

FootLights

ILLUMINATING THE THEATRE COMMUNITY

Kentwood Players presents



music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

book by Hugh Wheeler

suggested by a film by Ingmar Bergman

originally produced and directed on Broadway by Harold Prince

directed by Sheridan Cole Crawford

November 6 – December 12, 2009

Westchester Playhouse, 8301 Hindry Avenue, Westchester, California

Reservations: (310) 645-5156

Notes from the Director

Composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim, who will turn 80 next March, has changed the face of American musicals over the past half century. His early successes as lyricist on "West Side Story" and "Gypsy" earned him the respect of colleagues and musical fans. The hilarious *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (1962) was the first Broadway show where he was both composer and lyricist.

In the 1970's such ground-breaking musicals like *Company* (1971) and *Follies* (1971) won him Tony awards and have been frequently performed and revived through the years. *A Little Night Music*, one of his most commercial and popular shows, opened on Broadway in 1973 and its second-act number "Send in the Clowns" has become a standard. Other well-known Sondheim musicals include *Pacific Overtures*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Into the Woods*, and *Assassins*" His most recent musical, *Bounce*, debuted in 2003.

Sondheim has always loved puzzles and word games and has, in fact, contributed several word puzzles to New York magazine. This love of words, of course, permeates the scintillating lyrics of his shows. Critics have related his love of puzzles and word games to the dazzling word play of his lyrics. The *Academy of Achievement* has this to say: "His words, unequalled in their wit and virtuosity, have recorded a lifetime of profound, unblinking insight into the joys and sorrows of life and love." Sondheim himself says, "I firmly believe that lyrics have to breathe and give the audience's ear a chance to understand what's going on...."

Sondheim shows that Kentwood Players has produced through the years: *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* in 1967 and 1998, *Company* in 1978 and 2005, *Follies* in 1980 and 2007, *Gypsy* in 1982 and 2008, and *West Side Story* in 2001.



A Little Night Music

Music and Lyrics by **Stephen Sondheim**

Book by **Hugh Wheeler**

suggested by a film by **Ingmar Bergman**

originally produced and directed on Broadway by **Harold Prince**

Director

Sheridan Cole Crawford

Musical Director

Bill Wolfe

Choreographer

Alison Mattiza

Producer

Jordan Bland

Set Design

Jim Crawford

Light Design

Richard Potthoff

Costume Design

Maria Cohen

Sound Design

Russell Ham

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Mr. Lindquist	Harold Dersheimer
Mrs. Nordstrom.....	Shirley Hatton
Mrs. Anderssen	Jacqueline Crist-Franzen
Mr. Erlanson	Jerry Cordova
Mrs. Segstrom.....	Robyn Rothstein
Frederika Armfeldt.....	Hannah Provisor
Madame Armfeldt	Silver Shreck
Frid, her butler	Adam Dunberger
Henrik Egerman	Jeremy Speed Schwartz
Anne Egerman	Kristin Towers-Rowles
Fredrik Egerman	Kevin Michaels
Petra	Sarah Maher
Desirée Armfeldt.....	Susie McCarthy
Malla, her maid	Karintha Touton
Count Carl-Magnus Malcolm	Jeremy Fillingner
Countess Charlotte Malcolm	Lynn Reed
Mr. Lindquist (understudy, performing November 27, 28, 29).....	Kevin Meoak

Produced by special arrangement with Music Theatre International

The Place: Sweden
The Time: Turn of the century

Musical Numbers

Act One

“Overture”	Liebeslieder Singers
“Night Waltz”	Company
“Now”	Fredrik
“Later”	Henrik
“Soon”	Anne
“Trio”	Anne, Henrik, Fredrik
“The Glamorous Life”	Fredrika, Desirée, Madame Armfeldt, Liebeslieder Singers
“Remember?”	Liebeslieder Singers
“You Must Meet My Wife”	Frederik, Desirée
“Liaisons”	Madame Armfeldt
“In Praise of Women”	Carl-Magnus
“Every Day a Little Death”	Charlotte, Anne
“A Weekend in the Country”	Company

There will be a 15-minute intermission between Act One and Act Two.
Decaf coffee will be served at the intermission, courtesy of Kentwood Players.

Act Two

“The Sun Won't Set”	Liebeslieder Singers
“It Would Have Been Wonderful”	Fredrik, Carl-Magnus
“Perpetual Anticipation”	Mrs. Nordstrom, Mrs. Segstrom, Mrs. Anderssen
“Send in the Clowns”	Desirée
“The Miller's Son”	Petra
“Finale”	Company

Musicians

Piano.....	Bill Wolfe
Violin.....	Lacy Rostyak
Cello	Benson Preciado
Harp.....	Greg Lee

About the Cast



Jerry Cordova (Mr. Erlanson) – Jerry was recently seen as Roberto in *Working* and is excited to be back with Kentwood Players in *A Little Night Music*. Some of Jerry's favorite roles include: Nanki-Poo in *The Mikado*, Ralph Rackstraw in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Don Curzio in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Victor in *Cabaret*, and Tony Candolio in *Master Class*. Jerry holds a masters degree in music education from USC and currently works as a Teaching Artist and Administrator for LA Opera's, Education and

Community Programs.



