PLAYBILL®

Open Fist Theatre Company
Atwater Village Theater
Los Angeles, CA

Romeo & Juliet

Time Enough for Love

By William Shakespeare
Conceived and Directed by Christian Lebano



November 13 thru December 19
previews November 8, 11, 12

OpenFist theatre company

Open Fist Theatre Company

PRESENTS

Romeo & Juliet

Time Enough for Love

Written by
William Shakespeare

Directed/Produced/Adapted by
Christian Lebano

Setting: Verona Village, a retirement community for active seniors
Location: South Florida
Time: July 11-16, 2026
Runtime: 2.5 hours (One 15-minute Intermission)

Choreographer
Melissa Schade

Fight Choreographer
Charles Currier

Composer
Sean Paxton

Scenic Designers
Destiny Kast &
Christian Lebano

Costume Designer
Vicki Conrad

Lighting Designer
Dan Weingarten

Sound Designer
Christopher Moscatiello

Properties Designer
Nicole Bernardini

Scenic Artist
Orlando de la Paz

Producing Artist Director
Martha Demson

Assistant Director
Richard Van Slyke

Stage Manager
John Dmitiri

Assistant Stage Manager
Abbs Stoiber

Associate Producer
Bethany Koulias

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I have been thinking about an age-reversed *Romeo & Juliet* for years.
I do not think there is another play as well-known as *Romeo & Juliet*. Many who have never seen or read the play know the story, it has been so completely woven into our culture as an exemplar of "star-crossed love." A Romeo has become shorthand for a lover; lines from the show are part of our consciousness: "O, Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo," "parting is such sweet sorrow," "a plague o'both your houses." It has been turned into a ballet, an opera, at least three musicals I can think of, and several movies. As with anything that has become that familiar, we may allow our familiarity to define the play.
Age-reversing the play has allowed me to hear many of the lines and understand many of the thoughts in a different way. My reaction has been the same as when I have moved a piece of art which has hung in the same place in my home for years – suddenly you "see" it again. And hearing the lines spoken by more mature actors opens up new interpretations and new meanings. I have known several people who have found great love late in life – but you never see that on stage. I also know, now that I am older myself, that older people are often marginalized and desexualized - and, in extreme cases, abused. Reversing the ages allowed resonances of all of that into the play.
Thank you to Open Fist Theatre Company for giving me the opportunity to put this adaptation on its feet and in front of an audience. Thank you to this cast of remarkable actors who have jumped into this adaptation fully and with great joy. Thank you to the team of artists who have shared their talents to help create the world and its ambience. And a special thank you to Katherine James and Alan Blumenfeld for inspiring me to move forward with this play, for being such wonderful collaborators, and to truly appreciate that there is always Time Enough for Love.

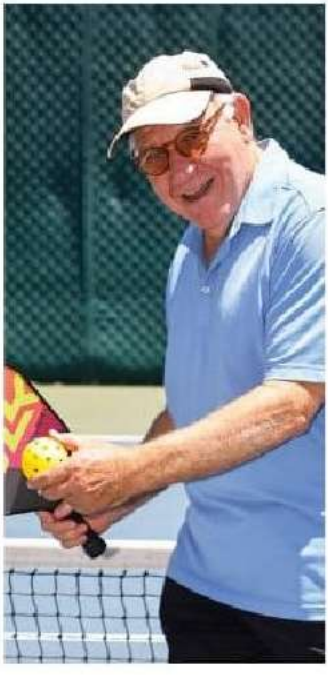
WELCOME

Welcome to Verona Village – an exclusive retirement community for active seniors in South Florida. Not far from Palm Beach and Mar-a-Lago.



Verona Village is a large community with all of the amenities any retired person might want. We have several dining options from formal to casual (I have to say, our bakery makes the best muffins) and, of course, meals from any of our restaurants can be delivered directly to your door. A beautiful golf course, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, and several brand new pickle ball courts – don't worry! we still have tennis courts for those who haven't joined the pickle ball craze!

At Verona Village we strive to make the lives of our residents as rich and full as anyone might want. We have dance classes, yoga sessions both regular and chair, and a fully maintained gym with personal coaching always available – and many of our residents grab a pool noodle and join our water aerobics classes.





