



Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by James Lapine
Based on the film, "Passione d'Amore" Directed by Ettore Scola

Direction by Justin Lucero*

Sponsored by William & Julia Brogan

Musical Direction by Megan McQueen

Piano by David Cunniff

Sponsored by Roy & Donna Cunniff

Lighting Design & Operation by Sam Tyson

Sponsored by The Green Chile Paddy Wagon

Choreography by Karlos Saucedo

Stage Manager – Cindy Pitts

Sponsored by Ginny May & Louie Skogen

Production Assistant – Erica Krauel

Costume Consultant & Dress Constructor - Guenevere McMahon

Costume Construction Assistant – Megan Thompson

Production Photographer – Justice Prude

Technical Director, Sound Operator, and Theatre Manager – Bruce Ven

Hair & Costume Crew – Valerie Mirelez

Co-Producer – Dona Ana Arts Council

*Denotes associate membership of SDCF, Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation, a national theatrical labor union

Originally Directed on Broadway by James Lapine

Originally Produced on Broadway in 1994 by The Shubert Organization – Roger Berlind Capital Cities / ABC – Scott Rudin by

Arrangement with Lincoln Center Theater

Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

PASSION is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019

Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684

www.MTIShows.com

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Setting: A hospital, Italy, 1864

***Passion* runs an hour and fifty minutes without an intermission.**

CAST

Giorgio - Isaac Quiroga

Sponsored by Gail Zimmer & Taylor Rey / Dona Ana Medical Supply

Clara – Amanda Bradford

Sponsored by Michael & Barbara Mandel

Colonel Ricci – James Gier

Sponsored by Janet McQueen

Doctor Tambourri – Mike Cook

Sponsored by Tom and Karen Warren

Major Rizzoli / Fosca's Father – Chris Rippel

Private Augenti / Count Ludovic – Karlos Saucedo

Sponsored by Yvonne Mouchette

Sergeant Lombardi – Matthew Esqueda

Lieutenant Torasso – Cameron Lang*

Lieutenant Barri – Mario Ragazzone*

Attendant / Mistress – Aylin White*

** Current NMSU Theatre Students Sponsored by William & Deborah Storm*

Attendant / Fosca's Mother – Lennie Brown

Fosca – Megan McQueen

Sponsored by Judie & Guy Aurada

MUSICIANS:



Piano

David Cunniff

Sponsored by

Roy & Donna Cunniff

Percussion

Brandon Brown*

Cello

Cesar Camarena*

Trumpet

Michael Martinez*

Flute

Dominic Lowhar*

**Sponsored by Connie Lee of Edward Jones*

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

In grad school I attended a London revival of *Passion* mounted to celebrate Sondheim's 80th birthday. It is easily one of the most affecting theatrical experiences I've ever had and instantly made my list of dream shows to direct. (I later learned it is Megan's all-time favorite musical – of course we were meant to tackle it!) While preparing for rehearsals, I learned that Sondheim considers the same London version I saw as the best one he's seen. He felt that its focus on the male lead, Giorgio, as the driving force of the story made all the difference. I agree. I took inspiration from the 1869 novel by Igino Ugo Tarchetti, which was written as Giorgio's first-person memoirs – our unique take is presented as a series of memories flooding Giorgio's mind from within a hospital room. That production Sondheim and I both loved, directed for the Donmar Warehouse by Jamie Lloyd, strove to illicit a nightmare, a fever dream and claustrophobia. While that aim was hauntingly effective, I chose instead to center the story on love and its power. Though *Passion* specifically tackles darker thematic aspects such as love's relentlessness, obsessive love, love's relation to pity, and the expectations and disappointments of love, it does so with great beauty and poetry. I wanted to highlight these same doleful themes through the filter of Giorgio's memories because memory is a potent, electric, poetic story-telling device. Memories forgive, skew, hurt, soothe, inform, corroborate, disappoint, invade, hypnotize, rehabilitate... But perhaps the most interesting thing about human memory is its simultaneous accuracy and inaccuracy. As you enjoy, I hope, deciphering the poetry for yourselves, I am certain you will feel the passion with which we all approached this production.

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES



Amanda Bradford (Clara) works in media relations at NMSU. Prior to her journalism career, Amanda studied music at NMSU, performing roles with Doña Ana Lyric Opera ranging from Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* to the Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*. She has also performed with Las Cruces Community Theater and No Strings Theater Company, and appeared as a soloist with NMSU Choirs. She's thrilled to be working with Scaffolding again after appearing as Guido's mother in *Nine*.



