

# EL PORTAL

MAY 4-19, 2019



TROUBADOUR THEATER COMPANY'S

# JULIUS WEEZER

Starring

(in alphabetical order)

**RICK BATALLA JOSEPH LEO BWARIE VICTORIA HOFFMAN  
BETH KENNEDY MATT MERCHANT ROB NAGLE  
SUZANNE JOLIE NARBONNE ANDY ROBINSON  
MORGAN RUSLER MIKE SULPRIZIO CLOIE WYATT TAYLOR  
MATT WALKER DAVID C. WRIGHT**

Scenic Designer

**CHRISTOPHER SCOTT MURILLO**

Lighting Designer

**BO TINDELL**

Costume Designer

**HALEI PARKER**

Musical Director

**DERICK FINELY**

Sound Designer

**DANIEL S. TATOR**

Production Stage Manager

**COREY WOMACK**

Choreographers

**NADINE ELLIS MATT WALKER SUZANNE JOLIE NARBONNE**

Producers

**BETH KENNEDY AND MIKE SULPRIZIO**

Director/Adaptor

**MATT WALKER**

THE HISTORIC EL PORTAL THEATRE 5269 LANKERSHIM BOULEVARD, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91405

Please take a moment to look around for the nearest emergency exit.

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

DECIUS, LUCIUS.....	<b>RICK BATALLA</b>
OCTAVIUS CAESAR.....	<b>JOSEPH LEO BWARIE</b>
PORTIA.....	<b>VICTORIA HOFFMAN</b>
METELLUS, CALPURNIA.....	<b>BETH KENNEDY</b>
MARCUS ANTONIUS.....	<b>MATT MERCHANT</b>
BRUTUS.....	<b>ROB NAGLE</b>
SERVANT TO CLEOPATRA/CUP BEARER.....	<b>SUZANNE JOLIE NARBONNE</b>
JULIUS CAESAR.....	<b>ANDY ROBINSON</b>
CINNA, CINNA THE POET, SOOTHSAYER.....	<b>MORGAN RUSLER</b>
CASCA.....	<b>MIKE SULPRIZIO</b>
CLEOPATRA.....	<b>CLOIE WYATT TAYLOR</b>
CASSIUS.....	<b>MATT WALKER</b>
TREBONIUS/SERVANT TO CAESAR.....	<b>DAVID C. WRIGHT</b>

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**TIME:**            *A momentous period in history, then and now.*

**PLACE:**           *Ancient Rome and Current NoHo.*

*The play will be performed with one 15 minute intermission.*

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## THE BAND

	Assoc. MD/Keyboards		Drums	
	<b>RYAN WHYMAN</b>		<b>DERICK FINELY</b>	
Cello		Guitar		Bass
<b>MIKALA SCHMITZ</b>		<b>MIKE ABRAHAM</b>		<b>BLAKE ESTRADA</b>

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## PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director		Associate Producer	
<b>STACY HENNON STONE</b>		<b>SUZANNE JOLIE NARBONNE</b>	
Sound Operator		Crew	Fight Choreographer
<b>BEAU BANCROFT</b>		<b>MARCELA LOMELI</b>	<b>KEN MERCCKX</b>

# Director's Notes

A Long Time Ago... in a context far, far, away...

It is a period of civil war.

By 44 B.C. the the triumvirate of Caesar, Crassus, and Pompey has fractured.

Roman legions, striking from a hidden base in Spain have won their final victory against their enemies the Optimates – thereby putting an end to the first triumvirate– and starting the decline that eventually replaces the Roman republic, with the Empire.

Emerging victorious in the war, Julius Caesar is politically able to return in triumph to Rome unopposed, and govern as the elected Dictator Perpetuo – Dictator in perpetuity. Which to some meant – Dictator for life...

A rebellion is born – seeking to ensure that no single individual be named king, thus reverting hundreds of centuries of Roman history when tyrannical monarchs ruled, enslaved, and executed millions.

