

The background of the poster is a close-up, slightly out-of-focus photograph of several bright pink balloons. The balloons are clustered together, with some in the foreground being sharper than others in the background. The lighting is soft, creating gentle highlights and shadows on the balloons' surfaces.

BABY SHOWER KATIE

**BY BETH HYLAND
DIRECTED BY AYSAN CELIK**

**THEODORE AND ADELE SHANK THEATRE
MAY 2-17**

UC San Diego
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES
THEATRE & DANCE

WRITTEN BY Beth Hyland
DIRECTED BY Aysan Celik

CAST

Rebecca	Bailey Lee
Hannah	Emjay Williams
The Katies	Sydney Prebe
Dr. Almond	Andrea Caban
U/S Rebecca	Holly Van Puyvelde
U/S Hannah	Sophia Dagestino
U/S The Katies	Katie Witteman
U/S Dr. Almond	Aysan Celik

STAGE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Production Stage Manager	Lily Fitzsimmons
Assistant Stage Manager	Madison Emi Novitski
Assistant Stage Manager	Robin Castillo
Production Assistant	Colby Ko
Production Assistant	McKenna Ruby
Stage Management Sub	Piper Lord

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Aysan Celik
Assistant Director	Aiden McCormick
Dramaturg	Emma Baker
Costume Designer	Maricela Alaniz
Assistant Costume Designer	Rochelle Hall
Assistant Costume Designer	Camila Ruiz
Lighting Designer	Taylor Olson
Sound Designer	Nataly Ceniceros
Assistant Sound Designer	Mackenzzy Tolliver
Scenic Designer	Ruolin Zhao
Faculty EDI Rep	Robert Brill
Light Board Op	Ethan Lau
Sound Board Op/A1	Ashleigh Kennealy
Sound A2	Abigail Sanchez
Scenic crew	Yoonjin Lim
Scenic crew	Marilia Alafouzou
Scenic crew	Diego Olivares

CONTENT WARNING

Baby Shower Katie contains depiction and discussion of pregnancy loss, infertility, addiction, strobe effect and disordered eating.

THE PLAYWRIGHT

Beth Hyland is a third-year MFA playwriting candidate. Her plays and musicals include *Sylvia* (Williamstown Theatre Festival, Geffen Playhouse), *Fires, Ohio* (Portland Center Stage, Goodman Theatre, The Story Theatre), *Cancelina* (Wagner New Play Festival, Baby Teeth), *Baby Shower Katie* (National Capital New Play Festival), *Seagulls* (The Sound at Steppenwolf LookOut, Octagon Bolton, Oak Park Festival Theatre), *grippy sock vacation* (Wagner New Play Festival) and *Clearing* (Commission Theatre, A Short Leap). She is the 2024 recipient of the L. Arnold Weissberger Prize and Jay Harris New Play Commission and a two-time recipient of the Kennedy Center's KCACTF Mark Twain Award for Comic Playwriting. She currently holds commissions from Manhattan Theatre Club/Sloan, Williamstown Theatre Festival, and Rivendell Theatre. She is a soon-to-be graduate of UC San Diego's MFA in Playwriting under the mentorship of Naomi Iizuka and Deborah Stein. Representation: Paradigm Talent Agency, Heroes and Villains Entertainment. bethhyland.com

THE DIRECTOR

Professor Aysan Celik (she/hers) has worked as an actor and theater-maker for over 25 years. She has originated roles in world premieres of plays, created cutting-edge experimental performances with her collaborators, researched and performed interview-based documentary theater, and inhabited a variety of classical and contemporary roles Off Broadway, at U.S. regional theaters, and on international tours. Aysan is an Associate Artist with the Obie Award-winning New York theater company The Civilians, and is a founding member of Theater Mitu, who was recently awarded a 2025 Obie Award for innovation in the field. Before joining the UC San Diego community, Aysan was a professor at New York University Abu Dhabi for 10 years, where she had the privilege of working with students from over 116 countries. She is a graduate of UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television and the American Repertory Theater Institute at Harvard University.

CAST

Andrea Caban (Dr. Almond) Professor Caban is new faculty in the Department of Theatre and Dance! She is an accent/dialect coach for film and theatre, and a public speaking coach. She collaborated with Francis Ford Coppola on his career opus film *Megalopolis*. Other recent coaching credits include *Appropriate* (Old Globe), *Three Summers of Lincoln* (La Jolla Playhouse), *The Truth About Jellyfish* (Berkeley Rep) and several seasons at the Tony Award-winning South Coast Repertory Theatre (*Absurd Person Singular*, *Chinglish*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Madwomen in a Volvo* & *Peter and the Starcatcher*). Co-Director and designated Master Teacher of Knight-Thompson Speechwork™; she is known internationally as a teacher of accent teachers. She has co-written two books on the subject: *Experiencing Speech: A Skills-based, Panlingual Approach to Actor Training* and *Experiencing Accents: A*