Lennie Brown (Attendant/Fosca's Mother) has enjoyed the stage ever since playing Princess Winnifred in LCCT's *Once Upon a Mattress* 'many moons ago.' Most recently, she played Vicki in last season's *The Full Monty* at LCCT, but her favorite role is as wife of *Passion* percussionist Brandon Brown and mother to Cami and Heidi.



Mike Cook (Doctor Tambourri) has been active in local theatre for 13 years. He was last in "The Hot House" at the Black Box Theatre, but he has also performed numerous roles for the LCCT, lo-fi, and the American Southwest Theatre Company. He has volunteered many years on the ASTC board, the non-profit organization that supports NMSU Theatre Arts.



Matthew Esqueda (Sergeant Lombardi) is thrilled to be a part of a Scaffolding production. Though this is Matthew's first time on the Rio Grande stage, he has been in many local productions, most recently in *Company* as Harry. "Thanks to Megan and Justin for this incredible opportunity, and to the amazingly talented cast, crew and band. Thanks especially to my parents, brother, sister (in-law), and friends for all the love and support. Jeremiah 29:11"



James Gier (Colonel Ricci) is a singer-songwriter, performer and private music teacher in Las Cruces, New Mexico. James has had the opportunity to perform in many DALO productions, playing such roles as Leperello in *Don Giovanni* and Escamillo in *Carmen*. "After a decade long hiatus, I'm excited to return to the stage in my first Scaffolding Theater Company production." With five years of experience teaching music for the public schools, he is teaching voice and guitar privately. Inquire at: jamesgiermusic@gmail.com.



Cameron Lang (Lieutenant Torasso) is a senior Theatre Arts major At NMSU with a concentration in Musical Theatre. Some of his recent roles include David in *Company* and Reg in *The Full Monty* at LCCT; Durdles in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* for ASTC, and The Clown in *Co-Ed Prison Sluts* for Crackbox Theatre Project. He is very excited to be working with Scaffolding after assisting with *Chicago*. "A big thank you to Justin and Megan for the opportunity!"



Megan McQueen (Fosca & Scaffolding Co-Founder & Co-Artistic Director) is grateful to everyone who has contributed to *Passion*. "Isaac, you are such a force of positivity! Amanda, there's never been a better Clara. Sam, Bruce, Genni, David, everyone....Wow! This was not easy. Justin, you are an incredible artist and person. And you've done it again!" (Her bio is on www.nmsutheatre.com and www.scaffoldingtheatrecompany.com)



Isaac Quiroga (Giorgio) is excited and humbled to debut with Scaffolding in his favorite musical, *Passion*. He graduated from New York University in 2007 with a Master's in Vocal Performance. Isaac was last seen on the Las Cruces stage as Jeffrey Skilling in DALO's production of *We Are Enron*. Isaac resides in Los Angeles and works for the #1 toy company in the world where he drives their online video strategy and develops content that entertains and inspires kids everywhere.



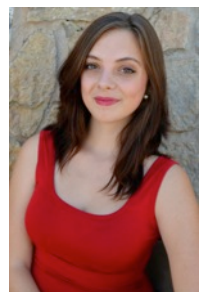
Mario Ragazzone (Lieutenant Barri) is a theatre major entering his fourth year at NMSU. Previous roles include Baylen in *Glengarry Glen Ross* and Phil in *Almost, Maine* for Creative Student Theatre Company; James Throttle / Stage Manager in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and Sir Toby/Captaine in *Twelfth Night* for ASTC, and Peter in *Company* for LCCT. “I couldn’t be more grateful for the chance to work with such a brilliant cast and crew.”



Chris Rippel (Major Rizzoli / Fosca’s Father) graduated from UNM in theater arts. He has had the pleasure of performing and working with Megan on many shows: *Songs for a New World* (NSTC); *Man of La Mancha*, *Into the Woods*, and *We Are Enron* (DALO); *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (LCCT), revues at Boba Café, and *Broadway Today* (NMSU). He recently appeared in *Company* (LCCT). “Thanks, Megan and Justin, for your passionate commitment and dedication to the creative process, as you say, ‘one scaffold at time.’”



Karlos Saucedo (Private Augenti / Count Ludovic), an Alma d' Arte graduate, has performed in numerous musicals including *Honk*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Songs for a New World*, *Urinetown*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *Full Monty*. He choreographed for Centennial High School’s 2012-2013 dance classes, several NMSU musical theatre revues, LCCT’s *Full Monty*, DALO’s *From Berlin to Broadway*, and Scaffolding’s *Nine* and *Chicago*. He also performs mariachi music any chance he gets. “This is for my angel brother who has a front row seat to all my shows from heaven.”



