

CAL POLY DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND NEW DANCE  
*presents*

# THE LAST, BEST SMALL TOWN



**April 18–24, 2024**  
**University Main Stage**  
Building 25



# THE LAST, BEST SMALL TOWN

Written by John Guerra  
Directed by Sayda G. Trujillo

Featuring

Isaiah Londo, Daniel Marcozzi, Melanny Medrano, Hailey Mitchell.  
Joseph Montoya, Isai Pantoja, Ethan Serrano, Kristin Stull

Scenic Designer  
Matthew Schroeder

Costume Designer  
Alexis Carrie

Lighting Designer  
Janelle Asti

Sound Designer  
Erin Bednarz

Stage Manager  
Elisa-Belle Tremblay

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

# CAST

Playwright .....	Isaiah Londo
Benny .....	Ethan Serrano
Chuy .....	Isai Pantoja
Hank .....	Dan Marcozzi
Willow .....	Kristin Stull
Della .....	Melanny Medrano
Elliot .....	Joseph Montoya
Maya .....	Hailey Mitchell

# PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager .....	Brian S. Newman
Director of Theatre Facilities .....	Jonathan Bastow
Technical Director .....	Kenneth Blenc
Costume Shop Manager .....	Lexy Perez
Intimacy Director .....	Allison Bibicoff
Assistant Director .....	Jay Jay Manuel Castro
Assistant Scenic Designer .....	Itaka Ushijima
Assistant Costume Designer .....	Jennifer Edwards
Assistant Sound Designer .....	Brianna Erhard
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Olivia Riddle
LX Programmer/Board Operator .....	Andre Lee
Audio Operator/Programmer .....	Macallan Snell
Scenic Paint Crew .....	Vianney De La Torre, Amber Lopez, Bernice Lopez, Angie Lee, David Rodriguez
Properties Lead .....	Anthony Arzate
Properties Crew .....	Ellis Buongiorno, Crystal Carbajal
Wardrobe Crew .....	Mya Alvarado, Jackson Burton
Deck Crew .....	Astrid Avila, Emily McCormick Amber Lopez
Scene Shop Crew .....	Chris Carrillo, Asia Dorsey, Kyla Mcintyre Leila Muñoz, Samantha Ng, Elisa-Belle Tremblay Itaka Ushijima, Troy Woodfin
Costume Shop Crew .....	Jennifer Edwards, Meghan Lin Isaiah Maldonado, Hailey Mitchell, Isabella Petrone, Olivia Riddle, Haley Rodriguez
Electrics Crew .....	Dom Carson, Asia Dorsey, Crystal Espinoza Alan Hernandez, River Myaskovsky, Matthew Schroeder Kristin Stull, Minh Tran
House Manager .....	David Valdez
Box Office .....	JoeJoe McKinney

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This is my first play at Cal Poly Pomona, and it is the perfect play to ground myself here, and to get to know my students through collaborating with them. The play is an adaptation of the classic, *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder. John Guerra has honored the structure of this classic, following two families in a town, but he has also departed from it so that his words arrive in the bodies of the people who make America today. We get to witness two families who are juggling their cultural histories, expectations, identities, fears, and dreams in an economic climate that fails them. The characters in the play remind me that success involves failing and still having courage to live fully. Special thanks to the creative team and the cast for building an ensemble that listens and plays deeply. Gratitude to Elisa Belle and Olivia for holding structure for us to play in, and to Jay Jay for being an amazing assistant director, so generous and detail oriented. And thank you to my colleagues, Brian Newman and Sarah Krainin for your support and inspiration.

**- Sayda G. Trujillo, Director**

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We at Cal Poly Pomona respectfully acknowledge the original caretakers of this land, the Tongva peoples, and all of their ancestors, elders, and descendants, past, present and emerging. We also recognize this land known as Los Angeles County today is also home to many Indigenous peoples from all over, and we are grateful for the opportunity to live and work here as guests on these lands, the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Tongva.

