

Kentwood Players

Presents

MAME



September 6 - November 19, 1991

Westchester Playhouse

8301 Hindry Avenue, Westchester, CA 90045

MAME

A Musical Comedy

by

Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee

Music and Lyrics by Jerry Herman

Produced by Special Arrangement with

TAMS-Witmark Music Library, Inc.

Director: Jonathan Abramson Producer: Michael Pleshe

Musical Director: Gene Casey Choreographer: Victoria Miller

The Cast

(in order of appearance)

Patrick Dennis, age 10	Michael Hilsdale/Brandon Horne
Agnes Gooch	Shari Koss
Vera Charles	Gail Bernardi
Mame Dennis	Pamla Abramson
Ralph Devine	Garry Frank
M. Lindsay Woolsey	Hank Koster
Ito	Alex Martin
Doorman	Clark Ellsworth
Elevator Boy	Cliff Schweitzer
Messenger	Bill Laine
Dwight Babcock	Philip Massi
Art model	Cynthia Banning
Artist	Clark Ellsworth
Dance Teacher	Vicki Stevens
Leading Man	Cliff Schweitzer
Stage Manager	Garry Frank
Madame Branislowski	Myra Prival
Gregor	Garry Frank
Beauregard Jackson Pickett Burnside	Rocky Miller
Uncle Jeff	Clark Ellsworth
Cousin Fan	Carmen Balas
Sally Cato	Victoria Miller
Mother Burnside	Lynn Taylor
Patrick Dennis, age 19-29	Scott Sellars
Junior Babcock	Mark Lipman
Mrs. Upson	Lynn Weiner
Mr. Upson	Ken Weiner
Gloria Upson	Dani Kahn
Pegeen Ryan	Cynthia Banning
Peter Dennis	Brandon Horne/Michael Hilsdale

MAME'S FRIENDS: Carmen Balas, Cynthia Banning, Clark Ellsworth, Garry Frank, Dani Kahn, Larry Krauser, Bill Laine, Mark Lipman, Victoria Miller, Rocky Miller, Myra Prival, Naomi Raffel, Cliff Schweitzer, Scott Sellars, Vicki Stevens, Lynn Taylor, Ken Weiner, Lynn Weiner

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 the auditorium.

Synopsis of Scenes

The action takes place in Mame's Beekman Place Apartment and various locales in which she becomes involved during a period from 1928 to 1946.

ACT ONE

SCENE 1: Somewhere in New York, 1928

SCENE 2: Mame's Apartment

SCENE 3: Hallway of Mame's Apartment

SCENE 4: Mame's Bedroom

SCENE 5: Mame's Living Room (and all around New York)

SCENE 6: Mame's Apartment

SCENE 7: Schubert Theatre — New Haven

SCENE 8: Salon Pour Messieurs

SCENE 9: Mame's Apartment

SCENE 10: Peckerwood

15 Minute Intermission

(During Intermission, please join us in the lobby for coffee, courtesy of the Kentwood Players)

ACT TWO

SCENE 1: Prep School and College (and Singapore)

SCENE 2: Mame's Apartment

SCENE 3: Mame's Apartment (six months later)

SCENE 4: Upson Farm

SCENE 5: Mame's Apartment

SCENE 6: Mame's Apartment - 1946

About the Director - JONATHAN ABRAMSON

Jonathan has been an active member of Kentwood Players for over ten years, during which time he has been active as a performer, director and producer. He is currently serving Kentwood as its president. Most recently, Jon produced the very successful Kentwood Players production of STEEL MAGNOLIAS, and his directorial talents were seen in last year's production of STEPPING OUT.

About the Musical Director - GENE CASEY

Gene's TV credits include three children's series for cable and home video, two SHOWTIME specials with GALLAGHER, NBC's "McCloud", CBS's "Trapper John" and Don Kirshner's production "The Night They Took Miss Beautiful" on ABC. Gene co-wrote "Hubba Bubba" and "The Orphan's Revenge" — two musicals that have played all over the country, including Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. and Godspeed Opera House. Gene has also been a vocal coach for Liza Minelli, Barbara Streisand, Ruth Buzzi, Edie Adams, and Dorothy Lamour.

About the Producer - MICHAEL PLESHE

A Kentwood Players member for four years, Mike first joined Kentwood as stage crew on SHE LOVES ME and was boosted to assistant stage manager before the run was over. He worked the light booth on both PLAY IT AGAIN SAM and SOCIAL SECURITY and backstage crew on TWICE AROUND THE PARK. This is Mike's second time producing, the first being last year's box office record breaking production of STEPPING OUT.

