

# Encore!

★ Diamond Head Theatre

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## Now Playing

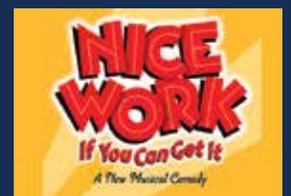


Dec. 1 - 23, 2017

## Coming Soon



Jan. 26 - Feb. 11, 2018



Mar. 23 - Apr. 15, 2018

## Stars in the Spotlight

Guest Artists Lindsay Roberts and Kent Overshown Reflect on Ragtime

This fall Diamond Head Theatre was thrilled to present a revival of the beloved musical *Ragtime*, which the Hawaii theatre community had long been awaiting. And, we were very fortunate to have two extremely talented guest artists join our production from the mainland: Lindsay Roberts and Kent Overshown. Lindsay and Kent recently took time out from their busy schedules to share their experiences at Diamond Head Theatre with us.

*How did you hear about DHT's production of Ragtime?*

**Lindsay:** I had just come offstage in between scenes at the Ogunquit Playhouse in Maine, where I had been playing Sarah in *Ragtime*, and saw that I had a voicemail from my agent. I checked the message and heard him say, "Call me back if you want to go to Hawaii. Bye!" I ran back onstage and finished Act I. During intermission I

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For Tickets  
Call 808.733.0274 or visit  
[www.diamondheadtheatre.com](http://www.diamondheadtheatre.com)

# Aloha from DHT's Executive Director

I've been especially eager for this holiday season to begin. I always enjoy Thanksgiving and Christmas, but this year, I really haven't been able to wait! Why? Because I hope the holidays will calm everyone and everything down.



When I was growing up in New England, a snowstorm was often a welcome event in many ways. It would cover the landscape in blankets of deep snow and trap us at home with our families (okay, that's not *always* a good thing when you have four sisters!), which forced us to halt the incessant busyness of life and simply relax.

In Hawaii we don't have the snow, obviously, but the earlier nightfall does bring its own peacefulness and sort of unspoken permission to be at home. December becomes a time to reflect, a time to slow down. And, as the weeks go by, it also offers the chance to savor beautiful memories of holidays past.

This year, our December show, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, is our gift to you. We did not know when we chose to present it how very much it would be needed.

See it. Savor it. Keep the message close to your heart. And be calm.

Have a wonderful holiday!



## We Have a Winner!

Each year, our new DHT subscribers are entered for the chance to win a trip to Las Vegas, provided by Vacations Hawaii. Our Box Office staff draws the name, and this year new subscriber Susan Kehne was the lucky winner. Congratulations, Susan! We hope you have a great time in Las Vegas. And, our sincere mahalo to Vacations Hawaii.



Susan Kehne and husband Harry Brown, with Vacations Hawaii Sales and Promotions Manager Kevin Kaneshiro (at center)

Vacations Hawaii  
HAWAII • LAS VEGAS

# Everyone's a Star at the *'Ilima Awards*

This year's 'Ilima Awards, our annual fundraiser in partnership with the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, was an evening filled with glamour, great food and good fun. The Oct. 9 event honored the best of the best in Hawaii's restaurants, which *Star-Advertiser* readers and restaurant critics had selected by vote.

The 'Ilima Awards always begins in our theatre with celebratory song-and-dance performances by Diamond Head Theatre actors, who create original lyrics about the winning restaurants and set them to popular tunes. Chefs and restaurant representatives are welcomed onto the stage and treated to personal performances (in front of 500 audience members, of course!). It's a festive favorite that really sets an upbeat tone for the evening.

After all the awards are handed out, guests move onto the theatre grounds—transformed into a magical setting under the stars, twinkling tree lights and festive tents—to enjoy tastings from the award-winning restaurants themselves along with fine wines, martinis, dancing and more. And this year, thanks to the ever-popular tunes of Augie Rey and his band, the dance floor was packed.

The annual 'Ilima Awards (22 years and counting!) is a special celebration for everyone who loves theatre and the shows we mount here at Diamond Head Theatre. And it's a critical fundraiser as well, since our ticket sales for those shows cover less than 45 percent of our theatre operation costs. The 'Ilimas helps support the many amazing productions and educational programs we offer.

Mark your calendar for next year's 'Ilima Awards on Oct. 8, 2018. But remember, tickets go quickly—this year we completely sold out! We look forward to celebrating with you. 🍷

Photos courtesy  
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## Our Mission Statement

Established in 1915, Diamond Head Theatre is the Broadway of the Pacific, producing the best live community theatre entertainment and advancing the theatre arts through education in Hawaii.

