

# FootLights

ILLUMINATING THE THEATRE COMMUNITY

Kentwood Players presents



Adapted by **Patrick Barlow**

Based on the novel by **John Buchan**

Based on the movie of **Alfred Hitchcock**

licensed by **ITV Global Entertainment Limited**

And an original concept by **Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon**

Directed by **Ben Lupejkis**

Produced by **Tony Pereslete**  
and **Lori Marple-Pereslete**

**January 11 - February 16, 2013**

Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Westchester Playhouse, 8301 Hindry Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Reservations (310) 645-5156

Kentwood Players presents

# THE 39 STEPS

Adapted by Patrick Barlow

From the novel by John Buchan

From the movie of Alfred Hitchcock

licensed by ITV Global Entertainment Limited

And an original concept by Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon

Director

**Ben Lupejkis**

Producers

**Tony Pereslete and Lori Marple-Pereslete**

Set Design

Tony Pereslete

Lighting Design

Robert Davis

Costume Design

Kathy Dershimer

Sound Design

Shawn K. Summerer

## Cast

Richard Hannay.....Frank Weidner  
Annabella/Pamela/Margaret ..... Shaina Zalma Ostroff  
Clown 1..... Karl Schott  
Clown 2..... Patricia Butler

The world is saved in London and Scotland over a week's time in August, 1935.

Act 1 Richard Hannay's Flat. London

Cockney Music Hall. London

Hannay's Flat

Train and Train Station. London to Scotland

Crofter's Cottage

Alt Na Shellach

Act 2 County Sheriff's Office

Assembly Hall

Police Car

McGarrigle Hotel

London Palladium

Hannay's Flat

There will be a 15-minute intermission between Acts 1 and 2.  
Decaf coffee will be served at the intermission, courtesy of Kentwood Players

Produced by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

## Director's Thoughts

I'm reading a synopsis of *The 39 Steps* and it runs on to four pages of squinty type face, and I think...mmmm, busy. Then I look at a timeline of how many times the original source material has been dramatized on film, radio, or dramatic reading, sixteen, and I think...mmmm, popular. Then I heard the positive buzz about this tongue-in-cheek incarnation that you'll see our version of tonight, and I think...mmmm, right up my alley. Hitchcock, a personal favorite for many years since Eva Marie Saint and Cary Grant shared an upper berth in *North by Northwest*, fashioned a gripping, albeit action-packed spy thriller in 1935 from Scottish novelist John Buchan's 1915 series of books centered around the adventures of Canadian-born diplomat, Richard Hannay. Of course, Hitch included just the right number of beautiful ladies, a raft of heavies and henchmen, a confused constabulary, and a delicious villain (and his wife), and kept audiences on the edge of their seats for the original and the remakes to follow. Our version maintains the thrill, but has the added bonus and danger of non-stop, laughing off of your backsides comedy, which includes all the characters of the original film assayed by four extremely talented actors. What a challenge to find the right mix of actor and comedian, and to find four matching parts: the perfect set. What a challenge to give them a head of steam, only to have to dampen their enthusiasm in order to tell a cogent story. What a challenge to have to present multiple locales at break neck speed on Kentwood's postage stamp sized cozy stage. This project has been an intense labor, one with which I have fallen in love, like an old friend who one day surprises you, causing your emotions to grow from affection to love. I hope you love our presentation, as much as I have labored and loved helming this remarkable offering.

- Ben Lupejkis

## About the Cast



**Patricia Butler** (Clown 2) – Patricia is thrilled to return to her straight play roots, having been seen most recently in the musicals *Oliver!*, *Candide*, *Parade*, *Working*, *Drood*, *Most Happy Fella*, *Follies*, *1940's Radio Hour*, and *Kiss Me, Kate!* No stranger to plays without music, she studied acting extensively at Smith College and the Actors' Conservatory Theatre. She performed the Queen in Genet's *The Blacks* in L.A., and was Lulu in *Pandora's Box* in San Francisco. She honed her acting chops portraying seven characters in Bertolt Brecht's *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, many different roles, but not nearly the thirteen she will be performing for you in *The 39 Steps*. Additionally, she was the creator and played Edith Piaf in her award winning one-woman show, *La Mome Piaf*. She extends sincere gratitude to Ben for his confidence in her ability to navigate the broad spectrum of characters in this show, to Lori and Tony for their friendship and loyalty, and to Frank, Shaina, and Karl for the nightly thrill ride.



**Shaina Zalma Ostroff** (Pamela/Annabella/Margaret) – Shaina is so glad to be back with the team at Kentwood Players. She was last seen here as Thelma in *The Farndale Ave...Murder Mystery*. She is grateful to Ben for this opportunity, thrilled to be part of a show she so thoroughly enjoyed as an audience member, and honored to be working with such a talented cast and crew. Some past favorite roles in addition to *Farndale*, include Claire in *Rumors*, Mary Shelley in an original Frankenstein play, Mrs. Tottendale in *Drowsy Chaperone*, Woman in *I Love You, You're Perfect Now Change*, and

Louisa in *The Fantasticks*. She wants to thank her wonderful parents, family, friends and loving husband Marc Ostroff for all their love and support.



