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Press Page: sfmt.org/press-bttwtw

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AUDIO CLIPS: sfmt.org/2022-bttwtw-audio

1:25 Back To The Way Things Were – Norman Gee, Lizzie Calogero

0:23 Would You Like Fries with THAT? – Andre Amarotico

TRAILER: sfmt.org/2022-bttwtw-audio

After a 2 year COVID hiatus of live performances, in 2022 The San Francisco Mime Troupe (SFMT) returns to doing what they love and do best - FREE Political Musical Theater in Bay Area and Northern California parks.

THE TONY AWARD-WINNING SAN FRANCISCO MIME TROUPE

Opens the 63rd Season with:

BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE - A New Musical

Nostalgia Ain't What It Used To Be

July 2 - Sept. 5, 2022

sfmt.org

facebook.com/sfmimetroupe

instagram.com/SFTroupers

twitter.com/SFTroupers

Schedule by Date: sfmt.org/press-schedule-by-dates

Schedule by Area: sfmt.org/press-schedule-by-area

(Schedules can be accessed on the SFMT press page): sfmt.org/press-bttwtw

BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE - A New Musical

Nostalgia Ain't What It Used To Be

Synopsis:

In a country where we can finally stop wearing masks to get pizza and go to the movies, and where we again have a president who isn't dumb as a two dollar ham, hard-working, middle-aged liberals Ralph and Alice wistfully yearn for The before Times, when things seemed normal. But for Zoe - their twenty-something daughter who grew up in a world of climate change, housing crashes, student debt, the rise of dictatorships and the fall of democracies - there is no "better" to go back to. For her the purgatory of the last two years was just a pause from life in Hell. So what's the point? Isn't it easier to just give up?

SF Mime Troupe Presents - *BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE: A New Musical* - Summer 2022

Long Synopsis:

In a country where we can finally stop wearing masks to get pizza and go to the movies, and where we again have a president who isn't dumb as a two dollar ham, hard-working, middle-aged liberals Ralph and Alice wistfully yearn for The before Times, when things seemed normal. But for Zoe - their twenty-something daughter who grew up in a world of climate change, housing crashes, student debt, the rise of dictatorships and the fall of democracies - there is no "better" to go back to. For her the purgatory of the last two years was just a pause from life in Hell. So what's the point? Isn't it easier to just give up? If only her new, socially inept, maybe crazy, conspiracy-theorist friend wasn't so intent on saving the world! Why are they so convinced Zoe is the one to do it? Why do they need Zoe's help? What kinda name is "Book"? And what even is a portal gun?

BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE - A New Musical is written by: **Michael Gene Sullivan with Marie Cartier**

Music & Lyrics Daniel Savio
Director: Velina Brown
Music Director: Daniel Savio

The show runs 90 min. – no intermission.

BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE: A New Musical features a five person cast that includes veteran SF Mime Troupe collective member: **Keiko Shimosato Carreiro** (*Book*); who is joined by **Andre Amarotico** (*Milies*); **Lizzie Calogero** (*Alice*); **Norman Gee** (*Ralph*); and **Alicia M. P. Nelson** (*Zoe*)

And SFMT Band: **Will Durkee** (Guitars); **Daniel Savio** (Keyboards); and **Jason Young** (Drums).

All actors appear through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

To arrange an interview with writers, actors, or anyone from the SF Mime Troupe Collective, please call or e-mail publicist Lawrence Helman at 415-336-8220 lhelman@sbcglobal.net

Tech credits for *BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE: A New Musical* include:

Scenic Designer: **Carlos Aceves**; Costume Designer: **Brooke Jennings**; Props Master: **Marie Cartier**;
Sound Designer / Engineer: **Taylor Gonzalez**; Sound A2: **Miguel Wachter**; Poster Design: **Pablo Mica**;
Prod. Stage Manager: **Karen Runk**; Booking Coordinator / Tour Manager: **Marissa Ellison**;
Publicity: **Lawrence Helman**; Photography: **DavidAllenStudio.com** & **Mike Melnyk**.

BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE: A New Musical plays July 2 – Sept. 5, 2022

Opening: Sat. / Sun. July 2, 3, - Cedar Rose Park - Berkeley

Opening: Mon. July 4, - Dolores Park - **San Francisco** and running throughout the Bay Area in SF, the North Bay, East Bay, Palo Alto, Davis, and Santa Cruz, through Sept. 5, 2022.

All shows are FREE and open to the public.

Some shows will require RSVPs: Live Oak Theater: July 22 (Fri.); Davis HS, Richard Brunelle Performance Hall: Aug. 10 (Wed.); SFMT Studio Back Lawn in SF: Aug 12, 13, 14 (Fri., Sat., Sun.).

