

FootLights

ILLUMINATING THE THEATRE COMMUNITY

Kentwood Players Presents

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike

March 13
thru
April 18
2020



by Christopher Durang
directed by Susan Stangl - produced by Alison Boole and Myron Klaffer

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, New York

VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE

by Christopher Durang

Director
Susan Stangl

Producers
Alison Boole and Myron Klafter

Set Design
George Kondreck

Lighting Design
Michael Thorpe

Sound Design
Susan Stangl

Costume Design
Daniel Kruger and Heidi Dotson

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Vanya Chris Morrison
Sonia Valerie Sullivan
Cassandra Cherinda Kincherlow
Masha Sarilee Kahn
Spike Giovanni Navarro
Nina McKenna Goodman

Set in late August 2010, a farmhouse in Bucks County, PA.

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

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About the Cast



McKenna Goodman (Nina) graduated from the University of Iowa with degrees in both Theatre and Art. Her credits include everything from *American Idiot* (the musical) to *Vanya and Sonia*, at her University. She moved to Los Angeles in June 2018, and this marks her return to the stage in one of her favorite shows. She'd like to thank her awesome family, Nic and Mackenzie, and all her supportive friends!!

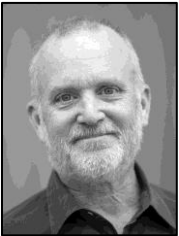


Sarilee Kahn (Masha) is delighted to be back at Kentwood Players, after playing Mrs. Kirk in *Little Women*. Sarilee spent several years as a professional actress in New York City, then pursued a career in international social work. Favorite roles include Anna in *And Miss Reardon...*, Kate in *She Stoops to Conquer*, Charity in *Sweet Charity*, and Winnifred in *Once Upon a Mattress*. Many thanks to Susan, the wonderful VSMS cast and crew, and the whole Kentwood family. Love and gratitude to David and Milo! Dedicated to Mom.



Cherinda Kincherlow (Cassandra) is a native of Compton, California and has dreamt of becoming an actor since the age of five years old. Cherinda received a BFA degree in acting from the California Institute of the Arts. Cherinda has appeared in such projects as the Lionsgate film *Crank 2: High Voltage*, the Gospel channel's *Brother White*, Disney's *A.N.T. Farm*, ABC's *Modern Family*, CBS's *2 Broke Girls*, and TV Land's *Nobodies*. Cherinda is mostly known for her role as Kiara in Freeform's *The Fosters* where she played opposite Rosie O'Donnell as the loving but troubled teen caught up in the foster care system. Cherinda is excited to return to the stage at Kentwood

Players with such a funny and talented cast. Cherinda last appeared in *Daddy's Dyin' Who's Got The Will?* at Kentwood Players in 2018.



Chris Morrison (Vanya) is thrilled to be making his Kentwood Players debut in the role of Vanya. Hailing from the tiny town of Lowell, Indiana, Chris has always been enamored with all genres of music and all things theatrical. One of his earliest stage performances was his interpretation of the Alice Cooper song "I Love the Dead" at the annual high school talent show. This immediately led to a summons to the principal's office, followed by the cancellation of all future talent shows – a tradition that continues to this day. Despite this setback, Chris moved on to gracing stages in Chicago and Los Angeles. Chris dedicates his performance to

Erin and Sophie who allow him to be most annoying at home, in an effort to further his craft.



Giovanni Navarro (Spike) is excited to make his Kentwood Players debut with this hilarious play and magnificent cast and director! He discovered his passion for acting at an early age and is grateful to God for allowing him to be a storyteller. Past productions include: *Brown and Ou**, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Almost Maine*, *West Side Story*, *South Pacific*, *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, *Still Life with Iris*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, *Spider's Web*, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *The Drunken City*, *Stalag 17* and *Grease the Musical* among others. Film credits include: *Anything for my Mother* (Franco) *Hot Latin Nights at the Granada* (Jose) *Adam's Package* (Jesus), *An*

Essential Gift (Felipe), *Baby Angel* (Aaron), and *A Tiempo* (Javier). Follow my journey at giovanninarro.com @el_gnavarro on Instagram. Enjoy the show!