Rebels against the Empire.

Subsequently, the assassination of Julius Caesar and the war that followed, began the Republican decline that led to the Roman Empire, initiated with the reign of the Roman Emperor Augustus. (Octavius Caesar – nephew of Julius)

Right around that same time, Weezer released the 1st of their 13 albums.

Musically rebellious and sublimely prolific, the band transcends genre labeling due to the depth and breadth of its exploration. The ubiquitous funk-pop-rock-songs like *Buddy Holly*, *Undone*, and *Hashpipe* that have been radio mainstays for 20 + years, are the icing on a glorious cake of emotional discovery, ethereal escape, and thoughtful delight – evident in songs like, *Greatest Man That Ever Lived*, *Unspoken*, *Haunt you Everyday*, and many more.

Not to mention the music's ability to incite the ferocity of dancing with an overbite.

The pairing was an obvious 'title-first-and-build-from-there' approach – but once ensconced in the Shakespearian story and the Weezer catalogue it was soon apparent that this could potentially be a four-hour-show.

With SO much great Weezer music to help tell the tale, give emotional lift to scenes, and reveal character, it was a joyous process to discover and dovetail story and song. They even wrote a tune called, *Cleopatra*.

The musical rebels of Weezer meet the Shakespearean rebels of Julius Caesar – and the good news is...we got it under four hours.

# The Company



**RICK BATALLA** (*Decius, Lucius*) is an award winning performer, writer, and director for television, film and theater, and a founder of The Troubadour Theater company.

Rick studied with the creator of The Groundlings in Los Angeles, and The Second City. He has been a series regular in shows like CBS's *Payne*,

ABC's *True Love* and TBS's *Dinner and A Movie*, where he also wrote and directed. He has guest starred on many TV shows including *Hollywood Darlings*, *Cold Case*, and *Liv and Maddie*.

Rick also writes original musicals. He wrote the multi-Ovation nominated "CHiPs the Musical" and "Blake...Da Musical" which won the Ovation for 'Best New Musical'. He currently has two shows in preproduction. The first is *Lucretia...King Slayer*, and the other is titled *Eulogy*.



**JOSEPH LEO BWARIE** (*Octavius Caesar*) Sherman Oaks native, recording artist popular on SiriusXM Radio's Siriusly Sinatra, and one of the Artistic Directors of the nonprofit Garry Marshall Theatre. Widely known for his record-breaking turn as Frankie Valli in *Jersey Boys* (over 2,000

performances Las Vegas, Tour, Broadway). Big-band solo albums: *Nothin' But Love*, *The Good Stuff*, *A Little Christmas*. Resume starts with *Mama's Family* (age nine) and continues. Longtime Troubie member. Recent concerts: *The Doo Wop Project* with the Vancouver Symphony, Charles Calello's *The Legend Behind The Hits!*, and *The Wonderful Wizard of Song* with Eden Espinosa. Most recently co-created/directed the original musical *The Root Beer Bandits*. @rootbeerbandits @josephleobwarie



**VICTORIA HOFFMAN** (*Portia*) is bloody ecstatic to be a Troubie Newbie! Local faves: Noel Coward's *The Vortex* at Malibu Playhouse & The Matrix, Nick Salomone's critically acclaimed *The Sonneteer* at LA Gay & Lesbian Center, *I Love Lucy Live @ Greenway Court*, and *Twelfth Night*

(directed by Armin Shimerman) WEHO Shakespear in the Parks. Regional highlights: *A Christmas Carol @ Kodak Theatre* with Christopher Lloyd & John Goodman, *Charley Bacon* with Tony Plana at South Coast Repertory, *Tartuffe* and *Crimes of the Heart* at Kansas City Rep. Casting Credits include Rogue Machine Theatre (Resident CD), Boston Court Pasadena, A Noise Within, Greenway Court, and the New American Theatre. Currently the Manager of Casting

at the AFI Conservatory. VO, TV/Film 'n stuff at [victoriahoffman.com](http://victoriahoffman.com).

