

# BIOS



**SONIA BALANAY** (*Kate*) was born in Kona on the big island of Hawaii, and was raised in the small town of Atascadero, California. She is currently a junior at San Diego State University studying Business Management and Theatre Arts and is an active member of the international organization The Navigators, whose purpose is to “know Christ and make him known”. Some of her favorite roles include: 42nd Street (Maggie Jones) at San Diego City College, and Much Ado About Nothing (Hero) and West Side Story (Estella) with the Greyhound Theatre Ensemble at Atascadero High School. Sonia loves gelato, has a secret obsession with the “Twilight” series, and truly admires her favorite actor of all time—the legendary Jimmy Stewart.



**SIMON BARRETT** (*Ensemble*), was born in the Philippines and moved to Riverside, California when he was five years old. Simon developed his itch for the theater when he played the understudy for the King in the King and I at Loara High School in Anaheim in 2000. A year later he got his certificate in Medical Assisting. Not until he fell in love with San Diego at the end of 2006 was he inspired to get back to pursuing his passion for musical theatre. Recent credits include: The Magical Forest (King Ragwort) at Coronado Playhouse and Little Women, the Musical (John Brooks), at Spotlight Theatre Arts Repertory in San Diego. Simon enjoys traveling, sightseeing, creativity, music, dancing and has also found an interest in vegan food.



**TREVOR BOWLES** (*Arvin*) is a home-grown San Diegan. He graduated from Madison High School in 2008 and is currently pursuing a career in theatre. Some of his recent work in the local San Diego theatre scene includes: If I Were Your Superhero (Jed) with California Playwrights Project, Into the Woods (The Wolf) at J\*Company, Backwater Blues (Joe) at Compass Theatre, and Corpus Christi (Joshua) at Diversionary Theatre. Trevor was named MTAG’s Best Actor in 2008 and was San Diego Playbill’s Best Supporting Actor in a Musical for his performance as Gaston in J\*Company’s Beauty and the Beast. Trevor hopes to be a high school drama teacher one day. After Zanna, Don’t! he plans to move to Portland, Oregon to continue his education.



**ZACHARY BRYANT** (*Steve*), originally from Phoenix, Arizona, moved to San Diego in May of 2006 after earning his Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Arts Management from the University of Arizona. Recent credits include Yank! (Tennessee), Corpus Christi (Bartholomew), and It’s a Fabulous Life (Joe), all with the Diversionary Theatre. While living in Tucson, Zach appeared in Sinbad (Bendar) and Miss Smalltown Rock and Roll (Skid) at the Gaslight Theatre. Other prior roles include Seven Deadly Sins (Emcee) and Man with the Flower in His Mouth (Commuter) at the University of Arizona, and the lead role of Clifford Bradshaw in Scottsdale Desert Stages Theatre’s production of Cabaret. When not on the stage, Zach works for Progressive Insurance, has a side photography business, and loves to go to karaoke with friends.



**STEPHANIE HESTER** (*Ensemble*), a new face on San Diego stages, was born in the small town of Santa Maria, California and raised in Laguna Hills, California. She graduated from Laguna Hills High School in 2004 and moved to San Diego in August of 2008. She is currently a Junior at San Diego State University and plans to graduate with her Bachelor’s Degree in Theatre Arts with a Performance Emphasis in 2010. This is Stephanie’s first production in San Diego. Some of her onstage credits from Orange County include Cabaret (Helga) at the Camino Real Playhouse, Reefer Madness! The Musical (Placard Girl) at Saddleback College, Play On! (Louise) and The Hostage (Teresa) at Irvine Valley College. Stephanie loves soy vanilla lattes, karaoke and girls’ nights devoted to “Sex and the City” marathons.



**CASHAE MONYA** (*Candi*), born and raised in San Diego, is a recent graduate of Coronado School of The Arts (Musical Theatre). Two months prior to graduation, Monya was cast in the new Broadway-bound musical Memphis at the La Jolla Playhouse under the direction of artistic director Christopher Ashley. Cashae had the privilege of reprising her role in Memphis at the Fifth Avenue Theatre in Seattle, Washington this past winter. Previous roles include: Anton in Show Business (T-Ann) at 6th at Penn Theatre in San Diego; Smokey Joe’s Cafe (Soloist), Peter Pan (Smee), To Kill a Mockingbird (Calpurnia), Madeline’s Christmas (Harsha), Aladdin (Abu), and The Wiz (Munchkin) at San Diego Junior Theatre. After taking a year off from her scholastic obligations, Cashae plans to go back to school in the fall in pursuit of a degree in both Theatre and African-American Studies. In her spare time, Cashae likes to kick back, relax and enjoy an episode of “Spongebob Squarepants” while eating a big bowl of slightly-burnt popcorn.

