

MBCC THEATER 

PLAYBILL

Blithe Spirit



An Improbable Farce by
Noel Coward



On behalf of our entire congregation here at Manhattan Beach Community Church, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the MBCC Theater. We hope you enjoy this production of "Blithe Spirit."

For more than 60 years, MBCC's Theater Ministry has been producing plays for the wider community to enjoy. This "labor of love" has been a wonderful gift not only to the many, many audiences who have enjoyed the shows, but to the countless actors and crew members who have participated in the productions. It is a tradition we are pleased to continue with this play.

"Blithe Spirit" is a wonderful, comedic story, and we know that you will enjoy getting to know the characters as this story unfolds. One of the greatest gifts that God offers us is the gift of laughter, and this show definitely sets the stage for all of us to enjoy that gift.

Again, welcome to our theater and to this production of "Blithe Spirit," and please join us on a Sunday morning for worship sometime at 10 a.m. No matter who you are, and where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Shalom...Rev. Mark Pettis



Manhattan Beach Community Church

We are an inclusive Christian church that equips each generation, through spiritual growth and fellowship, to serve the South Bay. We invite you to join us in celebration of God's infinite love.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Join us Sunday Mornings at 10 am for Worship

OUR CORE VALUES

- Being spiritually inclusive and socially accepting
- Being a caring and supportive Christian congregation
- Maintaining continuity by honoring our history and traditions
- Serving those in need in our greater community through grass roots efforts
- Promoting fellowship through lively, creative, and educational activities



Blithe Spirit is a comic play by Noël Coward. The play concerns the socialite and novelist Charles Condomine, who invites the eccentric medium and clairvoyant, Madame Arcati, to his house to conduct a séance, hoping to gather material for his next book. The scheme backfires when he is haunted by the ghost of his annoying and temperamental first wife, Elvira, after the séance. Elvira makes continual attempts to disrupt Charles's marriage to his second wife, Ruth, who cannot see or hear the ghost.

The play was first seen in the West End in 1941, creating a new long-run record for non-musical British plays of 1,997 performances. It also did well on Broadway later that year, running for 657 performances. Coward adapted the play for film in 1945, starring Rex Harrison, and directed a musical adaptation, **High Spirits**, on Broadway in 1964. It was also adapted for television in the 1950s and 1960s and for radio. The play enjoyed several West End and Broadway revivals in the 1970s and 1980s and was revived again in London in 2004, 2011 and 2014. It returned to Broadway in February 2009.





Director - Bob Manning

Bob began his acting hobby back when his parents did local theatre and he was their child actor. Since then, he has been in various movies, tv shows, commercials and even doubled for an extra once.

In local theatre he has held most positions in the theatre including tech director and president of Actor's Repertory Theatre, Director, Assistant Director, props, stage manager, set building and set foreman as well as various roles on stage.



He hopes you enjoy tonight's performance and all the humor and laughs both intentionally and unintentionally.

"Who prologue-like your humble patience pray,
Gently to hear, kindly to judge, our play."



CHARLES CONDOMINE — Dan Don

If you are a regular patron of the MBCCT, you might remember Dan from his roles in Moon Over Buffalo, Lovers and Other Strangers and The Rainmaker.

Some of his favorite roles over the years are the Doctor in The Good Doctor, Bottom in A Midsummer Night's Dream, Seldson in Noises Off and George in Same Time Next

Year.

Dan would like to thank the entire cast and crew and you, the audience. Without all of you, this production would not be possible.



RUTH CONDOMINE — Valerie Sullivan

Valerie last appeared on the MBCC stage as Rose in The Rose Bowl Queens. Over the years, she has appeared in numerous productions throughout the South Bay. Some favorite roles include Miss Hannigan in Annie, Mother Superior in Nunsense, M'Lynn in Steel Magnolias, Abby in Arsenic and Old Lace, Charlotte in Moon Over Buffalo, Millie in California Suite, and Muriel in Plaza Suite. She also starred in the long-running musical comedy revue 'Bottoms Up' in Laughlin, Nevada. Valerie would like to thank Bob and Dan for entrusting her with the role of Ruth and dedicates this show to her husband John, who always supported her dreams.



ELVIRA — Victoria Bailer Alfvn

Victoria is thrilled to be on the MBCC Theater Stage once again, as part of this talented ensemble cast.

Some of her favorite roles include April "Company" Virginia Poe "An Evening with Poe" Miss Watson "Big River" and The Scream "Dracula"

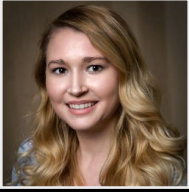
Victoria wishes to express her appreciation for the tireless efforts of everyone who has brought this production to life.

She would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support.



MRS. VIOLET BRADMAN — Denise Stehney

Denise Stehney would like to thank Bob for another opportunity to work as part of a stellar crew on this production. Thanks to the cast for the hard work and dedication to make this a great show!



