



COCKTAILS

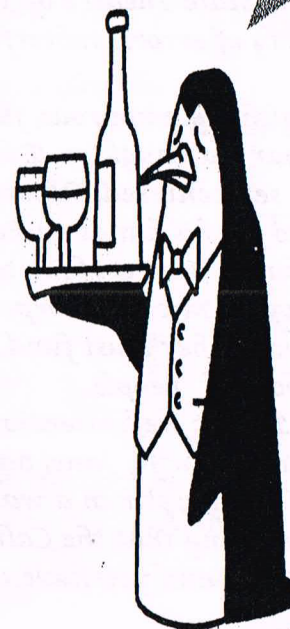
With Mimi

Directed By
Jackie Knapp

Written By
Mary Chase

Performed with special
arrangements from
Dramatists Play Service, Inc.
New York, New York

The Glendale Lyceum
Dramatic Club
February 27 & 28, 1998



The Scene

Act I

The library in the home of MIMI RALSTON in the suburbs of a city in the far west of the United States.

The time is late afternoon of a day in late spring in the 70's.

15 minute intermission

Act II

The same - a few minutes later.

"Cocktails With Mimi", by Mary Chase, was first presented at the State Theatre of Virginia in 1973. It is a hilarious comedy of errors, subterfuge, and mistaken identities.

The wealthy, glamorous, flamboyant Mimi does not want her 19 year old daughter, Edie, to marry her fiance, Lester, a dour, self-centered, Abnormal Psych major, who is all too eager to get his hands on Edie's trust fund. So.... Edie hires two old hams, Burt and Lu, to impersonate Lester's parents, Judge and Mrs. Calthorpe. She knows her mother will never advance her trust fund, once she meets these overbearing, boorish people.

Mix in Mimi's well-intentioned attorney, Clyde Elliott, and his gossip wife, Jane; add Mimi's rather dotty friend, Dody DeVries; stir in a waiter hired by Mimi to be so rude and bumbling that the Calthorpes won't want sonny boy to marry Edie, and you have a casserole of comedy.

Cast of Characters

in order of appearance

Waiter

DICK COCKERILL

Dody De Vries, a guest

MARY ISAACS

Jane Elliott, Clyde's wife

NANCY GREEN

Clyde Elliott, Mimi's lawyer

JOE HUBBARD

Paul Hanson, a waiter

DON HOUP

Edith Ralston, Mimi's daughter

LISA SPAULDING

Mimi Ralston, the hostess

BETTY KOORIS

Lucy White, an actress

LYNN MURRAY

Burt Evans, an actor

JACK MURRAY

Eudorra Calthorpe, Lester's mother

ANNE DIDRICHSEN

LeLand Calthorpe, Lester's father

BOB BIDWELL

Lester Calthorpe, Edith's fiance

RICK SPAULDING



Behind The Scenes

Set Design

Ellen Bockenstette

Set Construction

Ken Bockenstette, Randy Green,
Sherm Knapp, Bob Kooris, Jack Murray

Set Decoration

Ellen Bockenstette, Bizzy Matthews,
Jeanne Matthews

Lighting

Ken Bockenstette

Costumes

Sue Worachek

Make-up

Jean Rohling, Hilary Houpt,
Alene Rice, Nancy Gulick

Props

Jeanne Matthews, Bizzy Matthews,
Glenna Knapp, Sherm Knapp



Behind The Scenes

Program

Bizzy Matthews, Lynn Murray,
Betty Kooris

Publicity & Advertising

Beth Ecker, Bizzy Matthews,
Jeanne Matthews, Robyn Wilson

Friday Dinner Theatre

Paul Breidenbach & Beth Ecker, Bizzy Matthews,
Ron & Judy Jones, Cindy & Andy Taylor,
Lori & Troy Van Stone

Reservations & Admission

Meegan & Peter Baxter, Beth Ecker &
Paul Breidenbach, Jane Jackson

Keeping Everyone Cool

Sherm Knapp, Jane Jackson



Bob Bidwell
(Judge Calthorpe)

Bob is almost as familiar a sight on the Lyceum stage as he is on the tennis court and at the piano.