**Karl Schott** (Clown 1) – You might remember Karl as the Marcom Masque Award winner as Herbie in *Gypsy*. A classically trained actor, Karl was last seen as Estragon in *Waiting for Godot* and Alibius in *The Changeling*. Other part include, Freddy in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, Oscar in *The Odd Couple*, Elwood in *Harvey*, Cassio in *Othello*, Barnard in *Sexual Perversity*, Capt. Jack in *The Rivals*, Jaques in *As You Like It*, Max and Sanders in *Lend Me A Tenor* (for which he was given WCT Best Actor Award). But Karl still finds himself on the Musical stage as he just finished up being Hines in *The Pajama Game* and Luther Billis in *South Pacific* (both Downey CLO) Biggley in *How to Succeed...*, Senex in *...Forum*; Plus *My Fair Lady*, *Singin' the Rain & Cole*. Karl spent 2 years playing the part of Wally in the European and Far East tours of *The 1940s Radio Hour*. Then another year in Scotland & London with the California Repertory Company that performed many times at Edinburgh Fringe Festival. As a member of the LA Connection and founding member of 3 other improv groups, he's been privileged to have performed at the Comedy Store, The Improv's & be the last act of the LA Playboy club. He is still madly in love with lovely wife Minerva who played his newlywed wife in *Barefoot in the Park* 13 years ago.



**Frank Weidner** (Hannay) – Frank Weidner is delighted to be making his second appearance in a Kentwood Players show, after playing Candide last year. Frank's favorite thing in the world is saying and doing silly things in front of bunches of people, so he would like to thank everyone in his life who makes that a regular possibility. You know who you are.

## About the Director

**Ben Lupejkis** (Director) – Ben is a Marcom Masque award winner in front and behind the scenes. His last directorial stint, helming *Parade* in 2011, produced multiple awards, including best production and best director for Ben. A graduate of VA Tech (BA in Theatre) and USCD (MFA in Drama), Ben brings over 39 years of experience to this project, starting his directorial career with Anton Chekov's naturalistic comedy *The Boor* in southeast Virginia as part of an evening of one acts. Since then he has directed original works, lost plays, and multiple concert and main stage shows for Kentwood, notably, *The Most Happy Fella* (2006). He owes his ability to root out comedy from a phone book to his acting and directing coach Simm Landres, who taught him to search for truth in any performance, and to his acting teacher at UCSD, world-renowned director Alan Schneider, for making him act as a paper clip (not like one but as one: "find the properties; find the essence"). "Thanks to theatre for introducing me to Pattie; to Pattie for being my ever-present guiding light; the skippers, Lori and Toni, my talented team, and this comically truthful ensemble, ready to take you on a most theatrical journey. Enjoy our ride that begins with one step and ends with 39. A bargain at twice the price, am I right!"

## About the Producers

**Tony Pereslete** (Producer) – Tony is so happy to be back producing another great show for Kentwood Thanks to a marvelous cast, crew and staff. Special thanks to Lori (for being so capable and understanding), to Jim and Ben.

**Lori Marple-Pereslete** (Producer) – Lori has been a Kentwood member for the past eleven years and has held various positions on the Board along with being Kentwood's Properties Mistress. She can usually be found back stage producing, set decorating, stage managing and assisting other productions and theatres in searching for props. She's very excited to be working with such a talented cast and production team. She hopes you enjoy the show. Thanks to Tony for being a wonderful husband!

## About the Designers

**Tony Pereslete** (Set Design) – *The 39 Steps* is one of the most fast-paced and challenging shows Tony has ever done. There were laughs even at the concept stage of the set design. He's sure you're going to enjoy everything about this production.

**Robert Davis** (Lighting Design) – Robert is happy to return to Kentwood Players to light *The 39 Steps*, adding this production to other lighting credits here. Previous credits include *The Miracle Worker*, *Oliver*, *Hollywood Arms*, *Parade*, *Annie*, *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* and *Dracula*. Other recent SoCal lighting credits include *Copenhagen* at The Attic, *Play It Again Sam* at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre, and *The Philadelphia Story* at WCT. He thanks JP for allowing him to indulge his creative side, and thanks you for joining us.

**Kathy Dershimer** (Costume Design) – Kathy has been involved in theater in many aspects: acting, singing and directing. She began her costuming experience with Kentwood's production of *As You Like It*, followed by *Parade*, *Squabbles*, *Candide*, *Oliver*, *Doubt* and *Fortinbras*. Each show brings its own challenges and rewards. She is very excited for the opportunity to be working on *The 39 Steps*. Kathy is thankful to her wonderful husband and children for all of their support.

