

South Coast Repertory

Julianne Argyros Stage • November 4-20, 2005

Theatre for Young Audiences
presents

Bunnicul a

adapted for the stage by **Jon Klein**

from the book by **Deborah and James Howe**

lyrics by **Jon Klein** music by **Chris Jeffries**

Set Design
Donna Marquet

Costume Design
Angela Balogh Calin

Lighting Design
Lonnie Rafael Alcaraz

Musical Director
Tim Horrigan

Production Manager
David Leavenworth

Stage Manager
Jamie A. Tucker*

directed by **Stefan Novinski**

*Originally commissioned by Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle, WA. Produced by special arrangement with Plays for Young Audiences
A Partnership of Seattle Children's Theatre and Children's Theatre Company, Minneapolis*

The Theatre for Young Audiences season has been made possible in part by generous grants from
The Nicholas Endowment and **The Segerstrom Foundation**

The Cast

Bunnacula	MAURI BERNSTEIN
Chester	DIANA BURBANO*
Harold	LOUIS LOTORTO*
Toby	ROBERT NEGRON*
Mrs. Monroe	JENNIFER PARSONS*
Mr. Monroe	TOM SHELTON*
Pete	TRAVIS VADEN*

* denotes members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers

Song List

ACT I

"Pet in the House"	Harold and Chester
"Room for All"	Harold, Chester and the Monroes
"Vampire Theory"	Harold and Chester

ACT II

"Poor Cat"	Harold, Chester and the Monroes
"Only Friend"	Harold and Chester
"Pet in the House" (reprise)	Harold, Chester and the Monroes

For Your Information

Everyone must have a ticket. No babes in arms allowed.

Latecomers will be asked to watch the lobby monitor until an appropriate time that they can be taken into the theatre and seated at the discretion of the House Manager. They may then take their assigned seats at intermission.

Special seating arrangements can be made for Disabled Patrons in advance by calling South Coast Repertory's Ticket Services Department at 714-708-5555.

As a courtesy to all patrons, please turn off all Cellular Phones, Pagers and Watch Alarms or switch them to non-audible before the performance begins.

If Doctors or Parents expect calls during a performance, please leave your name and seat number with the House Manager, who can be reached at 714-708-5500, ext. 5442.

Media Partner
OC Family Magazine

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South Coast Repertory

DAVID EMMES
Producing Artistic Director

MARTIN BENSON
Artistic Director

PAULA TOMEI
Managing Director

JOHN GLORE
Associate Artistic Director

NICKI GENOVESE
General Manager

MARCIA LAZER
Marketing & Communications Director

JEFF GIFFORD
Production Manager

MELAINE BENNETT
Development Director

These folks are helping run the show back stage!

Nina Evans*/Erin Nelson*
Ryan Neely
Jen Goldstein
Jeff Brewer
Chris Deckner
Stacey Nezda
Jenny Butler

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS
STAGE MANAGEMENT INTERN
ASSISTANT TO THE LIGHTING DESIGNER
LIGHTING BOARD OPERATOR
SOUND BOARD OPERATOR
DRESSER
FOLLOW SPOT OPERATOR

And these folks helped get it ready for you!

Linda Sullivan Baity

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES COORDINATOR
AND PRODUCTION DRAMATURG
CASTING DIRECTOR

Joanne DeNaut

THESE FOLKS BUILT THE SCENERY

Jon Lagerquist, Technical Director
John Gaddis IV, Assistant Technical Director
Jeremy Lazzara, Master Carpenter
Jesus Soto, Scenic Carpenter
Amanda Horak, Scenic Carpenter
Judy Allen, Lead Scenic Artist
Tabatha Daly, Gabriel Barrera, Scenic Artists

THE FOLLOWING MADE THE COSTUMES

Amy L. Hutto, Costume Shop Manager
Laurie Donati, Full Charge Costumer
Merilee Ford, Costume Design Assistant
MK Steeves, Wig Master
Kelly Meurer, Wig Maintenance Technician
Lisa Kovarik, Wardrobe Supervisor
Bronwen Burton, Catherine Esera, Patte Moon
Stacey Nezda, Peggy Oquist, Additional Costume Staff

