

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY'S J. WILLIAM AND MARY DIEDERICH
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION
DIGITAL MEDIA AND PERFORMING ARTS
MARQUETTE THEATRE
JAMIE CHEATHAM, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
PRESENTS



By Noël Coward

September 29 – October 9, 2016

Directed by Maureen Kilmurry
Scenic Design by Stephen Hudson-Mairet
Costume Design by Connie Petersen
Lighting Design by Katie Hauger '17
Sound Design by Nick Parrott '19

The Theatre Arts Program is accredited by the
National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST).

CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Edith	Aileen O'Carroll
Ruth Condomine	Lily O'Leary
Charles Condomine.....	Michael Young
Doctor Bradman	A.J. Magoon
Mrs. Bradman.....	Anna Otto
Madame Arcati	Nadja Simmonds
Elvira.....	Annie Kefalas

SETTING

The action of the play passes in the living room of Charles and Ruth Condomine's house in Kent.

SCENES

Act I

Scene 1	Before dinner on a summer evening
Scene 2	After dinner

Act II

Scene 1	The next morning
Scene 2	Late in the following afternoon

There will be one 10-minute intermission

Scene 3	Early evening, a few days later
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Act III

Scene 1	After dinner, a few days later
Scene 2	Several hours later

Blithe Spirit is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

Photography of any kind, videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Thank you for joining us for a few hours of live theatre. Without you as an audience, our work as a theatre is not complete. Your presence is a necessary part of what we do. Also, by purchasing your ticket, you are helping to support our high-quality productions. You help to provide the kind of quality that audiences have come to expect. You also help to provide a professional quality experience from which our students can continue to learn.

Word of mouth is always the best form of advertising, and we hope if you enjoyed your time with us, that you will pass along any good words to friends, families and acquaintances. This simple act also helps to keep our productions supported.

Very soon this show will end, the set will go into the dumpster, and all that will be left will be what you remember of your visit. That is the sum of all our hard work, and we hope that you will be haunted by some pleasant memories of *Blithe Spirit*.

Thank you for being a part of our work!

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

First performed in London's West End in 1941 and later that year on Broadway, *Blithe Spirit* has been a popular play ever since. There have been numerous revivals in those venues as well as being a mainstay of repertory and community theatres. It was re-imagined into a movie in 1945, as a musical called *High Spirits* in 1964, and into various adaptations for both television and radio as well. The following quote of Noël Coward reflects how he felt about the play upon writing it: "For six days I worked from eight to one each morning and from two to seven each afternoon. On Friday evening, May ninth, the play was finished and, disdaining archness and false modesty, I will admit that I knew it was witty, I knew it was well constructed, and I also knew that it would be a success." Of course, Coward is renowned for his witty banter and *Blithe Spirit* is no exception. One British critic described the dialogue as follows: "one is reminded again of the resemblance between Coward and good tennis; the strokes are so fast that one cannot quite see how they are achieved". Working with his wit, these delicious words and the challenges of this delightful period, has been a wonderful experience for our students. I hope you thoroughly enjoy the play as much as we have.

Maureen Kilmurry
Director, *Blithe Spirit*

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Annie Kefalas

(Elvira)

Annie Kefalas is a junior at Marquette studying Theatre and Digital Media, and she is extremely happy to be working on this show with an amazing cast and crew. Her past productions at Marquette include *In the Red and Brown Water*, *Loose Lips Sink Ships*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *As You Like It*, and *Most Dangerous Women*. She has also directed two small shows. Annie would like to thank her director, stage manager, designers, and fellow cast and crew for their hard work and dedication on what you're about to see. As always, thank you to her parents and sisters for their continued support, love, and hugs. Enjoy the show!

A.J. Magoon

(Dr. Bradman)

A.J., a junior, is delighted to be returning to the Helfaer stage for his seventh Marquette Theatre production. Additional regional credits include work with First Stage, Milwaukee Rep, Off the Wall Theatre, UPROOTED, Renaissance Theaterworks, and Summit Players Theatre. Thanks and love to Maureen, cast and crew, family, and YOU!