**Shawn K. Summerer** (Sound Design) – Originally from Michigan, Shawn got his start in theatre playing “The Letter K” in preschool. He received his BFA in Film Writing from USC and is currently represented by Circle of 10 Talent. This is Shawn's first sound design credit, but also directed *Dracula* and *The Miracle Worker* here at Kentwood. He has also directed children's theatre productions including *Oliver*, *King and I*, and *Joseph...* As an actor, his favorite roles include Smudge in *Forever Plaid*, Pedro in *Man of La Mancha*, David in *Company*, Tommy in *Annie Get Your Gun*, Neville in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, and Edmund in *A Murder is Announced*. Doorbell!

## Kentwood Players' Board of Directors 2012-2013

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## Production Staff

Dramaturge ..... Patricia Butler  
 Specialty Dance..... Anna Rubin  
 Stage Manager ..... Lori Marple-Pereslete  
 Assistant Stage Manager..... Roy Okida  
 Script Supervisor..... Alison Mattiza  
 Dresser..... Colleen Okida  
 Runner ..... Fiona Okida  
 Stage Crew..... Elizabeth Summerer, Tony Pereslete  
 Booth Crew..... Kirk Larson, Virginia Mekkelson, Russell Ham  
 Set Decoration Design ..... Lori Marple-Pereslete  
 Original Graphic Design..... Michael Cohen  
 Lobby Design..... Michael Cohen  
 Master Builder ..... Jim Crawford  
 Set Construction ..... Ben Lupejkis, Tony Pereslete  
 Wigs ..... Jon Sparks  
 Costume Assistance..... Jayne Hamil, Harold Dershimer, Andrew Dershimer  
 ..... Patricia Butler, Sheridan Crawford-Cole and the Cast  
 Properties ..... Lori Marple-Pereslete  
 Publicity Photos ..... Tony Pereslete, Ben Lupejkis  
 Audition Assistance..... Max Stormes, Jeanne Spain, Hilary Fitzsimmons  
 Hospitality Coordinator ..... Greg Abbott  
 Box Office ..... David Jeffers

## Strike Crew and Work Sunday

Miriam Amster, Patricia Butler, William Carter, Arlene Cohen, Michael I. Cohen, Sheldon Cohen, Jack Coppock, Jim Crawford, Kathy Dershimer, Marlene Grinde, Michael Grinde, Russell Ham, Jayne Hamil, Diane Hazen, Hutton Hazen, Ben Lupejkis, Lori Marple-Pereslete, Virginia Mekkelson, Melvin Miller, Colleen Okida, Fiona Okida, Roy Okida, Frank J. Olivadoti, Shaina Ostroff, Tony Pereslete, Judy Polak, Lee Polak, Catherine Rahm, Charlotte Lee Schildkret, Karl Schott, Jennifer Sperry, Bruce Starrett, Hollister Starrett, Max Stormes, Shawn Summerer, Frank Weidner, Susan Weisbarth

## Special Thanks

Charlotte Schildkret

During the performance please turn your pagers to silent,  
 and turn off your cell phones and alarms on your digital watches.  
 There is no louder sound in a theatre than the rattle of cellophane.  
*Please unwrap your candy or cough drops before the play begins.*

Kentwood Players is a Member of the  
 LAX COASTAL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

You are invited to meet and greet cast members  
 after the performance in the Lobby.

For up to date info about Kentwood Players visit our website

[www.kentwoodplayers.org](http://www.kentwoodplayers.org)

## Kentwood Players Coming Attractions

*Ragtime*, a Musical  
 Book by Terrence McNally  
 Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens  
 Music by Stephen Flaherty  
 Based on the novel, *Ragtime*, by E.L. Doctorow  
 March 15 – April 20, 2013  
 Director: Susan Goldman Weisbarth

*California Suite*  
 A Comedy by Neil Simon  
 May 10 – June 15, 2013  
 Director: Alison Mattiza

*Lend Me a Tenor*  
 A Comedy by Ken Ludwig  
 July 12 – August 17, 2013

*Little Shop of Horrors*, a Musical  
 Book by Howard Ashman  
 Music by Alan Menken  
 Lyrics by Howard Ashman  
 Based on the film by Roger Corman  
 September 13 – October 19, 2013

### About the Upcoming Shows

**Ragtime** is the quintessential American musical that won several Tony Awards in 1998. It paints a powerful portrait of life at the turn of the century. Three stories are woven together that poignantly illustrate the struggle Americans faced dealing with class, race, money and justice in a country still struggling to find balance as they moved from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was a tumultuous time when immigrants were looking to find hope in America, when former slaves and their children, now freed, were trying to establish their hold on the American dream, and the white upper middle class society struggled to maintain their lifestyle and expectations. Intertwined with the fictional characters are historical figures including Harry Houdini, Evelyn Nesbit, Harry K. Thaw, Stanford White, Emma Goldman, Henry Ford, Booker T. Washington, and J.P. Morgan.

