

# OLLI OLLI, OXEN FREE!



March 27, 28, & 29, 2026

Meese Auditorium  
SOU Art Building



## A word from the director ~

# COME OUT, COME OUT, WHEREVER YOU ARE!

Hello, dear audience. We are thrilled you are joining us and are looking forward to a wonderful and unique evening of theater with you! It has been so much fun to be back with this intrepid group of players and designers to bring you “OLLI OLLI, Oxen Free!” After our exuberant 2023 “cruise” on the high seas of “OLLI Abroad!,” our return trip was almost inevitable. Encouraged by the enthusiasm of SOU President Rick Bailey, who very much wanted our next production to be on the SOU campus, we are excited to be coming to you from the Meese Auditorium.

“OLLI OLLI, Oxen Free!” is the story of us, the real-life people behind the characters in “OLLI Abroad!” Every performer you see onstage tonight is not only an actor but a playwright! Each of the members in our cast spent six weeks last spring in a writing workshop, crafting stories about the ages and stages of their lives. The result is a sparkling compilation of short tales, at once heartfelt, poignant and hilarious. Their accounts take us through the decades of the 1950s, '60s, '70s and beyond. It has been a true pleasure to team up with co-writer Jack Seybold again to take this lively panoply of stories and shape them into one joyful evening of theater, with a little song and dance from those eras thrown in for pure enjoyment.

From the first moment they put pens to paper, the cast has been in on this project with their whole hearts. I love every one of them and the enthusiastic, collaborative spirits they bring. We have all reached “that certain stage of life,” and know that our forevers are no longer forever, and that our time together is precious and fleeting. In sharing our stories with each other, we have learned that the common thread of human experience runs deep. Collectively, we have experienced great loves, devastating losses and everything in between. We’re guessing that you have, too. We hope something in these stories catches you tonight, and sparks you to remember, treasure, savor and share the stories of your life journey with those you love as well.

Finally, we are extremely grateful to OLLI at SOU! We wouldn’t be here tonight without our beloved organization, and we are so appreciative. Heather Inghram and her OLLI staff have been amazing in their support. We also have tremendous gratitude for the time and talents of wonder workers Lorraine Vail, Kathy Campbell, Dan Fowler, Marty Eldridge, Claire Chiaravalle, Allison Stone, Robbi McMinimy, MaryBeth Limpert, Cathi Romero-Molay, John Pratt, Kate Manbert, Kathleen Woods, Rick Bailey and Andrew Gay. All have worked diligently behind the scenes to help us bring “OLLI OLLI, Oxen Free!” to life. In addition, we are extremely grateful for the partners and spouses of the cast and crew, who have been amazing behind-the-scenes supporters for their loved ones. We could not have done this show without every single one of these wonderful humans.

And we could not do the show without you. We are so happy you are here!

## **OLLI OLLI, OXEN FREE!**

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*Cheryl Goodman-Morris was the artistic director of the Portola Valley Theater Conservatory, a Bay Area company she founded in 1994. A director of plays and musicals for over 45 years, her great passion is in working with community theater actors to produce works of hope, joy and transformation. She is also grateful for her husband, Mark, her daughter Noëlle, son-in-law Kevin, and granddaughter, Athena Grace.*

# OLLI OLLI, OXEN FREE!

Written by Jack Seybold & Cheryl Goodman-Morris

Directed by Cheryl Goodman-Morris

Producer — Lorraine Vail

Choreographer — Cheryl Goodman-Morris

Musical Director — Dan Fowler

Sound and Lighting Designer — Marty Eldridge

Media Director — Claire Chiaravalle

Set Builder — John Pratt

Set Design — Stan Woods

Costume Designer — Allison Stone

House Manager — Kathy Campbell

Projection Operator — Kathleen Woods

Props Master — Kate Manbert

## **“OLLI OLLI, OXEN FREE!” Cast**

Jackie Bachman, Janie Burcart, Marilyn Brady,  
Kim Compeau, Mary Conn-Fitch, Teri Coppedge,  
John Ferris, Dan Fowler, Mark Goodman-Morris,  
Elaine Hebert, Kim Knoll, Andrew Kramer, Laura Kramer,  
Kate Manbert, Colleen Patrick-Riley, Judith Peterson,  
John Pratt, Barbara Richard, Lynn Roberts, Ron Robbins,  
Kim Rosmaier, Jack Seybold, Sarah Seybold,  
Susan Stitham, Alice Taylor, Betty Kay Taylor

