

2022
Jul 22-aug 06

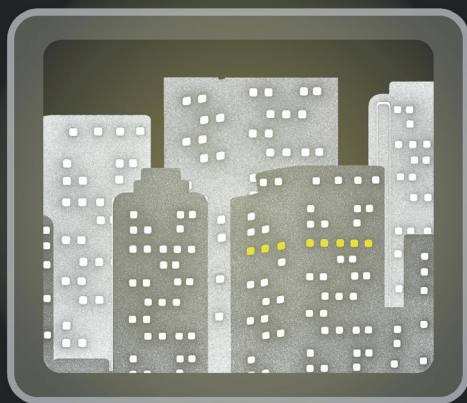
program



west
chester
play
house

LAUGHTER *on the* 23rd FLOOR

by Neil Simon



July 22 - August 6, 2022

Directed by Stanley Brown - Produced by Kathy Dershimer

Produced by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

always
free

Kentwood Players proudly presents

LAUGHTER
on the
23rd FLOOR



DIRECTED BY Stanley Brown
Produced by Kathy Dershimer

Set Designer
Stanley Brown, Shawn Plunkett

Costume Designer
Kathy Dershimer

Lighting Designer
Michael Thorpe

Sound Designer
Susan Stangl

Stage Manager
Harold Dershimer

CAST in ORDER of APPEARANCE

Lucas

Matthew Abosamra

Milt

Peter Miller

Val

Nathan Gebhard

Brian

Jeremy Palmer

Kenny

Shawn Plunkett

Carol

Lyndsay Palmer

Max Prince

Ben Lupejkis

Helen

Julia McGowan

Ira

Lou Saliba

Setting:

The 23rd floor office for the writers of "The Max Prince Show"
New York City, 1953.

Act 1: March, 1953.

Act 2, Seven months later/December

There will be one 15-minute intermission

Director's Note

Characters and incidents in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* are inspired by the actual writers of *Your Show of Shows* (1950-1954) and *Caesar's Hour* (1954-1957)

Lucas Brickman

Max Prince

Kenny Franks

Val Slotsky

Brian Doyle

Milt Fields

Carol Wyman

Ira Stone

Neil Simon

Sid Caesar

Larry Gelbart

Mel Tolkin

Tony Webster

Sheldon Keller

Lucille Kallen

and Selma Diamond

Mel Brooks



Desks were actually set on fire, shoes were thrown out of windows, and alcohol was frequently drunk. It must have been fun.



Cost of Living 1953 - How Much things cost

Yearly Inflation Rate USA - 0.82%

Yearly Inflation Rate UK - 2.2%

Average Cost of new house - \$9,550.00

Average wages per year - \$4,000.00

Average Cost of a new car - \$1,650.00

Average Cost of Rent - \$85.00 per month

LB of Hamburger Meat - 53 cents

Kodak Brownie Flash Six 20 - \$13.00

Eggs per dozen - 27 cents

Chain Saw - \$225.00

Cost of a gallon of Gas - 20 cents



Meet the Cast



Matthew Abosamra (Lucas)

...is delighted to make his Westchester Playhouse debut. Recent credits include Caden (*The Thanksgiving Play*), Mickey/James McCormack (*All The Way*), and Lennox/Seyton (*Macbeth*) with the Lyric Repertory Company. Malvolio (*Twelfth Night*), Don John (*Much Ado About Nothing*), Noah (*Grapes of Wrath*), Grady (*The Normal Heart*), and Barrel (*Urinetown*) with MiraCosta Theatre. Recent television credits include a featured role in the miniseries *Here Now Nowhere*. Matthew Abosamra is an L.A based actor from San Diego, California.



Nathan Gebhard (Val)

Nathan is humbled to be back so soon to the Kentwood Players stage. After just recently appearing in *Clue* as Colonel Mustard, it's exciting to be working with another hilarious ensemble under a visionary director. His other favorite past roles include The Narrator in *The Good Doctor*, Lord Fancourt Babberly in *Charley's Aunt* and Richard Hannay in *The 39 Steps*. Shout out to his friends and family for their love and support and big hugs and kisses to his mom, his daughters and his partner-in-crime.



