



South Coast Repertory

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

2019/20 SEASON • JULIANNE ARGYROS STAGE

Where  
the  
**Mountain**  
Meets  
the  
**Moon**

*A Musical Adaptation*

**FEB 7-23, 2020**

book, music & lyrics by

**Min Kahng**

based on the book by

**Grace Lin**

directed by

**Jennifer Chang**

# THANK YOU

## ANNUAL SUPPORT

SCR gratefully acknowledges the following donors for generously providing special underwriting support during the 2019/20 season of Theatre for Young Audiences and other educational programs.

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The long-term development of Theatre for Young Audiences and other educational programs at SCR is greatly assisted by the establishment of endowment funds. We deeply appreciate the following donors who have honored us with gifts:

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 South Coast Repertory

DAVID IVERS  
Artistic Director

PAULA TOMEI  
Managing Director

DAVID EMMES & MARTIN BENSON  
Founding Artistic Directors

PRESENTS

# Where the MOUNTAIN Meets the Moon

A Musical Adaptation

BOOK, MUSIC & LYRICS BY **MIN KAHNG**

BASED ON THE BOOK BY **GRACE LIN**

FIRST PUBLISHED BY WRITERS HOUSE LLC

DIRECTED BY **JENNIFER CHANG**

MUSICAL DIRECTOR  
**DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA**

SET DESIGNER  
**TESSHI NAKAGAWA**

COSTUME DESIGNER  
**ANTHONY TRAN**

LIGHTING DESIGNER  
**LONNIE RAFAEL ALCARAZ**

SOUND DESIGNER  
**MELANIE CHEN COLE**

VIDEO DESIGNER  
**YEE EUN NAM**

CASTING  
**JOANNE DENAUT, CSA**

STAGE MANAGER  
**TALIA KRISPEL**

HONORARY PRODUCERS

**PHYLLIS & LARRY HOGLE • LEONA ARONOFF-SADACCA**

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The Theatre for Young Audiences series is made possible in part by a major grant from  
**THE SEGERSTROM FOUNDATION**

# The Cast

Minli, Old Woman. . . . . CHLORIS LI  
 Dragon . . . . . MILLER TAI  
 Ba, Vendor, A-Gong. . . . . RANDY GUIAYA  
 Ma, Vendor, Amah . . . . . AJA WILTSHIRE  
 Old Man, Villager 1, Painter Chen,  
 Beggar/King, Da-Fu . . . . . ALBERT PARK  
 Tiger, Goldfish Man,  
 Peach Vendor, Villager 3 . . . . . MIKE PALMA  
 Goldfish 1 & 2, Villager 2, Apprentice,  
 Xiao Mao, Pottery Vendor, A-Fu. . . . . NICOLE JAVIER

*The actors and stage managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.*

## For Your Information

NO BABES IN ARMS ALLOWED. Everyone must have a ticket; children under the age of four will not be admitted to Theatre for Young Audiences performances.

To cause the least disruption, patrons who have not entered the theatre when the performance begins will be asked to watch the show on lobby monitors until an appropriate break in the performance. Latecomers, as well as those who leave the theatre anytime during the performance, may be assisted to alternate seats by the House Manager at an appropriate

interval and may take their assigned seats at intermission. SCR accepts no liability for inconvenience.

Special seating arrangements may be made in advance for disabled patrons by calling South Coast Repertory's Ticket Services Department at (714) 708-5555.

As a courtesy to all patrons and the actors, please turn off all electronic devices or switch them to non-audible mode before the performance begins.

Photographing, videotaping or other video or audio recording during the performance is strictly prohibited.