We have a very active dramatic club which regularly puts on shows – I understand that a few of them are working up a swordplay demonstration for their next showcase. We have art classes of all kinds – from sculpture, to painting and watercolor



Though Verona Village is a non-sectarian community, we have a chapel and several resident Chaplains – Father Laurence and Pastor Joan among them. Our Chaplains are all trained therapists and offer counseling sessions for all who might seek them out.

And of course, because Verona Village hopes to nurture all of our residents, we have opened Mantua Manor for when you or your loved one needs more care. Mantua Manor is a fully secure residence and offers varying degrees of individualized support – including memory care – in a safe and nurturing environment. We also have on-site pharmacies available to our residents 24 hours a day. Thank you for visiting us. And if you like what you see, please let others know. We'll be open for visits until December 19!



The Montagues

Romeo ..... Alan Blumenfeld*

Montague ..... Sam Bennett*

Mercutio ..... Hutchins Foster*

Benvolio ..... Stephen Rockwell*

Sampson ..... Richard Van Slyke*

Gregory ..... Daniel Lench*

The Capulets

Juliet ..... Katherine James*

Capulet ..... Sam Cowan*

Lady Capulet ..... Natalia Jofre

Nurse ..... Emma Fassler*

Ms. Tybalt ..... Barbara Schofield*

Ms. Abram ..... Allana Barton*

Pedro/Featured Dancer ..... Sebastian Senatore

Paris ..... Paul Ganus*

Paris' Aide/Featured Dancer ..... Maliyah Tejada

Verona Village Staff

Ms. Prince, Director of Verona Village ..... Melanie Rockwell*

Father Lawrence, Resident Chaplin ..... James Fowler*

Head of Security ..... Luke Bolle

Pastor Joan/Aide/Cater Waiter #2/Security #2 ..... Gabriela Grant

Apothecary/Security #3/Aide ..... Elijah Reyes

Aide/Cater Waiter #3 ..... Abbs Stoiber

*Member, Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

This production is presented under the auspices of the Actors' Equity Los Angeles Membership Company Rule

Production

Director/Producer/Adapter	Christian Lebano
Choreographer	Melissa Schade
Fight Choreographer	Charles Currier
Composer	Sean Paxton
Scenic Designers	Destiny Kast & Christian Lebano
Costume Designer	Vicki Conrad
Lighting Designer	Dan Weingarten^
Sound Designer	Christopher Moscatiello^
Properties Designer	Nicole Bernardini
Scenic Artist	Orlando de la Paz
Assistant Director	Richard Van Slyke
Scenic Fabricator	Harold Kast
Master Electrician	Christina Antolin
Stage Manager	John Dimitri
Associate Producer	Bethany Koulias
Assistant Stage Manager	Abbs Stoiber
Assistant Choreographer	Elle Engelman
Dance Captain	Maliyah Tejada
Fight Captain	Sebastian Senatore
Production Marketing Director	Johannah Maynard Edwards
Publicity	Lucy Pollak
Social Media Manager	Grace Soens
Marketing Coordinator	Elle Engelman

USA 829 UNITED SCENIC ARTISTS

^members of United Scenic Artists. IATSE Local 829



Allana Barton



Sam Bennett



Alan Blumenfeld



Luke Bolle



Sam Cowan



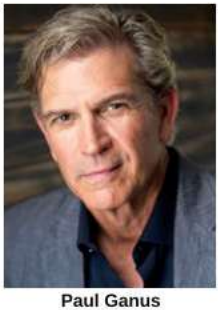
Emma Fassler



Hutchins Foster



James Fowler



Paul Ganus



Gabriela Grant



Katherine James



Natalia Jofre



Daniel Lench



Elijah Reyes



Melanie Rockwell



Stephen Rockwell



Barbara Schofield



Sebastian Senatore



Abbs Stoiber



Maliyah Tejada



Richard Van Slyke

Our Cast

Allana Barton

Ms. Abram

is thrilled to be a part of this fantastic OFTC show. She loves being on stage, but is not a big fan of writing these bios. She last appeared on stage in Neo Ensemble Theatre's *Cemetery Situations*, as a nun! This year, she became a Theatricum Botanicum company member. For the last four years, her favorite role has been middle school English Teacher, thus she gets to perform every day. She would like to thank Christian for the opportunity. Most importantly, she wants to shout out to her village. "You give me life, and I love you way too much."