His Lyceum credits are: *Dames at Sea, Parsifal, Unsinkable Molly Brown, Stunt Nights, Variety Shows and South Pacific.*

In true Irish tradition, he performed as a song and dance man in U.S. Army's Variety shows.

He has been on both radio and television espousing his business philosophy and expertise.

Bob comments:

"Given the number of judicial vacancies, inquiries about Leland Calthorpe's enthusiasm for such an appointment are on-going. Difficulty however, has been encountered in finding a court concomitant with Calthorpes' competence."



Dick Cockerill
(Waiter)

It has been said of Dick Cockerill that he has directed, acted or tried to sing in almost every Lyceum Dramatic Club performance since 1948.

We are sure that his roles as Patsy, the bookmaker in *Three Men on a Horse*, Applegate, (the devil), in *Damn Yankees*, and Fagan, King of Thieves, in *Oliver* in no way reflect upon his real character.

Add to these rolls Dick's acting and directing talents in *Blythe Spirit*, *Who Was That Lady I Saw You With?* and *On a Clear Day* and many, many more.

Dick and all of us, would like to pay homage to Patsy for her creative talents in designing and painting Lyceum Dramatic Club sets for over 50 years.

If we had a Lyceum Dramatic Club Hall of Fame, then Patsy and Dick Cockerill would surely be the first inductees!



Anne Didrichsen

(Eudorra Calthorpe)

Anne is one of Cincinnati's finest amateur actresses. She can do it all: sing, dance and act.

During several decades since she appeared on the Lyceum stage as Maria in *The Sound of Music*, Gloria in *Damn Yankees* and Mona in *Dames at Sea* (opposite Bob Bidwell's Captain), she has been privileged to play many other roles. Among her favorites are: the irrepressible Dolly, in *Hello Dolly*, Lucille in *Cemetery Club*, Big Mama in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Charlotte in *Critics Choice* (for which she won an Excellence in Acting award from the Association of Community Theatres), Fanny in *Watch on The Rhine*, Stella in *Light up the Sky*, and Helga Ten Dorp in *Deathtrap*.

You may have caught her doing a small "bit" in the movie *Milk Money*.

She also spent a season touring with the Cincinnati's Children's Theatre as Gilda, the good witch in *The Wizard of Oz*.

Anne comments:

"I'm happy to be back on these boards and that with the roll of Eudorra, there is absolutely no risk of being dropped on the stage by Bob Bidwell !!!!!"



Nancy Green

(Jane Elliott)

Nancy has performed in numerous theatrical and musical productions in high school, college, and in community theatre.

She performed in *The Night of January 16th*, *I Remember Mama*, *After the Fall*, *Oklahoma*, *A Christmas Carol* and *The Mikado*.

For the last ten years she has directed numerous childrens performances at church and at Glendale Elementary School. Nancy has subjugated her talents to her family's activities until now.

Nancy comments:

"When I told my family I was going to audition, my boys decided I would make a great maid, cook, or chauffeur due to my long and continuing experience in those rolls. Ha! I showed them with this role as the party gossip. One thing for sure, they all agreed it was Mom's turn."



Don Houpt

(Paul Hanson)

When asked for his credits, Don responded with... "My acting experience is limited to Elvis impersonations at out of town fraternity reunion golf tournaments. Although my family is chock full of actors and musicians, this is my first play. I am very grateful for my wife's insistence that I audition, and to Jackie for casting me in a role I have been playing my whole life."



Joe Hubbard

(Clyde Elliott)

Joe has tread the boards of The Lyceum stage so many times he actually has his own backstage hook.

He appeared in: *Here's Love*, *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, *The Mouse Trap*, *The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wild*, *The Best Laid Plans* and *The Marriage Proposal*.

His portrayal of Luther Billis in *South Pacific* was outstanding. You should have seen him belly roll that ship. Did they teach you that at the Naval Academy, Joe?

Joes comments:

"On this stage, I have been Lynn Murrays' Mother's boyfriend, Joe Greens' fiance's father and now I'm Betty Kooris's father figure. Is there a message here?"



Mary Isaacs
(Dody De Vries)

She first appeared on The Lyceum stage in 1952 in a comedy entitled *See How They Run*.

