



CITRUS THEATRE ARTS DEPARTMENT  
PRESENTS

# BELLWETHER

BY STEVE YOCKEY

DIRECTED BY JASON FRANCESCON

**NOV 1, 2, 9, 2024 @ 7 PM**

**NOV 3, 10, 2024 @ 2 PM**



Citrus Theatre Arts Department presents

# Bellwether

Written by: Steven Yockey

Directed by: Jason Francescon

Assistant Director: Gahren Markarian

## Cast

(in order of appearance)

Maddy Schafer .....Syd Lozano  
Neighbors .....Adara Valencia  
Christopher Grushka  
RJ Hekimian  
Ruby Bartlett  
Ryan Farias  
Ensemble .....Krystalin Sanchez  
Paige Connor  
Jackie Draft .....Summer Stratton  
Alan Draft .....Quintin Burrola  
Reporters .....Evelyn Johnson  
Jacob Lopez  
Kobe Casas  
Detectives .....Andrew Aguila  
Trinity Moreno  
Man in Dark Coat .....Anthony Buttice  
Doll .....Gabriela Alvarado  
Amy .....Sofia Matthews

*Setting: Present Day in the Gated Community of Bellwether*

*There will be one 10-minute intermission*

*\*\*\*There will be loud sound effects and flashing lights*

*"Bellwether" is produced courtesy of Samuel French, Inc.*

# Director's Note...

What is community? What does it mean to be neighborly? How do we protect ourselves and our loved ones from the outside world and the dangers that lurk? Steve Yockey's *Bellwether* offers a glimpse into a seemingly perfect suburban neighborhood, only to reveal the unsettling darkness lurking just beneath its surface. At its core, this play examines the delicate facade of normalcy that communities like Bellwether create and the deep fractures that emerge when tragedy strikes.

This story challenges our reality and explores representations of the repressed fears of the community of Bellwether and the fallout from neglected relationships, self preservation, and our own self motivated choices. Through the manifestation of the anxieties that we, as individuals and as a society, are often too afraid to confront, the play asks the question: what is the real threat to our security? Is it mysterious figures from our nightmares, or could it actually be us—our own prejudices, our fears, our self interests, our mistrust of those in our lives?

As we stand at a moment in history defined by societal fragmentation, *Bellwether* holds up a mirror to the ways we place ourselves in echo chambers, mistrust each other, keep a close watch on those around us, and let media-driven narratives fuel our doubts and the intentions of others.

Our hope is that this play will leave you questioning not just the events on stage, but the role we all play in shaping the narratives of our own lives and communities. Have we ever, knowingly or unknowingly, been the ones sowing fear? Have we been the ones lurking in the shadows, letting our own unresolved emotions drive us to judge others unfairly? And, do we come together as a community to protect the ones we love, or is it every individual out for themselves?

Thank you for joining us in exploring these timely and haunting questions.

Sincerely,

*Jason and Gahren*

# Meet the Cast...

## **Andrew Aguila - Detective 2**

Andrew is a third-year student at Citrus College who is currently majoring in Theatre Arts. He has been acting since high school and has done a couple of productions at Citrus College like *Naughty vs Nice* and *Rio Hondo*. Andrew would love to thank his parents, who have supported his choice to be an actor from day one and his friends who have constantly supported him and pushed him to go beyond his limits as an actor.

## **Gabriela Alvarado - Doll**

Gabriela is a second-year student at Citrus College who's had a blast playing roles like Marmee in *Little Women*, John Proctor in *The Crucible*, part of the ensemble in *Grease*, and recently as Daliah/Scum in *Rio Hondo*. A huge shoutout to her amazing parents for all their love and sacrifices for her, and to Mr. Eddy and the SVHS (Baldwin Park) Drama Club for showing her that anything is possible with humble beginnings.

## **Ruby Bartlett - Neighbor**

Ruby is excited and honored to be performing in her second show at Citrus! As a second-year college student, past credits include Mrs. Roeder in *Radium Girls* (Duarte High School), Queen Duncan in *Mmmbeth* (Duarte High School), and Annabelle / Lady Hostage in *Rio Hondo* (Citrus College). She would like to thank her wonderful family, including her parents and her brother, for their incredible support and love as well as the entire Bellwether cast and crew for making this show possible.

