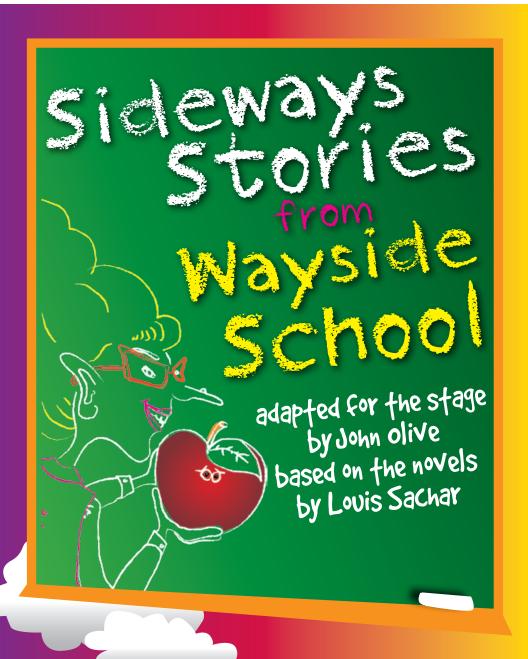
# South Coast Repertory Theatre for Young Audiences

2010-11 SEASON • JULIANNE ARGYROS STAGE



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Be sure to check out our website for the "Study Guide" to *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, which features additional information about the play, plus a variety of other educational resources.

### South Coast Repertory

Julianne Argyros Stage • November 5 - 21, 2010

#### **Theatre for Young Audiences**



### Adapted for the stage by John Olive Based on the novels by Louis Sachar

Set Design

Sibyl Wickersheimer

Costume Design Nephelie Andonyadis **Lighting Design**Thomas Ontiveros

**Sound Design**Kimberly Egan

Production Manager

Jackie S. Hill

Stage Manager Kathryn Davies\*

Anne Justine D'Zmura



Corporate Honorary Producer

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

Mrs. Gorf, Mr. Pickle, Miss Valooosh, Mr. Gorf LARRY BATES*
Bebe
Myron JOSH NATHAN*
Mrs. Jewls JENNIFER PARSONS*
Rondi AMY TOLSKY*
Louis DAVID VEGH*
Dameon GREG WATANABE*
Leslie ERIKA WHALEN*

#### for Your Information

NO BABES IN ARMS ALLOWED. Everyone must have a ticket; no children under age four for Theatre for Young Audiences performances.

To cause the least disruption, SCR patrons who have not entered the theatre when the performance begins will be asked to watch the monitors in the lobby 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 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 mode 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.

Performed by Special Arrangement with Susan Schulman: A Literary Agency 454 West 44th St. New York, N.Y. 10036



South Coast Repertory

DAVID EMMES Producing Artistic Director

MARTIN BENSON Artistic Director

PAULA TOMEI Managing Director

**IOHN GLORE** Associate Artistic Director

**BIL SCHROEDER** Marketing & Communications Director LORI MONNIER General Manager

SUSAN C. REEDER **Development Director**  JOSHUA MARCHESI **Production Manager** 

#### These folks are helping run the show backstage

Jennifer Sherman

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Generra Singleton, Deb Chesterman

STAGE MANAGEMENT INTERNS

Lois Bryan Sam Lerner LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR AUDIO OPFRATOR

Alma Reyes

DRESSER

Gieselle Blair

WIGS

#### And these folks helped get it ready for you!

Hisa Takakuwa Joanne DeNaut, CSA Damian Kerr, Turner Munch Kimberly Colburn

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CASTING DIRECTOR ASSISTANT DIRECTORS DRAMATURG

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Jehann L. Gilman, WIG AND MAKEUP SUPERVISOR Bert Henert, WARDROBE SUPERVISOR

SCENIC ARTISTS

Victor Mouledoux, AUTOMATION TECHNICIAN Judy Allen, LEAD SCENIC ARTIST Tabatha Daly, Nathan Brackney,