Be sure to check out our website for the *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* study guide, which features additional information about the play, plus a variety of other educational resources. [scr.org](http://scr.org)

## These folks help bring all of our shows to life

DAVID IVERS  
Artistic Director

PAULA TOMEI  
Managing Director

DAVID EMMES & MARTIN BENSON  
Founding Artistic Directors

JOHN GLORE  
Associate Artistic Director

HISA TAKAKUWA  
Conservatory & Educational  
Programs Director

BIL SCHROEDER  
Marketing & Communications Director

LORI MONNIER  
General Manager

MATTHEW E. CHANDLER  
Production Manager

ALEX WANG  
Development Director

## These folks are helping run this show backstage

**PRODUCTION ASSISTANT:** Lauren Buangan  
**ASSOCIATE PRODUCTION MANAGER:** Holly Ahlborn  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:** Jenna Dern  
**FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER:** Thomas Isao Morinaka  
**ASSISTANT FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER:** Aaron Aoki  
**COSTUME DESIGN ASSISTANT:** Kaitlyn Kaufman  
**ASSISTANT TO THE LIGHTING DESIGNER:** Shelby Thach  
**ASSISTANT TO THE VIDEO DESIGNER:** Yeaji Kim  
**STAGE MANAGEMENT INTERNS:**  
 Hope Binfeng Ding, Jazmin "JP" Pollinger

**LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR:** Sean Deuel  
**SOUND BOARD OPERATOR:** Jim Lupercio  
**VIDEO OPERATOR:** Abraham Lopez  
**AUTOMATION OPERATOR:** Marissa Putnick  
**WARDROBE SUPERVISOR/DRESSER:** Margaret Jordan  
**ADDITIONAL COSTUME STAFF:**  
 Whitney Claytor, Rome Fiore, Lalena Hutton,  
 Adriana Lambarri, Molly Smith Martin, Kaler Navazo  
**HOUSE MANAGER:** Ashleigh Hector

## And these folks helped get it ready for you

**THESE FOLKS BUILT THE SCENERY**  
 Jon Lagerquist, **TECHNICAL DIRECTOR**  
 John Gaddis IV, **ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR**  
 Matt MacCready, **MASTER CARPENTER**  
 Daniel Petrich, Eric Crider, **SCENIC CARPENTERS**  
 Alex Johnson, **AUTOMATION TECHNICIAN**  
 Jen Stringfellow, **SCENIC CHARGE ARTIST**  
 Judy Allen, Terra Writz, **SCENIC ARTISTS**  
**THESE PEOPLE CREATED PROPS**  
 Cat Kerr, **ASSISTANT PROP SUPERVISOR**  
 Byron Bacon, **PROPERTIES SHOPPER**  
 Hayley Parker, **SOFT GOODS ARTISAN**

**THE FOLLOWING MADE THE COSTUMES**  
 Amy L. Hutto, **COSTUME SHOP MANAGER**  
 Laurie Donati, **FULL CHARGE COSTUMER**  
 Catherine J. Esera, **CUTTER/DRAPER**  
 Jyll Christolini, **WARDROBE SUPERVISOR**  
**THESE PEOPLE FIXED THE HAIR**  
 Allison Lowery, **HAIR & MAKEUP SUPERVISOR**  
 Gillian Woodson, **HAIR & MAKEUP TECHNICIAN**  
**THIS GROUP DEALT WITH LIGHTS & SOUND**  
 Mike Ritchey, **SOUND & VIDEO SUPERVISOR**  
 Kara Ramlow, **LIGHTING SUPERVISOR**  
 Sean Deuel, Keannak Parvaz, **STAGE ELECTRICIANS**  
 Jim Lupercio, Jim Busker, **SOUND ENGINEERS**

# Songs

- “Fruitless Mountain” . . . . . Ma, Ba, Goldfish Man, Villagers
- “The Proudful Magistrate” . . . . . Ba, The Old Man of the Moon,  
Magistrate Tiger
- “The Proudful Magistrate” (Reprise) . . . . . Ma
- “Minli's Journey Song” . . . . . Minli
- “I Was a Figment” . . . . . Dragon, Painter Chen, Apprentice,  
Magistrate Tiger, Voices
- “The City of Bright Moonlight” . . . . . Pottery Vendor,  
Peach Vendor, Beggar, Minli, Crowd
- “Act I Finale” . . . . . Minli
- “Paper of Happiness” . . . . . Ba
- “Moon Rain Village” . . . . . A-Fu, Da-Fu, Amah, A-Gong, Minli
- “Ma's Story” . . . . . Ma
- “Minli's Journey Song” (Reprise) . . . . . Minli
- “Fruitful Mountain” . . . . . Ba, Ma, Villagers
- “Finale” . . . . . Ma, Ba, Villagers

# Find Minli's Goldfish

Look for this fish!