THESE PEOPLE CREATED THE PROPS

John Slauson, Property Shop Manager
Byron Bacon, Assistant Property Shop Manager/Buyer
Jeffery G. Rockey, Properties Artisan
Sara Greenhouse, Properties Artisan

THIS GROUP DEALS WITH LIGHTS & SOUND

Keith Friedlander, Master Electrician
Jeff Brewer, Argrys Stage Electrician
B.C. Keller, Audio Engineer
Jeff Deckner, Audio Technician

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Sneaking a Peek at the Costumes

Angela Balogh Calin has always loved drawing and going to the theatre. So it was only natural that she would decide at a very early age to become a costume designer. Her parents took her to see lots of plays when she was a little girl, and they encouraged her to attend a fine arts school in her homeland of Romania and to continue studying costume and scene design in college. The job of the costume designer is to turn the words of a play into a series of visual images by creating a drawing, or rendering, of each design. After being approved by the director, the renderings go to the costume shop, where they are used as resources by the skilled workers who make the costumes actors wear onstage.



The Monroes (below) are dressed uniformly to reflect the notion that animals rely on scent rather than sight to tell people apart. “In the eyes of our pets,” Angela says, “we all look alike, so that’s why the human family’s costumes are very much alike in style and color.”

Because Harold (facing page, right) likes to think of himself as a watch dog, Angela designed his costume with a military flair, including a Russian soldier’s cap complete with floppy ear flaps, and what else—dog tags!

Harold’s best friend, Chester, (facing page, left) is a real hip cat. Angela wants Chester to look eccentric, fastidious, and oh-so-chic from the top of her pigtailed head to the tip of her platform high heels.

Notice anything unusual about these animal costumes? Check the Answer on page 17 to find out what’s missing and why.



Transylvania True or False

The very first appearance in world literature of the Count Dracula character was in Bram Stoker's 1897 novel, *Dracula*. The scary tale is set in Transylvania, a region located inside the Carpathian mountain range in the eastern European country of Romania. Because of Stoker's book, Count Dracula is instantly recognizable and Transylvania will forever be known as a land of superstition and horror. But sometimes it's hard to separate fact from fiction when it comes to the world's most famous vampire. Can you figure out which of the following statements are true?

1. The idea for Dracula came to Bram Stoker in a nightmare.
2. Vampires have existed in folk legends for centuries, back to ancient times.
3. Immediately after its publication, Bram Stoker's *Dracula* was a huge success.
4. Stoker had originally planned to call his hero "Count Wampyr."
5. The word "Transylvania" means literally "the land beyond the forest."
6. Stoker traveled to Transylvania to do research on vampires.
7. "Nosferatu" is the Romanian word for "vampire."
8. The "real" Count Dracula (who was neither a count nor a vampire) is regarded as a folk hero by native Romanians.
9. In eastern Europe, the vampire is said to have two souls and two hearts; since one heart or soul never dies, the vampire remains undead.
10. Vampire bats are common in the Carpathian Mountains.
11. "Drac" is the Romanian word for "devil."
12. In the book, Count Dracula is destroyed by having a stake driven through his heart

Answers on page 17

He's the real thing

BRAM STOKER'S COUNT DRACULA:

- has the strength of twenty men.
- survives on the blood of others.
- can shape-shift into the form of a wolf or a bat.
- has no reflection in a mirror.
- casts no shadow.
- must sleep in the soil of his native land.
- is repelled by garlic and religious items (crucifix, holy water).

Dracula Goes to the Movies

In 1922, silent film director F. W. Murnau made a horror film called *Nosferatu the Vampire*, starring Max Schreck as one of the most hideous movie monsters ever created.

Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror was remade in 1979 by director Werner Herzog in a film starring Klaus Kinski. In 1931, another *Dracula* was released, this one directed by Tod Browning and introducing Bela Lugosi to the world. Lugosi reigned supreme until 1958, when Christopher Lee starred in Terence Fisher's *Horror of Dracula*—a film widely considered to be the most faithful cinematic adaptation of Stoker's novel. Francis Ford Coppola produced and directed a 1992 version entitled *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, with Gary Oldman in the title role.