**California Suite** explores four human dramas to comical ends, all taking place in a suite at the posh Beverly Hills Hotel. In the *Visitor from New York*, the divorced couple of Bill and Hannah Warren have rented the suite in order to have a discussion about who will get the custody of their child. In the *Visitor from Philadelphia*, Marvin Michaels tries frantically and unsuccessfully to explain the situation to his wife when she catches him in flagrante delicto with a hooker in their suite. In the *Visitors from London*, Sidney Cochran and Diana Barrie are a hilarious pair of Hollywood stars who have rented the suite to await their “date of convenience” appearance at the Academy Awards. The *Visitors from Chicago* are two affluent couples who are best friends and have brought their families to Beverly Hills for a vacation which takes on a nightmarish tone after a mixed double tennis match.

**Lend Me a Tenor** is a comedy about the Cleveland Opera Company who has booked the renowned tenor Tito Merelli, known to his fans as “Il Stupendo,” to sing the lead in *Otello* at their gala fundraiser. Unfortunately, even before the star leaves his hotel room, everything begins to unravel. Chaos ensues when Merelli’s wife, who has mistaken an autograph-seeker hidden in his closet for a secret lover, leaves him and the distraught tenor accidentally is given a double dose of tranquilizers to calm him and passes out. Saunders, the opera company’s General Manager, is determined that the show will go on, so he asks his assistant Max to impersonate the opera star. What follows is a chain-reaction of mistaken identity, plot twists, farcical double entendres, innuendos, and constant entrances and exits through many doors leading from one comical situation to another!

**Little Shop of Horrors** is a comedy rock musical based on the 1960 science-fiction comedy film by Roger Corman about a hapless florist shop worker named Seymour who raises a man-eating plant he calls “Audrey.” The music, composed by Alan Menken in the style of early 1960s rock and roll, doo-wop, and early Motown, includes several well-known tunes, including the title song, “Skid Row (Downtown),” “Somewhere That’s Green,” and “Suddenly, Seymour.” The musical was also made into a 1986 film of the same name, directed by Frank Oz.

### Season Ticket Order Form

Season Subscriptions are good for SIX (6) CONSECUTIVE productions, and you may start your subscriptions with the show of your choice.

**Please allow 4 weeks for processing of your order.**

Circle One:

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Please send me \_\_\_ subscriptions at \$70.00 each. Total \_\_\_\_\_\*

\*Please note, the Entertainment Coupon is not applicable toward the purchase of Season Tickets.

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Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope	

### Special Theatre Parties

A special Theatre Party planned for your organization or group can be a financial success as well as an entertaining evening (or matinee) at the theatre. For further information call:  
 Box Office (310) 645-5156

### Reservations are Necessary

Please call (310) 645-5156 between 4:00pm – 7:00pm TUESDAY – SATURDAY  
 Reservations MUST be paid for by cash, check, member coupon, season subscriber coupon or VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVER one week after they are made.

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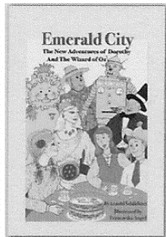
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*Happy Valentine's Day  
All You Lovers of Kentwood  
Westchester Playhouse  
Happy Birthday Arnold  
from  
Charlotte*



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Dorothy And The Wizard of Oz

by Arnold Schildkret

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# We Need Your Help

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In 1949, a group of dedicated performers came together to provide quality theatre at an affordable price for the Westchester community. More than 50 years later, the Kentwood Players are still going strong.

From Shakespeare to Simon, from Sondheim to Hammerstein, we have worked diligently, putting in countless volunteer hours, keeping our prices low enough to allow all in our community access to a magical evening or matinee in the theatre.

Now, we need your help. We have some critical improvements that will be beyond what we as a small community theatre can manage. We need a new roof, a new heating and air conditioning system, and most of our facility needs to be updated. For the first time in our history, we are asking our wonderful patrons and dedicated community members to partner with us and become sponsors of our beloved theatre.

There are many ways you can help. Of course, we welcome your contributions no matter how large or small. Together we can keep quality theatre in Westchester at prices that are still affordable for our audiences. Please take a look at our sponsorship opportunities and if we can answer any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

**THANK YOU FROM THE KENTWOOD PLAYERS**

*Donation envelopes can be found in our lobby.*

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- Invitation to our special party

## **Spotlight Supporters – \$250-\$499**

- 2 Season tickets
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- 

*Donations of any size will receive recognition in our programs along with our heartfelt thanks. Kentwood Players is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation and your contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

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