

2024

May 10 - Jun 8

program

west
chester
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house



PRESENTS

*it's about a
stupid curse...*

fools

by Neil Simon



310.645.5156
kentwoodplayers.org
Westchester Playhouse

Los Angeles
County
Arts &
Culture

Director's Note

Bringing this production to life is the culmination of an idea that first occurred to me when I was 15, pursuing the shelves of a long-since closed theatre shop in Denver. A lot has happened in the intervening 25 years, much of which has deepened my appreciation for this show. For the comedic stylings of one of the all time great playwrights, sure. But most especially for the other artform placed center stage in *Fools*, the art of teaching. As a Special Education teacher for many years, I've seen what can happen when a student is already convinced they can't progress. If all you hear your whole life is that you can't learn, you figure it must be true. Luckily there are lots of Leon Tolchinsky's out there who understand that telling you you're smart doesn't change it, you must be shown. And luckily there are plays like this that can deliver a message like that, wrapped in 90 minutes of puns, running gags, and absurd jokes about fish.

Насолодвайтесь шоу (enjoy the show)!

Jeremy Palmer

Director



CAST

Snetsky	Elora Becker
Lenya Zubritsky	Alison Boole
Yenchna	Elizabeth A. Bouton Summerer
Leon Tolchinsky	Miles Garcia
Gregor Yousekevitch	Ari Hagler
Slovitch	Phyllis M. Nofts
Sophia Zubritsky	Lyndsay Palmer
Mishkin	Perry Shields
Dr. Zubritsky	Jon Sparks
Magistrate	Rhonda Yeager-Hutchinson
Town Crier	Zahra Zaveri

TIME AND PLACE:

Kulyenchikov, a remote village in the Ukraine
1890-ish

RUNTIME/INTERMISSION INFO:

The show runs approximately 2 hours, with a
15-minute intermission between acts

*This production is dedicated to the
memory of Anita Cvitanovich Smith,
a great mother and friend who appreciated and
fostered the art of teaching*

Meet the Cast



Elora Becker – Snetsky

Elora is absolutely elated to be apart of her second Kentwood Players production, *Fools*. Previously in *An Inspector Calls* (Edna), Elora has also starred in *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* (Raya) and *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Molly Aster). Elora would like to thank her the Kentwood community, and her friends and family, for all of their support and love. Enjoy the show!



Alison Boole – Lenya

Alison is thrilled to be part of this very deeply thought-provoking and complex play, although she is nervous about being up to the task of such a profound piece. Alison has been doing theater for a while now, you may have seen her around Kentwood, sometimes acting, sometimes sweeping, handing out tickets or working backstage. Alison's favorite roles include Charlotte in *Moon Over Buffalo*, Violet in *9 To 5 The Musical*, Marmee in *Little Women*, the Angel in *Angels In America*, Lola in *Damn Yankees*, and Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*. Alison has been a member of Kentwood for over 25 years and currently serves on the board as Treasurer. Thank you to Jeremy and Cat for the opportunity to join this wonderful cast. Thank you also to West for putting up with his wife doing all this theater stuff.



Elizabeth A. Bouton Summerer – Yenchna

Elizabeth is excited to be a part of this fun and wacky production of Neil Simon's *Fools*! She was last seen on the Kentwood stage as M'Lynn Eatenton in *Steel Magnolias*. A few of her past Kentwood credits include Miss Shingle in *Gentleman's Guide of Love & Murder*, Judy Bernly in *9 to 5 the Musical*, Sandra Bloom in *Big Fish*, Inga in *Young Frankenstein*, The Witch in *Into the Woods*, Nancy in *Oliver*, Lucille Frank in *Parade*, Edwin Drood in *Edwin Drood*, Molly Brown in *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* and Gabby/Bobbi in *City of Angels*. A huge thank you to Jeremy & Cat for this amazing opportunity and kudos to this very talented cast and crew! Love SKS - FLAMES MM!

Meet the Cast



Leon Tolchnisky – Miles Garcia

Miles Garcia is a young'un born and raised in SoCal who goes to school in rural Western Massachusetts. Having acted in various shows in high school and college, he prefers the term "kid who does theater" to "theater kid." If not reading a book, watching a movie, or writing a script, he can probably be found sleeping. In the public domain, he does college improv, amongst other really cool things.



Gregor Yousekevitch – Ari Hagler

Ari Hagler daylights as a history educator at Geffen Academy at UCLA and author of two esoteric but fascinating history books on Middle Eastern History. This is his second appearance with Kentwood, having previously appeared as Gerald Croft in *An Inspector Calls*. Other recent roles include Gerry in *Dancing at Lughnasa* and Lenny in *Rumors*, both at the Cloverdale Playhouse in Montgomery, Alabama. Roles long ago and far away include Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady*, and the Leading Player in *Pippin*. This performance is dedicated to his wife Elana, his son Asher, and his daughter Dina, who are all, like him, theatre kids at heart.



