

2024

Nov 15 - Dec 14

program



Kentwood  
Players

PRESENTS

west  
chester  
play  
house

NOV 15<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH DEC 14<sup>TH</sup>

DIRECTED BY SUSAN WEISBARTH

MUSICAL DIRECTION BY MIKE WALKER

CHOREOGRAPHY BY LUKE ARTHUR SMITH

PRODUCED BY GAIL BERNARDI MARGARET HARRINGTON & KIM PETERSON

**THE PRODUCERS**

Kentwood Players

Los Angeles County Arts & Culture

AT THE WESTCHESTER PLAYHOUSE

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY MEL BROOKS BOOK BY MEL BROOKS & THOMAS MEEHAN

PRESENTED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MTI MUSIC THEATER INTERNATIONAL

## Director's Note

My motivation for choosing to direct *The Producers* was simple. Laughter and lots of it! With the noise of the world often drowning out the desire to stay positive by even the most sanguine of us, the need to laugh is greater than ever. And how can you help but laugh when exposed to the humor of Mel Brooks?

*The Producers* was written by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan based upon Mel's real-life experience, working as an assistant for a producer who financed his plays by sleeping with elderly women. Marry that to his concept of a musical about Nazis and what could go wrong? Mel said, "You get up on a soapbox and you argue with a Nazi, you're going to lose. But if you can ridicule him and make people laugh, then you win. It's as simple as that."

The original film starring Zero Mostel and Gene Wilder, served as the springboard for *The Producers*, the musical. Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick played Bialystock and Bloom and that production won 12 Tony Awards breaking the record held by *Hello Dolly!*

If you're looking for a show that's politically correct, then you are in the wrong theatre. *The Producers* is irreverent and certainly not politically correct, but it is definitely hilarious. After all, it is 1959.

We hope that you will enjoy this production and feel free to laugh out loud. We all deserve a good laugh!

**Susan Weisbarth**

*Director*

# Cast

**MAX BIALYSTOCK**

**Karl Schott**

**LEO BLOOM**

**Darian Calderon**

**FRANZ LIEBKIND**

**Shawn Summerer**

**ROGER DEBRIS**

**Jon Sparks**

**CARMEN GHIA**

**Emmon Amid**

**ULLA**

**Katelynn Ostler**

**ENSEMBLE**

**Joshua Caleb, Steven Didrick**

**Yas Modares Ghasiri, Lillian Kautz**

**Charles Keppler, Elina Luong**

**Katie MacDonald, Roy Okida**

**Jeremy Palmer, Lyndsay Palmer**

**Sarah Scialli, Lynn Valkov**

**Rebecca Wade, Jason Lubin**

## **WARNINGS:**

*Prop guns will be used in this production.*

*Special effects such as smoke and loud noises will be a part of this production.*

## **SPONSORED BY**



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# Musical Numbers

## ACT I

<i>Overture</i>	Orchestra
<i>Opening Night</i>	Usherettes and the Ensemble
<i>The King of Broadway</i>	Max and the Ensemble
<i>We Can Do It</i>	Max and Leo
<i>I Wanna Be a Producer</i>	Leo, Showgirls and Accountants
<i>We Can Do It Reprise</i>	Max and Leo
<i>I Wanna Be A Producer Reprise</i>	Max and Leo
<i>In Old Bavaria</i>	Franz and his pigeons
<i>Der Guten Tag Hop-Clop</i>	Franz, Max and Leo
<i>Keep It Gay</i>	Roger, Carmen, Max, Leo, and Roger's Team
<i>Keep It Gay Conga</i>	Roger, Carmen, Max, Leo and Roger's Team
<i>When You Got It, Flaunt It</i>	Ulla
<i>Along Came Bialy</i>	Max, Leo, and the Little Old Ladies, Ulla, Roger, Carmen, The Team, and the Ensemble

## ACT II

<i>That Face</i>	Ulla and Leo
<i>That Face Reprise</i>	Max, Leo
<i>A Wandr'ring Minstrel</i>	Auditioner Jack
<i>Have You Ever Heard the German Band</i>	Franz
<i>It's Opening Night Reprise</i>	Usherettes and the Ensemble
<i>It's Bad Luck To Say Good Luck on Op'ning Night</i>	Roger, Carmen, Franz, Leo and Max
<i>Springtime for Hitler</i>	Lead Tenor Stormtrooper, Ulla, Roger and the Ensemble
<i>Where Did We Go Right?</i>	Max and Leo
<i>Leo Goes to Rio</i>	Ulla, Leo
<i>Betrayed</i>	Max
<i>'Til Him</i>	Max, Leo and Little Old Ladies
<i>Prisoners of Love</i>	Max, Leo, Franz, Ulla, Girl Prisoners, Roger, Convicts
<i>Goodbye</i>	Company

