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Never Mind the Sollocks...



Private Lives

by Noël Coward

Directed by Richard Perloff

Produced by Rhonda Yeager-Hutchinson
and Gail Bernardi

January 19 – February 10, 2024

"Private Lives" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

Los Angeles
County
Arts &
Culture



Private Lives

by Noël Coward

DIRECTED BY Richard Perloff

PRODUCED by
Gail Bernardi & Rhonda Yeager-Hutchinson

Set Designer
Ben Lupekis

Lighting & Sound Designer
Michael Thorpe

Costume Designer
Daniel Kruger

CAST
(in alphabetic order)

Victor
Sibyl
Elyot
Louise
Amanda

Allen Barstow
Alyssa Berkowitz
Matt Landig
Ingrid Leventhal
Courtney Shaffer

Act I

A resort hotel in Deauville, France.

*There will be one 15-minute intermission between
Act I and Act II.*

Act II

Amanda's flat in Paris, evening.

Act III

Same, the following morning.



Director's Note

What makes a play a "Classic"? We wouldn't dispute, certainly, that Shakespeare falls into that category, and we'd probably include the great Greek tragedies, as well as Chekhov, Ibsen, and Shaw. But, as we move closer to our own time, the distinction gets a little fuzzier.

Plays stand the test of time if they speak to something universal in human behavior. A play that seems as relevant now as the day it was first produced can lay claim to being a Classic.

Noël Coward was one of the great English-language playwrights of the 20th century, and "Private Lives" is one of his most brilliant achievements. It still has the ability to delight us - and provoke us - because (as the kids might say) it's still "relatable."

These past several weeks, as I've described the play - and, in particular, the curious relationship between its protagonists, Elyot and Amanda - to my friends, they've often responded by saying: "Oh, I was in a relationship like that once!" Or: "That happened to a friend of mine!"

Our times are different; we woo and wed differently, but Coward captured something essential and timeless about love and loving. We pull for Amanda and Elyot to get this thing right, even as we acknowledge, as our friend Shakespeare once said: "The course of true love never did run smooth."

Classic.

Richard Perloff, *Director*

Meet the Cast



Allen Barstow - Victor

Private Lives marks Allen's first production with Kentwood. Recent productions include *Mary Poppins* (Bert), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Flute/Bottom), and *The Great Gatsby* (Wilson/Wolfsheim/Owl Eyes). In March, he is reprising his role as Nick in a series of original plays called *The Hobag*.



Alyssa Berkowitz - Sibyl

Brooklyn-born and Jersey raised, Alyssa had an unconventional start to the world of acting. From a young age, Alyssa was involved in music which led to being drum major of the marching band and ultimately, a scholarship music major in college. After receiving her Bachelor's degree, Alyssa was accepted into Mass General Hospital Institute of Health Professions where she received her Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology. Treating brain-injured patients for several years equipped Alyssa with an impressive neurology vocabulary, an ability to rehab injured voices of singers and actors, and an amazing arsenal of human conditions. When the pandemic hit, Alyssa finally gave herself the permission to do what she has always loved—acting.



Meet the Cast



Matt Landig - Elyot

Matt last performed as Howard in Kentwood Players' production of *Moon Over Buffalo*. Other Kentwood shows: *Clybourne Park* (Karl/Steve), *Lend Me a Tenor* (Max), *Doubt* (Father Flynn), and *Squabbles* (Jerry). Other recent theatre: Neil Simon's musical *Little Me* (Yulnick), *Charley's Aunt* (the "title role"), *The Little Dog Laughed* (Mitch), *Beau Jest* (Bob), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Jack), *God of Carnage* (Alan--and also as producer). Awards: Theatre Palisades Award--Best Featured Actor (*Noises Off*), Northern California's Shellie Award--Best Actor (*The Diviners*). Matt's also the author of the play *Five Stars*.

Representation: Dream Entertainment Management.

Special Thanks: Maddie, Kimshelley, and Debbie.



Ingrid Leventhal - Louise

Originally from New York, Ingrid Leventhal moved to Los Angeles in 2009 to pursue a PhD in French literature. She fell in love with the city and, after earning her doctorate, she decided to stay in L.A. and teach middle and high school French. She's new to acting, and very excited for the opportunity to work with Kentwood Players!



Courtney Shaffer - Amanda

Courtney Shaffer is a Los Angeles based actress and voice over artist. She is "terribly delighted" to be working alongside talented cast and crew in this well-known Noël Coward British rom-com. Favorite Past Stage Credits: Elaine Wheeler in *Night Watch* (Kentwood Players), Truvy Jones in *Steel Magnolias* (Theatre Palisades), and Corie Bratter in *Barefoot in the Park* (Pittsburg Theatre Company).

Repped by ASAP! Talent Agency // IG: @theCourtneyShaffer

Meet the Production Team

Richard Perloff - Director

Richard has acted and directed for theatres across the length and breadth of the U.S., and is delighted to be making his Kentwood Players debut with this classic example of British comedy. Prior directing credits include: *All in the Timing*, *Macbeth*, *The Other Place*, *Deathtrap*, *The Mousetrap*, *Sea Marks*, *On the Verge*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *Loot*, *12 Angry Jurors*, *Private Eyes*, *Love's Labours Lost*, *Dialogue for Lovers*, and *Lysistrata*.

