

**CIRCLE BAR B**  
DINNER THEATER

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THE  
Musical  
Comedy  
**MURDERS**  
of 1940

by John Bishop

Directed by Jim Cook  
Produced by Susie & David Couch

PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH INC.

# The Musical Comedy **MURDERS** of 1940

## *The Cast*

(in order of appearance)

<i>Helsa Wenzel</i>	Jenna Scanlon
<i>Elsa Von Grossenknueten</i>	Kathy Marden
<i>Michael Kelly</i>	Paul Taylor
<i>Patrick O'Reilly</i>	Brian Harwell
<i>Ken De la Maize</i>	Jim Sirianni
<i>Nikki Crandall</i>	Jean Hall
<i>Eddie McCuen</i>	Robert Langarica
<i>Marjorie Baverstock</i>	Susie Couch
<i>Roger Hopewell</i>	Rodney Baker
<i>Bernice Roth</i>	Leslie Story

The play takes place in December in the library  
at the home of Elsa Von Grossenknuten—  
at curtain (if there was one) it is midnight—naturally

## *Production and Technical Staff*

PRODUCERS .....	David and Susie Couch
DIRECTOR .....	Jim Cook
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR .....	Robert Ooley
SET DESIGNER .....	William Hyde
SET CONSTRUCTION	William Hyde, David Couch, Freddy Beinke, Mike Munson
LIGHTING AND SOUND .....	David Couch
SOUND MIX .....	Jim Sirianni
ORIGINAL MUSIC .....	John Douglas
COSTUMES .....	Susie Couch, Leslie Ann Story
WEBSITE .....	Mathew Beinke
PROGRAMS .....	Jim Cook

## About the Cast



**JENNA SCANLON** (*Helsa Wenzel*) most recently appeared in the title role in the Elite Theatre Company production of *Educating Rita*. She was previously seen in Santa Barbara City College Theatre Group's productions of *Born Yesterday*, *Stirring the Pot*, *World Goes 'Round*, *Ambition Facing West*, and *All in the Timing*. She was seen here at the Circle Bar B in *Who's In Bed With the Butler*, as all three Bimbos.



**KATHY MARSDEN** (*Elsa Von Grossenknueten*) was last seen in *Its Only a Play* at the Victoria Theater. This is Kathy's sixth show at the Circle Bar B Dinner Theatre, having been seen in *Who's in Bed with the Butler*, *I Hate Hamlet*, *Relative Values*, *Jake's Women*, and *You Say Tomatoes*. Also at the Victoria Theater, she has performed in *Death Trap*, *Hannah & Martin*, *Jackson Pollock*, and *The Persians*. Thank you to Susie and Dave for everything they do and more. To my teacher, Tony Miratti, who teaches me courage and to FSM for his love.



**PAUL TAYLOR** (*Sgt. Michael Kelly*) is very happy to make his first appearance as a player at the Ranch with a great cast, director, and producer. He is a product of the SBCC Theatre Arts Program, followed by many local productions in the early 90's before taking a long, *loong* hiatus from theater. Paul was last seen as Gus in First Impulse Theatres' production of *It's Only A Play*. He began work in community theater at 12 playing the ghost of Christmas Future in *A Christmas Carol*. ("No one in the audience knew who or what was under that white sheet on stage until curtain call. The cast and I cracked up every night on and off stage about my costume. I'm still laughing.")



**BRIAN HARWELL** (*O'Reilly*) has been performing at the Circle Bar B consistently for the last seven years, most recently in *The Odd Couple*, *Red Herring*, *I Hate Hamlet* (for which he received an Independent Award), and *Pump Boys & Dinettes*. He is also a frequent player at Santa Barbara City College, Center Stage Theatre, Seaside Theatre, Ojai Arts Center, the Elite Theatre in Oxnard, and the Rubicon Theatre. He received his acting and directing training from the Santa Barbara City College Theatre Arts program, where he was twice awarded the annual Outstanding Actor honor.



