UNITED COLOURS OF ARIZONA THEATRE

scottsdale PRESENTS | PRESENTA



<text>

ENGLISH PERFORMANCES:

FRIDAY, JULY 16	7:30 pm
SUNDAY, JULY 18	2:00 PM
SATURDAY, JULY 24	7:30 рм

ACTUACIONES EN ESPAÑOL: Sábado 17 de julio 7:30 pm Viernes 23 de julio 7:30 pm Domingo 25 de julio 2:00 pm

SCOTTSDALE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS | 7380 E. 2ND STREET | SCOTTSDALE

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts Presents

THE LAST FIVE YEARS LOS ÚLTIMOS CINCO AÑOS

BY UNITED COLOURS OF ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY

> Friday, July 16 – Sunday, July 25 2:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts Stage 2

United Colours of Arizona Theatre acknowledges the land on which we gather is unceded and unsurrendered Indigenous homelands. Indigenous people are the original stewards of the land and the makeup of our current state is entirely shaped by these ancestors. We pay respect to First Nations communities of modern-day Arizona, their elders both past and present, and generations to come.



United Colours of Arizona Theatre (UCAT) is committed to strengthening Arizona's fine arts community by advocating for diversity, inclusion, access to opportunity, and global awareness.

Our goal is to network and shape a powerful learning community centered on enhancing our collective skill set in order to create and saturate a more equitable theater community with talented and qualified BIPOC candidates. We strive to cultivate partnerships within our community that foster mentorship, workshops, and other opportunities to BIPOC creatives and future arts leaders. Our pledge is to hold the arts community accountable to the normalization of BIPOC individuals on ALL stages, and to enforce proper representation ensuring a shared commitment to excellence in the arts. An artist cooperative, UCAT petitions fairness, representation, and CHANGE.

A note from the founder of United Colours of Arizona Theatre and co-director Chanel Bragg

Hello,

I am Chanel Bragg, one of the founding presidents of United Colours of Arizona Theatre and co-director (alongside the incomparable Sonia Rodriguez Wood) of the featured production of *The Last Five Years*. Sonia is a dream to work with and having her as my counter has been the most rewarding experience. Both Sonia and I are beyond blessed to have the rockstar creative team that we have. I'd like to take this time to sincerely thank Broadway touring musical director Alan Plado, who is in town (one of the rare blessings of the COVID-19 pandemic) and who, over the last year, has donated his time to UCAT, as well as eagerly stepped in to help teach the *The Last Five Years* cast this beautiful yet challenging score in both languages. Our incredible stage manager, Maria Cruz, also deserves the ultimate mention for being the glue that binds our production together. I affectionately refer to her as the boss, and once you witness this production, you will too. Her professionalism sets this production experience above the rest.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I would like to thank you personally for supporting our newly budding theater. For the last five years (pun intended), UCAT has served the local fine arts community by providing support to our BIPOC performers through workshops, audition prep, dance classes, masterclasses, free headshots, town halls-the list goes on. Now, your presence allows us to take our vision a step further as we actualize being our very own performance entity. I speak on behalf of my partner, Jacqueline Castillo, and my fabulous advisory board, that we would not be here without your generous support. So, whether you have bought a ticket to support this show or donated to our fundraiser via your time, space, or dollars, we are appreciative of your helping to truly establish UCAT as the community's theater. This is a real grassroots effort for the people, by the people. I also want to extend a hearty thank you to Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts for providing not only a space this summer but also taking a chance to collaborate with a new organization that supports communities of color. I am indebted to the entire staff and Meribeth Reeves, managing director of the Center, for the excellent care of our production.

