

MBCC Productions  
MBCC Community Hall Theater

Damn Yankees - 2006

State fair - 2005

Brigadoon - 2004

Pirates of Penzance - 2003

Jesus Christ Superstar - 2002

My Fair Lady - 2000

The Odd couple - 1999

Follies - 1999

Steel Magnolias - 1998

Working - 1997

Twelve Angry Men - 1995

The First Broadcast - 1995

Bells Are Ringing - 1995

Godspell - 1994

Sound of Music - 1993

Quilters - 1993

The Foreigner - 1992

The King & I - 1991

1776 - 1991

Sugar - 1990

Fools - 1990

Anything Goes - 1989

Harvey - 1989

Pajama Game - 1987

Oliver! - 1987

Music Man - 1986

No Time for Sergeants - 1986

Guys and Dolls - 1985

You Can't Take It With You - 1985

Never Say Goodbye - 1984

Carnival - 1984

Applause - 1983

Godspell - 1983

I Do, I Do! - 1982

Dear Phoebe - 1982

Damn Yankees - 1981

Arsenic and Old Lace - 1981

Delgate Applegate - 1980

sound of Music - 1979

Man of La Mancha - 1977

Curious Savage - 1976

Geo. Washington Slept here - 1975

The Man Who Came to Dinner - 1974

Night of January 16th - 1973

# Plaza Suite

*by Neil Simon*



PRESENTED BY THE MBCC THEATER BOARD

NOVEMBER 2006

the MBCC Theater Board Presents

# Plaza Suite

*A comedy in 3 acts*

*by Neil Simon*



DIRECTED BY ALAN PETERKOFSKY

PRODUCED BY: SHARON TAYLOR

SAM HITCHCOCK

NOVEMBER 3 - 5 & 10 - 12

PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

## A Message From the Senior Minister:

A few weeks ago, I saw an excerpt from today's production of "Plaza Suite." I thought to myself as I listened to the remarkable dialogue, Neil Simon indeed understood and could articulate human nature, tragedy and comedy as well as any playwright who ever lived. So, today as you make your way to New York City and the Plaza Hotel, you are in for a real treat. We have a wonderful cast and a grand production staff set to bring you a stirring rendering of one of Neil Simon's best!

So, sit back and relax if you can, as well as laugh, as you are drawn into the lives of people you will certainly recognize and identify with.

"Plaza Suite" will surely take its rightful place along side the great legacy which the Manhattan Beach Community Church Theater has created for over 40 years. We are glad you came and you will be glad too!

Sincerely,  
John Calhoun

## A Word From the Director

Neil Simon began his writing career in television and established himself as America's leading comedy writer with a succession of Broadway hits, beginning with *Come Blow Your Horn* in 1961. During the 1966-67 season, *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple*, *Sweet Charity* and *Star-Spangled Girl* were all running simultaneously on Broadway.

*Plaza Suite* opened on February 14, 1968 to rave reviews and won a Tony for director Mike Nichols. Simon's many subsequent hits include *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *Promises, Promises*, *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, *The Sunshine Boys*, the trilogy of *Brighton Beach Memoirs/Biloxi Blues/Broadway Bound*, *Lost in Yonkers*, and *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*.

Despite his success, Simon has sometimes been criticized as merely a writer of situation comedies whose characters do little more than trade witty one-liners. It seems to me that this is easy to disprove.

All you have to do is watch and listen to Karen and Sam Nash in the first act of *Plaza Suite*. They are real people, deftly drawn and fully realized as complex personalities, dealing with the kind of problems that confront us all. They may say and do some amusing things, but there is not much funny about their situation.

Or watch and listen to Jesse and Muriel in the second act, each declaring their pure intentions while revealing their underlying motives and lurching toward the inevitable.

Or laugh at Norma and Roy on their daughter's wedding day. The action may border on slapstick, but their attempts to deal with the situation lead them to understand their daughter's real and legitimate fears.

Neil Simon's plays are not successful just because they are funny, but rather because we can see ourselves and our foibles up there on the stage.