Help Minli find her magical pet goldfish from among the Goldfish Man's many fish!

# Journey to Never-Ending Mountain

Can you help Minli and Dragon find their way to Never-Ending Mountain?



## START HERE

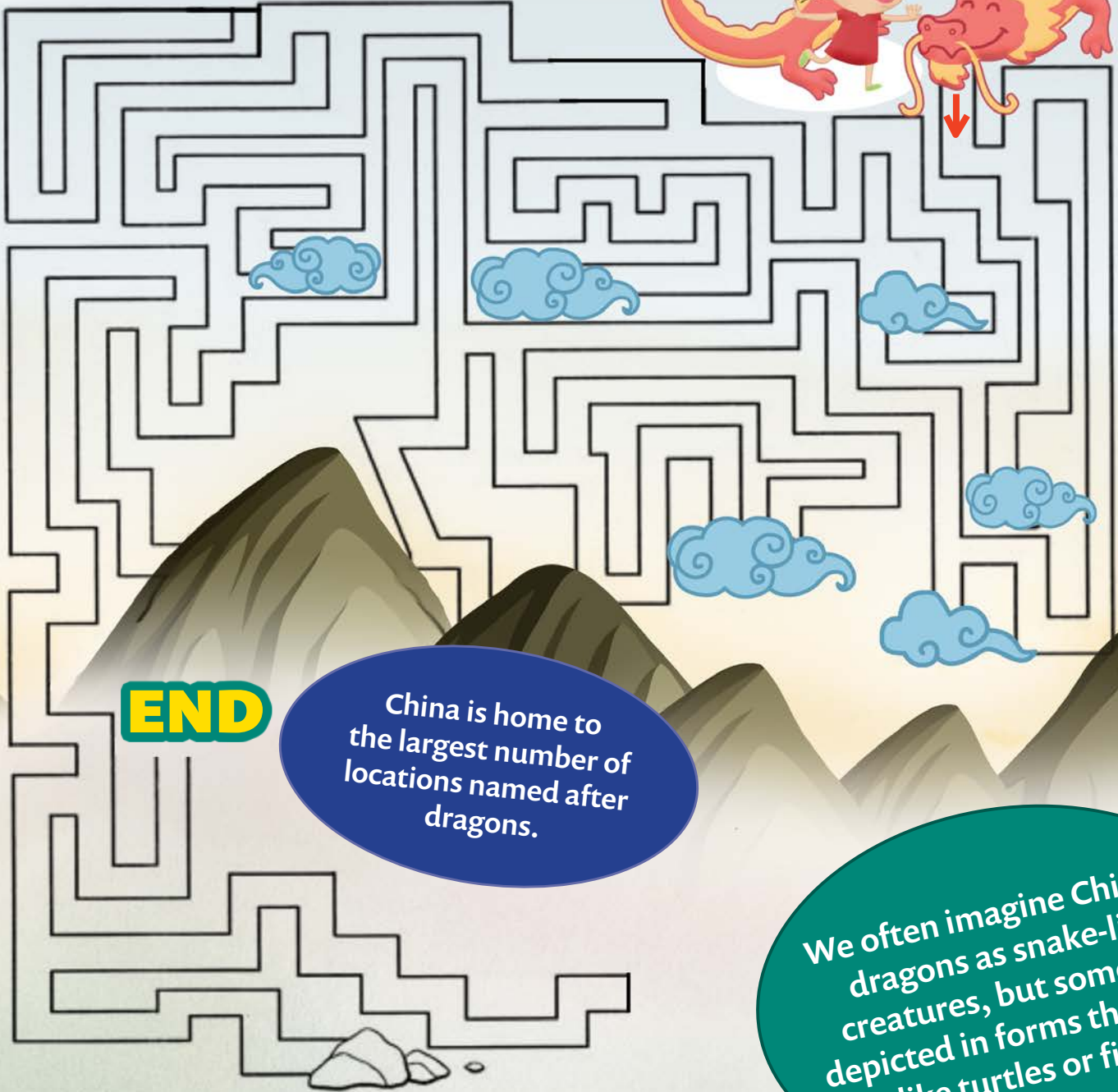
In Chinese mythology, dragons control the weather! They are considered the rulers of seas, lakes and rivers.