Transylvania's
Coat of Arms

Who's Who in the Cast

Mauri Bernstein Bunnica

I've almost always had at least one pet around the house. Now I have two wonderful dogs. When I was a kid I had a cat, a dog, a fish, a parakeet, and yes, even a bunny rabbit. As an adult puppeteer for film and television, I have played a dog, a cat, two eagles, a slug, a manatee, two bears, and a dinosaur. You can try to find me hiding under Salem the cat on "Sabrina the Teenage Witch." This fall you'll see me with a puppet on "The Adventures of Piggle Winks." *Bunnica* is my theatrical debut as a rabbit!



Diana Burbano Chester

I was born in Colombia, moved to Cleveland, Ohio

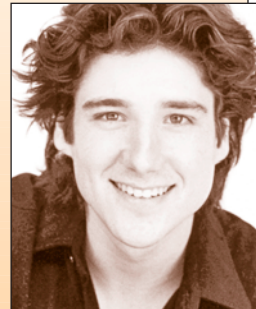


when I was 3 and learned English by watching "Sesame Street." I started out acting in San Jose Children's Musical Theater. We would do big musicals, like *Brigadoon* and *Guys and Dolls*, and all the parts were played by kids. Last year I played Miss Pickles in *The Hoboken Chicken Emergency* here at SCR. I have played a lot of animals in my career. I've been a flamenco dancing cow, a singing chipmunk, just recently I was a corporate hamster in a commercial, and now I am playing a cat. I hope I don't have fleas!

Robert Negrón Toby

I'm the youngest of two brothers

in real life, so playing Toby is a lot of fun. My big brother and I even had a rabbit growing up named Patches (he wasn't a vampire but he sure liked to bite a lot). The last show I did at SCR was *Birdman!* where I played a pilot. That was fun because I got to perform it at a different school every day. Even after college a young actor never stops going to school! Right now I study as an Academy Company Member at Anteaues (classical theatre company in L.A.).



Louis Lotorto Harold

I am very happy to return to SCR for this, my 4th Theatre for Young Audiences production and my 3rd play under Stefan Novinski's direction. He just finished directing me in a play called *Indoor/Outdoor* where I played a Cat, so it's only fitting I play 'man's best friend' in this play. You might remember seeing me on this stage as the Swindler in *The Emperor's New Clothes*, Louis in *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, or as the Fox in *The Little Prince*. Other roles from the Animal Kingdom include a chipmunk in *Winnie-the-Pooh* (my very first acting job at the age of 9), the White Rabbit in *Alice in Wonderland*, a horse in *Equus*, a duck in the upcoming *Stinky Cheese Man*, and another more famous dog, Snoopy in *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. I've also had the good fortune to have played many interesting humans and every major sprite from the plays of William Shakespeare along the way. I dedicate this performance to my father who took me to my first play so many years ago.



Jennifer Parsons Mrs. Monroe

The last time I appeared at SCR was

as Mrs. Cratchit, the mom, in *A Christmas Carol*. Although I play moms a lot now, I used to play the kids. When I was about 8, my mom, impressed by my imitations of Captain Kirk from "Star Trek," suggested I take acting classes at a place called Junior Theatre in San Diego. I got to do lots of plays there and, later on, when I was in high school I got to do some plays at The Old Globe theatre. Since then I've done lots of plays in all sorts of different places and even got to be in a Broadway musical called *Quilters*. I've been in movies like *Never Been Kissed* and *Dragonfly* and, most recently, television shows like "Judging Amy," "JAG" and "The OC."