Sam Bennett

Montague

is a three-time best-selling author, an award-winning marketer, a successful entrepreneur, and a creativity/productivity expert. A classically trained actor turned professional improviser (The Second City, Chicago; ComedySportz LA), Sam is ridiculously glad to be reunited with her Open Fist family. You can find out more about her and her work helping highly creative people get out of their own way at www.TheRealSamBennett.com

Alan Blumenfeld

Romeo

has been a company member of Theatricum Botanicum for the past 38 years: Shylock in *Merchant of Venice,* Falstaff in *Merry Wives of Windsor* (LA Drama Critics Circle Award), Matt Friedman, *Talley's Folly* and *Gin Game* (both with his wife, and favorite scene partner Katherine James) among others. Resident Artist at A Noise Within for 22 years. Ashland Shakespeare Festival, South Coast Repertory Theater; Odyssey Theater, Rhinoceros (Dramalogue and Garland Award) Fountain Theater, *The Chosen* (Ovation Award Nominee) Broadway/First National Tour Neil Simon's *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*.

Luke Bolle

Head of Security

is thrilled to be performing in his first show with Open Fist - straight off the heels of doing *Romeo & Juliet* with 17 year olds, he gets to do it again with 70 year olds! Previously seen at Theatricum Botanicum, Arroyo Repertory Theatre, and the Livermore Shakespeare Festival.

Our Cast

Sam Cowan

Capulet

is amazed at his fortune to be working with these artists, and in this world. Sam's most recent work includes two seasons in repertory with Theatricum Botanicum, several short films, commercials, and self-tapes in his garage. Previously seen with: Seattle Shakespeare Company, Sacramento Theatre Company, and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. All thanks to H&W for the love and support they give.

Emma Fassler

Nurse

hails from Oakland and now calls Los Angeles home with her husband, JP, and her son, Sam. A graduate of UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television, she's performed in regional theaters around Southern California, such as The La Mirada Theater, The Laguna Playhouse and Theatricum Botanicum. Emma has also worked in film & TV as she continues to develop her creative life and career. What an honor it is for her to join this team of artists at Open Fist who have all worked so carefully to bring this world to life! A reminder that there is Time Enough for many things, if only we have the imagination to see it.

Hutchins Foster

Mercutio

was most recently seen as Scar Tissue in *Marisol* and Bud in *Bat Boy: The Musical* at Open Fist Theatre Company. Favorite roles include Oscar Wilde in *Diversions & Delights*, Buzz in *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, Dr. Rance in *What the Butler Saw*, and Geoffrey in *The Sisters Rosensweig*. As a playwright, his work has been developed at Moving Arts, Ensemble Studio Theatre/LA, and Open Fist, where he is a proud company member. His plays include *The Art of Arson*, *The Madness of Frank Lloyd Wright*, and *The Ladies of Newport*, which will be produced at Open Fist next year.

James Fowler

Father Lawrence

is thrilled to return to the stage in this powerful reimagining of *Romeo and Juliet*. Having performed regionally and nationally for over 15 years, James remains deeply passionate about the transformative power of live theatre and the stories that bring us together. As *Associate Artistic Director* of Open Fist Theatre Company, he is especially proud to be part of a community of artists who continue to challenge, inspire, and reimagine the classics. James is honored to share in this bold new vision of Shakespeare's timeless tragedy with the Open Fist family.

Our Cast

Paul Ganus

Paris

as legend has it, Paul was “raised by a pack of wolves in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.” As the pack finished devouring a wayward hiker, Paul discovered a copy of *The Big Lebowski* in the unfortunate adventurer’s backpack. After shedding his loin cloth for flannels, he moved to Chicago, worked as a stuntman, singing waiter, studied at Second City and met and married beautiful actress/entrepreneur, Ellen Bradley. Blessed to work in scads of Theater, TV, and Film projects, recently, he’s been howling at Sennheiser Microphones voicing animation, games, politicals, commercials and dubbing. Paul dedicates his performances to his wonderful mother, Louise.

Gabriela Grant

Pastor Joan/Aide/Cater Waiter #2/Security #2

is an award-winning African-American and Costa-Rican American performance artist from Prince George’s County, Maryland. She earned her B.A. in Dance and Social Change Through Dance from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2020. After moving to Los Angeles in 2021, she landed commercial dance credits including Roddy Ricch’s “Live Life Fast” intro, Hulu’s *STARKEISHA*, and work with Tabria Majors. Trained in British theater, she has acted in independent films and associate produced *Water Baby*. She wrote the shorts *Wonton Soup* and *Ella Se Mueve*, and is now writing a one-woman show. Follow her on Instagram @gabigxoxo.