**JEAN HALL** (*Nikki Crandall*) has appeared in numerous stage productions as well as worked in radio and dabbled in movies and television. By far, her preferred performance venue is at the Circle Bar B Theatre, where she has created some of her most favorite characters such as Rita in *Educating Rita*, Joanna Markham in *Move Over Mrs. Markham* and the acerbic Nancy of *The Women*, as well as in *Jake's Women* and *Who's in Bed With the Butler*. She would like to thank her best critics, Kona and Osa, for keeping her on track and always reminding her that most things in life can be fixed with a little digging and chewing. Tonight's performance in is dedicated to the memory of her father, who's love will be carried in her heart for a lifetime.



**ROBERT LANGARICA** (*Eddie McCuen*) is glad to be working with the Circle Bar B crew once again. His first show at the Ranch was *The Odd Couple*, in which he played Roy. His other Santa Barbara credits include *All In The Timing*, *Born Yesterday*, and *Up, Down, Strange, Charmed, Beauty and Truth*, all with the Santa Barbara City College Theater Group. Robert is originally from Visalia, where he studied acting for six years at the San Joaquin Valley Actors Repertory under the great Fabian Cordova, and he also spent three years being mentored by Prof. Chris Mangels. Robert has played Orlando in *As You Like It*, Eugene in *Broadway Bound*, and Fred in *A Christmas Carol*. He spent a lot of time working for the Enchanted Playhouse, where he performed in several children's plays, such as *Alice In Wonderland*, *The House at Pooh Corner*, *Wind In The Willows*, *The Lion*, *The Witch and The Wardrobe*, *Rumpelstiltskin*, and *Charlotte's Web*. For his favorite show ever, *The Hobbit*, he played a Troll, a Dwarf, a Goblin and Dragon Puppeteer. Always wanting to do and learn more, Robert has recently started writing his own material, which he hopes to someday have performed in front of an audience instead of a mirror. Feeling the effects of the economy, Robert was recently laid off, so he has decided to make a run to Los Angeles and put his years of experience to the ultimate test. When not busy daydreaming about how to make his bio look good, Robert enjoys playing his bass, playing disc golf, and people watching. (Please don't be alarmed if you see him outside your bedroom window; he is just doing a character study.) This will be his last show in the Santa Barbara area, and he could not think of a better way to end the good times than to be surrounded by incredible talent like he is in this show. Farewell my friends!



**JIM SIRIANNI** (*Ken De la Maize*) got his start in theater by playing the role of Frosty the Snowman in the second grade, shouting his first line ever, "Let's run!" The rest, as they say, is history. Jim returns to the Circle Bar B stage this season after a two-year hiatus. Last season he directed *Who's In Bed With the Butler* and *I Remember You*. For CBB, Jim always seems to be involved with shows centered on eating, being in a room, or murder. He has directed *Don't Mention My Name*, A.R. Gurney's *The Dining Room*, *Jake's Women*, *Marriage is Murder*, *The Dinner Party*, and *Key For Two*. He has been seen on the CBB stage in *Relative Values*, *The Murder Room*, *You're a Good Man*, *Charlie Brown*, and *Move Over Mrs. Markham*. Jim has also been a member of the Seaside Theatre Company in Carpinteria for many years. His favorite role to date was playing Elwood P. Dowd in *Harvey*. Other Santa Barbara performances include *Amadeus*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Pacific Overtures*, *Look Homeward Angel* and *A Midsummer's Night Dream*. Jim currently hosts "A Round of Applause," an entertainment talk show for News Talk 990 KTMS. He can be heard reading the news for both AM990 and Progressive Talk AM1490. As always, Jim would like to dedicate this show to the memory of his father, James R. Sirianni, Jr.



**RODNEY BAKER** (*Roger Hopewell*) is delighted to be returning to the Circle Bar B stage as our lovable songwriter, Roger Hopewell. Rodney was last seen on the Circle Bar B stage as Oliver Pemberton in the wacky comedy *I Remember You*. Other Circle Bar B Theater productions you have seen him in include *Who's in Bed with Butler*, *The Face on The Barroom Floor*, *Sylvia* and *You Say Tomatoes*. You may also have seen him in the Seaside Theatre production of *Habeas Corpus*. Television viewers may find him familiar from various local product commercials. When Rodney is not onstage or working, he enjoys being in the garden and spending time with the other "R" in R&R.