On a personal note, I wish to thank the MBCC Theatre Board for giving me the opportunity to direct this production. I also want to thank the cast and production staff for all their talent and hard work on the show. And special thanks to all the wonderful people whose support makes MBCC the special place it is.



### Director

#### Alan Peterkofsky

Before coming to California five years ago, Alan directed, produced and performed in more than 40 productions with groups in New Jersey and Maryland. His favorite directorial efforts include *Harvey*, *Our Town*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and *A Man for All Seasons*. Since settling in Redondo Beach, Alan has served as the Resident Producer for the Palos Verdes payers black box theater. MBCC theatergoers will remember Alan as Mr. Welch in *Damn Yankees*, and he has also been seen on-stage with the Torrance Theatre Company as Reverend Parris in *The Crucible* and Vincentio in *The Taming of the Shrew*.



### Assistant Director

#### Marie Benoit

Marie has filled many positions through the years, including Assistant Director. She is happy to be working again in that capacity with Director Alan Peterkofsky. Some of her recent performances were: Assunta in *The Rose Tattoo*, Rebecca Nurse - *The Crucible*, Mrs. Soames - *Our Town*, Ms. Cunningham - *Something to Hide*, Madam Parole - *My 3 Angeles*, Clara - *Hay Fever*, Bunny - *A Murder is Announced*, Betty Meek - *The Foreigner*, Janet MacKenzie - *Witness for the Prosecution*, Sylvia - *Single & Proud*, Lady Angkatell - *The Hollow*, Helga ten Dorp - *Deathtrap*. For MBCC, she was Mrs. Higgins in *My Fair Lady*. During the Christmas season you may see her as Mrs. Claus, with Santa Brian. Many thanks to MBCC and the Director, Alan Peterkofsky, and the cast and crew of *Plaza Suite* for giving her this opportunity; and to Brian without whom none of this would be possible. (*Tanti baci*, Santa.

### Co-Producer



#### Sharon Taylor

Sharon has been involved in the Senior Choir and MBCC Theatre since 1990. She has participated in *The King & I*, *Sound of Music*, *My Fair Lady*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *State Fair* and *Damn Yankees*. This is her second time to co-produce. She finds it fun and challenging. Third times a charm! Sharon would like to thank all who have helped her along the way, especially Pauline. She enjoyed working with Alan, Sam and Marie. Special thanks are given to Lyn and Sally for all their finishing touches.



#### Sam Hitchcock

As new Chairman of the Theatre Board, Sam has jumped in with both feet to find out the inner workings of theatre productions by Co-Producing this show. His respect has grown for all of those prior producers, as he finds the time and energy needed to put on one of these productions. (And this one isn't even a musical) He thanks his Co-Producer Sharon Taylor, who has done most of the work in setting up personnel for the different tasks. Also, the Cast & Crew for their hard work and dedication in preparing the wonderful performance you are about to witness.

## Message From the MBCC Theatre Board

The Theatre Board supports all theatre activities at Manhattan Beach Community Church including the Children's Choir productions and the Young Adult Summer Theatre. Our production of Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite" brings back Fall Theatre to the MBCC Community Hall after a three-year hiatus.

We welcome as Director, Alan Peterkofsky, a newcomer to MBCC Theatre, who first appeared here as Mr. Welch, in our 2006 Spring Musical "Damn Yankees". As you can see by his bio he has a varied background in the theatre.

In the future, our hope is to bring two shows a year to the MBCC Community Hall. To this end our 2007 Spring Musical will be "Most Happy Fellow", Directed by Charlie & Sally Stowe, followed in the fall by the World Premier of "Rock, Paper, Scissors", Directed by Jack Messenger.

Anyone interested in directing a Musical in the spring of 2008 or a production in the fall are welcome to make a presentation to the Theatre Board at one of their monthly meetings. (Usually the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30PM in the Fireside Room) We want to thank you for your patronage and hope you enjoy the show.

