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KENTWOOD PLAYERS \cong

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PRESENTS

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David Auburn's

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PROOF \triangle

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Directed by

$A_{ij} = (A^T)_{ji}$

Sheldon Metz

Assistant Director

Produced by

Jim Crawford

Valerie Ruel

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January 11 through February 16, 2008 $e^{i\pi}$

Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm; Sundays at 2pm

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Westchester Playhouse

8301 Hindry Avenue

Westchester, California 90045-3205

Reservations—310 645-5156

Or visit us on the web at:

www.kentwoodplayers.org

PROOF

By David Auburn

Director

Sheldon Metz

Assistant Director

Jim Crawford

Producer

Valerie Ruel

Lighting Design

Tom Brophey

Set Design

Sheldon Metz

The Cast

Catherine

Meredith M. Sweeney

Robert

Scot Renfro

Claire

Christine Joëlle

Hal

Andrew Zimmer

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 theatre.

Thank you.

PROOF

The Setting

The Back Porch of a house in Chicago circa 2000

Act I—September—Present

Act II—Spans a Four Year Period—Past and Present

Director's Notes:

Proof is a highly acclaimed drama that has earned a remarkable number of awards since its Broadway opening in 2001, including the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the Tony award for Best Play, the Drama Desk award for Outstanding Play, the Lucille Lortel award for Best Play, the John Gassner Playwriting award, as well as New York Drama Critics Best American Play, Drama League Best Play, and Hull-Warriner/Dramatists' Guild awards.

Proof superficially explores topics of mental stability and genius. More significantly, it's a play about character, about finding solutions to life's problems, the trust we place in these solutions, in ourselves, and in each other. The proof in Auburn's play is less about mathematics than it is about putting trust to the test.

Elegant in its structural simplicity, *Proof* is an emotionally complex play rich with the motivational calculus of father/daughter, sister/sister, student/teacher and romantic relationships. But it's the wonderful characters, no, relationships, that first drew me to it.

This is my final production at Kentwood and in Los Angeles, since my wife Linda and I are moving to Tucson this year. I couldn't have picked a better cast or play to end my incredible time at this remarkable venue. This devoted, gifted and focused cast has made my last few weeks both enjoyable and rewarding. To watch this talent every night is my reward. I thank the Board of Directors for giving me these opportunities over the past 25 years, wonderful members, the fabulous audiences, the great playwrights and the amazing talent that has graced our stage and my auditions and productions. I am humble in their presence. Of course, I must thank my wonderful wife Linda, who lets me do this. Thank you all and enjoy this work of love.

—Sheldon Metz

About the Cast & Crew

Sheldon Metz (Director): Sheldon has been active in theatre for over 56 years, ever since playing Hansel at the age of six in his hometown of Chicago. His most recent acting roles include the short film, *Plant Life* and as Uncle Stanley in KP's version of *George Washington Slept Here*.

His 96 directing assignments include the Los Angeles premiere of *The Octette Bridge Club*, the World premiere of *Dear Mr. Caterer*, the West Coast premieres of P. J. Barry's *After the Dancing in Jericho* and J. R. Robinson's *The Cover of Life* (both at KP), winning a Best Director award for the latter in 1999. In 2000, he received the KP award for directing *I'm Not Rappaport*, followed by yet another for *The Elephant Man* ('02). He has also designed over 90 sets throughout L.A., winning KP's latest Best Set Award for *The Wake*. He just finished working with Gordon Davidson as a set consultant on *Lessons*, starring Hal Linden, at the Strassberg Institute.

Sheldon founded and served as Executive Director of A.C.C.T., too! - The Association of Commercial and Community Theatres - the West Coast Theatre Conference (Los Angeles) and The Theatre Conference (New York). He also served as a Producing Director for the Playwrights Kitchen Ensemble (PKE), under the Artistic Direction of Dan Lauria. He has also taught beginning acting, directing, an Introduction to the Theatre for Children and is completing his second two-year term as president of The Kentwood Players. Thank you for 25 glorious years.

Valerie Ruel (Producer): This is Valerie's first turn as producer at Kentwood. Her previous production credits include *Mame*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Let's Hear it For The Queen* in Western Massachusetts. Valerie is glad to be part of this show with its wonderful cast and crew and to have the chance to work with Sheldon one last time.

The Cast



Meredith M. Sweeney (Catherine): This marks Meredith's third main stage show at Kentwood, previously appearing as "Young Sally" in *Follies* and "Juliet" in *Romeo and Juliet*. She has also performed at Theatre 40 (*Rumors*, *Another Part of the Forest*, *Quartermaine's Terms*), The Will Geer Theatrical Botanicum (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) and Theatre Palisades where she recently starred as "Polly Browne" in *The Boyfriend*. Meredith would like to extend her sincerest thanks and appreciation to Sheldon, Jim, Drew, Scot, Christine and

Andrew. It has truly been an honor collaborating with such talented and passionate individuals. Thanks to Allison and Samantha, for unknowingly being my inspiration. For Mary Marjorie, with love.

