

Production Team



Director: Barbara E. Melzer
Assistant Director: Tricia Franklin
Stage Manager: Tricia Franklin

Costumes: Lynnann Madison, Marge Bennett
Accessories: Suzelle Cobb, Ginger Martin

Lighting Designer/Operator: Quentin Champ-Doran
Running Crew: Bellanora Champ-Doran

Set Design: Tom Tierney
Set Construction & Painting: Tom Tierney, Mike Harelick, Jack Madison, Ron Wood

Photography: Tracey Buzzanco

**Program, Posters, Lobby Videos
& Ad Journal:** Michael Harelick
Publicity: Terri Dwyer, Tom Tierney
Reservations: Jodi Hickey
Box Office/Season Tickets: Ann Papelian, Sandy Daw
House Manager: Mike Harelick, Bernadette Pikul, Sue Regan, Tom Tierney

Thank you to:

WKNY ~ WGHQ ~ Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck
 Paramount Garage
 Special thanks to Steve Paolucci, RAM Audio Video Systems

Don't miss the other shows in our 2016 season...

July: **Natalie Needs a Nightie** by Neil & Caroline Shaffner *
 August: **Annual Variety Show** written and directed by Barbara Jones
 November: **Phantom of the Country Opera** by Michael Duff and Cheri Coons **

* Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. ** Produced by special arrangement with Musical Theatre International (MTI)

Congratulations to the

2015 Coach House Players Scholarship Winners

Thomas Netter (Coleman High School) Lillian Page (Coleman High School)

Special thanks to Wilfred LaVoie legacy foundation and family
 for their support of the Coach House Players Scholarship Fund

2015-2016 Board of Directors

Officers

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| President: | Tom Tierney | Vice President: | Ann Papelian |
| Treasurer: | Rosie Interrante | Membership Secretary: | Barbara Surowitz |
| | | Recording Secretary: | Marge Bennett |

Board Members

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| Terri Dwyer | Michael Harelick | Linda Primiano | Susan Regan |
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April 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 & 17, 2016

Coach House Theatre



Coach House Players
 Kingston, New York

Directed by
 Barbara E. Melzer

The action of the play takes place in rooms
 203 and 204 in the Beverly Hills Hotel.

ACT I:

Scene 1: Visitor from New York
 About one in the afternoon on a sunny,
 warm day in late fall
 Scene 2: Visitor From Philadelphia
 Eleven in the morning, mid-December

INTERMISSION

ACT II:

Scene 1: Visitor From London
 About five in the afternoon, early April
 Scene 2: Visitor From Chicago
 Four in the afternoon, Sunday, July Fourth

California Suite

By Neil Simon

Cast of Characters

Visitor from New York :

Hannah Warren----- Betsy LaPolla
 William Warren----- Andrew Benedict

Visitor From Philadelphia :

Marvin Michaels ----- Rob Rowe
 Millie Michaels ----- Terri Dwyer
 Bunny ----- Anna Harrod, Natasha McCutchen

Visitor From London:

Sidney Nichols ----- Peter S. Pius
 Diana Nichols ----- Rena Blumenthal

Visitor From Chicago:

Mort Hollender ----- Alan Gill
 Beth Hollender ----- Marge Bennett
 Stu Franklyn ----- David Kent
 Gert Franklyn ----- Lynnann Madison

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Who's Who (in alphabetical order)

Andrew Benedict (William Warren) Andrew's first role with Coach House Players was as Nepommuck in *Pygmalion*. Andrew has performed with several groups in the Hudson Valley including, *Star Mountainville Theatre Group*, *Fourth Wall Productions* and *Ninety Miles off Broadway*. Andrew has also worked with *Dark Horse Theatre Group* and *Step out Productions* and has done stand up comedy at *Gotham City Improv* and a founding member of *Format*, the improv comedy sketch troupe. Andrew has studied acting with Peter Jenson at *T. Schrieber Studio*, Larry Singer at *Michael Howard Studios*, Robert McKaskill, of *Second City*, Carol Goodheart of *HB Studios* and Uta Hagen's final Master Shakespeare Class. Andrew would like to thank everyone at Coach House Players for a wonderful time!

Marge Bennett (Beth Hollender) Marge has been an active member of Coach House Players since 1977 and over the years has been actively involved both on-stage and off. Marge says her most memorable roles include Gladys in *Pajama Game*, Eunice in *70 Girls 70*, Granny in *Pippin*, the challenge of all the tap dancing in *42nd Street*. Marge has also been in the cast of several recent Variety Shows and loves doing "shtick." Marge is currently serving as a Coach House Board member and when not play-acting, is an "avid cruiser" – she gives special thanks to "Cruise Innovations Plus" for always making the planning easy, and for their support of Coach House! Marge also enjoys golf, bowling, and hanging out with her "long-eared" pals (donkeys that is)!

Rena Blumenthal (Diana Nichols) Rena last appeared on the Coach House stage last year as Lady Lucy Angkatell in *The Hollow* and several years ago as Aunt Trina in *I Remember Mama*. She has also performed with the Jerusalem English Speaking Theater, last appearing as Gorgeous in *The Sisters Rosensweig*. Most recently, she played Domina in the Ninety Miles Off Broadway production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Rena would like to thank Barbara, Trish, and the entire Coach House crew for their friendship, good humor and support!

Terri Dwyer (Millie Michaels) Terri joined Coach House in 1965 with the cast of South Pacific and has appeared in over 50 shows since then. She has also worked "back stage" on numerous plays in many capacities, and has also served on the board of directors, holding several offices. She chaired the renovations and restoration committee which brought about the great changes to the building over the past few years. Terri has also performed with several other community theater groups, has appeared in over 40 Kingston Kiwanis Kapers and currently sings with St. Mary's Church choir in Kingston. Terri invites you to become a member of Coach House and join in the fun!

