

FootLights

ILLUMINATING THE THEATRE

COMMUNITY

*Kentwood
Players
Presents*

Moliere's
**The
Imaginary
Invalid**



THE IMAGINARY INVALID

by Molière

based on the translation by Charles Heron Wall

Director

Susan Stangl

Producer

Sheridan Cole

Set Design	Lighting Design	Sound Design	Costume Design
Drew Fitzsimmons	Lewis Stout	Susan Stangl	Kathy Dershimer

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Argan	Harold Dershimer
Toinette	Michele Selin
Angélique	Jenna Tovey
Béline	Lezlie Moore
Bonnefoi	Drew Fitzsimmons
Cléante	Beau Smith
Dr. Diafoirus	Mitch Feinstein
Thomas	Zachary Leonard
Louison	Sydney Holliday
Béralde	Daniel Kruger
Fleurant	Aaron Merken
Purgon	Drew Fitzsimmons

There will be a 15-minute intermission between Acts I and II.

Decaf coffee will be served at the intermission, courtesy of Kentwood Players

About the Cast



Harold Dershimer (Argan) – Harold’s local credits include productions at the Morgan-Wixson Theater, Theatre Palisades, El Segundo Playhouse, El Segundo’s Broadway in the Park, and Long Beach Playhouse. Here at the Westchester Playhouse, he’s been most recently seen in *Wait Until Dark*, *Clybourne Park*, *Something’s Afoot*, and *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, as well as 13 other productions over the past 8 years. He served as Stage Manager here for *Orphans* and has also directed the multiple award-winning Kentwood Players productions of *Oliver!*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *A Raisin in the Sun*. Harold thanks his family for their continued support.



Mitch Feinstein (Dr. Diafoirus) – is delighted to be a part of his first production at Kentwood Players. Mitch came to acting late in life after a career as a lawyer and businessman. He studied at the Lee Strasberg Institute. Past roles include Hamlet’s Ghost in *Hamlet*, Sorin in *The Seagull*, and Charlie Colton in Tennessee Williams’ *The Last of His Solid Gold Watches*. Grateful thanks to Susan Stangl, my fellow cast members, and all of the kind folks at the Westchester Playhouse.



Drew Fitzsimmons (Bonnefoi/Purgon) – is delighted at the chance to finally work under the direction of Susan Stangl and to join up with this wonderful cast. A chronic theatre addict, Drew has performed all over the Los Angeles area. Some past favorites have been *The Pirate King*, the Emcee, Robert Dubedat, Napoleon Bonaparte, Tom Wingfield, Tulsa, and Harry Houdini. A teacher, a director, a choreographer, a set designer...Drew is seeking help. Enjoy!



Sydney Holliday (Louison) – is thrilled to make her debut with the Kentwood Players in *The Imaginary Invalid*. She has been involved in numerous school shows and hopes to pursue more theatre in the future. Sydney is also a two-time DTASC award winner and a recipient of the President’s Award for Educational Excellence. When not acting, she enjoys playing softball for her school, writing, reading, belting songs, and all things Disney. She thanks her family, her friends, and the entire Kentwood team for believing in her and helping her grow in this role. Don’t forget your annual check-up and enjoy the show!



Daniel Kruger (Béralde) – is feeling happy (and *healthy*) to be a part of this production of *The Imaginary Invalid*. A South Bay local, Daniel has performed in numerous theatres throughout Los Angeles and Orange County including the James Armstrong Theatre, South Bay CLO, Marsee Auditorium, El Segundo Performing Arts Center, Fullerton CLO, Downey CLO, Huntington Beach Theatre Co., and most recently as Trey in Kentwood Players production of *Olive and the Bitter Herbs*. Some of his favorite credits include: *The Mousetrap* (Christopher Wren), *Bent* (Greta), *A Funny Thing Happened...* (Hysterium), *A Raisin in the Sun* (Karl Lindner), *The Pirates of*

Penzance (Sergeant of Police), *Something’s Afoot* (Nigel Rancour). Special thanks to his family, friends, cast and crew for their support.



Zachary Leonard (Thomas) – is thrilled to be joining the Kentwood Players for the first time. Having recently moved here from Houston, this will be his stage premiere in Los Angeles as well. To see other credits and his latest projects, visit zacharyleonard.com. Enjoy the show!



Aaron Merken (Fleurant) – is thrilled to join this amazing cast! He has studied with Arlene Golonka, Brenda Vaccaro & Scott Colomby, among others. You can see him in Eric Casaccio's short film, "Freak". Special thanks to Susan!