## **Quintin Burrola - Alan Draft**

Quintin is excited to close off the year with this impactful piece. Favorite credits include Diego Sanchez *Rio Hondo* (Citrus College), Jonathan Harker *Dracula* (Citrus College), Mark Cohen *Rent* (The School of Arts and Enterprise), Captain Keller *The Miracle Worker* (The School of Arts and Enterprise), Tobias Ragg *Sweeney Todd* (Stage Door Repertory), and Evan Goldman *13: the musical* (Chino Community Theatre), Special thanks to Quintin's mom and dad for their everlasting support. @quintin\_burrola

## **Anthony Buttice - Man in Dark Coat**

Anthony is excited to be returning to the little theatre this fall! His credits include: Man, Boy, and Walter in *Rio Hondo* (Citrus College) Prop coordinator in *Grease* (Citrus College) and *Dewey* in *Legally blonde* (Bonita high school). Anthony wants to thank his friends and family for all their love and support!

## **Kobe Casas - Reporter 2**

Kobe is a first-year student here at Citrus College. In high school he performed in the productions, *Radium Girls*, *Cinderella*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, and *Mamma Mia!*. He would like to thank his father and grandfather for sparking his acting interest and constantly motivating him. He would also like to thank his brothers, Jackson and Alec for always being there for him, and being his best friends.

## **Paige Connor - Ensemble**

Paige is in her first semester at Citrus College. She is excited to make her college debut in *Bellwether*. Paige has performed in many productions but her favorites have been *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle), *Mamma Mia!* (Rosie), and *Murder's in the Heir* (Lois Van Zandt). She would like to thank her family, friends, and teachers who have supported her and hopes you enjoy the show as much as she enjoyed being a part of it!

## **Ryan Farias - Neighbor**

Ryan Farias is a second-year student at Citrus pursuing an associate degree in Theater and Film. Having previously appeared in *Dracula*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Rio Hondo*, he is thrilled to be a part of his fourth show in The Little Theatre. He would like to thank his family, friends, and partner, Logan, for their continuous support.

## **Christopher Grushka - Neighbor**

Christopher studied in the Acting Conservatory at CSArts-SGV and is currently a student at Citrus College working towards getting his ADT in Theatre Arts. This is his fourth production in the Citrus Little Theatre. His past credits include Puck in *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (Spring 2024 production), Billy James Sundance in *Rio Hondo* (Summer 2024 production), Reverend Peters in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*,

Charles Bingley and Old Man Laurence in *You on the Moors Now* and more. Chris would like to thank his parents, friends, family and partner for always supporting him and his dreams.

### **RJ Hekimian - Neighbor**

RJ is honored to be in his third production ever at the Citrus College Little Theater. Some of his previous credits include Harper/Andy (*Rio Hondo*, Citrus College Little Theatre), Aesop's Assistant (*Aesop's Fables*, Citrus College Little Theater) and Tom Buchanan (*The Great Gatsby*, Gladstone High School). RJ would like to give a special thanks to his family, friends and girlfriend Madison for their unwavering love and support. Fun fact: RJ's ongoing bit during rehearsal for this production was randomly breaking into the *Just Dance 3* choreography for The Sugarhill Gang's *Apache*.

### **Evelyn Johnson - Reporter 3**

This is Evelyn's first production at Citrus College. A graduate of Bonita High School in La Verne, she developed her passion for acting and directing through shows like *The Wolves* (#00), *Mamma Mia!* and *The Anatomy of Gray*. Evelyn is honored to work with such a talented cast and is grateful for the close connections she has formed during this production. She looks forward to growing from this experience and learning from its beauty.

### **Jacob Lopez - Reporter 1**

Jacob is excited to be taking part in his second show at Citrus College as a second-year film major. Having participated in theater since sixth grade, serving in various capacities such as directing, technical positions, and acting, Jacob has made some of his closest friends and is eager to continue on this wonderful adventure with them, as well as meet new faces along the way. Past credits include Elijah / Herman (*Rio Hondo*), Nicos Argitakos (*Legally Blonde*), Mr. Green (*Clue*), Lighting Director (*Little Shop of Horrors*), Ensemble (*Grease*), among others.

