

**Kentwood Players
presents**

A Murder is Announced

**by Agatha Christie
Adapted for stage by Leslie Darbon**

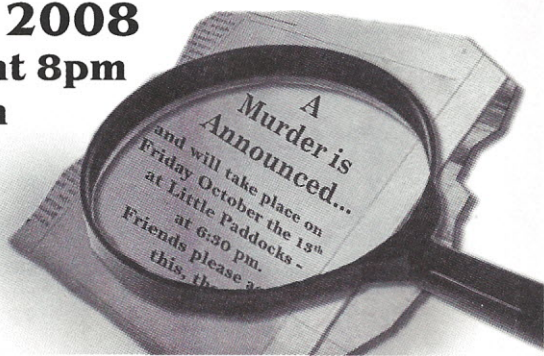
Directed by Carol Becker

Produced by Lori Marple

Assistant Directed by Liz Reinhardt

**May 16 - June 21, 2008
Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm
Sundays at 2pm**

**Produced by special arrangement
with Samuel French, Inc.**



A Murder is Announced

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The Setting

Letitia Blacklock's home (known as "Little Paddocks") in Chipping Cleghorn, England, at the end of the 1940's

ACT ONE

Scene 1 – The morning of Friday the 13th

Scene 2 – Later that evening

Scene 3 – The following Saturday morning

There will be one 15-minute intermission

ACT TWO

Scene 1 – The following Sunday afternoon

Scene 2 – The following Monday morning

Scene 3 – Later that evening

Characters

(in order of appearance)

Letitia Blacklock

Julia Simmons

Dora "Bunny" Bunner

Patrick Simmons

Mitzi

Miss Marple

Phillipa Haymes

Mrs. Clara Swettenham

Edmund Swettenham

Rudi Scherz/Sergeant Mellors

Inspector Craddock

Susie McCarthy

Caity Engler

Susan Gordon

Andrew McMurtrey

Kelley Goode

Alice Eldridge

Kathryn Scott

Cory Andersen

Shawn K. Summerer

Joel D. Castro

Jack Winnick



About the Cast & Crew

Carol Becker (Director) Carol earned her BFA in Acting from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and is an Associate Member of the Stage Directors & Choreographers Foundation (SDCF). She most recently served as Assistant Director for *The Chicago Conspiracy Trial* at the Odyssey Theatre. Other directing credits include *Cinderella*, *Sure Thing* and *English Made Simple*, as well as assistant directing Kentwood's production of *The Fantasticks*. Kudos to Lori, Liz, the amazing crew, and talented cast for making this show such a rewarding experience. She lovingly dedicates this show to three angels that were lost in 2007: Darius Ever Truly, Auntie Babs, and her beloved Bubby. *Geyn Gezunt*. PIE FOR SMILES

Lori Marple (Producer) Yes, I am the original Miss Marple. Agatha Christie has cleverly documented all my adventures in her wonderful plays and stories. I want to assure the audience that every single event and bit of dialog in *A Murder Is Announced* is absolutely authentic, and the capable Alice Eldridge plays me better than I do myself. I have been a Kentwood member since 2001 and have produced *Murder on the Nile*, *45 Seconds From Broadway*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Romantic Comedy*, and *The Fantasticks*. Many thanks to Carol for letting me be a member of such a fun and talented cast and crew. I hope you enjoy the performance.

Liz Reinhardt (Asst. Director / Stage Manager) A performer since childhood, Liz ventured backstage in her late teens, fell in love with costume design (thanks, mom!), and then studied it at UC Santa Barbara. Since college, she has worked on everything from community theatre to equity productions. She is now very excited to learn from her "twin" and work with the real Miss Marple, as well as this amazing cast and crew. She sends hugs to her favorite photographic subjects, especially Marc for being so supportive.



