

Kentwood Players

presents

45 SECONDS FROM BROADWAY



By

Neil Simon

Directed by

Gail Bernardi

January 13 – February 18, 2006

Westchester Playhouse

8301 Hindry Avenue

Westchester, California 90045-3205

Reservations: (310) 645-5156

45 Seconds from Broadway

by Neil Simon

Director

Gail Bernardi

Producers

Calia Mintzer & Lori A. Marple-Pereslete

Set Design

De Cotter

Light Design

Tom Brophy

Costume Design

Maria Cohen

Sound Design

Phil Brickey

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Mickey Fox..... Jack Winnick
Andrew Duncan..... Chris Roberts
Bernie..... Vic Helford
Soloman Mantutu..... Craig Johnson
Megan Woods..... Jean Franzblau
Arleen..... Julie E. Frankel
Cindy..... Liz Laird
Rayleen..... Alice Eldridge
Charles..... Bruce Schroffel
Zelda..... CeCe Baxter
Bessie..... Trenekia Danielle
Harry Fox..... Ira Gewant

Scene: A coffee shop/restaurant off the lobby of a hotel
in the Broadway Theatre District of New York

Act I Scene 1 Summer
 Scene 2 Autumn
Act II Scene 3 Winter
 Scene 4 Spring

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

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

About the Director

Gail Bernardi – Gail, who has a BFA in theater from Carnegie Melon, has directed many award-winning plays at Kentwood. She has directed *Picnic*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *The Gin Game*, *The Heiress*, and *Painting Churches* to name just a few. She is delighted to be working with a cast of such talented actors. She hopes you will enjoy their efforts and laugh a lot.

About the Producers

Calia Mintzer – A 50 year member of Kentwood Players, Calia has enjoyed acting, singing, dancing and producing in many Kentwood productions. Winner of 5 Marcom Masque Awards, she was awarded this year's Special Board Award. Calia is delighted to be co-producing once again with the very talented director Gail Bernardi.

Lori A. Marple-Pereslete – Lori has been an active member of Kentwood Players since 2001—on stage in *Picnic* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and backstage as crew and decorator. She is glad to be working once again with Gail and Calia. She hopes you enjoy this production.

About the Cast

CeCe Baxter (Zelda) – At age 4 CeCe decided she was “gonna be a actress.” Theatre degrees from Texas U and Yale, Broadway, off-Broadway, foreign and many U.S. theaters, commercials, TV, films, sitcoms are steps toward the dream she still pursues. She also taught kindergarten with LAUSD for 33 years. Thank you, Gail and Ira for this opportunity to be Zelda.

Trenekia Danielle (Bessie) – Last seen in *Murder on the Nile* and *Heaven Can Wait*, Trenekia is playing her first major supportive role at Kentwood. Much love to her friends and family who will see themselves in Bessie and the men who love them. Deep gratitude to Gail for seeing the Bessie in me.

Alice Eldridge (Rayleen) – Longtime Kentwood member, Alice last appeared here as Miss ffoliet ffoluks in *Murder on the Nile*. Other favorite roles at Kentwood for which she won best actress awards include Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*, Fanny in *Painting Churches*, and Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*. She thanks Jim for everything.

Julie E. Frankel (Arleen) – Julie wanted to be an actress ever since she was 5 years old and saw *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* in her hometown, St. Louis. A successful children's author, teacher, and actress, Julie has appeared in several print ads, commercials, and L.A. stage productions—most recently, *Cahoots* at the Gene Bua theater. “For my father.”

Jean Franzblau (Megan) – Jean started off as a kid performer in Hollywood, Florida. At seventeen, she went to UCLA and later studied acting at the Neighborhood Playhouse. Her favorite roles include Libby in *I Ought to Be in Pictures* and Izzy in *Crossing Delancey*. She dedicates her performance to her sweetheart, Frank.

Ira Gewant (Harry) – Ira is excited to be back at Kentwood following his award-winning performance as Willie Clark in *The Sunshine Boys* last year. In addition to many theater productions, Ira has had principal roles in film, TV, more than a dozen national commercials, and at New York City's Lincoln Center.