For a complete schedule and more information, visit sfmt.org or call **415-285-1717**.

Additional info on SFMT and community organizations is made available at information tables at each of our park shows.

SF Mime Troupe Presents - *BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE: A New Musical* - Summer 2022

Character Breakdown:

Ralph - Middle-aged, working-class man. Laid-off bus driver now uses a family car to drive for Uber. Married to Alice.

Alice - Middle-aged, working-class woman. Lost her job as a bartender at a casino, currently employed at Amazon fulfillment center. Married to Ralph.

Zoe - Early twenties college student. Nihilistic, pessimistic about the future. Assumes the worst. Splits time between school and internship at community center. (An internship she got *before* she lost all hope. She is now just doing it for credit.) The child of Ralph and Alice.

Book - An eccentric unhoused person, apparently living without means or place, but perhaps not as powerless as she seems...

Milies - A forward-thinking CEO with fresh, market-driven solutions to societal problems. Has his eye on bigger political platforms to transform America into an efficient business.

Ms. Oliva - Zoe's supervisor at the Center for Societal Change

Herbert - An unhoused person being served by the Center

Cleonis Taintworthy - A robber baron of the 1880's.

Food Kid - A disgruntled McBurger in the Box employee

Agitator - An anti-climate change activist.

Dennis - An unhoused person, and high-school chum of Alice.

Cop - A cop.

Carruthers - A butler.

Q: Why do you call yourself a Mime Troupe if you talk and sing?

We use the term "mime" in its classical and original definition, "The exaggeration of daily life in story and song." It is a form of popular theater that is as old as the marketplace itself. From the ancient Greek and Roman farces to the Renaissance commedia dell'Arte to modern Chinese Opera, using archetypes comically to illustrate people's issues is a time honored worldwide tradition. Our broadly drawn characters are instantly recognizable allowing the audience to immediately engage in the action. **Our work is political satire and anything but silent.**

News - SF Mime Troupe 2022:

1. Michael Gene Sullivan - Resident Playwright, Actor, Director, and SFMT Collective Member. Michael has written, and/or directed and/or performed in over 30 shows for SFMT, is an alum of the Playwrights Foundation, a Djerassi Center Playwriting Fellow, and in 2022 received a John Simon Guggenheim Dramatist Fellowship. Michael is also the author of the internationally produced stage adaptation of George Orwell's 1984, and of the critically-acclaimed play The Great Khan (SF Playhouse, San Diego Rep.) Michael has performed with all four of the Bay Area's Tony award-winning theaters: American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theater, Theatreworks, and the San Francisco Mime Troupe, as well as with SF Playhouse, California Shakespeare Theater, Denver Center Theatre Company, Marin Theatre Co., Aurora Theatre Co., Magic Theatre, Lorraine Hansberry Theater, African American Shakespeare Co., and the SF Shakespeare Festival.

SF Mime Troupe Presents - *BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE: A New Musical* - Summer 2022

2. Since 1985, the westward facing exterior wall of 855 Treat Avenue in San Francisco's Mission District has been adorned with **Para las Rosas / For the Roses**, a vibrant mural by the gifted artist Juana Alicia. The Mural marks both the current home of the 63-year-old San Francisco Mime Troupe (SFMT) and that of its predecessor, Fantasy Records, where comic Lenny Bruce and Jazz greats Dave Brubeck, Paul Desmond, Cal Tjader, Vince Guaraldi, Mongo Santamaria and many others recorded. It is a beautiful homage to the place that has produced exceptional music, comedy and theater for over seven decades.

Sadly, over the years, the mural's colors have faded to the point where certain aspects of it are not even recognizable. Juana Alicia has agreed to restore and preserve this historic work of art by using newer techniques and longer lasting paint. Restoration for this large mural will cost \$70,000 for the repair of the wall, supplies, labor and protective finishes. Fundraising efforts, including a recent Indiegogo campaign, have been led by those who share the desire to preserve legacy art in the city. Although more funding is needed, we have been able to raise enough to begin the restoration this summer.

Along with the SFMT, this project team is composed of artists, preservationists, activists and neighbors, all committed to restoring **Para las Rosas / For the Roses** - Juana Alicia's mural. The core team includes the artist, Juana Alicia, SF Mime Troupe General Manager and Collective member Ellen Callas, SF Heritage's Kerri Young, and SFMT Board Member, Susan Segal. With the additional support of Anastacia Powers, Brava for Women in the Arts is the fiscal sponsor for city and foundation grants still pending approval.