Alice Eldridge (Miss Marple) Alice, a long time member of Kentwood, has won many Marcom Awards including those for *Painting Churches*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Nuts*, *Little Foxes*, and *Guys and Dolls*. Recent performances at Kentwood were in *The Constant Wife*, *Forty-Five Seconds from Broadway* and *Murder on the Nile*. Thank you, Jim, for your patience!



Cory Andersen (Mrs. Clara Swettenham) This is Cory's second show at Kentwood. You may have seen her last spring in *Follies*. Returning to the stage after many moon's absence, she has performed with The Aerospace Players' in *Big River*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *Joseph and the Amazing...Dreamcoat*. Last fall she played Millie in El Camino's *Hot'l Baltimore*. Thanks to cast and crew for a great experience.

About the Cast & Crew



Joel D. Castro (Sergeant Mellors / Rudi Scherz) Joel is a graduate of Santa Clara University with a triple major in Theatre, Classics, and Music. He is thrilled to be making his debut with the Kentwood Players. Joel was most recently seen at the Morgan-Wixon as Jud in *Oklahoma!*, where he received a Geoffrey Award for Best Supporting Actor.



Caitly Engler (Julia Simmons) Caitly is delighted to make Murder her second production with Kentwood, especially considering her long-time love for Agatha Christie and British humor. A recent graduate from UCLA, previous credits include *Gypsy* (Agnes), *Into the Woods* (Cinderella), *Bye Bye, Birdie* (Kim MacAfee), *Once on this Island* (TiMoune), and *The Music Man* (Zaneeta Shinn).



Kelley Goode (Mitzi) A graduate of North Carolina School of the Arts and Carnegie Mellon University, Kelley's most recent credits include Marina Galino in *Tony and Tina's Wedding* at the Rio Casino in Las Vegas as well as Abby in *Fiction* at the Las Vegas little theatre.



Susan Gordon (Dora "Bunny" Bunner) Susan was most recently seen as Ouiser in *Steel Magnolias* at the Hermosa Beach Playhouse. She last appeared at Kentwood as Tony's sister Marie in *The Most Happy Fella*, and as the Wicked Stepmother in *Cinderella* directed by Carol Becker. She would like to dedicate her performance to her Mother who introduced her to Agatha Christie mysteries many years ago.



Susie McCarthy (Letitia Blacklock) Susie McCarthy is a native Californian and holds a B.A. in Theatre from CSUN. Production credits include *Greater Tuna*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Rumors*, *The Lion in Winter*, and *Wit*. Kentwood audiences have seen her in *Company*, *George Washington Slept Here*, *Follies*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, as well as her Marcom Masque Award Winning performances in *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Wake*. As always, for Dad.

About the Cast & Crew



Andrew McMurtrey (Patrick Simmons) Andrew McMurtrey recently moved to Los Angeles from Springfield, Missouri where he performed at many local theaters. Some of his credits include *Death of a Salesman*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Complete History of America (Abridged)* and *Hamlet*. He has also written and directed several short films. This is his first performance with Kentwood Players.



Kathryn Scott (Phillipa Haymes) This is Kathryn's first show with Kentwood, and she is delighted to be here. Previous work includes: Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*, Olga in *Three Sisters*, Marian in *The Heiress* and Vinnie in *Life with Father*. She thanks her friends, mother, and boyfriend for their love and support, and Carol for the opportunity... "There's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough-hew them how we will."

—William Shakespeare



Shawn K. Summerer (Edmund Swettenham) 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 has directed children's theatre. His favorite roles locally include Pedro in *Man of LaMancha*, David in *Company*, and most recently, Neville in Kentwood's *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.



Jack Winnick (Inspector Craddock) Jack is pleased to be returning to Kentwood for another British production. He has lately been seen in Agatha Christie's *The Unexpected Guest* at Theater Palisades, and in *Social Security* at the Morgan-Wixson. He was previously at Kentwood in Somerset Maugham's *The Constant Wife* last year. He also appears in occasional TV commercials and sitcoms.

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

Director's Notes

“Very few of us are what we seem.”

~ Dame Agatha Christie

In the realm of timeless whodunits, few writers have stories that leave you guessing until the very end with characters as memorable and charismatic as Agatha Christie. Her fellowship of multigenerational fans was already well established by 1950, the year her fiftieth novel, “A Murder is Announced,” was published. Ironically, it was not adapted for the stage until a year after her death. Leslie Darbon, an established British writer in his own right, chose to adapt the novel and bring the characters (specifically, the infamous Miss Jane Marple) to life on the stage. In the fall of 1977, A Murder is Announced opened at the Vaudeville Theatre in London and has enjoyed runs throughout the world.

A year ago, when I was asked to direct this play, I liked the idea of challenging myself by taking on a theatre genre that is distinct and unique – the murder mystery with a comedic twist. The end result is one in which I am exceptionally proud. I never imagined that I would fall in love with directing as much as I have and working on this show with this spectacular cast and crew has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life! To those at Kentwood who have offered me their support, encouragement and assistance, I wholeheartedly thank you. I hope y'all have an “abso-blooming-lutely marvelous” time with this show!

~ Carol Becker

During the performance, please turn your pagers to silent, turn off your cell phone 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.

Thank you.





Production Team

Assistant Director/Stage Manager.....Liz Reinhardt
Set Design.....Brent Williams
Master Builder.....Tony Pereslete
Set Decoration Design.....Lori Marple
Costume Design.....Diana Mann
Lighting Design.....Robert Davis
Booth Crew.....Kirk Larson, Virginia Mekkelson, John Beckwith
Sound Design.....Carol Becker
Props..... Linda Reinhart, Lori Marple
Graphic Design.....Liz Reinhardt, Melissa Rice
Lobby Design.....Liz Reinhardt, Carol Becker
Publicity Photos.....Liz Reinhardt
Dress Rehearsal Photos.....Steven Leff
Hospitality.....Lori Marple
*Audition Assistants..... Annie Casaburi, Sheridan Cole-Crawford,
Gert Nord*
Prompter.....Annie Casaburi
Dialect Coach.....Drew Fitzsimmons

Special Thanks to:

**Elizabeth Bouton, Maria Cohen, Kirk Larsen,
Alison Mattiza, Steven Leff, Alex Pierdant and
the Morgan Wixson-Theatre**

Strike and Work Sunday Crews Please accept our thanks!

*Michael-Anthony Nozzi, Elizabeth Bouton, Tom Brophey, Barbara Brophey,
Arlene Cohen, Maria Cohen, Michael Cohen, Sheldon Cohen, Sarah Cowan,
Jack Coppeck, Ed Cotter, Jim Crawford, Robert Davis, James M. Green,
Michael Grinde, Russell Ham, Jayne Hamil, Larry Jones, Yvonne Kainoa
Jim Lunsford, Ben Lupejkis, Julia Maggs, Scott Martin, Alison Mattiza,
Jack Mattiza, Treva Merritt, Melvin Miller, Judy Polak, Lee Polak, Barry
Nackos, Frank Olivadoti, Scot Renfro, Adina Silo, Jon Sparks and
the cast and crew of **A Murder is Announced.***

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Reservations must be paid for by cash, check, member coupon season subscriber coupon or VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVER one week after they are made.

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.

We Need Your Help

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.

***Kentwood Players is a
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** Listing in our program for an entire season*

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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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The Lion In Winter

By James Goldman

Runs: July 11, 2008—August 16, 2008

Auditions: Saturday, June 22 10am to 3pm

Sunday, June 23 6pm to 9pm

Directed by Ed Cotter

Produced by Jim Crawford & Karinthia Touton

Little Green Men

Music/Lyrics and Book by Scott Martin

World Premiere Musical

Directed by Scott Martin

Produced by Calia Mintzer & Lori Marple-Pereslete

September 12, 2008—October 18, 2008

The Odd Couple

By Neil Simon

Directed by Larry Jones

Produced by

Runs: November 15, 2008—December 23, 2008

All announced shows are subject to change.

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