# Meet the Cast



## **Emmon Amid – Carmen Ghia**

Emmon Amid is thrilled to make his Kentwood Players debut! A Los Angeles native and UCLA graduate, Emmon has previously starred as Jamie in *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* and Pepper in *Mamma Mia!* He's excited for the chance to bring Carmen to life!



## **Darian Calderon – Leo Bloom**

Darian Calderón is so incredibly excited to finally be a part of the Kentwood family in such a marvelous production! His recent credits include Usnavi in *In the Heights*, Hetchman in *The Hatmaker's Wife*, The Baker in *Into the Woods*, and Charlemagne in *Pippin*. Thanks for coming!



## **Joshua Caleb – Ensemble**

Joshua Caleb is excited to join Kentwood Players' production of *The Producers*. This show was the first live musical they had seen, and it has always held a special place in their heart. Joshua would like to thank their family, friends, and their partner Emily for all of their support.



## **Steven Didrick – Ensemble**

Steven Didrick is excited to be making his Kentwood players debut. Some of his favorite recent roles include: Reverend Shaw Moore in *Footloose* (Morgan Wixson Theatre), Mr. Price in *Kinky Boots* (Torrance Community Theatre), Brother Jeremiah in *Something Rotten!* (Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center) and Drake the Butler in *Annie* (Glendale Center Theatre). Steven would like to thank his family, friends and colleagues for their love and support of the arts. He is thrilled to be a part of this talented cast and crew and is grateful to the creative team for this wonderful opportunity.

# Meet the Cast



## **Yas Modares Ghasari – Ensemble**

Yas Modares Ghasari, an actor and writer-producer, is excited for his first performance with the Kentwood Players! Recently, he's been seen on stage as George Noon in *Cannibal! The Musical* and Reggie in *First Date*. Some of Yas' credits include films like *Babysplitters* with Dani Pudi and Sylvester Stallone's *MVP*.



## **Lillian Kautz – Ensemble**

Lillian is ecstatic to be performing in her first show with Kentwood Players. Past performances include *Guys and Dolls* (Conundrum), *Footloose* (Morgan-Wixson), and *Pippin* (Domino One). Lillian has a BA in Theatre Arts from Santa Clara University, and has studied with American Ballet Theatre and the Royal Danish Ballet. She hopes you enjoy the show!



## **Charles Keppler – Ensemble**

Charles is delighted to return to the stage here at Kentwood Players for this incredible production of *The Producers*. He is so appreciative of everyone involved for making this theatre and this show a home. Now relax, and may your laughs be hearty and your food be full of fiber!



## **Jason Lubin – Ensemble**

Jason is excited to be performing for the first time on the Kentwood stage. He was last seen as The Doughboy in *The Addams Family* at the Torrance Theatre Company, as well as played Danny Zuko in *Grease* and Perchik in *Fiddler on the Roof* in his home state of Michigan. A graduate of USC, Jason runs his own lit management company by day. He thanks the wonderful directors, crew and new friends that have made this performance special and sends lots of love to his family for flying in and all the friends who have come to support.





# Meet the Cast



## **Elina Luong – Ensemble**

Elina is thrilled for her debut with the Kentwood Players! Her prior theater experiences include *Beauty and the Beast* featured as a lead dancer and *Grease the Musical* featured as Sandy. Elina would like to thank her friends and family for their continuing support in her acting journey!



## **Katie MacDonald – Ensemble**

This is Katie's first show with the Kentwood Players, and she is so excited to be crossing so many dream roles off her musical theater bucket list, including a pigeon, a little old lady, and a sexy pretzel. Previously she has performed in *Beauty and the Beast* (Featured Dancer, Belle u/s) and *Spamalot* (Laker Girl) with The Aerospace Players. She would like to thank her husband Chad for his enduring support and encouragement, and she would also like to apologize to her downstairs neighbors for the excessive tap dancing. Enjoy the show!