Pauline Good, Brandy Jacobs Susan Mills, Ashley Rhodes

Kari Ellison, ADDITIONAL COSTUME STAFF

THESE PEOPLE CREATED THE PROPS

Rachel Berry, PROPS MASTER Byron Bacon,

ASSISTANT PROPERTY SHOP MANAGER/BUYER Jeffery G. Rockey, PROPERTIES ARTISAN Andrea Bullock, PROPERTIES ARTISAN THIS GROUP DEALS WITH **LIGHTS & SOUND** 

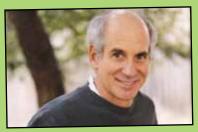
Jeff Brewer, MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Lois Bryan, Aaron Shetland, STAGE ELECTRICIANS Kimberly Egan, AUDIO ENGINEER

Sam Lerner, AUDIO TECHNICIAN

<sup>\*</sup> denotes members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

# An Inferview with Louis Sachar



What is your favorite part about being a writer? I like challenging myself and trying different things.

#### Do you have any tips for anyone who wants to start writing?

You have to be willing to rewrite. I didn't become a good writer until I learned how to rewrite. And I don't just mean fixing spelling and adding a comma. I rewrite each of my books five or six times, and each time I change huge portions of the story.

#### Where did you come up with the idea for the Wayside School books?

While going to college, I got college credit for helping out an hour a day at Hillside School, an elementary school. I had a great time. After I graduated, I thought I'd try writing

a kids' book, and I'd picture the different kids I knew and make up stories about them. Louis, the Yard Teacher, was based on me.

#### What were some books you read as a kid?

Charlotte's Web was my favorite. I read a lot of sports books, and books with animals in them. I remember one was called Yellow Eyes. I think it was about a cougar. I remember reading the Encyclopedia Brown books, too.

#### About the Books

Sideways Stories From Wayside School is based on a series of books by Louis Sachar. They include Sideways Stories From Wayside School (1978), Wayside School is Falling Down (1989) and Wayside School Gets a Little Stranger (1995). Like the play, they follow the hilarious adventures of the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School. Louis Sachar has written lots of other great books, too! Here is a list of just a few of them:

Holes Sixth Grade Secrets There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom The Boy Who Lost His Face The Marvin Redpost Series Marvin Redpost: Class President Marvin Redpost: Is He a Girl? Marvin Redpost: Why Pick on Me? Marvin Redpost: Alone in His Teacher's House

# Sideways Arithmetic

(Excerpted from Sideways Arithmetic From Wayside School by Louis Sachar)

rs. Jewls believed that the most important thing she could teach her students was the difference between true and false. She thought it was much more important than any of the other subjects because if students knew the difference between true and false, they could do well on any true/false test in any other subject-

Here are some of Mrs. Jewls's true/false tests:

After each statement, circle the letter T if you think the Test A statement is true or the letter F is you think the statement is false.

I. The answer to this statement is the same as the answer to statement z. T F z. The answer to this statement is different from the answer to statement 1. T F

In order to solve the above problem, it is necessary to look at both statements, together. In the next problem it will be necessary to look at all three statements together.

1. Statement 3 is false. T 2. Statement 1 is true. T

3. The answers to statements I and Z are the same.

# Things you can Learn

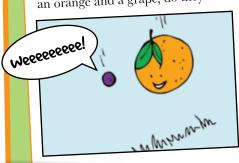
Mrs. Jewls teaches the students of Wayside all sorts of things. Here are some lessons you can do on your own!

# Gravity

Mrs. Jewls uses a computer to teach gravity. Do your own gravity experiment!

#### Experiment 1

Spread out some newspapers and get two oranges and a grape. First, drop both oranges at the same time. Do they hit the ground at the same time? If you drop an orange and a grape, do they still hit the ground at the same time?