Katherine James

Juliet

a thespian since the age of 5, is thrilled to be starring as Juliet almost 70 years later. She met her Romeo, Alan Blumenfeld, when they were students at The American Conservatory Theatre 53 years ago and have been co-stars in life and onstage ever since having appeared together in over two dozen productions (most recently as Quince and Bottom in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at The Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum). Collaborations with Christian Lebano include *The Glass Menagerie* and *The Gin Game*. Thanks, Open Fist, for letting us play together again! alanandkatherine.com and katherinejamesplays.com (shows without the boys).

Our Cast

Natalia Jofre

Lady Capulet

is an actress and producer from La Paz, Bolivia. A graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, starred in projects like *My Sweet Frankenstein* (Platinum Remi Award - Worldfest Huston 2026,) *Love Dogs* (Best Visionary Feature – Seattle Film Festival 2024), *Raros* and *En Conserva* (Peter Travesí National Award 2014, 2021). Recently played at Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum in *Waiting in the Wings, A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Much Ado About Nothing,* awarded Stage Scene LA "Scenie" for Outstanding Ensemble in a Classic Play.

Daniel Lench

Gregory

is proud to join Open Fist as Gregory. AEA stage includes Baptista/Petruchio in *Taming of the Shrew*, Salieri in *Amadeus*, Atticus in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Demetrius/Snug in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Caliban in *The Tempest* and Col Jessep in *A Few Good Men*. Feature Films: The Rich Man in Netflix's *Circle*, The Producer in A24's/HBO's *Maxxxine* and J.D. in Terror Films' *Patient Seven*. Upcoming: The Unsettling Man in Kid Cudi's *Wrong Number* and Dr. Thacker in Kenneth Lawrence's *His Father's House*. Recognized on Television as Jimothy in CBS' *Papa's House*, Dr. Platz in ABC's *The Goldbergs*, and Professor Fleming in Nickelodeon's *Zoey 101*. Follow him on instagram @daniellench

Elijah Reyes

Apothecary/Security #3/Aide

is an actor from Alhambra making his first appearance with Open Fist. He has a passion for classical theatre and good storytelling. His recent credits include *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Theatricum Botanicum. Education: NYU: Meisner Studio.

Melanie Rockwell

Ms. Prince

is excited to be making her Open Fist debut as Ms. Prince in this intriguing rendition of Romeo and Juliet! Appearances at other theatres: *The Cherry Orchard*, *Romeo and Juliet* at The Loft Ensemble; *Cat's Cradle* at Sierra Madre Playhouse; *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Urinetown, A Little Night Music* at Interact Theatre Company; *Living Together, Ernest in Love* at the Fremont Center Theatre; *Nikki and Bobby* at the Coast Playhouse; *Move Over, Mrs. Markham* at the Whitefire Theater. Television credits: S*crubs, Rodney, Miss Match, Profiler, General Hospital*, as well as numerous national commercials.

Our Cast

Stephen Rockwell

Benvolio

Open Fist debut. International City Theater; Ned Newley - *The Outsider*; Vanya - *Vanya, Sonia, Masha & Spike*; Rabbi Kroeller - *A Splintered Soul*. The Group Rep; Dennis Shepard - *The Laramie Project*. Resident Artist at A Noise Within Theater for 20 years; Gentleman Caller - *The Glass Menagerie*, Freddie - *Noises Off*, King Deramo - *The King Stag*, Tom Wrench - *Trelawny of the Wells and Orestes* - Euripides' Electra. Seven seasons at The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. Stephen has also appeared in numerous TV shows and commercials and is a proud union member.

Barbara Schofield

Ms. Tybalt

is an award-winning director, actor, and member of OFTC, Barbara appeared in T*he Gary Plays, Light Up the Sky, Mad Forest, St. Joan and the Dancing Sickness, Elephant's Graveyard*, and many First Look Festivals. L.A. Directing credits include [LA] *Dancing at Lughnasa; Rock 'n Roll, Machinal, Stage Door, Incident at Vichy, Silent Sky, Arcadia* and *Proof*; [Regional acting/directing] NYC's Roundabout Theatre, The Kitchen, Westbeth Theatre Center, The Producers Club, Jean Cocteau Repertory, Renaissance Theatre, NJ; Boston Lyric Stage, Missouri Repertory Theatre, and Kansas City Opera. A member of AEA and SAG/AFTRA, Barbara serves as Chair of the Acting Division at AMDA College of the Performing Arts.

