

KENTWOOD PLAYERS

PRESENTS

*A New Two-Act Adaptation
from the Master of Storytelling...*

Charles Dickens'
**NICHOLAS
NICKLEBY**

BY

GREGORY BLAIR

DIRECTED BY

AUGUST VIVIRITO

November 10 – December 16, 2006

Westchester Playhouse
8301 Hindry Avenue
Westchester, California 90045-3205
Reservations: (310) 645-5156

NICHOLAS NICKLEBY

by Gregory Blair

Director August Vivirito

Assistant Director T L Kolman

Producer Christine Joëlle

Set Design
August Vivirito

Light Design
Tom Brophy

Costume Design
Maria Cohen

Cast

(in order of first appearance)

Madeline Bray, Schoolboy.....Rosanna Butler
Ralph Nickleby..... Skip Pipo
Newman Noggs.....Raymond Lynch
Mrs. Nickleby.....Margaret Schugt
Nicholas Nickleby Max Dean
Kate Nickleby.....Leslie Rivera
Wackford Squeers Scot Renfro
John, Cobby, Folair, Frank Cheeryble..... Matthew Johnson
Mr. Snawley, Lord Verisoft..... Dave Narloch
Ollie, The Singer, Ned CheerybleFrank Kesby
Tim, Mobb, The Actor, Charles Cheeryble Scotty Servis
Pub Wench, Mrs. Crummles Vada Foster
Smike Steve Hallum
Mrs. Squeers..... Christine Joëlle
Fanny Squeers, Nina Crummles.....Kelly Graham
Schoolboy Justin Rozell
Lord Mulberry Hawk, BrookerNathaniel King
Mr. Crummles, Hawk's Follower, Mr. Bray..... Philip Apoian

Setting: In and around Dickens' Victorian London, Mid 1800's

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.

Produced by special arrangement with the author, Gregory Blair

About the Directorial Staff

August Vivirito (Director) – August served as the Artistic Director for the Attic Theatre Ensemble, on the Executive Board of The Knightsbridge Theatre, and was founder of The McCormick House Theatre on the East Coast. He is currently serving as Communications Manager for West Coast Ensemble. Last November, he directed the world premiere of an earlier form of this adaptation of *Nicholas Nickleby* which garnered his second “Critic’s Pick” from Backstage West. For the Attic, August directed hit productions of the world premiere of Richard Hirsch’s *Peripheral Vision*, Backstage West ‘Critic’s Pick’ *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*, and Studz Terkel/Stephen Schwartz/Nina Faso’s Musical Masterpiece *Working*. For Kentwood, his production of *The Rainmaker* recently received four awards including ‘Best Production’. That same production was named “One of the South Bay’s 10 Best Shows for 2005.” *Beautiful Bodies*, *Little Women*, *Godspell*, *Our Town*, *Jesus Christ, Superstar* are among others including numerous original works. As a stage performer, he has appeared in leading roles in many acclaimed productions including the LA Weekly-Award nominated *Assassins*, *Blood Brothers*, *Pippin*, *Merrily We Roll Along* and *Sweet Charity*. In March of 2007, he will bring John Gay’s astounding tale of the real-life Oscar Wilde, *Diversions and Delights*, back to the stage after a 20+ year hiatus. In addition to many thanks to writer Gregory Blair for his immense efforts in bringing ‘*Nickleby*’ to the stage, August wishes to express his sincere gratitude to the miraculous cast and staff of both *Nicholas Nicklebys* whose talents and contributions can never be mentioned enough. Particular love and gratitude to T L, without whom this production, and life in general would be next to impossible.

T L Kolman (Assistant Director) – TL has directed critically acclaimed productions of *The Shadow Box* (“One of the Top 10 Plays of 2004” – Entertainment Today & Reviewplays.com), *Agnes of God*, and *Ordinary People*. Last year he was the Assistant Director on Kentwood’s *The Rainmaker*. As an actor, TL has worked on stage, television and film for nearly thirty years including the world premiere of *Nicholas Nickleby* directed by the talented August Vivirito.

About the Producer

Christine Joëlle – Christine is truly proud of the whole cast and crew for their talents in making this production a complete success. You all rock my world!

About the Designers

Maria Cohen – Maria is very happy to have costumed this show. After last year’s *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* this show was easy. Maria is the wardrobe mistress for Kentwood Players, costumes many of our shows, and has won many awards for those shows. Her last design was for *George Washington Slept Here*, and she assisted in *The Most Happy Fella*.