Now a little about the show: you are in for a treat as you get the opportunity to savor either the Spanish- or English-singing cast of *The Last Five Years*. I speak on behalf of the creative team that it has been an honor to work with these incredible actors that stepped up to the challenge to ensure that ultimate access is given to the communities we serve. To present this show with BIPOC performers and in multiple languages, we are tearing down stereotypes that pigeonhole us into playing "certain roles." On show one, we come out swinging, tackling Jason Robert Brown, no less. This show is a dream for some of our performers who thought that they would never get the chance to perform this show. We dedicate this show to every BIPOC individual who was told you are not the right fit, type, or whatever excuse is given to not cast based on talent. Additionally, I want to make an MVP shout-out to one of our UCAT Advisory Board members Aleks Hollis, who dove headfirst into the uncharted territories of sound, set design, and props master just for this production. I am lucky to surround myself with rockstars that are dedicated to our vision and our mission.

The Last Five Years is a prolific musical, examining how relationships evolve and, in some cases, as with Cathy and Jamie, deteriorate. What is most beautiful about this musical is how innately human and unfiltered the lyrics truly are. Strip away the colorful melodies and you will find honest language from the perspective of the individual in the various stages of their relationship. This story calls for personal examination to look inwardly at past choices and evaluate where one may have played the part of Cathy or Jamie. Adult relationships are complicated, and this score pushes that complication to its limit. Our sincere hope is that the audience leaves without judgment on either side. Humans, although flawed in nature, are still very deserving of love, acceptance, and understanding.



Thank you for spending this time with us.

Best,

Chanel Bragg Founder, Director, Lover of Theatre

A note from co-director Sonia Rodriguez Wood



Thank you for joining us on this time-travelling journey through a slice of one couple's relationship. When I first heard *The Last Five Years* in Spanish, I was eager to get to work. Once we had our cast in place, I was doubly excited to be able to approach *The Last Five Years* through the lens of people of the Global Majority. While we may all fall in love, support

each other through complex relationships, or break up, we all come to our strengths and insecurities that help or hinder those relationships through quite different cultural and familial paths. Helping our actors delve into and connect with those paths has been a great delight. Plus, being set in this beautiful love language, every emotion of elation or anguish is heightened to the point that you can almost taste it. As you travel back and forth through Jamie and Cathy's five-year relationship, I hope you'll find that while some people may be a part of each other's journeys, their final destinations might not harmonize.

*"Global Majority is a collective term that first and foremost speaks to and encourages those so called to think of themselves as belonging to the majority on planet earth. It refers to people who are Black, African, Asian, Brown, dualheritage, indigenous to the global south, and or, have been racialized as 'ethnic minorities.' — Rosemary Campbell-Stephens

CAST (ENGLISH SHOWS):



SEDONA VALDEZ AS CATHERINE HIATT

Sedona Valdez is honored to be joining United Colours of Arizona Theatre's *The Last Five Years*! She was last seen on stage in Childsplay's *Elephant and Piggie*. Other Childsplay credits include Sofia in the national tour of *Maddi's Fridge* and Fern in *Charlotte's Web*. Other favorite roles include Rose Alvarez in *Bye Bye*

Birdie (Desert Foothills Theater) and Gingy/Sugar Plum Fairy in *Shrek the Musical* (Arizona State University). Sedona has a bachelor of arts degree in musical theatre performance from Arizona State University. She would like to thank her amazing family and boyfriend for always loving and supporting her. Many thanks to the UCAT team for this wonderful experience!



JACOB HERRERA AS JAMIE WELLERSTEIN

Jacob Herrera is grateful to return to the stage in United Colours of Arizona Theatre's production of *The Last Five Years*. Most recently, Herrera was seen as Fabrizio in *The Light in the Piazza* at the Arizona State University School of Music, as well as productions such as *Mamma Mia!*, *Titanic*, and *Altar Boyz* at

Arizona Broadway Theatre. After this long year of uncertainty, he thanks you for coming out and supporting local Arizona theatre. He would like to thank his UCAT family, Chanel, Alan, Sonia, the 4Mans, Des'Rea, his family, and his friends. Enjoy the show!

