

Kentwood Players
presents



Written by
Walton Jones

Directed by
Ben Lupekis

November 5 – December 18, 2004

Westchester Playhouse
8301 Hindry Avenue
Westchester, California 90045-3205
Reservations: (310) 645-5156

The 1940's Radio Hour

Written by
Walton Jones

Director
Ben Lupejkis

Musical Director
Catherine Rahm

Choreographer
Victoria Miller

Producers
Victoria & Rocky Miller

Set Design
Sheldon Metz

Light Design
Tom Brophrey

Costume Design
Phil Massi

Sound Design
Richard Potthoff and
Rocky Miller

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Pops Bailey Paul Mazerov
Stanley Jim Crawford
Clifton A. Feddington..... Rocky Miller
Zoot Doubleman..... Brian Murphy
Wally Fergusson..... Matthew Scott Weiner
Lou Cohn Joseph Buttler
Johnny Cantone Scott Garner
Ginger Brooks Melissa Falarski
Connie Miller Christine Mantilla
B.J. Gibson..... Andrew Fitzsimmons
Neal Tilden..... Peter Miller
Ann Collier..... Kathrine Vogel
Geneva Lee Browne Patricia Butler
Biff Baker..... Carlos Centeno
Musicians Brian Murphy, Keyboard
..... Colin Cronin, Drums; Ethan Minton, Bass

Based on an idea by Walton Jones and Carol Lees, as originally produced by The Ensemble Company and Yale Repertory Theatre and further developed by the Arena Stage in Washington, DC. Broadway productions presented by Jujancyn Productions, Joseph P. Harris, Ira Bernstein and Roger Berlind.

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

The show is set in the studios of WOV, a 5,000-watt local New York City radio station, beginning about an hour before a Monday night broadcast of a weekly variety show, “The Mutual Manhattan Variety Cavalcade,” December 21, 1942.

Musical Numbers

Act One

I Got a Gal in Kalamazoo..... Clifton and Company
Pepsi Cola Jingle.....Neal, Clifton, Connie, Ginger
DaddyConnie and Boys
Love is Here to Stay..... Johnny
Black MagicAnn
Ain’t She Sweet Biff, Geneva, Ginger, Clifton
How About You.....B.J. and Connie

There will be a 15-minute intermission between Act One and Act Two.
Decaf coffee will be served at the intermission, courtesy of Kentwood Players.

Act Two

Blue Moon.....Neal and Company
Chiquita Banana Girls
Cow Cow Boogie..... Geneva and Clifton
I’ll Never Smile Again Johnny, Neal, B.J., Ann, Ginger
Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy.....B.J., Connie, Ginger
Blues in the Night Ginger and Boys
Jingle BellsBiff, Neal and Company
I’ve Got It Bad..... Geneva
You Go to My Head..... B.J.
Five O’clock WhistleConnie and Boys
Merry Little Christmas.....Ann
Strike Up the Band..... Full Company
I’ll Be Seeing You Full Company

About the Directorial Staff

Ben Lupekis (Director) – For Kentwood Ben directed *Supporting Cast* and concert versions of *The Mikado* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. His gratitude goes to the remarkably talented 1940's family for this exquisite experience.

Catherine Rahm (Musical Director) – Catherine thoroughly enjoyed working with these lush arrangements of such great classic songs.

Victoria Miller (Choreographer) – A 21-year KP member, Vicki recently directed *City of Angels* and has choreographed, directed or performed in over 50 shows here and other venues in the LA area. Dance credits include *Folies Bergère* – Las Vegas, Disneyland, Hollywood Bowl, Merv Griffin Show and CLOSBC.

About the Producers

Victoria & Rocky Miller – Vicki has produced several shows for Kentwood Players and Footlighters charity events. Rocky produced *A Chorus Line* at Kentwood Players. And together they produced *Mr. Roberts*.

About the Designers

Sheldon Metz – Sheldon's award-winning KP sets include *The Cocktail Hour*, *The Good-Bye People*, *I'm Not Rappaport*, and *Rain*. He attributes his success as a set designer to his talented friends who help him create the magic. Thanks especially to Frank and Scot, and, of course, his wife Linda.

Tom Brophay – Tom has designed the lighting for several KP shows, including the musicals, *Cabaret*, *Two By Two* and *Kiss Me Kate*.

Richard Potthoff – Richard is a past president and one of Kentwood's resident techies. He received Marcom Masque Awards for light and sound design for last season's *City of Angels*.