Sebastian Senatore

Pedro/Featured Dancer

is an actor born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He came to the U.S. to pursue his dream, earning a BFA in Acting from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. His favorite roles include Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*. He's thrilled to be part of this incredible cast and team!

Abbs Stoiber

Aide/Cater Waiter #3

is thrilled to be joining Open Fist for the first time with these lovely folks. They are an actor and stage manager by trade, and graduated from UC Santa Barbara's BFA Acting program back in 2023. Most recent credits include *Romeo and Juliet* (Ensemble), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Assistant Stage Manager/Puck), *Leaving Shakespeare* (Ophelia/Bianca/Juliet/Witch), *The Heiress* (Catherine Sloper), *Pinocchio* (Pinocchio), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Slender). Pronouns: they/them/theirs; Instagram @abbs.stoiber

Our Cast

Maliyah Tejada

Paris' Aide/Featured Dancer

a Utah native, is thrilled to share a stage with this talented cast. She is a recent BFA graduate from AMDA College of the Performing Arts. Most recent stage credit was Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream.*The art of storytelling has played a major role in her life, giving her an outlet to express and escape the beautiful thing we call "growing pains." She strives to tell authentic and fulfilling stories that give voice to people who don't always have the spotlight in our industry.

Richard Van Slyke

Sampson

is a Los Angeles-based actor and director with extensive experience across stage, television, and film. Originally from Upstate New York, he spent over a decade working in New York theater before relocating to Southern California. Favorite theater credits include *The Full Monty* (Harold Nichols), *A Christmas Story* (The Old Man), *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Mr. Twimble), *The Music Man* (Mayor Shinn), and *Somewhere in the Middle* (David). His screen credits feature television appearances on *Betrayed*, *People Magazine Investigates*, and *My Crazy Ex*. Richard is thrilled to share another wonderful story with tonight's audience and thanks his family and friends for their continuous support.

Want to help Open Fist make more art?
Please consider making a tax deductible donation via this QR Code

Production Team

Christian Lebano

Director/Producer/Adapter

is an actor, director, and playwright. He was the Producing Artistic Director at Sierra Madre Playhouse for eight years directing, producing and acting in over 65 productions. Among his directing credits *The Glass Menagerie* (with Katherine James as Amanda), *The Gin Game* (with Katherine James and Alan Blumenfeld), *Deathtrap*, *Driving Miss Daisy* (with Mary Lou Rosato), and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. As an actor he has performed leading roles with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Utah Shakespearean Festival, PCPA, Chicago's Court Theatre and Shakespeare Repertory, and The American Players Theater among others. In LA, he has appeared at The Fountain Theatre and International City Theatre among many others. Christian is a company member of Open Fist.

Nicole Bernardini

Properties Designer

is an LA based production designer. Favorite credits include: *Jaws* (30 Minute Musicals), *Outdated: a Fantastical Dating Guide for your Average Feminine-bent Creature* (written by/starring Kirsten Vangsness); *Foursome* (IAMA Theatre), *Goodbye Horses: an unauthorized retelling of 'The Silence of the Lambs'* (Los Angeles LGBT Center, NY, UK), *O: a Rhapsody in Divorce* (OutsideIn Theatre) *Reel to Reel* (Rogue Machine & Horsechart Theatre), *Hide & Hide* (Skylight Theatre), *The Very Best People* (IAMA), *Psycho Beach Party* (Horsechart Theatre), *Arrowhead* (IAMA), and *Hungry Ghost* (Skylight Theatre). Nicole earned her BFA in Graphic Design, her MFA in Technical Theatre from California State University Fullerton and currently teaches at Los Angeles Community College. *nicolebernardini.com*

Vicki Conrad

Costume Designer

is thrilled to be working with Christian Lebano again and the Open Fist team! She has worked with many LA Theatres. Favorite Credits: *The People of Pompeii, Waiting in the Wings, (*Botanicum), *Reel to Reel, (*Horsechart/Rogue Machine), *Rent* (Coeurage), *For The Love Of* (CTG Kirk Douglas) and *8:03* (Scherzo Edinburgh Fringe). Ovation Award - *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Nominations - *33 Variations*, *Imaginary Invalid*, *The Learned Ladies* (L.A. Weekly Award) & *Big River*. Film: *Love Loaded* released 11/13 TV: *Project Runway*. @vickiconraddesign