Since that time she has been in many Lyceum productions and musical revues. Some of her favorites are: *Who Was That Woman I Saw You With?*, *Curious Savage*, *Mame*, *Can't Take It With You*, *The Best Laid Plans*, *Leonard*, *Second Time Around*, *Mixed Doubles*, *The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wild* and *Bell, Book and Candle*.

Her most recent endeavor *Blythe Spirit* was the last show directed by the beloved Nancy Gruber.

Mary comments:

"What fond memories! One of my favorites... There were three of us in a one act comedy. We had skipped six pages of dialog and the play was not making sense to the audience or the three of us. Elaine Brockmeier had the line, 'I think we are lost.' My husband Charles put his arms in the air and said, 'I know we're lost.' We broke into laughter along with the audience. We had to have scripts brought to us onstage to get us started again. That was Elaine's first and last appearance on the Lyceum Stage!"



Betty Kooris
(Mimi Ralston)

Betty has extensive stage experience, from grade school through high school when she had the lead in her senior play, *Our Town*.

In college she performed in *Media*, *Marat/Sade*, *Glass Menagerie*, *Caesar and Cleopatra* and *Lysistrata*.

Her Lyceum credits include, *The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wilde*, *Leonard*, *Blythe Spirit*, as well as musical skits from *Annie*, *Cats* and *My Fair Lady*.

She directed *Here's Love* and produced *South Pacific*.

Betty comments:

"Special thanks to Jackie Knapp for her professional skills and energy; to my husband, Bob, for helping me learn my lines and for never grumbling about the scarcity of home-cooked dinners.

Finally, I want to thank the planets for aligning themselves to bring my first grandchild during the rehearsals of this play, because I now know what I want him to call me - "MIMI!"



Lynn Murray

(Lucy White)

Choreography was her schtick — for The Glendale Lyceum Dramatic Club, she choreographed: *The Sound of Music*, *On a Clear Day*, *Damn Yankees*, *Peter Pan*, *Dames at Sea*, and *South Pacific*.

Princeton High School benefited from her talent with *West Side Story*, *Bye, Bye Birdie*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, and *Fiddler On the Roof*.

For the Indian Hill Church, Jackie Knapp directed and Lynn choreographed their production of *My Fair Lady*.

Lynn's comments:

"My Mother and my children have all had speaking parts on this stage, but they never let me open my mouth until 1992 in *Steel Magnolias*. Thanks, Jackie, for letting me "ham it up" once again under your able direction. Thanks too for the opportunity to play opposite my "significant other." Life was never more fun, eh, wot old boy?"



Jack Murray

(Burt Evans)

Jack made his 1939 debut as a tree in *Willie and the Woodsman* at Glidden School in DeKalb, Illinois. His last speaking part (ad modum) as a sheep in the 1940 Christmas Pageant brought favorable reviews.

Jack's comments:

"Hey, Mom, I finally made the big time."



Lisa Spaulding
(Edie Ralston)

In high school, Lisa played a vivacious hula girl in *South Pacific* and an obnoxious teenager in *Bye, Bye Birdie*. She was a mime and singer in Princeton High School's studio theatre production of *Stop the World, I Want to Get Off*.

On the Lyceum stage she played Charlotte Bumble in *Oliver* and appeared in *Stunt Night '72*.

Currently, she is a vocalist with the up and coming band - "The Big Johnson Brothers and the Rhumba Girls"

Lisa's comments:

"Thanks to Jackie for the opportunity, and to my mother for her endurance in training the future Edie. Thanks, Mom!"



Rick Spaulding
(Lester Calthorpe)

Rick has starred in a number of rolls in both high school and college. Some of his favorite rolls were Malvolio, in *12th Night*, Luther Billis in *South Pacific*, Linus in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, Hucklebee in *The Fantastiks*, Horace in *Hello Dolly* as well as several chorus in musical productions.

Rick's comments:

"I would like to dedicate my performance to Mom and Dad on their 50th wedding anniversary. Oh, and by the way, Lisa did grow up to be like her mother, and that's a good thing!"



