

Footlights

ILLUMINATING THE THEATRE

COMMUNITY

Kentwood Players presents

The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery

By David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jr.

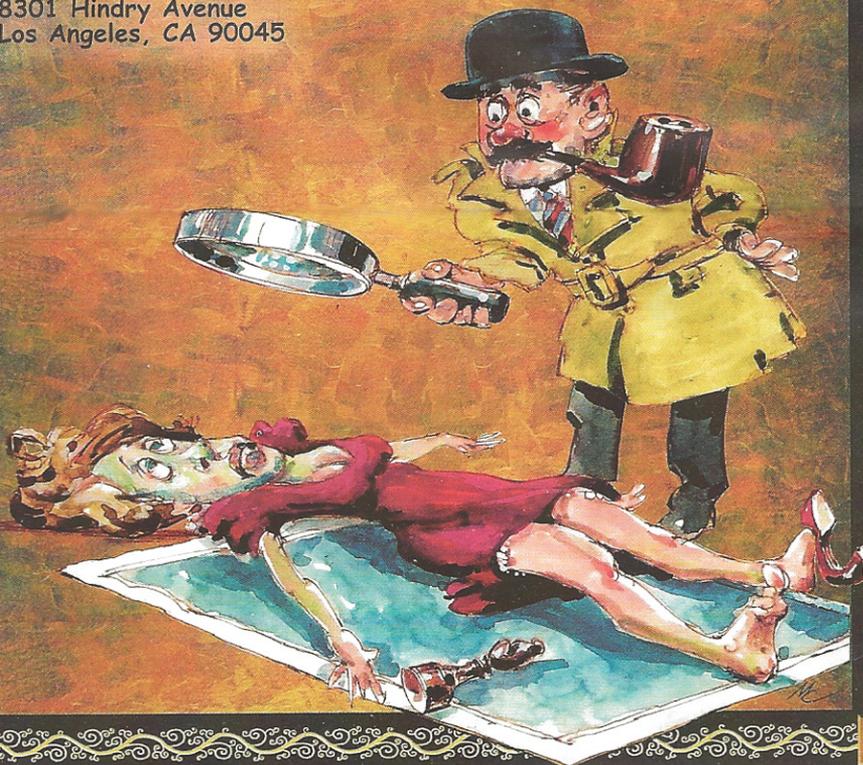
Directed by Scott Martin

Produced by Lori A. Marple-Pereslete
and Linda Reinhardt

January 14 - February 19, 2011

Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Westchester Playhouse
8301 Hindry Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90045



*The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate
Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society
Murder Mystery*

by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jr.

Director
Scott Martin

Producers
Lori A. Marple-Pereslete and Linda Reinhardt

Set Design
Jim Crawford

Lighting Design
Tom Brophey

Costume Design
Maria Cohen

Cast

Felicity Tramwell..... Joanna Churgin
Audrey Shaftsberry Vada Foster
Phoebe Reece Jayne Hamil
Gertrude Pugh Deborah Ishida
Thelma Greenwood..... Shaina Zalma

Time: 1988

Place: the community meeting hall in the village of Farndale, England

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

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

The Director's Two Cents

Everyone who's been involved in a Kentwood Players production over the past 61 years, be it from onstage, backstage or in the audience, knows too well that no matter how conscientiously a director directs and a producer produces and an actor acts, things sometimes do not go precisely as rehearsed during a live performance. Inevitably, the laws of Murphy and Physics will triumph over the most carefully thought-out production, and so it is with the passionate but clueless ladies of the Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society.

Co-author Walter Zerlin, Jr. explains, "My mother had been in her drama group for years. I always remember seeing her in shows with women playing men's parts, and doing it dreadfully. But throughout it all was the fun and drive they had, no matter what problem beset them."

With his good friend David McGillivray – an actor, producer and screenwriter of many 1970s low-budget British horror and porno films – they wrote a hilarious F.A.H.E.T.G.D.S. version of MACBETH, which became an award-winning hit at the 1976 Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. By popular demand, they expanded the repertoire of the Farndale Ladies, including spoofs of a haunted house thriller, a French farce, a science-fiction adventure, and tonight's murder mystery, which premiered at Edinburgh in 1980.

McGillivray adds, "I think it's no accident that the Farndale Ladies, who can't seem to perform the simplest task without falling over or breaking something, were created in Great Britain, possibly the only country in the world which discourages personal achievement as vulgar and has made cult out of heroic failure."