In China, the dragon is a symbol of power, strength and good luck.

We often imagine Chinese dragons as snake-like creatures, but some are depicted in forms that look like turtles or fish.

China is home to the largest number of locations named after dragons.

## END



# Who's Who in the Cast



**RANDY GUIAYA** *Ba, Vendor, A-Gong*

When I was four, I dragged my mom into a piano store, hoping she'd buy me a Yamaha Electone. Instead, Mom bought my older sister an upright piano and lessons that she didn't ask for. I learned to play by watching my sister like a hawk when she'd practice. While my high school drama and choir teachers didn't need accompanists for their programs, they taught me how to do a grapevine dance move across the stage without tripping and helped me expand my three-note grunting range into something more listenable. Thus, my love for acting was born. Since then, I've appeared on stage and screen, and my voice has been heard in movies, TV and radio programs, commercials and even a GPS app (WAZE) that's pretty popular, I hear. I attended the University of Southern California and graduated with two degrees—music and something scientific to throw my parents off the “you're-gonna-be-a doctor” scent.



**NICOLE JAVIER** *Goldfish 1 & 2, Villager 2, Apprentice, Xiao Mao, Pottery Vendor, A-Fu*

I am an LA-based actor, teacher and yoga instructor—so, just like in this show, I play a lot of roles in my everyday life! I grew up in the Bay Area and found my passion for acting at a young age. I joined my drama club at my school, auditioned and was in every show; then I went on to study acting at Chapman University here in Orange County. I loved it so much I also got my MFA (a master of fine arts degree) in acting from UC-San Diego.

I was recently in the original cast of *Diana the Musical* at La Jolla Playhouse, which opens on Broadway in March. Shhh. Here's a secret: a common misconception is that actors don't get nervous, but I *still* get nervous singing in front of people. So I practice a lot and try to remember what I do is fun! Enjoy the show, and do what you love!



**CHLORIS LI** *Minli, Old Woman*

Growing up, my aunt would tell me many Chinese folktales at bedtime. These were tales about dragons, mountains, lovers and heroes. My favorite stories were always the ones about the legendary Monkey King. I fell in love with storytelling through hearing those folktales and decided that I wanted to become a performer. Today, I am very grateful to be standing on this stage and telling you the same stories that my aunt used to tell me. I was born in San Francisco, Calif., and recently graduated from UC-San Diego, where I studied theatre.



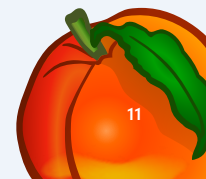
**MIKE PALMA** *Tiger, Goldfish Man, Peach Vendor, Villager 3*

I was born and raised in Los Angeles and got my start in acting when I auditioned for a musical touring company show that took me throughout the U.S. Since then, I've been in a wide variety of shows, but my most favorite thus far was this past summer's production of *Mamma Mia!* at East West Players in Los Angeles. I'm also the associate artistic director of the longest-running Asian-American improv group in the nation, called Cold Tofu. Check us out at [coldtofu.com](http://coldtofu.com). When I'm not performing, I am a professional photographer and have photographed celebrities and big events including the Oscars and the Golden Globes. In 2015, I was given the opportunity to photograph several dignitaries including the Prime Minister of Japan. I enjoy photographing people because it's a chance for me to get to know them better and learn about the amazing things they do in their lives. Lastly, we hope to inspire you with our stories and talents on the stage today! Enjoy the show!



**ALBERT PARK** *Old Man, Villager 1, Painter Chen, Beggar/King, Da-Fu*

A long time ago, I was a little boy who watched too much television (that's what they used to call Netflix). I constantly practiced cartoon voices for my sisters, and I loved watching stories and making my family laugh as I acted them out. Then, in first grade, I went on a field trip to watch my first play, *The Wizard of Oz* performed by Asian Story Theater. Eureka! After that, I performed in plays at church and at school. Eventually, I went to UC-Berkeley to study art, where I learned how to “create visual interest” and read a lot about something called critical theory. I enjoyed painting and filmmaking, but I missed performing. After years of sitting behind a desk for money, I finally acknowledged my calling and returned to theatre. Nowadays, I love to tell stories of folks who look like me, such as *Vietgone* and *Cambodian Rock Band*.