### **Syd Lozano - Maddy Schafer**

Syd is in her first year at Citrus College, she previously worked as Shelby Holcomb in *John Proctor Is The Villain*

and #00 in *The Wolves* at CSArts-SGV, as well as directing Rajiv Joseph's *Gruesome Playground Injuries*. She would like to thank all her acting teachers throughout the years for everything.

### **Sofia Matthews - Amy**

This is Sofia's second year of college and first year at Citrus, where she is majoring in Theatre Arts. Some of her past credits include *Our Town* (Stage Manager), *Twelfth Night* (Olivia), *Head Over Heels* (ensemble), *Of Thee I Sing* (ensemble), and *Gavroche* (Social Worker). Sofia would like to thank her parents and friends for their constant support, Jason and Gahren for this amazing opportunity, and the entire Bellwether cast and crew for making this such a wonderful and fulfilling experience.

### **Trinity Moreno - Detective 1**

Trinity is ever so grateful to work with an amazing cast and crew. This is her second year and her second production at Citrus College. Some of her favorite roles include Tilly, *She Kills Monsters* (Bonita High School); Frenchy, *Grease* (Bonita High School); Chiffon, *Little Shop of Horrors* (Bonita High School); and Eudora, *Rio Hondo* (Citrus College). Trinity wants to thank Jason and Gahren for their enthusiasm, and her friends and family for keeping her sane.

### **Krystalin Sanchez - Ensemble**

Krystalin is currently in her second year at Citrus College with a major in Theatre Arts. She has been away from theater for five years and is very excited to be in *Bellwether*. She wants to thank her mom, her sisters, Alyssa and Celeste, and her friends for supporting her choice to get back on stage.

### **Summer Stratton - Jackie Draft**

Summer is an alum of Citrus College. She has been performing and directing in the L.A. area over the last 10 years and is honored to return to Citrus for such a hauntingly beautiful play. She would like to thank Jason and Gahren for trusting her with such a delicate role and also thank her little family for always supporting her passion.



### **Adara Valencia - Neighbor**

Adara is majoring in Theatre and is planning to double major in Criminal Justice. Adara has performed in *Prick*, *Midsummer night's dream*, and *Rio Hondo* along with a few smaller theater projects in the past. She would like to thank her friends and family for being supportive of all her endeavors. She'd like to give a special thanks to Drew, Jacob, Ryan, and Ruby for being her pillars throughout all her struggles and victories.

## **Meet the Crew...**

### **Rachel Balma - Assistant Stage Manager**

Rachel is in her second year of the Emerging Theater Technologies program at Citrus College. She has previously worked on *Dracula*, *Naughty vs. Nice*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the Little Theater, along with 4 years of theater tech in high school. Rachel would like to thank her family, friends, boyfriend, professors, and fellow ETT members for their continuous support and love.

### **Whitney Becker - Prop Master**

Whitney is in her second year at Citrus, majoring in Early Childhood Education and Theatre Arts. Whitney worked as part of the A2 crew in the spring production of *Escape to Margaritaville* and was Prop Master for a summer production of *Rio Hondo*. Whitney is excited to continue learning about technical theater and hopes to learn all she can before she transfers in the fall. She would like to thank Dan and Joe for their positive encouragement throughout her technical theater journey.

### **Soren Dziak - Lighting Designer**

Soren is a third-year student in the Emerging Theater Technologies program at Citrus college. He has previously worked on Little Theater shows such as *Black Comedy* as an assistant lighting designer and in *Dracula* as an assistant stage manager. After he completes his certificate, he will be attending the Disney college program in Orlando, Florida and interning with Disney Imagineering where he hopes to make a career. He would like to thank his family, his girlfriend, and

everyone in the cast and crew for being such amazing, supportive people.