Ben Lupejkis (Max Prince)

...is thrilled to lead this great ensemble and return to his home turf: Kentwood Players. Recently he appeared as Harry in another Simon classic *Prisoner of Second Avenue* at Theatre Palisades. He has portrayed iconic characters such as Don Quixote/Cervantes (*Man of La Mancha*) and Fagin (*Oliver*). Other lead roles performed include *Candide*, *Dracula*, *Falsettos*, and *Tintypes*. Thanks to Stanley and Kathy for the opportunity and faith, his kitty family, and most importantly to Pattie for her 37 years of unwavering devotion. He'd also like to recognize mentors who shaped his work and passed too soon: Simm Landres, Alan Schneider, and A.J. Esta.

Meet the Cast



Julia McGowan (Helen)

...is super excited to be a part of her first show with Kentwood Players! Some previous roles include Van's Sister (*Dog Sees God*) and Sarah (*Breaking Barriers*). She is currently on track to obtain a B.A. in Theatre from the University of Southern California. She would like to thank her friends, family, and Stanley for all their support.



Peter Miller (Milt)

Peter returns to the Kentwood stage after a 4 year hiatus! Peter was last seen here as Trekkie Monster in *Avenue Q*. In between Kentwood appearances, Peter played Tito Merelli in *Lend Me a Tenor* and its sequel *A Comedy of Tenors* at Theatre Palisades. He also originated the role of Frank in *Good Fishermen know a lot about Sex* at the Hudson Theater in Hollywood! This is Peter's first Neil Simon show and he hopes he does Doc proud!



Jeremy Palmer (Brian)

...continues his Kentwood streak of playing only writers and educators following his work in *Dial M for Murder*(Max) and *Little Women* (John Brook). As a writer and educator in real life, he enjoys not stretching too much. Other credits include *Cabaret* (Cliff), *The Fantasticks* (El Gallo), *Little Shop of Horrors* (The Dentist), and *Man of La Mancha* (Sancho), all in Denver, as well as a special production of *Barefoot in the Park* with his wife.

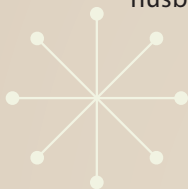


Meet the Cast



Lyndsay Palmer (Carol)

...is thrilled to return to Kentwood for a Neil Simon play with her husband 12 years after they did *Barefoot in the Park* back in her hometown of Denver. Other recent credits include *You Can't Take it With You* (Essie) and *Noises Off!* (Poppy) at the Long Beach Playhouse. Kentwood credits include *Little Women* (Amy), *Pippin* (Fastrada), *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel), and *Sister Act* (Mary Robert). Thanks to her family, her heart family, this cast and crew, and that husband she mentioned earlier.



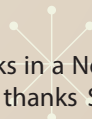
Shawn Plunkett (Kenny)

...is excited to be back on stage along with this amazing cast. A proud husband and father, Shawn is an actor, writer and director who has been lucky enough to work on stage in such productions as *Sunday in the Park with George* and *Bus Stop*, on screen in *Wrath*, on television in *License to Kill* and *Buried in the Backyard* as well as other multimedia platforms. Thank you everyone who supports live theater.



Lou Saliba (Ira)

Playing a character based on Mel Brooks in a Neil Simon play is a dream come true for Lou and he thanks Stanley, Kathy and the Kentwood Players for this opportunity! Favorite stage roles include Aaronow in *Glengarry Glen Ross* and touring with The Second City - Chicago. Lou can also currently be seen as a company member in the comedy show *This Week This Week* with the Open Fist theater company. Favorite TV/Film roles include *Modern Family* and *A Thousand Words* w/Eddie Murphy. Special thanks to Jen, Lily and Anthony for all their love and support!





Meet the Crew

Stanley Brown (Director)

...is honored to be directing his second production with Kentwood Players after *Our Town* (2019). Also for Kentwood: *Zoom Date* (writer/director), *Wait Until Dark*, *The Crucible* (actor). Credits include: *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, *Bad Seed*, *The Psychic*, *Bell, Book and Candle* (Director) *Come Blow Your Horn*, *The Diviners*, *And Then There Were None*, *The Supporting Cast* (Actor). He directed the premiere of his original play *Huckleberry Towers* in 2020. Thanks to the Laughter cast for making him laugh. Thanks to Kathy Dershimer for encouragement and support. Love to Debbie and Stephanie.

