

KENTWOOD PLAYERS PRESENTS

DRIVE

By **Emily Dodi**

Directed by **Tony Gatto**

Produced by **Christine Joëlle and Jordan Bland**

"EMILY DODI'S VIBRANT PLAY

about two women at midlife crossroads, struggling to take the next step, is leavened with wry humor... Dodi's dialogue resonates."

- Lynne Heffley, LA TIMES

"SNAPPY, FRESH DIALOGUE

lifts Emily Dodi's WELL-WRITTEN DRAMATIC COMEDY above the oh-so-familiar setting: a seedy bar on a dark and stormy night."

- Sandra Ross, LA WEEKLY

JULY 10 - AUGUST 15, 2009

Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm

\$18 General Admission, \$2 discount for students, seniors and servicemen

www.kentwoodplayers.org

Westchester Playhouse, 8301 Hindry Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Directors Note

After all, we're only human. As a thinking, feeling people, it is only natural we get to a point in our lives when we take stock of our worth...we look back at "what could have been" or might regret choices we made and why we made them; or even judge a decision that allowed us to think "ok, not what I wanted, but it will do". Fear rears its ugly head in all too many of these decisions. If you take anything home with you after seeing Drive, I hope it is the courage to see that your life can truly be what you want it to be... cliché be damned...if you make it, there is always enough time.

– Tony Gatto

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.

**Please turn cell phones and pagers to silent,
turn off alarms on digital watches.
and unwrap candy or cough drops before the play begins.**

Kentwood Players is a member of the
LAX COASTAL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Reservations are Necessary

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

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

DRIVE

by Emily Dodi

Director
Tony Gatto

Producers
Christine Joëlle & Jordan Bland

Set Design
Tony Gatto & Scot Renfro

Light Design
Benjamin Anton

Costume Design
Sheridan Cole Crawford

Sound Design
Susan Stangl

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Grace..... Meredith M. Sweeney
Arthur..... Alec Tomkiw
Jim Scot Renfro
Honey..... Drew Fitzsimmons
Sally Jeanne Spain
Queenie Rebecca Avery
Sally (Understudy)..... Margie Bates

Setting: The Alibi, a dive bar in New Haven. The year is 1999.

Act I. Scene 1 At the home of Grace and Arthur Bishop on the night of Grace's 35th birthday.

Scene 2. Later that same night: The Alibi bar.

Act II Where we left off at the Alibi.

There will be a 15-minute intermission between Acts I and II.
Decaf coffee will be served at the intermission, courtesy of Kentwood Players

About the Cast



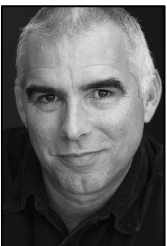
Rebecca Avery (Queenie) – Rebecca Avery is happy to be making her Kentwood Players debut in this new play *Drive*. She is a member of Circle X Theatre Company where she was last seen in the critically acclaimed production of *The Brothers Karamazov* at The Ford Amphitheater in which they won the Drama Critics Circle Award for “Best Ensemble”. Some other stage credits include: *Frozen* (West Coast Premiere), *Confession*, *Marley’s Ghost*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *Steel Magnolias*. Some television credits: *Criminal Minds*, *Boston Legal*, *Angel*, *Two and a Half Men* and a recurring role on *West Wing*.



Margie Bates (Understudy) – Margie appeared most recently as Miss Erikson in Kentwood’s May/June production of *Present Laughter*. She received Marcom Masque Awards for the roles of Mama in *I Remember Mama*, Flo in *Picnic*, Miss Preen, in *The Man who Came to Dinner*, and Addie-Mae in *The Cover of Life*. Some other memorable roles were Lavinia in *The Heiress*, Kate in *Sylvia*, and Nancy in *Play it Again Sam*. Margie’s musical comedy credits include *Can-Can*, *Sweet Charity*, and *Anything Goes* at Kentwood and the role of Judy in *A Chorus Line* at the Torrance Theatre. Margie is a past-president of Kentwood Players.



Drew Fitzsimmons (Honey) – Drew has been seen as the Emcee in *Cabaret* at the James Armstrong, Tony in *The Boyfriend* and Tom Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie* at Theatre Palisades, a plethora of roles out at the Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum and is understudying Lysander/Demetrius in this seasons *A Midsummer Nights Dream*. Here at Kentwood Drew has performed in a play or two and is so very honored to have been given this incredible chance. Many thanks to Tony for the opportunity, vision and guidance and to Emily for the incredible journey that she has so brilliantly created. He is hopelessly in love with Meredith.