Visit sfmt.org to watch a short video about the mural restoration project.

Donate to the mural project via [Brava for Women in the Arts](#)

BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE - A New Musical has been made possible by contributions from Zellerbach Family Foundation; the Don Stevens Laugh and Love Fund; and Individual Donors.

SF Mime Troupe History: sfmt.org/press-history

Bios: sfmt.org/2022-bttwtw-bios

Calendar Editors:

WHAT: SAN FRANCISCO MIME TROUPE
BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE - A New Musical
Nostalgia Ain't What It Used To Be

Subject of the show: After four years of presidential criminality, riots, plague, and the general undermining of the Constitution, is it really a relief to get back to the good old days that led to all that?

BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE - A New Musical

Synopsis:

In a country where we can finally stop wearing masks to get pizza and go to the movies, and where we again have a president who isn't dumb as a two dollar ham, hard-working, middle-aged liberals Ralph and Alice wistfully yearn for The before Times, when things seemed normal. But for Zoe - their twenty-something daughter who grew up in a world of climate change, housing crashes, student debt, the rise of dictatorships and the fall of democracies - there is no "better" to go back to. For her the purgatory of the last two years was just a pause from life in Hell. So what's the point? Isn't it easier to just give up?

TIX: All shows are **FREE and open to the public.**
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SFMT Studio Back Lawn in SF: Aug 12, 13, 14 (Fri., Sat., + Sun.).
For more info. call 415- 285 -1717 or visit sfmt.org

VENUES: SFMT performs in parks & some theatres throughout the Bay Area in SF, the North Bay, East Bay, Palo Alto, Davis, and Santa Cruz **July 2 – Sept. 5, 2022.**
All shows are free and open to the public.
For more info. call 415- 285 -1717 or visit sfmt.org

The show runs **90 min. – no intermission.**

PRESS PAGE: sfmt.org/press-bttwtw

PHOTOS: High-resolution photos for **BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE - A New Musical** can be accessed at sfmt.org/2022-bttwtw-photos

WEB PAGE: sfmt.org

AUDIO CLIPS: sfmt.org/2022-bttwtw-audio

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0:23 Would You Like Fries with THAT? – Andre Amarotico

TRAILER: sfmt.org/2022-bttwtw-audio

SFMT Promo: youtube.com/watch?v=FGXjsVWv1rM

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(Schedules can be accessed on the SFMT press page): sfmt.org/press-bttwtw

**CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING -by Date - SF MIME TROUPE SCHEDULE SUMMER 2022-
*BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE - A New Musical***

Opening Weekend (East Bay & San Francisco)

Cedar Rose Park

Sat., July 2 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)

Sun., July 3 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)

1300 Rose & Chestnut Sts., Berkeley 94702

Ticket Info: FREE

(\$20 suggested donation)

Dolores Park - Opening Day

Mon., July 4 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)

19th & Dolores Sts., San Francisco 94110

Ticket Info: FREE

(\$20 suggested donation)

Balboa Park

Sat., July 9 - 2:00 pm show (Music 1:30)

3200 Folsom St., San Francisco, 94110

Ticket Info: FREE

(\$20 suggested donation)

Precita Park

Sun., July 10 - 2:00 pm show (Music 1:30)

Havelock St. at San Jose Ave., San Francisco, 94112

Ticket Info: FREE

(\$20 suggested donation)

Yerba Buena Gardens

Sat., July 16 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)

745 Mission & 3rd Sts., San Francisco 94103

Ticket Info: FREE

(\$20 suggested donation)

Glen Park

Sun., July 17 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)

Chenery & Elk Sts., San Francisco 94131

Ticket Info: FREE

(\$20 suggested donation)

Mill Valley Community Center, on the Back Lawn

Wed., July 20 - 7:00 pm (Music 6:30)

180 Camino Alto (at East Blithedale), Mill Valley 94941

Ticket Info: FREE

(\$20 suggested donation)

Live Oak Theater - (Indoor show)

Fri., July 22 - 7:00 pm (Music 6:30)

1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 94709

Ticket Info: FREE / Must RSVP:

sfmtLiveOak.eventbrite.com

(\$20 suggested donation)

Live Oak Park

Sat., July 23 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)

Sun., July 24 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)

Shattuck Ave. & Berryman St., Berkeley 94709

Ticket Info: FREE

(\$20 suggested donation)

SF Mime Troupe Presents - *BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE: A New Musical* - Summer 2022

Mitchell Park Bowl

Sat., July 30 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)
600 East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto 94036

Ticket Info: FREE
(\$20 suggested donation)