Aileen O'Carroll

(Edith)

Aileen is excited to be a part of Marquette's production of *Blithe Spirit*! She is a senior majoring in Theatre Arts and Public Relations and was last seen on the Helfaer mainstage as Audrey in *As You Like It* and Nancy in *Ivy + Bean the Musical*. She is thankful for the opportunity to work with Maureen and this wonderful cast. Aileen would like to thank her family and friends, especially her Mom, for their endless love and support. Enjoy the show!

Lily O'Leary

(Ruth Condomine)

Lily is thrilled to be part of the production of Noël Coward's *Blithe Spirit*. This is Lily's first mainstage production at Marquette. She is studying Public Relations and Theatre Arts. Lily would like to thank her family and friends for all their support!

Anna Otto

(Mrs. Bradman)

Anna Otto is thrilled to be a part of the first show of Marquette Theatre's 2016-2017 season, *Blithe Spirit*. Anna is a senior, and this is her fifth mainstage production at Marquette. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support, as well as everyone who made this opportunity possible. Enjoy the show!

Nadja Simmonds

(Madame Arcati)

Nadja is delighted to start off her third year at Marquette with such an exciting show and hilarious cast. Her past performances on the Helfaer stage include *As You Like It*, *Wine in the Wilderness*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *In the Red and Brown Water*. With a double major in Theatre Arts and Digital Media and a Spanish minor, she hopes to explore every aspect of production and performance, and hopefully travel the world while she does it. She would like to thank Maureen for this amazing opportunity, and her family for their continued support.

Michael Young

(Charles Condomine)

Michael is a senior at Marquette, and in absolute hysteria over this opportunity. He has previously been seen in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *As You Like It*. He'd like to thank his director Maureen, as well as his friends and family for their enthusiasm and support.

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Jamie Cheatham

(Artistic Director/Fight Director)

Jamie Cheatham is a professional actor, director, fight director, and theatre educator. After 17 years of working professionally in New York City and 10 years of teaching at UW-Parkside, Jamie is thrilled to be at Marquette. He is a nationally recognized fight director with the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD) and the resident fight director for the Milwaukee Rep. Other professional work includes such theatres as: Alley Theatre (TX), Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Arena Stage, Milwaukee Ballet, the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, and the Georgia, Illinois, and NY Shakespeare Festivals. He received his MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Mary Crosby

(Assistant Stage Manager)

Mary is very excited to be working on *Blithe Spirit* this year! An incoming freshman, this is Mary's first production at Marquette University. In high school, she worked on seven different productions, four of which she served on as manager, and two as student producer. She is double majoring in Theatre and Digital Media, and is looking forward to making her home here at Marquette.

Todd Denning

(Dialect Coach)

Todd has been an active theatre artist for more than 20 years, working as an actor, director, teacher, fight choreographer, vocal coach and sound designer. His past Marquette directing credits include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type*. He is an adjunct faculty member at Marquette University, and recently returned from spending a summer with the Utah Shakespeare Festival. Regional credits include South Coast Repertory, Milwaukee Shakespeare, Tennessee Rep, Georgia Shakespeare, Willamette Rep, PCPA Theaterfest, Artpark & Co., Optimist Theatre

and First Stage Children's Theater. Todd holds an MFA in Acting from the University of California at Irvine.

Melía Gonzalez

(Stage Manager)

Melía is ecstatic to be working with such an amazing cast, crew and production team for *Blithe Spirit*. Her most recent stage management work included *Censored on Final Approach* at Renaissance Theatreworks and *To Kill a Mockingbird* at Marquette. This year she is starting off the year strong with *Blithe Spirit*, she will be working as the stage management intern at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre for their winter show *Lobby Hero*, then she is stage managing the final Marquette mainstage show *Anything Goes*. She cannot thank her mom, dad, little brother, and friends enough for supporting her over the years. She looks forward to making amazing memories and finishing her senior year with a bang! Curtains Up!

