

BLITHE SPIRIT

by Noël Coward

Director

Gail Bernardi

Producer

Susan Goldman Weisbarth

Set Design

George Kondreck

Lighting Design and Special Effects

Michael Thorpe

Sound Design

Susan Stangl

Costume Design

Diana Mann and Maria Cohen

Cast

Charles Condomine.....	Michael Hovance
Ruth Condomine	Megan Blakeley
Elvira	Jessica Plotin
Madam Arcati.....	Joanna Churgin
Dr. Bradman.....	George Kondreck
Mrs. Bradman.....	Michele Selin
Edith	Kelsey Weinstein

The living-room of the Condomines' house in Kent

Act I Scene 1 Before dinner on a summer evening.

Scene 2 After dinner.

Scene 3 The next morning.

Act II Scene 1 Late the following afternoon.

Scene 2 Early evening. A few days later.

Scene 3 After dinner. A few days later.

Scene 4 Several hours later.

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.

About the Cast



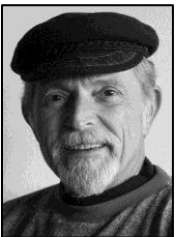
Megan Blakeley (Ruth) is excited to perform in her first show for Kentwood Players. Originally from Dallas, Texas, Megan has performed as a dancer and actress for many years. A few of her previous performances include Jan in *Pillow Talk*, Georgeanne in *Five Women Wearing The Same Dress*, Maggie in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Belinda in *Noises Off*, and Irine Adler in *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventures*. When not performing or working at NBCUniversal, Megan enjoys baking, eating aforementioned baked goods, watching the Pittsburgh Steelers and The University of Texas Longhorns win football games, drinking wine, traveling, and spending time with funny people. Thankfully, her family and friends are loaded with wit.



Joanna Churgin (Madam Arcati) is thrilled to be back at Kentwood in *Blithe Spirit*, having just finished the run of *Pippin*. She feels very fortunate to be reunited with director Gail Bernardi, who, at this same theatre, inspired her at the helm of the production of *Doubt* and appeared alongside her in *The Allergist's Wife*, as well. Joanna has also played on this stage in productions of *Six Degrees of Separation*, *The Farndale Murder Mysteries* and *Ragtime*. Some of her other favorite roles have been in *All My Sons*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Cabaret*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You*, *Copenhagen*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Noises Off*, *Denim Doves*, and *The Spitfire Grill*. So much gratitude goes to Steve, Matthew and, my muse, Dylan. Without their patience, support, guidance and love, none of this is possible



Michael Hovance (Charles) is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College and trained at the British American Drama Academy in London. Recent LA Credits include: Lord Goring in *An Ideal Husband* with Kentwood. Ripcord at TTC, *It's a Wonderful Life*, a *Live Radio Play* at Surf City, Mr. Horner in *The Country Wife* with the Classical Theater Lab; Benedick in *Much Ado about Nothing* at MBCC; El Gallo in *The Fantasticks*, Serge in *Art*, Sweeney in *Sweeney Todd* and Jack in *The Importance of Being Earnest* at LAPC; Theseus/Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the S. Mark Taper Amphitheater; Dorsey in the LA Premier of *Parade* and Emperor Joseph II in *Amadeus* at the Neighborhood Playhouse; Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Ferrallion in *A Flea in Her Ear* with A Noise Within; Proctor in *The Crucible* with the Classical Theater Lab; Iago in *Othello* for the Long Beach Shakespeare Co.



George Kondreck (Dr. Bradman, Set Designer) most recently appeared in *Big Fish* as the Fisherman. Previously he was in *Mame*, and Agatha Christie's *The Hollow*, which he also directed. In 2013 he appeared in *Mr. Potcher's Holiday* and *Ragtime* and in 2012 *Oliver*. George has worked set design and construction with Kentwood Players since 2012 and has been the Master Builder for several productions. George sits on the Kentwood Players Board of Directors as the Production Manager and is looking forward to directing *Dial M for Murder*.



Jessica Plotin (Elvira) is delighted to make her debut for Kentwood Players. Previous theatre highlights include Colleen in *Ripcord* at the Torrance Theatre Company, Lucia in *Black Coffee* at the Long Beach Playhouse, Margaret in *Much Ado About Nothing* at MBCC, Clarice in *A Servant to Two Masters* at CCPT, Sallie Slaton in *Parade* at the Neighborhood Playhouse, and Gwendolen in *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the West Valley Playhouse. Jessica attended Drama Studio London and has a BA in Theatre from UCSD. She dedicates this performance to her mom.



Michele Selin (Mrs. Bradman) is absolutely thrilled to be in her 7th Kentwood performance (*The Imaginary Invalid*, *The Crucible*, *Daddy's Dyin'*, *Our Town*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *12 Angry Women*). It's been so much fun working with Gail and this marvelous cast, especially old friend Michael (*Sweeney Todd*). Heartfelt thanks to this wonderful Kentwood family, my own family, and to everyone who supports live theater!



Kelsey Weinstein (Edith) returns for a second production with Kentwood Players after playing Scuttle in *The Little Mermaid*, for which she won a Marcom Masque Award. Kelsey is a student at Studio School studying Contemporary Musical Theatre and Film. Some past credits include Margot (*Legally Blonde*), Nadine (*The Wild Party*), and most recently performing in the ensemble of *Mame* with Musical Theatre Guild. She thanks her family and friends for their constant love and support.