Jackie Knapp

(Director Extraordinaire)

Jackie made her directorial debut in 1966 right here at *The Lyceum* with *The Mikado*, and followed the next two years with *Student Prince*, *Oliver*, and *On a Clear Day*.

In 1970 she directed the first faculty show at Princeton High School, *Mame*, starring Shirley Bucklin and Mary Isaacs!

From 1975 to 1985, she directed at the theatre under the stars at Indian Hill Church. All the sets were built outdoors on the burial grounds! The productions included, *Oliver*, *The Music Man*, *Mame*, *Camelot* and *My Fair Lady*.

She was also an interim Director of Drama at Cincinnati Country Day School, directing *The Miracle Worker* and *The Skin of Our Teeth*. In 1978, with her husband, Sherm, Ruth & John Sawyer and four others, she founded Village Stage, a community theater group. With this group she directed *Sorry*, *Wrong Number*, *Silent Night*, *Lonely Night* and *The Philadelphia Story*.

All shows have been a joint venture with Sherm, who has built just about anything you can imagine- including a 15 foot curved staircase, complete with a brass handrail for *Mame*, a 2-sided swinging set for *Camelot*, and a revolving stage for *My Fair Lady*.

Jackie comments:

"I have been asked if I have acted on stage. Well.... there's always someone absent from rehearsal - so, have I acted? - Yes!! Every part from ten year old Tom of Warwick in *Camelot*, the deaf mute, Helen Keller in *Miracle Worker*, to crotchety old Mrs. Burnside in *Mame*. What a repertoire!

So here we go again - new faces, new plays, same stage - Love it!!

We, the cast, would like to remind the audience of an important Lyceum rule:

"Resolved that the theatrical entertainments ought not to be encouraged but ought to be allowed as an occasional occurrence when all parts have been thoroughly committed to memory by the players."

"Furthermore, the persons who consent to take part in any of the entertainments are entitled to respectful attention from the audience. The lack of good behavior at a concert, lecture, sermon or play can not be made up for by fine clothes, oil on the hair or sarcastic smiles"

Board of Directors, 1899

What is The Glendale

The Glendale Lyceum Dramatic Club was formed as a special interest group among Lyceum members in the mid 1880's.

The shows, such as 1887's farce, *Hunt the Slipper*, were performed, staged and directed by Members. These productions were part of a wide variety of "Entertainments" the Lyceum provided for the people of Glendale.

In those days, the train or horse and buggy were the only means of transportation. Attending Cincinnati's cultural events was a real undertaking. The CH&D had only two evening trains returning to Glendale from the city, the 9:30 and 11:45. They were either too early or too late. The founding of the Lyceum and its Dramatic Club solved the problem by bringing culture to Glendale..

In the 1930's and 40's Stunt Nights were performed as a fund raiser for Glendale School. They were sponsored by the PTA and the Lyceum. Words and music were written by Glendalians. Many of the writers, performers, production people and directors were Lyceum Dramatic Club members.

Lyceum Dramatic Club?