Tom Shelton Mr. Monroe



I was Amos and Father Tree in *Pinocchio*, the Mayor in *The Hoboken Chicken Emergency*, and Mr. Toad in *The Wind In*

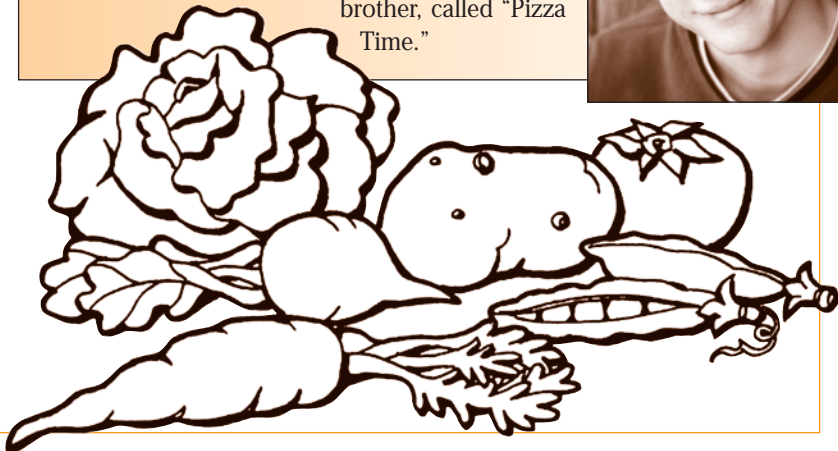
The Willows. Many seasons ago I played Mr. Topper here at SCR in *A Christmas Carol*. My many favorite moments onstage include doing a soft shoe in a sleeping bag (in SCR's touring show *The Right Self*); singing an aria to the moon from the prow of a ship (as Captain Corcoran in *HMS Pinafore*); and, in *Travels With My Aunt* at Laguna Playhouse, playing 13 different people of all colors, nationalities and genders, wearing a three-piece suit and a bowler hat all the while. I love being an actor because it helps

make you smart, quick on your feet, and a citizen of the whole world—both real and imagined.

Travis Vaden Pete

I grew up in west Texas with two brothers, one sister and a dog named Fluffy. I've

been in eight shows here at South Coast Repertory. You might have seen me at your school in *The Pride of Weedpatch Camp* or *Birdman!* I'll be playing young Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* this year, and I'm making a TV show, with my brother, called "Pizza Time."



Behind the Scenes

Playwright JON KLEIN wrote his first play in the 4th grade, even though he had never even seen a live stage performance. It was about all the people who went to a silly auction, and he performed it for every class in his school. That was scary, but fun. The scary part was being an actor, but the fun part was writing a play. So Jon has been writing plays ever since. He also wrote songs for his high school rock band "The Advancers," which is why he enjoyed the opportunity to write lyrics for Chris Jeffries' wonderful music in *Bunnacula*. Jon has written many other kinds of plays, which have been produced all over the country, but he especially loves to write for young people. He adapted two books from "The Hardy Boys" series, where the boy detectives solved mysteries about ghosts and hidden treasure. And he is working on a new play for Seattle Children's Theatre, where *Bunnacula* began. Most of all, Jon is very happy that James Howe allowed him to do a stage version of his wonderful book about a vampire bunny. If you like the play, please read the book!

Director STEFAN NOVINSKI began directing in kindergarten with a puppet show of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Recent theatre credits include *Medea* for the Theatre at Boston Court, Wilder's *Skin of Our Teeth* at the Evidence Room and *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* and *The Hoboken Chicken Emergency* at SCR. His productions have earned critical notice and theatre awards. Before moving to L.A. he was the associate producer of the Big D Festival of the Unexpected at the Dallas Theater Center.

Set Designer DONNA MARQUET has designed all of SCR's Theatre for Young Audiences productions. She loves to design, draw, paint and especially likes to work on shows that are as much fun as *Bunnacula*. Her background includes college in Ohio and a master's degree in California, and she feels "education is the most important gift you can give yourself."

Romanian-born Costume Designer ANGELA BALOGH CALIN has designed almost all of SCR's Theatre for Young Audiences productions. She also designed the costumes and set for SCR's recent production of *Dumb Show*. For several years she has designed SCR's touring productions, including last year's *Birdman*. Angela is happy to work on this play because of Tess, her dog (a wolf hybrid: half dog, half wolf) who is one of her best friends for the last 12 years.

