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MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET



BOOK BY COLIN ESCOTT AND FLOYD MUTRUX

ORIGINAL CONCEPT AND DIRECTION BY FLOYD MUTRUX

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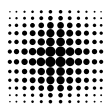
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A Message from the Managing Artistic Director



Welcome to *Million Dollar Quartet*, the world-famous, record-breaking musical that takes us back to one of the most iconic moments in music history. On December 4, 1956, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins gathered at Sun Studio in Memphis for an impromptu jam session, and the magic that followed has lived on in legend ever since. This production invites you to witness the chemistry, the rivalry, and the raw talent that shaped the sound of rock 'n' roll.

At its heart, *Million Dollar Quartet* is about more than just the music—it's about the personalities behind the legends. Each performer represents not only a musical genre but also a moment in time where cultural shifts and artistic boundaries were being pushed. There is an extremely delicate balance between the music and the characters' complex relationships. We get to see the artists at a crossroads in their careers, facing both their personal and professional struggles, but always drawn together by their love of music.

This production has been a true collaboration with an incredibly talented cast and creative team. Thank you to all of them for recreating the electrifying atmosphere of that famous session, while also bringing their own unique perspective to these larger-than-life characters. The music is vibrant, and the energy is contagious—but it's the human story beneath the rock 'n' roll that makes *Million Dollar Quartet* truly unforgettable.

Thank you for joining us at SLO REP. We hope you leave feeling as inspired by the music as we have been bringing it to life for you today.

Kevin Harris grew up on the Central Coast performing with many local theatre groups, including the San Luis Obispo Little Theatre. He went on to study at the Tisch School at NYU and at the Atlantic Theatre Company. He was the Artistic Director of San Luis Obispo's first professional theatre, Centerpoint Theatre Group and the Theatre Manager of the Contemporary Art Center in New Orleans. He received his Master of Fine Arts in Directing from the University of Iowa and worked throughout the country and in the Middle East directing and as a collaborator on original plays. He has taught at the University of Iowa, University of Chicago, and has led dozens of workshops on *A Practical Handbook for the Actor* across the country. Kevin feels privileged to be part of bringing live theatre to San Luis Obispo.

Show Sponsors

Catherine & Richard Luckett are longtime patrons of the arts on the Central Coast. Between them, they have sat on the Boards of Directors for the Foundation for the Performing Arts Center, SLO Symphony and the PCPA Foundation. Richard is a proud member of SLO REP's Board of Directors and both Cathy and Richard serve as Co-Chairs of SLO REP's Capital Campaign for *A New Stage*.



A nuclear engineer, Richard retired from PG & E where he worked at Diablo Canyon Power Plant for many years culminating with a "sunset assignment" in Washington D.C. and a stint working with Homeland Security. Catherine, a Speech/Language Pathologist and Resource Specialist, worked for San Luis Coastal Unified School District as an itinerant SLP for 12 years and then in the Preschool Early Education Program, which she developed with fellow SLP, Kathy Hamrick. She retired in 2002 to follow Rich to Washington D.C.

The Lucketts love to travel and have visited all seven continents since Rich retired in 2006.

They are great fans of *MDQ*. In fact, a few years ago, within a year, they saw five different productions at five different theatres. Because of its intimate size, SLO REP's production was their favorite. "It had us INSIDE Sun Records Studio, not just watching a play about the action in the studio. Thank goodness the larger new SLO REP theatre will have that same intimate feel!" They are pleased to be sponsoring this production of the wildly popular *MDQ*.

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Pam and her husband Mitch retired from their careers in the Bay Area and relocated to the tiny town of Harmony in 2015. Both Nichters are passionate gardeners and enjoy working in their home gardens as well as volunteering their time with the Master Gardeners of SLO County. Fans of live theatre, the Nichters sought a local theatre to enjoy and support, and to their delight discovered SLO REP.



A longtime board member of Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Marin Summer Theatre, Pam joined the SLO REP board in 2017. She is honored to be part of the theatre's board as we help nurture professional theatrical productions for the entertainment and enrichment of the public, and theatre education opportunities for youth. Pam truly believes the entertainment and storytelling aspects of live theatre can provide transformative and thought-provoking opportunities for dialog and the connection of friends, family and communities.

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Jeff and Linda are very proud sponsors of *Million Dollar Quartet* – one of their all-time favorite shows!