CAST (SPANISH SHOWS):



ISSIE OCAMPO AS CATHERINE HIATT

Issie Ocampo is incredibly thrilled to be a part of United Colours of Arizona Theatre's production of *The Last Five Years/Los Ultimos Cinco Años*. Previous performances include Ensemble (*Godspell*), Cheryl (*Evil Dead: The Musica*l), and Bandleader (*Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*), to name a few. She would

like to thank her family and friends for their endless support. Another thank you to Sonia, Alan, Chanel, and Maria for making this happen. Big shout out to the big guy upstairs!



VINNY CHAVEZ AS JAMIE WELLERSTEIN

This is Vinny Chavez's first show in two years! Thanks to everyone at United Colours of Arizona Theatre for this amazing opportunity. Previous credits: Childsplay's *Schoolhouse Rock Live* (George) and *Ella Enchanted* (Prince Char), Stray Cat Theatre's *Two Mile Hollow* (Christopher) and *Silence! The Musical!* (Crawford/

Papa Shtarling), Theater Works' All Shook Up (Chad), Hale Centre Theatre's West Side Story (Bernardo, ariZoni nominee) and Me and My Girl (Bill, ariZoni winner), A/C Theatre Company's 21 Chump Street (Justin), and Nearly Naked Theatre Company's Valhalla (King Ludwig, ariZoni nominee). Chavez teaches acting and technical theatre at Westwood High School and is the program manager for AZ Magic, a nonprofit theatre program for youth and adults with disabilities.

PRODUCTION TEAM

SONIA RODRIGUEZ WOOD, CO-DIRECTOR

Sonia Rodriguez Wood has been performing around the Valley for 25 years, y está encantada to be making her directorial debut at United Colours of Arizona Theatre. Last seen on stage in The Phoenix Theatre Company's *¡Americano!*, some of her favorite roles include Dominique Du Monaco in Arizona Regional Theatre's production of *Lucky Stiff*, Madeline True in *Wild Party* (A/C Theatre), Abuela Claudia in *In The Heights* (Desert Foothills Theater), Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* (DBFRT), Dragon in *Shrek the Musical* (Desert Stages Theatre), Antonia/Aldonza in *Man of La Mancha* (Arizona Broadway Theatre). She'll be studying musical theater at South Mountain Community College this fall. *Amor para mi Papi*.

CHANEL BRAGG, CO-DIRECTOR

Chanel Bragg is thrilled to co-direct alongside Sonia Rodriquez Wood in the United Colours of Arizona Theatre's premiere of *The Last Five Years*. This production launches the official debut of UCAT as the newest producing entity in Arizona centering the work of BIPOC artists. Bragg directed *Enferma* this past spring in The Phoenix Theatre Company's New Works Festival. Last fall, Bragg assistant-directed *Slow Food* alongside Sean Daniels at Arizona Theatre Company, where she resides as the associate artistic director. Bragg's directorial debut was 10 years ago with the *Soul of Broadway* performance troupe. She has since had the pleasure of directing at various theaters across the Valley, including Arizona State University, Spotlight Youth Theatre, Arizona Broadway Theatre, Fort Peck Summer Theatre, and theatre camp for the nonprofit Free Arts for Abused Children. Bragg also directed *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide* in the Jazz Meets Poetry series at The Nash. Additionally, she directed and produced *The Alexander Project*, a touring *Hamilton* revue in conjunction with Live Nation.

ALAN J. PLADO, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Alan Plado has been the conductor for the Broadway national tours of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, Dirty Dancing, Jersey Boys, Legally Blonde, Elf the Musical, Memphis,* and *Beauty and the Beast.* Off-Broadway/NYC credits include *We're Still Hot, Jersey Boys, Just a Matter of Time, The Last Word,* and *Shooting Star* (NYMF). Regional credits include Ogunquit Playhouse, Alabama Shakespeare, Laguna Playhouse, and Geva Theater. Plado also serves as the music supervisor for *Menopause The Musical.* He has worked for many local theatre companies, including Childsplay, Arizona Broadway Theatre (*Gypsy, Cats*), Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts (*Always Patsy Cline*), and The Phoenix Theatre Company (*Ring of Fire, My Way, Best Little Whorehous*e). He is the recipient of the Chairman Circle Artist of the Year award, as well as 10 ariZoni Awards for Music Direction.

MARIA CRUZ, STAGE MANAGER

Maria Cruz has stage managed at a few community theaters in the Valley. Her previous works include *Dogfight, Gypsy, Little Shop of Horrors, The Miracle Worker,* and *Beat Bugs a Musical Adventure* at Spotlight Youth Theatre, and *Eurydice* at Glendale Community College. She would like to thank Chanel, Sonia, Alan and the entire cast and crew. Cruz would like to give a big shoutout to her mentor Meribeth Reeves, who has helped her tremendously along this journey from an internship with Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts to working there and working as the stage manager for United Colours of Arizona Theatre. Cruz is glad to be back as a stage manager again after such a long year without theatre. Lastly, she wants to thank her mom, dad, and sister for their continuous support, whether it be through food, laughs, or turning the AC on in the rare chance she is home.

DANIEL DAVISSON, LIGHTING DESIGNER

Daniel Davisson has designed many productions around the Valley, working in theatre, dance, opera, and corporate events. Davisson is the resident lighting designer at The Phoenix Theatre Company and has worked for numerous Valley theatre organizations, including Theater Works, Scorpius Dance Theatre, Arizona Broadway Theatre, Valley Youth Theatre, and East Valley Children's Theatre. He has designed in New York, California, Las Vegas, and New Mexico. Davisson is the CEO and lead production designer of Davisson Entertainment, a local performing arts and events production company, and he also serves as the producing artistic director and president for BLK BOX PHX.

ALEKS HOLLIS, PROP MASTER, SET DESIGNER & SOUND DESIGNER

Aleks Hollis (they/them) is a performer, foley artist, designer, photographer. They were recently the game/sound designer for Space 55's *The Hidden Sea*, the video editor for The Bridge Initiative's *The Dalai Lama is Not Welcome Here* for RomeroFest, and United Colours of Arizona Theatre's production of *NOW*. They've been a foley artist for Torch Improvised Radio Show, Arizona Actors Academy's *The Maltese Falcon*, and Space 55's *Night of the Chicken*, for which they won ariZoni awards for Artistic Specialization and Sound Design. Hollis is also proud to be in the improv duo Wedding Party with local improv icon Jennifer Giralo.

JACQUELINE CASTILLO, PRODUCER

Jacqueline Castillo (she/her) is co-founder and president of United Colours of Arizona Theatre. She is very excited to have United Colours of Arizona Theatre's first outward-facing production be one that provides access to an amazing show for a whole new audience! Castillo spends her days as a stay-at-home mom and her evenings performing "nostalgia based entertainment." She has performed professionally for the last 10 years and has been directing children's musicals for the past three. Some of her favorite past performances include TiMoune (*Once on This Island*), Sarah (*Ragtime*), Lorrell (*Dreamgirls*), and Taylor (*High School Musical*).

Special Thanks

United Colours of Arizona Theatre wants to give special thanks to those who have helped us to be able to put on *The Last Five Years/Los Últimos Cinco Años*. It takes a village, and we are so happy to have a community that supports us and wants to help BIPOC artists in this community grow.

Creating Values

Cohort-Arizona Commission on the Arts

The Phoenix Theatre Company, support

Gil Benbrook, Promotions

Scottsdale Neighborhood Arts Place, rehearsal space

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, rehearsal space and partner

Aldy Montufar, transcribing the Spanish score

D. Scott Withers, track cutting assistance

Meribeth Reeves, mentoring and budget assistance

Estrella Para, translations (media)

Rio Chavez, Understudy-Spanish Jamie

Xelha Castrejon, Understudy

Felicia Penza, production posters/announcements

Mark Foreman, music tracks

Matravius Avent, musical assistance

Zach Ciaburri, technical assistance

The staff of Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts for their commitment to inclusion, safety, and willingness to help with anything we needed.

Frank Thomas, recording

Westwood High School, rehearsal space

UCAT Advisory Board—Jacqueline Castillo, Seth Tucker, Chris Chavez, JT Turner, and Aleks Hollis—for holding down the fort while we try on this new venture for the organization.

Scottsdale Arts is sincerely grateful for donors, members, and partners who celebrate and support art in our community at every level. We gratefully acknowledge the following individual supporters above \$500 who made contributions between July 1, 2020 and May 31, 2021.

For more information on ONE Membership, Legacy Society planned giving, and other ways to support the art you love in Scottsdale, please contact Erin Krivanek, director of development, at 480-874-4620 or ErinK@ScottsdaleArts.org.

We make every effort to list accurate information; if we have made any omissions or error by mistake, we apologize and ask you to please contact us at Give@ScottsdaleArts.org.

\$100,000 +

Billie Jo and Judd Herberger *

\$25.000 - \$49.999

Amanda and Mark Bosco

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Felice Appell * Mary and Dale Fedewa * Joan and David Goldfarb Alison Lewis and Craig Krumwiede * Paulette and Michael Miller * Priscilla Nelson Johnson and Chuck Johnson * Karen and John Voris Kathy and Michael Wills *

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Ethelyn Cohen, In Memory of Howard Cohen * Leslie Dashew and Jack Salisbury * Charlotte and Gary Gilbert Betty Hum and Alan Yudell Peggy and Jamie Kapner * Marie and Richard Stewart Hollis and Christopher Volk Tamar Weiss, In Memory of Emil Weiss

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Judy Ackerman and Richard Epstein * Rhonda and Gary Anderson * Paul Basha * Peter Boyle * Nancy and Chuck Brickman Susie and Don Cogman * Jennie and Jerry Cox * Kimberly and John Davids * Kathleen and Robert Duyck * Rebecca and Sam Eden * Maureen Horwitz * Monique and JP Millon * Doris and Eliot Minsker * Dorothy Rowe and Kenneth O'Connor * Rosellen and Harry Papp * Barbara Robbins * Eugene and Patti Ross

Merle and Steve Rosskam * Linda and Paul Schmidt * Diana M. and David N. Smith * Stanley Spiegel Trust * Patrick D Strieck and Brian J Fanning * Gail and Daniel Tenn and Sheri Sender

DONORS

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Makenna and Mike Albrecht * Megan and John Anderson * Ellen Andres-Schneider and Ralph Andres * Toni and Bruce Beverly * Nancy and Joe Braucher * Leslie Grinker and John Broan * Kav Butler * Paige Cecil and Ryan Jones * Donald W. Collier Charitable Trust II * Allison and Grant Colwell * Nancy and Derek Davis Tracy Denmark and Marc Schwimmer * Dr. Robert Dixon * Kathleen Dulev * Judith and John Ellerman * Maureen and Thomas Eve * Jamilyn Fournier Nancy Gifford * Elton Gilbert * Angela and Jeffrey Glosser * Judy and William Goldberg * Barry Jay Greenhut Robin and Roy Grossman Jackie Gutsch * Jane and Dennis Henner Lori and Howard Hirsch * Lynda and Arthur Horlick * Susan and John Horseman * Chris and Bob Irish * David J. Itzkowitz * Richard Kiene Judy and Sam Linhart * Harvey Lisherness Marcia and James Lowman * Lynn and Matthew Luger * Joan and Walter Magen * Roberta and Stan Marks * Dr. Tammv McLeod * Linda Milhaven * Jeffrev Miller * Elan Mizrahi * Thomas J. Morgan * Pollvanne Morris and Randy Nussbaum Mary and Kitt Ormsby * Rosemary Gannon and David Ortega * The Ashok & Rita Patel Legacy Fund Mary and David Patino * Kimberly and Erik Peterson * Hermine and Leo Philippe * Rich and Penny Post * Laura Ahl and Jeff Rakoczy * Betsv R. Retchin * Ida and Robert Rhea * Carrie Lynn Richardson and Paul Giancola Lois and John Rogers * Tom Rogers * Missy Romanoff * Dr. Adam N. Rosenberg * Linda and Sherman Saperstein * Carol and Randy Schilling '

