

*Kentwood Players*

*Presents*

**THE MUSICAL COMEDY  
MURDERS OF 1940**

**March 8 - April 13, 1991**

*Westchester Playhouse*

8301 Hindry Avenue, Westchester, CA 90045

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Managers ..... Linda Reusch, Janet Boehm  
Script Supervisor ..... Charlotte Lee Gunter  
Set Design ..... Arky Marcom, Charles Reynolds  
Light Design ..... Tom Brophrey  
Sound Design ..... Bob Schnauss, Phil Kempin  
Recordist ..... Jamie Hayes  
Set Docirator Consultant ..... Dee Cotter  
Costumes ..... Bonnie Joseph  
Dialect Coach ..... Fred Baum  
Construction Foreman ..... Arky Marcom  
Master Builders ..... Arky Marcom, Bill Harred, Charles Reynolds,  
Frank Olivadoti, Paul Mazerov  
Scenic Artist ..... Michael Cohen  
Special Effects ..... Arky Marcom  
Properties Procurer ..... Harriett Price  
Light/Sound Technicians ..... Catherine Karklyn, Sue Carpenter, Jerry Glotzer,  
Alan Crawford  
Stage Crew ..... Andrea King, Gretchen Luna, Fred Baum,  
Janet Boehm, Tiahua Harnes  
Publicity Pictures ..... Hal Fisher  
Hospitality ..... Margie Bates  
Lobby Portraits ..... Monty Ash  
Programs ..... Victoria Miller

## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## STRIKE CREW & SET CONSTRUCTION

### WORK SUNDAY

Jon Abramson, Pamla Abramson, Jenny Ash, Tim Boeck, Barbara Brophrey, Robert Cornell, Harvey Erlich, Bill Harred, Starra Hauser, Jim Lunsford, Phil Massi, Lee Olsen, Sally Pierce, Mike Pleshe, Bob Price, Harvey Rosenberg, Mary Ann Schwartz, John Vincent, David Whale and the Cast and Crew of The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940.

## THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940

by John Bishop

Produced by special arrangement with  
Dramatist's Play Service, Inc.

Directed by: Lewis Hauser  
Produced by: Marlene Bega and Leonard Burman

## CAST

(in order of appearance)

Helsa Wenzel ..... Bettina Spier  
Elsa Von Grossenknoten ..... Esther Richman-Levy  
Michael Kelly ..... Eddie J. Slack, Jr.  
Patrick O'Reilly ..... Ron Wesley  
Ken De La Maize ..... John Vincent  
Nikki Crandall ..... Catherine Best  
Eddie McCuen ..... Robert Cornell  
Marjorie Baverstock ..... Kate McIntyre  
Roger Hopewell ..... Philip J. Massi  
Bernice Roth ..... Michelle Rosen

## SONGS

"White House Merry-Go-Round"  
"Everyone Can Do it Better"

Music ..... Ted Simons  
Lyrics ..... John Bishop  
Musical Director and Piano Soloist ..... Linda Abbott  
Choreographer ..... Victoria Miller  
Radio Soloist ..... Jack Weintraub  
Radio Announcer ..... Phil Kempin

## A Play in Two Acts

The action of the play takes place in a mansion in Chappaqua,  
New York. The time is December, 1940. The setting is the  
library of the mansion. It is midnight... naturally.

## There will be a 15 Minute Intermission Between Acts I and II

(Please join us in the lobby for coffee, courtesy of Kentwood  
Players)

The taking of pictures and the use of recording devices in this  
theatre are strictly forbidden unless authorized.

PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR THEATRE BEAUTIFUL  
There is no smoking, drinking or eating in this auditorium.

## **ABOUT THE DIRECTOR - LEWIS HAUSER**

Lew has directed and acted in numerous plays around the L.A. area. As Director-in-residence for the Queen Mary Dinner Playhouse, he directed the hit revival of Murray Schisgal's "Luv" starring Huntz Hall and Gabe Dell. Lew was last seen on the Kentwood stage in the role of Allan Felix in Woody Allen's PLAY IT AGAIN SAM, for which he won the Best Actor Award.

## **ABOUT THE CO-PRODUCER - MARLENE BEGA**

Marlene is a life member of KP (25 yrs). This is the third production she has produced and has won a Marcom Masque Award as best co-producer (along with Michelle Rosen) for ANYTHING GOES. Marlene has appeared in such productions as CABARET, OKLAHOMA, STOP THE WORLD..., MAN OF LA MANCHA, BAREFOOT IN THE PARK, YOU KNOW I CAN'T HEAR YOU... and was last seen on the KP stage in SECOND TIME AROUND, just to name a few. She has also worked backstage and lights.

## **ABOUT THE CO-PRODUCER - LEONARD BURMAN**

Lennie just joined KP three months ago and is already getting his feet wet as a co-producer. This is his first experience in theatre and he is "hooked". Kentwood Players gives a warm welcome to Lennie.