### **MILLER TAI** *Dragon*

I am an actor, singer and dancer originally from Wichita, Kan. I got involved in my very first theatre show in eighth grade and I haven't stopped since that moment. You might have seen me recently in *The Emperor's Nightingale*, where I was one of the most important characters—a panda. I was also the emperor, but the pandas were the most important for sure. I have also been on TV shows like "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend," "Mom" and "Young Sheldon." You can find me at your

nearest bakery, boba place or doughnut store!



### **AJA WILTSHIRE** *Ma, Vendor, Amah*

I just moved to Los Angeles from across the country in Chicago. I studied acting and music at Oklahoma City University and am originally from Texas. I've done all kinds of plays and musicals (I did my first musical when I was five years old!) and, in one of them, we got to form an actual rock band. I love telling stories because they help people see parts of life that they might not have seen before—

and maybe even teach them something—or help them understand a different perspective. I hope you enjoy the play!

# Artist Bios

### **MIN KAHNG** *(Book, Music and Lyrics)*

Even though I was always a creative kid who loved musicals and listening to cast albums, I didn't believe writing musicals was something I could actually do as my career. It wasn't until after I graduated from college that I took my first theatre classes. I started off acting, but then began to music direct—conducting the instruments and teaching the actors their singing parts. Through these experiences, I got to study how other composers and lyricists wrote their scores

and, finally, started to believe that I could do the same. I have been so lucky to be able to write several plays and musicals including adaptations of children's books like *Inside Out & Back Again* and the *Bad Kitty* series. *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* is a very meaningful story to me because—just like Minli—I have journeyed out as an artist to accomplish something that seemed impossible. And, like Minli, I have learned to be thankful for the family and friends who have loved and supported me all along.

**GRACE LIN** *(Author)* I am a New York Times bestselling author/illustrator, who won the Newbery Honor for *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* and the Theodor Geisel Honor for *Ling and Ting*. My novel, *When the Sea Turned to Silver*, was a National Book Award Finalist and my picture book, *A Big Mooncake for Little Star*, was awarded the Caldecott Honor. I am an occasional commentator for New England Public Radio, a reviewer for *The New York Times*, a video essayist for *PBS NewsHour* and a speaker for the popular TEDx talk, "The Windows and Mirrors of Your Child's Bookshelf," as well as hosting the two podcasts: "kidlitwomen\*" and "Kids Ask Authors." In 2016, my art was displayed at the White House, where I was recognized by President Obama's office as a Champion of Change for Asian American and Pacific Islander Art and Storytelling.

### **JENNIFER CHANG** *(Director)*

I have always loved books and being told stories. When I was a kid I would create stories and sets with my dolls and stuffed animals, recycling and reusing boxes of all shapes and sizes and used my bed as a stage. I was born in San Francisco, then I went to college in New York City (NYU-BFA) and graduate school in San Diego (UCSD-MFA) to study acting and now I'm a director. I even won a Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for directing! I have two sons age 5 and 7 who also love stories and adventures and I dedicate this show to them.

### **DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA** *(Musical Director)*

I am a composer and music director who loves working at SCR, where you might have seen my musicals *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock*

*Experience*, *Ella Enchanted* and *Jane of the Jungle*. I have been writing shows for kids and grown-ups for more than 20 years including *Elephant and Piggie: We Are in a Play!* at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; *Einstein is a Dummy* at the Alliance Theatre (Atlanta, Ga.); and *Ferdinand the Bull* at Imagination Stage (Md.). I started playing piano, singing and writing songs when I was nine and studied music at Stanford University and New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. While I have never made friends with a dragon, I really love playing with my cat, Mimi, and hanging out with my family. Check out my website: [crunchynotes.com](http://crunchynotes.com).