## **Roy Okida – Ensemble**

Roy is excited to be performing in Kentwood Players The Producers. Previous credits include *9 to 5*, *Sister Act*, *The Crucible*, *Big Fish*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Into the Woods*. Many thanks to Susan, Mike, Luke, Gail, Kim, and Margaret for this opportunity, and much love to Colleen and Fiona. Enjoy the show!



## **Katelynn Ostler – Ulla**

Katelynn is thrilled to be debuting with Kentwood Players in this iconic role. Her recent roles include Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls* and Alice Murphy in *Bright Star*. She holds a BA in Musical Theatre from WSU where she was honored with outstanding graduate and talent of the year.



## Meet the Cast



### **Jeremy Palmer – Ensemble**

Jeremy Palmer once shook Mel Brooks' hand. He just likes to tell that story. It's been a while since he did a musical, but at Kentwood he's appeared in *Dial M for Murder* and *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. Other musical roles include El Gallo in *The Fantasticks*, Cliff in *Cabaret*, The Dentist in *Little Shop*, and Joseph in *Dreamcoat*. He relishes sharing the stage with his wife again, as well as these other folks.



### **Lyndsay Palmer – Ensemble**

Lyndsay Palmer celebrates her 12th Kentwood production and she is so thrilled to be joining this cast, along with her husband. Past favorite roles include Phoebe D'Ysquith from *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*, Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*, and Sophia in *Fools*, even if she tore her ACL during that show! She thanks the artistic team for letting her hobble across the stage again, as well as her voice coach Elizabeth Summerer, her Heart Family, God, and that pesky husband again.



### **Karl Schott – Max Bialystock**

This is Karl's 4th trip across the Kentwood Boards, starring in past shows such as *Gypsy*, *The 39 Steps* and *Orphans*. He is the recipient of two Marcom Masque Awards. Regional theater highlights include Willy in *Death of a Salesman*, Estragon in *Waiting for Godot*, Hines in *Pajama Game*, Billis in *South Pacific* and 10 roles in *Greater Tuna*. Karl has been involved with Theater tours that have taken him to the Far East, Europe, and a repertory company for the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland. Yes, Karl has been in movies, music videos and on TV, but that's a whole different bio. Karl collects vinyl records, vintage Mad Magazines, and is madly in love with a girl named Minerva, who happens to be his wife.

# Meet the Cast



## **Sarah Scialli – Ensemble**

Sarah's favorite roles include: *Pippin* (CMU SnS); *Fools* (Sophia, JFed Players); *Addams Family* (CTG); *Into the Woods* (HSAC); *Beauty and the Beast* (SCRT). Offstage: virtual production engineering R&D for *Industrial Light & Magic*; game direction for *Tinted Stardust*. Previously: DreamWorks Animation; producer for video game *Outer Wilds*. Kentwood Players debut!



## **Jon Sparks – Roger DeBris**

A 24-year member of the Kentwood Players, Jon is thrilled to be a part of this amazing cast and to once again play his dream role. 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*, *Charlemagne/Pippin* and *Dr. Zubritsky/FOOLS*. GMKL-FLAMES.



## **Shawn Summerer – Franz Liebkind**

Originally from Michigan, Shawn got his start in theatre playing "The Letter K" in preschool. He received his BFA in Film Writing from USC in 2004. Shawn was last seen on the Kentwood stage as George Deever in *All My Sons*. Previously, he was in *Oliver*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Murder is Announced*, and *Follies*. Additionally, Shawn's favorite past roles include Smudge in *Forever Plaid*, Pedro in *Man of La Mancha*, David in *Company*, and Tommy in *Annie Get Your Gun*. DOORBELL.



## **Lynn Valkov – Ensemble**

Lynn is thrilled to be a part of such a talented production. This is her first show at Kentwood, and her 2nd since picking up theatre again. She recently performed in The Aerospace Players' *Beauty and the Beast*. Previous roles include Mrs. Shinn (*The Music Man*) and Maggie Jones (*42nd Street*). Many thanks to all her loved ones for their continuous support!

## Meet the Cast



### **Rebecca Wade – Ensemble**

Rebecca is excited to make her debut with the Kentwood Players. Some favorite past roles include Angel in *Anything Goes*, though she's usually behind the scenes with stage management or playing keys in the orchestra. Rebecca is deeply grateful for this opportunity to step onto the stage with Kentwood.