About the Choreographer - VICTORIA MILLER

For a full account of Victoria's talents and accomplishments, please look for her in the cast listing.

About the Cast (in alphabetical order)

Pamla Abramson - MAME DENNIS

Pamla has just returned from Santa Barbara where she received critical acclaim for her portrayal of "Sweeney Todd's" Mrs. Lovett. She last appeared on our stage as M'Lynn in STEEL MAGNOLIAS and has played leading roles in KP's STEPPING OUT, SOCIAL SECURITY, PACK OF LIES, SWEET CHARITY, STOP THE WORLD, and ON A CLEAR DAY... for which she received a Marcom Masque Award. She is a 19 year KP member and is on the Board of Directors. Pamla resides in Northridge with her husband Jon and frisky babies (dogs).

Carmen Balas - COUSIN FAN/ENSEMBLE

Carmen studied composition and voice in Pasadena, has done commercial voice overs and studio session work for numerous musicians as well as recording her own compositions. An avid dancer, she is a member of the Diane Davison Dancers and has taught ballroom dancing. This is Carmen's first production with Kentwood players.

Cynthia Banning - PEGEEN RYAN/ART MODEL/ENSEMBLE

Cynthia studied theatre, voice, dance and drama in Arizona. She has appeared in several theatrical productions, as well as in film. Credits include: "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum", "The Music Man", and "La Cage Aux Folles". MAME marks her first stage appearance since moving to the Los Angeles area.

Gail Bernardi - VERA CHARLES

Gail is currently on the Board of Directors of Kentwood Players as Workshop Chairperson. Her recent award-winning performance at Kentwood was as Blanche in BROADWAY BOUND. Her television credits include "Silver Spoons", "General Hospital" and "Hail to the Chief". She has appeared in many stage productions including SOCIAL SECURITY, HARVEY, LISTER'S WIFE, and ONCE IN A LIFETIME, to name a few.

Clark Ellsworth - UNCLE JEFF/ENSEMBLE

Mr. Ellsworth is making his first appearance in a musical production. His "What The?? Help!!" has changed to a very postcard "Having a wonderful time; wish you were here."

Garry B. Frank - RALPH DEVINE/GREGOR/ENSEMBLE

MAME is Garry's first appearance with the Kentwood Players. Other shows include "Oklahoma", "Grease" and "M.A.S.H." He has also performed in several Gilbert and Sullivan operettas: "Pirates of Penzance", "HMS Pinafore", "The Mikado" and "The Gondoliers".

Michael Hilsdale - YOUNG PATRICK DENNIS/PETER DENNIS

Michael is no stranger to the entertainment industry, having participated in movies ("Bugsy", "Die Hard II", "Worth Winning"), TV ("Parker Lewis Can't Lose", "Cheers", "L.A. Law") and commercials (KFC, Kool Aid). Michael has studied at the David Wells Acting Workshop and Pamela Campus Commercial Workshop. A 5th Grade honor student and member of student council, Michael's hobbies include piano, Cub Scouts and Apple Computers. Michael resides in Westchester.

Brandon Horne - YOUNG PATRICK DENNIS/PETER DENNIS

The role of Patrick Dennis is not new to Brandon who starred in Theatre Palisades' production of "Auntie Mame" in 1988. Brandon, who loves singing and dancing, does commercials and "lots of theatre!" He is the youngest of five children and is in the eighth grade at St. Mark School, Venice.

Dani Kahn - GLORIA UPSON/ENSEMBLE

Although this is Dani's debut on the Kentwood stage, she is not a new comer to the theatre and stage musicals, having performed in the L.A. area in such shows as "Pippen", "Hello Dolly", and "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown". Dani thanks Billy, her newly acquired

husband of four months, for allowing her this opportunity.

Shari Koss - AGNES GOOCH

Currently serving on the board at Torrance Community Theatre, Shari is making her debut with the Kentwood Players. Shari recently finished a successful run at T.C.T. in "1776", Stage right in the orchestra! Favorite roles include Alice Meyerlink in "Pizza Man". Stephanie Necrophorous in "Nine", a 1990 Drama-Logue award-winner and Marlene Turndver in "Daddy's Dyin' Whose Got the Will?" for which she won a '90-'91 Torrie Award. Shari has a B.A. in drama from U.S.C. and dreams of playing a not-so-Gooch girl in a daytime drama.

Hank Koster - M. LINDSAY WOOLSEY

Hank comes to Kentwood after recently stepping into the role of "real life" father-in-law. Hank has been singing for family and friends for umpteen years and has often fantasized about Broadway; however, on his way to the "great white way", he turned his eyes elsewhere and became a successful optician and husband to a lovely wife, Evie and proud father of daughters Dani and Kim. The rest is history.