### **TESSHU NAKAGAWA** *(Set Designer)*

I am a Los Angeles-based scenic designer and originally hail from Tokyo, Japan. I always liked drawing and crafting as a child. When I was 20 years old, I had a chance to go to New York City and saw many Broadway musicals such as *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Cats*. I was blown away by this experience and decided to come to the U.S. to study theatrical design. I started at Los Angeles City College, then went to Boston University and UCLA to pursue my dream. Now I work in theatre and also in the film and commercial industry as a scenic designer/art director. I received my MFA from University of California, Los Angeles.

### **ANTHONY TRAN** *(Costume Designer)*

I am a Los Angeles-based costume designer for theatre, film and television. As a kid, I would draw on anything I could get my hands on—scrap paper, napkins and the margins of essays.

I went to college at UCLA, where I studied theatre design and art history. My work has taken me all over, from tiny remote parts of Montana to tropical Puerto Rico. You may have seen my work in TV shows like “Teen Beach 2,” “Andi Mack” (Disney) and “Star Trek: Picard” (CBS All-Access). Costume design combines many of the things I love—art, storytelling, analysis and collaborating with fellow artists.

**LONNIE RAFAEL ALCARAZ (Lighting Designer)**

I’m a professor at UC-Irvine and a professional lighting designer. I have designed for various regional theatres, such as Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Great River Shakespeare Festival and Utah Shakespeare Festival. Among the productions I designed for SCR are *The Whipping Man*, *The Long Road Today*, *La Posada Mágica*, *Goldfish*, *Bunnica*, *James and the Giant Peach* and *Jane of the Jungle*. My recent designs include *American Mariachi* at SCR, *The Lion in Winter* at Laguna Playhouse, *Murder for Two* at Center REpertory Company, *All Is Calm* at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and *Macbeth* and *Cymbeline* at Great River Shakespeare Festival. I am a member of the United Scenic Artists/IATSE—Local 829. My complete design portfolio can be found at [www.lradesigns.com](http://www.lradesigns.com)

**MELANIE CHEN COLE (Sound Designer)**

I am a San Diego-based freelance sound designer who grew up in Cerritos, Calif. I started taking piano lessons when I was four years old and later, in elementary school, I learned how to play the flute. I went to college at

UC-San Diego and that’s where I discovered how to use my love of music to help tell stories through theatre. I stayed at UC-San Diego for another three years to get my MFA. I’ve enjoyed designing all over the country including states like Alabama, Ohio, Texas, Indiana, North Carolina and in Washington, D.C. It’s exciting to return to Orange County for my design debut at SCR on this production.

**YEE EUN NAM (Video Designer)**

I like making art. When I was in elementary school, I drew chicks and frogs every day for years. In high school, I made a giant horse with clay. In college, I studied graphic design, video design and metal craft. I spent days making a 3D ball bounce smoothly. And I thought, “What kind of job could I get to use all of these different types of art that I learned?” So I became a theatre designer. I received an MFA from UCLA, where I studied professional theatre design. Now I design logos, posters and wallpapers for shows. Sometimes I make news footage, hand-drawn animations and moving waves and clouds. It is so much fun to design new worlds for theatre! When I am not in theatre, I am usually at home with my cat and watching hummingbirds outside of my window.

**TALIA KRISPEL (Stage Manager)**

I am a New York-based stage manager. I grew up in Southern California and started seeing theatre at the age of five and was in my first production at age nine. One of my favorite roles was playing Milky White (a cow!) in a production of *Into the Woods*. I went to the University of the Pacific as an actor. Shortly after I graduated college,

I found my true calling as a stage manager on a Theatre for Young Audiences production of *Sarah, Plain and Tall* in New York City. Then I went back to school and got my master's degree in educational theatre at New York University. My last young audiences production was SCR's *Junie B. Jones Is Not a*

*Crook!* Working backstage is so much fun—we’re like ninjas! Try to spot us! I have been stage managing professionally for more than 17 years. When I’m not stage managing, I like to travel and spend time with my friends. For Mychal and Dad. Instagram: [teekrisp](https://www.instagram.com/teekrisp). [www.taliakrispel.com](http://www.taliakrispel.com)

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION, founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 50,000 professional actors and stage managers. Equity endeavors to advance the careers of its members by negotiating wages, working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits (health and pension included). Member: AFL-CIO, FIA. #EquityWorks.



