE COUNTRY THEATRE
Presents
**John Steinbeck's
OF MICE AND MEN**



Presented at the Park Ballroom
March 4-20, 2016—Paso Robles, California
WineCountryTheatre.com

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatist Play Service

Silent auction tickets help support the theatre. Ticket sales alone do not cover our costs, so every dollar helps to keep live theatre alive! Thank you for your support.

CAST



MATTHEW HANSON - Lennie

Matthew is stoked to be returning to the stage after a two year hiatus. Starting his career onstage in the early nine-ties, Matthew spent his college years (Cal Poly) with local companies Cal Poly Arts, SOLT, SOPA, and seven seasons with the Central Coast Shakespeare Festival before moving to NYC to study with the Atlantic Theater Company with David Mamet and William H. Macy. Matthew founded

The Tragedians of the City, an Independent Theater Award winning company focused on Classical Theatre. Returning to the Central Coast, Matthew worked with SOLT and The Spot before founding Last Minute Theatre Co., where he directed *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. You probably recognize him as the General Manager and Bar Director of Fish Gaucho California Mexican and Tequila Bar, slinging the best dang cocktails on the Central Coast. When not working, Matthew spends his time playing video games, annoying both his beautiful wife Robin and his cats, and sleeping.



TYLER LOPEZ - George

Tyler has been acting on the Central Coast since his graduation from PCPA in 2007. Some local roles include: Proteus in *Two Gentlemen*, Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Central Coast Shakespeare Festival), El-Fayoumy in *Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Last Minute Theatre Company), and Fagin in *Oliver!* (Pioneer Players).



TOM AMMON - Candy

Tom is very happy to be making his first appearance at Wine Country Theatre. Tom was recently seen at The Great American Melodrama as Nat Gosling in *A Four-Legged Fortune*. At SLO Little Theatre, Tom has appeared in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Gaston) *Proof* (Robert), *Incorruptible* (Martin) and *The Gin Game* (Weller.) Also on the Central Coast: Ferapoint in *Three Sisters* (PCPA) and

Big Daddy in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Sorcerer.) Other favorite roles, in the San Francisco Bay area, include Roy Cohn in *Angels in America Part I*, Stage Manager in *Our Town*, Alan Turing, *Breaking the Code* and George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. As always, thanks to and all my love to my husband, Gary.



SEAN McCALLON - Curley

Sean is a graduate of The American Music and Drama Academy (AMDA) in Los Angeles, earning his BFA in Musical Theatre. Past favorite roles include Jack, *Into the Woods*, Ellard, *The Foreigner*, Billy Bibbit, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and Luther Billis, *South Pacific*. Sean has recently been a part of the L.A.'s Next Great Stage Star musical theatre competition in Los Angeles.

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PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer.....Cynthia Anthony
Director.....Robin Kirk Wolf
Producing Manager.....Jacob Shearer
Communications Director.....Laurie Zenobio
Stage Manager.....Krystal Kirk
Set Design.....Shelley Sorvig Malcolm
Set Construction & Painting.....Mary and Ken Barrette
Lighting Design / Operation.....MJ Johnson
Costumes.....Cast
House Manager.....Jody Birks
Concession Manager.....Chris Robinson
Wine Manager.....Pamela Bratz
Poster & Program Design.....Laurie Zenobio
Program & Poster PrintingThe Blueprinter

SPECIAL THANKS:

Susan Shillinglaw, Ph.D.—National Steinbeck Center, Greg Gorrindo and Five Seasons Pilates Studio, Robin Metchik, San Luis Obispo Little Theatre, Shannon Lowrie and The Studio of Performing Arts, Brian Williams and The Great American Melodrama, Jenny and Dana Shaheen, Kaylin Stewart, Jill Tweedie of Breakaway Tours & Event Planning, Bob & Susan Knowles, Garrett Larsen, Bill Gaines Audio, Paso Robles Culinary Arts Academy and Jon Tatro. Finally, a million thanks to all of our fabulous Wine Country Theatre volunteers.



KRISTIE LOPEZ - Curley's wife

Kristie Lopez is excited to be joining Wine Country Theatre for the first time. Past roles include: Julia, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (CCSF); Hermia, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (CCSF); Beatrice Joanna, *The Changeling* (EPBAB); Annabella, *Tis Pity She's a Whore* (EPBAB); Nell Gwynn, *Playhouse Creatures* (Pewter Plough Playhouse).



GARRETT SMITH - Slim

Garrett is returning to the stage after an extended absence in the world of pro wrestling. In prior years he could be seen in Central Coast Shakespeare Festival and Exit Pursued by a Bear's productions. For upcoming shows please go to en-dettaprowrestling.com and cencalpro.com.



JOHNATHAN FELCH - Carlson

Johnathan Felch has been in performing arts all his life. He's done acting, music, dance, tech, directing, production, design, and management for various local theatre groups, and worked in Hollywood. Johnathan is also a fire dancer and circus artist. He manages a local fire dance troop and production company called AllLumaNation.



