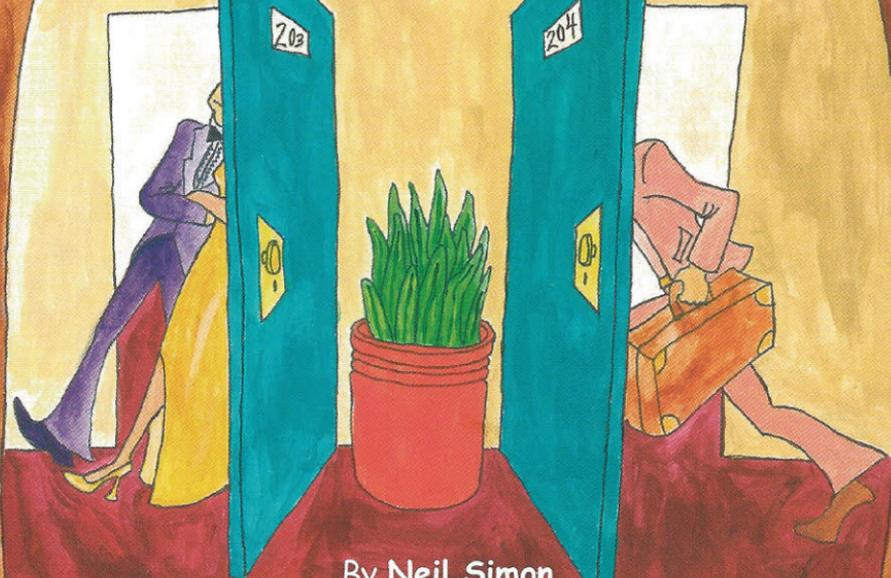


FootLights

ILLUMINATING THE THEATRE COMMUNITY

Kentwood Players presents

California suite



By Neil Simon

Directed by Alison Mattiza

Produced by Larry Jones

May 10 - June 15, 2013

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

Westchester Playhouse 8301 Hindry Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90045

Reservations (310) 645-5156

About the Cast



Jeff Asch (Marvin Michaels) – Jeff was last seen on this stage in *Li'l Abner* as Pappy Yokum and is happy to return. His other shows here were *Man of La Mancha* and *Legends*. In the last two decades Jeff has acted and directed in a myriad of theater, film, television, and commercials. He considers himself very fortunate and lucky to make a living in a career he's adored ever since he could walk. The only downside is people are constantly mistaking him for Tom Cruise, but he deals with it (kidding... as if I had to say that). Jeff is a graduate of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts. He really hopes you enjoy the show tonight as Jeff has an affinity for Neil Simon, and an immense

portion of his theater credits include his shows. As always love to his beautiful, talented, and supportive wife Angela. Now...Sit back, and have a laugh filled evening.



Todd Andrew Ball (William Warren) – Todd is making his debut here with Kentwood Players. Already this year he has been seen in the role of Eugene Fodor in *Crazy for You* and Messenger 7013 in *Heaven Can Wait* both at the Glendale Centre Theatre. Other recent credits include Brother Percy in *Wake Not the Dead* (Unbound Production's Wicked Lit), Lov Bensey in *Tobacco Road* (Raven Playhouse) and Joe Goldfarb in *I Remember Lou* (Whitefire Theater). Some other favorite credits include, Hercule Poirot in Agatha Christie's *Black Coffee*, Rev. Arthur Humphrey in *See How They Run*, and

Hannibal in *The Curious Savage*. He thanks Hisato for all his love and support.



Gordon Chan (Mort Hollender) – Gordon is excited to be making his first appearance at Kentwood Players with such a talented group and fantastic production. Select credits include *DIA* (UC Berkeley TDPS), *Xtro & Julie* (Alumnae Theatre), *The Emperor's New Clothes* (NAGS Players), *The Miser* (Gnu Ground), *Philistines and Farmers* (Queen's), *Push* (Gnu Ground), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (UNI Theatre). Gordon also co-founded and directed various productions for Fly by Night, a theatre company that donates its proceeds to an orphanage in Ghana. He previously trained at Queen's University and RADA, and was mentored by Diego Matamoros at Soulpepper

Theatre Company. Currently, Gordon serves as a Farber Fellow at REDF, supporting the growth of social enterprises across California.



Andy Grosso (Stu Franklyn) – Andy earned his BFA in Acting from Syracuse University and is a member of SAG-AFTRA. He's also a proud member of Kentwood Players, and is very happy to be back for a third Season! Andy performs regularly at The Comedy Store, Neon Venus, Theater Asylum & Upright Citizen's Brigade. For more info about upcoming shows, please visit www.Twitter.com/TheAndyGrosso



Catherine Rahm (Diana Nichols) – Catherine has not performed on stage at KP since *Parade*, but directed *Candide* and music directed *Oliver* here in the interim. Recently she appeared in *All the King's Men* at the Morgan-Wixson in Santa Monica and the world premiere of *Has Anybody Here Seen Roy* at Theatre Palisades. Favorite local performances include the Witch in *Into the Woods*, Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Drood in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.



Melodie S. Rivers (Hannah Warren) – Melodie is grateful to Alison Mattiza for giving her the opportunity to play Hannah and to her sons, Lucas and Logan for their commitment and theatrical talent. Melodie began her Kentwood Players membership as a specialty make-up artist for the Kentwood Kids' production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Before long, she was building props and costumes and providing administrative support for the Kentwood Kids Performing Arts Program. She first appeared in the main stage production of *As You Like It* in 2010. Her co-producer/co-director credits include the

Kentwood Kids productions of *A Grimm Night for Hans Christian Andersen*, and *Greece - The Musical*. Most recently, Melodie co-produced and was scenic artist for *Rockin' Robin Hood* and co-produced the main stage production of *Fortinbras* with her friend, Bruce Starrett.



Valerie Sullivan (Millie Michaels) – Valerie is excited to return to Kentwood Players. Audiences may remember her as Mother Superior in *Nunsense*, a role which earned her a Marcom Masque Best Actress nomination. Other Kentwood productions include *Plaza Suite* and *Jerry's Girls*. Favorite regional credits include Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias*, Abby in *Arsenic & Old Lace*, and Charlotte in *Moon Over Buffalo*. And the female lead in the long running musical comedy revue *Bottoms Up* in Laughlin, Nevada. Of course, none of the above would be possible without the love and support of her husband John.



Stacey Tilford (Beth Hollender) – Stacey Tilford (Beth) would like to thank Kentwood Players for the opportunity to make her debut at the Westchester Playhouse in *California Suite*. Having recently played a leading role in *Tobacco Road* (Ada Lester), she has enjoyed performing in many theatre productions as well as doing voiceover work and can be seen in the upcoming web series *Court Ordered*. Many thanks to my family and friends for their love and support. For you, dad.



Preeti Tiwari (Gert Franklyn/Bunny) – Preeti feels royally blessed at having had the privilege of working at NBCUniversal; schooling from Groundlings, Stella Adler, NYFA, Lee Strasberg and Playhouse West; and doing shows at Elite, West Valley Playhouse, High Street Arts Center, ISS Christian Church and Palisades, theatres in L.A. and Ventura counties.



Michael Willens (Sidney Nichols) – Michael is very excited to be playing Sidney in California Suite! He has Most recently appeared in *Enchanted April* as Antony Wilding at Theatre Palisades. He has also appeared in plays such as *Hay Fever* as Richard Greatham, *The Odd Couple* as Jesus, *The Murder Room* as James Crandall, *The Butler Did It* as Peter Flimsey and much more. He would like thank his puppies and very large bird for putting up with him while he rehearsed his lines and was gone at rehearsal. He has received training from Second City in Chicago and IO West in Hollywood.

About the Director

Alison Mattiza (Director) – Alison is thrilled to be making her official directorial debut on the Kentwood Players stage!! Alison has been a member of Kentwood Players for 18 years and has performed in, choreographed, produced, stage managed and worked the light booth on many KP productions. She is very excited to have such a talented cast and crew working with her on this production. Alison would especially like to thank the board for giving her the opportunity to direct one of her all-time favorite plays. Alison would also like to thank Van and Jack for their patience and understanding of her love of theater. Neil Simon is a master of the English language. He can make you laugh and cry with his words, sometimes both at the same time. Alison is hoping that you laugh and cry along with her.

About the Producer

Larry Jones (Producer) – Lifetime Member Larry Jones, actor, director and producer, is happy to be producing Neil Simon's *California Suite* for director Alison Mattiza and her amazing cast & crew! Prior producing stints for Kentwood include Neil Simon's *Odd Couple*, *Female Version*, and *Gypsy*. Larry seems to have an attraction to Neil Simon's work, with this production, the *Odd Couple Female Version*, and directing three Neil Simon plays at Kentwood.

About the Designers

Shawn K. Summerer (Set Design) – 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 is currently represented by Circle of 10 Talent. This is Shawn's first set design credit, but also directed *Dracula* and *The Miracle Worker* and did the sound design for *The 39 Steps* here at Kentwood. He has also directed children's theatre productions including *Oliver*, *King and I*, and *Joseph*.... As an actor, his favorite roles include Smudge in *Forever Plaid*, Pedro in *Man of La Mancha*, David in *Company*, and Tommy in *Annie Get Your Gun*. Doorbell!

Robert Davis (Lighting Design) – Robert is grateful to Allison for the chance to return to Kentwood Players to light *California Suite*. Recent lighting credits include *The 39 Steps*, *Oliver!*, *Parade*, *Hollywood Arms* and *Dracula* with Kentwood Players, as well as *They're Playing Our Song* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at Theatre Palisades. When Robert isn't lighting the stage, he's busy narrating audio books including the soon to be released "Boy Trouble" and "Superfoods: A Complete Superfoods Diet for Longer Life". Much love to JP.

Jayne Hamil (Costume Design) – Jayne is thrilled to be working with director Alison and producer Larry and can't believe she only has to dress these 10 delightful actors, having just been part of the team that costumed the 43 actors in *Ragtime*. Jayne was once Neil Simon's waitress - and though the restaurant forbade fawning over celebrities - she wrote him a fan letter on his doggybag.

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Special Thanks

Veda and Gypsy Foster, Marcy Agreeen, Molly & Mochi Summerer

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.

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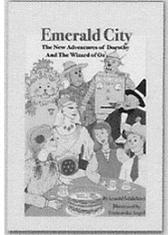
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Now, we need your help. We have some critical improvements that will be beyond what we as a small community theatre can manage. We need a new roof, a new heating and air conditioning system, and most of our facility needs to be updated. For the first 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.

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