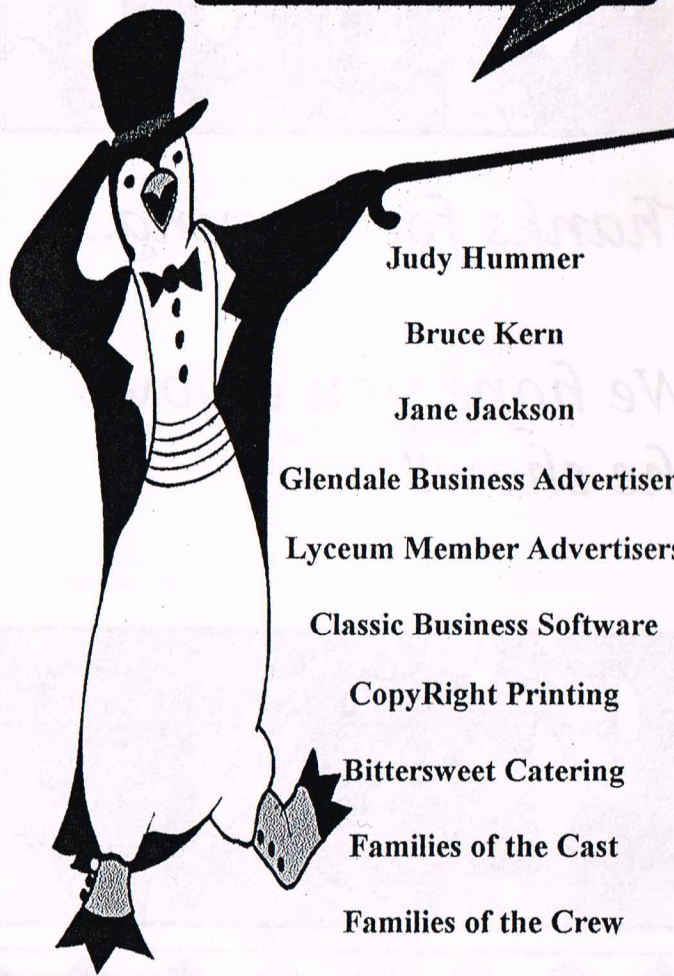
In 1972, the Dramatic Club revived one of the old *Stunt Nights*. Everyone dug into their attics and basements. The original skits and music were found, which included the "hit" songs: "We Are the Dogs that Lie in the Streets of Glendale", (written before leash laws!), and the lovely schmaltzy "There Will Always Be a Glendale". Children and grandchildren of the original actors were in the show.

The tradition is a long one that has been almost lost over the past decade. Those of us who have been part of The Dramatic Club, either as a participant or audience, have very fond memories. The joy of participating in a creative pursuit with good friends and neighbors and applauding their efforts is rewarding and fun.

The bios of tonights cast cover many plays performed over the last 50 years. Some programs from past performances are displayed in the phone booth as you enter The Lyceum.

It is the hope of the cast and crew and Board of Directors, that this great Lyceum tradition will continue.

Special Thanks



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Families of the Crew

Plays coming back to Glendale Lyceum

By KELLI MILLIGAN
STAFF REPORTER

GLENDALÉ – The Glendale Lyceum has not hosted a theater production since 1991. But it is getting ready to host the comedy “Cocktails with Mimi” next month.

The play is a comedy of errors involving two lovers whose families are not thrilled about their relationship. The action surrounds the parents meeting each other.

“Heavy drama doesn’t go over too well here,” said lyceum archivist Lynn Murray, with a laugh.

The lyceum has a history of theater productions dating back to the late 1800s, she said. The last production was “Steel Magnolias” in

1991.

The renewed interest in theater at the Glendale Lyceum came largely from “Mimi” director Jackie Knapp.

Knapp, a long-time resident of the Glendale who recently moved back after living out of the village for a few years, said the pressure of getting the theater group going again started when she returned.

“I started directing on stage 32 years ago,” she said. “When I moved back and found out there was nothing going on, the pressure was there.”

She said the group formed again last fall with a one-act mini-play at a dinner of the month gathering at the lyceum.

Knapp said “Cocktails with Mimi” is one

of several productions she hopes the lyceum will sponsor. The next production will be in the summer.

“I’m thrilled that Jackie is back,” said Lisa Spaulding, who plays Edith in the play. “Having her back is an inspiration.”

Other actors agreed.

“The catalyst has been the Knapps,” said Jack Murray, who plays Burt. “Sherm (Jackie’s husband) has done a lot of the set work, the construction.”

Spaulding said she wants children involved again – like she did when she was a kid.

She said although the group did not have enough time to get kids involved for this production, that will change in the future.

Betty Kooris, who plays Mimi, said it is

“difficult for one core group of people to do this all the time,” so the group wants to see more people become involved in the productions at the lyceum.

“The lyceum has gone through a physical renovation,” Kooris said. “Now it’s going through a spiritual renovation, a renovation of the soul, bringing theater back.”

Two performances of “Cocktails with Mimi” are scheduled. One is Friday, Feb. 27, for members of the Glendale Lyceum and their guests only.

At 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, the performance is open to the public. Cost is \$8 adults and \$4 children ages 12 and under. The house opens at 7 p.m. and tickets are available at the door. Call 771-6304 for reservations.