But as with all things, vulgarity and failure are in the eyes of the beholder, and we hope that tonight your eyes will forgivingly behold the Farndale Ladies as they succumb to one of the most basic human compulsions – seeking love and attention by "putting on a show" – and you will endure, and perhaps even enjoy, their spirited dedication to the theatre – no matter what happens.

Scott Martin

About the Cast



Joanna Churgin (Felicity Tramwell) – Joanna previously appeared with Kentwood Players as Ouisa in *Six Degrees of Separation* and Marjorie in *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*. She's thrilled to be working with Scott and the fine cast of this farce with a title so long that it exceeds the word limit of this bio. Joanna has also performed in numerous productions at the Morgan-Wixson and Theatre Palisades, where her favorite roles were Sister Mary Ignatius in *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You*, Ouiser in *Steel Magnolias*, Jeanette in *The Full Monty*, Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret*, Mrs. Meers in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and Kate in *All My Sons*.



Vada Foster (Audrey Shaftsberry) – Vada's is a familiar face on the boards of Kentwood. Her first show was *The Children's Hour* in 1984, after which she apparently fell into a black hole, emerging again in 2006 to appear in *Nicholas Nickleby*. Honing her British speaking skills still further, her next appearance was in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* followed by *Present Laughter*. During her absence from Kentwood she was active with the Lambda Players of Long Beach, where she played Lil in *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*, Ellie in *A Late Snow*, and Gertrude Stein in *Gertrude Stein and a Companion*. She is tickled to work with this fantastic cast and crew and add Scottish to her repertoire of accents.



Jayne Hamil (Phoebe Reece) – Jayne is thrilled to be a part of this ensemble. She last performed at Kentwood in 1974 as Ann in *All My Sons* and Sally in *Cabaret* and assistant directed 2008's *Little Green Men*. She studied acting at PCPA, and with Charles Nelson Reilly, Dom DeLuise and Monty Ash. Favorite TV role: the voice of Nancy in *Nancy & Sluggo*, alongside her idol, June Foray (Rocky the Flying Squirrel). TV writer-producer credits include, *The Nanny* (with Fran Drescher) and *Still Standing* (with Mark Addy). Thanks to Scott who keeps me laughing. For Ed, De, Jake, Monty and Kim.



Deborah Ishida (Gertrude Pugh) – Deborah has been in commercials, films and TV, but her love is theater. Playing a man is not new to her since she was Duncan in the "Scottish Play." Other roles include Mrs. Watchett in *The Time Machine*, Marsha in Schisgal's *Old Wine in a New Bottle*, and Edith Kossoff in the *Miss JAPP*. Deborah is thrilled to be in this production; what better for a Brit to be in a British farce. Cheers and bottoms up. Love to son Keith, daughter Rebecca, her husband Wes, kids Emily and Ethan. Also, Robert and her special friend Vincent.



Shaina Zalma (Thelma Greenwood) – *The Farnedale Avenue...Murder Mystery* marks Shaina Zalma's debut performance with the Kentwood Players. She'd like to thank Scott for so warmly welcoming her to the group. Past performance highlights include *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; *American Reflections*, which performed in China; *Frankenstein a re-animation* (Mary Shelley); *Rumors* (Claire); *Sweeney Todd* (Johanna); and *You Never Can Tell* (Mrs. Clandon).

About the Director

Scott Martin (Director) – Scott Martin has worked for many years in Los Angeles as an actor, director, writer, composer and musician. He wrote and directed the musical *Little Green Men* which had its world premiere at Kentwood in 2008 and has presented one of his numerous other musicals, *Scream Queens*, at a Kentwood workshop. Both of these shows are published by Samuel French Inc. The 2009 production of his *Children of the Night* at the Beverly Hills Playhouse received a L.A. Ovation Award nomination for "Best Book of a Musical." As always, inexpressible thanks to Jayne. www.scottmartinmusicals.com

About the Producers

Lori A. Marple-Pereslete (Producer) – Lori can usually be found working behind the scenes Producing, Set Decorating or searching for props. She's excited to be working with such a talented cast and production team. She hopes you enjoy the show. Thanks to Tony for being so loving!

Linda Reinhardt (Producer) – Linda is excited to begin her KP producing career with this hilarious show, amidst a wonderful cast and production team! Her previous show experiences here have been as Prop Mistress for *A Murder is Announced*, *The Laramie Project*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, and *A Little Night Music*. Her previous theater experiences were at Palos Verdes Players where she was Resident Producer, and produced such favorites as *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *Tartuffe*, and many others.

About the Designers

Jim Crawford (Set Design) – Jim has performed a variety of on and off stage functions for Kentwood Players. This is his second set design. He thanks Tony for both his creative suggestions and expertise in building, all of the work Sunday helpers and Drew for additional help.