Jacqueline Crist-Franzen (Mrs. Anderssen) – Jacqueline last performed in *Sweeney Todd* for El Camino College Center for the Arts in March. Operatically trained, she has sung in more than ninety operatic productions and concerts, mostly for Opera Pacific in Orange County. Besides music, Jacqueline has also studied acting, performed in plays and has even been an extra in a Spielberg movie!



Harold Dershimer (Mr. Lindquist) – Harold, who earned a BFA from USC's prestigious School of Theatre, has last been seen with Kentwood Players in *The Odd Couple* and *Working*, as well as in a workshop performance as George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Previous shows include *The Subject Was Roses* and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. He has also directed several productions including *All My Sons*, *Best Wishes*, *Catholic School Girls*, and *The Gingerbread Lady* while serving as president of Actors' Repertory Theatre. His favorite role to date is that of husband and father to his wonderfully supportive family.



Adam Dunberger (Frid) – Adam is excited to be a part of this wonderfully talented cast in his acting debut. Adam has played the roles of producer, stage manager, and master builder in previous Kentwood shows, and he is now enjoying being on the other side of the production. "Finally realizing one's dream is a truly exhilarating experience."



Jeremy Fillinger (Carl-Magnus) – After a five-year hiatus from the stage, Jeremy is happy to return and blessed to be a part of this production. Jeremy has worked with such stars as Bob Hope, Shirley Jones, Ted Lange, and Jerry Lewis. At 17 he was the tenor soloist at Carnegie Hall with the New York Symphonic Chorale under the direction of John Rutter, performing Rutter's "Te Deum." National Tours: Joe Hardy w/ Jerry Lewis in *Damn Yankees*, Sam the Postman in *Sesame Street Live's 1-2-3 Imagine!*, William in *Pocahontas*, Peter in *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Tony in *West Side Story*. International Tours: Phantom in *Phantom of the Opera* in concert (Taiwan), Valjean/Marius in *Les Miserable* in concert (Taiwan). Regional Theatre: Benny in *Rent*, Billy in *Carousel*, Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing...*, Hamlet, Young Ebenezer in *A Christmas Carol*, Jasper in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.



Shirley Hatton (Mrs. Nordstrom) – Shirley returns to Kentwood where she last appeared as Mama Rose in *Gypsy*. Shirley's notable roles include Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, Miss Pennywise in *Urinetown*, Mother Superior in *Nunsense*, Eleanor in *The Lion in Winter*, Hannah in *The Spitfire Grill* and Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret*. Love to Cam, Claire and Emma.



Sarah Maher (Petra) – Sarah Maher is a 21 year old graduate from Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts in Santa Maria. While at PCPA, Sarah was seen in the *Music Man* (dance ensemble), *Les Miserables* (ensemble/ u/s Fantine) and *White Christmas* (dance ensemble/ u/s Judy). Sarah is very excited to make her debut here with the Kentwood Players and hopes you enjoy the show.



Susie McCarthy (Desirée) – Susie is absolutely delighted to be playing Desirée Armfeldt, a part she's been longing to do ever since she saw Jean Simmons in ALNM at the Shubert Theatre in 1975. Other dream roles she's played include Blanche in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Eleanor in *The Lion in Winter*, Vivian Bearing in *Wit*, Joanne in *Company*, The Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*, Phyllis in *Follies*. Thanks, Sheridan! Love to JR.



Kevin Michaels (Fredrik) – Kevin says that singing Sondheim is no “Weekend in the Country.” In fact, the challenge is more akin to the rigors of teaching high school, his second career for the past 14 years. But happily, the rewards for both feel more like a “Sunday in the Park.” Last year Kevin delved “Into the Woods” of Long Beach and appeared at the Studio Theatre in *After Play* by Anne Meara. He is thrilled to be in the “Company” of such gifted actors who exhibit immense “Passion.” He would like to thank “Pretty Women” Elaine Lockhart-Mummery (for suggesting he audition) and director Sheridan Cole for “Putting It Together” and casting him in the role of Fredrik.



Kevin Meoak (Mr. Lindquist understudy) – Kevin is pleased to be appearing for the first time on the Kentwood Players stage. He is a veteran of over forty plays and musicals. Notable roles in Los Angeles include Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Will Geer Theatrum Botanicum, The Herald in *Marat/Sade* at the Knightsbridge, and Philip Atwood in the world premiere of *Still Photos* at the Celebration Theatre. In addition to acting, Kevin produces theater and most recently worked as the Associate Producer/Touring Producer of the

award winning Louis and Keely Live at the Sahara (The Matrix Theater). He also produced the 2009 L.A. Weekly Awards.



Hannah Provisor (Frederika) – Hannah made her Kentwood debut in *Little Green Men* a year ago and is thrilled to be in her second Kentwood show! Falling in love with musical theater at age 7, her many roles have included Irma in *Anything Goes*, Rosie in *Bye Bye Birdie*, and Nancy in *Oliver*. When recently asked in school whom she'd most like to have lunch with, Hannah proudly answered, "Stephen Sondheim!"