## **ABOUT THE CAST (in alphabetical order)**

### **CATHERINE BEST - Nikki Crandall**

Catherine is new to the Kentwood Players, but Lew Hauser is no stranger, as he directed her in the Theatre Palisades production of "The Boyfriend". Miss Best was most recently seen as Kate in "Love, Sex and the I.R.S." at the La Mirada Civic Theatre. A graduate of both the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and St. Mary's at Notre Dame, her credits range from Musical Comedy, to film, to Shakespeare. She is happy to be doing her "Best" tonight.

### **ROBERT CORNELL - Eddie McCuen**

Robert is making his first appearance at the Westchester Playhouse with this production. Recently he played at Theatre Palisades in a production of "The Philadelphia Story", and before that portrayed the title character in "The Foreigner", a role which also earned him a Critic's Award from The Outlook. With some small credits in TV and film, Robert has also played in "The Dining Room", "Urban Angst", and "The Mousetrap".

### **KATE McINTYRE - Marjorie Baverstock**

Kate has been steadily employed as an actor, director, producer, musical director and teacher for over 18 years. Actingwise, her favorite roles are Adelaide in "Guys and Dolls", Ella Peterson in "Bells are Ringing" and Evie, Anya, Ilse and Ginnie in "Stop the World I Want to Get Off". Some may remember her as the bawdy Mrs. Dilber in the Morgan-Wixon Theatre's recent production of "A Winter's Tale". Directorial credits include "Fiddler on the Roof" and "The Sea Horse". She is looking for an agent, because she would love to make her living as a character actress. She is single and lives in North Hollywood with her two cats, Clio and Scarlett. Her hobbies are reading and chocolate. This performance is lovingly dedicated to Anne Marshall.

### **PHILIP J. MASSI - Roger Hopewell**

A native New Yorker and veteran of numerous summer, dinner, and community theatre projects, Phil was last year's recipient of the Marcom Masque Award for Best Actor in a leading role for his work in KP's SOCIAL SECURITY. Other

appearances include leading roles in KP's TWICE AROUND THE PARK and SHE LOVES ME. Most recently, Philip was seen as "The Boyfriend's" lecherous, jolly Lord Brockhurst at Theatre Palisades. While he's most fulfilled onstage, Phil has been known to run spotlight or assist with sound and is presently on KP's Plays Reading Committee. Phil, however, is looking most forward to his upcoming role as "real-life" grandfather.

## **ESTHER RICHMAN-LEVY - Elsa Von Grossenkneten**

Esther has been an "ACTRESS" since birth in Brooklyn, growing up in Venice, CA. Some of her favorite roles include Caitlin Thomas in "Dylan", Lillian Hellman in "Julia", Mrs. Robinson in "The Graduate", Rose in "Bleacher Bums". Esther is delighted to be in this play and to be directed by Lewis Hauser, and be a part of the KENTWOOD PLAYERS.

## **MICHELLE ROSEN - Bernice Roth**

Michelle is a Past President of Kentwood Players and is currently on the Board of Directors as Membership Chairperson. Her most recent award winning performance was in PIPPIN. She has been in many other shows including MAJORITY OF ONE, PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE, THE SUPPORTING CAST, TWICE AROUND THE PARK, THE SECOND TIME AROUND, BROADWAY BOUND and THE ODD COUPLE (female version).

## **EDDIE J. SLACK, JR. - Michael Kelly**

A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, Eddie's theatrical performances include: "The Owl Killer", for which he received the Most Outstanding Actor Award, "Born in the RSA", "The Merchant of Venice", "Summer and Smoke", "Wild Oats" and "Waiting for Lefty". His film credits include: "Blaze" and "New Orleans Air". This performance is dedicated to the Slack, Cummings and Fleming Families.

## **BETTINA SPIER - Helza Wenzel**

Bettina is an actress/singer from Berlin, Germany. She has been a successful working actress in Europe for eight years. Her credits include a leading role in a major TV series for two years and various appearances on stage i.e. "La Cage Aux Folles". Recently she has appeared with her "Act" at the Rose Tattoo in West Hollywood. For two years she sang with an a capella quintet, traveling all over Europe. Bettina has lived in the U.S.A. for four years (two years in N.Y.C. and two years in L.A.) This is her first appearance in a theatre production in L.A. Don't be fooled by her heavy accent; she barely has an accent in real life.

## **JOHN VINCENT - Ken De La Maize**

John started his career in San Francisco. After touring Dinner Theatres for five years, he settled in Southern California and has appeared in many theatres from Los Angeles to San Diego. Some of his credits are: "Supporting Cast", "Hello Dolly", "Norman, is That You?", "Gypsy", "The Devil's Advocate", "Last of the Red Hot Lovers", "The Gingerbread Lady" and "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum".

## **RON WESLEY - Patrick O'Reilly**

Mr. Wesley has appeared in professional and semi-professional shows for the past twenty years. Among his favorite roles have been Hamlet in "Hamlet" with the Centre Shakespeare Group, MacBeth in "MacBeth" for the Los Angeles Shakespeare Group, Dr. Frank'n'Furter for the 7-11 Unlimited Theatre Company. Ron also has extensive experience in stage fight choreography using a variety of objects — from hands to battle axes (and beyond!) Notwithstanding all of the above, this is Ron's introduction to community theatre.