# Volunteer of the Year

Our Mahalo to  
DHT Star Performer  
Mary Schornstheimer



Behind the scenes: Volunteer Mary Schornstheimer and DHT Technical Director Willie Sabel

Diamond Head Theatre is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who help us in a thousand ways. It's always fun to hear how people get involved with DHT, and each story is unique. That's definitely the case with Mary Schornstheimer, our 2017 Volunteer of the Year.

Mary's introduction to DHT began with our Saturday morning tap class. She and her friend Brenda then decided to sign up for a class in the Scene Shop called Intro to Technical Theatre, taught by DHT Technical Director Willie Sabel. When the class session ended, both began volunteering in the Scene Shop alongside Willie.

Mary and Brenda worked in the Scene Shop as "painting partners" for four years before Brenda had to eventually stop volunteering due to job demands. Luckily for us, Mary kept showing up. Seven years later, you'll still find her hard at work "behind the scenes"—primarily painting, but also sewing, sanding and performing a variety of other tasks with fun power tools. She says she finds working on the sets very relaxing and incredibly rewarding, and that even when it becomes hectic right before opening night, she still loves to see how everything comes together as the finishing touches are completed.

Several projects stand out in her mind, like the giant cake she and Brenda once helped create, which an

actor was to pop out of. They thought it came out particularly beautifully and was worthy of being onstage for the entire play, but had to accept that it would only appear for 15 minutes.

Most recently, Mary was especially honored when Willie asked her to paint the car for *Ragtime*. With little space offstage to maneuver, however, the car wouldn't be able to turn around. This meant that the car had to be designed in three pieces that could be moved into reverse order so the actors could drive the car in either direction. She says that having such "insider" knowledge is part of the fun and increases her appreciation of the creative design work that goes into our set pieces.

Mary adds that she's "learned so much here, and that the learning continues with each play." She also loves "watching Willie's creative genius evolve" and partnering on projects with the rest of the technical staff, including Vince, Christina and Dawn. "They always seem glad to see me," she says, "and they're fun to work with."

She says she'll be forever grateful to her friend Brenda for suggesting that Technical Theatre class back in 2010. We're grateful, too, and lucky to have a volunteer as wonderful as Mary. "This is the best volunteering gig I've ever had, and I don't plan to ever give it up!" she says. We're so happy you feel that way, Mary! 🎨





# A Taste of Broadway

## DHT Students Step up with Choreography Workshops from the Pros

DHT's Education Department is always looking for new learning opportunities for our theatre students. And sometimes, those opportunities come looking for us! That's exactly what happened this fall when our Artistic Director, John Rampage, received an email from Broadway choreographers Mark Stuart and Jaime Verazin. They were planning on visiting Hawaii on their way back to New York after producing a large music event in Japan and had learned about DHT—and they wanted to know if we'd be interested in doing a workshop with them while they were here. Of course we jumped at the chance.

Mark and Jaime's backgrounds include serving as associate and assistant choreographers for Broadway's *Bandstand*, which won the 2017 Tony Award for Best Choreography. *Bandstand's* choreography focused on swing dance, so Mark and Jaime were looking forward to sharing this fun, high-energy style of dance with the students here at DHT.

Even though they only had three days to visit Oahu, Mark and Jaime agreed to lead two workshops—one for adults and one for kids. Students from both sessions were taught the warm-up that the entire cast of *Bandstand* did each night before going onstage. Swing dance was new for our students and the routine was complex, but they stepped up to the challenge and did great. Students in our adult workshop also learned a short piece of choreography from the show. Workshops were held on our stage, which set an exciting performance-ready tone.

Mark and Jaime said how impressed they were by the talent of our students and by their energy and willingness



to try something new. This makes all of us at DHT very proud, especially when such accolades come from those with so much Broadway experience. Our hats off to Mark and Jaime for sharing their time and knowledge with us, and to our students for always embracing the next step in their progress.

If you missed out on this opportunity, don't worry! We offer a variety of fun and educational classes and workshops for our students throughout the year. 🎭

# Two Deliciously Dramatic Nights of Whodunit

## Producer's Club Members Play Detective in Murder at Rancho Mucho Denaros

Celebratory shots rang out at Rancho Mucho Denaros as Miss Mary Moonshine welcomed her guests to the launch of Uncle Stinky's Revenge. Along with the Moonshine clan's new liquor, there was an engagement in the works for Miss Mary and B.S. Shawshank before mysterious guests, cranky grannies and pining lovers could get in the way! As usual, nothing went as planned, and suddenly Billy Clyde Moonshine (the newly minted P.I. from *Kai-moo-ki*) was tasked with the impossible: finding the murderer of his dearest, Betty Jo.