**LESLIE ANN STORY** (*Bernice*) was last seen as Rose in Circle Bar B Theatre's production of *Tony and the Soprano* and just completed filming *Out of the Blue* with Country Studios. She recently enjoyed costuming *Pippin!* at Laguna Blanca and was last season in numerous roles in DIJO's production of *Spoon River Anthology* and as Mrs. Kravitz, McCarthy, and Van Nostrand in CBB's 2008 production of *Red Herring*. Some of her latest roles include Bev Davies in *Graceland* at Center Stage Theatre, Margaret Sanger in *Two Margarets* at Victoria Hall, and as Verla Perkins in the CBB's production of *Don't Mention My Name*. In recent years she has performed in *Ambition Facing West*, *Relative Values*, *The Dining Room*, *The Murder Room*, *Jake's Women*, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *The Laramie Project*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, *Richard III*, and *To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday*. She has appeared in over 60 local stage productions, records radio dramas, performs Readers' Theatre and lends her talents to local television and radio commercials, independent films, PSAs and voiceovers.



**SUSIE COUCH** (*Marjorie Baverstock/Producer*) is thrilled to be able to appear briefly once again in this production after doing much the same as a Pigeon sister in season opener *The Odd Couple*. Susie has been the co-producer with her husband David for six seasons and has also had the opportunity to share the stage with him in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (Miss Mona) and most recently as Moxie in *Relative Values*. She has been an actress and director for the Circle Bar B for 18 years and appeared in over 30 productions. Susie would like to thank Jim Cook for letting her suck him back in and to her castmates for allowing her to spend the summer playing with her friends.



**JIM COOK** (*director*) started his theater career in Los Angeles with the Cabaret Concerttheatre (*How Did the Fiddler Get on the Roof?*) and the South Bay Association of Little Theaters (*Can-Can*, *How to Succeed in Show Business*). Moving to Santa Barbara in 1968, he directed for the late Chuck and Marcelle Wilson's Zodiac Associates Productions at The Timbers, most notably *The Threepenny Opera*, *The Boys in the Band*, *Zorba!*, and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* After several years of reviewing for the *Santa Barbara News & Review*

and working in the dance world, he returned to theater at the Circle Bar B with *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, followed by *Rumors*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Relative Values*, *Supporting Cast*, *Sylvia*, *Steel Magnolias*, *You Say Bananas*, *The Murder Room*, and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*.

**ROBERT OOLEY** (*assistant to the director, the other R*) enjoys helping behind the scenes at the Circle Bar B Theater. While you have yet to see Robert on the Circle Bar B Stage in a dramatic role, you may have seen him as he "played" David Couch during *Who's in Bed with the Butler* in the shows opening bit. You may have also caught him on local television talking about his passion: Historic Preservation.



**DAVID COUCH** (*lights and sound/producer*) is back in the booth after delighting audiences as the opera-singing mob boss Carmine Bruno in the most recent show *Tony and the Soprano*. Dave has been in over 20 shows in the past 18 years at the Circle Bar B and directed two. His favorites (along with Carmine) include Huber Bonny in *It Runs in the Family*, Tito Morelli in *Lend Me a Tenor*, the dentist in *Little Shop of Horrors* and Sheriff Ed Earl in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. Dave would like to thank John Butler for writing a show with a run time of under two hours!

### ***Very Special Thank You's...***

The Brown family and the entire staff of the Circle Bar B Guest Ranch, Charles Donlon and The Independent, Chris Trenchard and the Santa Barbara News Press, Michael Vizzolini and Santa Barbara Family Life, Rincon Broadcasting LLC, Steven Lebowitz, Freddy Beinke, John Douglas, Mike Munson, Robert Ooley, Jenna Scanlon, Leslie Ann Story, the Becks, and all our patrons.

# **CIRCLE BAR B**

## **DINNER THEATER**

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