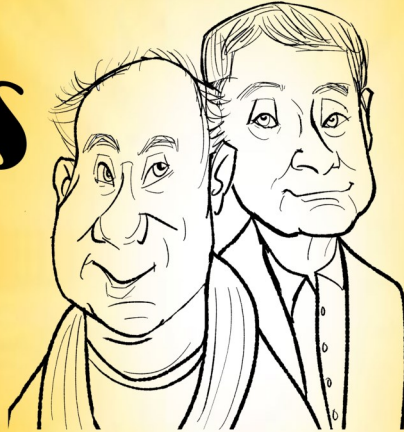




Neil Simon's **The**  
**Sunshine**  
**Boys**



**Directed by Dianna Schepers**

**June 14 - 23, 2024**



351 Railroad Ave., Pittsburg

The Sunshine Boys is presented through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Services



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Neil Simon's **The**  
**Sunshine**  
**Boys**



Written by  
**NEIL SIMON**

Directed by  
**DIANNA SCHEPERS**

Assisted By  
**AVA DURAN**

*The Sunshine Boys* is presented through  
special arrangement with Dramatists Play Services.

# MEET THE DIRECTOR



It has been an absolute pleasure directing *The Sunshine Boys* and to work this amazing cast and crew. Directing a play is such a delight and this troupe made my job easy.

Easy. That is until this week. I write this note the day before we open and I must say the term "Hell Week," as applied to the tech week leading up to opening, has taken on a whole new meaning.

The PTC warehouse was destroyed by fire the day we were scheduled to load the set into the theatre. We were at the warehouse the morning of the fire, but we could not gain full access to the warehouse due to a non-functioning gate. We did manage to maneuver some flats through a small gap, but the gap was much too narrow to allow us to move any furniture, set pieces, or sound equipment. Satisfied that we could at least build the set, we planned to return the next day to move the remaining items after the City had repaired the gate. However, that afternoon, the alarm company notified us that the smoke alarm was activated. The warehouse is a total loss. When a reporter asked me later in the day if we would still open our show this week, my immediate reply was "Of course, the show must go on!" There was no question about it. So here we are.

The cast and crew, other theatre companies, and friends rallied to our side, and by Wednesday the last set piece was delivered and the last curtain was hung. With the support of our amazing community of friends, *The Sunshine Boys* would open on schedule, as if nothing had happened.

To say I am proud of this show is an understatement. I am not just proud of the production, but what it represents. No matter what obstacles we encountered, we persevered. I am indebted to all those who stepped up to help. I know I would miss someone if I tried to name them all, so please know how much I appreciate all of you!

This is not the typical directors note where I would have told you more about the show. The fact is, I felt as if I was watching Grumpy Old Men half the time. I would tell you how much I enjoyed the bantering between our characters. Kevin Burns and George Doerr who are an amazing comedy team. It feels as though Kevin and George are reprising their Odd Couple roles to some degree, and when you throw Michael Wilson into this mix, it's comedy gold! I appreciate our entire cast and the work they put into creating memorable moments. I also appreciate the supporting members of the cast who were so generous to share their time for their individual scenes. Thank you all!

To our patrons, thank you for coming and support PTC. I hope you enjoy our show and come back to enjoy our youth workshop of Honk Jr. in July.

*Regards,*  
*Dianna*

# SPECIAL THANKS

*The production team would like to extend a special thanks to the following for their help in bringing this production to the stage:*

The City of Pittsburg | Anthony Lane

A very Special Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who rallied to help us or offered support with set pieces and decorations after we lost our warehouse to fire:

Ghostlight Theatre Ensemble, Masquers Playhouse, Chanticleers Theatre, Pinole Community Players, Clayton Theatre Company, Onstage Theatre Company, Black Diamond Ballet, Theatre Company, Black Diamond Ballet,

Michael Wilson, George Doerr, Kevin Burns, Bill Everett, Nikki Doc, Linda Sciacqua, Wes Linch, Maya Duran, Ava Duran, Denise Eberle, Christina Flint, David Ward, Kim Saunders, Tony Gardner, Sean Gendreau, Kendra Borja, Gwendolyn Sampson Brown, and Dianna Schepers.