KEVIN WATSON - Crooks

Kevin Watson, is originally from Sacramento. He moved to San Luis Obispo three years ago where he is a graphics specialist at The Parable Group. He loves live music and movies. You can find him either at the beach, on a hike or at home writing a screenplay.



CHARLES HAYEK - Whit

This software developer got his start performing at the Renaissance Pleasure Faire. He eventually took the plunge into community theatre, and has since performed with a number of local theatre groups. He most recently performed in Exit Pursued by a Bear's productions of *Julius Caesar* and *Measure for Measure*.



FRANK MOE - The Boss

This is Frank's debut with Wine Country Theatre. He has performed locally on the Central Coast in several Shakespeare in the Park productions as well as at the San Luis Obispo Little Theatre. He has appeared in productions of *The Crucible*, *Twelve Angry Men* and *Fool For Love*.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES—Robin Kirk Wolf

Eighty years after the publication of *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck's remarkable power to move and shake us remains strikingly relevant today. His profound understanding of the human spirit—its admirable strengths and its inevitable weaknesses—is both inspiring and distressing.

My great grandmother, Adela Rogers St. Johns, was the first female journalist in California to write about the plight of the poor during the Great Depression. Going undercover in the bread lines to write for William Randolph Hearst's *San Francisco Examiner*, she detailed the desperation of the men, women, and families she encountered, but also their hope.

The opportunity to direct *Of Mice and Men* connected with me on a very personal level. Directing, like journalism in the 1930s, has historically been seen as a man's game. Accordingly, I took on the opportunity with great humility, but also my fair share of the ol' family moxie.

My first exposure to Steinbeck came when I played the role of Rose of Sharon in the play *The Grapes of Wrath* when I was 14. I was struck by the playwright's ability to create a fully realized world with such complex characters and sense of place, all with a great economy of words.

Of Mice and Men endures because it is many things: a hymn to friendship and brotherhood, an indictment of prejudice, an ode to the dispossessed, a protest against poverty, a cry for help for the ostracized, and a defense of dreams.

Steinbeck offers a window on the world of the common man of the 1930s, a view of the grueling transient life at the bottom rung of America's social ladder. Now 80 years later, we are left to wonder how much has changed. As we slowly emerge from the worst recession since the 1930s, the Georges and Lennies of our times struggle to survive at the edges of society much as they did when Steinbeck captured them in words years ago. They work the fields, wander the streets and sleep in the battered cars and concrete overpasses of a California in which the disparity between the haves and have nots widens every day.

For Steinbeck's characters, a powerful friendship and a shared dream of the future make their difficult journey worth the taking. If that dream proved elusive in their America, let us hope it is more attainable in our own. Thank you, dear audience, for joining us tonight on this journey of friendship, hope, and the enduring belief in what is possible when we dare to dream of a better tomorrow!

The Story:

Of Mice and Men is set in California during the Great Depression, and follows two migrant workers: George, sharp and wise, and Lennie, strong but simple-minded. Together they hope to one day acquire their own piece of land. But when Lennie stirs up trouble on the job, George must choose between protecting his friend or staying the course towards his version of the American dream.

Steinbeck's towering classic American drama set against the backdrop of the Great Depression is a poignant portrait of the flipside of the American Dream and a friendship tested to its limits.

Scene Settings

ACT I

Scene One — A sandy bank of the Salinas River. Thursday night.

Scene Two — The interior of a large ranch bunkhouse. Late Friday morning.

Scene Three — A corral outside of the bunkhouse. Friday evening.

Scene Four — Later Friday evening. Back in the bunkhouse.

ACT II

Scene One — The room of Crooks, a stable buck. Late Saturday night.

Scene Two — One end of a great barn. Mid-afternoon Sunday.

Scene Three — A sandy bank of the Salinas River. Sunday evening.

Director— Robin Kirk Wolf



Born into a Theatre family, Robin began acting professionally at age 5. The three decades that followed have seen this Central Coast native work in nearly every aspect of Theatre both on stage and off. Spending a decade in NYC, her work included The Public Theatre, T. Schreiber Studio, and The Shakespeare Project. On the home-front in CA, she has enjoyed working with PCPA,

The Great American Melodrama, SLOLT, Chameleon Productions, and many others. After acting in their company for 6 seasons, Robin now serves on the Board of The Central Coast Shakespeare Festival. Her daytime hours often find her pursuing her love of wine and curating custom wine tours for Breakaway Tours. Favorite roles include Helena in *A Midsummer's Night's Dream*, Madame Thenardier in *Les Miserables*, and Abigail in *The Crucible*. Thanks to Cynthia for the faith and love to Matthew for going full out!

Stage Manager—Krystal Kirk

Krystal Kirk is excited to be back in the saddle as stage manager after an eight year hiatus. You may have seen her perform recently in *Top Girls* with Ubu's Other Shoe, *Two Gentleman of Verona* with CCSF or *Twelfth Night* with Exit Pursued by a Bear. Enjoy the Show!