Lezlie Moore (Béline) – is the most beautiful, hardworking, smart, and talented actress in Hollywood...according to her husband. She's super excited to be on stage with the Kentwood Players for the first time. Almost as excited as she is about being in all your best dreams from now on. When she isn't auditioning or appearing on stage or film/television, Lezlie spends her time dabbling in indie video game development and working as a full-time caregiver.



Michele Selin (Toinette) – has recently moved from the San Fernando Valley to the Westside and is thrilled to be part of this production! Previous shows include *Rumors*, *How the Other Half Loves*, and *It's a Wonderful Life* at Pierce Community College; *Flowers for Algernon* at Camarillo Skyway Playhouse; and *Grease* with Cabrillo Music Theatre. During the day, Michele works for the Girl Scouts and does occasional voiceover projects. Many thanks and tons of love to my family, friends, and this beautiful cast and crew - especially Susan.



Beau Smith (Cléante) – is thrilled to be here at Kentwood. As much as he's loved writing, acting and directing one act plays for Tiny Rhino for Play Collaborative Arts in the arts district in Downtown LA and doing standup at various bars and clubs across the country, it's great to go back to the rehearsal/multi-week performance schedule that formed the backbone of his performance training. He thanks you for coming.



Jenna Tovey (Angélique) – is thrilled to be in her first production with Kentwood Players! She is a recent graduate of Chapman University with a BFA in Screen Acting. Favorite past credits include: *Mrs. Warren's Profession* (Winner of Best Leading Actress at Theatre Palisades), *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, and *The Rimers of Eldritch*. She would like to thank her friends and family for all their love and support!

About the Director

Susan Stangl (Director/Sound Design) – won a Scenic Award for her direction of *Becky's New Car* at Kentwood; has appeared on our stage in *Man of La Mancha*, *Sordid Lives*, *Rain*, *Blood Brothers*, *The Elephant Man* and *I Remember Mama*; and has designed sound for over 100 shows in local theaters (including dozens of KP shows). She directed *The Supporting Cast* and *Has Anybody Here Seen Roy?* at Theatre Palisades and has also directed pieces for Santa Monica College, Drama West, The Celebration Theatre, the NAACP Theatre Festival, the Hollywood Fringe Festival and the Association of Los Angeles Playwrights. She played the wily servant Nicole in *The Would-Be Gentleman* last summer with Culver City Public Theatre, and she just ended a sold-out run acting in the horror-themed *Delusion: His Crimson Queen*. She can be seen in the upcoming films *Dead List* and *The Monster Project*.

About the Producer

Sheridan Cole (Producer) – is especially glad to be associated with this production, as it's the first time in Kentwood's 67-year history that the group has produced a play by the great French master Molière. And like all good literature, it presents the foibles of human nature that are as relevant and funny today as in the 1600s. Besides producing, Sheridan acts, directs, and costumes and currently serves on the Board as Season Tickets Chairperson. She appreciates the many loyal subscribers who support the Kentwood Players!

About the Designers

Drew Fitzsimmons (Set Design) – is thrilled to be designing his second set for Susan, the last being *Becky's New Car*. Drew has designed and constructed many sets at Kentwood and beyond. Some past Kentwood designs include: *The Hollow*, *Lend Me a Tenor* and *Fortinbras*. To take full credit would be wrong. All good design and direction is a collaboration, and those who disagree are fools. Drew could not finish anything without the support, influence and diligence of Jim Crawford and Scot Renfro. Jim is the personification of everything that is wonderful in this world.

Lewis Stout (Lighting Design) – has been directing, designing and writing for theatre since leaving the family farm five decades ago. Earning theatre degrees from University of Minnesota and University of Hawaii, he founded the Hawaii Performing Arts Company. Now, after a thirty-year hiatus to earn a living directing television, Lewis is enjoying an encore in the theatre.

Kathy Dershimer (Costume Design) – has been doing Costume Design at Kentwood for several years. This is her 16th show since 2010, most recently *A Raisin in the Sun*. Some of her other favorites are *Something's Afoot*, *Into the Woods*, *Oliver!*, *Parade*, *Candide*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Doubt*. Kathy enjoys the challenge of helping the actor show his character and expressing the director's vision. Kathy thanks her wonderful husband and children for their support.