# Alphabet

Mrs. Gorf asks Bebe to count to 100 alphabetically. Do you think you could do it? How about from 1 to 10? Here are the numbers spelled out to help you!

one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten,

# Experimen 2 Can you keep water inside a bucket

if you turn it upside down? Gravity will pull the water down to Earth if you turn it over, but try filling up a bucket halfway with water and spinning it around—gradually let the bucket get higher and higher until you are spinning it upside down! If you keep the speed up, gravity pulls the water in the bucket and the motion of the spinning keeps the water from spilling out.



# af Wayside School

#### Music

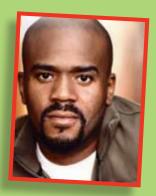
Mrs. Jewls teaches the kids music with a mooglatch, krullwart, plickerwacker, flurb and snorple. What do you think those instruments sound like? What are some of the silliest noises you can make?

# Geography

The kids learn that London is the capital of England. Can you fill in some of these capitals?



# Who's Who In the Cast



Larry Bafes
(Mrs. Gorf, Mr. Pickle,
Miss Valooosh, Mr. Gorf)

Hey guys! In my last show at SCR, I was a high school football star named Cory Maxson in *Fences*. I got to play football and baseball on stage and had a blast! Right before that I was The Bloodbottler in *The BFG (Big Friendly Giant)* and before that I was Toby (better known as Power Boy) in *The Only Child....*Hmmm let's see, and before that I was

Cow Patty Boy in the *Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*. Oh hey, I was Stinky too, so sorry if I smell like cheese. I have also done some TV here and there, like playing a cop on "NYPD Blue," "The Unit" and "Huff;" a real BAD GUY on "Dark Blue;" a Coast Guard member who saves the day on "Numb3rs" and a mortician who gets to be around dead people all day (ugggh) in "Boston Public." Once I was placed under a spell by "Sabrina, the Teenage Witch." I haven't been quite right since.

#### Jennifer ChU (Bebe)

I'm so happy to attend Wayside School. I've re-connected with lots of old friends and am delighted to have met so many new classmates here. I'm also learning lots of new, exciting things from my teachers as well. And even though learning sometimes can be difficult, I know that if I try my best and work really hard, things will only get easier and easier every time I try. I



recently started a non-profit company called Hear Me Read that turns children's classics into audio books to help kids read better. I really like to act and sing and dance, and hope that I still get to do it when I grow up. I live in Los Angeles with my two kitties and one new puppy.



### Josh Nathan (Myron)

I've always loved school. I love it so much that I've pretty much stayed in school my whole life. I've had some great teachers. A really good teacher sticks in your mind. To this day, every time I open a bag of garden soil, I run my fingers through the dirt looking for a frog! My fifth grade biology teacher, Mr. Garcia, opened a bag of soil in class and,

to all of our surprise, a big green frog hopped out. It wasn't until I was an adult, with my own kids, that I realized Mr. Garcia must have put that frog in the bag himself. After all, we were studying the physiology of frogs that day! Now I'm a teacher. I've taught acting and theatre studies to grade school, high school and university students. While I don't have any frogs, I always make sure I've got some kind of surprise for my students. I'm even working on an educational TV show about cooking, food and culture. It's all about crazy food-puppets who love to cook and travel the world in search of exciting ingredients. I play a red onion that never stops crying! Do you know why onions make you cry? The answer might surprise you. And I hope Sideways Stories from Wayside School surprises you as much as it surprises me.

### Jennifer Parsons (Mrs. Jewls)

Mrs. Bean was my 5th grade teacher and one of my most favorite ever. She tricked us into learning stuff by making it fun. Every day, someone in class had to present an article we found in the newspaper. Mrs. Bean would ask us to stand and describe the article in our own



words. One day my team decided to present our current

events as though it were a radio broadcast. We named our station NGC (No Good Communications) and had an opening jingle, a news anchor, correspondents and our own commercials. We had a microphone with speakers and would broadcast from the coat room. It was sort of like doing a play; you get to tell an important story, the cast is your team and you end up learning stuff while you're having fun. While rehearsing *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, I learned about gravity! You may have seen me in other TYA shows here at SCR such as *Bunnicula, James and the Giant* 

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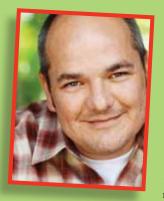
Peach, The Only Child, Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business, The BFG (Big Friendly Giant) and The Brand New Kid. I also play Mrs. Cratchit in A Christmas Carol. When I'm not doing plays, I get to be in movies and television shows.