Musical Director TIM HERRIGAN beat on his little wooden chair with Lincoln Logs at the age of two and has been making music ever since! He has written music for movies and musicals, as well as musical direction of *Pinocchio*, *The Emperor's New Clothes* and *The Hoboken Chicken Emergency* here at SCR. "Working with a talented cast and crew in creating on stage a world that didn't exist before is just about the most fun you can have," says Tim. And, if you live in the Northwood section of Irvine, you just might have him as your English teacher at Northwood High School when you get older. In the meantime Tim says, "Keep taking those piano lessons!"

Lighting Designer LONNIE RAFAEL ALCARAZ grew up in Orange County and first started in theatre at Estancia High School. He was inspired greatly by his drama teacher, Barbara Van Holt. He went on to study theatre at Orange Coast College and he received his BA and MFA from UC Irvine. He has designed many productions at SCR, including eleven years of *La Posada Mágica*. Other credits include six seasons at the Utah Shakespearean Festival. He also designed shows, attractions and architecture for Universal Studios Japan and lived in Japan for two years. He is a member of USA Local 829 and a Professor of Lighting at UC Irvine.

Stage Manager JAMIE A. TUCKER* is excited to be working on *Bunnacula*. This is his first time working with a vampire bunny. He came to California from South Carolina to go to school at University of California, Irvine. He has worked at South Coast Repertory for 6 years. His favorite things to do are ride his bike really fast and eat a lot of veggies.

Assistant Stage Manager NINA K. EVANS* grew up in Los Angeles and is very excited to be working on SCR's production of *Bunnacula*. Nina studied theatre at the University of Colorado in Boulder, where she also served as Company Manager of the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. Before she became a theatre professional, Nina was a Junior Olympian figure skater!

Assistant Stage Manager ERIN NELSON* grew up in Virginia, acting in musicals and commercials. She soon realized that backstage was the place to be, and has been a professional stage manager for more than six years, working in places around the country like La Jolla, California and Boise, Idaho. She even got a Masters Degree in Stage Management from UC San Diego. She loved the *Bunnacula* books so much as a child that she once dressed up as a Minion Celery Stalk for Halloween.

Vegetable Match-Ups

What do these vegetables have in common?

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Arugula | 4. Celery | 7. Garlic | 10. Parsnips |
| 2. Bok Choy | 5. Cucumbers | 8. Lettuce | 11. Tomato |
| 3. Carrots | 6. Endive | 9. Onions | 12. Zucchini |

Give up? They are all mentioned in *Bunnacula*, (and some of them even figure into the plot). Although you've probably heard of—and maybe even eaten—most of them, some you may not recognize. Try matching each vegetable with its correct description below.

- ___ A. These contain more sugar than any other vegetable, except beets.
- ___ B. Also called "rocket," this is a leafy relative of cabbage and broccoli.
- ___ C. Serve it steamed, fried, sautéed, grilled, stuffed or baked into bread or muffins.
- ___ D. Its Chinese name means literally "white vegetable"—how appropriate!
- ___ E. Every part of this is edible—leaves, roots, stems and seeds.
- ___ F. The botanical name of this juicy fruit means literally "wolf-peach."
- ___ G. These are loved by pigs, horses, and cattle (as well as some people).
- ___ H. California is the leading U.S. producer of this popular favorite.
- ___ I. Better have a hankie handy when cutting into these smelly things.
- ___ J. These were first brought to America by Columbus, who was "cool as a ..."
- ___ K. Other names for this prickly leaf are chicory, escarole, and witloof.
- ___ L. Gilroy, CA is the Capital of the World as far as lovers of this are concerned.

Homonym Crossword

In the play, Harold gets confused when Chester insists that the way to rid themselves of the vampire bunny is to drive something through his heart. Chester says the word "stake" but Harold hears the word "steak" because they sound exactly the same. "Stake" (which is a pointed piece of wood) and "steak" (which is a tasty piece of meat) are homonyms.