@cpptheatredance



**Special Thanks to Hanalei Vasquez**

# CAST



Isaiah Londo



Daniel Marcozzi



Melanny Medrano



Hailey Mitchell



Joseph Montoya



Isai Pantoja



Ethan Serrano



Kristin Stull

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Sayda Trujillo (she/her) (Director)** is a Guatemalan Canadian American theatre-maker who writes solo performance and teaches voice, movement, acting, devising, and applied theatre. Identity and storytelling inspire her personal and collective work with communities around the world. Assistant Professor at Cal Poly Pomona, for more information visit [www.saydateatrera.com](http://www.saydateatrera.com)

**Janelle Asti (Lighting Designer)** is excited to be coming back to Cal Poly Pomona. She is a recent graduate from Cal Poly Pomona with a Lighting Design Degree. Janelle currently works at Chapman University in Orange, CA as the Master Electrician for the College of Performing Arts. She is also a Master Electrician at Radiance Lightworks for the yearly Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios putting together houses to scare the masses. Recent works; *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* (Salt Lake Acting Company), *As You Like It* and *Mr. Burns, A Post-Apocalyptic Play* (Cal Poly Pomona), and *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Pomona College).

**Erin Bednarz (she/her) (Sound Designer)** works in sound, music, production, and performance. Awards: LA Drama Critics Circle, Gregory (Seattle, WA), Broadway World (Regional). Press mentions: *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*. Off-Broadway: *MAC BETH* (Red Bull, Hunter Theater Project), *The Convent* (Rattlestick). Regional: Sara Porkalob's *Dragon Cycle* (American Rep, Center Rep, Diversionary); *A Few Good Men* (Pittsburgh Public); *Teenage Dick*, Public Works' *The Tempest*, *Lydia and the Troll* (Seattle Rep); *The Year of Magical Thinking*, *The Thin Place*, *STEW* (ACT); *Choir Boy* (ACT/5th Avenue); *Wonder Boy*, *Spring Awakening* (5th Avenue). California: *Lavender Men* (Skylight), *SMILE* (IAMA), *The Allstore* (Theatre of Note). Teaching: Pomona College, NYU, Atlantic, Cornish College, U of Washington. @play\_\_pranks

**Alexis Carrie (Costume Designer)** is a LA-based costume designer and textile artist. Recent and upcoming film, television and theatrical credits include *Alice's Wonderland* (South Coast Repertory), *The Past: A Present Yet To Come*

(InHouse Theater), *A Place of Bones* (Goldrush Entertainment), *Legacies Season 4* (Warner Brothers) *What to Send Up When It Goes Down* (Congo Square Theater) *Untitled Baby Play* (IAMA Theater). Originally from Washington D.C, she has an MFA in Costume Design from Carnegie Mellon University and a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities from the University of Chicago. She is an alum of the artEquity National Facilitator training and seeks to bring the practices of equity and inclusion to all her projects. She is a proud founding member of First Floor Theater in Chicago. You can find her work at alexiscarrie.com

**Jay Jay Castro (Assistant Director)** is a Senior performance emphasis in the Cal Poly Pomona Department of theatre and new dance. His past performances include The First Lord in *As You Like It* and Ensemble member in *Love and Information*. He has also written and directed his first ever one act play entitled *What If It Doesn't Go Well?* Jay Jay would like to thank the cast, crew, and Sayda Trujillo for allowing him to be able to experience this production from the director's chair. He would also like to thank his friends and family for their continued support, and is looking forward to what the future has instore for him.

**Jennifer Edwards (Assistant Costumer Designer)** is a 5th year student here at Cal Poly Pomona, and is enjoying her first year with the department as a transfer Theater Design and Technical Production major. Her previous credits include costume shopwork for prior productions, *Mojada* and *Love and Information*. She is excited to be providing her creative input for herfirst production as a designer, and is thankful for the support of her family and peers. She hopes to eventually go on to graduate school to earn an MFA in Costume Design. Praise Dionysus!

**Brianna Erhard (Assistant Sound Designer)** is a 5th year student and this is her second production she has worked on for her Theater Minor. She is excited to be putting her skills to use from her Sound Design class as she works with her peers on the world you will be transported to within this show. She has previously worked as an assistant to the props manager and is excited to broaden her skill set by diving into the world of sound. The hope is that you will be fully immersed and wanting more as you enjoy *The Last, Best Small Town*.

