

ISSUE NO. 5, SPRING 2022

INSIDER:

The Wallis Ambassadors Newsletter

Dear Wallis Ambassadors,

Welcome to the first *INSIDER* newsletter of the 2021/22 season!

We were delighted to see so many of you on campus in October when we honored Eunice David for her immeasurable contributions to the Wallis and enjoyed Richard Carpenter's first performance as a Steinway Artist. We are excited to have more opportunities for us to gather together in the coming year.

When theaters were closed due to the pandemic, The Wallis pivoted and continued to bring great performances to audiences, first virtually, then at a new outdoor theater on the Promenade Terrace, and finally back in the Bram Goldsmith Theater with fantastic shows like *Love Actually Live*. The season continues this spring with outstanding offerings in theater, music, and dance.

As we look forward, we want to acknowledge the passion, dedication, and enthusiasm of The Wallis Ambassadors in supporting performing arts and the greater community. Thank you for both your past and continued commitment to this wonderful organization, and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

Sincerely,



Les
Les Bider CO-CHAIR



Marc
Marc Zachary CO-CHAIR



A GREETING FROM

RACHEL FINE

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
& CEO

I've never been more keenly aware of the transformative power of the performing arts than I have since The Wallis reopened to live audiences last June. Being part of an engaged audience again – experiencing a deep sense of community surrounding a shared artistic experience – reminds me how vital our mission and work are, and how much I've missed seeing and greeting all of you at The Wallis.

The Wallis Ambassadors have indeed been a source of immeasurable support and inspiration to this organization since the group's founding only 19 months before the pandemic. Thank you for continuing to be The Wallis' greatest advocates. I have enjoyed seeing many of you again, and I hope to see many more of you in person in the coming months as all of our spaces reopen to the public.

The programming The Wallis is sharing with audiences this season brings me immense pride. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to see **Complexions Contemporary Ballet** bring its gifted dancers and groundbreaking choreography to Beverly Hills for the first time. Earlier this season, we welcomed **Rachel Worby and MUSE/IQUE, Diavolo**, and **24th Street Theatre** for their Wallis debuts.

As a concert pianist myself, I was especially delighted to see formidable **Timo Andres** make his Los Angeles Recital debut at The Wallis in a program that featured one of his own works as well as new pieces by Sarah Goldfeather and Eric Shanfield paired with *Waldszenen* of Robert Schumann. Timo is an innovative composer and a remarkable pianist (with an enviable fashion sense to boot). I'm also excited to see acclaimed violinist **Johnny Gandelsman** visit The Wallis to present a collection of original compositions, including the world premiere of Aeryn Santillan's "withdraw," commissioned by The Wallis.

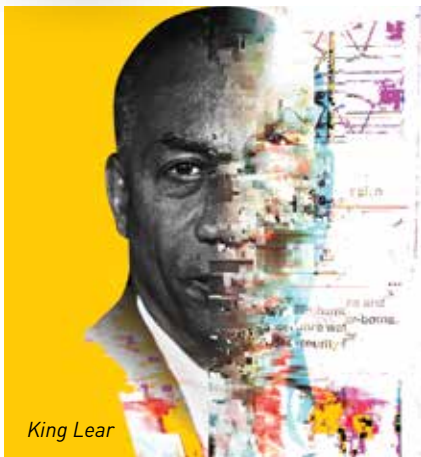
I'm so proud of the way The Wallis has met the challenges of the last two years head on — and continues to do so. In May, The Wallis is producing a truly ambitious piece of theatrical work in-house, with a bleeding edge take on one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies: **King Lear**. Led by director **John Gould Rubin** and starring the spectacular **Joe Morton**, who you'll inevitably remember from his stunning performance in 2017's *Turn Me Loose*, I could not be more looking forward to this deeply timely — and timeless — production. Shakespeare completed *Lear*, a story of ignorance, deceit, and the struggle for power, on the heels of the London Plague Outbreak of 1606. There couldn't be a clearer demonstration of the absolute universality of live theater.