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**BRADLEY SATTLER** (*Tank*) was born and raised in Whittier, California, and began his theater career at La Serna High School. He performed in favorite roles such as Christopher in On The Razzle, Andrew Lynch in All The Way Home, and Judas in Godspell at La Serna, and Will Parker in Whittier Community Theatre’s production of Oklahoma. Other roles include Amadeus (Venticello) and Antony and Cleopatra (Agrippa) at La Serna; and Seussical (Wickersham) for Whittier Junior Theatre. Bradley moved to San Diego to study at San Diego State University where he is double majoring in Theatre Arts under Rick Simas and Paula Kalustian, and Liberal Studies. At SDSU, he has performed in El Tigre (Tiburcio), Urinetown (UGC Executive), and 1001 Grains of Sand (Rapskali/Caliph). In his free time, Bradley enjoys playing drums, guitar, ice hockey, tennis, and throwing frisbees for his dogs.



**WHITNEY SHAY** (*Roberta*) is a native San Diegan, and has been seen on San Diego stages since the ripe age of 3! Some of her recent work includes: Relatively Speaking (Ginny) at PowPAC Theatre, tick, tick...BOOM! (Susan understudy) at Stone Soup Theatre, Company (Amy) at Grossmont College, and Zombie Prom (Keeley) at San Diego State University; as well as shows at Starlight Theatre, Lyric Opera San Diego, and Lamplighter’s Theatre. In 2008, Whitney graduated Magna Cum Laude from San Diego State University with her Bachelor’s Degree in Theatre Arts with an Emphasis in Performance. While living in Denver, Colorado, for a short time, Whitney participated in the 48 Hour Film Project. Whitney’s team went on to win the 2008 Denver 48 Hour Film Project and the 2008 Panasonic HD Shootout for which her films will be shown at the 2009 Miami International and Cannes Film Festivals. Whitney loves karaoke and going out dancing, especially swing and salsa dancing.



**SHAUN TUAZON** (*Zanna*) was born in Oakland, California, and raised on the small island town of Alameda. He moved to San Diego to attend college and in May will be graduating from San Diego State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts. Previous roles include Backwater Blues (Arnie) at Compass Theatre; Songs for a New World (Man), Urinetown (Tiny Tom), Zombie Prom (Ensemble), The Grapes of Wrath (Ensemble), and In the Beginning (Ensemble) at San Diego State University; Guys and Dolls (Dancing Crapshooter/Ensemble) and Bye Bye Birdie (Peyton) at Alameda Civic Light Opera; Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Joseph), Alice through the Looking Glass (Gryphon), Taming of the Shrew (Baptista), and Cinderella (Chef) at Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School in Alameda. Unlike his character, Shaun is an avid whistler and loves to yodel. Shaun loves aggressive inline skating and the Coca-Cola Company.



**RITCHIE DIEGO VALENZUELA** (*Mike*) was born in the city of Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico and was raised in the border town of El Paso, Texas. A member of the 2000 Texas All State Choir, Ritchie went on to complete his training in Musical Theater at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City in 2005. Previous performances include Footloose (Lyle) and Traditions of Christmas (Ensemble) at Christian Community Theater, Hello Dolly! (Ensemble) at San Diego City College, Evita (Ensemble) at the University of Texas El Paso, and El Paso Community Theater’s productions of The Music Man (Ensemble), Fiddler on the Roof, and Meet Me in St. Louis (Ensemble). Ritchie is currently a dance instructor for the City of San Diego’s Park and Recreation Program where he teaches tap, jazz, and theater dance to students of all ages. He choreographs for student recitals, summer camps, and workshops. He was also the assistant choreographer for San Diego City College production of Anything Goes. He has been a guest dancer for Mojalet Dance Collective under the direction of Faith Jensen Ismay and is currently in the cast of Dos y Dos, a new children’s entertainment series.