# The Man of the Moon

Minli discovers that she is only allowed to ask the Old Man of the Moon one question. After you've seen the show, think about what you would ask the Old Man of the Moon, and write it down in the space below.



# The Power of Stories



Minli and Dragon use the wisdom they learn from folktales to find Never-Ending Mountain. How much do you know about Chinese folktales? Check out the titles here and then look them up (along with others!) after seeing the show.



**The Legend of the White Snake**  
In this fairy tale, a snake spirit falls in love with a human named Xu Xuan.

**The Cowherd & the Weaving Girl**

In this story, the love between a simple cowherd and a fairy is so misunderstood that they are banished to opposite sides of the Heavenly River (which symbolizes the Milky Way).

## 孫悟空

**Sun Wukong, or the Monkey King**

Known as a trickster with superhuman strength, Sun Wukong was born from a magical rock that rested on top of Mount Huaguo.



**The Butterfly Lovers**  
This story of two ill-fated lovers ends with both of their souls turning into butterflies.

What other stories can you find?

This story introduces the unicorn—the *chi-lin*—which bears little resemblance to the unicorn of Western myths. Instead, it is a mixture of many creatures, including the deer, ox, dragon and horse.

**The Unicorn's Prophecy**

麒麟





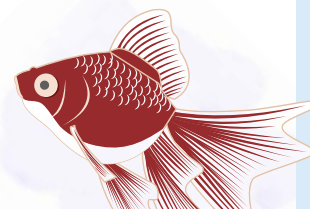
# Acting Classes Become Lessons for Life

From students to parents to alumni, everyone has high praise for how acting classes in the Theatre Conservatory provide guidance for success both on the stage and in life. It's no wonder that *ParentingOC* readers have voted SCR tops for having "The Best" acting classes six years in a row. Each year, more than 2,000 kids, teens and adults are enrolled (fall, winter, spring and summer) in basic acting skills classes, scene study, musical theatre, improvisation and more. The benefits include better communication skills, self-confidence and self-esteem, and analytic thinking.

"We tell our students that the skills it takes to succeed as an actor are the same skills that will help them enjoy a richer, fuller life," says Hisa Takakuwa, who directs the conservatory and education programs. She and the faculty delight in seeing students have those 'aha' moments and watching lives changed for the better. Read on to hear about the benefits of studying acting at SCR.

**"SCR had a huge impact on my life. I took classes with a great teacher and the atmosphere was fun, creative and encouraging. I really discovered a passion for drama here and am thankful for the experience."**—Ryan Eggold, actor, *"New Amsterdam," "The Blacklist" and "Entourage"*

**"We have seen each of our kids blossom as they developed confidence, self-esteem and skills that will help them in whatever fields they pursue. They have learned to think on their feet, to work well with others and to look within themselves for the answers."**—Laura Forbes, parent



She has a big personality and an imagination to match!

# DORY FANTASMAgory

Based on the book:  
*Dory Fantasmagory*  
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AGES  
4+

MAY 22-  
JUN 7

a play by **John Glore**  
adapted from the book  
by **Abby Hanlon**  
directed by **Casey Stangl**



South Coast Repertory

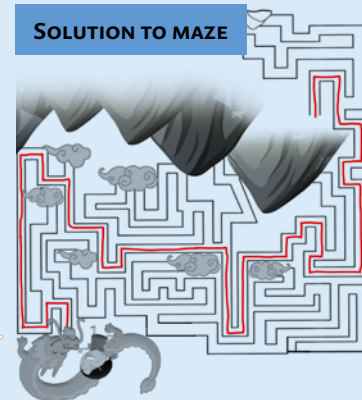
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**"SCR shaped me into the person I am. I feel like I grew up, made the most incredible friends and discovered my love for acting at this theatre. I feel lucky that I had the opportunity to study acting here."**

—Rachel Charny, alumna

**Learn more about acting classes at [scr.org/classes](http://scr.org/classes).**

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Jul 13–Jul 25

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