The support and the extraordinary commitment of The Wallis Ambassadors are vital to all we do at The Wallis. With your support, I know that 2022 will bring many opportunities to celebrate the arts and our wonderful community. We cannot wait to embrace the coming year with you at our side.

Rachel Fine
Executive Director & CEO



Timo Andres



King Lear



A TRIBUTE TO EUNICE DAVID

The Wallis Ambassadors wish to recognize and thank celebrated arts philanthropist EUNICE DAVID for her tremendously successful tenure of more than three years as Co-Chair of The Wallis Ambassadors. We are delighted that Eunice will continue on as an active member of The Ambassadors, the group she helped form.

Instrumental to both developing the Wallis Ambassadors initiative and keeping the program thriving, Eunice resigned from the Board of Directors upon the formation of the Ambassadors in 2018, citing a desire to continue to meaningfully support The Wallis and its community mission. The move proved fruitful: Eunice, working alongside

co-chair Les Bider, was an ideal fit for leadership for the group. Which comprises community leaders and arts supporters who act as institutional advocates for The Wallis.

This passion for the arts and our local community, dually shared by Eunice and her late husband, award-winning lyricist Hal David, was firmly backed up by skills and talents perfected by years of community organizing, philanthropic work, and the development of special projects and events for Los Angeles area institutions. One such effort, The Blue Ribbon Evening at the Mark Taper Forum which celebrated Mr. David's 90th birthday and benefitted the Los Angeles Music Center, was so well received that Eunice spearheaded an effort to replicate the event on a smaller scale for the Wallis Ambassadors. On December 19, 2020, Eunice took to the stage in a sold-out performance

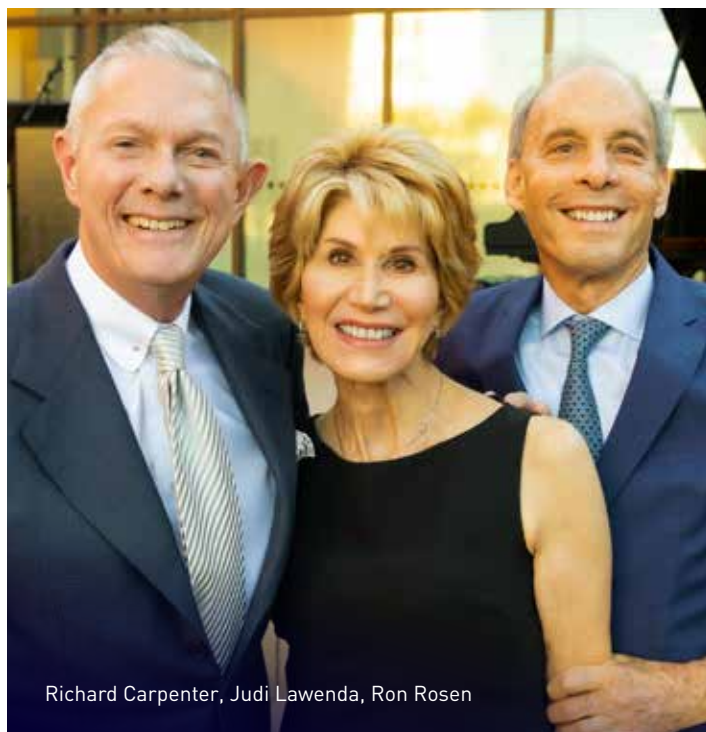
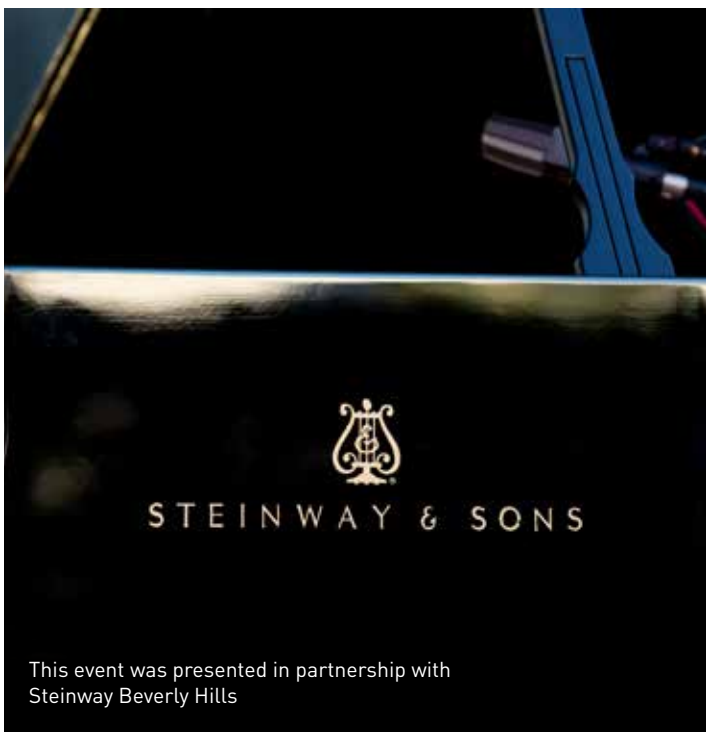
of Magic Moments: An Evening Remembering Hal David, which gave Wallis audiences and friends a stunningly sincere view of the big-hearted man behind the iconic tunes. Accompanied by musical performances by acclaimed artists Monica Mancini, Freda Payne & B.J. Thomas with Billy Davis, Jr. & Marilyn McCoo, the evening was a credit to Mr. David's prodigious body of work—and to the efficiency, thoroughness, grace, and skill of Eunice as a creator in her own right.