They have been show sponsors for years and Jeff has enjoyed his work on the SLO REP Board since 2015. They both look forward to the new SLO REP theatre sparking excitement and continuing a passion for the arts.

They are proud owners of 11 Jamba stores. You'll find 6 of their stores here on the Central Coast including Store #1 on the corner of Foothill & Chorro, the birthplace of Jamba.

Linda is a Jamba Co-Founder and, as a SLO native, she has a tremendous love for both Jamba and our community. Please think of Jamba for parties, work meetings, or to *just make a healthier choice you can feel good about!*

Jeff and Linda work and live happy and active lifestyles and SLO REP is a delicious part of their recipe. They are grateful to be a part of this amazing local organization and hope this production will make you sing out loud and move those feet! Enjoy!



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Show Sponsors

Ann Robinson

Ann Robinson is a former Senior Manager at Adobe Systems and has donated her time in support of several non-profit organizations since relocating to San Luis Obispo in 1994. She is a founding member of the Advisory Committee for the Women's Legacy Fund at The Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County, where she also served as President of the Board for two years.

She has also served as a Board Member for Opera San Luis Obispo and is a past President of the SLO Children's Museum and the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County and is a member of SLO REP's Capital Campaign Steering Committee.

Ann, and her late husband Lou, have always believed in giving back to the community through their volunteer efforts and financial support. As dedicated supporters of the arts, they have played a critical role in building a thriving community here on the Central Coast with theatre, art and music at its core.

Since 1947, generous patrons like the Robinsons have made SLO REP an enduring success story. Please join us in thanking them, and all of our sponsors, for breathing life into live theatre in San Luis Obispo, now and into the future.



Ann and Lou Robinson at *Singin' in the Rain* in 2015.





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About the Authors

Colin Escott was born in England and now lives near Nashville, Tennessee. He is the author of *Good Rockin' Tonight: Sun Records and the Birth of Rock 'n' Roll*, the first in-depth account of the Sun Records story. His book *Hank Williams – The Biography* has been adapted into the movie *I Saw the Light*, starring Tom Hiddleston and Elizabeth Olsen. His multi-CD box set, *The Complete Hank Williams*, won a Grammy, and another of his productions, *B.B. King – King of the Blues*, was nominated for a Grammy. *Million Dollar Quartet* received three Tony nominations, including Best Book and Best Musical. Escott was part of the writing/producing team adapting the show for CMT/Viacom. The first season aired in 2016.



Floyd Mutrux apprenticed at the Alley Theatre in Houston and worked at Second City in Chicago; he attended Columbia University. He has conceived, written, directed, or produced 50 films, including *Dusty and Sweets McGee*; *Freebie and the Bean*; *Aloha, Bobby and Rose*; *The Hollywood Knights*; *American Hot Wax*; *Dick Tracy*; *American Me*; *Blood In, Blood Out*; *There Goes My Baby*; and *Mulholland Falls*. With his wife Birgitte, he is preparing a new film *Moon Over Memphis* (a rock-and-roll *Field of Dreams*.) He also cowrote the musical *Baby It's You!* with Colin Escott and helped adapt *Sun Records*, the new television series based on *Million Dollar Quartet*. *Million Dollar Quartet* received three Tony Award nominations in 2010, including best book and best musical.



About Million Dollar Quartet

There was no plan for Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins to record together on December 4, 1956, but as fate would have it, they did and left behind a historic and mind-blowing album. *Million Dollar Quartet* tells that story, with all the raw energy and monumental talent you've come to expect from these music giants.

It all begins in the Sun Records recording studio in Memphis, Tennessee. Up and comer Jerry Lee Lewis is recording songs with rockabilly king Carl Perkins when already iconic Elvis Presley stops by the studio with his girlfriend. The not-quite-yet-a-guitar-god Johnny Cash is there to pay a visit to music manager Sam Phillips. Throw them all together and you have one of the most unexpected, unprecedented and unforgettable musical moments in history. It was the first and only time they played together and, through their musical genius, created an explosive album that has yet to be matched.

