

***Kentwood Players***

*presents*

# **THE MOST HAPPY FELLA**



*Book, Lyrics and Music by*

***Frank Loesser***

*Directed by*

***Ben Lupejkis***

September 8 – October 21, 2006

Westchester Playhouse

8301 Hindry Avenue

Westchester, California 90045-3205

Reservations: (310) 645-5156

# *The Most Happy Fella*

Book, Lyrics and Music by Frank Loesser

Director **Ben Lupejkis**

Musical Director

Vocal Director

Choreographer

**Richard Berent**

**Scott R. McKenzie**

**Victoria Miller**

Producers **Victoria & Rocky Miller**

Set Design/Decoration

Light Design

Costume Design

**Michael Keith Allen**

**Robert Davis**

**Valerie Ruel**

## **Cast** (in order of appearance)

Cashier .....	Drew Fitzsimmons
Cleo .....	Patricia Butler
Rosabella .....	Marie Talley
Postman .....	Jim Crawford
Tony .....	Rocky Miller
Sheriff/Max .....	Philip Apoian
Herman .....	Greg Abbott
Jake .....	James Larsen
Clem .....	Jeffrey Mark Pierce
Al .....	Ben Lupejkis
Country Girl .....	Courtney Crooks
City Boy .....	Drew Fitzsimmons
Doc .....	Jerad Callen
Marie .....	Susan Gordon
Joe .....	Ryan Black
Pasquale .....	Ben Lupejkis
Ciccio .....	Jeffrey Mark Pierce
Giuseppe .....	James Larsen
Woman .....	Anna Rubin
Little Girl .....	McKenzie Becker
Little Boy .....	Creed Stager
Truck Driver .....	Drew Fitzsimmons
Priest .....	Philip Apoian
Biddies .....	Robyn Rothstein, Jeanne Spain
Bus Driver .....	Drew Fitzsimmons
Ensemble .....	Courtney Crooks, Kelsey Bullock, Francesca Palermo
.....	Robyn Rothstein, Anna Rubin, Jeanne Spain, Philip Apoian
.....	Drew Fitzsimmons, James Larsen, Jeffrey Mark Pierce
Principal Dancers .....	Kelsey Bullock, Courtney Crooks, Anna Rubin
.....	Drew Fitzsimmons, James Larsen, Jeffrey Mark Pierce

Pianists: Richard Berent and Anoush NeVart or Ferris Ellen Gluck

# Synopsis of Scenes and Musical Numbers

## Act One

Overture .....	Pianists
Scene 1: A Restaurant in San Francisco: January 1927	
Ooh! My Feet!.....	Cleo
Somebody, Somewhere .....	Rosabella
Scene 2: Main Street, Napa, California; In April	
The Most Happy Fella .....	Postman, Townspeople, and Tony
Standing on the Corner .....	Herman, Jake, Clem, and Al
Joey, Joey, Joey.....	Joe
Rosabella .....	Tony
Scene 3: Tony's Barn; A few weeks later	
Abbondanza .....	Pasquale, Ciccio, and Giuseppe
Scene 4: Tony's front yard	
Sposalizio.....	Townspeople
Benvenuta .....	Pasquale, Ciccio, and Giuseppe
Don't Cry.....	Joe

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

Prelude .....	Pianists
Scene 1: The Vineyards; In May	
Fresno Beauties .....	Vineyard Workers, Rosabella, and Joe
Love and Kindness .....	Doc
Happy to Make Your Acquaintance .....	Tony, Rosabella, and Cleo
Big D .....	Herman, Cleo, and Townspeople
Scene 2: Later in May	
How Beautiful the Days.....	Tony, Rosabella, Marie, and Joe
Scene 3: The Vineyards; In June	
Young People.....	Tony and Marie
Warm All Over.....	Rosabella
Scene 4: The Barn	
I Like Ev'rybody .....	Herman and Cleo
Scene 5: The Vineyards; In July	
My Heart Is So Full of You .....	Tony and Rosabella
Mamma, Mamma .....	Tony
Scene 6: The Barn; An hour later	
Song of a Summer Night .....	Townspeople
Please Let Me Tell You .....	Rosabella
Scene 7: Napa Station; A little later	
Finale .....	Tony, Rosabella, and Townspeople

Produced by special arrangement with Music Theatre International

## About the Staff

**Ben Lupejkis** (Director) – Having seen and fallen in love with *The Most Happy Fella* 31 years ago, directing this show is like rekindling the flames of a long lost sweetheart. For Kentwood, Ben directed *1940's Radio Hour*, *The Supporting Cast*, and concert versions of *The Mikado* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. His gratitude goes to the remarkably talented cast and production staff for this exquisite experience.