Director's Note

Jean-Baptiste Poquelin (1622-1673), also known as Molière, was a French comedic actor and playwright. Mixing traditional French comedy with *Commedia dell'arte*, he composed 36 major works, including *The Misanthrope*, *Tartuffe*, *The Miser*, and *The Bourgeois Gentleman*. Most of his plays center on a foolish rich man who is taken advantage of by those around him—in this case, doctors and the medical profession. Ill with tuberculosis at the time, Molière wrote the part of Argan for himself so that he could remain seated while he performed. Sadly, *The Imaginary Invalid* (also known as *The Hypochondriac*) was his last play, as he collapsed during the fourth and last performance and died shortly afterward. With my own background in medicine, I was attracted to this play in particular since so many of the issues it brings up—mounting medical expenses, perceived barriers to health care access, quack cures, unscrupulous legal professionals and gold-digging spouses—still feel relevant today.

In the late 17th century, medicine was still quite primitive. Many doctors still subscribed to the Greek philosophy of disease being caused by an imbalance of the four humors - blood, phlegm, black bile and yellow bile - and refused to believe that blood actually circulated through the body. Few true cures of any kind were available, and medical practitioners had to make do with bleeding, purging, tonics and ointments as their sole treatment methods. The germ theory of disease was not even proposed until the mid-1800s.

Several of the character's names inform their roles in the play. Toinette is close to "tinette," or "funnel," as well as "toilette." Fleurant means "giving off an odor," Bonnefoi means "good faith," Angélique means "angelic," and Dr. Diafoirus' name comes from the French word "foirer," which means "to have diarrhea." Purgon comes from "purge." Béline may be derived from "béliér," or "sheep," in that she is pulling to wool over Argan's eyes. Louison's name may be an homage to Louis XIV, who was King of France in Molière's day.

My thanks to the Kentwood Board for allowing me to adapt and direct this first KP production of a work by Molière. Please excuse any anachronisms as we are not concerned about being true to period by design or necessity.

“Writing is like prostitution. First you do it for love, and then for a few close friends, and then for money.” – Molière



“One only dies once, and then for such a long time!” - Molière

Production Staff

Stage Manager	Jerilynn Kacena, Amy Witkowski
Assistant Stage Manager	Ellen Taurich
Script Supervisor	Gail Bernardi
Booth Crew	Jerilynn Kacena, Ellen Taurich, Amy Witkowski
Set Decoration Design/Scenic Painting	Scot Renfro
Original Graphic/Lobby Design	Susan Stangl
Master Builder	Jim Crawford
Set Construction	Doug Carlson, Sheldon Cohen
.....	Jim Crawford, Drew Fitzsimmons
Costume Assistance	Lezlie Moore
Wig Design	Jon Sparks
Properties	Sheldon Cohen
Publicity Photos	Shari Barrett
Audition Assistance	Gail Bernardi, James Manley Green, Barry Nackos
.....	Jeanne Spain, Max Stormes
Hospitality Coordinator	Gail Bernardi
Box Office	April Kacena

Strike Crew and Work Sunday

Miriam Amster, Samantha Barrios, Gail Bernardi, Doug Carlson, William Carter, Geanne Clarke, Sheldon Cohen, Sheridan Cole, Terry Delegeane, Harold Dershimer, Kathy Dershimer, Margie Equihua, Drew Fitzsimmons, Samuel Goldman, Marlene Grinde, Michael Grinde, Charlotte Lee Gunter, Ron Holliday, Sydney Holliday, Shellee James (and Sugar), Glen Kacena, Jerilynn Kacena, Myron Klafter, George Kondreck, Daniel Kruger, Zachary Leonard, Gretchen Luna, Lori Marple-Pereslete, Alison Mattiza, Melvin Miller, Alfredo Ochoa, Colleen Okida, Tony Pereslete, Scot Renfro (and Max), Michele Selin, Fred Stangl, Susan Stangl, Bruce Starrett, Lewis Stout, Shawn Summerer, Lynn Warech, Amy Witkowski

Special Thanks

Theatre Palisades and Gary Nesteruk

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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

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at the time reservations are made.

Kentwood Players Coming Attractions

Big Fish, a Musical
Book by John August
Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa
March 17 – April 22, 2017
Director: Catherine Rahm

Good People, a Dramatic Comedy
by David Lindsay-Abaire
May 12 – June 17, 2017
Director: Gail Bernardi

The Gingerbread Lady
A Dramatic Comedy by Neil Simon
July 14 – August 19, 2017
Director: Drew Fitzsimmons

Farragut North
A Political Thriller by Beau Willimon
September 8 – October 14, 2017
Director: Sherry Coon

Avenue Q, a Musical
Music & Lyrics by Robert Lopez & Jeff Marx
Book by Jeff Whitty
November 10 – December 16, 2017
Director: Susan Goldman Weisbarth

The Crucible
A Drama by Arthur Miller
January 12 – February 17, 2018
Director: George L. Rametta

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