Phil Massi – Phil designed costumes recently for KP's *The Supporting Cast*, *Dial M for Murder*, *Forty Carats*, *Father of the Bride* and *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. He was honored with a Marcom Masque Award as Best Male Lead for his work in the comedy, *Social Security*.

About the Cast

Patricia Butler (Geneva Lee Browne) – An award winner from San Francisco and locally, Patricia is thrilled to be honoring with her portrayal three great African-American singers: Lena, Ella, and Billie Holliday.

Joseph Buttler (Lou Cohn) – Joseph last appeared as Howard in Kentwood's production of *Picnic*. He has also performed at the Grove Theatre Center and Conejo Players. For Buster.

Carlos Centeno (Biff Baker) – This is Carlos' first show here at Kentwood but the second time he's done this show. He loved it so much he wanted to do it one more time. "I love this music!"

Jim Crawford (Stanley) – Jim has done a little of a lot of things at Kentwood. He wishes to thank Stanley for helping him climb the Kentwood ladder.

Melissa Falarski (Ginger Brooks) – For Melissa Kentwood Players has been a 'port in the storm' that is Los Angeles. She has been seen as the baker's wife in *Into the Woods* and *Fraulein Schneider* in *Cabaret*. Love to her family.

Andrew Fitzsimmons (B.J. Gibson) – Just finishing an incredible run of *Murder on the Nile*, Drew is grateful to hit the ground running with this wonderful chance to further his exploration into the realm of song and dance. He just hopes his can rise to the occasion and reach the level set by the phenomenal talent found in this gem of a show. Thanks Ben.

Scott Garner (Johnny Cantone) – New not only to this theatre but to the Pacific time zone as a whole, Scott signed on while still living in Texas after hearing there was a need for a "fake Sinatra."

Christine Mantilla (Connie Miller) – Christine is a theatre major at USC. She is active in student films as an actor and producer. Past performances include Anne Frank in *Yours*, Anne, Chava in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and Marty in *Grease*.

Paul Mazerov (Pops Bailey) – Paul's last appearance in a musical was his award-winning role of Erronius in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. He is dedicating this performance in memory of his son Allan Mazerov.

Peter Miller (Neal Tilden) – This is Peter's third production at Kentwood, but his second time playing Neal Tilden. Peter was last seen at Kentwood as the conniving Dr. Mandril in *City of Angels*.

Rocky Miller (Clifton A. Feddington) – Rocky's recent roles at KP include Stone in *City of Angels*, Sweeney in *Sweeney Todd*, and the Pirate King in *Pirates of Penzance*. At the Whittier Center Theatre He appeared as Fred/Petruchio in *Kiss Me, Kate* and Sheldrake in *Promises, Promises*. Opera roles include Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* and Kaspar in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*.

Brian Murphy (Zoot Doubleman) – Brian's music direction credits include Sondheim's *Merrily We Roll Along* for both Reprise! at UCLA and the West Coast Ensemble (Garland award), *How to Succeed...* for the Colony, *Elegies: A Song Cycle* for Workman Arts and Entertainment.

Kathrine Vogel (Ann Collier) – Kathrine's just debuting as a professional actress. Five days after graduating from the University of Arizona, she packed up and moved out west in pursuit of her dreams.

Matthew Scott Weiner (Wally Fergusson) – Matthew is an actor from Miami, Florida. This is his first play for Kentwood Players. He is very nervous.

Kentwood Players' Board of Directors 2004-2005

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Production Staff

Stage Manager	Jim Crawford
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Set Decoration Design.....	Sheldon Metz and Ben Lupejkis
Original Graphic Design and Lobby Design.....	Michael Cohen
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Assistant Costumer	Maria Cohen
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Strike Crew and Work Sunday

Barbara Brophy, Michael Burk, Arlene Cohen, Maria E. Cohen, Michael Cohen, Sheldon Cohen, De Cotter, Ed Cotter, Hillary Fitzsimmons, James M. Green, Barbara Haberman, Bill Harred, Shellee James, Yvonne Kainoa, Julia Maggs, Melvin Miller, Calia Mintzer, Gert Nord, Frank Olivadoti, Dave Parke, Tony Pereslete, Judy Polak, Lee Polak, Charlotte Lee Schildkret, Bob Schnauss, Ashley Schultz, Adina Silo, Jeanne Spain, Max Stormes, Fred M. Wolf and the cast and crew of *The 1940's Radio Hour*

Special Thanks

Michael Cohen for simulated period microphones;
Tony Pereslete for the simulated Coca Cola machine;
Richard Johnson, Scot Renfro

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.