Larry Krauser - ENSEMBLE

Larry performed in high school, The Air Force Academy and in European military productions. He's acted, directed, stage managed, written and worked crew — this is his first singing role.

Bill Laine - MESSENGER/ENSEMBLE

This is Bill's first show with Kentwood Players. He has had many roles in various productions at Mira Costa High School including the role of Jesus in the musical "Godspell". He recently attended the California State Summer School for the Arts as a theatre major and hopes to pursue a career in theatre.

Mark Lipman - JUNIOR BABCOCK/ENSEMBLE

After leaving a short lived career as a mountain jumper, Mark moved into the much more dangerous profession of acting. Mark has worked in theatre in Vienna and Bermuda. He last appeared at Kentwood in ANNIE GET YOUR GUN. Other credits include "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead", "All for Your Delight" and "Comedy of Errors".

Alexander Martin - ITO

Alexander most recently completed a very successful run of "1776" at Torrance Community Theatre. He has appeared as Harry in Sondheim's "Company" at East West Players in Hollywood. He is also proud to have performed in "Evita", "Damn Yankees", "Guys and Dolls", "The Miracle Worker" and Chekov's "The Marriage Proposal" in various theatres throughout the Westside and Hollywood. He is happy to make his Kentwood Players debut in MAME. Alexander dedicates his performances as "Ito" to his family and dear friends, "even friends he hasn't met yet."

Philip J. Massi - DWIGHT BABCOCK

Veteran of numerous summer, dinner and community theatre productions, Phil was last seen in KP's MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940. He was the 1990 recipient of the Marcom Masque Award for Best Actor/Leading Role in KP's SOCIAL SECURITY and was most recently honored by Theatre Palisades for his supporting role in "The Boyfriend". Phil is presently serving the Kentwood Players' Board as Publicity Chairman and dedicates this performance to new granddaughter, Talan Amanda.

Rocky Miller - BEAUREGARD JACKSON PICKETT BURNSIDE

This production marks Rocky's debut for the Kentwood Players. Some fond, memorable (to him) roles of the distant past are Sir Toby Belch in "Twelfth Night", Mr. Putnam in "The Crucible", Mr. Van Daan in "Diary of Anne Frank", Merriman in "The Importance of Being Ernest", Tom Pettigrew in "Berkeley Square" and Kholenkov in "You Can't Take It With You".

Victoria Miller - SALLY CATO/ENSEMBLE

An 8 year KP member, Vicki has performed in and/or choreographed SWEET CHARITY, ANYTHING GOES, CHICAGO, PIPPEN, STEPPIN' OUT and PLAY IT AGAIN SAM. Recent credits are "Lady-Like" at the Tiffany, "The Fellowship" at the St. Genesius Theatre and "The Boyfriend" at Theatre Palisades. Dance credits include "The Folies Bergere" in Las Vegas, Disneyland's "Golden Horseshoe Review", the Hollywood Bowl and "The Thalian's Charity Show" with Debbie Reynolds.

Myra Prival - MADAME BRANISLOWSKI/ENSEMBLE

Myra has been active for many years as an ensemble singer and soloist on television shows, recording sessions, and musical theatre. Television appearances include "The Jerry Lewis Variety Show", "The Carol Burnett Show", and "The Andy Williams Show". She has also toured nationally with Jim Nabors. Theatre credits include "Brigadoon", "Bells are Ringing", and "Silk Stockings". MAME marks her first appearance with the Kentwood Players.

Naomi Raffel - ENSEMBLE

This is Naomi's second appearance at Kentwood, her first being in ANYTHING GOES. Backstage credits include Assistant Musical Director for ANYTHING GOES and playing piano in the orchestra for many musical productions at Culver City High School.

Cliff Schweitzer - ELEVATOR BOY/DANCER/ENSEMBLE

After performing in "Oklahoma" with Redondo Beach Parks and Recreation, Cliff continued to satisfy "the acting itch" with "The Pajama Game" at Long Beach Community Playhouse, and now MAME with the Kentwood Players. He hopes to continue performing to stay out of trouble.

Scott Sellers - OLDER PATRICK/ENSEMBLE

Scott has been doing local theatre for the past five years. He recently finished a production of "Annie" with Redondo Beach Parks and Recreation, playing Rooster. He was Danny Zuko in that same company's production of "Grease". Currently studying theatre arts at El Camino College, Scott hopes to pursue a career in theatre. This is Scott's debut with the Kentwood Players.