Slovitch – Phyllis M. Nofts

Phyllis is thrilled to return to the Kentwood Players, after last performing here in *Native Gardens*. You may have seen Phyllis perform in various venues across Southern California, in a small independent film or in many Dhar Mann videos. Her most notable roles include Grandma Kurnitz in *Lost In Yonkers*, Helga Ten Dorp in *Deathtrap*, Emma Cristiano in *Over the River and Through the Woods*, Madame Arcati in *Blithe Spirit*, Betty Meeks in *The Foreigner* and Norma Hubley in *Plaza Suite*. She's thrilled to be part of this production with this incredibly talented cast and crew. Phyllis thanks her wife, Evie, for continuing to graciously accept her role of "Theatre Widow"! Enjoy the show!

Meet the Cast



Sophia Zubritsky – Lyndsay Palmer

Lyndsay Palmer thinks the purpose of man's existence is to laugh in theaters so congratulations! She was last seen with Torrance Theatre Company as Jackie Coryton in the world premiere of *Hay Fever the Musical*. Favorite Kentwood roles include Phoebe D'Ysquith in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*, Rosalind Hay in *Moon Over Buffalo*, Amy March in *Little Women*, Sister Mary Robert in *Sister Act* and Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*, among others. She's happy to be doing this show with her Heart Family members and thanks her husband for his guidance on stage and in real life too!



Mishkin - Perry Shields

L.A. native Perry Shields' theatrical background includes over 100 productions in the capacity of actor, musician, and director. He has directed and appeared in dozens of productions for the Torrance Theatre Company and Little Fish, in addition to Kentwood (*Moon Over Buffalo*) and the Kaleidoscope Collective (*Pirates of Penzance*). Some of his favorite roles over the years have included Harold Hill (*The Music Man*), Felix (*The Odd Couple*), Sir Evelyn (*Anything Goes*), Sam (*The Cemetery Club*), and himself in *The Complete Works of Wm. Shakespeare* (Abridged). He performed in Murder Mystery Dinner Theater happily for several years with his wife Cindy for 3M Productions in Solvang, where he was both the murdered and the murderer, depending on the play. His training includes improv with the famed Groundlings. Perry is proud of his contributions to the legacy of the "Universal Monsters" and their creators through several stage and video projects, and is the theater manager for the twice-yearly Monsterpalooza in Pasadena and Burbank. Thanks to this wonderful cast and crew for making this possible, and thank you for joining us for this performance.

Meet the Cast



Dr. Zubritsky – Jon Sparks

A 20+ year member of the Kentwood Players, Jon is thrilled to be a part of this amazing cast. KP roles: Edward Bloom/*Big Fish*, D'Ysquith Family/*Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, Bruce Bechdel/*Fun Home*, Stine/*City of Angels*, Cinderella's Prince-Wolf/*Into the Woods*, El Gallo/*The Fantasticks*, John Jasper/*The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, and Charlemagne/*Pippin*. Regional: Mary Dale/*Red Scare on Sunset*, Billy Bigelow/*Carousel*, Mrs. Lovett/*Sweeney Todd*, Jess Winfield/*The Compleat Wrks of Wllm Shkspr (Abridged)*, Sylvia St. Croix/*Ruthless*, Roger DeBris/*The Producers* and *Pippin/Pippin*. Jon has performed for Holland America Cruise Lines and is also an accomplished wig master, having worked at Disneyland as well as many local theaters. GMKL-FLAMES



Rhonda Yeager-Hutchinson – Magistrate

While attending University of Houston, I portrayed Eve in *The Apple Tree*, and worked with Theatre Under the Stars Cabaret Theatre as a pre-show Cabaret Singer with occurring productions. Being Hospitality Chairperson for the past 2 years at Westchester Playhouse, I am excited to be a part of *Fools* and a great cast, incredible individuals. I hope you enjoy watching the show as much as I have enjoyed being a part of the adventure.



Zahra Zaveri – Town Crier

Zahra is thrilled to be hitting the Kentwood stage as Town Crier in *Fools*. Previous credits include: *The Dining Room*, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, *Indigo Airlines*, *Wella*, *Universal Voice*, *Apocalypse*, *True Blood*, *Posey*, *Chevy*, *IBM*, *Cybernella*, and *Poetry, Prose, and...Pirates!* for Kentwood Players Virtual Series. Zahra thanks her Kentwood cast & crew for a fun environment to create and play in; and her friends & family for their support. IG: zahra_zaveri

Meet the Production Team

Jeremy Palmer – Director

Jeremy Palmer previously assistant directed Kentwood's production of *The Ultimate Christmas Show* (abridged), as well as produced *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*, *9 to 5*, *Little Women*, and *Pippin*. He also created and directed 3 seasons of the original comedy series *DisLabeled*, wrote and assistant directed for 5 seasons of the award-winning *Vox Phamalia* sketch comedy series, and co-created 3 comedy web series for the disability positive Phamaly Theatre Company. Among other teaching work spanning over 15 years, he is an adjunct professor of Screenwriting at USC.