Vic Helford (Bernie) – Vic returns to our stage after performing the part of Al Lewis a year ago in the hit production of *The Sunshine Boys*. He has been actively performing on stage, on television and in movies for almost 40 years. You may have seen him in such shows as *Seinfeld*, *Friends* and *Drew Carey*. He is just as excited performing in this play as he was the very first time he appeared before an audience many years ago.

Craig Johnson (Soloman) – This is Craig's first appearance with Kentwood Players. He has performed in theaters across Southern California, including the Long Beach Playhouse, Vanguard Theatre Ensemble and Rude Guerrilla Theatre Company. He was last seen in Los Angeles in *The Queen of Sheba*, at the Stella Adler Theater.

Liz Laird (Cindy) – An MFA/Acting graduate, Liz moved to L.A. from Chicago three years ago. Her L.A. stage credits include *Rumors* at Morgan-Wixson, *Dinner with Friends* at Theatre Palisades, and *Waiting for Lefty* at Whitmore-Lindley. She dedicates the audience's laughter to her four-year-old niece, Emma, who was diagnosed with cancer and is now in recovery.

Chris Roberts (Andrew) – Chris is delighted to be working with Gail Bernardi, one of Kentwood Players' finest directors, and with this superb cast.

Bruce Schroffel (Charles) – Family guy, barbershopper, magician, advertising guru, Bruce is delighted to make his debut with Kentwood Players. Recent appearances include *The Music Man* and the Barbershop Harmony Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia. Bruce has written and produced numerous musicals for the SM Oceanaires. He thanks his family and friends for their love and support.

Jack Winnick (Mickey) – Jack is pleased to make his first appearance at Kentwood. He has played many Neil Simon characters, both here on the Westside and in Atlanta. He is a full-time actor, appearing in TV series and commercials.

Production Staff

Stage Manager.....	Jim Crawford
Script Supervisors.....	Barbara McMurray, Hilary Fitzsimmons
Booth Crew	Melvin Miller, Paul Craft
Set Decoration Design.....	Lori A. Marple-Pereslete, De Cotter
Original Graphic Design	Michael Cohen
Lobby Design	Michael Cohen
Food Design	Valerie Ruel
Master Builders	Ben Lupejkis, Jim Crawford
Painters	Franczeska Angel, Julia Maggs, Tony Pereslete
Seamstresses.....	Julia Maggs, Yvonne Kainoa, Barbara Brophrey, Arlene Cohen, Franczeska Angel
Properties	Judy Polak, Barbara Haberman
Publicity Photos.....	Shellee James
Audition Assistance	Jeanne Spain, Gert Nord, Hilary Fitzsimmons
Hospitality Coordinator.....	Dagmar Schnauss
Box Office.....	Ashley Schultz

Strike Crew and Work Sunday

Michael Allen, Franczeska Angel, Barbara Brophrey, Patty Butler,
Michael Cohen, Harve Cowan, Hilary Fitzsimmons, Marlene Grinde,
Michael Grinde, Nancy Guerrero, Barbara Haberman, Jim Lunsford,
Julia Maggs, Treva Merritt, Sheldon Metz, Melvin Miller, Frank J. Olivadoti,
Maria Pavone, Tony Pereslete, Judy Polak, Lee Polak, Charlotte Schildkret,
Bob Sherman, Max Stormes, Dave Whale, Fred M. Wolf
and the cast and crew of *45 Seconds from Broadway*

Special Thanks

Dave Whale for pre-building, Richard Potthoff

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 date info on about Kentwood Players visit our
website

www.kentwoodplayers.org

Kentwood Players Coming Attractions

Shakespeare's
Romeo and Juliet
March 10 – April 15, 2006
Director: Don Schlossman

The Fantasticks
A Musical, Words by Tom Jones
Music by Harvey Schmidt
May 5 – June 17, 2006
Director: Kirk Larson

George Washington Slept Here
A Comedy by
Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman
July 7 – August 12, 2006
Director: Philip Brickey

The Most Happy Fella
A Musical by
Frank Loesser
September 8 – October 21, 2006
Director: Ben Lupejkis

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 at (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.

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