Who would dare kill precious Betty Jo? Her jealous twin sister, Betty Jean? Her lying fiancé, Buck Board? Or was it someone with even darker secrets? With surprises at every turn, DHT's Impresario, Angel and Broadway Producer's Club members sat on the edge of their seats, letting no detail go



unnoted in an effort to help nail the murderer. After all, this was DHT's annual Murder Mystery Dinner event!

Each table worked together to discover the wrongdoer, as well as his or her motive. Between two nights filled with laughter, surprise and just plain old in-character silliness, guests had a blast trying to catch the slippery killer. Suspicions were thrown in every direction for every type of motive. Secrets were revealed and relations tested, and no one was safe from their past.

With the clever script written by Joanne Mercer and performed under the direction of Shannon Winpenny, the cast of quick-witted characters

was able to keep the biggest clue hidden until the very end, causing many a guest to gasp in shock over the conclusion.

Each table had dressed in their best hoedown attire, looking very spiffy in boots and cowboy hats. Prizes were handed out to our winners for guessing the killer as well as to the table with the most country song references recognized in the script.

A huge mahalo to Big G's for catering a spectacular meal perfect for *Murder at Rancho Mucho Denaros!* Also, thank you to our generous donors, who support DHT throughout the year as members of our Producer's Club. 🍷



called him—and he told me about a wonderful potential opportunity to come to Diamond Head Theatre and reprise the role.

**Kent:** I recently took a break from New York City and performing and was working at a brewery in Alameda, California, when I got a text message from my good friend Lindsay Roberts. She asked me if I was done with performing, because she might have a great opportunity for me in Hawaii, doing our favorite

**Kent:** One of my absolute favorite things about working at DHT was the people and their love for the craft. It was so refreshing to get on that stage with people who seemed to enjoy every moment and telling this story. Coming from the New York professional theatre world, you find a lot of performers lose that joy. The work itself sometimes becomes just a means to pay the bills, and the struggle to get that work alone oftentimes makes an artist crazy. But the folks at DHT spend their days working their other jobs, then come to the theatre at night with such joy

*Was there a standout moment for you with the cast?*

**Lindsay:** So many! My “life talks” with little Jenelle about showbiz; teasing Lea while “dead”; singing “Wheels of a Dream” with Kent each night; participating in the ‘Ilima Awards; practicing riffing in the dressing rooms with Garrett; every circle preshow; church on Sundays with Wendy; hiking, swimming and seeing the island through the eyes of my castmate tour guides; listening to Curtis’s wisdom; realizing the baby broke in half midscene onstage; and the list goes on!

**Kent:** Probably one of my most embarrassing and funny moments was when I broke Edgar’s prop bed. Whoops! But when I fell in love with this cast—that was my standout moment, I guess. I’ve never felt more inspired and more loved in my career. Some of the coolest, kindest and funniest people I have ever met were in this show, and I thank them immensely for sharing their gifts with me and the audience. I now have ohana for life and I couldn’t be more grateful.

*Any thoughts you’d like to add?*

**Lindsay:** I’m so grateful to John and Deena for inviting me to come to DHT for *Ragtime*, and to the entire company for embracing me with such artistry, talent, kindness and love. Some contracts feed your artistry; others feed your soul. For me, working at DHT was both.

**Kent:** DHT rocks! 🇺🇸



show. She told me to send her my headshot, resume and some videos, which I immediately did from behind the bar of the tasting room. And the rest is history!

*What was your favorite thing about performing at DHT?*

**Lindsay:** Hands down, it was the people. From the moment I was greeted at the airport, I felt covered in love and completely adopted into the DHT ohana. Everyone was so warm and welcoming and beautiful to work alongside. It was a blessing that extended far beyond the stage and still lives in the friendships I made.

and reverence for the show and its story. This experience reignited my love for the theatre and reminded me why I started doing this in the first place.

*What was your most memorable moment during Ragtime?*

**Lindsay:** I’ll never forget when the company sang a beautiful farewell song to Kent and me at the closing-night party. It was such a moving moment and meant a lot to me.

**Kent:** Having the opportunity to do this production with such a fabulous cast and crew was a true gift.





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## A Special Mahalo

### *Central Pacific Bank Foundation, We Appreciate You*

A standing ovation to Central Pacific Bank Foundation for your generous gift to Diamond Head Theatre's campaign to build a new theatre. Thank you, Central Pacific Bank Foundation—we really appreciate your support!



John Ramage, Central Pacific Bank Foundation VP Donna Takeda, Central Pacific Bank EVP and CFO Denis Isono, and Deena Dray