**Dan Marcozzi (Hank)** is a General Theatre major in his senior year at Cal Poly Pomona. His last role was in 2018 as Baron Nikolai Lvovich Tuzenbach in Anton Chekhov's *Three Sisters*. Making a step back towards

acting, he is looking forward to what he can learn from this play, from his fellow performers, and his director Sayda Trujillo. After graduation, Dan plans to travel the world as an artist. He wants to continue to learn and absorb as much as he can about what it means to be here, and create the art that allows himself and others to live for the present moment. He wants to thank Cal Poly Pomona's Theatre department for being so transparent, flexible, and curious as he continues to grow as an artist.

**Melanny Medrano (Della)** is a shy but enthusiastic person who started her journey in theater in the small town of Calexico where she dreamed of one day being able to share her love of theater with people as passionate as her. She is currently a part of the Theatre in Education and Community Engagement major and hopes through teaching be able to extend the richness of theater to future generations. Previously she worked as part of wardrobe for *Clean House* and *Love and Information*, and is excited to be able join the cast for *The Last, Best Small Town* here at CalPoly Pomona.

**Hailey Mitchell (She/ Her/ Hers) (Maya)** is a third year here at Cal Poly Pomona. This is her third performance for the school including her roles as Detective Morris in *The Nether* and Evelyn in *Spark*. Ever since she was a little girl, Hailey knew she was meant for the stage. With the support of her friends and family, she can turn her dreams into a reality, last year being signed to Element Talent Agency. Hailey would like to thank her parents, Massi's, cousin Krish, and best friends Faith and Olivia. She could not have done it without you all.

**Joseph Montoya (Elliot)** is a 4th year theatre major, with an emphasis in acting. Joseph has previously been on the main stage where he played Jason in last semester's production, *Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles*. He is planning to graduate in the Spring semester of 2025 and continue his journey as an actor. He is very excited to work on another production with the Cal Poly Pomona Department of Theatre and New Dance and is very appreciative of the opportunity he has been given. He thanks all of his friends and family for the love and support of his dream to be the best actor he can be!

**Isai Pantoja (Chuy)** is a 4th year at Cal Poly Pomona. Isai is thrilled to be portraying "Chuy" and to be a part of the cast of *The Last, Best Small Town*. Besides being involved in theatre Isai is a part of the greatest brotherhoods in Sigma Phi Epsilon. After graduation, Isai would like to teach theatre and help inspire young artists. Isai has been doing theatre for almost



10 years now, and he appreciates all the support he has gotten throughout the year. Isai is very grateful to Director Sayda Trujillo for the opportunity. Isai would lastly thank his Mom for always believing in him and seeing his shows no matter the distance.

**Olivia Riddle (she/her) (Assistant Stage Manager)** feels a bittersweet gratitude to be working on her last show at Cal Poly Pomona. However, she looks forward to wonderful milestones after graduation, including using her stage management skills professionally with the Los Angeles Ballet. Other credits include production managing shows with Menagerie Theatre Works; stage managing *Love and Information* at Cal Poly Pomona and *Strange Turns* with LAB; and as ASM on LAB's touring productions of *The Nutcracker*, *Lady of the Camellias*, and others. You can see her work next on LAB's *Firebird* and *Serenade* in May, as the assistant stage manager. A special thank you to Ryan and Mitten, and her family for supporting her throughout her college career. [oliviariddle.carrd.co](http://oliviariddle.carrd.co)

**Ethan Serrano (Benny)** is a 4th year Cal Poly student who has worked on different shows through the years such as *Grease*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It*, and now *The Last, Best Small Town* as Benny. Out of college he hopes to work on more stage plays as well as voice acting.

**Matthew Schroeder (Scenic Designer)** is a SoCal native who is currently a fourth year student studying Theater Design and Technical Production at CPP, after switching from Mechanical Engineering. His passion for Themed Entertainment has led him to work in the industry as a Park Decorator at Knott's Berry Farm, where he recently created and installed decor for the 50th Anniversary of Knott's Scary Farm and Knott's Merry Farm. In his free time, Matthew can be found visiting theme parks, hiking, doing photography, and designing and building various themed entertainment projects.