Matt Walker. Thank You. IG @VicHoffmanLA



**BETH KENNEDY** (*Metellus, Calpurnia*) is a longtime Troubie involved in over 30 original productions. Excited to get back to our Shakespearean roots. Big hugs to our awesome fans who keep coming out year after year and lots of love to my most wonderful family and friends. Proud advocate and

advisory council member of Stepping Forward L.A. Please donate at [www.stepsforwardla.org](http://www.stepsforwardla.org) to assist L.A.'s foster youth aging out of the system.



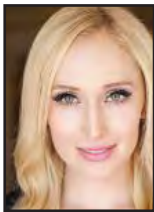
**MATT MERCHANT** (*Marcus Antonius*) Thrilled to be getting into more shenanigans with the Troubie Fam! Many thanks to Mr. Walker et al! Film includes Oscar Nominated *Vice*, currently out on DVD and TV includes *Brooklyn 99*, *Key and Peele* and *The Rookie*. I asked my nephew to help me

write this bio. He pointed at his Superman shirt and said "Unka Matt." He's three. Well, he was when I first wrote this. Stuntman, comedian, dipper of hands in many pots. Grateful for a loving and supportive family and gratitude to y'all for coming out tonight! IG: @matt\_merchant



**ROB NAGLE** (*Brutus*) Very proud Troubie, and also Antaeus Theatre Company member. Theater includes: *The Judas Kiss* at Boston Court and *The Little Foxes* at Antaeus, as well as Pasadena Playhouse, The Road Theatre, New World Stages, Skylight Theatre Company, South Coast

Repertory, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Rogue Machine Theatre, Portland Center Stage, Mark Taper Forum. Film includes: *To Hell and Gone*, *Bad Samaritan*, *First Love*, *Mother's Day*, *Fishing Naked*, *Boost*, *New Year's Eve*. Television includes: *NCIS: Los Angeles*, *Superior Donuts*, *Modern Family*, *The Librarians*, *Grey's Anatomy*. Education: Northwestern University. Spouse: Heather Allyn. Pug: Houston. [robnagle.com](http://robnagle.com) @nagdoggie



**SUZANNE JULIE NARBONNE** (*Servant to Cleopatra/Cup Bearer*) is so thankful to play with the Troubies once again, having last appeared in the Ovation-nominated *How the Princh Stole Christmas*. Most recently she performed



# The Company

with the company in the *ODD-yssey* at the Getty Villa, where she also served as choreographer. Stage: LA Opera (*La Rondine*, *Eugene Onegin*), LA Philharmonic (*Symphonie Fantastique*), International City Theater (*Heir Apparent*), Laguna Playhouse (*A Midsummer Saturday Night's Fever Dream*), Segerstrom Center for the Arts (*The Nutcracker*), The Getty Villa Outdoor Amphitheater (*Haunted House Party*). TV: *Dancing With The Stars*, *The Goldbergs*, *Bunheads*, *Breaking In*, *Frank TV* Film: *Mother's Day*, *Burlesque*, *The Muppets*. Commercial: Mercedes-Benz, Toyota, Old Navy, Absolut Vodka. She has also performed for MAC Cosmetics (Nutcracker Sweet tour) Disney Imagineering (as Cinderella), and Universal Studios.

Suzanne debuted a solo act en pointe for Dita Von Teese's opulent New Year's Eve 2019 gala at the historic Orpheum Theater. Love to her husband and the pack. Follow @suzannejolie on Instagram for more happenings.