Kathy Dershimer (Producer)

Kathy is very happy to be working again with Stanley. She has just finished directing *Fun Home* for Kentwood Players and has previously directed *Orphans*, *Wait Until Dark* and *Dangerous Obsession*, as well as produced *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Our Town*, *Dial M for Murder*, *The Giver* and *Native Gardens*. She has costumed over 25 productions at Kentwood and done Set Design and Set Decoration. Kathy thanks the cast and crew for their hysterical work and talent and thanks her family and friends for their amazing support.

Michael Thorpe (Lighting Designer)

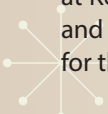
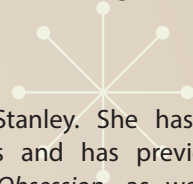
Mike studied lighting under the great Elmay Ooksbray. Elmay had a very long and storied career, including the initial lighting design for the Globe Theatre. He also pioneered the use of "footlights" (so known because they only light actors' feet). This was a great improvement over the previous system of lighting the grass on fire and doing the play very quickly. Mike would like to dedicate this performance to Elmay, and wish him another great 2000 years.

Susan Stangl (Sound Design)

This is Susan's 135th sound design (give or take a few) and her 55th for Kentwood Players. She directed and appeared in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, KP's first show since reopening. She will be in *Trouble the Water* at Theatricum Botanicum this season and performs regularly with the band Dreamers and Drifters.

Harold Dershimer (Stage Manager)

Harold has performed, directed, produced, designed, or stage-managed multiple productions for Kentwood Players over the past 14 years. He thanks Stanley for inviting him to join the team on this Neil Simon favorite and thanks the cast for their cooperation and dedication to this production.



Meet the Crew

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Master Builder | George Kondreck |
| Additional Set Construction | Doug Carlson, Shawn Plunkett |
| Script Supervisor | Harold Dershimer |
| Booth Crew | Jenny Boone, Kathy Dershimer |
| Set Decoration | Shawn Plunkett, Stanley Brown, Kathy Dershimer, Harold Dershimer |
| Furniture Design/Build | Shawn Plunkett, |
| Original Graphic Design | Andrew Dershimer |
| Lobby Design | Jenny Boone, Kathy Dershimer |
| Props | Kathy Dershimer, Harold Dershimer, Jenny Boone |
| Publicity Photos | Gloria Plunkett |
| Audition Assistance | Myron and Ann Klafter |

VIDEO PACKAGE CREDITS

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Max | Ben Lupejkis |
| Mary | Patricia Butler |
| M.C./Cowboy/Funeral Director | Harold Dershimer |
| Mama | Kathy Dershimer |

Director: Stanley Brown/Shawn Plunkett

Writer: Stanley Brown/Jeremy Palmer

Camera/Editor: Shawn Plunkett

Upcoming Productions

Night Watch

by Louise Fletcher Directed by Brandon Ferruccio

September 23 – October 8, 2022

9 TO 5 The Musical

Book by Patricia Resnick, Music & Lyrics by Dolly Parton

Directed by Kirk Larson

November – December, 2022

All My Sons

by Arthur Miller

Directed by Ben Lupejkis

January 20 - February 11, 2023

Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

by Ken Ludwig Directed by Susan Stangl

March 17 – April 8, 2023

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Rhonda Yeager-Hutchinson
Stanley Brown
Bouket Fingerhut, Roy Okida
West Maätita

WORK SUNDAY

Jenny Boone, Stanley Brown, Doug Carlson, Kathy Dershimer, Marty Feldman, Sam Goldman, Steve Izant, Syrie James, Anne Klafter, Myron Klafter, Catherine Kondreck, George Kondreck, Daniel Kruger, Ben Lupejkis, Melvin Miller, Peter Miller, Colleen Okida, Roy Okida, Jeremy Palmer, Lyndsay Palmer, Justin Tyme Lee Rozell, Deborah Sadlouskos, Anthony Saliba, Jen Saliba, Lily Saliba, Lou Saliba, Michele Selin, Susan Stangl, Shawn Summerer, Elizabeth Wika



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2021

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 Kentwood
Players presents



Night Written By
Lucille Fletcher
Watch

Directed by Brandon Ferruccio

Produced by Kim Peterson and Catherine Rahm

Coming This Fall