Alan Gill (Mort Hollender) Alan has returned to his favorite theater group, The Coach House Players and appeared at Nunzio Cristano (the Grandfather) in *Over the River and Through the Woods* and as Tom O'Grady in *Nana's Naughty Knickers*. A veteran of over 15 plays and appearing in Sundance film festival award winning movie, *You Can Count on Me*. His role as the older cop was nominated for briefest visible speaking part in a movie. In regards to his love for acting, he has been heard to say, "The heart of the characters I play beat within the very soul of my being." Alan is also pretty handy with a hammer and saw having built numerous sets for several different local theater groups. He looks forward to providing you with an evening of joyous frivolity and comedy. Alan wishes to dedicate his performance to the memory of his beautiful wife Lynn.

Anna Harrod (Bunny) Anna last appeared with Coach House Players as Clara Eynsford Hill in *Pygmalion*. Prior to a long hiatus from the theater she performed in several St. Lawrence University productions including the roles of Dr. Vivian Bearing in *Wit*, Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and Elmire in *Tartuffe*.

David Kent (Stu Franklyn) David is a recent ex-pat, returning to the Hudson Valley after 27 years overseas. He was in numerous Gilbert and Sullivan productions in the Gulf while serving his country. He also appeared in ads in Ireland where he resided for 14 years. He has two grown children, Leon and Lily. He currently resides in Hurley with his 98 years old Dad. Many thanks to Barbara for giving me this chance to "tread the boards" again, and Marilyn for running lines. Slan Daithr

Betsy LaPolla (Hannah Warren) This is Betsy's third appearance on the Coach House stage in the past few years. She appeared last year as Henrietta Angkatell in *The Hollow* and in the ensemble of *Pygmalion*. Prior to taking on the real-life role of Mom and a hiatus from the theater, she was in the ensemble of *Brigadoon*. Betsy is excited for the opportunity to return to the stage and would like to thank her son Matthew for supporting her during the busy rehearsal period.

Lynnnann Madison (Gert Franklyn) Lynnnann recently appeared as Pamela in *Fox on the Fairway* and the Ambassador's wife in *Pygmalion*. During her 35 years with Coach House Players, she has performed in a wide variety of roles from drama to comedy, including her favorites, *Death Trap* and *Harvey*. A retired teacher, she enjoys entertaining and is currently writing her next "Mystery Tea".

Natasha McCutchen (Bunny) This is Natasha's first appearance with Coach House Players. "As a baby I was in a thing about my folks as an extra with my mom. In 7th grade I was Vlad Vladikof in *Horton Hears A Who* and in 8th grade I was Jacob in *Flat Stanley Jr*. I have loved being on stage every since I was a kid."

Peter S. Pius (Sidney Nichols) Peter last appeared as Inspector Colquhoun in *The Hollow* (his first appearance at the Coach House), but has appeared the past 9 years at The Center for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck. He has appeared in various musicals, among them *West Side Story*, *1776*, *Man of La Mancha*; dramas, among which were *The Crucible*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Dark Echoes*; and, comedies, including *The Odd Couple*, *Plaza Suite* and *The Sunshine Boys*. He is also a playwright having written a full two-act play and 3 short plays. To the wonderful crew and cast of this production, break legs. To my wife Susan, who's understanding of my love for theatre, I Love You!

Rob Rowe (Marvin Michaels) Rob last appeared in *Can't Take It With You* at Performing Arts of Rhinebeck. He last appeared with Coach House as Dickie Bell in *The Fox on the Fairway* and as Mike Curtis in *Second Time Around*. He studied at Blue Horse Repertory Co. with acting coach Lora Lee Ecobelli for 2 years. He has performed in stage presentations of Tennessee Williams' *The Lady of Larkspur Lotion*, playing The Writer; Anton Chekhov's *The Boor*, playing Grigory Stepanovich Smirnov; John Ciarani's *Almost Maine*, playing Lendall, Chad & Dave; and, most recently John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, playing Slim. He has also appeared in several upstate independent films. *Can't Take It With You* at Performing Arts of Rhinebeck.

Barbara E. Melzer (Director) has a Master's Degree in Theater Arts with a concentration in directing and set design. She has also studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and The British American Acting Academy in London. Barbara last directed *The Hollow* here at the Coach House. She has appeared in numerous productions at The Center and directed *Murder on the Nile* and *Dark Echoes* at The Center. She is extremely excited about this production, and the fabulous acting ensemble that has come together here. Thanks to my right hand person and stage manager Tricia, who keeps us all on task, Quentin, who designed our lights, and the many folks here at Coach House who made this possible.

Tricia Franklin (Assistant Director/Stage Manager) is very happy to be back at Coach House doing this extremely funny Neil Simon play *California Suite* with a fabulous cast and crew. Barbara as usual it's been great. Check-in time is April 8, 9 and 15 and 16 at 7:30 PM and April 10 and 17 at 2 PM. Come in and enjoy the fun!

In memory of past performer and director **Wendell A. Scherer**

For almost 40 years, Wendell was a dedicated and beloved English and Theater Arts teacher at Myron J. Michael Junior High School and then Kingston High School.

From 1972 to 1983 Wendell appeared in eighteen Coach House productions and then from 1985 to 2004 he directed a half-dozen shows for Coach House. Coach House is pleased to donate to the Wendell A. Scherer Legacy Fund providing scholarships to local high school students.

In recent weeks two more past Coach House members passed, **Tony Ruggeri & Smitty Conover**. They will be fondly remembered. Thanks to those friends who made contributions to Coach House in memory of Tony Ruggeri.