Scot Renfro (Jim) – A heartfelt thank you to Tony and Emily and Virginia for another opportunity to portray poor old Jim. I believe in *Drive* and I am proud of Kentwood for “going out on the skinny branches” and including a new work in our season. I hope the play resonates in you, the audience, as much as it does for those of us presenting it to you.



Jeanne Spain (Sally) – A native of Illinois, Jeanne is a 25 year member of Kentwood during which she has appeared as Aunt Jenny in *I Remember Mama*, Housekeeper in *Man of La Mancha*. At Theatre Palisades: Sophie in *Social Security* and Mme. Armfeldt in *A Little Night Music*. Other shows include *Macbeth*, *Milk & Honey*, *Follies*, *Most Happy Fella*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Night of January*

16th. Also worked at Theatre 40, Globe Playhouse and Gypsy Playhouse.



Meredith M. Sweeney (Grace) – Last seen as Sally Bowles in *Cabaret* at the James Armstrong Theatre, Meredith is humbled to be a part of this incredible cast and production. Past credits include: *Proof* (Catherine), *Little Green Men* (Sally), and *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet) at Kentwood Players; *Another Part of the Forest* (Regina) and *Quartermaine's Terms* (Anita) at Theatre 40; an

award-winning turn in *The Boyfriend* (Polly) at Theatre Palisades and three seasons at the Will Geer Theatrum Botanicum (Hermia). Heartfelt thanks to Tony (for the guidance) and to Emily (for this genuine and beautiful character). All my love to my life-long leading man.



Alec Tomkiw (Arthur) – Born and raised in Canada, Alec moved to New York City in 1999 to attend American Musical and Dramatic Academy after graduating with a B.A. Economics from Simon Fraser University (Vancouver, BC). Upon completing school, he was cast as Orgon in a national tour of *Tartuffe*, which was performed in both French and English. Performed in New York City at the American Globe and TSI Playtime Series, as well as

the independent short film *Blur*. Since moving to Los Angeles, Alec has appeared at The Raven Playhouse (*Sex, Love & Time Travel*), The Underground Theatre, (*Fables For Friends*) and The Luna Playhouse (*Hedda Gabler*) as well as the independent short *The Case*. Most recently he has just completed shooting the independent feature *Hopelessly in June* as well as appearing in the June 2009 issue of *Money Magazine*.

About the Director

Tony Gatto – An NYC transplant of 10 years, Tony directed the original production of *Drive* in 2004 at Company Of Angels Theater in 2004. Also at CoA: *LA Views I and II*, *Brother Jones*, *Dust*, *Fresh Meat*, *Colors*, *The Sharon Show*, *Hecho en America*, and *365 Days/Plays* by Suzann-Lori-Parks. Also in LA: Towne Street Theater's *10 Min Play Fest*, *Old Silent Movie* at The Taper Amphitheater among others. He has also acted in Bruce Graham's *Minor Demons* as Frank, Keith Reddin's *Life During Wartime* as John Calvin, and in William Inge's *The Disposal* as death row inmate Luke, and Garry Michael White's *Arlington*. Thanks for supporting new theater!

About the Producers

Christine Joëlle – A veteran of the stage, Christine not only loves to perform but also enjoys the orchestration of putting a show on its feet. Ms. Joëlle's producing credits at Kentwood include, *Nicholas Nickelby*, *The Odd Couple* and *The Laramie Project*. She is truly honored and proud to be working with such an amazing and talented cast and crew. She extends heartfelt thanks to friends, family and her true love, Shawn Savage, for their endless love and support.

Jordan Bland – Jordan is pleased to be involved with a show that has so much heart. He spends most of his time at Kentwood as an instructor for the children's classes. He has been in the kids' productions *Willy Wonka TYA* and *Trail of Goldilocks* which he also co-produced, and this summer he directed *Aesop's Fables*. Also on main stage shows he has recently been seen as Roland Maule in *Present Laughter* and as Laertes in Shakespeare by the Sea's *Hamlet 2*.

About the Designers

Tony Gatto & Scot Renfro – Very few things in life are as satisfying as taking some ratty plywood, crooked 1 x 3's, pressboard, etc., and turning them into a believable "world" of theater magic. It is our great pleasure to do so for The Alibi.

Benjamin Anton – Educated at Hofstra University, Philly native and avid Eagles fan ("Go Birds!"), Benjamin has extensive credits both on and off stage. As the lighting designer for the original production of *Drive*, Ben is thrilled to reprise his roll in this current production. He wishes to thank Emily, Tony, Christine and the Cast and Crew for their fabulous work. He would also like to thank everyone from Kentwood Players for making him feel at home in the space. Special thanks to Lauren and Matilda, the loves of his life.