Tom Brophrey – This is Tom’s fourth lighting design of this year. He has designed lighting for many Kentwood Players shows, beginning with *Night Watch* in 1974 and most recently for *George Washington Slept Here*. He was proud to win a Marcom Masque Award for his lighting of last season’s *The Rainmaker* – directed by August Vivirito.

About the Cast

Philip Apoian (Mr. Crummles, Mr. Bray) – In addition to this his 5th appearance with the Kentwood Players, Phil has performed in numerous productions of the Long Beach Shakespeare Company, often in tights.

Rosanna Butler (Madeline Bray) – Fresh from Texas soil, this is Rosanna's first play since re-locating to the LA area. Used to playing bold, brassy women, she enjoys portraying Madeline Bray for her strong, quiet nature.

Max Dean (Nicholas Nickleby) – Max was born and raised in Dallas, Texas. He would like to thank August Vivirito for this opportunity and is honored to be a part of this wonderful cast.

Vada Foster (Mrs. Crummles) – Vada appeared for the first time on the Kentwood stage in 1984 in *The Children's Hour*, and last year in *Pinocchio*. During that rather large gap, she was active in Lambda Players in Long Beach, where she appeared in *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*, *A Late Snow*, *Gertrude Stein and a Companion*, and *Loose Ends*, which she also wrote and directed.

Kelly Graham (Fanny Squeers, Nina Crummles) – Kelly is pleased to be making her Kentwood Players debut in this wonderful production of *Nicholas Nickleby*. She has played many comedic roles previously including Lucy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Teresa Phillips in *How the Other Half Loves*, and The Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella*.

Steve Hallum (Smike) – Steven started his acting career at age 9 holding numerous credits in theatre, film and television. Last year LA became his home so we will see more of him.

Christine Joëlle (Mrs. Squeers) – After completing a few film projects, Christine is thrilled to be back performing on stage here at Kentwood. Much thanks to all Kentwood members, friends and family for their support.

Matthew Johnson (Folair, Frank Cheeryble) – A longtime lover of Dickens' novels, Matt is very happy that this play marks his LA stage debut. He recently moved from Maryland to pursue a career in film and television.

Frank Kesby (Ned Cheeryble) – Frank worked as an actor and comedian in theatres and clubs throughout England. He has appeared in numerous Los Angeles and Hollywood productions and has trained at the Pasadena Playhouse.

Nathaniel King (Lord Mulberry Hawk, Brooker) – Nathaniel first stepped onstage as the only adopted Von Trapp child in a production of *The Sound of Music*. He has since played Kim's son in *Miss Saigon*, the King's son in *The King and I*, and Captain Li Shang from Disney's *Mulan* at Disneyland.

Raymond Lynch (Newman Noggs) – Raymond made his professional debut in *The Miser* at the Mark Taper Forum starring Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy. He has starred Off-Broadway and in regional theatre throughout the country in *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Hamlet*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *Moon for the Misbegotten* and *Twelfth Night*. On television, he has appeared in *M*A*S*H*, *Judging Amy*, *Columbo*, *Murder, She Wrote* and *Highway to Heaven*.

Dave Narloch (Mr. Snawley, Lord Verisoft) – David earned B.A.s in Theatre Arts and English and has performed in more than 25 stage and film productions over the past few years, most recently at the Hermosa Beach Playhouse and the Long Beach Shakespeare Festival.

Skip Pipo (Ralph Nickleby) – Skip is very pleased to be returning to this production of *Nicholas Nickleby*. In last year's show at The Complex he played the role of Newman Noggs. Thanks to August, TL, old cast, new cast, and you the audience for supporting theater in LA.

Scot Renfro (Wackford Squeers) – Scot is delighted to reprise his role as Wackford Squeers. Thanks to August and TL for the opportunity to, once again, entertain his Dickens' loving mother-in-law by playing the scoundrel.

Leslie Rivera (Kate Nickleby) – Leslie is truly honored to be a part of this year's *Nickleby*. An actor for Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre Programs, she tours elementary schools educating students about their health and well-being through theatre. Earlier this year, she appeared in the West Coast premiere of Lawrence Roman's *Grapes and Raisins* and most recently as Claire in *Proof*. Other credits include Charlotte in *Charlotte's Web*, Lily Belle in *The Curious Savage*, and Jessica in *The Pleasure of His Company*. Ms. Rivera sends love and sincere thanks to August and TL for this incredible opportunity, and dedicates her performance to her husband, best friend, and former 'Smike', Jeremy, "for in our version, Kate is indeed in love with Smike, too!"