## **ANDY ROBINSON** (*Julius Caesar*)

Andy has been doing all kinds of work on stage, film and TV for over 50 years. Most of it has been straight (well, not *Liberace*), scary (Scorpio in *Dirty Harry*, *Hellraiser*), weird (Garak the tailor on *Deep Space 9*), and all varieties of saints and sinners, classic and modern. He's been a teacher (created the MFA actor training program at USC), a director (*Judging Amy*, *Star Trek*, the Matrix Theatre Company and other theatres), and he's written a published memoir, *STEPPING INTO THE LIGHT*. But where are the clowns? They must be here at the El Portal. His debut performance with his favorite collection of crazies, the Troubies, means that Andy can now cross a big one off the bucket list. Thanks for inviting me to the party.



**MORGAN RUSLER** (*Cinna*, *Cinna the Poet*, *Soothsayer*) A longtime Troubie member, Morgan may be best known for creating the title role in *Fleetwood Macbeth*. Other Troubie roles include: Old Man Potter in *It's a Stevie Wonderful Life*, Horatio in *Hamlet*, the *Artist Formerly Known as Prince of*

*Denmark* (Garland Award Honorable Mention), King Herod and Frankenstein in *The First Joel* (Ovation Nomination), Young Ebenezer in *A Christmas Carol King*, The Duke in *Two Gentlemen of Chicago*, and The King in *All's Kool That Ends Kool*. Other theater credits include stints at the Mark Taper Forum, the Pasadena Playhouse and the Geffen Theater in Westwood. Film and Television: *Mad Men*, *The Green*

*Hornet*, *Galaxy Quest*, *Firefly*. Morgan dedicates every performance to his wonderful family Lynda, Hadden and Milo.



**MICHAEL SULPRIZIO** (*Casca*) is thrilled that the Troubies are back at the El Portal Theatre. Notable roles include: Charlie Brown in *It's a Charlie James Brown Xmas*, Yukon Cornelius in *Rudolph the Red-Nosed ReinDoors*, and Nick The Tinker in *The Princh Who Stole Xmas*. Thanks to Suzie, Emma, Matt, BK, and Corey for the continued support and friendship.



**CLOIE WYATT TAYLOR** (*Cleopatra*) is thrilled to be back with the Troubies. A New York University Tisch School alum, her past credits include: *Future Man*, *Crazy Ex Girlfriend*, and the role of "Sally Sue Tucker" in the long-awaited return of *The Root Beer*

*Bandits* (Garry Marshall Theatre). Love to Sandy and Anthony. All of my heart to SJF. @alwayscloie on Instagram



**MATT WALKER** (*Cassius*) Since 1995, he has been artistic director of The Troubadour Theater Company in Los Angeles, directing over 40 original productions and been honored with the Orange County Weekly Theater Award for Career Achievement,

the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for Sustained Excellence in Theater, and the LADCC's Joel Hirschhorn Award for Outstanding Achievement in Musical Theater. Matt has worked professionally in TV, film, theater, opera, theme parks, corporate entertainment, and circus. And most recently, Matt co-wrote the screenplay for the Garry Marshall film, *Mother's Day*, as well as serving as on-set writer for Garry's previous two films, *Valentine's Day* (2009), and *New Year's Eve*. (2011). Matt currently serves as a writer/director for Universal Studios Hollywood theme park, and has written and/or directed the entertainment shows for *Harry Potter land*, *the Special Effects Show*, and the *Jurassic World Raptor Experience*. In addition, Matt has worked as a Disney Imagineer on various projects both for Los Angeles and Orlando, FL. This production lovingly dedicated to Monica Rose Brown.



**DAVE C. WRIGHT** (*Trebonius, Servant to Caesar*) is a southern California native and Second City Chicago alumni. This is his second Troubie show following *A Year Without a Santana Claus* and is overjoyed to be returning!

He performs consistently for the US Navy and will be spending this summer in Sequoia National Park entertaining visitors. He plays music and comedy at venues like the Whiskey a Go Go, Hollywood Improv and Flapper's. You can follow his Instagram @bodaveciuous. Thank you for your support, and enjoy the show!