Washington Square Park

Sun., July 31 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)
Filbert St & Stockton Sts., San Francisco, 94133

Ticket Info: FREE
(\$20 suggested donation)

Willard Park

Sat., August 6 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)
Sun., August 7 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)
Hillegass Ave. & Derby Sts., Berkeley 94705

Ticket Info: FREE
(\$20 suggested donation)

Davis HS, Richard Brunelle Performance Hall - (Indoor show)

Wed., August 10 - 7:00 pm (Music 6:30)
315 W 14th St., Davis 95616

Ticket Info: FREE / Must RSVP:
sfmtDavisHS.eventbrite.com
(\$20 suggested donation)

SF Mime Troupe - Back Lawn

Fri., August 12 - 7:00 pm (Music 6:30)
Sat., August 13 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30p)
Sun., August 14 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30p)
855 Treat Ave. (b/t 21 & 22 Sts.), San Francisco 94110

Ticket Info: **FREE / Must RSVP:**
sfmt855treatave.eventbrite.com
(\$20 suggested donation)

London Nelson Community Center - Outdoors

Sat., August. 20 - 3:00 pm show (Music 2:30)
301 Center St., Santa Cruz 95060

Ticket Info: FREE
(\$20 suggested donation)

Lakeside Park - (Lake Merritt) in front of the Edoff Memorial Bandstand

Wed., August 31 - 7:00 pm (Music 6:30)
Thurs., Sept 1 - 7:00 pm (Music 6:30)
Bellevue Ave. & Perkins Sts., Oakland 94610

Ticket Info: FREE
(\$20 suggested donation)

Peacock Meadow in Golden Gate Park

Sat., Sept. 3 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)
240 JFK Drive & Peacock Meadow, San Francisco 94117
(Btw'n Panhandle and Conservatory of Flowers)

Ticket Info: FREE
(\$20 suggested donation)

Dolores Park

Sun., Sept. 4 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)
Mon., Sept. 5 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30) (Labor Day)
19th & Dolores Sts., San Francisco 94110

Ticket Info: FREE
(\$20 suggested donation)

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SF Mime Troupe Presents - *BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE: A New Musical* - Summer 2022

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE by AREA: - SF MIME TROUPE SCHEDULE SUMMER 2022

BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE - *A New Musical*

SAN FRANCISCO:

Opening Day -

Mon, July 4 Dolores Park 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Additional SAN FRANCISCO:

Sat., July 9 Balboa Park 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., July 10 Precita Park 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sat., July 16 Yerba Buena Gardens 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., July 17 Glen Park 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., July 31 Washington Square Park 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Fri., Aug. 12 SF Mime Troupe (*Back Lawn*) 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show

Free – suggested donation \$20 RSVP at [sfmt855treatave.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sf-mime-troupe-back-lawn-tickets-50123456789)

Sat., Aug. 13 SF Mime Troupe (*Back Lawn*) 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Free – suggested donation \$20 RSVP at [sfmt855treatave.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sf-mime-troupe-back-lawn-tickets-50123456789)

Sun., Aug 14 SF Mime Troupe (*Back Lawn*) 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Free – suggested donation \$20 RSVP at [sfmt855treatave.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sf-mime-troupe-back-lawn-tickets-50123456789)

Sat., Sept. 3 Peacock Meadow, Golden Gate Park 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., Sept. 4 Dolores Park 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Mon., Sept. 5 Dolores Park (**Final Show**) 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

EAST BAY:

Sat., July 2 Cedar Rose Park, Berkeley 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., July 3 Cedar Rose Park, Berkeley 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Fri., July 22 Live Oak Theater, Berkeley - (Indoor Show) 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show

Free – suggested donation \$20 RSVP at [sfmtLiveOak.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sf-mime-troupe-live-oak-theater-tickets-50123456789)

Sat., July 23 Live Oak Park, Berkeley 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., July 24 Live Oak Park, Berkeley 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sat., Aug. 6 Willard Park, Berkeley 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., Aug. 7 Willard Park, Berkeley 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Wed., Aug. 31 Lakeside Park (Lake Merritt), Oakland 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show

Thurs., Sept. 1 Lakeside Park (Lake Merritt), Oakland 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show

NORTH:

MARIN:

Wed., July 20 Mill Valley Community Ctr., (*Back Lawn*) 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show

DAVIS:

Wed., Aug. 10 Davis HS, Richard Brunelle Performance Hall (Indoor Show) 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show

Free – suggested donation \$20 RSVP at [sfmtDavisHS.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sf-mime-troupe-davis-hs-tickets-50123456789)