Valerie Sullivan (Sonia) is thrilled to return to the Kentwood stage after a seven-year absence. One of her all-time favorite roles was the Reverend Mother in *Nunsense*, which earned her a Marcom Masque Award nomination for best actress. She also starred as Millie in *California Suite* and Muriel in *Plaza Suite* at the Kentwood Playhouse. She's appeared in numerous productions throughout the South Bay and some of her other favorite roles include Ruth Condomine in *Blythe Spirit*, Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias*, Rose in *Rose Bowl Queens*, and Charlotte in *Moon Over Buffalo*.

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

About the Production Staff

Susan Stangl (Director) always enjoys working at Kentwood, where she has designed sound and music for over 50 productions, performed in seven (*I Remember Mama*, *The Elephant Man*, *Blood Brothers*, *Rain*, *Sordid Lives*, *Man of La Mancha* and *Good People*) and directed three (*Becky's New Car*, *The Imaginary Invalid* and our current show). She also directed *The Supporting Cast*, *Has Anybody Here Seen Roy?* and *Bark! The Musical* at Theatre Palisades, where she is the resident sound designer, and has acted and directed at other LA theatre venues over the years. She particularly loves singing with her band, Dreamers and Drifters, in the West Side and the South Bay.

Alison Boole (Producer) is very excited to be a part of this production with this great cast and crew! Alison has been a member of Kentwood for almost 25 years and has participated in many productions as stage manager, director, choreographer, light booth operator and performer. Alison recently appeared at Kentwood as Marmee in *Little Women*, LaTrelle in *Sordid Lives*, and DeeDee in *Scream Queens*. Alison is very happy to be working with Susan on production.

Myron Klafter (Producer) is ecstatic to once again participate in a Kentwood Players production. Sincerest thanks to director Susan Stangl for believing in him and providing this opportunity to co-produce, along with Alison Boole, whose support and direction kept him on track. This is his second project with Kentwood, the first being an assistant producer to Kathy Dersheimer, on *Dial M for Murder*.

George Kondreck (Set Design) has worked set design and construction with Kentwood Players since 2012 and has been the Master Builder for several productions. He directed *Dial M for Murder* in 2019 and most recently appeared in *Blythe Spirit* as Dr. Bradman. Previously he was in *Big Fish*, *Mame*, and Agatha Christie's *The Hollow*, which he also directed. In 2013 George appeared in *Mr. Potcher's Holiday* and *Ragtime* and in 2012 *Oliver*. George sits on the Kentwood Players Board as the Production Manager.

Michael Thorpe (Lighting Design) – Pavel Andreievich Chekhov was a master of nuance, but never failed to exemplify and promote the accomplishments of his fellow Russians. Though some say he died at a tragically young age, he will be forever remembered through his work, and for his diligent effort to bring common Russian lives to the attention of the rest of the world. Mike would like to dedicate this performance to Chekhov and his contemporaries.

Daniel Kruger (Costume Design) – This will be the fourth show Daniel has costumed for Kentwood Players. Previous shows were *Young Frankenstein*, *Avenue Q* and *Sister Act*. He has also worked behind the scenes on *Good People*, *Farragut North* and *Pippin*.

Heidi Dotson (Costume Design) – This is Heidi's first production with Kentwood and she is thrilled. She has directed, choreographed, written plays, and performed with multiple companies throughout the greater Los Angeles area. She will be directing the upcoming summer Y.E.S. show at the Morgan Wixson, *Bedtime Stories...* She would like to thank Susan for this opportunity and Daniel for leading the way!

Director's Notes

Our playwright, Christopher Durang, is a multiple award winner (Obie, Tony and finalist for a Pulitzer) whose work has never before been performed at KP. His knowledge of dramatic literature, sense of the absurd and appreciation of human foibles make him one of the premier theatre artists of our time. I have been blessed to explore this play with my wonderful cast. In addition to character names (Vanya, Sonia, Masha, Nina), some of the lines and themes are straight out of the plays of Anton Chekhov, such as "I am in mourning for my life," from *The Seagull*, and "Oh, Olga, let's go to Moscow," from *The Three Sisters*. There are direct references to *The Cherry Orchard* and to the environmental issues that are so important in *Uncle Vanya*. However, this is NOT Chekhov, but a re-imagining of the themes he wrote about over a century ago that still resonate today, with a little Greek drama thrown in for good measure.

