

CLAIREMONT ACT ONE

San Diego, California

“the Play’s the Thing” William Shakespeare



Word Plays

CLAIREMONT ACT ONE
PRESENTS

Six of the Best
Shorts from
California
Playwrights

June 3, 4, 10, 11

The word cloud graphic features various terms such as 'love', 'hope', 'renewal', 'irony', 'absurdity', 'redemption', 'legacy', 'comedy', and 'escapism'. The letter 'o' in 'Word Plays' is replaced by a detailed illustration of a human eye.

Please turn off all cell phones or pagers during the show.

We will reuse this program if you leave it on your chair.

Thank you!

clairemontactone.org

An evening of original one acts

In this production, Claremont Act One celebrates the playwright!

We are awed by the many playwrights who submitted their works for this production. We chose six, not an easy task, as there were so many excellent submissions. Community Theater is such a labor of love. Playwrights have to write and actors have to act. But there is so much more to it. Everyone wears many hats to make sure the sets, lights, sound, venues, costumes, props and all the logistics come together. And there is no pay for doing all this during the day jobs and family responsibilities of everyday life. But there is something special when creative people get together to build community and celebrate the human spirit. Thanks to all of you here today for your support.

*“ALL THE WORLD’S A STAGE, AND ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN
MERELY PLAYERS.”*

Special thanks to our Classical Guitar Ensembles for providing pre-show entertainment!



Ensemble members
include:

Gul Abut, Dale Barbour,
Martha Bock, Sharon
Enama, Len Laviolette,
Than Luu, Andrew Martin,
Jon McWhorter, Cynthia
Obadia, Mark Paulson,
Larry Sivertson,
Derral van Winkle

Managing Directors and Crew

Managing Director John (JP) Conan Palmer
Assistant Managing Director Marlee Winston
Stage Manager Itzel Perez
Lighting and Sound Technician. David Villalobos
Design Team..... Tara Romanczyk, Marlee
Winston, Char Sivertson

Act I

HELP by Buddy Farmer

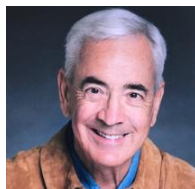
You've heard of the hooker with a heart of gold, right?

Ned Booker John Bode

Carol Char Sivertson

Directed by Jean von Metzke

Buddy is originally from Alabama. Among many accomplishments, he wrote the book for the musical, KNUTE ROCKNE- ALL-AMERICAN, which received several Chicago Theatre Jefferson Award nominations and has had several Equity productions. His award-winning play, THE BARBECUE, was produced at the 13th Street Repertory Company in New York in 2013. In 2018, his play, JOEY & MARE, was the winner of the Show-Off International Playwriting Festival in California. Buddy is a member of The Dramatists Guild, The Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights and The Orange County Playwrights Association. He resides in Laguna Beach with his wonderful wife Pamela and their two rescue pups, Lilly and Teddy.



Three Women by Char Sivertson

Meeting your past selves can be a revelation.

Eleanor Jean von Metzke

Nora Tara Romanczyk

Elly Charisse Zeff

Stage Manager John Conan Palmer

Directed by Char Sivertson

Char is so pleased to be involved in yet another season with Clairemont Act One. Her first play produced was THE WAITING ROOM. Favorite activities were directing OUR TOWN and playing Ruth in BLITHE SPIRIT. The best parts of Clairemont Act One are the people who give so much of their time and energies, and the wonderful people in the audience who support the arts in their neighborhood. Char thinks her role as Carol in HELP is a hoot!



MMXX by Mark Whicker

It's only a number!

Alex McPherson Brett Morris

Frank Tillman John Conan Palmer

Directed by Eric Vaughn

Mark Whicker began taking a playwriting class at South Coast Repertory in 2020. Since then, he has written six full-length plays, with two staged readings: VOTE FOR HERBERT at Newport Theatre Arts Center in Newport Beach and BLESS THIS DIVORCE at Santa Ana. He was in the newspaper business for 46 years and



was a columnist at the Orange County Register for 34 years before he retired in Feb. 2022. He is a member of the U.S. Basketball Writers Hall of Fame and the 2014 winner of the Nat Fleischer Award for distinguished commentary on boxing. He and his family live in Long Beach.