**NADINE ELLIS** (*Choreographer*) This New York native is so proud and happy to be along for the Troubie ride, once again! Working with this cast to capture the moves and grooves of Ancient Rome, if Caesar could say "Siri play Weezer," has been like... "Suiting the action to the word and the word to the action." (Willie Shakes) ...poetry.

**STACY HENNON STONE** (*Technical Director*) works in theatre ranging from the Long Beach Playhouse to Opera Santa Barbara, and everything in between. She was the Assistant Technical Director and Production Manager at the Norris Center/Palos Verdes Performing Arts for nine and a half years. And is currently the Technical and Facilities Manager at East West Players. In 2017 Stacy and her twin sister started a podcast called Twins Talk Theatre, in which they talk to the back stage people for an hour long podcast every week. Please visit her web page at [www.StacyHennonStone.com](http://www.StacyHennonStone.com)

**MARCELA LOMELI** (*Costume Tech/Crew*) is delighted to be working with the Troubadour Theater Company. Prior to joining the company, she assisted in *The Tales of Clamor* with the PULLproject Ensemble, in the Aratani Theatre. Prior to this, she worked for Monomoy Theatre which included *Guys and Dolls*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *As You Like It* and more well-known productions. She has a Bachelors degree in Theatre from California State University, Northridge, in which she jump-started her career by getting involved in the schools outstanding theatre department.

**CHRISTOPHER SCOTT MURILLO** (*Scenic Designer*) is a scenic designer, artist, and educator based in Los Angeles, CA. He is thrilled to be returning for his 6th production with the Troubies! Recent Troubadour Theater Company Credits include: *The Year Without a Santana Claus*, *How The Princh Stole Christmas!*, *Little Drummer Bowie* and *Haunted House Party: A*

*Roman Comedy*. Most recently, his work has been seen at The Kirk Douglas Theatre, Greenway Court Theatre, International City Theatre, The Chance Theater, Skylight Theatre Company, and Performance Riverside. Christopher is a member of the Television Academy and United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829. He holds a MFA ('13) from the UCSD Department of Theatre and Dance, and a BA ('07) from the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. He is a 2016 recipient of the Princess Grace Foundation Theater Fellowship- Pierre Cardin Award. <http://www.christopherscottmurillo.com>

**HALEI PARKER** (*Costume Designer*) is an Ovation nominated and LA based costume designer for theatre, dance, opera, and film. She is thrilled to be returning for her fourth Troubadour production! Her previous Troubie shows were: *How The Princh Stole Christmas*, *ODD-yssey*, and *The Year Without A Santana Claus*. Halei's designs can be seen on stages all across LA, most recently at Walt Disney Concert Hall, The Getty Villa, East West Players, Rogue Machine Theatre, and Odyssey Theatre. Halei is a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829, holds an MFA in Costume Design from UC San Diego, and a BFA in Theatre Design from University of North Texas. [www.HaleiParker.com](http://www.HaleiParker.com)

**DANIEL TATOR** (*Sound Designer*) Daniel Tator is a graduate of UCLA's Theater Sound Design Program. His departmental design credits include *Angels in America*, *Pains of Youth*, *Paradise Lost*, and *The Clean House*. Outside of UCLA, selected theatrical designs include Los Angeles Theater Center's *Faith*, CSUN's *Don Giovanni*, The Hayworth Theatre's *Busting Out*, and Pacific Resident Theatre's *The Cherry Orchard*. As an assistant designer, he has helped to create the sound for *Carrie* at the Los Angeles Theatre, The Geffen Playhouse's *Red Hot Patriot* as well as the world premiere of *Modrock the Musical* at the El Portal Theatre. He also designs and engineers other live events, such as concerts, corporate theater, and fundraisers internationally.