Gail Bernardi - Producer

Gail has acted, directed and produced many plays for Kentwood Players, her home base for 45 years, and other theatres throughout Los Angeles. The last play that Gail directed at Kentwood was *Moon Over Buffalo* and she is delighted to be producing *Private Lives*, with a wonderful cast and crew. She hopes that you enjoy the show and thanks you for loving and supporting live theatre.

Rhonda Yeager-Hutchinson - Producer

As an active member of Corpus Christi Little Theatre this carried me through my educational career. While attending University of Houston, I portrayed Eve in *The Apple Tree*, and also worked with Theatre Under the Stars Cabaret Theatre as a pre-show Cabaret Singer with occurring productions. *Private Lives* is my second production as a producer, this time co-producing along with Gail Bernardi, at Westchester's Kentwood Players, with which I have been involved since 2018. Great cast, great people. I hope you enjoy watching the show as much as I have enjoyed being a part of the development.

Ben Lupejkis – Set Designer

Private Lives marks Ben's eighth set design for Kentwood Players and follows his BWW award nominated set for *An Inspector Calls*. Ben has designed several sets for KP, beginning with the musical *Two by Two*. From ark, to river cruise ship (*Murder on the Nile*), to the world of a Titanic survivor (*Unsinkable Molly Brown*), to smalltown Texas (*Sordid Lives*), to radio studio (*It's a Wonderful Life*), to suburban backyard (*All My Sons*), Ben creates a livable environment with a sense of whimsy and attention to inventive detail for actors and audiences to unleash their imaginations.

Meet the Production Team

Michael Thorpe - Lighting/ Sound Designer

Michael [REDACTED]

if [REDACTED]

This [REDACTED]

or to [REDACTED]

This bio has been redacted for privacy

Daniel Kruger - Costume Designer

This is the fifth show Daniel has costumed for Kentwood Players. The previous shows were *Young Frankenstein*, *Avenue Q*, *Sister Act*, and *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. He has also worked behind the scenes on *Good People*, *Farragut North*, *Pippin*, *The Giver*, *Clue*, and *Baskerville*.



Production Team

Audition Desk

Booth

Fight Choreographer

Graphic Design

Lighting Assistant

Master Builder

Piano

Prop Master

Specialty Carpenter

Stage Manager

Wigs

Myron Klafter, Ann Klafter

Alison Boole, Howard Male

Patrick Vest

West Maätita

Nedra Allmond

George Kondreck

Corey Landis

Sheldon Cohen

Doug Carlson

Daniel Mitchener

Jon Sparks, Daniel Kruger



Work Sunday

Nedra Allmond, Allen Barstow, Alyssa Berkowitz, Gail Bernardi,
Doug Carlson, Sheldon Cohen, Marty Feldman, Samuel Goldman,
Steve Izant, Anne Klafter, Myron Klafter, George Kondreck,
Daniel Kruger, Matt Landig, Ben Lupejkis, Howard Male,
Lori Marple-Pereslete, Melvin Miller, Roy T. Okida, Tony Pereslete,
Richard Perloff, Kim Peterson, Courtney Shaffer,
Shawn Summerer, Michael Thorpe, Doug Vasquez,
Susan Weisbarth, Amy Witkowski, Rhonda Yeager-Hutchinson

Special Thanks

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STEEL MAGNOLIAS

By Robert Harling

Directed by Jon Sparks

May 10 - Jun 8, 2024

ONCE ON THIS ISLAND

Book and Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Music by Stephen Flaherty

Directed by Cece Suazo

Jul 19 - Aug 10, 2024

FOOLS

By Neil Simon

Directed by Jeremy Palmer

September 13 – October 5, 2024

MISERY

By William Goldman, based on the novel by Stephen King

Directed by Kathy Dersheimer

November 15 – December 14, 2024

THE PRODUCERS

by Mel Brooks & Thomas Meehan

Directed by Susan Weisbarth

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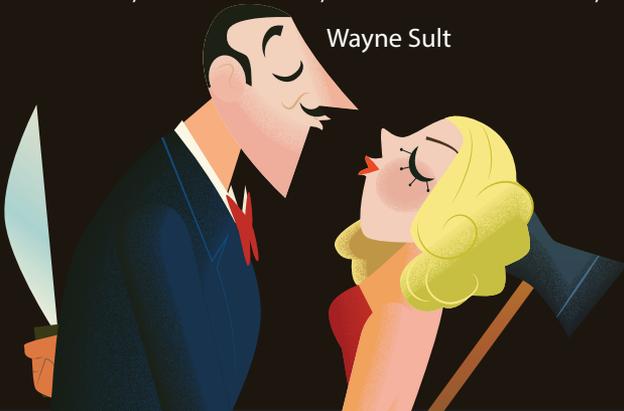
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The Only Thing Stronger Than Steel Is Friendship



Steel Magnolias

by Robert Harling

Directed by Jon Sparks

Produced by Alison Boole and Kirk Larson

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

MARCH 15 - APRIL 6, 2024