**Kristin Stull (Willow)** is finishing her last semester up at Cal Poly Pomona and is excited to be in her second production at Cal Poly Pomona. Kristin is a theatre major with an emphasis in acting. Her most recent role was ensemble in *Love and Information*. Her favorite thing about being an actor or storyteller is being able to tell stories and move the audience in ways that they have not been able to be moved before. She's been a theatre kid since her freshmen year of high school, and she has pursued theatre and acting all the way to this point in her college career and will continue

to pursue theatre and acting going forward into the future. She hopes that y'all enjoy this production!

**Elisa-Belle Tremblay (she/her) (Stage Manager)** is a third-year Theatre major in Design and Technical Production at Cal Poly Pomona. This will be her fourth show Stage Managing, with recent productions including *Office Hour* and *The Clean House*. She is an aspiring Stage Manager for theatre, circus, concerts, etc. She is immensely grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such talented individuals, and hopes you enjoy the show! :)

**Itaka Ushijima (Assistant Scenic Designer)** is a 5th year, Theatre Design and Technical Production major. He grew up in San Francisco, where he attended school until traveling to Southern California to study mechanical engineering at Cal Poly. After 4 years in engineering, Itaka changed his major to Theatre Design where he is pursuing his goal of having a career in prop making. This is his third production at Cal Poly Pomona.



## Next at the Department of Theatre & New Dance

May 3 & 4, 2024:  
Faculty/Student Dance Concert



May 7-9, 2024: Festival of Student Written Plays

Tickets: [bit.ly/cpptheatretickets](https://bit.ly/cpptheatretickets)

# WELCOME TO THE CAL POLY POMONA DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & NEW DANCE

**About Us:** Cal Poly Pomona's Department of Theatre and New Dance awards undergraduate degrees in theatre, emphasizing theatrical production and the "doing" of theatre. At the same time, the Department offers courses in all aspects of theatre, both artistic and academic. After completing the theatre major at Cal Poly Pomona, students are prepared to begin their careers or specialized training in professional theatre, television or film; to go for advanced training in graduate schools; or to go into teaching in high schools. We are proud to boast alumnus in numerous professional positions throughout the entertainment industry.

**Our Mission:** The Department of Theatre and New Dance provides opportunities within a diverse and inclusive environment to explore and develop meaningful, innovative ideas that engage the interdependence of process and creation. Students develop critical thinking and disciplinary excellence through experiential learning, collaboration and interdisciplinary practices to prepare them to be current and relevant artists. Students work within established and experimental processes utilizing trends in new technologies, community and contemporary performance practices.

## DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & NEW DANCE FACULTY AND STAFF

**Bernardo Solano** - Professor, Department Chair  
**C. Julian White** - Professor, Movement and Acting  
**Sarah Krainin** - Associate Professor, Head of Design  
**Jesse Portillo** - Associate Professor  
**Brian S. Newman** - Assistant Professor  
**Dr. Joshua Truett** - Assistant Professor  
**Sayda G. Trujillo** - Assistant Professor

### Adjunct Lecturers, Theatre

Oscar Arevalo • Tom Bryant • Colin Campbell • Doug Cooney  
Jacquelyne Quinn Estrada • Joyce Hesslegrave  
Jill Holden • Michael Kachingwe • Nancy Kyes  
Celeste Lanuza • Paulo Lima • Elizabeth Noth  
Paula Weston Solano • Dylan Southard • John Sylvain • Jake Wachtel

### Adjunct Lecturers, Dance

Suchi Branfman • Zachary Groenewold • Jeremy Hahn • Manny Macias

### Department Staff

Alyssa Martinez - Administrative Coordinator  
Kenneth Blenc - Technical Director  
Jonathan Bastow - Director of Theatre Facilities  
Lexy Perez - Costume Shop Supervisor  
Chelsea Sutton - Publicist