# Amy Tolsky (Rondi)

I'm excited to be playing Rondi, who is a student at Wayside School. When I was a young student in Chicago, I remember really enjoying music, art and drama classes. It was my passionate and demanding drama teacher who inspired me to follow my dream to become an actress. Here at SCR I have played The Queen of England and other roles in *The BFG (Big Friendly Giant)* and



The Gaoler's Daughter, Rabbit and other roles in *The Wind in the Willows*. Some TV shows you may have seen me in include "That's So Raven," "Cory in the House," "Out of Jimmy's Head," "The Amanda Show" and "Scrubs." My most recent TV appearances were on "Hawthorne," "The Closer," "Trust Me" and "The New Adventures of Old Christine." My favorite role of all is Mom to my little boy, Zachary, who will be coming to see *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*!



### David Vegh

I'm excited to play Louis, the yard teacher, because I am a teacher in real life. I teach acting and playwriting to college students in Long Beach. Teachers have been really important to me throughout my life. My high school drama teacher, Mrs. Bickel, was the first person who really saw something in me and gave me the opportunity to explore my imagination on stage. It's because of her

encouragement and dedication that I'm still getting to play "pretend" today. I've played a soldier in the movie *Saving Private Ryan*, doctors' patients on the TV shows "Grey's Anatomy" and "House," and a police detective on "Dexter." My last stage role was a guy called Harry Fatt in a play

called *Waiting for Lefty*, where I got to wear a gigantic fat suit and shove submarine sandwiches down my mouth! Thank you, Mrs. Bickel!



#### Greg Wafanabe (Dameon)

I grew up in Fullerton and went to college in Santa Cruz and Berkeley. I studied acting at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. I liked San Francisco so much that I ended up staying there. I started working at the Asian American Theater Company and joined an Asian American sketch comedy group called the 18 Mighty Mountain Warriors. Now, I live in L.A. and work on plays. I occasionally do some independent movie work

as well as TV work for shows like "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "Criminal Minds" and "Reno 911!" As I look back at school, especially high school, I especially appreciate my English teacher, Mr. Sayers. He introduced me to a number of things that loom large in my life now, including theater, arts and an appreciation of the written word.

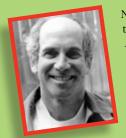
### Erika Whalen (Leslie)

My mom loves to tell the story from my childhood when I would run around as Alice chasing the White Rabbit. Since I can remember, I've loved playing in a world of make-believe. As an actor I have met people and visited places I could only imagine. I've been shipwrecked in *Twelfth Night*, in love in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and married to Thomas Jefferson in *1776*. I was last seen at SCR as a princess in *Junie B*.



Jones and a Little Monkey Business, making new friends in The Brand New Kid and spending A Year With Frog and Toad, and before that as a bride on her wedding day running through the streets of New York after her husband who was trying to find An Italian Straw Hat. Though I've encountered many people in my theatrical journeys who have touched my life, my Dad and Mom will always be my heroes.

# Artist Bios



Newbery Award-winning Louis Sachar is the author of *There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom, Holes* and *Small Steps.* He tends to write about underdogs and social outcasts.

During college, Louis worked as a teacher's aide at a nearby elementary school, where he was asked to be the "Noon-Times Supervisor."
His job was to be a recess monitor and watch the kids during lunch. Instead of sitting on the sidelines, Louis liked to play games with the students

and soon came to be known as "Louis, the Yard Teacher." Any fan of the book *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* should readily recognize this funny character.