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

BOOK BY
**COLIN ESCOTT
AND FLOYD MUTRUX**

ORIGINAL CONCEPT
AND DIRECTION BY
FLOYD MUTRUX

INSPIRED BY
**ELVIS PRESLEY, JOHNNY CASH,
JERRY LEE LEWIS AND CARL PERKINS**

Originally developed and produced by Relevant Theatricals, John Cossette Productions and Northern Lights, Inc. at the Goodman Theatre, Robert Falls, Artistic Director - Roche Shulfer, Executive Director and transferred to The Apollo Theatre, Chicago, IL, 2008 Produced by the Village Theatre, Issaquah, Washington, Robb Hunt, Producer - Steve Tompkins, Artistic Director, 2007 and Seaside Music Theater, Daytona Beach, FL, Tippin Davidson, Producer - Lester Malizia, Artistic Director, 2006

DIRECTED BY
KEVIN HARRIS

MUSICAL DIRECTION BY
COLLIN YATES

COSTUME DESIGN BY
RENEÉ VAN NIEL

SCENIC DESIGN BY
DAVE LINFIELD

SOUND DESIGN BY
**KEVIN HARRIS WITH
BILL GAINES AUDIO**

LIGHTING DESIGN BY
KEVIN HARRIS



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The Cast

Sam Phillips Toby Tropper
Carl Perkins Collin Yates
Johnny Cash Zachary Tate
Jerry Lee Lewis Hunter Semrau
Elvis Presley Tony Costa
Dyanne Kamilah Lay
Fluke (Percussion) Evan Goldhahn
Brother Jay (Bass) Mitch Houseman

SETTING:

Sun Records, 1956

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this performance is strictly prohibited. Please silence your cell phones.

Musical Numbers

Act One

Blue Suede Shoes Carl, Johnny, Jerry Lee, Elvis
Real Wild Child Jerry Lee
Matchbox Carl
Who Do You Love Carl
Folsom Prison Blues Johnny
Fever Dyanne
Memories Are Made of This Elvis, Carl, Jerry Lee, Johnny
That's Alright Mama Elvis
Brown-Eyed Handsome Man Jerry Lee, Carl
Down By The Riverside Johnny, Jerry Lee, Elvis, Carl
Sixteen Tons Johnny
My Babe Carl, Johnny

Intermission (15 minutes)

Act Two

Long Tall Sally Elvis
Peace In The Valley Dyanne, Jerry Lee, Carl, Elvis, Johnny
I Walk The Line Johnny
I Hear You Knockin' Dyanne
Let's Have A Party Carl, Elvis, Jerry Lee, Johnny, Dyanne
Great Balls of Fire Jerry Lee
Down By The Riverside Reprise Johnny, Jerry Lee, Elvis, Carl
Hound Dog Elvis
Riders in the Sky Johnny, Dyanne, Carl, Elvis
See You Later Alligator Carl Perkins, Company
Whole Lotta Shakin' Jerry Lee, Carl, Johnny, Elvis

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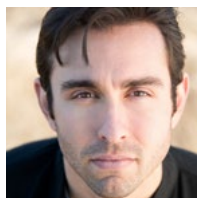
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About the Cast

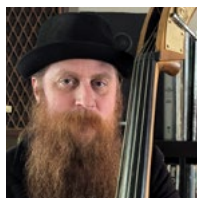
Tony Costa (Elvis Presley) is excited to be back at SLO REP and feels even more excited and fortunate to once again portray his musical hero. Tony is a native to the Central Coast graduating from both Cal Poly and Cuesta College. He is a two-time winner of the Distinguished Actor in a Musical Award from the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival. Other roles include; Cervantes in *Man of La Mancha* (Cuesta College), El Gallo in *The Fantasticks* (SLO REP), Andrej in *Once* (SLO REP), and Rex in *Pirates of Pismo a-Go-Go* (TGAM).



Evan Goldhahn (Fluke/Percussion Player) is thrilled to reprise the role of Fluke after appearing in SLO REP's 2019 production of *Million Dollar Quartet*. On the same stage he's been seen in *Always...Patsy Cline* and *The All Night Strut!* Some past regional favorites include *Memphis, 9 to 5: The Musical*, *Next to Normal*, and *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*. Evan would like to thank his beautiful wife Sarah, amazing girls Georgia and Lucy, and his family for their love and support.