# "OLLI OLLI, OXEN FREE!" CREW

## **COSTUMES**

Beth Remington · Lynn Roberts  
Allison Stone · Betty Kay Taylor

## **LIGHT OPERATOR**

Robbi McMinimy

## **PROPS**

Kate Manbert · Beth Remington  
Kim Rosmaier

## **SOUND OPERATOR**

Marty Eldridge

## **MEDIA OPERATOR**

Kathleen Woods

## **SLIDE SHOW CREATORS**

Claire Chiaravelle  
Cheryl Goodman-Morris

## **ART CONTRIBUTOR**

Athena Grace Gibbs

## **ART EDITOR**

Marty Eldridge

## **MUSIC PLAYLIST CREATOR**

Ron Robbins

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Jon Harmon

## **BACKSTAGE CREW**

Beth Remington  
Allison Stone

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Heather Inghram · Linda Powell  
Megan Rutherford

## **RECEPTION DIRECTOR**

MaryBeth Limpert

## **WINE DONOR**

John Pratt · Shari Eaton

## **FOOD SERVERS**

Karen Culver · Myrna Hall  
MaryBeth Limpert · Stacy McMillin  
Charlotte O'Hare · Shelly Wujek  
Deb Yturralde

## **AFTER-SHOW DESSERTS**

Terry Limpert · Jerry Wujek

## **USHERS**

Linda Barnett · Belmira Borg  
Betty Camner · Shannon Cornish  
Michael Framson · Pamala Joy  
Ann Magill · Scott Ploss  
Kathy Sager · Cary Schwartz  
Sooney Viani · Yvonne Yeung

## **RECEPTION**

Ann Magill · Scott Ploss  
Kathy Sager · Sooney Viani  
Yvonne Yeung

## **WINE SERVERS**

Kori Calvert · Anne Coleman  
Jim Coleman · Louisa Nahem

## **MUSIC SHOP RENTAL**

Special thanks to Bellwood Violin

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR LOCAL WINERIES**

Celestina Vineyard  
Dancin Vineyards  
Kriselle Cellars  
South Stage Cellars  
Valley View Winery  
Weisinger Family Winery

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# CAST BIOS

**Jackie Bachman** was a special education teacher and administrator for 36 years in Southern California. She met her husband, Jim, in 1971 at UCLA freshman orientation. Together they raised two wonderful sons, Tyler and Cooper, who stay connected through frequent Zoom chats. Now retired in Ashland, Jackie enjoys dancing and improv with dear friends. Her theme song would be “I’ve Had the Time of My Life.”

**Janie Burcart** was born in Clacton-on-Sea but grew up in a London suburb. After obtaining a BA in American studies she flew to the U.S. to follow her American dream. She considers herself an Oregonian after 50 years living all over this state, so “Oregon My Oregon” is her song.

**Marilyn Brady** is a New Jersey native who has lived on both the East and West coasts with a career in graphic arts and management. Road trips, salsa music and loving her cats are some of her favorite things. If her life was a song title it would be “Don’t Worry Be Happy.”

**Kim Compeau** studied with Susan Peretz of the Actor’s Studio. She had fun acting in indie films and as a voiceover artist for video games. She moved to Ashland to be closer to her mother after working as a botanical museum technician at the Huntington Library in Southern California.

**Mary Conn-Fitch** was born in Lake Placid, New York. Though she loved ice skating and hockey, she found she loved Shakespeare and theater much more. Her career includes a variety of work with performers as well as being one, briefly. Appearing in “OLLI Abroad!” two years ago brought back the thrill of being on stage, and she loved working with the ensemble so much that when asked to return, she jumped for joy and will continue to as long as the ankles hold out. After 42 years in San Francisco, she is delighted to live in a small town again, where discussions of theater happen everywhere.

**Teri Coppedge**, an Ashland resident since 1983, is a longtime Spanish teacher, outdoor adventurer, and traveler with her husband Leroy. They have two sons and a granddaughter. After an OLLI class on improv, Teri Coppedge found herself in OLLI’s “Café Noir,” “Ashland Radio Hour” (via Zoom) and “OLLI Abroad!”

**John Ferris** grew up in Idaho, went to school in Michigan and chose to move and work in green Oregon. His daughter Linly arrived and they began an adventure in raising each other. Mindy then came into his life, and they have shared a passion for golf, travel and continuing discovery.

**Dan Fowler** is a Presbyterian minister and musician in Ashland. He is grateful for the congregation he serves and thankful for his family, including his wife, Paula, son Sam, daughter Abigail, son-in-law Jesse, and his dog, Angus. Dan is blessed with two grandkids, Parker and J.J. If his life were a song title, it would be “Carry On, My Wayward Son.”

**Mark Goodman-Morris** is a charter member and President for Life of the Cheryl Goodman-Morris Fan Club (CGMFC). He is a part-time domestic barista (PTDB), land manager (LM), church volunteer (CV), and proud patriarch (PP) of a much-loved family. He has a Doctor of Ministry in mime (D.Min.Mim.)