Catherine Rahm – Producer

Catherine is exsighted, umm, xxseighted, umm, axsorted, umm, happy to be producing this encardable, er, incordabble, er, inkredoble, er, great show. She hopes you have as much fun watching it as we did putting it together.

Fiona Okida – Assistant Director

Fiona is beyond ecstatic to work with Kentwood Players again since *Pippin* in 2019. Other on-stage credits include *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Little Mermaid*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. She is so grateful to work with Jeremy for her assistant directing debut and hopes to reunite with her Kentwood family again soon.

Daniel Mitchener – Lighting Design

Daniel is super excited to be working on *Fools*. He'd be a fool not to tell you about his past shows, which include *Rent*, *Inspector Calls* and *Once on this Island*, all with Kentwood theater! He doesn't remember what he did though, what a fool! He wants to thank his fool wife for all her help, the king of fools Rothgar, and all you fools for coming to the show! Enjoy!

Meet the Production Team

Kim Peterson – Costume Design

Kim has been a member of Kentwood Players for 13 years, and has been performing on the stage throughout. She has been part of the costume committee for the theatre for 4 years and was partly responsible for revamping the costume closets. Kim has costumed shows such as *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Nightwatch* and *Me and My Girl*. Her favorite thing is to have the opportunity to design, create and build new costumes as she did in *The Little Mermaid* and *Baskerville*. She hopes that she achieved a traditional Ukrainian look and did her Grandmother (Babushka) proud.

Josh Harper – Stage Manager

Josh Harper is thrilled to make his debut at Kentwood Players upon wrapping up his 33rd production at the Pierson Playhouse. He started in 2010 as a member of the stage crew for TPY's production of *The Wind in the Willows* and grew to be a stage manager with both TPY and mainstage productions, while playing music and working full-time. In addition, Josh was associate producer for five TPY shows and has made cameo appearances in *Has Anybody Here Seen Roy?* and *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*. He was most recently Stage Manager for TP's production of *Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. "Break a leg!"



Production Team

DIRECTOR	Jeremy Palmer
PRODUCER	Catherine Rahm
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Fiona Okida
SET DESIGN/ MASTER BUILDER	Shawn Plunkett
SOUND DESIGN	Susan Stangl
LIGHTING DESIGN	Daniel Mitchener
SET DECORATION	Jamie Dawley
GRAPHIC DESIGN	West Maätita
COSTUME DESIGN	Kim Peterson
STAGE MANAGER	Josh Harper
PROPS	Gloria Ramirez-Plunkett
BOOTH CREW	Kirk Larson, Howard Male
AUDITION DESK	Anne Klafter, Myron Klafter
PHOTOGRAPHY	Gloria Ramirez-Plunkett

Work Sunday

Elora Becker, Alison Boole, Elizabeth A. Bouton Summerer,
Mark Bruce-Casares, Doug Carlson, Sheldon Cohen,
Jamie Dawley, Marty Feldman, Isabella Francisco,
Samuel Goldman, Kelly Gresalfi, Steve Izant, Charles Keppler,
Anne Klafter, Myron Klafter, George Kondreck, Ben Lupejkis,
Howard Male, Melvin Miller, Colleen Okida, Fiona Okida,
Roy Okida, Jeremy Palmer, Lyndsay Palmer, Kim Peterson,
Shawn Plunkett, Catherine Rahm, Michele Selin, Jon Sparks,
Shawn Summerer, Doug Vasquez,
Rhonda Yeager-Hutchinson, Zahra Zaveri

Special Thanks

Doug Carlson

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KentwoodPlayers.org

Upcoming Productions

September 13 – October 5, 2024

MISERY

By William Goldman,
based on the novel by Stephen King
Directed by Kathy Dershimer

November 15 – December 14, 2024

THE PRODUCERS

by Mel Brooks & Thomas Meehan
Directed by Susan Weisbarth

January 17 – February 8, 2025

BY THE WAY, MEET VERA STARK

by Lynn Nottage



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COMING SOON

MISERY

by William Goldman

based on the novel by Stephen King

directed by
Kathy Dersheimer

produced by
Jenny Boone & Harold Dersheimer

Sept 13 - Oct 5, 2024

Misery is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York