I want to thank my cast, crew, producers, and the KP board for trusting me with this play. My last directorial outing here, Moliere's *The Imaginary Invalid*, also referenced in tonight's play, was also the first time we produced that playwright's work here. *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* may be the closest we get to Chekhov, although, as Sonia says, "I don't think community theater should do Greek tragedy."

Kentwood Players begins its seventy-first year in April.

Seventy years ago, April 27 – April 29, 1950, Kentwood Players presented our first production, *YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU* by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman. It was directed by Doris Brokaw and produced by Betty Williams. The cast included founding members: Richard Birch, Lee Braude, Farnol Francis, Mary Glennon, Verna Mae Green, George Lamb, Ernest Lindros, Janet Marcom, W. O. Marcom, Vincent Napoli, Wm. Pereira, Elsa Pierce, Cloyd Prittie, Chas. Spencer, Blanche Turner, Charles Turner, and Dorothea Wallace.

Kentwood Players remembers long-time members Jim Lunsford and Sue Beber, who died recently. Jim was among other things the supporting cast for his actress wife Alice. Sue appeared in several shows from *Maybe Tuesday* (1961, the first show in our current home, the Westchester Playhouse) to *Anything Goes* (1988).

Production Staff

Stage Manager	Courtney Chu
Script Supervisor, Dialect Coach.....	Gail Bernardi
Booth Crew	Kirk Larson, Glory Bamubile Tshimanga
Set Decoration Design	Lori Marple-Pereslete
Original Graphic Design	West Maatita
Lobby Design.....	Sarilee Kahn, Valerie Sullivan, Susan Stangl
Master Builder	George Kondreck
Set Construction.....	Doug Carlson, Chris Morrison
Scenic Painting.....	Janine Anderson
Set Painting	Susan Stangl, Lori Marple-Pereslete
Costume Assistance	Kalila Horowitz
Properties	Sheldon Cohen
Publicity Photos	Gloria Plunkett
Audition Assistance	Anne Klafter, Gloria Plunkett, Elijah Jefferson
Hospitality Coordinator	Michele Selin
Box Office.....	Abilene Gonzalez

Strike Crew and Work Sunday

Gail Bernardi, Alison Boole, Jenny Boone, Doug Carlson,
William Carter, Courtney Chu, Arlene Cohen, Sheldon Cohen,
Judy Deutsch, Martin Feldman, Gavin Glynn, Samuel Goldman,
Kalila Horowitz, Myron Klafter, George Kondreck, Kirk Larson,
Ben Lupejkis, Jack Maatita, Lori Marple-Pereslete, Melvin Miller,
Chris Morrison, Colleen Okida, Fiona Okida, Roy Okida,
Julie Park, Dave Parke, Tony Pereslete, Susan Stangl,
Valerie Sullivan, Michael Thorpe, Glory Tshimanga

Special Thanks

Sherman Wayne and Theatre Palisades,
Ben Gilmore,
Alan Goldman,
Marina Tidwell at Grace Lutheran Church
Eileen Seidlin

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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

For up to date info about Kentwood Players visit our website

www.kentwoodplayers.org

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special group rates apply if you book your tickets in advance.
For more information please call 310-645-5156.

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Kentwood Players Coming Attractions

Fun Home, a Musical

Book and Lyrics by Lisa Kron

Music by Jeanine Tesori

Based on the graphic novel by Alison Bechdel

May 15 – June 20, 2020

Director: Kathryn Dershimer

9 to 5 The Musical

Music and Lyrics by Dolly Parton

Book by Patricia Resnick

Based on the Twentieth Century Fox film

November 13 – December 19, 2020

Director: Kirk Larson

Laughter on the 23rd Floor

A Comedy by Neil Simon

July 10 – August 15, 2020

Director: Stanley Brown

All My Sons

A Drama by Arthur Miller

January 15 – February 20, 2021

Director: Ben Lupejkis

Night Watch

A Mystery/Thriller by Lucille Fletcher

September 11 – October 17, 2020

Director: Brandon Ferruccio

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