**Richard Berent** (Musical Director) – Richard is very active in L.A. as a pianist and musical director. He is a staff accompanist at AMDA, the Hollywood actors' conservatory. He has a keen interest in composing for musical theater, with numerous scores of his being produced in small theaters throughout the US.

**Scott R. McKenzie** (Vocal Director) – Coming to Kentwood from a recent professional stint in Indiana, Scott has worked from coast to coast as a music director and conductor, winning awards in Charlotte, NC for his work. Educated at Cincinnati Conservatory and Indiana University School of Music, he brings an unusual and exciting combination of classical discipline with music theatre presentation.

**Victoria Miller** (Choreographer) – A 23 year Kentwood member, Vicki has choreographed or performed in over 50 shows here and other LA theatres. She recently directed and choreographed *Molly Brown* and *City of Angels* for KP. Dance credits include Disneyland, Folies Bergère-Las Vegas, South Bay Civic and the Hollywood Bowl, with Gene Kelly and Debbie Reynolds.

**Victoria and Rocky Miller** (Producers) – Vicki and Rocky have previously produced *1940's Radio Hour*, *A Chorus Line*, and *Mr. Roberts*. Vicki also produced *The Accomplice* and a number of the Sunday Concert Series musicals.

**Michael Keith Allen** (Set Design) – Michael was last seen on stage at Kentwood in *Light up the Sky*, and he is pleased to be able to share another of his talents with the family he has acquired at Kentwood. Michael's experience in Set Design, Production Design and Art Direction has enabled him to teach and design sets in several Southern CA High Schools, Colleges and Theatre Companies. A DramaLogue Award winner in set design, he has also worked in California, Chicago, New York, Brazil, South Africa and Lithuania, Art Directing Lottery Game Shows and designing Lottery devices.

**Robert Davis** (Lighting Design) – Robert is delighted to return to Kentwood after performing as Mortimer in *The Fantasticks* earlier this season. This is his first lighting design here, with over twenty other lighting credits in Southern California over the last six years. Robert dedicates this design to Professor Penny Remsen of UMass Amherst.

**Valerie Ruel** (Costume Design) – This is Valerie's first time doing costumes for Kentwood Players. Valerie hails from Massachusetts, where she designed costumes for *Hedda Gabler*, *Blythe Spirit*, *Chapter Two*, *The Dining Room* and *The Browning Version*.

## About the Cast

**Greg Abbott** (Herman) – Greg last appeared for Kentwood as Hucklebee in *The Fantasticks*. Elsewhere he has done *Sweet Charity*, *She Loves Me*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Charlie Brown*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Superstar*, *Joseph*, *Barnum*, *Annie*, *Penzance*, *Pimpernel*, *Forum*, *Chicago*, *Scrooge*, *Little Mary*, *Anything Goes*, *Dolly*, *Music Man*, and voiceover spots for Universal and Disney.

**Philip Apoian** (Sheriff/Max, Priest) – A member of SAG, Phil appeared in KP's 2005 productions of *Light Up the Sky* and *Molly Brown*. His agent is Susan Jones (310) 858-1533.

**McKenzie Becker** (Little Girl, Ensemble) – A member of Beach Cities Dance Company, she recently appeared in *Dream Halloween* and the Tanzsommer Festival of Dance in Vienna, Austria.