# Meet the Production Team

## **Susan Weisbarth – Director**

Susan Weisbarth has directed many KP productions over the last 20 years including *Annie*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Avenue Q*, *Gypsy*, *Sunday in the Park*, and *Ragtime*. She has served on the board of the Kentwood Players for more than 15 years. Susan has chosen some of her favorite collaborators to work with on *The Producers* and wants to especially acknowledge Mike Walker, Luke Athur Smith, Gail Bernardi, Margaret Harrington, Kim Peterson, Doug Vasquez, and Shawn Plunkett. She wants to thank the entire cast and crew of *The Producers* for their time and talent.

## **Mike Walker – Music Director, Conductor**

Mike has enjoyed a long career in the entertainment field. He has worked as a singer, pianist, actor and vocal coach in the United States and in Europe since 1984. Mike's credits as Musical Director include: *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Addams Family*, *Crazy For You*, *Mamma Mia*, *West Side Story*, *SpongeBob Squarepants*, *Matilda*, *School Of Rock*, *Hairspray*, *In The Heights*, and over 100 others. Directorial credits include *Once On This Island*, *Gilbert & Sullivan's The Mikado*, *Hairspray*, *Willy Wonka*, *Oliver!*, *Les Misérables*, *Children Of Eden*, *Elton John & Tim Rice's Aida*, and *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella*. Upcoming projects include *The Music Man* and *Hadestown*.

## **Luke Arthur Smith – Choreographer**

Luke is thrilled to be choreographing this hilarious show back in his old stomping grounds. He is a recent musical theatre graduate from CSUN and works as the resident competition team choreographer/dance instructor for Born to Perform Studio based out of Thousand Oaks. His previous choreography credits include *Mean Girls*, *Elf*, *Losing Your Humanity*, *Beetlejuice* and *SpongeBob*. He gives major thanks to this awesome team and this resilient cast for their constant efforts and commitment!



# Meet the Production Team

## **Gail Bernardi – Producer**

As a 37 year member of Kentwood Players, Gail has acted, directed and produced many shows and is currently serving as Play Reading Chairman for Kentwood Players. Gail has produced 5 shows for Susan Wesbarth and as one of the producers of *The Producers*, she is having more fun than you can imagine. What a Director! What a cast! What a show! Gail thanks you for loving and supporting live theatre.

## **Margaret Harrington Producer**

Westchester resident Margaret proudly welcomes you to the home of Kentwood Players! An active KP volunteer and board member, she has had a blast being one of *The Producers'* producers. Love to Declan, Rowan and Kilian, her favorite young theater fans!

## **Kim Peterson – Producer**

Kim has performed in numerous musicals across the Southland and at Kentwood, including *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *9 to 5*, and *Little Mermaid*, and has been costume designer for shows such as *Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* and *Little Mermaid*. She is thrilled to support the remarkable cast and crew of *The Producers*. Heartfelt thanks to Susan, Mike, Luke, the amazing Doug and her fellow producers, Gail and Margaret.

## **Josh Harper – Stage Manager**

Josh is thrilled to return to Kentwood Players for his second show upon wrapping up his 34th production at the Pierson Playhouse. He began as a crew member for TPY's production of *The Wind in the Willows* and became a stage manager soon after. In addition, Josh 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 *Tick, Tick... Boom!* "Break a leg!"

## **Sheldon Cohen – Props Manager**

Before I started working on props I never liked flea markets, thrift stores, yard sales, or 99 Cent stores. Now I have fun shopping at those places because I'm actually looking for something. They are like prop warehouses.

# Meet the Production Team

## **Doug Vasquez – Costume Design**

Doug has enjoyed a prolific and long career in the Theater. He has Directed and Choreographed over 125 Musical Theater productions from Los Angeles to Boston and beyond. He holds a BA Degree in Drama from UCI and earned his Master's Degree in Directing from Rutgers Mason Gross School of the Arts. Congratulations to the wonderful Cast and Crew.

## **Daniel Mitchener – Lighting Design**

Daniel has mixed opinions about his lighting in *The Producers*, because his first idea (a pitch black stage for the entire show) was rejected. Daniel would like to thank his wife Lizzy and his producer Rothgar, who has assured Daniel that his life is a flop and not a hit.

## **Shawn Summerer – Sound Design**

This is Shawn's fourth sound design at Kentwood, having previously designed, *All My Sons*, *39 Steps* and *Mame*. Additionally he has designed and build the sets for *Steel Magnolias*, *9 to 5: The Musical*, *California Suite*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Pippin*. He has also directed three shows at Kentwood including *Dracula* in 2010, *The Miracle Worker* in 2012, and *Into the Woods* in 2014.