Knight-Thompson Speechwork Guide for Acting in Accent. Also an award-winning solo artist, Andrea has performed her original works in Colombia, the UK, South Africa, Costa Rica, Spain, and across the US at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, New York Theatre Workshop, PS 122 and the Greenhouse Theatre among others. Her award-winning research on adapting actor voice and accent training for the care of people living with ALS to prolong their ability to speak without assistive devices is ongoing. She served as Head of Voice and Speech at CSULB for 11 years earning the rank of Full Professor and the 2024 Distinguished Faculty Scholarly and Creative Achievement Award. MFA, UC Irvine. andracaban.com

Bailey Lee (Rebecca) is a second-year MFA acting student. UC San Diego Credits: The Rogues Trial (Clown), Vinegar Tom (Joan/Sprenger), No Singing in the Navy (Sailor 1, Heroine Crab), Comedy of Errors (Dromios), Orlando (Sasha). Selected credits: I Never Asked for a GoFundMe (La Jolla Playhouse Latinx New Play Festival), Papa (New Hazlett Theater), Romeo & Juliet, Pirates of Penzance (North Carolina Symphony), Lesson For The Future, Prairie (Lincoln Center Education), and Doing Well (24 Hour Plays: Viral Monologues). She received a BFA in Acting from The University of North Carolina School of the Arts (go pickles!). Lincoln Center Education Kenan Fellow. Much love to Coleman, Nino, & the many incredible kiddos in my life <3 (She/hers). Bailey-lee.com, @baileyllee

Sydney Prebe (The Katies) is a fourth-year theatre major who transferred from Fullerton College in Orange County, CA. This is her first production with the UC San Diego Theatre Department. Selected Credits: Something Rotten (Muir Musical), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Fullerton College), The Spitfire Grill (Fullerton College), Hairspray (Orange Lutheran High School). She will be graduating this spring with her BA in Theatre. Sydney is thrilled to be a part of this production and wants to thank Beth Hyland, Asyan Celik, and Lily Fitzsimmons for making this possible. She wants to thank the entire cast and crew for their hard work and dedication. Love you to the moon and to Saturn, Mama! (She/Hers) @SydneyPrebe

Emjay Williams (Hannah) is a fourth-year theatre major and a proud transfer student hailing from Santa Rosa Junior College in the North Bay Area. Her UC San Diego Theatre credits include: Ellen/Kramer in Vinegar Tom directed by MFA director Allie Moss; Sailor #1 Understudy in No Singing in the Navy directed by Aysan Celik and written by MFA Playwright Alumni Milo Cramer; Favilla/Chorus #11 in Orlando directed by MFA director Allie Moss. North Bay theatre credits include: Elizabeth Bennet in Kate Hamill's Pride & Prejudice directed by Laura Downing-Lee (6th Street Playhouse); Morse in One Flea Spare directed by David Lear (MainStage West); Karlie in Luna Gale directed by Jessica Litwak (Cinnabar Theatre) . This is her last performance at UC San Diego and she feels incredibly grateful and honored to have found her way to this campus. She'd like to thank her parents Lisa and Bryce, her best friend Elijah Pinkham, and her mentor Laura Downing-Lee for helping her along this wild journey of life. She would like to dedicate her performance to her very own Rebecca and best friend Kylen Angelica Reiman (February 18,1996-January 2, 2022). (She/hers) @em.jay.uu

Sophia Dagestino is a second-year theatre and studio art double major. She attended the Orange County School of the Arts and was a part of the Integrated Arts conservatory. UC San Diego credits: Feywild (Niamh), Comedy of Errors (Officer, Nell, Ensemble), I'm Really Glad I Got To Know You (Cricket), The Wolves (#8), The Mousetrap (Christopher). Other credits: Almost Maine (Sandrine, OCSA), The Taming of the Shrew (Kate/Petruchio), and As You Like It (Celia, OCSA). She is honored to be a part of such an amazing cast and she hopes you enjoy the show! (She/her) <https://sophiadagostino.carrd.co>

Holly Van Puyvelde (U/S Rebecca) is a first-year theater major. UC San Diego credits: Betty in Vinegar Tom, U/S Clown in The Rogues Trial, Harriet in Salt (Company 157), and U/S Mrs. Boyle in The Mousetrap (Company 157). She is very grateful for the opportunity to work on this amazing production and with the lovely cast and creative team.

Katie Witteman (U/S Katie) (She/her) is a fourth-year theatre major and writing minor. UC San Diego Credits: Cancelina (Hailey), Star Crossed Lovers (Desdemona, LABS '24), 45 Minutes of Chaos (Director, LABS '23), The Winter's Tale (Dorcas, First Lady, U/S Perdita), and Hope (Happiness, LABS '22). Katie recently performed as Juliet in Trinity Theatre Company's production of The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet. She is most proud of Can You See it Too? (UCSD LABS '24), which she directed, wrote, scenic designed, and stage managed. This is Katie's last production at UCSD, and she is so grateful that it is with such incredibly talented, kind, and inspiring artists! She would like to thank her family for their unwavering belief in her. And she especially thanks her own mom, Katherine, who has been her greatest teacher of love, joy, and strength.