Tom Brophrey (Lighting Design) – Tom has lit dozens of KP shows in his 40 years of membership, including Scott Martin's *Little Green Men*, most recently *Present Laughter*.

Maria Cohen (Costume Design) – Maria's costumes for this play are supposed to be funny as all items are gathered from the "cast" ladies closets or their theater. Sounds familiar? Nothing new to Maria. She has costumed musicals and dramas now she has a comedy. Her last award was for *A Little Night Music*. She has done Costumes since 1990. She wants to thank to her husband for moral support, ideas and actual help with costumes. She also wants to thank her loyal "sewing ladies."

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Special Thanks

Michael Cohen, Jayne Hamil and Shirley Hatton for assisting with costumes.
Deborah Ishida for props. Barbara Brophey for curtains. Max Heldring Stormes for riding hat.

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

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

Parade, a Musical

Book by Alfred Uhry
Music & Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown
Co-Conceived by Harold Prince
March 18 – April 23, 2011
Director: Ben Lupejkis

Squabbles

A Comedy by Marshall Karp
May 20 – June 25, 2011
Director: Gail Bernardi

Bus Stop

A Comedy by William Inge
July 15 – August 20, 2011
Director: Max Heldring Stormes

Candide, a Musical

Music by Leonard Bernstein
Book adapted from Voltaire by Hugh Wheeler
Lyrics by Richard Wilbur
With additional Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
and John LaTouche
September 16 – October 22, 2011
Director: Catherine Rahm

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:

Boxoffice (310) 645-5156

Reservations are Necessary

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THE FARNDAL AVENUE HOUSING ESTATE
TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD DRAMATIC SOCIETY
proudly presents

Murder at Checkmate Manor

Conceived, Written, Directed, Designed, Produced and Catered
by Mrs. Phoebe Reece

Starring
(in order of importance)

Mrs. PHOEBE REECE	as	Lady Clarissa Rook, Mlle. Regine Tootsuite, Miss Patricia Bishop, Miss Letitia Bishop & Mr. Morton Goodbody
Ms. THELMA GREENWOOD	as	Miss Daphne Bishop, Miss Rose Bishop & Dame Gladys Knight
Ms. AUDREY SHAFTSBERRY	as	Lady Doreen Bishop, Miss Joan Bishop, Miss Violet Bishop & Mrs. Ruby King
Mrs. FELICITY TRAMWELL	as	Pawn (the butler), Mrs. Judith Castle & Col. Edgar King
Mrs. SYLVIA FROBISHER	as	Inspector Lionel O'Reilly

Stage Management:	Ms. Gertrude Pugh
Light & Sound Technician:	Adrian Milligan
Costumes & Properties:	Mrs. Lillian Gillhooley, Mrs. Hortense Beasley, Ms. Betty Arbuthnot, Mrs. Barbara Cavendish
Scene Building & Painting:	The loyal and hardworking husbands and gentlemen of the F.A.H.E.T.G.D.S.
Special Thanks:	The Hon. Thomas K. O'Brophy for printing tonight's playbills. The Reg Cuthbert Family for the use of their barn for rehearsals during the Daffodil Festival Week. Jim and Molly McCracken for the Work Sunday ale, kidney pie and haggis.

BIOGRAPHIES

Mrs. Phoebe Reece, whose youthful countenance and cheery disposition have long been a motivating force in our Farndale community, organized the F.A.H.E.T.G.D.S. many years ago as an expressive outlet for her inexhaustible creative spirit and to provide an opportunity for some of the house-bound ladies of Farndale to get out of their kitchens and put on some plays. She has adapted, directed and starred in almost all of our semi-annual productions, some of her favorites being the title roles in OTHELLO, CHARLEY'S AUNT, PYGMALION, JULIUS CAESAR, PETER PAN, and the memorable original musical version of LAWRENCE OF ARABIA staged three years ago at the Farndale quarry and gravel pits. Love to Skipper.

Ms. Thelma Greenwood, our "Miss Farndale:1988" -- no great surprise there -- has appeared in several F.A.H.E.T.G.D.S. productions, including Ophelia/Laertes in HAMLET; The Queen of Hearts/Dormouse/Tweedledum in ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS and Al Lewis in THE SUNSHINE BOYS. She studied acting, voice and dance -- though you'd never know it, she's such a natural -- at the York Theatre's Junior Apprentice Program for Undernourished Girls, and regularly participates in show jumping, trick riding and fox hunting. She hopes to someday soon get a horse.