We are so very grateful to Eunice David, a woman who evokes golden era Beverly Hills glamour and has reinforced it with a sharp mind and a steel spine, for her tireless efforts on behalf of The Wallis. Thank you, Eunice, for your many contributions to The Wallis, and best wishes to you for all the years to come.



A MUSICAL AFTERNOON WITH RICHARD CARPENTER

On October 27, 2021, Wallis Ambassadors gathered together in person for the first time in nearly two years in the Wells Family Education Courtyard to enjoy a conversation between music legend **Richard Carpenter** and his co-biographer, **Mike Lennox**. The event celebrated Mr. Carpenter's induction as a Steinway Artist. The Ambassadors thanked **Eunice David** for her immeasurable service to The Wallis and welcomed **Marc Zachary** as new Ambassadors Co-Chair, alongside **Les Bider**.



Richard Carpenter, Judi Lawenda, Ron Rosen



Richard Carpenter with Mike Lennox, author of *Carpenters: The Musical Legacy*



Marc and Joan Selwyn



Leon and Stephanie Vahn



Guests in the Wells Family Education Courtyard



Buddy Pepp, Arline Pepp, Richard Carpenter



Rachel Fine,
Executive Director & CEO of The Wallis



Guests received mugs featuring
the Carpenters' logo



Sidney Kibrick, Eunice David, Richard Carpenter



Steinway Executives Senior Sales Representative David Ida, Manager Ben Salisbury, General Manager Heidi Chamberlain,
and Sales Representative Angel Therrien formally recognize Richard Carpenter as a Steinway Artist



MUSIC THEATER DANCE CINEMA

COMING SOON @ THE WALLIS

MAY 10 - JUNE 5

THE WALLIS PRODUCTION OF

Joe Morton AS
King Lear

MAY 19

Johnny Gandelsman
This is America

JUNE 22

Inna Faliks, piano

JUNE 25

Shelée

*Pretty World: Through
the Eyes of Alan and
Marilyn Bergman*

JULY 5 -24

Hershey Felder AS
Monsieur Chopin

Wallis Annenberg
Center for the
Performing Arts

TheWallis.org

For The Wallis' Current Health & Safety Protocols
Visit TheWallis.org/Safety

Al Fresco NIGHT



On Friday, September 24, 2021, many of you, our dearly beloved friends and supporters, joined us in celebration for a thrilling and dynamic evening under the stars.



From the moment you stepped onto the motorcourt in your most excellent garb

From left: Event Co-Chair Stephanie Vahn, Heidi Chamberlain (Steinway Beverly Hills), Gisele Sheehan (Harry Winston), Event Co-Chair Daphna Nazarian



Timeless architecture of the old Beverly Hills Post Office welcomed you back with open arms



You felt the thrum of bass under your feet courtesy of Beverly Hills' own DJ Paris Hilton



and witnessed Connie Han's striking mastery of the piano keys

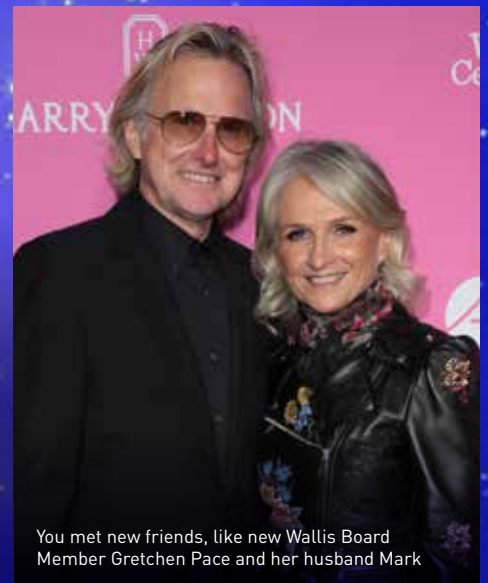


Shoshana Bean offered you a serenade as sweet as your Harry Winston Chocolates





You joined The Wallis in honoring the City of Beverly Hills for its extraordinary partnership and commitment. You applauded as Council Member Lester Friedman, previous Mayor Robert Wunderlich, Mayor Lili Bosse, Council Member John Mirisch, and Vice Mayor Dr. Julian Gold accepted beautiful commemorative awards, provided by Premier Sponsor Harry Winston



You met new friends, like new Wallis Board Member Gretchen Pace and her husband Mark



You had a memorable evening with the ones you love best
Halle and Oliver Hammond

You enjoyed Sheléa's rich vocal mastery and vibrant charisma. One thing is certain:
it was a truly unforgettable evening under the stars



You cut the rug with some very familiar faces
Paris Hilton and Wallis Annenberg





Q&A WITH MARK SLAVKIN

Wallis Director of Education Mark Slavkin retired in March 2022 after seven years leading GRoW @ The Wallis and spearheading programs such as The Wallis School Partners Program, as well as The Wallis' partnership with The Miracle Project to provide theater programs for youth and adults with autism and all abilities. He is recognized for his decades-long service as a champion for arts education and an advocate for children and families statewide.

What power can a good arts education bring to a student?

The arts are central to the human experience. They allow us to express and to consider what letters and numbers alone cannot. Arts education helps young people gain the skills to make meaning from music, art, dance, or theater. When we fail to provide a well-rounded education that includes the arts, we are cutting off our students from an enormous part of our human civilization. When done well, the arts help unlock special superpowers, like joy, empathy, and creativity.

What opportunities to expand arts education with GRoW @ The Wallis could you not find anywhere else?

When I arrived at The Wallis in 2015 I had a special opportunity to help define the range of programs we would provide. I had two main criteria. First, what does Los Angeles need that does not already exist? Second, what does The Wallis have that could add unique value? Some of the things that emerged included in-depth study of choreography for young dancers; support for the writers and composers of original musicals; opportunities for classical and jazz musicians to learn together; and an in-house ensemble for early career

actors. In addition to our wonderful Education Wing built to support such programs, The Wallis' great asset has been the amazing range of artists in all arts disciplines who are in our building and on our stages.

What do you think your greatest accomplishment with GRoW @ The Wallis was?

I helped bring to life the vision of our founders that this organization would provide exceptional education programs. I am proud we have created so many opportunities for people that are too often not included, such as young people with autism or older adults. The Wallis is a special place located in a city known around the

world. It is important we share this remarkable platform with everyone in the larger community. All that I helped achieve was made possible by the fantastic staff at The Wallis. The talents and passion of these colleagues will continue to make a difference long after I am gone.

How do you plan to spend your retirement?

My main focus will be my family – my parents, my wife, our kids, and our grandson, Noah. Beyond that I want to remain an advocate and an ally for the many people and organizations doing great work in the arts and arts education. Attending shows at The Wallis will be high on my list!





IN MEMORIAM

PAUL SELWYN

It is with a deep well of gratitude that we at The Wallis remember the life of esteemed philanthropist, husband, father, community leader, and Founding President of the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, **Paul Selwyn**

A stalwart figure in the Beverly Hills community for more than eight decades, Paul emigrated from Antwerp, Belgium in 1938, just before the onset of the second World War. He often recalled with fondness one of his earliest childhood memories: the vision of the Statue of Liberty, larger than life, from his position aboard the S.S. Normandy. This set the tone for an incredibly vibrant, community focused, and interesting life.

A remarkably physical young man, Paul played on the Beverly Hills High School tennis team and attended UCLA, where he was a member of the tennis and cricket teams and joined the ROTC program. After graduating, he was commissioned as an Ensign in the US Navy, and served in the Philippines. Paul subsequently took a job with the *Herald International* in Hong Kong before returning to

Beverly Hills in 1958, where he became Vice President of Pauling and Company and serendipitously met his wife to be, Joan Selwyn née Gordon, in 1959. The two shared a love for philanthropy which suffused their relationship, and was reflected in the values with which they raised their son, Marc. In 1968, Paul became the company's owner. He retired in 1990, but did not slow down — merely redirected his energies to other areas of his community.

Selwyn was a Founding Board Member of the Los Angeles Children's Museum, where he served as President and Chairman. He served on the Beverly Hills Architectural Commission from 1980 to 1986, and was appointed to the Beverly Hills Planning Commission, on which he served from 1986 to 1994, chairing both commissions twice during his terms. In 1996, Selwyn launched and became President of the Beverly Hills Cultural Center Foundation, which later became the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. He served on The Wallis' Board of Directors until 2014 and holds the title of Founding President. He was a member of the Beverly Hills Tennis Club for 30 years, serving as President from 1992 to 1993 and, in 2012, founded "F3," the First Friday Forum lunch group for the business and professional communities. He also served as President of the Santa Barbara Children's Museum from 2000-2009 and was a Trustee of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art from 2003 to

2006. In December of 2020, The Wallis was delighted to honor Mr. Selwyn at our DreamBuilders virtual benefit.

Paul passed away in his Beverly Hills home on Thursday, February 17, 2022. We send love and strength to his wife, Joan, and to his son, Marc, and daughter Laura — both Joan and Marc are Wallis Ambassadors and along with Laura, long-time supporters who share Paul's love for The Wallis, Beverly Hills, and the arts. Paul, much like Joan and Marc, was a frequent visitor to The Wallis even outside his regular attendance at shows and other events — we consider the entire Selwyn family to be dear friends and it is with heavy hearts that we announce Paul's passing.

Paul Selwyn will be remembered fondly by all of us — not only as a truly kind man who always had a smile for staff, artists, and patrons alike, or as a man who was deeply invested in the success of The Wallis, but as a pillar of our community and a loyal friend to many. Paul is a figure whom we have always looked to emulate in his grace and dedication.

We will always cherish our time with Paul. He left an indelible mark on our organization, and he will be truly and deeply missed.

Rachel Fine
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts



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