**Ryan Black** (Joe) – National Tours: Fyedka, *Fiddler*; Hugo, *Birdie*. Regional: Elton, *Pimpernel* (Cabrillo MT); Fyedka, *Fiddler* (Musical Theatre West); Bobby, *Cabaret* (CLO South Bay); Abner, *Li'l Abner*; Curly, *Oklahoma*; Bobby and Don, *Chorus Line*. TV/Film: Paul, *Spyder Games* (MTV); Reman, *Nemesis* (Paramount); Fleet, *Star Trek: Voyager* (Paramount); *For A Little Princess Named Emma*.

**Kelsey Bullock** (Ensemble, Principal Dancer) – At sixteen, Kelsey has been dancing for thirteen years and is a member of Beach Cities Dance Company. She recently played Abigail in *The Crucible*.

**Patricia Butler** (Cleo) – Patricia applauds the Kentwood Players in its bold decision to mount this often overlooked gem of American Musical Theater. She is grateful to director Ben Lupejkis for affording her the opportunity to be part of this unique theatrical experience.

**Jerad Callen** (Doc) – Jerad is pleasantly surprised to find himself in his first musical. This performance is dedicated, as always, to the “Nickel People.”

**Jim Crawford** (Postman) – Jim is a just-a one-a more happy fella to be part of this great-a cast and-a crew.

**Courtney Crooks** (Country Girl, Principal Dancer) – Courtney is a junior music major at LMU. Favorite roles include Bonnie, *Anything Goes* and Domina, *Forum*. She's next appearing as Fortune in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*.

**Drew Fitzsimmons** (Cashier, City Boy, Truck Driver, Bus Driver, Principal Dancer) – Drew is back by popular demand – at least that's what he's told. Drew is thrilled to be part of the latest Lupejkis extravaganza. Thanks, Ben.

**Susan Gordon** (Marie) – Susan was last seen as Rosemary in *Picnic*. Her favorite roles at Kentwood include Catherine in *The Heiress*, Mrs. Kendal in *The Elephant Man*, and Lilli in *Kiss Me, Kate*. Susan recently played Maureen in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* at the Little Fish Theater.

**James Larsen** (Giuseppe/Jake) – Thrilled to be part of this terrific cast in his first production with the Kentwood Players, James would like to thank Anna, Nicole, and his parents.

**Ben Lupejkis** (Pasquale/Al) – Ben is pleased to be a part of the show he’s loved for years. Singing this wonderful, lush Frank Loesser music is a dream realized.

**Rocky Miller** (Tony) – Rocky’s roles include Leadville Johnny Brown in *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, Stone in *City of Angels*, Cliff in *1940’s Radio Hour*, and Sweeney in *Sweeney Todd* at KP; and Fred/Petruccio in *Kiss Me, Kate*, Bill Sikes in *Oliver*, Sheldrake in *Promises, Promises*, and Lt. Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* elsewhere. He thanks KP for mounting “Frank Loesser’s Broadway opera,” another seldom-done, under-appreciated musical, said to have the most heart and soul of any ever written.

**Francesca Palermo** (Ensemble) – At 14, this is Francesca’s second play with Kentwood. Having acted in many local productions, she especially enjoyed portraying G(a)linda in *Wizard of Oz/Wicked*. Love to Mom, Dad, and Nicolette.

**Jeffrey Mark Pierce** (Ciccio/Clem) – This is Jeffrey’s Kentwood debut! Past roles include Bobby Strong, *Urinetown*; Seymour, *Little Shop*; Riff, *West Side Story*; and Kenickie, *Grease*. He holds a BA in Theatre from USC.

**Robyn Rothstein** (Bidly, Ensemble) – Robyn is making her first appearance with KP and wishes to thank the warm and welcoming cast. She’s performed Golde in *Fiddler*, Mae Peterson in *Birdie*, and roles in *Music Man*, *Evita*, and *Of Thee I Sing*.

**Anna Rubin** (Woman, Principal Dancer) – Anna is thrilled to be returning to Kentwood after performing Vibrata in *Forum*. She owns the Beach Cities Dance and thanks Vicki and Ben for this opportunity.

**Jeanne Spain** (Bidly, Ensemble) – Jeanne has been a Kentwood member for 22 years. Favorite roles include Ruth in *Milk and Honey*, Sophie in *Social Security*, and Madame Armfeldt in *A Little Night Music*.

