

## August 11 – 16: California Desert Regional Theater’s Americana Series at BPA

### Biographies



#### Justin Blake

Justin has appeared in more than 100 productions on the stage in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas, New York and San Diego as well as the Coachella Valley. He currently tours a one-man show portraying HARRY TRUMAN in *Give ‘em Hell Harry*. He has produced and/or directed shows at the McCallum Theatre, Marquis Hotel, Fantasy Springs Casino, the Playwright’s Circle, La Quinta Playhouse and others. One of his proudest accomplishments was the 2004 Southern California premier of *Bat Boy, the Musical*.

As Artistic Director for California Desert Regional Theatre, Justin produces an annual theatre series at the Rancho Mirage Public Library, and for the 2009/10 season, will produce a series of plays at the beautiful new Indian Wells Theater in Palm Desert. He is currently in rehearsal for *Tuesdays With Morrie* in which he will star alongside Hal Linden.

Justin came to the Coachella Valley from Los Angeles in 1997 after working more than 20 years in the entertainment industry there. He currently divides his time between the production of shows and service on the Board of Education for Palm Springs Unified School District. He is a proud member of the Writers Guild of America, Actor’s Equity Association, Screen Actors Guild and AFTRA.

Justin holds a B.A. in Music and Theatre Arts from the College of the Ozarks in Branson, Missouri. He graduated from the Musical Theatre Conservatory at the Los Angeles Music Center, has studied with Nina Foch, Gordon Hunt, Horton Foot and David Craig. He is an adjunct professor at the prestigious Idyllwild Arts Academy where he is honored to be teaching David Craig’s method of Musical Theatre Performance.



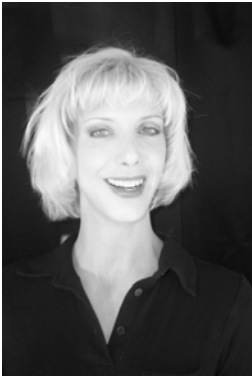
#### Jenise Fryatt

Jenise has worked actively in desert theatre both on stage and behind the scenes for more than 10 years. Most recently she played Amanda in the La Quinta Playhouse production of Noel Coward’s *Private Lives*. As a member of CDRT this season she played Lampito in *Lysistrata* and Celie in *The Imaginary Cuckold*. Favorite roles include Mary Haines in Palm Canyon Theatre’s production of *The Women*, and Barbara in Joslyn Players production of *Run For Your Wife*, each of which earned her Desert Theatre League nominations and one DTL Outstanding Performance in a Comedy award. Recently she was also honored with Desert Entertainment This Week’s 2009 ENCORE Patsy Garrett Award for Service to Theatre for her work as co-founder of The Desert Actor’s Network. A founding member of CDRT, Jenise has collaborated with Justin as assistant producer/stage manager on several productions and is thrilled to have the opportunity to bring CDRT’s Americana Series to Bainbridge Island.



#### Bonnie Gilgallon

California desert residents have been treated to Bonnie’s talents as a television host, radio host, event host, jazz/pop singer and actress for more than 10 years. Her favorite acting roles include Miss Mona in *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* and Hattie in *Laundry & Bourbon*, for which she earned her second Desert Theatre League award. Other recent productions include *Viagara Falls* at Indian Wells Theatre, Playwright’s Circle’s *Like Mother Like Hell* and she was featured in the Musical Chairs concert *It’s Better With a Band*. Bonnie is a popular jazz/pop vocalist who is heard frequently at desert area clubs, and she hosted the television show *Desert Living & Entertainment* for four years. Currently she hosts *The Desert Scene* on K News where her guests have included Frank Sinatra Jr., Ed Mc Mahon, Suzanne Somers, and Linda Ronstadt.



### **Stacy Maddux**

Stacy was born into a family of actors and made her professional stage debut at age three at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater outside Minneapolis. Since then she has acquired an Arts Management degree from Stephens College, owned a successful dinner theater, and worked in her own comedy-magic show in Las Vegas. Her favorite roles include more than 2,000 performances of "Loretta" in *Tony 'n' Tina's Wedding*, the "Narrator" in *Jospeh and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and "Margo Thorndyke" in *Farewell Fillmore High*, a show she co-wrote and produced with her husband, Dutch Haling.



### **Jake Cohen**

Jake has been with CDRT, acting and directing, for the past three years. This year he excelled in roles as diverse as the Brooklyn influenced Harold of Sparta, from *Lysistrata*; to Lelie in *The Imaginary Cuckold* by Moliere; to Texas Viet Nam Vet Roy Caulder in James McClure's *Lone Star*. Born in Lake Tahoe, Jake spent his childhood running wild in the woods, skiing, playing sports and acting. He later studied Economics and Theater at UC San Diego. In addition to acting, Jake operates the Palm Springs bed & breakfast, Rendezvous. Look for Jake in CDRT's upcoming mystery series to be produced in the Palm Springs area and beyond.



### **Christopher Koval**

Originally from Cleveland Ohio, Christopher now lives in San Francisco where he trained with Philip Bennett at the Bennett Theatre Lab in the Stanislavsky System. He performed in several plays in the Bay area, such as *Dinner with Friends*, where he played Tom, *Bobby Gould in Hell*, as Bobby Gould, and *Cabaret*, as Cliff Bradshaw. He is delighted to be back with Justin Blake and company for another run of *John Brown's Body*, and *Lone Star*.



### **Nolan Reynolds**

Seattle resident Nolan Reynolds studied acting at Bremerton High and Olympic College, and then moved to California to pursue an acting career. He began his collaboration with Justin Blake four years ago as Don Bowman in *The Waverly Gallery*, presented at Grove's Cabin Theatre and directed by Justin. Much to the delight of desert audiences, he has decided to divide his time between Seattle and Palm Springs, where last year Nolan was seen in CDRT's production of *Lone Star*. Nolan's credits also include *Lysistrata*, *The Imaginary Cuckold*, *Your Mother's Butt* and *Coach Carter*.