Mitch Houseman (Brother Jay, Bass Player) studied Bass under Bob Magnusson at Point Loma Nazarene University, where he played in Jazz, Blues, and Classical groups. He's toured with a few bands, and is currently playing with Surfeza, Mattie Pain, and The Space Cats. He's played Bass for *My Fair Lady*, *The Mikado*, *Urinetown*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, and is so excited to join the cast of *MDQ!*



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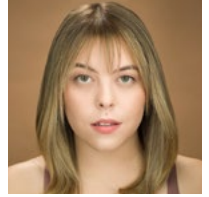


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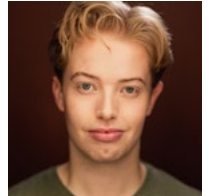


About the Cast

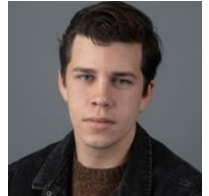
Kamilah Lay (Dyanne) is a Wisconsin-native who is delighted to return to SLO REP after appearing in *9 to 5: The Musical* (Doralee) last season and *Once* (Reza) in 2023. Other recent credits include *Evil Dead The Musical* (Linda) at Pittsburgh Musical Theater, and the world premiere of *Moonshine and Mistletoe: An Appalachian Christmas Tale* (Dovey) at The Garden Theatre. She extends endless gratitude to Kevin, Suzy, Gigi, as well as the entire team of dedicated talents here at SLO REP. Many thanks and much love to her Midwestern family and Collin for their steadfast support. Kamilah aspires to connect, learn, and grow from new opportunities.



Hunter Semrau (Jerry Lee Lewis) is a New York based singer, actor, and musician originally from Canada. His recent credits include the National Tours of *Million Dollar Quartet Christmas* and *Million Dollar Quartet*, regional productions of *Urinetown* (Bobby Strong), *Grease* (Doody), *Shakespeare's R&J* (Juliet), and originating the role of DJ in the premiere of *Goblins & Gates* in New York City. He has spent the greater part of his life performing in musicals as well as playing both piano and guitar in various acoustic groups, dueling piano concerts, and rock bands. Hunter is a graduate of Oklahoma City University with a BM in Musical Theatre.



Zachary Tate (Johnny Cash) is proud to be back at Sun Records! A native of Savannah, Georgia, Zachary is a graduate of the University of Georgia, where he received degrees in theatre and journalism. His recent credits include *Million Dollar Quartet* (Temple Theatre, Rhinoleap Theatre, ECTC, MOMO, Apex Touring), *Million Dollar Quartet Christmas* (New Stage Theatre, Timber Lake Playhouse), *Ring of Fire*, *Little House on the Prairie: The Musical*, *Big Fish*, *The Spongebob Musical*, *Bright Star*, *Pump Boys & Dinettes* (Mountain Movers Theatre Co.) Special thank you to his parents, Bill & Christine Tate, and his team at Resolute Artists Agency.





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About the Cast

Toby Tropper (Sam Phillips) is mighty pleased to be back where the good times always roll - SLO REP! Previous board troddin's here include *Blithe Spirit*, *The Producers*, *Cabaret* and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. He has had the good fortune to work with theatre companies all across the nation including The Great American Melodrama, Millbrook Playhouse, Lyric Rep, Sierra Rep, Oregon Cabaret, Rubicon Theatre Company, ETCSB, PCPA and internationally with The English Theatre Frankfurt in Germany where he performed in the European Premiere of *American Son*. Toby hails from sunny Ventura, CA and he is a proud graduate of PCPA - Pacific Conservatory Theatre, Class of 2013.



Collin Yates (Carl Perkins/Music Director) is thrilled to be making his SLO REP Debut in *Million Dollar Quartet*. Collin jumped into the 50s rock n' roll theater scene in 2023 performing in *MDQ*, *MDQ Christmas*, and has toured around the country in the official Sun Records Live theatrical concert. Collin has been playing guitar for over a decade and has written and composed music for multiple produced works, including Rise Up Theater Company's production of *Troilus and Cressida*. Collin would like to thank his Mom, Dad, siblings Liam, Riley, and his partner Kamilah for their constant love and support.



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"Mama", Chef Nico's Mom, learned to bake as a girl in Italy and has been whipping up baked goods by hand for nearly 53 years.

The advertisement features a collage of images: a family of four eating at a table, a chef in a white uniform working at a counter, a plate of spaghetti with meat sauce and a basil leaf, and a dessert with chocolate and cream.