Louis met his wife, Carla, when she was a counselor at an elementary school. She is the inspiration for the character of the counselor in *There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom*. They were married in 1985 and their daughter, Sherre, was born in 1987. She was four years old when he started writing the Marvin Redpost series—hence Marvin has a four-year-old sister. In his free time, Louis likes to ski, play chess, cards and the guitar (and sing loudly). But what he cherishes most is spending time with Carla and Sherre.

Among Louis Sachar's numerous writing awards are: the Newbery award, *The New York Times* Outstanding Book of the Year, National Book Award and School Library Journal Best Book of the Year (all for *Holes*), the Children's Choice Award for the International Reading Association (1979), 1987 Parent's Choice Award and the 1990 Young Reader's Choice Award.



Playwight John olive is also a screenwriter, a novelist and a popular teacher of creative writing. John's plays include Evelyn and the Polka King, Killers, Standing on My Knees, The Voice of the Prairie and God Fire, among many others. They have been widely produced. He is a resident playwright at Seattle Children's Theatre. John has also completed two novels for young adults, Slither and Smartass, as well as a book about

creating bedtime stories for children, *Tell Me a Story in the Dark*. He is currently a McKnight Fellow in Playwriting at The Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis, where he lives with his wife, Mary, and their son, Michael.

Director Anne Justine D'Zmura knew she wanted to

work in the performing arts when she danced in her first ballet recital as a bumblebee at the age of three. Originally from Pennsylvania, she studied directing at Hampshire College and continued at Yale School of Drama, where she received her MFA degree. Since that time she has buzzed around, directing at places including the Guthrie Theater, The Juilliard School, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, The Acting Company and here at SCR. Currently, she is teaching and directing at CSULB. Anne dedicates this play to all of the wacky and wonderful students in her life.

Set Designer Sibyl Wickersheimer enjoys creating

sets that become a playground for the actors and director. She has designed these "playgrounds" for humans, puppets and animated characters since 1999 when she graduated from UCIA with an MFA in Set Design for theatre, film and television. Because of her role as set designer,

she has become friends with many great characters, including Woody in *Toy Story*, Charlotte in *Charlotte's Web*, and recently she has even become acquainted with a huge T-Rex dinosaur and a saber-toothed cat at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County in downtown L.A. Sibyl's designs have been seen right here at SCR, internationally in *Toy Story the Musical* on Disney cruise ships, and in The Actors' Gang productions of *1984* and *Trial of the Catonsville* 9

Costume Designer Nephelie Andonyadis has loved the theatre

since she was a young girl in Washington, D.C., where she spent her summers in a one-car garage that her neighbor had converted into one of the smallest community theatres ever! Since then she has studied architecture and stage design in New York and Connecticut, and 10 years ago she moved to California. She loves to make things up, and finds that being a designer is always a fresh and surprising job. Some of her designs for SCR's TYA shows include *The BFG (Big Friendly Giant)* and *The Stinky Cheese* 



Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales. In Los Angeles, she designed for Lily Plants a Garden and 3/7/11: A Lincoln Heights Tale. She is a member of Cornerstone Theater Company, a professor of theatre arts at the University of Redlands and the proud mom of her 14-year-old-son, Leo.

**Lighting Designer Thomas Ontiveros** was first introduced to theatre when he performed for Junior Theatre in his hometown of Whittier. In high school, he followed in his brother's footsteps and volunteered to operate the lighting console for the school plays and events. He attended UC San Diego to study biology, but found himself much more involved with his theatre classes and soon switched majors to study lighting and set design. After 13 years of designing and touring nationally and internationally from San Francisco to New York to France and Romania, Tom returned to UC San Diego and received his MFA degree. He continues to design lighting and projections for the performing and visual arts from his home base in Los Angeles, where he teaches lighting design at USC.