*Thank You...*

## ABOUT THE PLAY

### ACT 1

Scene 1: An apartment in an old hotel on upper Broadway in New York City. Early afternoon. Mid-Winter.

Scene 2: The following Monday. A few minutes before eleven.

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~ There will be one 15 minute Intermission ~

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### ACT 2

Scene 1: A television studio.

Scene 2: Wille's apartment two weeks later. Mid afternoon.

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# CAST

In order of appearance.

<b>Willie Clark.....</b>	<b>KEVIN BURNS</b>
<b>Ben Silverman.....</b>	<b>MICHAEL WILSON</b>
<b>Al Lewis.....</b>	<b>GEORGE DOERR</b>
<b>Voice–TV Director.....</b>	<b>KYLE JACQUES</b>
<b>Eddie, The Stage Manager.....</b>	<b>AVA DURAN</b>
<b>Patient.....</b>	<b>JOHN HOLST</b>
<b>Sketch Nurse.....</b>	<b>ATESSA MCALEENAN-MORRELL</b>
<b>Registered Nurse.....</b>	<b>LEASA HART</b>

# PRODUCTION TEAM

<b>Producer/Director.....</b>	<b>Dianna Schepers</b>
<b>Assistant Director/Stage Mgr.....</b>	<b>Ava Duran</b>
<b>Deck Chief.....</b>	<b>Maya Duran</b>
<b>Costume Design.....</b>	<b>Gwendolyn Sampson Brown</b>
<b>Properties.....</b>	<b>Mary Rae Lehman</b>
<b>Set Design.....</b>	<b>Dianna Schepers</b>
<b>Sound Design.....</b>	<b>Bear Hamilton / Julie Domingo</b>
<b>Lighting Design.....</b>	<b>Mike Morris</b>
<b>Light Board Operator.....</b>	<b>Anthony Elrod</b>
<b>Sound (Mix).....</b>	<b>Ron Keeler / Kyle Jacques</b>
<b>Sound (Playback).....</b>	<b>Julie Domingo</b>
<b>Set Construction.....</b>	<b>Cast and Crew</b>
<b>Set Painting .....</b>	<b>Michael Wilson, Ava Duran, Christina Flint, Rachel McElroy</b>
<b>Graphics/Programs.....</b>	<b>Dianna Schepers</b>
<b>Photography.....</b>	<b>Sara Leyva</b>
<b>Videography.....</b>	<b>Mel Nash</b>
<b>House Manager.....</b>	<b>Alice Lustre</b>
<b>Hospitality.....</b>	<b>Katie Rapolas</b>
<b>Bar.....</b>	<b>Gwendolyn Sampson Brown, Christina Flint, Asha Howard- Waller</b>

# The Phoenix Project

On June 9, 2024, PTC's warehouse which housed all of its assets, including set pieces, furniture, props and costumes was lost to fire. The loss of forty-five years of show history and assets lost is heartbreaking.

Please help us recover from this loss.

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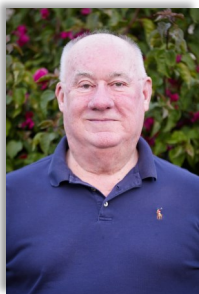
Phone # 7529



# PTC will rise from the ashes!



# WHO'S WHO



**Kevin Burns (Willie Clark)** Kevin has been associated with PTC for over 30 years. Previous Neil Simon shows include *The Odd Couple*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, and *Barefoot in the Park*. Some other recent favorites: *Spamalot*, *Annie*, and *Young Frankenstein*. Kevin and his wife Janet live in Antioch. They both have extended families all around the Bay Area, including two very energetic grandsons.



**George Doerr (Al Lewis)** George is pleased to be returning to Pittsburg Theatre Company where he has appeared in various roles he thoroughly enjoyed since 2011. His last appearance was in *The Real Inspector Hound* in 2021 where he performed as Magnus Muldoon, aka the actual real Inspector Hound. He was also Felix Ungar in *The Odd Couple* here in 2013. George played Al Lewis in *The Sunshine Boys* in 2013 at Chanticleers Theatre. He hails from Hercules where he lives with his wife Kathie. His four children have given George and Kathie 9 grandchildren (so far).