EDITH — Anna Dipprey

Anna Dipprey is a graduate of the University of Kansas where she earned her teaching credential and is now a teacher in the South Bay. At KU, she studied ballet under the instruction of Jerel Hilding and Patrick Suzeau. While attending Mira Costa High School she sang in the Advanced Women and Multicultural choirs and performed at Carnegie Hall. She is excited to be returning to the MBCC stage where she recently played Dainty June in *Gypsy*, Mandy in *Mandy Dear* and Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*.



MADAM ARCATI — Phyllis Nofts

Phyllis is excited to be in her first show with MBCC. Her most notable roles are Emma Cristano in *Over the River and Through the Woods*, Betty Meeks in *The Foreigner*, Ouiser Boudreaux in *Steel Magnolias* and Norma Hubley in *Plaza Suite*. She proudly sits on the board for Surf City Theatre. Phyllis wants to thank Bob and this incredible cast and crew for this enriching experience. She also thanks Evie for graciously accepting the role of "Theatre Widow" and for her unending love and support.



DR. BRADMAN — Gerald Bennett

I'm delighted to be in this, my 15th production here at MBCC. This marks a bit of a departure for me since the first 14 were all musicals. Many thanks to the cast and crew for making it such an enjoyable experience.



Blithe Spirit



Fall 2018



DEVON DARLEY — Assistant Director / Stage Manager

Devon is thrilled to have once again been invited to be involved in a performance at Manhattan Beach Community Church Theatre. Devon made his theatrical debut in MBCC's production of 'Big River' in Spring 2016. Since then, Devon has enjoyed being involved, both on and off stage, in all Theatre productions: An Evening with Poe, Company, Rainmaker and Gypsy. Devon also

enjoys singing with MBCC's Junior Choir and performing in their Children's Theatre: Nutcracker, Peter Pan, Babes in Toyland and Tom Sawyer.

Devon would like to thank his family for all of their enthusiastic support. Devon would also like to say a very special "Thank You" to our Co-Directors, Bob Manning and Dan Adams, for not only offering him the opportunity to Stage Manage this performance, but also for their helpful mentoring throughout.



Susan Norris — Costumes

Susan Norris (Costumes) – Favorite shows she has produced and/or costumed and/or directed include GYPSY, THE RAINMAKER, MARY POPPINS, AN EVENING WITH POE, DRACULA, THE MUSIC MAN, A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM, ONCE UPON A MATTRESS, MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS, DAMN

YANKEES, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, TWELFTH NIGHT, PIRATES OF PENZANCE, and CINDERELLA. Susan can be found still trying to clean up all the stray GYPSY sequins, glitter and feather remnants out of her house and car from last Spring.

Karen Hill Freeman — Hair and Makeup

"Blithe Spirit" marks 37 consecutive plays Karen has been hair and makeup. Karen began in the Green Room at the urging of Sally Stowe in 1999 with "Follies". Under the direction of Carol Hitchcock, Karen found her way to AeroSpace Players in 2001.

Since that time she was doing 3 to 4 plays a year. Until the teaming with Patty Jarvis, creating the Darling Duo, and the friendship with Lisa Leonard of Surf City. Now Karen has the good fortune to be around talented and creative people even more. The Green Room holds laughter, gags, stories, challenges and friends, new and old.



Micheal Thorpe – Lights

Mike began his theater career on the MBCC stage way back in the mists of forgotten time. Well, maybe not quite that long ago, but long enough that he's forgotten them in the mists that are memory. It was before last Tuesday, at any rate. For the young'uns in the crowd: it was well before the advent of digital cellphones, which puts Mike just one small step away from the dinosaurs. Mike would like to thank digital lighting control technology (which is the greatest thing since sliced bread) and sliced bread (which is the greatest thing since _____).



Steve Norris — Special Effects

Steve Norris (Special Effects) – Steve works on the Arts Council of Torrance (ACT) Board of Directors to promote education in the arts and to support the Torrance Cultural Arts Center. He has directed A FUNNY THING...FORUM, THE PRODUCERS, and HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS..., as well as THE RAINMAKER, AN EVENING WITH POE, DRACULA, LOVERS AND OTHER STRANGERS, and PROMISES, PROMISES here at MBCC. He has also written, directed and produced two dozen adapted plays.

Patty Jarvis — Hair and Makeup

Patty is excited to be working MBCC Theater again. Patty has been on stage in numerous productions and loves working backstage doing makeup and hair with this theater and other theaters around the South Bay.