About the Cast & Crew



Scot Renfro (Robert): Sheldon Metz cast me in my very first play—*After the Dancing in Jericho* (1996). He also directed me in what I've come to believe was my best role ever, anywhere—Nate in *I'm Not Rappaport* (2000). Now, here we are working together again, but sadly, in what will be Sheldon's last directing assignment at the Westchester Playhouse before he and Linda move to Tucson. (Note to Kentwood – "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone.") I am very happy to be involved in this production – a great cast, an exceptional director and a beautiful play. A huge thank you to Virginia. "Only with the heart can one see rightly. What is essential is invisible to the eye."



Christine Joëlle (Claire): Christine is thrilled to be a part of Kentwood's production of *Proof*. Originally from Fairfax, Virginia, she studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Hollywood and with acting coach Nicholas Coster. Her most memorable theatre credits include Lizzy in *The Rainmaker*, Josie in *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, Masha in *Three Sisters*, Romaine Patterson in *The Laramie Project* and Madge in *Picnic* for which she garnered a Marcom Masque Award for "Best Lead Performance". Christine also works regularly in films and commercials. Most recently she appeared as Young Emma in the film, *Dandelion Dharma*, written and directed by Veronica DiPippo and as Mrs. Betty Whitehouse in the play, *Dangerous Corner*, directed by Bruce Gray at Theatre 40. Honored to be working alongside Sheldon Metz on his last directed show at Kentwood and her fellow cast members, she also gives her heartfelt thanks to her family, friends and Shawn Savage for their never ending love and support.



Andrew Zimmer (Hal): Andrew is happy to return to Kentwood after memorable turns in *FANTASTICS* (Mute), *CINDERELLA* (Prince) and *ASSASSINS* (Byck). He was a Court Marshal in this winter's notorious run of *THE CHICAGO CONSPIRACY TRIAL* and won a T/P award for *THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY* (Big Bopper). He sends his love to his friends (especially the ones onstage) and is proud to be a part of Papa Bear's send-off.

Production Team

Stage Manager/Script.....Drew Fitzsimmons
Costume Design.....Barbara Haberman/Valerie Ruel
Light Design.....Tom Brophrey
Light Booth.....Russell Ham, Paul Craft
Set Design.....Sheldon Metz
Set Decoration.....Sheldon Metz/Scot Renfro
Master Builders.....Frank Olivadoti, Jim Crawford,
Drew Fitzsimmons
Sound Design.....Susan Stangl
Props.....Shari Barrett
Hospitality Coordinator.....Charlotte Lee Schildkret
Publicity Photos.....Liz Reinhardt
Graphic/Lobby Design.....Sheldon Metz

Strike Crew and Work Sunday

John Beckwith, Fred Cook, Gypsy Foster, Vada Foster,
Nikki Graves, James Manley Green, Marlene Grinde,
Michael Grinde, Eugene Haberman, Julia Maggs,
Lori A. Marple-Pereslete, Linda Metz, Melvin Miller,
Michael Murphy, David Parke Jr., Tony Pereslete, Judy Polak,
Lee Polak, Kaye Porter, Richard Potthoff, Robyn Rothstein,
Adina Silo, Sherman Wayne, Susan Weisbarth, the Cast & Crew of

Proof

SPECIAL THANKS

THEATRE PALISADES

RUSSELL HAM

KAYE PORTER

DAVE PARKE

VIRGINIA RENFRO

During the performance, please turn your pagers to silent, turn off your cell phone and alarms on your digital watches. There is no louder sound in a theatre than the rattle of a cellophane. Please unwrap your candy or cough drops before the play begins.

Thank you.

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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.

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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 Mintzter (310) 837-3609.

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M.A. Knowlton	

We Need Your Help

In 1949, a group of dedicated performers came together to provide quality theatre at an affordable price for the Westchester community. More than 50 years later, the Kentwood Players are still going strong.

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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We Need Your Help

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\$2,500-\$5,000

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 - * Listing in our program for an entire season
 - * A seat bearing your name in our theatre
 - * Your name on a permanent plaque in our lobby
 - * Invitation to our special sponsors party

Kentwood Angels:

\$1,000 - \$2,499

- * 4 Season tickets
- * Listing in our program for an entire season
- * Your name on a permanent plaque in our lobby
- * Invitation to our special sponsors party

Encore Patrons:

\$500 - \$999

- * 4 Season tickets
- * Listing in our program for an entire season

Spotlight Supporters:

\$250 - \$499

- * 2 Season tickets
- * Listing in our program for an entire season

Donations of any size will receive recognition in our programs along with our heartfelt thanks.

Kentwood Players is a registered 501-C3 not-for-profit corporation and your contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Our Upcoming Productions

Gypsy—A Musical Fable

*Music by Jules Styne and Stephen Sondheim,
Book by Arthur Laurents*

Runs: March 14 – April 19, 2008

Directed by Susan Goldman Weisbarth

Auditions: Saturday, January 12, 2008—10am to 3pm

Sunday, January 13, 2008—6pm to 9pm

A Murder Is Announced

By Agatha Christie

Runs: May 16, 2008 - June 21, 2008

Directed by Carol Becker

The Lion In Winter

By James Goldman

Runs: July 11, 2008—August 16, 2008

Directed by Ed Cotter

All announced shows are subject to change.

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