Sheridan Cole Crawford – Sheridan Cole Crawford has costumed several shows with the Kentwood Players and is currently part of a costume task force that is sorting through “60 years’ worth” of costumes and accessories that will streamline the wardrobe department. She also acts and will be directing the upcoming *A Little Night Music*.

Susan Stangl – Susan Stangl has designed sound for dozens of shows at Kentwood and elsewhere, winning awards for *Forty Carats* and *Gypsy* at Kentwood and for *The Tempest* at the Morgan-Wixson. She is also an actress (four Kentwood shows and several workshops, among dozens of plays and films) and a singer-songwriter.
(Visit www.MySpace.com/susanstangl for some of her songs).

Production Staff

Stage Manager Jordan Bland
2nd Stage Manger Sarah Cohen
Script Supervisor and Assistant to the Director Sonia Quinones
Script Dramaturge Maria Pavone
Booth Crew Jim Crawford, Russell B. Ham
Set Decoration Design Tony Gatto, Scot Renfro
Original Graphic Design Jeff Geiser
Lobby Design Liz Reinhardt
Master Builder Scot Renfro, Michael O’Grady
Costume Assistant Maria Cohen
Properties Linda Reinhardt
Publicity Photos Liz Reinhardt
Audition Assistance Max Stormes, Jeanne Spain
Hospitality Coordinator Shari Barrett
Box Office Ashley Schultz

Strike Crew and Work Sunday

Marcy Agreen, Miriam Amster, Shari Barrett, Barbara Brophay,
Tom Brophay, Maria E. Cohen, Michael I. Cohen, Jim Crawford,
Emily Dodi, Tom Edwards, Hal Fisher, Michael Grinde,
Barbara Haberman, Russell Ham, Jayne Hamel, Shellee James,
Polly Kenney, Gretchen Luna, Julia Maggs, Lori A. Marple-Pereslete,
Scott Martin, Viginia Mekkelson, Treva Merritt, Melvin Miller,
Donna Moore, Barry Nackos, Michael O’Grady, Frank Olivadoti,
Tony Pereslete, Kaye Porter, Linda Reinhardt, Victor Reinhardt,
Valerie Ruel, Charlotte Lee Schildkret, Adina Silo, Max Stormes,
Shawn Summerer, Sherman Wayne, Susan Weisbarth
and the cast and crew of *Drive*

Special Thanks

Lei Aloha, 5622 W. Manchester, Los Angeles 90045

To Michael O'Grady for assisting Scot Renfro with building our set.
Your time, efforts and talents are greatly appreciated!

Many thanks to the following Kentwood members who took some time
to help paint the set on our Work Saturday, June 20th:
Patricia Butler, Valerie Ruel, Jim Crawford, Sheldon Cohen, Judy Polak,
Lee Polak, Lori A. Marple-Pereslete, Gretchen Luna

Extra Thanks

To Company of Angels Theater that first nurtured this play.

To Scot for his overwhelming dedication to what he believes in.

To Emily for tapping into all of our own doubts and desires.

To Christine for being passionate and being really great glue(the “you-
can-hang-by-your-hardhat-from-a-steel beam” kind of glue).

To Jordon for expressing the truths and sharing support through this process.

To Kentwood for giving me the opportunity to share Drive once again.

To this cast that so willingly and artfully took this journey with me.

And to Lubba for consistently reminding me of the joy.... “Halabala”!

Kentwood Players' Board of Directors 2009-2010

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From Shakespeare to Simon, from Sondheim to Hammerstein, we have worked diligently, putting in countless volunteer hours, keeping our prices low enough to allow all in our community access to a magical evening or matinee in the theatre.

Now, we need your help. We have some critical improvements that will be beyond what we as a small community theatre can manage. We need a new roof, a new heating and air conditioning system, and most of our facility needs to be updated. For the first time in our history, we are asking our wonderful patrons and dedicated community members to partner with us and become sponsors of our beloved theatre.

There are many ways you can help. Of course, we welcome your contributions no matter how large or small. Together we can keep quality theatre in Westchester at prices that are still affordable for our audiences. Please take a look at our sponsorship opportunities and if we can answer any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

THANK YOU FROM THE KENTWOOD PLAYERS

Donation envelopes can be found in our lobby.

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The Tale of the Allergist's Wife
A Comedy by Charles Busch
September 11 – October 17, 2009
Director: Lewis Hauser

A Little Night Music A Musical
Book by Hugh Wheeler
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Based on Ingmar Bergman's film
November 6 – December 12, 2009
Director: Sheridan Cole Crawford

Li'l Abner A Musical
Book by Norman Panama and Melvin Frank
Based on Characters Created by Al Capp
Lyrics by Johnny Mercer
Music by Gene de Paul
March 12 – April 17, 2010
Director: Victoria Miller

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