Ms. Audrey Shaftsberry is one of the founding mothers of the F.A.H.E.T.G.D.S. where her efforts behind the scenes have been invaluable, mostly. Her appearances on stage have not been so stellar. But despite her experiences, she is carrying on regardless. She is happy to put the DEATH OF A SALESMAN debacle behind her and be allowed back on the boards. And she promises to give a copy of her recipe (you know which one) to anyone who wishes it, if you will ask her after the show.

Mrs. Felicity Tramwell at the young age of 7 began acting out scenes from the plays of Wilde and Shaw at family holiday gatherings and was immediately sent by her parents to the St. Ignatius Boarding School in Liverpool to have this passion for the theatre beaten out of her. Undaunted by years of clerical abuse, she returned home and auditioned for the F.A.H.E.T.G.D.S. production of FIDDLER ON THE ROOF (Bielke) and has been delightful in many minor and cameo roles ever since, including HAMLET (Gravedigger), THE FANTASTICKS (Mute) and ROMEO AND JULIET (Apothecary). She dedicates tonight's performance to her loving husband Giles and her precocious hyperactive twins, Lucy and Bernice.

Mrs. Sylvia Frobisher is a beloved senior member of the F.A.H.E.T.G.D.S. and our Farndale family, having owned and operated the Havisham Fish & Chips and Corner Pub for nigh onto 40 years now. She has appeared in our productions of THE MIKADO (Katisha), PYGMALION (Alfred Doolittle) and OTHELLO (Iago), among others. With her pronounced lisp and advancing scoliosis, she has annually campaigned to portray the title role of RICHARD III, a show which somehow, despite numerous requests, has not yet been approved for production by the F.A.H.E.T.G.D.S. play selection committee, comprised solely of Mrs. Reece and her flatulent Yorkie, Skipper.

TERRIFYING TREATS AND DEADLY DELIGHTS FROM
MRS. CASTLE'S CHECKMATE MANOR COOKBOOK

Gertrude Pugh's "Bubble & Squeak"

- 4 large new potatoes
- 5 large dark cabbage leaves (Savoy)
- 20g butter
- salt and pepper to taste

Rapidly boil potatoes for 30 mins. in lightly salted water. Roughly shed the cabbage leaves and put into boiling water. Cook for 8-10 mins. Tsp. of sugar or leftovers optional. Drain the potatoes and mash in the butter, add salt & pepper to taste. Also recommended: handful of mature cheddar cheese, 2 heaped tsp. chives, substitute garlic salt for regular salt, tsp. of Coleman's English mustard. Mix the mashed potatoes and cabbage together and shape into patties. Fry in a pan with a spot of oil for 8-10 mins. each side on medium to high heat. Serves 4. Mmmm, delightful!

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Phoebe Reece's "Wine Cake"

Open a bottle of wine, sherry or port and have a glass.
Be sure to save some for the cake.

- 1 package of yellow cake mix
- 1 package of instant vanilla pudding
- 4 eggs
- 3/4 cup of vegetable oil
- 1 cup of wine, sherry or port (teetotalers may use milk)

Mix the above ingredients well and pour into a greased bundt or tube pan. Bake in a pre-heated 350 degree oven for 40-45 minutes. Cool and sprinkle with powdered sugar or drizzle with a mixture of 1/2 cup powdered sugar and 3 teaspoons milk. Ooo-la-la, another slice, s'il vous plait!

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Audrey Shaftsberry's "Green Chili Artichoke Dip"

- 1 large can (8 1/2 oz.) artichoke hearts, cut in quarters or smaller (not marinated)
- 1 4 oz. can mild chopped green chilis
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup grated cheese (cheddar, jack, or whatever)

Mix all ingredients together, except half of the grated cheese to put on top; Put mixture in a glass baking dish and bake for about 3 minutes at 350. Serve hot with tortilla chips. You can also microwave for about 5 minutes instead of baking, but you'll get lovely brown cheese with the oven! My American cousins LOVE this dish!

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Gertrude Pugh's "Toad in the Hole"

- 1 large egg
- 3 heaped tbs. plain flour
- 5 tbs. milk
- pinch of salt
- 1 tbs. olive oil
- 4 sausages of your choice

Preheat oven to 450; put sausages and oil into a Pyrex dish and bake for 8-10 minutes; whisk egg, salt, flour and milk together, then add to sausages; THE DISH WILL BE HOT. Cook additional 20 minutes. Serves 2, if you're lucky enough to have a friend. Otherwise, you may enjoy yourself for 2 days. I usually ring up Audrey and she pops over in a flash. Delicious fun!

Some memorable past productions from the F.A.H.E.T.G.D.S.



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