Your MBCC Theatre Board,  
Sam Hitchcock  
Chairman

## Setting

Suite 719 at the Plaza Hotel, New York City, 1968

Act I - 4:00 in the afternoon, mid-December

Act II - 3:00 in the afternoon, a warm spring day

Act III - 3:00 Saturday afternoon on a warm spring day

There will be two brief intermissions

## Cast

### Act I Visitor from Mamaroneck

Karen Nash.....Delpha Flad

Sam Nash.....Pat Johnson

Jean McCormack...Heather Boswell

Waiter.....J.C. Edwards

Bellhop.....Travis Schrodes

### Act II Visitor from Hollywood

Jesse Kiplinger.....Jeff Asch\*

Muriel Tate.....Cynthia Snell

Waiter.....J.C. Edwards

### Act III Visitor from Forest Hills

Norma Hubley.....Heidi Johnson

Roy Hubley.....Vic Jeter

Borden Eisler.....Travis Shrodes

Mimsey Hubley.....Angela Asch

\*Jeff Asch appears in this production courtesy of Actors' Equity Association\*



### **Delpha Flad as Karen Nash**

With a B.A. in Theater and a number of shows to her credit,

Delpha joined MBCC in time to appear in *Sugar*, *The King* and *I. Quilters*, *Sound of Music*, *Love Letters*, *Working*, *Steel*

*Magnolias*, *The Gondoliers*, *My Fair Lady*, *Brigadoon* and *Pirates of Penzance*. She also has done publicity, props, and stage-managed for several other shows. At MBCC, she has served on the Music and Finance boards, and is currently the Co-President of Women's Fellowship, as well as a member in full-voice of our Senior Choir.



### **Pat Johnson as Sam Nash**

Pat has performed in many MBCC productions over the years,

including, *Applause*, *Never Say Goodbye*, *Sugar*, *Gays & Dolls*,

*Music Man*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *1776*, and *Anything Goes*. He is a

member of the Senior Choir at MBCC and has performed in many of their productions and concerts, including their 17 day tour of Spain and France.. Pat is currently Director of New Business Development for a company that manufactures products for the whirlpool, bath and spa industry.



### **Jeff Arch as Jesse Hiplinger**

Jeff is very happy to be performing at MBCC again. His past MBCC

shows were *The Nerd* and *The Odd Couple*. He has performed in

numerous playhouses around the South Bay and in Southern

California, as well as, Disneyland and Universal Studios. Recent television appearances include: *Charmed*, *Scrubs*, *The Drew Carey Show*, *Friends*, *The Magnificent Seven*, *3rd Rock*, *Providence*, and *Saved By the Bell*. Commercially, Jeff has peddled everything from allergy medicine to beer. Film Credits include *Snitch*, *Adventures in Dinosaur City*, and *Little Heroes*. This winter he looks forward to shooting his next film, *The Ghostriders*. Jeff is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. Jeff has enjoyed sharing the stage with his lovely wife and his mother-in-law. He is especially thrilled that his wife's costly wedding gown is being worn more than once!



### **Cynthia Snell as Muriel Tate**

I am truly enjoying being on stage again after a twenty year

hiatus. Stage appearances include *JB*, *Wings* and my personal

favorite, portraying Puck in *Pyramus and Thisbe*. Over the years,

I've been involved in various capacities with numerous children's plays including directing a production of *Snow White* for children between 4th grade and high school (more like herding cats!) Thanks to MBCC Theatre Board for this opportunity.



### **Heidi Johnson as Norma Hubbley**

This will be my 13th production at MBCC, starting with

*Applause*, in 1983. Since I focus more on musicals, this play

has been a new challenge for me. My character is fun and quirky,

and I can identify with her a great deal. Along with my love for theater, I love music and am delighted to be starting my 18th year teaching music for several Redondo Beach schools.



### **Vic Jeter as Roy Hubbley**

Vic is delighted to be back on the MBCC stage for this

production of *Plaza Suite*. Vic was last seen in *Damn Yankees*

as Benny Van Buren and before that in various productions over

the past 20 years. He can't decide what his favorite role has been, but it may just turn out to be this one... Many thanks to Alan and Heidi for a wonderful experience and a special thank you to Bonnie for her love and support!