Justin Rozell (Schoolboy) – Born eleven years ago in Colorado Springs, Justin is thrilled to be making his debut as a fourth generation Kentwoodian following in the footsteps of his great-grandmother, Charlotte. Next on his agenda – moving to India!

Margaret Schugt (Mrs. Nickleby) – Ms. Schugt is pleased as punch to be reprising the role of Mrs. Nickleby. Other favorites include; Adelaide in *The Mysterious Mr. Love*, Goneril in *King Lear*, Kate Hepburn in *And Then There Was Nun...*, Luce in *Comedy of Errors* and Sylvestre in *Scapin*. Her dream role would be to one day finally play Josie in *Moon for the Misbegotten*. Big Grannie, this one is just for you!

Scotty Servis (Charles Cheeryble) – Scotty hails from New Jersey where he got his start in theatre as Giles Corey in *The Crucible*. He then branched out to New York where he did more theatre and indie films. He relocated to Los Angeles two years ago to pursue a career in TV and film.

Our Special Children's Program

Cinderella

by Blanche Marvin

Directed by Carol Becker

Produced by Alison Mattiza

Saturday afternoons at 2:00pm

December 2, 9 & 16, 2006

Single tickets \$7 or 4 tickets for \$25

(All children must be accompanied by an adult)

WANT MORE DICKENS?

Next year

September 7 – October 13, 2007

Kentwood Players will present

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD

A Musical by Rupert Holmes

Directed by Catherine Rahm

Kentwood Players' Board of Directors 2006-2007

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Production Staff

Stage Managers.....	Valerie Ruel, Shari Barrett and Christine Joëlle
Script Supervisor.....	Gypsy Foster
Dialect Coaching.....	Nathaniel King
Lighting and Sound Technicians.....	Mel Miller and Jim Crawford
Set Decoration	Scot Renfro, Kelly Graham, Steve Hallum, Margaret Schugt, & Leslie Rivera
Master Scenic Painter.....	Scot Renfro
Original Graphic Design.....	August Vivirito
Lobby Design	T L Kolman
Head Seamstress	Barbara Brophrey
Costume Construction	Geanne Clark, Yvonne Kainoa, Julia Maggs Barbara Haberman, Judy Polak, Treva Merritt
Millinery.....	Arlene Cohen
Publicity Photos	Gypsy Foster and Ken Shoufer
Audition Associates	Jeanne Spain and Gert Nord
Hospitality Coordinator.....	Vada Foster
Box Office	Ashley Schultz

Strike Crew and Work Sunday

Michael Allen, Franczeska Angel, Chris Becker, Barbara Brophrey, Geanne Clark, Michael I. Cohen, Jack Coppock, De Cotter, Ed Cotter, Jim Crawford, Gypsy Foster, J. M. Green, Charlotte Lee Gunter, Barbara Haberman, Russell Ham, Gretchen Luna, Julia Maggs, Alison Mattiza, Treva Merritt, Sheldon Metz, Calia Mintzer, Judy Polak, Lee Polak, Bob Schnauss, Lynn Schultz, Adina Silo, Fred M. Wolf
and the cast and crew of *Nicholas Nickleby*

Special Thanks

Dave Parke, Russell Ham, Vada Foster, Leslie Rivera
Lee Lavery, The Production Company, Joy Nash
Diana Mann; Kim DeShazo, El Camino College, Michael Cohen
Ms Tricia King, Mgr of the Hospice Thrift Avenue Store, Rolling Hills Plaza
for continuing support and contributions

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
WESTCHESTER/LAX-MARINA DEL REY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

You are invited to meet and greet cast members
after the performance in the Green Room.
Please use the outside stairway at the rear of the theater.

For up to date info about Kentwood Players visit our website
www.kentwoodplayers.org

Kentwood Players Coming Attractions

Steve Allen's
The Wake
A Dramatic Comedy
January 12 – February 17, 2007
Director: Sheldon Metz

Neil Simon's
Biloxi Blues
March 9 – April 14, 2007
Director: Larry Jones

Follies, a Musical
Book by James Goldman
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
May 4 – June 16, 2007
Director: Ed Cotter

The Constant Wife
A Comedy by W. Somerset Maugham
July 13 – August 18, 2007
Director: Gail Bernardi

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:
Calia Mintzer (310) 837-3609

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.

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.**

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Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope