

Kentwood Players presents

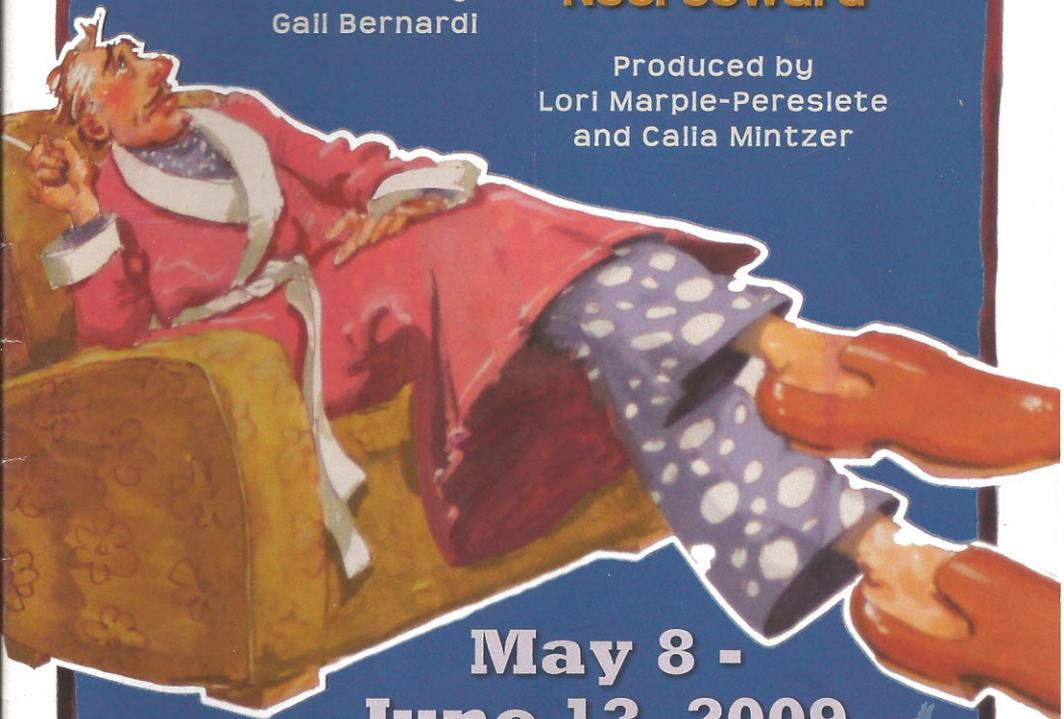
Present Laughter

by

Noel Coward

Directed by
Gail Bernardi

Produced by
Lori Marple-Pereslete
and Calla Mintzer



**May 8 -
June 13, 2009**

Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m.
\$18 General Admission, \$2 discount for seniors, students and servicemen

Westchester Playhouse
8301 Hindry Avenue, Westchester

www.kentwoodplayers.org

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Director's Note

Present Laughter was one of Noel Coward's most successful stage plays and I am delighted that the Westchester Playhouse is presenting this production. This play is a marvelous romp about growing old gracefully and about the wonderful family that "Theatre" creates. My cast and I have had a marvelous time researching and developing the brilliantly conceived characters that Noel Coward created and we hope that you enjoy them as much as we have.

- Gail Bernardi, Director

Special Thanks

Jordan Bland, Jack Coppock, Jim Crawford, Adam Dunberger,
Ron Edwards, Hal Fisher, Michael La Stelley, Tony Pereslete,
Francesca Palermo, the entire cast and crew of *Present Laughter*,
and anyone we missed due to printing deadlines.

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

**Please turn cell phones and pagers to silent,
turn off alarms on digital watches, and unwrap
any candy or cough drops before the play begins.**

Thank you.

Cast of Characters

(in order of appearance)

Daphne Stillington Marcy Agreen
Miss Erikson Margie Bates
Fred Bernard Jarvis
Monica Reed Deanna Watkins
Garry Essendine Raymond Lynch
Liz Essendine Carmen Lynne
Roland Maule Jordan Bland
Hugo Lyppiate Jack Coppock
Morris Dixon Ron Edwards
Joanna Lyppiate Catherine Rahm
Lady Saltburn Vada Foster

Setting

Garry Essendine's studio in London, 1939

Scene 1 - Morning

Scene 2 - Evening, three days later

- 15 minute intermission -

Scene 3 - The next morning

Scene 4 - Evening, a week later

Production Crew

Director Gail Bernardi
Producers Lori Marple-Pereslete and Calia Mintzer
Stage Manager Jim Crawford
Assistant Stage Manager Robyn Rothstein
Set Designer Max Heldring Stormes
Costumer Designer Valerie Ruel
Lighting Designer Tom Brophey
Sound Designer Susan Stangl
Master Builders Jim Crawford, Adam Dunberger, Michael La Stelley
Set Decoration Lori Marple-Pereslete
Props Supervisors Judy Polak
Carpentry Tony Pereslete and Ron Edwards
Costume Assistance Barbara Brophey, Maria Cohen, Julia Maggs
Donna Moore, Robyn Rothstein
Millinary Arlene Cohen
Booth Crew Nikki Corso, Mel Miller and Russell Ham
Script Supervisor Christy Engels
Hospitality Larry Cosgrove
Audition Assistance Jeanne Spain and Max Heldring Stormes
Photography Liz Reinhardt
Art/Lobby Design Michael Cohen
Postcard/Program Design Liz Reinhardt

The Cast



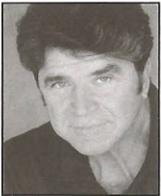
Marcy Agreen (Daphne) – Marcy is excited to return to the Kentwood Stage! You may remember her, sans unibrow, as Ida Rothberg in last season's *Little Green Men*. Other favorite roles include Peggy in *Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii* and Monteen in the L.A. premiere of *Parade*. She would like to thank Gail for this incredible opportunity, her friends and family for their constant love and support, and everyone here tonight for keeping this great art alive and thriving!



Bernard Jarvis (Fred) – A graduate of Catholic University of America, Bernard returns to the L.A. stage after a long absence (life just got in the way). Previous performances include Charles Ludlam's *Camille* at the Highways performance-art space; the original play, *God Save the Queens*; the one-man play *Hawker* with the Monodramatics Repertory Company; *The Tyrannicides* at the Fifth Estate Theatre; and *All's Well That Ends Well* at the Globe Playhouse in West Hollywood. He has also appeared in various films and videos, including *Love Bites*, an original production.



Margie Bates (Miss Erikson) – Margie is thrilled to work with such talented people in this delightful play. Some of her favorite roles in past Kentwood productions were Mama in *I Remember Mama*, Flo in *Picnic*, Miss Preen in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, Lavinia in *The Heiress*, and Addie-Mae in *The Cover of Life*. She has also done several musical comedies. She especially enjoyed doing *Can-Can* on the Kentwood stage and playing Judy in *A Chorus Line* at the Torrance Theatre.



Raymond Lynch (Garry) – Raymond made his stage debut in *The Miser* with Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy (Mark Taper Forum). He was last seen at Kentwood Players in *Nicholas Nickleby* and is glad to be appearing again with the nice folks at Kentwood. Other shows include *Moon Over Buffalo* (Golden West Theater); *Lend Me a Tenor* (Cal State Dominguez Hills); *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* (PV Players); *The Miser* (Long Beach Shakespeare); Shakespeare-Sierra Madre; the critically-acclaimed *Only Kidding*, and Off-Broadway. Among various TV appearances, he played Hotlips' Fantasy Bridegroom in an episode of *M*A*S*H*.



Jack Coppock (Hugo) – Jack last appeared at the Westchester Playhouse in *George Washington Slept Here*. He has enjoyed performing at local community and professional theatres in the L.A. area, including the California Shakespeare Theatre at Thousand Oaks in *The Merchant of Venice* and *As You Like It*, and the Attic Theatre in *She Stoops to Conquer*. He always looks forward to coming back to Kentwood Players. His first appearance on any stage in Southern California was at the Westchester Playhouse some years ago.



Catherine Rahm (Joanna) – This is Catherine's eleventh mainstage show at Kentwood, and the third for Gail as a director. She has also directed two mainstage shows and two children's shows, and appeared in two concert performances. Although she works as a performer and director all through the greater Los Angeles area, she always loves coming back to her Kentwood home.



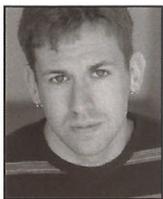
Carmen Lynne (Liz) – Carmen is delighted to be back on the Kentwood stage. A native Brit, Carmen was last seen at KP in 2003 playing Mrs. Johnson in *Blood Brothers*, for which she won the Marcom Masque Best Actress Award. Previous favorite roles include Lady Macbeth and Titania in *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Carmen is a professional hypnotherapist and hopes to mesmerize the audience with her performance.



Ron Edwards (Morris) – Favorite stage roles include Jim Bayliss in *All My Sons*, Donald in *The Boys in the Band*, Nick in *What the Butler Saw*, Peter in *The Zoo Story*, Kevin in *Inspecting Carol*, Fagin in *Oliver*, Leonato in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Gayeff in *The Cherry Orchard*, Buck in *Dogs Plays*, Jonathon in *Oh Dad, Poor Dad...* and Mark in *The Shadow Box*. Ron is a graduate of Illinois State University.



Deanna Watkins (Monica) – This is Deanna's first appearance at Kentwood. She was most recently seen in *The Chicago Conspiracy Trial* at the Odyssey Theatre. Los Angeles stage performances include *Three Cubes Detached (Highways)*, *As You Like It (Shakespeare on the Green)* and the debut last spring of her solo piano piece, *Windward*, in a collaboration with choreographer Keith Johnson and the premiere of his new work, *Presence of Absence*. Deanna is a graduate of the National Theatre Conservatory.



Jordan Bland (Roland) – A native of Michigan, Jordan is excited to make his mainstage debut at Kentwood with *Present Laughter*. After joining KP as crew, he is excited to be in his first British Comedy. Favorite roles of this Musical Theatre major have been Hugo Peabody in *Bye Bye Birdie* and Doody in *Grease*. One of the teachers for the Kentwood Kids Program, he was most recently seen in the Kentwood Kids' sold-out productions, *Road Dahl's Willy Wonka (TYA Version)* and *The Trial of Goldilocks*.



Vada Foster (Lady Saltburn) – A two time Marcom Masque Award winner (for *Nicholas Nickleby* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*), Vada is pleased to once again have the opportunity to show off her British accent. Her previous experience with Kentwood was in the 1984 production of *The Childrens Hour*. If she had remained a member during all the years in between, she would have her 25 year pin now!

The Crew

Gail Bernardi (Director) – Gail has been fortunate enough to be able to direct plays that she loves and *Present Laughter* is high on the list. She has acted and directed for many years and enjoys doing both. Isn't live theatre wonderful? In her spare time, Gail is President of Kentwood Players and she hopes that as both performer and President, she and the hard working team at the Westchester Playhouse can continue to please our wonderful audiences.

Lori Marple-Pereslete (Producer) – Lori has been an active Kentwood member for eight years. Besides producing, Lori can usually be found behind the scenes building and decorating sets or minding the prop room. She's thrilled to be working with Gail and such a talented cast. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Callia Mintzer (Producer) – Callia joined Kentwood Players in 1955 with the children's production of *Hansel & Gretel*. She has performed in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Cabaret*, *Sweet Charity*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Oklahoma*, *Westside Story*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Follies* and more. Production credits include *I'm Not Rappaport*, *The Constant Wife*, *The Wake*, *Two by Two* and *Little Green Men*. She has won five Marcom Masque Awards and the Special Board Award, and is thrilled to be working with this talented cast and crew.

Max Heldring Stormes (Set Designer) – A Marcom Masque Award winner for set design, Max has created thirty-five sets for Kentwood Players during his thirty years of membership.

Valerie Ruel (Costume Designer) – When not on stage, Valerie enjoys being creative backstage. In addition to this show, she has costumed *Blythe Spirit*, *Chapter Two*, *Hedda Gabler*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Let's Hear it For The Queen*. She has enjoyed working with such a wonderful cast and gives big thanks to a great costume crew.

Tom Brophey (Lighting Designer) – Tom has designed lighting for many Kentwood Players' shows beginning with *Night Watch* in 1974 and most recently for *Working*. He is glad to be working with Gail Bernardi again, having designed for her productions of *The Gin Game*, *Picnic*, *45 Seconds from Broadway* and *The Constant Wife*.

Work Sunday Crew:

Miriam Amster, Shari Barrett, Carol Becker, Scott Briscoe, Barbara Brophey, Maria Cohen, Sheldon Cohen, Sheridan Cole, Larry Cosgrove, Hal Fisher, Michael Grinde, Jayne Hamil, Shellee James, Gretchen Luna, Julia Maggs, Scott Martin, Treva Merritt, Virginia Mikkelson, Barry Nackos, Alfredo Ochoa, Frank J. Olivadoti, Lee Polak, Sonia Quinones, Kaye Porter, Robyn Rothstein, Charlotte Lee Schildkret, Adina Silo, Susan Weisbarth, Fred Wolf and the cast and crew of *Present Laughter*.



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About Kentwood Players

Kentwood Players was founded by the late Arky and Jan Marcom, Elizabeth Thornberg and Betty Francis in December 1949. The company actually got its start, and its name, as members of the Kentwood Elementary School PTA in Westchester, and motivated by a school play they performed there, decided to keep a good thing going. This small group of talented men and women quickly got their act together, so to speak, and in 1950, this illustrious theatre "family" officially began.

Obviously, they couldn't stay at an elementary school and looking for a permanent home wasn't easy. At times, the Kentwood "boards" included a barn, a pump house, and a restaurant before 1960, when the players finally found their present location at the corner of 83rd Street and Hindry in Westchester. In the early sixties, they transformed an old warehouse into the Westchester Playhouse that now houses a proscenium stage, dressing rooms, costume closets, a scene shop, over a hundred comfortable seats and a large, welcoming front patio.

Some of KP's loyal season subscribers have been attending KP shows for decades. The fans enjoy seeing their favorite actors on stage and through the years have become friends as well as theatergoers. The support and love among the Kentwood "family" of members also crosses multi-generations, where life-long friendships have been fomented. KP is proud of its second- and third-generation members.

Because this is community theatre, all work is done by volunteers. But the dedicated members always take their jobs seriously. They and the Board of Directors handle all aspects of running a little theatre. And, that's why this nonprofit group can afford to keep their prices low while not skimping on sets and costumes!

For more information, visit www.kentwoodplayers.org.

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.

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- Listing in our program for an entire season

Kentwood Angels – \$1,000 - \$2,499

- 4 Season tickets
- Listing in our program for an entire season
- Your name on a permanent plaque in our lobby
- Invitation to our special party

Spotlight Supporters – \$250 - \$499

- 2 Season tickets
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-

Donations of any size will receive recognition in our programs along with our heartfelt thanks. 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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