Enid and Michael Seiden

Tracy and Christian Serena

Marlene and Eugene Shapiro * Dr. Peggy Sharp Chamberlain Susan and Richard Silverman * Dorothy Lincoln-Smith * Art C. Soares * Paula and Jack Strickstein * Gail and Fred Tieken * Pat and Phil Turberg * Anna Unterberger *

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous Jeffrey Beyersdorfer * Jan and Christopher Cacheris Naomi Caras-Miller and Alvin Miller * Sue Carlisle Elaine Cherney, Ph.D. Jill Christenholz Frika Coombs Paul Cyr Erin and J.P. Dahdah * Bonnie and Glenn Felner Anita Fishman Jo Flittie Carolyn and John Friedman Alan B. Gabbard Colleen and Brennan Giggey * Dr. Michael W. Goerss Lance Goldberg and Beth Ladin Audrev and Fred Horne Cynthia and Alan Kempner Michael R. King Susan and Manny Kramer Sam Kuller Sally and Richard Lehmann Elizabeth and James Lincoln Sandra Listello Jovce and Stephen Manes Dr. Kay Martens and Philip Cram Cynthia and John Millikin Joy Partridge Amy Perciballi * Eric Pittman Jean Quinsev Richard Richardson. In Memory of Patricia Richardson Martin Rosen Nancy and James Schamadan Kristine and Steve Short Cynthia and Anthony Siegle Ronda and Carl Silver Rowena Simberg Dr. Otto Stanislaw Mark Stapp Delores Bodman and Dale Suran Lois Tatelman Laura Titus Jill Townsend Denise and William Villalon Lisa Watkins Amber Wavne Brad Williams Roma Wittcoff David Zorn

Legacy Society

Anonymous Patricia Aloe-Stauber Fred J. English and Sara M. English Charitable Trust Chet and Ann Goldberg Richard Herman Chris and Bob Irish Louis Jekel Eric Jungermann and Family Sue and Robert Karatz Cvnthia Muss Lawrence Sara and David Lieberman Arleen Lorrance and Diane Kennedy Pike J. Patrick McCarthy Joan Mills Miller Estate Diane Reiman Linda and Sherman Saperstein

Gifts In Memory Of (since May 1, 2021)

Wallace Davidson

- . Susan and Richard Bloomberg
- Rov Grossman .
- Elizabeth Silverman .
- Judy and Alan Wertheimer
- Debbie and Richard Yoken .

Sandy Greenhut

- Aviva Baer
- Steven Greenhut and John Wootton Diana and David Smith

Zelma Horwitz

.

- ٠ Phillip Horwitz
- **Claire Keefnor**
- Madaline Krska

Ted Stephan

Who's Who Singles - AZ Inc.

Gifts In Honor Of

(July 1, 2020 - April 30, 2021) **Robert Knight**

Sally Lakin

Linda Saperstein

- Alan and Jill Sandler
- Audrey and Bob Shapiro



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Scottsdale Arts is pleased to recognize the following corporations, foundations, government agencies, and in-kind donors for their support of the arts in our community this season. For more information on participating as a sponsor, please contact Denise Wisdom, corporate and foundation relations manager, at 480-874-4669 or DeniseW@ScottsdaleArts.org.