About the Director

Gail Bernardi (Director) – As a very old, very accomplished actor lay dying, one of his students visited him and asked “Sir, is dying difficult?” “Dying is easy, my boy,” he responded. “Comedy is difficult!” Gail agrees wholeheartedly, but would like you to know that nothing is more fun than directing a great comedy with a talented and creative cast; the cast which you will meet in this production of *Blithe Spirit*. Gail has directed both comedy and drama for many years, and has an enormous love for the work of Noel Coward. She directed *Present Laughter*, another Coward play for Kentwood Players and is thrilled to add *Blithe Spirit* to the list. Enjoy the show and thank you for supporting “live theatre.”

About the Producer

Susan Goldman Weisbarth (Producer) is honored to work with this talented cast, crew and the incomparable Gail Bernardi once again. Susan recently directed *Sunday in the Park with George* and has directed numerous productions for KP including *Avenue Q*, *Ragtime* and *Man of La Mancha*. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this hilarious farce!

About the Designers

Michael Thorpe (Lighting Design) designed lights for *Our Town* for Kentwood Players. Elsewhere he is the resident Technical Director and “lighting guy”, respectively for Surf City and MBCC.

Susan Stangl (Sound Design) has designed sound for over 120 productions, many of them at Kentwood. She also composes music, plays guitar, sings, acts and directs. Her last appearance on the KP stage was as Margie Walsh in *Good People*, directed by Gail Bernardi, and she will be directing the comedy *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* here next spring.

Diana Mann (Costume Design) is a familiar face to many Southland theatre companies, having costumed over 70 shows during the past two decades. Some favorites include *Cabaret*, *West Side Story* and *Pirates of Penzance* (Torrance Theater Co); *The Three Musketeers*, *The Music Man*, *42nd Street* (Palos Verdes Performing Arts); *The Wizard of Oz*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Broadway in the Park), and this summer's Shakespeare By The Sea production of *Comedy of Errors*. She's delighted to be back working again with her old pal Maria Cohen and this talented company. She thanks hubby, John, for putting up with the wacky schedule and mess, and YOU for supporting live theatre.

Maria Cohen (Costume Design) – is designing her 54th show for KP, most recently *Mame*, *The Hollow*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Ragtime*. She has been a fixture with Kentwood Players for many years. She has also worked for the Morgan-Wixson, Pacific Palisades, the James Armstrong Theater, and the Norris Theatre.

You are invited to meet and greet cast members
after the performance in the Lobby.



Production Staff

Stage Manager	Grecco Bray
Assistant Stage Manager	Kelsey Weinstein
Script Supervisor	Margie Equihua
Stage Crew.....	Jack Maatita
Booth Crew.....	Mel Miller
Set Decoration Design.....	Lori Marple-Pereslete
Original Graphic Design.....	Melodie S. Rivers, James A. Blackman
Lobby Design	Susan Weisbarth
Master Builder	George Kondreck
Set Construction	George Kondreck, Terry Delegeane, Doug Carlson,Shawn Plunkett, Samantha Barrios, Bruce Starrett,Marty Feldman, Melodie Rivers
Set Painting.....	Samantha Barrios, Melodie Rivers
Wig Design.....	Jon Sparks
Millinery	Arlene Cohen
Properties.....	Sheldon Cohen
Publicity Photos.....	Shari Barrett
Audition Assistance.....	George Rametta, Lauren Jarvis
Hospitality Coordinator	Lisa Bennett
Box Office	Abilene Gonzalez

Strike Crew and Work Sunday

Samantha Barrios, Margie Bates, Megan Blakeley, Alison Boole, Jenny Boone, Stanley Brown, Doug Carlson, William Carter, Joanna Churgin, Arlene Cohen, Sheldon Cohen, Harold Dershimer, Kathy Dershimer, Judy Deutsch, Margie Equihua, Martin Feldman, Emily Forest, Sam Goldman, Marlene Grinde, Myron Klafter, George Kondreck, Gretchen Luna, Jack Maatita, Melvin Miller, Jeremy Palmer, Lyndsay Palmer, Dave Parke, Melodie S. Rivers, Michele Selin, Jon Sparks, Shawn Summerer, Michael Thorpe, Kelsey Weinstein, Susan Weisbarth, Brian Wells

Special Thanks

James Blackman, Samantha Barrios, Melodie Rivers, Marty Feldman

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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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LAX COASTAL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

For up to date info about Kentwood Players visit our website
www.kentwoodplayers.org

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Jacqueline Arkord

Sheldon & Arlene Cohen

Thomas & Lyn Hamilton

Alison Boole

Stanley Weinberg

Sharon Robinson

Kent & Linda Pearson

Myron Kayton

Kentwood Players Coming Attractions

Dial "M" for Murder

A Mystery Thriller by Frederick Knott
September 13 – October 19, 2019
Director: George Kondreck

Little Women, a Musical

Music by Jason Howland
Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein
Book by Allan Knee
Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott
November 15 – December 21, 2019
Director: Jennifer Richardson

The Giver

A Drama by Adapted by Eric Coble from the
Newbery Award-winning book by Lois Lowry
January 17 – February 22, 2020
Director: Harold Dershimer

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike

A Comedy by Christopher Durang
March 13 – April 18, 2020
Director: Susan Stangl

Fun Home, a Musical

Book and Lyrics by Lisa Kron
Music by Jeanine Tesori
Based on the graphic novel by Alison Bechdel
May 15 – June 20, 2020
Director: Kathryn Dershimer

Laughter on the 23rd Floor

A Comedy by Neil Simon
July 10 – August 15, 2020
Director: Stanley Brown

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