**Sound Designer Kimberly Egan** has the great job of finding all the music and sounds to use in the play. She works with the director to choose sounds that have already been recorded, or to find things to record that make the right noise to fit. Music and science were her favorite subjects in elementary school. She loved when her music teacher, Mrs. Blilie, would teach her class how to make instruments out of household things, like a tin can with a string through it or a hair comb with wax paper on it. Kimberly also got to do the sound for *Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business* and *Ben and the Magic Paintbrush*.

#### Stage Manager Kathryn Davies

grew up in Nova Scotia, Canada, where she studied piano, ukulele, recorder and tap dancing. Her parents took her to see a lot of shows, and she decided to become a stage manager when she was in 12th grade. Her high school drama teacher, Mr. Drew, inspired her to do this. Throughout the years, she has studied French, Italian, German and Spanish, which has helped her to also work on big opera productions. She is very grateful to her parents for making her keep up with her music lessons because if she hadn't, she wouldn't be able to do what she does now. Today, Kathryn gets to work with amazingly creative actors, directors, designers, singers, musicians and film stars in several countries.

# "There is no Miss Zarves. There is no ninefeenth floor"

What do you imagine the mysterious non-existent classroom on the nineteenth floor looks like? What about Miss Zarves?



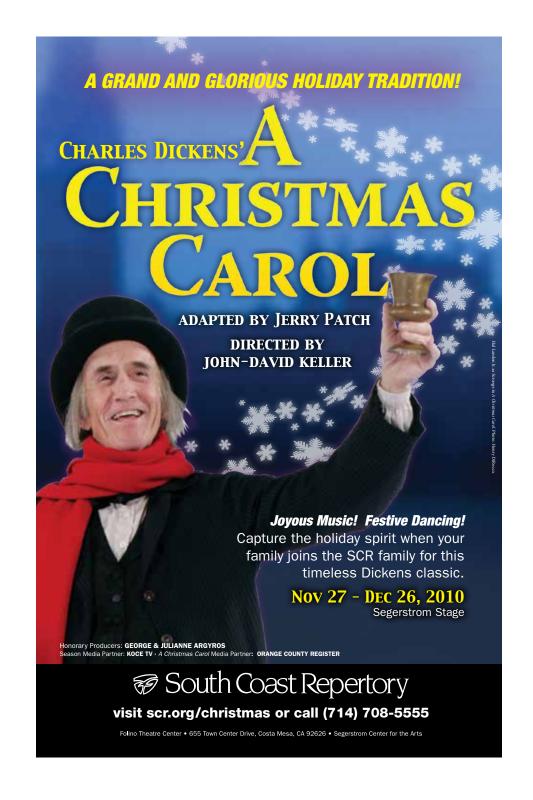
#### Kids Can Be Actors Too (But first They Have to Warm Up)

Before an actor goes on stage, he or she needs to warm up in order to feel relaxed, energized and ready to perform. (It's just like how athletes warm up before games.) But actors don't just warm up their bodies; they also warm up their voices. You can, too. How?

# Try some of these exercises that the kids in SCR's Youth Conservatory use:

- 1. Imagine a fly is trying to land on your face, and you can't use your hands to swat it. Use all the muscles in your face to get it to fly away. It's trying to land on your eyebrow, then your nose, then your cheek, then your chin! Don't forget the top and back of your head!
- 2. Now using ONLY the muscles in your face, squeeze your face into as tight a ball as you can. Then spring it wide and open. Make your face as small as it can be, then as big as it can be!
- 3. Blow through your lips. Then "trill" your tongue.
- 4. Now try these tongue twisters. Say each one loudly and clearly. Remember not to speak so fast you can't speak clearly. You can speed up as you get more comfortable. Repeat each phrase two or three times if you can!
- a. Paper poppy
- b. Baby bubble
- c.Toy boat
- d. Rubber baby buggy bumpers
- e. Red leather, yellow leather
- f. Will you William?
- g. Unique New York
- h. Eleven benevolent elephants
- i. Diga riga diga riga doo
- j. Girl gargoyle, boy gargoyle

If you'd like more information about SCR's education programs, visit www.scr.org/education.



#### THANK YOU

#### Annual Support

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