### Heather Nichole Boswell as Jean McCormack

As an American Musical and Dramatic Academy (NYC) graduate, Heather is pleased to be in her first MBCC straight play. Having done many musicals at MBCC, as well as, directing for the High School Youth summer productions, the change of pace has been very challenging an educational. She wishes to thank her family for their continued support and hopes that she will be blessed to keep working with great people and great scripts.



### JC Edwards as the Waiter

The director, Alan Peterkofsky, soon discovered that JC cannot do accents, asside from not being able to sing or dance. Thus, the middle-aged Puerto-Rican waiter became a past-middle-aged common old white guy. JC has been on and behind the stage at MBCC for about 30 years now. His last two shows were *State Fair* and *Damn Yankees*. JC has graduated to part-time work (3 days/week) at TRW/Northrup Grummon. But - slack time didn't last long, as wife Pat Edwards (MBCC Music Director) and the theater Board soon filled-up his off days.



### Travis Shrodes as the Bellhop and Borden Elser

Travis has appeared onstage with the MBCC Youth Choir in many productions including his favorite role as Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*. Abandoning his stage dreams for film, he now attends Loyola Marymount University in pursuit of a degree in Animation, in hopes that one day he can work in the field of his true passion, video games.



### Angela Arch as Mimsey Hubley

Angela is thrilled to be back on the MBCC stage. Last spring, she appeared as "Lola" in *Damn Yankees*. Past MBCC shows include *Young Sally* in *Follies* and *Annelle* in *Steel Magnolias*. Favorites have been *Grease* (Jan), *Oliver* (Dodger), *How to Succeed* (Hedy), *City of Angels* (Maljory), *Twelfth Night* (Maria), and *Antigone*. Other shows have been *My One and Only*, *Goods News*, *Hello Dolly* (DCLD), *Anything Goes* (TPAC), and *Gyps and Dolls* (El Camino). Angela is a 3rd grade teacher in Redondo Beach and coaches a performance dance team. "It's great to be on stage with my husband and my mum! I love you, both!"



Costumes - Lyn Coulter



Painters - Bev Knowles, Becky Tan and Ruth Orford



Properties - Lyn Coulter  
Stage Crew - Connie and Heather Boswell



Make-up Artists - Carole Hitchcock and Karen Hill (not shown)



Programs - Connie Boswell



Sound and Lights- Mike Neary and Dennis Taylor

## Production Staff

Director ----- Alan Peterkofsky  
Assistant Director ----- Marie Benoit  
Producers ----- Sam Hitchcock, Sharon Taylor  
Set Design ----- Alan Peterkofsky, Sally Palm  
Scenic Artists ----- Sally Palm  
Set Construction ----- JC Edwards, George Jackson,  
Guy Hatlie, Sam Hitchcock, Alan Peterkofsky  
Properties ----- Lyn Coulter  
Makeup ----- Carol Hitchcock, Karen Hill  
Costumes ----- Lyn Coulter  
Stage Crew ----- Connie and Heather Boswell  
Program ----- Connie Boswell  
Artwork ----- Sally Palm  
Curtain Call Choreography ----- Cory Andersen  
Publicity ----- Diane Carter  
Photography ----- Doug Carter  
Sound and Lights ----- Mike Neary, Dennis Taylor  
Stage Painters ----- Bev Knowles, Becky Tan,  
Ruth Orford  
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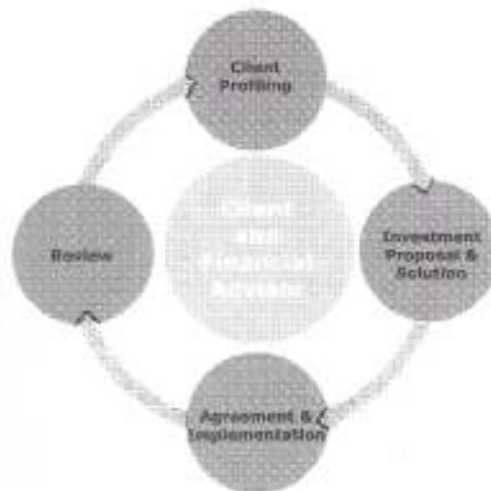
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11/4 - 11/11/07