**Ava Duran (Eddie)** is excited to be working with PTC once again. She was last seen onstage as Belle in *Ah, Wilderness!* in addition to assistant directing *It Shoulda Been You*, both in 2023. When she's not onstage, she is either writing, drawing, or playing D&D with her friends. She's currently attending Diablo Valley College as an English major.



**Leasa Hart (Registered Nurse)** is blessed with a spiritually filled voice which she has shared for over 50 years singing gospel and inspirational music. She has ministered in song with many Bay Area Gospel Artists in musicals and is often a featured soloist in choirs, singing groups and community events. Leasa portrayed Mary Magdalene in *Don't Mess With God He'll Wash Your Feet*, Evillene in *The Wiz*, Nun in *Sister Act*, Mrs. Johnson in *A Raisin In The Sun* and various ensemble roles in many other productions. Leasa was especially overjoyed to share the stage with her oldest granddaughter Kai in PTC's *The Wizard of Oz*. Leasa is

excited to be a part of *The Sunshine Boys* and hopes everyone will enjoy the fun and laughter of the show.

# WHO'S WHO



**Kyle Jacques (TV Director)** is proud to be finishing his 9th season with PTC, averaging at least 1 role within the last 5, though he has been involved in the East Bay theatre community in general for longer. Recent credits include Pablo in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Tony in Ghostlight Theatre Ensemble's recent production of *You Can't Take it With You*, the triple roll of Jim, Tom and Kenneth in *Clybourne Park*, and the Brothers' Chorus in the 2020 Shellie Award-winning *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. He is a firm proponent of the arts and their positive effects on society, and has

long supported its inclusion into national STEM programs.



**Atessa McAleenan Morrell (Sketch Nurse)** is happy to be joining Pittsburg Theatre Company once again. You may have just seen her play Inga in PTC's production of *Young Frankenstein*. Before that, she had just played Audrey in Pinole Community Player's production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. She has had a passion for theatre since grade school and she is grateful that she gets to continue to pursue this passion to this day. Atessa would love to thank her friends and family for their support.



**John "Susan" Holst (Patient)** returns for his second Pittsburg Theatre Company production. You may remember him as an ensemble member of *Young Frankenstein*, or as Seymour in Pinole Community Players production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. He hopes you have a wonderful time and enjoy the show!



**Michael Wilson (Ben Silverman)** is excited to be back on the PTC stage. His last role with PTC was as Mr. Brownlow in *Oliver!* Since then, he has been in the director's chair for the PTC productions of *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Ah, Wilderness!* He also directed *You Can't Take It With You* for Ghostlight Theatre Ensemble. Other recent roles include Enjolras/Phantom in *Forbidden Broadway*, Big Jule in *Guys and Dolls* and Underling in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Outside the theatre he enjoys gardening, reading, Biblical studies and travel. Michael is grateful for the support of his wife, Teresa. They have three adult children and a playful cat named Tor.

# SPONSORS

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# WHO'S WHO



**Dianna Schepers (Director)** is thrilled to be directing such an iconic play with this incredibly talented cast. She has directed numerous productions for PTC including: *Young Frankenstein*, *The Addams Family*, *Dreamgirls*, *Sister Act*, *Spamalot*, and *Noises Off!* to name a few. She has also directed *Harvey* for *Pinole Players*. Dianna occasionally performs too. She was last seen onstage as *Georgette Howard* in PTC's production of *It Shoulda Been You* and as *Miss Hannigan* in *Annie*. Dianna is scheduled to direct *Spamalot* (again) for *Ghostlight Theatre Company* in August 2024. She is most grateful to her family for putting up with her crazy hobby, that being theatre.

*Did I mention I am directing this show too? My most favorite musical! Come see this production—it is gonna be good!*

*Dianna*

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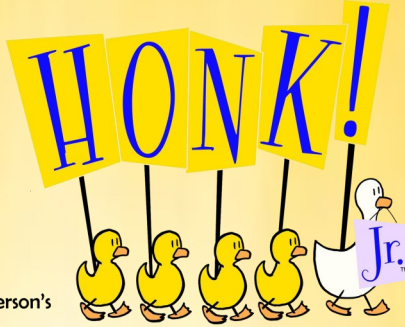


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