**Creed Stager** (Little Boy, Ensemble) – Creed is 9 years old and the clown of his family of nine. He does commercial and stage work, is currently on a “Heinz” commercial, and just finished playing Little Jake in *Annie Get Your Gun* in Azusa.

**Marie Talley** (Rosabella) – Marie, with her husband, Trace, are newcomers to the West Coast. A graduate with a BA in Vocal Performance from UF, Marie has participated in various vocal competitions and choruses. Her background includes private vocal coaching and professional wedding/event singer. Stage credits include work with the *Charleston Christmas Special* (SC) and the American Music Theater (PA), roles as Maria, *West Side Story*, Becky, *Do Black Patent...*, and one of *Six Women With Brain Death*.

## Production Staff

Stage Manager .....	Jim Crawford
Script Supervisor.....	Franczeska Angel
Line Captain .....	Anna Rubin
Stage Crew .....	Trace Talley
Booth Crew.....	Kirk Larson, Virginia Mekkelson
Sound Design.....	Rocky Miller, Richard Potthoff
Original Graphic Design, Lobby Design .....	Michael Cohen
Crate Label Design.....	Ron Slanina
Master Builder .....	Michael Allen
Set Construction.....	Trace Talley, Jim Crawford, Ben Lupejkis
Costume Assistant.....	Maria Cohen
Costume Construction .....	Barbara Brophay, Franczeska Angel, Judy Polak, Julia Maggs
.....	Yvonne Kainoa, Patricia Butler, Barbara Haberman, Sheridan Cole
Millinery.....	Arlene Cohen
Hairdressing/Wigs.....	Jon Sparks
Properties.....	Sheldon Cohen
Publicity Photos .....	Ben Lupejkis
Audition Assistance .....	Gert Nord, Sheridan Cole
Hospitality Coordinator .....	Vada Foster
Box Office .....	Ashley Schultz

## Strike Crew and Work Sunday

Gail Bernardi, Barbara Brophay, Tom Brophay, Arlene Cohen, Maria Cohen, Michael Cohen, Sheldon Cohen, Sheridan Cole, De Cotter, Ed Cotter, Hilary Fitzsimmons, J.M. Green, Russell Ham, Phyllis Harrod, Kirk Larson, Julia Maggs, Lori Marple-Pereslete, Virginia Mekkelson, Sheldon Metz, Melvin Miller, Barry Nackos, Frank J. Olivadoti, Maria Pavone, Tony Pereslete, Judy Polak, Lee Polak, Scot Renfro, Justin Rozell, Charlotte Lee Schildkret, Adina Silo, Jon Sparks, Trace Talley and the cast and crew of *The Most Happy Fella*

## Special Thanks

Dianna Mann, Victoria Miller, Morgan-Wixson Theatre

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 about Kentwood Players visit our website

[www.kentwoodplayers.org](http://www.kentwoodplayers.org)

## Kentwood Players Coming Attractions

A new adaptation of Dickens'  
*Nicholas Nickleby*  
by Gregory Blair  
November 10 – December 16, 2006  
Director: August Vivirito

Steve Allen's  
*The Wake*  
A Dramatic Comedy  
January 12 – February 17, 2007  
Director: Sheldon Metz

*The Constant Wife*  
A Comedy  
by W. Somerset Maugham  
March 9 – April 14, 2007  
Director: William Goldyn

*Follies*  
A Musical, Book by James Goldman  
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim  
May 4 – June 16, 2007  
Director: Ed Cotter

### 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.**

Circle One:

Jan/Feb      Mar/Apr      May/June      Jul/Aug      Sep/Oct      Nov/Dec

Please send me \_\_\_ subscriptions at \$54.00 each. Total \_\_\_\_\_

Name

Address

Apt

City & Zip Code

Phone Number

Make check or money order payable to Kentwood Players  
Mail to: Kentwood Players Attn: Season Tickets, 8301 Hindry Ave., Westchester, CA  
90045-3205 Phone: (310) 645-5156

Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope