



Kentwood Players

PRESENT..

History

Because seven members of the Kentwood P. T. A. so thoroughly enjoyed presenting a play before that club, the Kentwood Players slowly, but surely emerged! That was in December, 1949, when those seven people presented "The Second Marriage of Santa Claus," directed by Mrs. Doris Brokaw. Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Marcom, Ernie Lindros, Bill Baker, Lee Braude, Betty Williams and Verna Greene were the players.

The efforts were rewarded when they and a group of other interested persons met in February, 1950, and discussed plays. It was decided to produce "You Can't Take It With You," an ambitious undertaking for so young a group. When it was staged in April, its good success brought on renewed efforts of the group and in April, the Kentwood Players was officially in business. Officers were elected, committees appointed, and new plays discussed.

In November, 1950, "Laura," ably directed by Mrs. Brokaw, was produced and staged at the Kentwood School Auditorium. This was followed by "For Love Or Money," directed by Betty Williams and Robert Blunt in March, 1951.

Tonight's production, the fourth for this group, marks another milestone in the success of Kentwood Players.



"Fresh Fields"

by
Ivor Novello
with

Lady Mary Crabbe.....	Betty Williams
Lady Lillian Bedworthy.....	Edna Mishkin
Mrs. Pidgeon.....	Janet Marcom
Mr. Tom Larcomb.....	Frank Kirchberg
Una Pidgeon.....	Beverly Heap
Tim Crabbe.....	Bob Blunt
Miss Swain, a secretary.....	Gail Lawson
Ludlow, a butler.....	Bill Pereira
Lady Strome.....	Blanche Turner

Directed by ROBERT BLUNT
Associates: Elizabeth Thornburgh
Vincent Sonsini

Courtesy of Samuel French



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TIME

Spring 1935

SCENE

A drawing room in the home of Lady Mary Crabbe
in London.

ACT I April

ACT II Scene 1. Early May
Scene 2. Three weeks later

ACT III Late in June

There will be ten minutes between acts.

★ ★ ★

BETTY WILLIAMS graduated from North Western University School of Speech in 1944; receiving her Master of Arts degree in 1946. While in school she appeared in Noel Coward's "Blythe Spirit"; "Way Of The World", for which she won an acting award; "Begggar On Horseback"; and "Pygmalion". She was active in little theatre work at Winnetka, Illinois, one of her major performances being in "Candida". She graduated to professional circuits in Drama-dance recitals, touring the Chicago area during 1946. Betty helped to found the Kentwood Players, and has been active in directing, acting and producing. Also, a member of the Del Ray Players of Loyola University, where she appeared last year in Molliere's "The Doctor In Spite of Himself".

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JANET MARCOM, one of the founders of the Kentwood Players, received the majority of her experience in Kentucky, and Chicago, Illinois. As children, Janet and twin sister made many radio broadcasts in the dramatic line. In later years, Janet was active in little theatre groups in and around Chicago. She portrayed the role of Mrs. Kirby in the Kentwood Players first play, "You Can't Take It With You", and has had roles in other skits presented for the club and public entertainment.

EDNA MISHKIN began her theatrical associations while in High School doing radio dramatics at Utica, New York. She attended the Leland Powers School of Theatre and Radio, Boston, two years. In 1944, she traveled with the road company of Wallflower out of New York and points West. During 1945, Edna worked stock around New York and Teaneck, New Jersey, appearing in "Claudia", "Ladies In Retirement", and "Cradle Song".

COMPLIMENTS OF A FRIEND

FRANK KIRCHBERG acquired his enthusiasm for show business at a very early age, but it wasn't until he reached High School that he considered the work seriously. While in High School, Frank appeared in "The Nut Farm", which was presented in the French language. He was affiliated with the Loyola Community Theatre in Chicago two years; North Shore Players of Crystal Lake; Community Theatre of Cincinnati two years; and the Civic Theatre of Indianapolis where he directed as well as acted. Some of the major productions in which he appeared were, "Old Maid"; "Big Hearted Herbert"; "Father Is All"; and "Doll's House". Dancing and singing were his specialty at the Auditorium and Civic Theatres in Chicago. During his years in service, Frank spent several happy hours emceeing the Navy shows; particularly the Christmas show at Kaneohe, Hawaiian Islands, in 1944.

ROBERT BLUNT, director, has been associated with theatrical activities since 1938. He worked summer stock in the East during 1940; two of his major performances were in "Royal Family", and "Absence Makes The Heart". Since coming to California, Bob has had motion picture roles in "Francis" and "Twelve o'Clock High", and has appeared on Fireside Theatre (TV), Bing Crosby Enterprises. Indicative of his varied talents, he did several radio plays while in Rochester, New York.

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GAIL LAWSON, for the past year, Secretary of the Kentwood Players, began her drama work when in High School at Topeka, Kansas. She had lead roles in various plays while in school, and was also active in little theatre groups of Topeka. Upon coming to Los Angeles she attended the Master Theatre Radio School. Several plays, in which she took part, were broadcast from radio stations in Long Beach. Gail was also active in the Westchester Woman's Club Drama section in 1948 and 1949. She worked on the production staff of "You Can't Take It With You", produced last year by the Players.

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WILBER E. "BILL" PEREIRA came to the Kentwood Players without previous theatrical experience. Bill is of the opinion that every community needs "little theatre" and feels that the Kentwood Players can fulfill that aim; he is an enthusiastic solicitor for new members. Previous roles with the Players were Grandpa Vanderhoff in "You Can't Take It With You"; Preston Mitchell in "For Love Or Money". He was on loan to the Westchester Woman's Club as Lucas Luxow in "Pulling The Curtain". Aside from his acting ability, Bill is greatly responsible for lighting design, and construction of the set used for "Laura". As president of the Players, Bill has had an active year.

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BLANCHE TURNER who is well remembered for her role of mother in "You Can't Take It With You", began her drama work in Los Angeles at the age of thirteen. She was a member of such groups as Berkley Hall School, Artist Student Club, which was affiliated with Los Angeles Opera and Fine Arts Club, Glendale Community Players, and worked with Manual Arts Players. She entertained professionally in Cafe Society in Los Angeles and Long Beach. In Westchester, she appeared in some of the first plays produced by the Drama section of the Woman's Club. Since then she has directed several others and was active on the production staff of "Laura" presented by the Kentwood Players last fall.

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BEVERLY HEAP a music enthusiast, comes from Syracuse, New York. During her High School years she did various radio commercials, and was a vocalist for local dance bands in New York. Her interests of fine arts also leaned toward acting, and she joined Bullock's Little Theatre Group upon moving to California. Beverly has been active in local musical groups and the Westchester Woman's Club Drama section.

ELIZABETH THORNBURGH, assistant director of "Fresh Fields", came to the Kentwood Players after completion of a course in Acting and Directing at Loyola University. She portrayed "Peggy" in a scene from "The Women", presented for group instruction and entertainment, and also for the community "Hippodrome" recently. Her first major role for the Kentwood Players was Janet Blake in "For Love Or Money".

VINCENT SONSINI was affiliated with the St. John Minstrels of New York from 1930 through 1940, doing solo work in numerous musicals. During the years of 1930 through 1945, he was with the Agatha Players of New York; three of his outstanding portrayals were in "The Trial of Mary Dugan", "Death Takes A Holiday" and "Broadway". A trooper all the way, Vince was a Night Club entertainer for about five years, as a vocalist and impersonator. He also worked with his brother on radio stations WGY and WIBX in New York, several years.