Aylin White (Attendant / Mistress) is a senior Theater Arts major at NMSU. Prior roles include April in *Company* for LCCT and Gabriella in *When the Rain Stops Falling* in New Jersey. She also played Claudia Nardi in Scaffolding’s *Nine*. “I’d like to thank my directors for being so supportive.”

CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Justin Lucero (PASSION Director and Scaffolding Co- Founder & Artistic Director) is an Associate Member of the SDC - Stage Directors & Choreographers Society. He trained in London, earning an MFA in Theatre Directing from East 15 Acting School. As a professional freelancer his experience includes such local companies as El Paso Opera, UTEP Dinner Theater, *Viva! El Paso*, and Opera UTEP; London’s Theatre 503, Jermyn Street Theatre, Blue Elephant Theatre and the West End’s Regents Park Open Air Theatre; and the first-ever opera produced in Bhutan. He is the recipient of a Directing Fellowship with Florida’s Asolo Repertory Theatre and an SDCF Observership with L.A.’s South Coast Repertory. “Thanks to everyone involved for their passion. As always, for my family.”

David Cunniff (Pianist / Rehearsal Accompanist) has maintained a musical presence in Las Cruces since 1980, playing with nearly every musical group in nearly every venue in town. He caught the theater bug during LCCT’s 1985 *Godspell*, and has provided music off and on for theater companies ever since. David previously played for Scaffolding’s *Nine*. Although he was accepted to the piano program at Texas Christian University, he chose instead to pursue his academic education in Engineering at NMSU. He earned his Bachelor’s of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1994, with a Master’s of Science in 1996. In between he married his wife, Jenny. Beyond musical and technical pursuits, David follows a strong spiritual calling. He and Jenny founded Crossroads Church of Las Cruces in 2006, a non-traditional church that ministers to non-traditional people. David also serves as the Area Director of Young Life in Las Cruces, a non-denominational ministry to high-school students. David’s day job is at the NASA White Sands Complex, where he works as a Senior Systems Engineer.

Sam Tyson (Lighting Designer / Operator) was just 6 years old when he was found connecting lantern batteries to sundry assemblages of lights and standing in awe of the soft glow. After working tech for *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* in high school, Sam knew that rigging, lighting, and theatre would be a dearly-held passion for years to come. He has worked on countless productions through Alma d’arte / Court Youth Center, as well as designing *The Dining Room* and *Seven Minutes in Heaven* for Centennial High School, *The Full Monty* and *Meet Me in St. Louis* for LCCT, *Broadway Today* and *Starstruck* to benefit NMSU Theatre, and *Nine* and *Chicago* for Scaffolding.

A TREMENDOUS **THANK YOU** TO THE MANY SPONSORS WHO MADE *PASSION* POSSIBLE

\$60	Decking	Beth Bannister Keith Burke Lynn Deming David Edwards & Cindy Murrell Sara & Eliot Orton Francis Mangold Anne Paradise Nancy Ritchey Bob & Mary Sherman Bonnie & Marshall Reiter
\$100	Guardrails	Chuck & Sally Bisbee Martha Duran Dixie Felipe Deborah Husson Caryl Kotulak Lynda Tyson
\$200	Uprights	Judie & Guy Aurada William & Julia Brogan Roy & Donna Cunniff Michael & Barbara Mandel Janet McQueen Yvonne Mouchette Tom & Karen Warren William & Deborah Storm
\$300	Cross Bracing	Janet Beatty-Payne & The Green Chile Paddy Wagon
\$400	Foundation	Connie Lee of Edward Jones Ginny May & Louie Skogen Gail Zimmer & Taylor Rey / Dona Ana Medical

WE'D ALSO LIKE TO SAY **THANK YOU TO:**

Matt Reiter, Janet McQueen, Joe & Shirley Lucero
(without whom "all that we can be" would be very little)
Guenevere McMahon for the beautiful costume work
Erica Krauel, Cindy Pitts, Mario Ragazzone, and Valerie Mirelez
(for props, costumes, & hair assistance)
Danny Ruley (for rehearsal facilitation & general support)
Bob Diven (for expert mattress modification advice)
Warren Construction, Inc. (who generously donated materials)
Bruce Ven (for his patience and enthusiasm)