STAGE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Lily Fitzsimmons (Production Stage Manager) is an MFA alumni originally from St. Louis, Missouri. UC San Diego Credits: Gone Missing (PSM), Cancelina (PSM), X (ASM), The Promise (ASM), I Found a Zipper (PSM), blu (ASM), Machinal (ASM). Other Credits: Primary Trust (La Jolla Playhouse), Seagull (Steppenwolf Theatre Company), King Lear (St. Louis Shakespeare Festival).

Madison Emi Novitski (Assistant Stage Manager) is a third year theatre major and communications minor from San Francisco. She is an undergraduate representative of the theatre department. She would like to thank all of her friends for all their support! UC San Diego Credits: Gone Missing (Assist. Stage Manager), LAB Series Fall 24: Hallow (Production Stage Manager), WNPF 24: Dead Girl's Quinceañera (Assist. Stage Manager), WNPF 23: I Found A Zipper (Assist. Stage Manager) Other selected SM credits: Memory (Company 157), Honor The Thief (Company 157), Ups and Downs (Company 157), Something Rotten! (Muir Musical).

Robin Castillo (Assistant Stage Manager) is a third-year transfer student majoring in Theatre. Coming from PCPA in Santa Maria, CA he is excited to be getting his undergraduate degree from UCSD.

Colby Koo (Production Assistant) is a fourth-year transfer theater major. Select UCSD credits: Gone Missing (Actor 8), Hedda Gabler (George Tesman U/S), Comedy Of Errors (Assistant Costume Designer). Select credits: Midsummer Night's Dream, From Stage To Screen (And Back Again), Porcelain and Pink, She Speaks: A Musical Revue, James and the Giant Peach, Into the Woods (Grossmont Community College), Little Women the Musical (Theatre for Young Professionals). @colbysinsecurities

McKenna Ruby (Production Assistant) is a third-year transfer student studying Theatre. She would like to thank everyone on this production for all their support on her first UC San Diego production! Other SM credits include: Footloose (Muir Musical) and Honor The Thief (Company 157).

Piper Lord (Stage Management Sub) is a second year theatre major graduating this upcoming Fall. UC San Diego Credits: Winter Works (Light Designer), New Directions (ASM), Dead Girl Quinceañera (Light Board Op.), The Half-Sibling Play (Light Board Op.), & It's Not Getting Better (Actor, Co.157), Feywild (PA, Co.157), and Fables Unfold (Actor, Fall Labs '23). She also serves as the Asst. Managing Director of Co157.

CREATIVE TEAM

Maricela Alaniz (Costume designer) is a first-year MFA costume design student with a strong background in film, having worked in the industry for the past three years. Currently, she serves as the costume designer for Baby Shower Katie and has previously contributed as an assistant costume designer for Hedda Gabler and Gone Missing. Maricela's diverse experience spans both theater and film, where she combines her passion for storytelling and design to create compelling, character-driven costumes.

Camila Ruiz (assistant costume designer) is a fourth-year student pursuing Theatre. This is her first time working on a UC San Diego production and would like to thank her partner, family and friends for all their support!

Nataly Cenicerros (Sound designer) is a first-year MFA student. UC San Diego credits: Vinegar Tom (ASD), The Rogues Trial (SD), and Refuse It: A Black Woman's Guide to 21st Century Rage (SD). She received her BA in Theatre, Film, and Digital Production from UC Riverside in 2024. Other design credits include: Three Sisters (UCR), The Fundamentals (UCI), and Airness (UCR). (she/her)

Taylor Olson (Lighting Designer): Taylor is a San Diego-based lighting designer and recent MFA graduate from the UC San Diego Theatre and Dance Program. She is the resident lighting designer for DISCO RIOT. Credits: Orlando (LD: Globe/USD), Rose Color Grievs (LD: Fresh Congress Dance), The Strings Between Us (LD: Lighthouse Circus Theatre), Velour: A Drag Spectacular (ALD / La Jolla Playhouse), Appropriate (ALD / The Old Globe. UCSD Credits: Vinegar Tom (LD), Cancelina/809 Almond (LD), Winterworks 2025 (LD: The Roots of Healing / Roots of Loving Us), Winterworks 2024 (LD: Open your Eyes). @taylorolsonlighting

Ruolin Zhao (Scenic designer) is a first-year MFA student. Design credits include Window, Peony Pavilion (National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts), Schrödinger's Legacy (Beijing Prism Theater Festival), 2025 Winter works (UC San Diego), Refuse it: A Black Woman's Guide to 21st Century Rage (UC San Diego), Baby shower Katie (UC San Diego). She received her BA in National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts in 2024.

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