Projects Patty has worked on as makeup artist and hairstylist include, TV shows, films, photo shoots, music videos, fashion shows, weddings, collaboration on a book, wig and makeup artist for Pageant Of Our Lord and Art of Worship at Rolling Hills Covenant Church, hair and makeup artist for Surf City Theatre and TAP Theater. Past projects include zombie makeup artist for Harvest Fest at Calvary Chapel South Bay and makeup and hair stylist for Princess Rap Battles (Whitney Avalon-YouTube), Patty would like to thank the theater board and the cast and crew for a chance to be working with a great group of people. Hope you enjoy the show.



Jacob Moreta — Sound

Lyn Coulter & Susan Norris — Design Consultant

Harriet Darley & Susan Norris — Tickets

Corey Campbell — Spot Lights

Rhonda Yeager-Hutchison — Backstage

James Jeffery Caldwell — Program and Print Design

Nobel Ford — House Manager

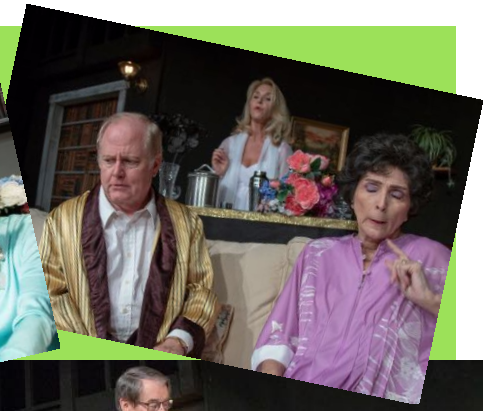
Jan Sieffert-Chastain — Production Assistant

Chuck Chastain — Production Assistant

David Boyer — Accompaniment

Dale Townsend, Steve Norris, Devon Darley — Sets

Stephan Cooper — Photography







Coming in
the Spring of
2019



THANK YOU TO OUR PATRONS!

Victoria Bailer Alfvín

Margaret & Ed Beiting

Steve & Kathy Campbell

Doug & Diane Carter

Marge Risinger & Jack Pollack

Stephan & Sue Cooper

Lyn Coulter

Martha Crommett

Candy & Alan Duncan

JC & Pat Edwards

Ron & Sheila Troupe

Madelyn Harter

Cheryl Hartzell

Marcie Hines

Craig & Cheri Torrey

Sally O'Mara

Dr Richard & Ann Rose

Hilda Lee

Anne Doublier

David Champain & Frank Hanzel

George & Nancy Jackson

Pat Beiting

Hilda Lee

Pat & Phil Martzen

Caroline Rice

Dick & Anne Rose

Sally Palm

Deb & Neil Dipprey

Pauline Stoltenberg

Charles Stowe

Gloria & Dale Townsend

Jennifer & Jeff Wallin

Elaine & Robert Weiner

Hugh & Barbara Wells

Lois & Bill Woodall

Norm Robinson

Ruth Purdon

Marcy Hines

Connie Boswell

*Special Thanks to David Fairchild and Dave Boyer for
musical accompaniment at our Patrons Reception*



MBCC PRODUCTIONS



THANKS YOU IN CELEBRATING OVER 60 YEARS OF THEATRICAL
PRODUCTIONS IN THE SOUTH BAY!

Blithe Spirit — 2018
Gypsy — 2018
Rainmaker — 2017
Company — 2017
An Evening with Poe — 2016
Big River — 2016
Dracula — 2015
The Dixie Swim Club — 2015
The Rose Bowl Queens — 2014
How To Succeed in Business
(Without Really Trying) — 2014
Moon Over Buffalo — 2013
Much Ado About Nothing — 2013
Oliver! — 2013
Barefoot in the Park — 2012
Don't Drink the Water — 2012
Bill W. & Dr. Bob — 2012
Oedipus The King — 2011
Little Women — 2011
You Can't Take it With You — 2010
Mame — 2010
Night of January 16th — 2009
Hello Dolly — 2009
Accidental President — 2008
Promises, Promises — 2008
The Most Happy Fella — 2007
Rock, Paper, Scissors — 2007
Plaza Suite — 2006
Damn Yankees — 2006
State Fair — 2005
Pirates of Penzance — 2004
Brigadoon — 2003
Jesus Christ Superstar — 2002
My Fair Lady — 2000
The Odd Couple — 1999
Follies — 1999
Steel Magnolias — 1998
Working — 1997
The Nerd — 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
Alice in Wonderland — 1988
Ten Little Indians — 1988
Pajama Game — 1987
Oliver! — 1987
Music Man — 1986
No Time for Sergeants — 1986
Guys & 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
Delegate 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
How to Succeed in Business
(Without Really Trying) — 1968
Pajama Game — 1966
Bye Bye Birdie — 1964
Music Man — 1963
Kismet — 1961
Out of the Trunk — 1960
Delegate Applegate — 1959
Cinnamon Buns — 1958
International Geophysical Year —
1957
Will Success Spoil
Rock Hunter — 1956