Fast Moving Consumer Goods by Richard Fouts

It's serious business so why is everyone laughing?

Charlie..... *Rey Hernandez*

Anita..... *Itzel Perez*

Directed by Marlee Winston

Richard Fouts is a San Diego playwright and a recent transplant from New York City. His first full-length work, THE BIRTHDAY LOTTERY, a new play about the Vietnam draft, premiered at Z-Space, San Francisco's premiere theatre for new works, to sold-out audiences in 2018. Since then, Fouts has written MY AFTERNOON WITH LENNY (a light comedy about Leonard Bernstein), DEAD SERIOUS (a dark comedy about two female assassins) and is developing his short play, SUMMER ME, WINTER ME (a drama about a composer and his opera-singer wife) into a full-length play.



15 Minute INTERMISSION

ACT II

BONUS!

Regular Schmegular by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus

Brittany..... *Tara Romanczyk*

Customer..... *Marlee Winston*



Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus have been writing together for more than 25 years. They spent many years at Disney where they penned the largest-selling video in history, LION KING II: SIMBA'S PRIDE, as well as the sequels to BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, POCAHONTAS, THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME AND THE LADY AND THE TRAMP.

They've also written for STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE, and their feature film, JACK AND THE BEANSTALK, starred James Earl Jones, Christopher Lloyd, Katey Sagal and Chevy Chase. They have more than 30 plays and musicals available for performance. Ms. Marcus is the author of two theatre textbooks and Mr. Kobler is the co-author of the textbook The Complete Guide to Church Play Production. Their real passion is running their Showdown national teen theatre camps.

CRUST by Steven Kobar

Have you noticed it's always the mother's fault?

Nancy..... *Catherine del los Rios*
Kayla *Ruth Russell*
Bridget..... *Charisse Zeff*

Directed by Tara Romanczyk

This is Steven's second play with Clairemont Act One. Steven's full-length and one-act plays have been produced throughout the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia. His short plays, TABLE FOR FOUR, MRS. JANSEN ISN'T HERE NOW and WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO BE? have all been published in Smith and Kraus' BEST SHORT PLAYS series.



Sorry, Shakespeare by Ken Levine

When "to be or not to be"....wasn't.

William Shakespeare *John Conan Palmer*
Nigella Gibbs..... *Marlee Winston*

Ken is an Emmy winning writer /director/ playwright/major league baseball announcer. Ken has written over 200 episodes of television shows such as MASH, CHEERS, FRASIER, THE SIMPSONS and WINGS. He has directed over 60 TV episodes including EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND, FRASIER, WINGS, BECKER, JUST SHOOT ME, and DHARMA AND GREG. Ken has been the play-by-play voice of the Baltimore Orioles, Seattle Mariners, and San Diego Padres and hosted Dodger Talk for eight seasons.



Directors / Crew / Cast



John "JP" Conan Palmer is no stranger (than usual) to CAO. He has been committing random acts of theater for years and is thrilled to be back managing, directing, and acting in WORD PLAYS. He wrote and directed our spring production, NO "I" IN MURDER. Clairemont Act One is grateful for all the hats JP wears: acting, directing, managing, set design, fund-raising and all-around cheer leader for cast and crew.



Marlee Winston, last appearing in NO "I" IN MURDER, is a fashion-obsessed Canadian farm girl who has called San Diego home since 2016. She's a University of Alberta alumni, has performed in many plays, sang in a jazz group, plays four instruments and has worked as a model, voice talent and writer. She was president of a non-profit, is an expert equestrian and also an acrylic pop art painter inspired by mod culture of the 1960's. She is grateful to JP for his guidance and support.

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Itzel Perez recently performed with CAO in NO “I” IN MURDER, as Dr Einstein in ARSENIC AND OLD LACE, and as Molly in WHEN ROM COMS GO BAD. Itzel studied Theatre Arts at San Diego State where she received her B.A. During the week, Itzel teaches English and runs a middle school drama program. She wants to thank her family and friends for always supporting her passions. We thank her for stage managing as well as acting in this show!