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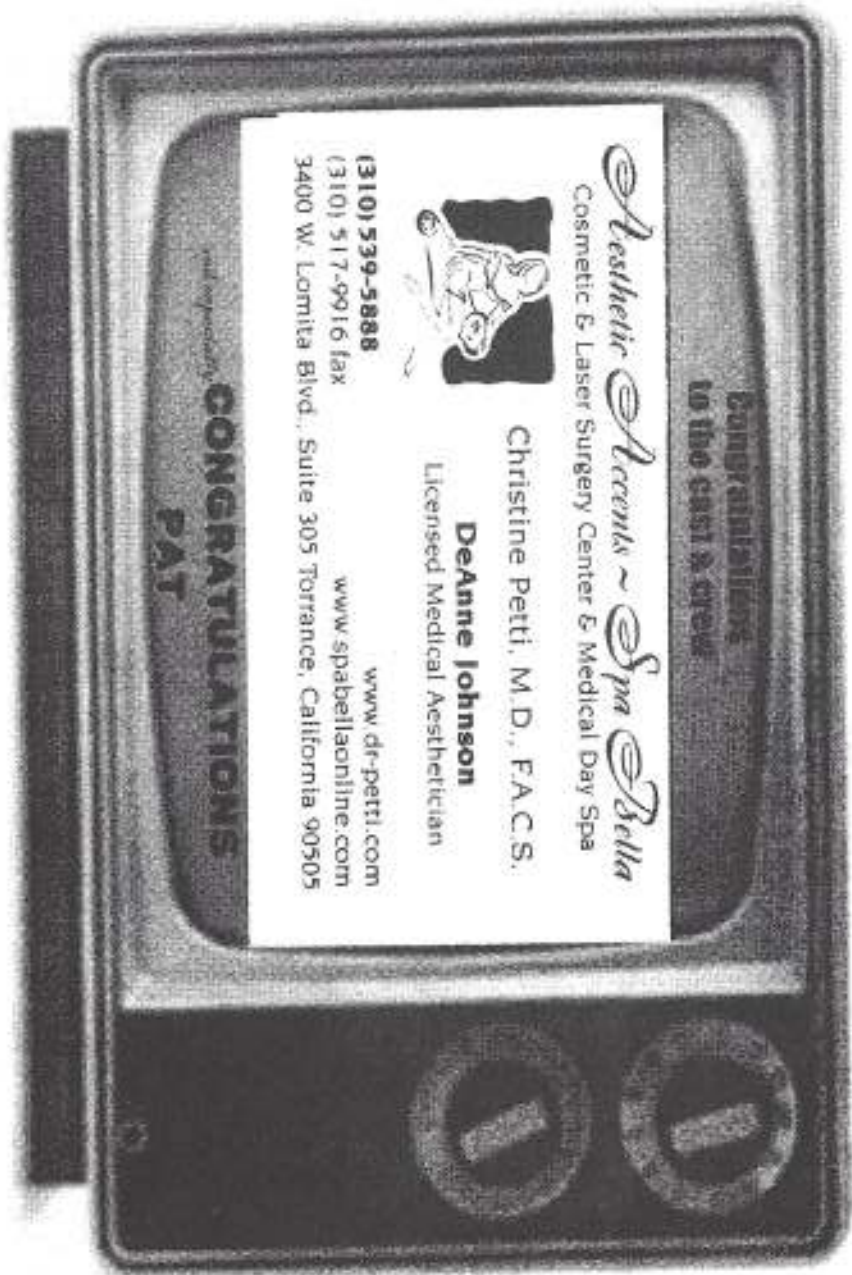
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