## **Jon Sparks – Wig Master**

A 24+ year member of the Kentwood Players. For the past two decades, he has performed, directed, wigged, costumed and produced shows all over Los Angeles and Orange County. Jon is a proud member of IATSE Local 706, the Make-Up Artist and Hair Stylist Guild. He has worked at Disneyland as well as many local theaters. Special thanks to Patty Jarvis for all her hard work on this production.

## **Lillian Kautz – Dance Captain**

Lillian began training in classical ballet at the age of eight. She went on to study with the American Ballet Theatre and the Royal Danish Ballet. She earned a BA in dance from Santa Clara University and has choreographed several shows for StarStruck Youth Theatre. She would like to thank choreographer Luke for trusting her with the role of dance captain!

# Production Team

<b>ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER</b>	Izzie Francisco
<b>SCRIPT SUPERVISOR</b>	Gail Bernardi
<b>SET DESIGNER/MASTER BUILDER</b>	Shawn Plunkett
<b>CONSTRUCTION CREW</b>	Doug Carlson, Jamie Dawley, George Kondrick
<b>BOOTH OPERATOR</b>	Kirk Larson, Natalie Mann
<b>FOLLOW SPOT OPERATOR</b>	Alta Abbott, Nick Unguera
<b>COSTUME COORDINATOR</b>	Kim Peterson
<b>WIG ASSISTANT</b>	Patty Jarvis
<b>POSTER DESIGN</b>	Elora Becker, Asa Smith
<b>PHOTOGRAPHY</b>	Gloria Ramirez Plunkett
<b>AUDITION DESK</b>	Colleen Okida, Fiona Okida, Roy Okida
<b>INDEPENDENT ADVOCATES</b>	Lyndsay Palmer, Shawn Summerer
<b>INTIMACY COORDINATOR</b>	Mary Zastrow

## Musicians

<b>CONDUCTOR/KEYBOARD</b>	Mike Walker
<b>VIOLIN/FLUTE</b>	Colleen Okida
<b>BASS</b>	Juan Rodriguez
<b>PERCUSSION</b>	Evan Hart
<b>REEDS</b>	Ben Bradburn, Jon Stehney

# Production Team

## Work Sunday

Alison Boole, Doug Carlson, Sheldon Cohen, Jamie Dawley, Steven Didrick, Marty Feldman, Sam Goldman, Katie Hamilton, Margaret Harrington, Charles Keppler, George Kondrick, Lillian Kautz, Jason Lubin, Elina Luong, Katie MacDonald, Mel Miller, Daniel Mitchener, Jeremy Palmer, Kim Peterson, Shawn Plunkett, Colleen Okida, Roy Okida, Karl Schott, Jon Sparks, Shawn Summerer, Nick Unquera, Lynn Valkov, Doug Vasquez, Rebecca Ward, Susan Weisbarth, Kyle Whelihan

## Special Thanks

History for Hire Prop House,  
Maryjane MacMaster, Lizzy Mitchener,  
Gloria Ramirez Plunkett, Kaitlyn Schott, Sherry Starr,  
Michael Thorpe





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**[KentwoodPlayers.org](http://KentwoodPlayers.org)**

# Upcoming Productions

January 17 – February 8, 2025

**BY THE WAY, MEET VERA STARK**

by Lynn Nottage

Directed by Rondrell McCormick

March 14 – April 5, 2025

**LOVE! VALOUR! COMPASSION!**

by Terrence McNally

Directed by TBD

May 9 – June 7, 2025

**URINETOWN THE MUSICAL**

Music by Mark Hollmann

Lyrics by Hollmann and Greg Kotis

Book by Kotis

Directed by Gryphon Seveney

July 18 – August 9, 2025

**SHE KILLS MONSTERS**

by Qui Nyugen

Directed by Shawn Summerer

September 12 – October 4, 2025

**REAL WOMEN HAVE CURVES**

by Josefina Lopez

Directed by Marco Rivera

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# COMING SOON



## By the Way, Meet *Vera Stark*

Written By: Lynn Nottage

Directed By:  
Rondrell McCormick

Produced By:  
Rhonda Yeager-Hutchinson  
and  
Julia Sison

01.17 — 02.08.2025