Kentwood Players is a Member of the
WESTCHESTER/LAX-MARINA DEL REY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

You are invited to meet and greet cast members
after the performance in the Green Room.
Please use the outside stairway at the rear of the theater.

For up to the minute info on goings-on at Kentwood Players visit
our website

www.kentwoodplayers.org

Kentwood Players Coming Attractions

Neil Simon's
The Sunshine Boys
January 14 – February 19, 2005
Director: Sheldon Metz

Heaven Can Wait
A Comedy by Harry Segall
March 11 – April 16, 2005
Director: Ed Cotter

Company, A Musical
Book by George Furth
Lyrics & Music by Stephen Sondheim
May 6 – June 18, 2005
Director: Aileen-Marie Scott

The Rainmaker
A Drama by N. Richard Nash
July 15 – August 20, 2005
Director: August Vivirito

Special Theatre Parties

A special Theatre Party planned for your organization or group can be a financial success as well as an entertaining evening (or matinee) at the theatre. For further information call:

Calia Mintzer (310) 837-3609

Reservations are Necessary

Please call (310) 645-5156 between 4:00pm – 7:00pm TUESDAY – SATURDAY
Reservations MUST be paid for by cash, check, member coupon, season subscriber coupon or VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVER one week after they are made.

Season Ticket Order Form

Season Subscriptions are good for SIX (6) CONSECUTIVE productions, and you may start your subscriptions with the show of your choice. **Please allow 4 weeks for processing of your order.**

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Please send me ___ subscriptions at \$54.00 each. Total _____

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Clifton A. Feddington and Saul Lebowitz
present

The Mutual Manhattan
VARIETY CAVALCADE

in a live broadcast from the
Hotel Astor's Algonquin Room
Broadway between 44th and 45th Streets
New York City

December 21, 1942

with
GINGER BROOKS,
GENEVA LEE BROWNE, ANN COLLIER,
B.J. GIBSON and CONNIE MILLER,
RAY OWEN, NEAL TILDEN

and
JOHNNY CANTONE

featuring
THE ZOOT DOUBLEMAN ORCHESTRA
Zoot Doubleman, Keyboards
Ethan "Thumper" Minton, Bass
Colin "Baby Face" Cronin, Drums
Biff Baker, Trumpet

Musical Direction, Zoot Doubleman
Vocal Arrangements, Niles Doubleman
Orchestrations, Sidney Neumark
Musical Staging and Stage Management, Lou Cohn
Doorman for the Algonquin Room, Mr. Arthur Bailey
Technician, Stanley Gallagher

THE WOV CAVALCADE OF STARS



CLIFTON A. FEDDINGTON, with his partner, Saul Lebowitz, has been producing *The Mutual Manhattan Variety Cavalcade* since its inception six years ago last week. It's been a long climb for Clifton and his *Cavalcade*. He began at WHK in Cleveland in the much-acclaimed children's program, *Let's have lunch with Mr. Cliff*. Then, on to Philadelphia where local radio audiences tuned in nightly to a community radio theatre group, *The Feddington Players*. Then, in 1935, with seed money from sixteen sponsors, Mr. Feddington landed a fifteen-minute musical variety show called *Stars in Heaven* which featured his recent singing discoveries, Ann Collier and Johnny Cantone, the Zoot Doubleman Quartet and Neal Tilden. In 1936, Mutual expanded the show to a half-hour and re-named it *The Mutual Half-Hour of Singing Stars* and the team added its first Gibson brother, Bobby. Just last January through a deal with New York's *WOV* Radio, the show became the hour-long *Cavalcade* we love today, and tonight's show is the last in our first season. Mr. Feddington also is President of *Clifton Records* (the signature series), which will be into production as soon as the ASCAP strike is settled.



JOHNNY CANTONE first excited listeners in his native Brooklyn, New York where Johnny opened the '39 Pro-Am Duckpin Tourney with his version of The Star Spangled Banner. Since then he has sung "The Anthem" at hundreds of sporting events (including his own unsuccessful attempt to unseat the defending welter-weight champ Eldon Dwight). Now "featured vocalist" with *WOV's Cavalcade*, Johnny has come a long way from those clubs in Jersey where he fronted bands for five years before the *Cavalcade* happened along. "The Tone" hopes to begin his acting career with his upcoming engagement to read Odets with Harold on Don McNeill's *Breakfast Club* in March. He also hopes to be able to spend more time with his wife, Angel. Soon.



GINGER BROOKS moved everything to New York in the fall of 1940. It was only a year until she landed the coveted position of microphone monitor at WACL. But it wasn't long before she was cutting records for Artie Shaw. But her real forte was singing so she left the technical position and became an overnight success as the only singing waitress and stacker at *Romeo's Spaghetti House*, where our stage manager and choreographer, Lou Cohn, discovered her. Ginger's favorite color is red.