Vicki Stevens - ENSEMBLE/DANCE INSTRUCTOR

Vicki joined Kentwood in 1984 and has appeared in KP's ON A CLEAR DAY, SWEET CHARITY, DAMN YANKEES, and ANYTHING GOES. In between she works stage crew. If you've been to England lately, you may have seen her in some commercials. Vicki's true love is tap dancing; she is a member of the Diane Davison's Dancers.

Lynn Taylor - MOTHER BURNSIDE/ENSEMBLE

Lynn is a Process Engineer with McDonnell Douglas Helicopters. She began studying voice two years ago at L.A. Valley College with Dianne Wintrob, Timothy Jameson and Valeria Orlando. Lynn is presently studying with "Phantom of the Opera's" Carlo Thomas. Ms. Taylor is making her stage debut in this KP production of MAME.

Ken Weiner - CLAUDE UPSON

This is Ken's third show for Kentwood, the first being SWEET CHARITY as Herman and the second ANYTHING GOES as Moonface Martin. His claim to fame is his national television appearance on the "People's Choice Awards" and being such a young grandfather to Joshua and Rachel. His wife of 34 years who is playing Mrs. Upson thinks she has the most beautiful grandchildren. Our thanks to Jon Abramson for his brilliant casting.

Lynne Weiner - DORIS UPSON

Lynne is new to Kentwood but is not new to the stage. She has performed in many plays at several theatres in the Los Angeles area, most recently at the Showboat Dinner Theatre in the San Fernando Valley where she lives with her husband, Ken.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Theatre Palisades and The Morgan-Wixon Theatre for assistance with costumes
Footlighters for the Female "Moon" costumes
Dance Distinction for the parasol
Susan Clavadetscher for the bugle
Medical Centre Opticians for the period eyewear

PRODUCTION STAFF

DirectorJonathan Abramson
ProducerMichael Pleshe
Assistant ProducerPhilip Massi
Musical DirectorGene Casey
ChoreographerVictoria Miller
Stage ManagerLyon Ingram
Script SupervisorJoyce Croft
Set DesignerChuck Reynolds
Light DesignerRichard Potthoff
RecordistJamie Hayes
Music Performed ByDerek Brajhean
Master BuildersChuck Reynolds, Arky Marcom, Frank Olivadoti. Bill Harred
Costume CoordinatorPhilip Massi
Costume ConstructionBarbara Banning, Mary Hilsdale, Joan Horne, Naomi Raffel, Mary An Schwarz, Doris Shoumaker, Elizabeth Mac Donald
Property CoordinatorPhilip Massi
Property ProcurementAntoinette Pleshe
Stage CrewNorm Miller, Adina Silo, Barbara Fox, Lee Olsen
Light/Sound TechniciansJenny Ash, Richard Potthoff, John Spence, Diane Zwemer
HospitalityCalia Mintzer
Lobby PortraitsMonty Ash
Mame's DresserEvie Koster
ProgramsTim Boeck

STRIKE CREW & SET CONSTRUCTION

Margie Bates, Larry Geraghty, Charlotte Lee Gunter, Hal Fisher, Sheldon Metz, Lee Olsen, Sally Pierce, Tara Potthoff, Harvey Rosenberg, Dagmar Schnauss, Conny Sless, Jack Weintraub, Ron Wisansky, and the cast and crew of MAME.

REMEMBER? On Stage at Kentwood...

- 5 Years Ago - 1986 - SWEET CHARITY
- 10 Years Ago - 1981 - GODSPELL
- 15 Years Ago - 1976 - CARNIVAL
- 20 Years Ago - 1971 - MAN OF LA MANCHA
- 25 Years Ago - 1966 - GIGI
- 30 Years Ago - 1961 - THE EMPORER'S NEW CLOTHES
- 36 Years Ago - 1955 - TIME OF YOUR LIFE
- 40 Years Ago - 1951 - HOLIDAY

COMING ATTRACTIONS

1991

Nov. 8 - Dec. 14 - Whose Life Is It Anyway?

Director: Harvey Erlich

Casting: September 9 & 10

1992

Jan. 10 - Feb. 15 - The Cocktail Hour

Director: Sheldon Metz

Casting: November 11 & 12

Mar. 6 - Apr. 11 - Critic's Choice

Director: Jamie Hayes

Casting: January 13 & 14

May 8 - Jun. 13 - A Streetcar Named Desire

Director: Doris Maserov

Legends

Director: Lewis Hauser



RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY

Please call (213) 645-5156

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY

Reservations must be paid for within one week after they are made.

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