**BO TINDELL** (*Lighting Designer*) is a freelance lighting designer based out of LA and very excited to be working with Troubadour for the first time as a designer. Regional Credits: Pacific Opera Project, Tuacahn Centre for the Arts, San Diego Rep, Wallis Annenberg Centre, and Berkeley Playhouse. Recent Local Credits: *Madame Butterfly* and *Magic Flute* (POP), *Hole in the Sky* (Circle X), and *YOU* (Hall and Mirrors). MFA

from UC San Diego and BA from Cal State Fullerton.  
www.wbtindell.com

**COREY WOMACK** (*Production Stage Manager*) Corey is happy to be back with the Troubies at the El Portal. Her previous credits include The Rochester Fringe Festival, Production Stage Manager – Cabinet of Wonders; Ringling Brother and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Production Stage Manager 138th, Associate Production Manager 136th; Smelly Monkey Productions, Shotspeare and The Dingbat Show, Production Stage Manager; Troubadour Theater Company, Resident Stage Manager; The Fountain Theatre, Production Stage Manager – The Normal Heart; Brand X with Russell Brand, seasons 1 & 2, Set Supervisor. Much love to the Trouble family! PDA for JMR - You're my favorite everything. ■



## About the Troubadour Theater Company

The Troubadour Theater Company is a free-wheeling, no holds barred, Commedia Del Arte flavored, slapstick driven Los Angeles based ensemble of actors, musicians, and comedians that has been performing for audiences throughout Southern California and beyond since 1995. Their fast-paced, laugh-filled, loose musical adaptations (some of the lines are still there) of classic plays, literature, television specials and film, as well as their original productions and hilarious sketch material, make this company a unique and exciting experience for theater-goers of any age. For more info on the “Troubies,” visit [www.troubie.com](http://www.troubie.com).

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## Troubadour Theater Company

Artistic Director	<b>MATT WALKER</b>
Executive Producer	<b>MIKE SULPRIZIO</b>
Producing Director	<b>BETH KENNEDY</b>
Graphic Design	<b>VLAD STRAJNIC</b>

## Special Thanks

**JOE STERN & THE MATRIX THEATRE**  
**RALPH FLORES, ANNA WOO & THE GETTY VILLA**  
**MARK BRADY & SCREENLAND STUDIOS**  
**EDDY WILL**  
**THE GARRY MARSHALL THEATRE**  
**GLOBAL EFFECTS**  
**MARK MCCRACKEN**  
**ARNIE ELLIS**  
**ANDREW BORBA**  
**BREANNA PINE**  
**LARRY POINDEXTER**  
**ISAAC ROBINSON-SMITH**  
**PAT TOTTH**  
**JAMES BANE**  
**DAVID BRIDEL**  
**MATT PATRICK**  
**SUZIE SULPRIZIO**  
**EMMA SULPRIZIO**  
**TED LANGE**  
**TAYLOR DECKER**  
**MATT SAVER**  
**JILLIAN LAUREN**  
**SCOTT SHRINER**  
**CHRIS BRANAN**  
**SHARON MCGUNIGLE**

Extra Special Thanks to  
**WEEZER**  
for Rocking and Inspiring Us!

## STAFF FOR EL PORTAL THEATRE

Producing General Manager	JAY IRWIN
Producing Managing Director	PEGGE FORREST
Box Office	STEVE SHEDD
Administrative Associate	HEATHER LEE
Technical Supervisor	EDWIN PLEITEZ
Sound, Lighting and Electrics	BEAU BANCROFT, BO TINDELL
House Managers	EMILY AUBERT, RYAN CLARK
Lobby Hostess	ALEX BARRETT
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## EL PORTAL THEATRE

El Portal Theatre was built in 1926  
11206 Weddington Street, North Hollywood, CA 91601  
**818-508-0281**

[www.elportaltheatre.com](http://www.elportaltheatre.com)

**BERNARD KAUFMAN/GARY GOODGAME** – Owners  
**JAY IRWIN/PEGGE FORREST** – Managers

**BOX OFFICE..... 818.508.4200**



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