The Production Team

Director	Kevin Harris
Music Director	Collin Yates
Stage Manager	Gigi Bjork-Nelson
Scenic Design	Dave Linfield
Costume Design	Reneé Van Niel
Lighting Design	Kevin Harris
Sound Design	Bil Gaines Audio & Kevin Harris
Set Dressing & Props	Dave Linfield, Suzy Newman
Board Operator	Bekah Badger
Set Construction & Painting Crew	Dave Linfield, Bob Rice, Greg Peters, Valerie Pallai, Larry Bolef, Lisa Langere

Dave Linfield (Scenic Design) has designed and built nearly all SLO REP's Mainstage productions over the past 15 years. The theatre bug bit him in 1990 when an audition notice for a community theatre production caught his fancy. Over the years, he migrated from performing onstage to working behind the scenes, embracing technical stagecraft as his true calling. Dave's educational background in graphic design and his work experience in retail display and housing construction have blended in distinctive ways to fuel his passion for designing and building sets.

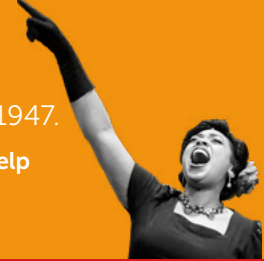
Gigi Bjork-Nelson (Stage Manager) is a local Stage Manager/Artist and a recent graduate of the Cal Poly Theatre and Dance Department. She has been working with SLO REP as a Stage Manager for a few years now and some of her recent credits include *Steel Magnolias*, *Xanadu*, *Beehive – The 60's Musical*, *What the Constitution Means to Me* and *Misery*. Enjoy the show!

Reneé Van Niel (Costume Design) is thrilled to return to SLO REP to work on *Million Dollar Quartet* this season after designing *9 to 5-The Musical* last June. She also designed the costumes for *The Thanksgiving Play* and the fabulous wigs for *Beehive: The 60s Musical*. Previous shows at SLO REP include *The All Night Strut!*, *Million Dollar Quartet* and *Steel Magnolias* as costume designer and *The Marvelous Wonderettes* as wig designer. She worked as a costume/wig designer for The Great American Melodrama for many years and prior to moving to the Central Coast, she toured throughout the U.S. with Theater League as a Costume Designer and Wardrobe Supervisor and designed throughout the Los Angeles Area when not out on the road.

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you have any questions about your listing, please contact Patty Thayer at patty@slorep.org.

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Everyone can leave a legacy. Great or small, planned gifts through your financial or estate plans make a big difference. Your future gift may provide tax benefits for you or your loved ones and will ensure that the enjoyment and enrichment you've experienced at SLO REP is available to our community for years to come.

Please join us in a round of applause for our Legacy Society members whose foresight and generosity will keep live theatre going strong in downtown San Luis Obispo for years to come.

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Choosing the right planned gift depends on your personal circumstances and goals. Please consult your financial advisor, then contact us about joining SLO REP's Legacy Society. Benefits include exclusive invitations to special events, priority seating for all shows with personal assistance from SLO REP staff and a listing in our playbill. If you've already included SLO REP in your future plans, please let us know. We want to honor and celebrate your generous gifts TODAY!

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Building the Future

Thanks to the foresight, generosity, and determination of Dr. Bernhard Singen, SLO REP has established an Endowment Fund for the future of live theatre in downtown SLO. This fund will grow as we grow, providing security and future funding, ensuring that this organization continues to thrive for years to come.

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For more information about how you can build the future of live theatre in downtown SLO, please contact **Patty Thayer** at (805) 592-3190 or patty@slorep.org.

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The Campaign for San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre

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Box Office Hours

Wed-Fri 3 pm – 6 pm
Show Saturdays 3 pm – 5 pm
Will Call open 1 hour before
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Downtown Venue Address

888 Morro Street
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Mission

SLO REP strengthens theatre's cultural influence and enriches the Central Coast by producing professional theatre, nurturing artists and providing theatre education for children and adults.

Our Belief

Live theatre's powerful storytelling connects people in ways that open the mind, nourish the soul and illuminate our shared humanity.

Vision

To be a nationally recognized regional theatre that:

- Produces professional theatrical productions in a state-of-the-art facility.
- Strengthens the cultural vitality of the Central Coast, entertains audiences, nurtures artists, and cultivates future generations of theatre enthusiasts.
- Creates a strong and sustainable economic impact, attracting residents and visitors to downtown San Luis Obispo.

Our Commitment

Theatre plays a vital role in our culture and our community and has a responsibility to enact positive change through its work, practices, educational programs and policies. We at SLO REP are committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in all aspects of our work. To learn more about our commitment to you, our community and to ourselves, please visit our website at slorep.org

Land Acknowledgement: San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre acknowledges with respect that the place we work and gather is located on the traditional land of the Northern Chumash people.

Artwork: Subplot Studio
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17 
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