**Elaine Hebert** is a native New Englander, theater enthusiast, retired energy specialist, gardener and cat lady. She dances with the Broadway Boomers “We Keep Dancing” group (and does not aspire to be an actor). She thanks her partner of 19 years, Mark, who makes her laugh and who is currently battling cancer.

**Kim Knoll** is an actor, director, improviser and lifelong lover of theater. She taught high school theater in California for a number of decades, thoroughly enjoying her students. She is the proud mom of son Joshua.

**Andrew Kramer** had a 30-year career as a wildland firefighter. He also enjoyed nature’s landscapes hiking, skiing and mountain biking, along with sailing and snorkeling adventures in the Caribbean. He now lives in Yreka, California, and is a sport kite flyer and avid theatergoer. He has two amazing grandchildren. Song Title: “Surrealistic Journey.”

**Laura Kramer** was born in the Bronx, living as well in Brussels, New Mexico and in Ashland since 1995. She has degrees in history and piano and is focused on spiritual awareness, teaching 42 years. She has gratitude for all the people in her life who hold the light of love in their many ways.

**Kate Manbert** was a theater-loving software engineer in California for over 30 years. The 2018 solar eclipse revealed the beauty and joy to be found in Oregon, so the family all moved. Her song title? “I’m Walking on Sunshine.”

**Colleen Patrick-Riley** was a mental health clinician and program director in New Zealand, Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska. She retired to Ashland 11 years ago. She is grateful for her husband Kent, sons Josh and Zach and Zach’s wife, Kristina, and friends. If her life was a song title it would be “Climb Every Mountain.”

**Judith Peterson** Although she’s had disappointments, she’s grateful for her children, her 30 years as an elementary school teacher, the privilege to perform as a singer/actress, and in retirement volunteering helping students, adults in hospice and for Ashland at Home. A song that describes her life is “What I Did for Love.”

**John Pratt** grew up in Northern California and taught school for 40 years. He bought 24 acres in the Rogue Valley in 2004 and embarked on a life as a vigneron. Teaching at OLLI scratches his educational desires. If his life was a song title, it would be “Allegría” (Gypsy Kings).

**Barbara Richard** was an independent and creative child. As an adult she pursued her love of photography, and connected with Ansel Adams, Imogen Cunningham, and Annie Leibovitz. She then turned her sights to computers and designed software for major brokerage firms.

**Lynn Roberts** is grateful for her family and husband who supported her, believing that life is a journey. She thanks her OLLI family for love, joy, fun and a fabulous opportunity to keep playing. Her song is “To Every Thing, Turn, Turn, Turn, There Is a Season.”

**Ron Robbins** The stage arrived later in life for Ron, and he’s making up for lost time. He’s most recently performed in the role of Mr. Kirby in the play “You Can’t Take It With You” at the Camelot Theatre. Prior to that he appeared as Tom Stafford in the OLLI Players production of “OLLI Abroad!” Ron continues to work on his improvisation and acting skills and looks forward to many more productions in the Rogue Valley.

**Kim Rosmaier** grew up on Long Island, New York and moved to California with her family in 1970. From 1970 to 2021 she lived throughout California working in accounting, engineering and civil service. She retired from the California Department of Water Resources after 25 years of service. She moved to Ashland in 2021 and considers this home. If her life were a song title it would be “What a Wonderful World.”

**Jack Seybold** grew up in California, graduated from Saint Mary’s College, served with his wife Sarah in the Peace Corps (Brazil), and taught for 36 years before retiring to Ashland. Jack has an MA in linguistics, writes fiction and poetry, and has performed in more than 30 shows.

**Sarah Seybold** grew up in an Irish Catholic family with four siblings in sunny Southern California. During her teen years she sang and danced with siblings and peers. She was proud to be a registered nurse and nurse educator who served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Turkey and Brazil. Most of her professional nursing career was spent as a teacher of nursing in the USA.

**Susan Stitham** taught English and history over four decades in Maine and Alaska and now in Ashland through OLLI. Grateful for her family, especially grandchildren, and for her past and present students who all share this bejeweled orb, her life song would be a mashup of “North to Alaska” and “SuperTrouper.”

**Alice Taylor** had the nerve to get a PhD in art history but still turned out OK. She nabbed a full-time job in only six years, having done research from Italy to Armenia, curated fancy exhibitions and had two kids. Her husband is a world-class scholar of Russian literature.

**Betty Kay Taylor** was born in Roswell, yes, that Roswell! She grew up in New Mexico and came to Oregon to deliver babies, thousands of them, and to take their pictures before they were born. She’s now retired and wondering how she ever had time to work.

**Did you know?** Membership fees only cover half of our operating costs!



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Gifts to OLLI's Annual Fund are essential for operations and supporting areas of need. **Thank you for your generosity!**