Use homonyms for the clues listed below to complete the crossword puzzle

Across

2. pear, pare
6. threw
8. to, two
9. stairs
11. four, fore
12. fair
13. bear
16. heal
17. cent, sent

Down

1. hi
3. blew
4. meat
5. clothes
6. their, they're
7. hare
10. see
13. buy, bye
14. write
15. new



Answers on page 17

They Are What They Eat

In the play, Harold and Chester eat lots of things that can be extremely toxic to pets in real life. While the Monroe family animals stay happy and healthy on their unusual diets, your own dogs and cats could get very sick from eating the way they do. So play it safe and **never** share these "people foods" with your favorite furry friends:

Chocolate (most dangerous: cocoa and baking chocolate)	Broccoli
Onions and garlic	Avocado
Macadamia nuts	Seeds from pears or apples, pits from peaches, plums, or apricots
Potato peelings and green (raw) potatoes	Bacon, ham or other fatty, cured meats
Raw bread dough	Milk and milk products
Coffee grounds and tea leaves	Organ meats (dogs) and tuna (cats)
Tomatoes	
Citrus fruits	
Raisins and grapes	

Source: www.paw-rescue.org

Answers

Sneaking a Peek: Missing from Harold and Chester's costumes are obvious dog and cat features such as ears, whiskers and tails because the story is told from their points of view and they never think of themselves as animals.

Transylvania True or False: 1F, 2T, 3F, 4T, 5T, 6F, 7F, 8T, 9T, 10F, 11T, 12F. (For the whole truth, see the *Bunnacula* playgoer's guide online at www.scr.org.)

Vegetable Match Up: 3A, 1B, 12C, 2D, 4E, 11F, 10G, 8H, 9I, 5J, 6K, 7L.

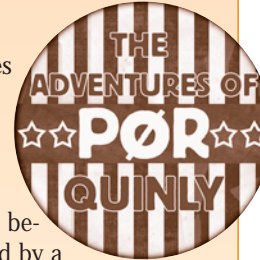
Homonym Crossword: Across: 2. pair, 6. through, 8. too, 9. stares, 11. for, 12. fare, 13. bare, 16. heel, 17. scent
Down: 1. high, 3. blue, 4. meet, 5. close, 6. there, 7. hair, 10. sea, 13. by, 14. right, 15. knew

More Fun is Coming...

Thanks for joining us today for this furry friend musical mystery. We've had a great time bringing *Bunnacula* to the stage, and are looking forward to our next productions—*The Adventures of Pør Quinly* and *The Stinky Cheese Man*. Remember, today is just the beginning of the fun for kids and their families this season. Here's what's coming up:

The Adventures of Pør Quinly

This is a very funny musical about a little boy who hates birthdays, especially his. He doesn't want a party, and he's really upset that he has to go to the store for his mom to buy his own birthday cake! What would you do if that happened? Pør Quinly decides to take a trip, but not just any trip. He's on his way to Washingtub to become president! Armed with a lucky sword and assisted by a wise butterfly named Gilly Gallo, Pør Quinly hits the campaign trail. Go along with him on this fun-filled adventure.



The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales



I bet all of you have read Jon Scieszka's book, *The Stinky Cheese Man*. Remember how the ordinary fairy tale characters did crazy, funny things? Like the Giant in *Jack and the Beanstalk* telling his tale backwards and Rumpelstiltskin turning up in Cinderella's story? Now *The Stinky Cheese Man* will be funnier than ever because all the characters are going berserk right on the stage, live, in front of your eyes. You'll have so much fun with these cockeyed fairy tales that you'll never want them to end!

Subscriptions are still available for the next two shows, and we'd love for you to join us, so stop by the Box Office. The friendly people there will tell you how to subscribe, or you can call them at (714) 708-5555.



Target Family Performances, Saturdays at 11AM:

- *Bunnacula* November 12, 2005
- *Pør Quinly* February 18, 2006
- *Stinky Cheese Man* June 17, 2006

New curtain time and lower ticket price thanks to Target, title sponsor of the Target Family Performances.