



Summerwith Shakespeare

High School Intensive

Summer 2026 - Faculty



Lea Madda (Hamlet Director) is an actor and director and currently serves as the Director of Education at A Noise Within, entering her third summer with Summer With Shakespeare. Lea holds a Bachelor of Music in Classical Voice from Boston University and a Master of Fine Arts in Acting from the UCLA School of Theatre, Film, and Television. Lea has additionally trained in Movement with the SITI Company, TR Warszawa (Warsaw, Poland), and the SCOT Company (Toga, Japan) and prioritizes ensemble movement and collaboration in her pieces. Recent acting credits include: *Hand to God* (Coachella Valley Repertory), *A Bright New Boise* (Dezart Performs), *The Sound of Music* (Alaska CAP), *Anne, A New Play* (Museum of Tolerance), *As You Like It* (the southland company) *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (UCLA), *Three Sisters* (UCLA).

Described as a "...versatile singer, whose voice is at once regal and affectionate..." (LA Times), **Amber Liekhus (Voice & Speech)** has had an exciting career as a performer and teacher and holds a BA in Liberal Arts and Music from Pepperdine University. Some of Amber's favorite credits include: *Jelly's Last Jam* at Pasadena Playhouse, Mrs. Cratchit in ANW's *A Christmas Carol*, Beggar Woman in ANW's *Sweeney Todd*, *Annie* at The Hollywood Bowl, *Blues in the Night* at The Wallis, *Ain't Misbehavin'* with McCoy Rigby, *Porgy and Bess* at LA Opera, and *Suor Angelica* at Opera di Roma. Voice teacher for over 15 years, Amber's students are now pursuing careers in theatre, opera, television and film. IG: @Amberliekhusvocalstudio



@ahblueheadshots



Nicole Javier (Movement) is an actor, professor, and Resident Artist at A Noise Within. Previous shows at ANW include: *The Book of Will*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Animal Farm*, *Metamorphoses*, and *All's Well That Ends Well*. She has also worked with TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego Repertory, South Coast Repertory, Provincetown Playhouse, Shakespeare Orange County, Aurora Theatre Company, Crowded Fire Theatre, and Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, where she originated the role of Luna in the 2024 American Theatre Critics Association New Play Award-winning play, *The Heart Sellers*. Nicole currently teaches at Pasadena City College. She received her BFA from Chapman University and MFA from UC San Diego.

Ken Merckx (Combat) has choreographed fights and taught actors combat for film and television, theatres, and universities all across the country. He is presently a faculty member at AMDA, UC, Santa Barbara, and Cal State, Fullerton. Ken is the resident fight choreographer the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Great Lakes Theater Festival (Cleveland) and A Noise Within (Los Angeles). Mr. Merckx received his MFA, in Acting, from University of Illinois and his BA, in theatre studies, from the University of Washington.





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Hope Matthews (Stage Management) With ANW: Stage Manager, *Exit the King*, Assistant Stage Manager, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *A Man of No Importance*, *Macbeth*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *Misalliance*. Production Intern for 23-24 season. Other Theatres: *It's All Your Fault*, *Tyler Price!*, The Hudson; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Independent Shakespeare Company; *Newsies*, 5 Star Theatricals; *Tartuffe*, *Once On This Island*, *Fefu and Her Friends*, CSUN Theatre. Hope is also the stage management mentor for the students at Westmark School. Education/Training: BA Theatre, CSUN.

Chloe Pate (Sound Design) With over 7 years of in-field experience, Chloe is a Theatre & Live Event Audio Engineer, Theatre Sound Designer, Stagehand, Voice Actor, and occasional Recording Engineer. Chloe also has a BFA from Purdue University in the Sound for the Performing Arts Program. WITH ANW: Mixing Engineer - *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Richard III*, *Exit the King*. OTHER: Audio Engineer for the Indiana Repertory Theatre '24-'25 Season; Concert Stagehand for 317 Productions '25 Season; Freelance Sound Designer for Purdue Spring & Winter Works Dance, *Medea*, *Orlando*, *Nora: A Doll's House*, *As the Time Passes*; Mixing Engineer and Monitor Engineer for LEAPS '23-'24 Season. Chloe holds certifications in Dante, Meyer Sound System Optimization, and Q-SYS.



Additional Bios Coming Soon:

Hayden Kirschbaum (Lighting Design)

Michael Wogulis (Set Design)