GENEVA LEE BROWNE began her show business career at the Cotton Club in *The Hot Chocolates Revue*, and later, with Earl “Fatha” Hines. In 1939, she moved to Kansas City where she formed her own jazz quintet, The Kansas City Browne Boys, and, until this fall, entertained listeners there nightly at the Chesterfield Club. Since September, she has recorded for *Victor, Okey, and Vocalion* Records and has just signed a contract to sing with Jimmy Lunceford’s Orchestra. She has also been offered a film short with Louis Armstrong and Ethel Waters to be shot at The Cotton Club where she began singing six years ago which will feature a song she has written and performed as part of her set with her group nightly at the Onyx Club.



ANN COLLIER was singing with her sisters in Montclair, New Jersey when she was only seven. When she went away to school, she worked on WJSV’s Dr. Pepper Parade on Sunday nights and was offered tours with Claude Thornhill and the King Biscuit Entertainers. In ‘35, she returned to her native Montclair and sang with dance bands there where she was discovered by *WOV*’s own Clifton Feddington and swept into New York and into the limelight of his *Cavalcade* where she was “featured vocalist” for three years. She has been with the show for six years now and we hope she’ll be here for six more. Ann lives with her four year old son Matthew on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.



ZOOT DOUBLEMAN comes to *WOV* fresh from a USO tour of training bases in sunny California, a duty he reluctantly performs in lieu of military service. A founding member of The Chuck Cabot Orchestra, Zoot owes his entire musical career to the genius of Mrs. Pearl Fishman. He has played sessions with such well-known bands as Art Lathan’s Bearcats, Irv Fein’s Fabulous Three and Murray O’Toole’s Rover Boys, A serious musician at heart (he attended Brooklyn College), his new composition, *Zoot Suite*, is scheduled for performance in the near future at Carnegie Hall or in Pittsburgh.



B.J. GIBSON is the youngest of the singing Gibson brothers, who began their musical careers in New Orleans in 1932 (B.J. was fourteen) in an act their father named *Three Boys with a Harmonica*. With his brothers “over there,” B.J. packed Bobby’s harmonica, Buddy’s sweater, and his father’s arrangements and went up to New Haven where he is a Senior English major at Yale’s Branford College. He comes into New York every week though to do the show, keeping up the Gibson tradition, and is now singin’ and dancin’ and smilin’ his way into the hearts of radio listeners everywhere. “Welcome aboard, B.J.”



CONNIE MILLER comes all the way from Ogden, Utah where she studied tap, ballet, and ballroom at Madame Stephen's Dance Academy. At age ten she and her mother lived in Los Angeles and while she was working as a script girl for Columbia Pictures she kept the crews entertained with her imitations of Shirley Temple and Margaret O'Brien. After not being cast as Robert Young's daughter in *Joe Smith, American*, Connie and her mom came to New York and auditioned for Clifton at WOV. Now the youngest member of the *Cavalcade*, Connie hopes one day to become a Rockette.



RAY OWEN has a long career of seemingly endless talents. From the critically acclaimed "third quizmaster" on KFJ's *Questions, Please*, to the corny magician of WBAL's *Vaudeville at Noon*. And who can forget WTAM's *Live from Cleveland*? Ray also co-starred with Nigel Nooley in the RKO short *Shelby's Millions*. But possibly Ray's greatest gift is his interpretation of "the ballad" and it is there that Ray becomes an indispensable member of the *Cavalcade*.



NEAL TILDEN's career with some of the greats and many of the near-greats is pretty much history now. The grueling singing lessons, the one-night stands, until he exploded on the vocal horizon with Nestor Nugent's Tornadoes at Tarrytown's Cafe O'Ola. On to greater heights, and the fabled nine-week tour of '34 with the late, great Wes Westerley, who after losing Neal, lamented, "It was like losing a horn." Neal has been with the *Cavalcade* since before it was even a twinkle in Clifton's eye, and he still keeps a hand in club singing, and a hand in radio singing, and a hand in stage acting too (he was recently up for the role of the understudy to Gill Stratton, Jr. in the Broadway smash *Best Foot Forward*). But his First love is the *Cavalcade*, and he says he's delighted to be handling vocal chores with an "OK outfit" like ours. "Thanks, Neal!"

WOV Radio, 1280 kc, 730 Fifth Avenue, New York, Circle 5-7979

DRINK

Coca-Cola