Production Team

Charles Currier

Fight Choreographer

is a veteran stunt coordinator and teacher, coordinating action sequences across 5 continents, including Live Joust spectaculars in China and Medieval combatives for BBC Television in Lithuania. As an actor, he performed modern swordplay in the film *Secondhand Lions,* was a guest on *The West Wing,* and played a most troublesome security guard in *A Better Life*. He trained principal actors and choreographed fight scenes for *Resident Evil: Extinction*, built complex military formations for Oliver Stone's *Alexander,* and worked as a military technical advisor on HBO's miniseries *Pacific.* To unwind, Charles enjoys firing Black Powder cannons off of sailing ships in San Pedro. "I'm delighted to be working again in LA, with the dear friends at Open Fist!"

John Dimitri

Stage Manager

is thrilled to be a part of this production of *R&J*! He has spent a lifetime in the Arts and has worn many different hats, including Stage Manager, Stage & Screen Actor, Tech Director, Lighting Designer, Sound Designer, Scenic Designer, Script Supervisor, Photographer, Videographer, and Running Crew. In addition to his work with Open Fist, John is an AMDA graduate, has spent many years as an IATSE Local 33 Stagehand, and has lent his skills to various other theatre/film/event companies and programs, including Sierra Madre Playhouse, Downtown Repertory Theatre, Vesper Theatre Company, Story Tailors, Netflix, CBS, J-Fox Event Lighting, Pasadena City College, and Glendale Community College. He would like to thank his friends and family--especially his mother Barbara Schofield--for their constant love and support over the years, no matter the hat worn!

Destiny Kast

Scenic Designer

is a Southern California–based scenic designer, artist, and educator. She is a member of the Art Directors Guild's Production Design Initiative and received her MFA in Scenic Design from California State University, Fullerton in 2022. Alongside her design work, Destiny is passionate about teaching and collaborating with the next generation of artists. She currently works as a scenic designer and educator at several Southern California institutions, including California State University, Dominguez Hills and Saddleback College. Her recent projects include Wicked Lit 2026's adaptations of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Las Lloronas* at the Chance Theater and *Canyon* at CSU Dominguez Hills.

Christopher Moscatiello

Sound Designer

is an award-winning sound designer, composer, music editor and music director for theater, TV and film, and he is the Resident Sound Designer at Rogue Machine Theatre. TV highlights include: *The Walking Dead*, *Eureka*, *Psych*, *Human Target*, *Caprica*, *The Cape* and *Trauma*. He has scored series and specials for National Geographic as well as specials and promos for HBO, BBC, Animal Planet, MSNBC, and The History Channel. Theater highlights include: The Kennedy Center, The Smithsonian Institution, The Ford, A Noise Within, The Shakespeare Theatre, Signature Theatre, Ensemble Theatre Company, Antaeus Theatre, The Fountain Theatre, The Road Theatre, Pacific Resident Theater, and he served as assistant conductor for the national tour of *The Phantom of the Opera*. An East Coast native, Chris was Associate Artistic Director and Conductor of the Boston Chamber Ensemble and wrote a ballet commissioned by the Kirov Ballet Academy that had its world premier in Washington, DC.

Sean Paxton

Composer

recently served as musical director for Open Fist Theatre's *Bat Boy*, and has collaborated with director Christian Lebano as a musical director and composer on numerous projects, including *Always... Patsy Cline*, *Dames at Sea*, and *A Wrinkle in Time*. He has also composed scores for several plays at Sierra Repertory Theatre, including *Of Mice and Men*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, and *The Three Musketeers*. An alumnus of the USC Thornton School of Music, Sean has worked in Los Angeles for over twenty years as a pianist, orchestrator, conductor, musical director, and teacher. As a long-time lover of Shakespeare, having the opportunity to work with the cast and team of *Romeo and Juliet* has been an absolute pleasure.