David Villabos is an audio, video, electrical and sometimes computer technician. CAO is lucky to have him manage lights and sound. Being part of a theater production is like being part of a big, weird family, which is right where he feels at home. Outside of theater, he enjoys rock climbing, hiking at nighttime and meeting new animals!



Eric Vaughn is a native of San Diego and is excited to be involved in his third play with CAO directing MMXX. Eric is also a multi-talented musician, and you can catch him around town performing with three different rock bands!!



John William Bode is enjoying his sixth season with Claremont Act One. Past shows include NO SH*T SHERLOCK, ZOMBIES, BLITHE SPIRIT, THE WAITING ROOM, and ARSENIC AND OLD LACE. He has also performed with the VETS AT HOME ensemble at the Veterans Museum in Balboa Park. When not honing his skills through acting, improv and stand-up classes, John likes to bike, hike, sail and just enjoy San Diego with his supportive, wonderful husband David.



Jean von Metzke has been with CAO since shortly after inception. She serves as its C-President along with Catherine de los Rios. Her favorite role was Martha in ARSENIC AND OLD LACE. She also proudly directed BLITHE SPIRIT. This is her umpteenth production with CAO. She thanks the cast and crew and her husband Conrad for all the extra rehearsals and support.



Tara Romanczyk has performed with CAO in numerous productions over the past 6 years. She was last seen in WOKE at North Park Vaudeville. Tara is making her directorial debut with CRUST. Some of her favorite credits include key roles in NO “I” IN MURDER, THE DENTIST, and ARSENIC AND OLD LACE. Tara has also assisted behind the scenes with set designs and artistry. She has her PhD in Neuroscience. Enjoy the pie crust and cup of coffee!

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Charisse Zeff started in theater this year, having appeared in NO "I" IN MURDER and MOTHER LODE. She is active in two improv workshops and is writing a children's book and a book of inspirational sayings. She enjoys horseback riding, pet sitting, and dancing. Volunteer work includes emailing original inspirations to people with developmental disabilities. She has lived in France, once trained her cat to walk with a leash and greatly appreciates this opportunity!



Brett Morris grew up in Claremont, is an Air Force veteran and a parishioner of Northminster Presbyterian Church. Since retiring, he does whatever he pleases and sometimes it pleases him to act. Brett last appeared in NO "I" IN MURDER and ARSENIC AND OLD LACE. He's also written stories in local anthologies and had a play produced at City College.



Rey Hernandez, last seen in NO "I" IN MURDER, is an improv performer with various troupes in San Diego. Performances include the Comedy Palace, Vista Broadway Theater, St Paul's Manor, and the Olympic Training Center. Rey is also a puppeteer with Twisted Heart Puppetworks, with performances at the Vista Alley Art Festival and Nite at the Puppet Asylum. He's thrilled to be part of such a fantastic cast and crew.



Ruth Russell was most recently seen in Jacquelyn Ritz's acting showcase at Scripps Ranch Theatre and SECRETS OF A SOCCER MOM (Lynn) at PowPAC. Favorite credits include: Lily in FOUR-AND-A-HALF-STAR ASSASSINS (48 Hour Film Project), Kay Mostyn in MURDER ON THE NILE, Daisy Lawrence in RETURN ENGAGEMENTS (Scripps Ranch Theatre), Abigail Williams in THE CRUCIBLE, and Debra Queen in SHADOWS OF THE MIND (Hidden Treasure Productions). See reel at tinyurl.com/RuthRussellActor.



Catherine del los Rios is Co-President of CAO and Catherine has performed, directed and provided tech support for all productions since day one. She last appeared as Abby in ARSENIC AND OLD LACE, a character she has wanted to portray since she was a kid! She sincerely appreciates her hubby Arthur, who has always supported her theatrical adventures.

Don't Miss our Fall Production!

MORE THAN YOU CAN SHAKE A STICK AT

**TUNA ♦ DOES
♦ VEGAS ♦**

by Jaston Williams,
Joe Sears, and
Ed Howard

**Scheduled for
October 2022**



SPONSORS

Thanks to these businesses for their support for community theater!



**Thanks to all of you from all of us at
Clairemont Act One!**

Clairemont Act One (CAO) is an all-volunteer run 501(c)3 community theater.
Tax-deductible donations can be made on our website.

clairemontactone.org