Lynn Reed (Charlotte) – Lynn last appeared at Kentwood as Tessie Tura in *Gypsy*. She is thrilled to be back, and relieved to have earned more costume coverage this time around. Heartfelt appreciation to Sheridan, Bill, and Elizabeth Howard. Love always to Marc, Sam, Allie, and her SGI-USA family for support and courage.



Robyn Rothstein (Mrs. Segstrom) – Robyn is thrilled to be in another wonderful Kentwood musical. Other favorite roles include Miss Mazeppa in *Gypsy*, Carlotta Campion in Sondheim's *Follies* and Golde in *Fiddler*. Her performance in this show is dedicated to her mother, who would have loved it.



Jeremy Speed Schwartz (Henrik) – Jeremy just returned to the LA area having spent two years in Tokyo teaching, animating and singing. Recently he was seen as a soloist with the Kokubunji Choir and as the narrator for the "The League of Imaginary Scientists." He's happy to be involved in musical theater again.



Silver Shreck (Madame Armfeldt) – Silver was born in L.A. where her father was the editor of *Variety*; she was named for the founder, Simon Silverman. She was raised in Chicago, where she sang until she toured with *Damn Yankees* and then went to Broadway where she was in *Fiorello* and *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Her Bucket List wish was always to do a Sondheim show.



Karintha Touton (Malla) – Karintha’s last appearance in a musical was as the candlestick in the 6th grade production of *Beauty and the Beast*. She is excited to be sharing the stage once again with Jeremy Speed Schwartz (he played Lafoo). Thank you again to Kentwood for giving her the work/life balance she needs, and as always, love to Todd.



Kristin Towers-Rowles (Anne Egerman) – Kristin is an LA native and an American Musical and Dramatic Academy NYC graduate. She was last seen at Kentwood as Sister Mary Leo in *Nunsense*. She is happy to be back playing her dream role. Tours include Christine/Cosette in *Phantom of the Opera/Les Miserables* in concert, Josephine in *HMS Pinafore*, Yum Yum in *The Mikado*. Regional: Delee in *Smokey Joe’s Café*, Violet in *Violet*, Jennifer in *Paint Your Wagon*, Casilda in *The Gondoliers*. Love to Ryan, her three beautiful daughters and praise always to God.

About the Directorial Staff

Sheridan Cole Crawford (Director) – Sheridan, a thirty-year-plus member, is honored to be able to direct her first musical and be surrounded by such superb musicians and actors. She was recently seen in *Gypsy*, *Follies* and *Romantic Comedy*, and through the years has costumed and directed several shows, including *Murder on the Nile*, *Forty Carats*, *Come Blow Your Horn*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. She thanks Monty for introducing her to ALNM many years ago.

Bill Wolfe (Musical Director) – Bill is so happy to be musical directing another Sondheim show here at Kentwood and the opportunity to work with Sheridan Cole. Bill has worked on the productions here at Kentwood of *Follies*, *Company*, *Gypsy*, *West Side Story*, *Nunsense*, and the *Unsinkable Molly Brown*. He has musical directed over 250 shows in 35 years, from the East Coast to Hawaii and all over the world. Bill is also a voice and piano teacher accompanist, church music director, and composer. His CD “Music of the Heart” was a joy to create. You can contact him at billwolfe.mrmusic@yahoo.com. Bill is so grateful for the love and support of his partner Dean. He hopes you enjoy this Beautiful Sondheim ode to Love.

Alison Mattiza (Choreographer) – Alison is honored to be part of this wonderful production. Alison is a long time KP member and a current board member. As a performer, Alison has portrayed Cassie in *A Chorus Line*, Adelaide in *Guys & Dolls*, Lola in *Damn Yankees*, Anne in *All My Sons* and most recently performed as the Housewife in *Working* here at Kentwood. Thank you to Jack and Van for their love and support and a very special thank you to Sheridan and Jordan for letting her be part of this show!!!

About the Producer

Jordan Bland – Jordan is thrilled to have been a part of this wonderful show. This is his first producing credit at Kentwood and he hopes you enjoy the show as much as he has. This Michigan native is armed with a musical theatre background that includes both cast and crew credits, but he was most recently seen on the Kentwood stage as Roland Maule in *Present Laughter*.

About the Designers

Jim Crawford (Set Designer) – Jim has been involved in Kentwood productions in a variety of roles for the past twelve years. He thanks the many Kentwood members who have helped with design ideas and construction. It was truly a collaborative effort.

Maria Cohen (Costume Designer) – Maria has been with Kentwood Players as wardrobe mistress and costume designer for more than twenty years. She has costumed dozens of shows winning numerous awards for her designs including *Working*, *Gypsy*, *Follies*, *Unsinkable Molly Brown*, and more.

Richard Potthoff (Lighting Designer) – Richard is a Past President of Kentwood and will be a 25 year member next year. His last design was for Kentwood's award winning production of *Gypsy*.

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Special Thanks

Michael Allen, Drew Fitzsimmons, Michael McGee
Michael Cohen for construction of military hat and uniforms
Trish Lange for professional help with costumes and curtain

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www.kentwoodplayers.org

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