Melissa Schade

Choreographer

is a Los Angeles-based choreographer and movement director whose work spans stage and screen. Her theatrical credits include *Grease*, *Hair*, and *Cabaret* at Altadena Music Theatre; *West Side Story* and *Shrek* at Nocturne Theatre; and *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Airness* at Cal State LA. She has collaborated with musical artists including Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Arcade Fire, Benjamin Booker, and Haute & Freddy, and has lent her creative vision to projects for Nike, Apple Music, CoverGirl, and Vivienne Westwood. Her movement direction has also been featured in *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Vanity Fair*, and *The New York Times*. Passionate about storytelling through movement, Melissa is thrilled to join Open Fist Theatre Company for *Romeo and Juliet*.

Production Team

Abbs Stoiber

Assistant Stage Manager

See Cast Bios.

Dan Weingarten

Lighting Designer

is excited to be back at Open Fist after many years. Credits include: *Gruesome Playground Injuries, Monkey Adored, The Word Begins, I Wish I Had a Sylvia Plath, The Sunset Limited and* Compleat Female Stage Beauty. Smile, UBP and Found for IAMA. *Man Covets Bird, Walking the Tightrope*, East West Player's *Chess, A Little Night Music,* Bootleg's *Stranger*, The Santa Barbara Theater's *Doubt*, The Ebony Repertory Companies' *Five Guys Named Moe, Paul Robeson, Two Trains Running* and the Echo Theater Companies *Wirehead*. Actors Gang's *Heart of Darkness*. Recipient of the LA Drama Critic's Circle Angstrom Award, the LA Weekly Award, the Garland Award and the Dramalogue Award. Faculty at California State University at Northridge, received his MFA from California Institute of the Arts.

Richard Van Slyke

Assistant Director

See Cast Bios.

Time Enough For Love
Music & lyrics by Sean Paxton

There's time enough in the springtime of youth
For melodies to be sung
Some come along that you can't live without
Then suddenly, that verse is done

And in the summer singing sweetly
Many a rose caught my eye
Each held a charm and a promise to stay
But I always let them fade

As summer tumbled into autumn
The splendor of the singing lost to me, when
Suddenly my eyes beheld you
I kissed your lips and it was all true, so

Now I'll forever hold you
Safe in my loving embrace
Last of the seasons and all of the songs
At last I have found you
And there's time for one more song
And there's time enough for love.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Open Fist Theatre Company is a self-governing community of theatre artists who believe in the transformative imperative of inclusive and collaborative theatre. Dedicated to expanding social awareness through art, we seek, through diverse voices and artistic visions, to celebrate difference, nurture empathy, and advance social change.

Board of Directors

Martha Demson, Elizabeth Gerberg, Richard Michael Knolla, Christopher Lore, Charles Otte, Malhar Pagay, Ina Shumaker

Staff

Martha Demson, Producing Artistic Director; Amanda Weier & James Fowler, Associate Artistic Directors; Richard Michael Knolla, Financial Director; Barbara Schofield, Literary Manager; Carmella Jenkins, Box Office Manager & DEI Director; Grace Soens, Social Media Manager; Bethany Koulias, Membership Manager

The Company

Lane Allison, Tambrie Allsup, Christine Avila, Allana Barton, Sam Bennett, Bryan Bertone, Alan Blumenfeld, Barbara Bragg, Kevin Brennan, Timothy Brown, Emma Bruno, Sandra Burck, Christopher Cappiello, Laura Chirinos, Sam Cowan, Martha Demson, Bruce Dickenson, Elle Engelman, Emma Fassler, Hutchins Foster, James Fowler, Paul Ganus, Ashleigh Gilfort, Matthew Goodrich, Gabriela Grant, Syanne Green, Delvin Harrington, Nychelle Hawk, Hank Jacobs, Katherine James, Carmella Jenkins, Lawrence Keller, Bethany Koulias, Kelsey Kusinitz, Christian Lebano, Daniel Lench, Dylan Maddelena, Schuyler Mastain, Maria Mastroyannis, Jan Munroe, Ethan Remez-Cott, Beth Robbins, Melanie Rockwell, Stephen Rockwell, Chima Rok, Jade Santana, Judith Scarpone, Barbara Schofield, Jack Sharpe, Michael A. Shepperd, David Shofner, Richard Van Slyke, Grace Soens, Jeremy D. Thompson, Amber Tiara, Pat Towne, Amanda Weier, Clara York, Jennifer Zorbalas



VERONA
VILLAGE

WELCOME HOME

Your next adventure
starts here.