### **Jason Francescon – Director**

Jason Francescon is thrilled to be a part of this production and working with such a talented group of theatre artists. He is honored to be serving as the director of Citrus College's production of *Bellwether*. He received his Master of Fine Arts degree in Acting and Directing from University of Missouri, Kansas City. Most recently Jason served as the dialect coach, as well as played Captain Bill Slank in Glendale Community College's spring production of *Peter and the Starcatcher*. He also served as director for Citrus College's sold out production of *Dracula* last fall. Some of Jason's other recent acting credits include: *And Then There Were None* (Citrus College), *Twelfth Night* (Acting Out), *Henry IV Parts I and II* (Stag & Lion Theatre Company). Jason is also an adjunct theatre professor, director, and dialect coach at various colleges in the Greater Los Angeles Area, including Citrus College. He also currently serves as Co-Director of the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Auditions for Region 8 of The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. He would like to thank his family and friends for all of their continued love and support in this ongoing journey and pursuit of his passion.

### **Kara Hill - Assistant Stage Manager**

Kara is in her third semester at Citrus and this is her third show in the Little Theatre. She is also a part of the Emerging Theatre Technologies program here at Citrus where she has gotten to work with some of the most wonderful people. She would like to thank her Dad and little brother along with her Grammy and Grampy for always supporting her. She has a deep appreciation for the cast and crew and is very thankful to be a part of this production. She hopes you enjoy the show!

### **Gahren Markarian – Assistant Director**

Gahren Markarian is an alum of the Citrus College Theatre Department. After Citrus, he went on to graduate from California State University, Long Beach with his Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre. Gahren was most recently in Glendale Community College's spring production of *Peter and the Starcatcher* as Ted and also

serves as the Co-Director of the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Auditions for Region 8 of The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. He returned to Citrus College last year to assistant direct the fall production of *Dracula*. He is thrilled and proud to be back this year assistant directing this production of *Bellwether*. He would like to thank his family and friends for their everlasting love and support, Jason for his trust and partnership, as well as the entire cast and production team of *Bellwether* for their talents, hard work, and dedication.

### **Nathan Mendoza - Sound Designer**

Nathan Mendoza is currently in his third year of the ETT program here at Citrus College. He has previously worked as an assistant sound designer on notable productions at Citrus College such as *And Then There Were None* and *Dracula*. This production of *Bellwether* marks a significant milestone for Nathan as he takes on the role of Sound Designer for the first time. He is excited to bring his creative vision to life and is grateful for the opportunity. Nathan would like to thank his friends and family for their continuous encouragement and support throughout his journey.

### **Nicole Riggs – Production Stage Manager**

Nicole has been a Citrus College ETT student since the spring of 2022 and is very excited to be stage managing her first full length play here at Citrus. Her previous stage management credits include the last two children's shows *Christmas Box* and *Naughty vs. Nice*, she also had the amazing opportunity to stage manage *Escape to Margaritaville* in the Haugh this last spring. She would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her passion for theatre. She dedicates her work on *Bellwether* to her extremely loving and insanely supportive grandpa who passed away last December.



*The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.*

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*Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.*

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.



# Production Staff

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Haugh PAC Supervisor of Operations & Promotions	Gene Michael Barrera
Producer	Cherie Brown
Director	Jason Francescon
Assistant Director	Gahren Markarian
Technical Director	Daniel Volonte
Production Stage Manager	Nicole Riggs
Assistant Stage Managers	Kara Hill, Rachel Balma
Sound Designer	Nathan Mendoza
Sound Board Operator	Elijah Limon
Lighting Designer	Soren Dziak
Light Board Operator	Abraham Mancia
Set Designer	Joseph Holbrook
Shop Coordinator	John Patrick
Prop Master	Whitney Becker
Prop Crew	Asher Cardenas, Dave Huerta
Costume Designer/Coordinator	Mark Gamaz
Hair and Makeup Designer	Dana Francescon
Hair and Makeup Assistant	Daniella Rivera
Deck Crew	John Warmke, Nicole Lowenstein
Graphic Design	Diane Berendes
Audition Coordinators	Nicole Riggs, Kara Hill, Rachel Balma
Photographers	Amanda Villegas
Theatre Arts Assistant	Kara Hill
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