Katherine Hauger

(Lighting Designer)

Katie is a senior Theatre Arts major. She is very excited to take on the challenge of designing the lights for *Blithe Spirit* and hopes you enjoy the collaborative effort of the show! Other credits include: Assistant Scenic designer with Stephen Hudson-Mairet (*Lobby Hero*, *Censored on Final Approach*), Assistant Scenic Charge with Ron Naversen (*To Kill a Mockingbird*), Costume Design (*Loose Lips Sink Ships*), and Susan in *Company*. Special thanks to Chester and Courtney for triple checking my work.

Stephen Hudson-Mairet

(Chair/Scenic Designer)

As chair of the Department of Digital Media and Performing Arts, Stephen is blessed to be working with a great faculty, staff, and student body, and he is happy to share their great work with you. Thank you so much for your support of Marquette

Theatre and Marquette's theatre arts students. This season, Stephen can be found designing scenery for *Lobby Hero* with Milwaukee Chamber Theater. You will see Stephen's next design on the Helfaer stage for *The Skin of Our Teeth* in February. Stephen lives quite happily in a very old house in Wauwatosa with his wife Heidi, and daughters Emma and Grace.

Krista Kanderski

(Assistant Stage Manager)

Krista Kanderski is a sophomore at Marquette University studying Biomedical Sciences. Born and raised in Milwaukee, her love for the performing arts has led her to work with several companies in the area including First Stage, Greendale Community Theatre, The Milwaukee Ballet, The Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, and Voices Found Repertory. She is incredibly excited that *Blithe Spirit* is her second mainstage show as Assistant Stage Manager at Marquette. Most recently, she was ASM for Voices Found Repertory's debut production of *Romeo & Juliet*.

Maureen Kilmurry

(Director)

A Speech and Theater graduate of Marquette University, Ms. Kilmurry received her MFA from Southern Methodist University's Professional Actor Training Program. A member of Actors Equity Association she has acted professionally in Seattle, Dallas, Kansas City, Milwaukee, and at the Oregon Shakespearean Festival, as well as "Off", & "Off-Off" Broadway. Since returning to her native Milwaukee, she has turned her focus to directing, teaching, and dialect and vocal coaching. Now in her 19th year on the faculty at Marquette University she currently teaches Acting Shakespeare and Auditioning and Career Preparation. Directing credits include Summit Players, Windfall Theatre, The Boulevard Ensemble, Playwrights Studio Theatre, Amethyst Productions, the John Michael Kohler Art Center, Manitowoc Civic Theatre and

the Haggerty Museum. Recent projects include *Ghosts*, *Prin*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and two productions of *As You Like It*.

Nick Parrott

(Sound Designer)

While he's often acting on stage, Nick is thrilled to be sound designing his first mainstage show with Marquette Theatre. He'd like to thank Maureen and the entire production team for trusting him so much and giving him such an incredible opportunity. Many thanks to his family for their constant love and support.

Connie L. Petersen

(Costume Designer)

Connie is happy to return for her 15th year with her family here at Marquette University and to have the opportunity to work with Maureen and this very talented cast and designers. She received her B.S. degree in theatre from Northwest MO State University and M.F.A. degree in Costume and Scenic Design from SIU in Carbondale, IL. She is currently the Costume Shop Manager and Designer for Marquette University. She has also designed for Next Act Theatre, Des Moines Metro Opera, Denver Center Theatre Company, and Playmakers Repertory Company at UNC-Chapel Hill. Connie is enjoying her spare time in Elm Grove with her daughters, Emma and Olivia.

Quinn Pickering

(Props Designer)

Quinn is excited to be a part of the *Blithe Spirit* design team. This is her first time prop designing a production at Marquette. She has been involved in other Marquette productions including *Our Town*, *In The Red and Brown Water*, *The Liar*, *Company*, *Loose Lips Sink Ships*, *As You Like It*, and *Wine in the Wilderness*. She will also be stage-managing the upcoming production of *Fancy Nancy The Musical!*

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director	Chester Loeffler-Bell
Stage Manager	Melía Gonzalez
Assistant Stage Managers	Mary Crosby, Krista Kanderski
Company Manager	Julie Ahlgrim
Dialect Coach	Todd Denning
Lighting Designer.....	Katie Hauger
Light Board Operator	Courtney Christophe
Sound Designer	Nick Parrott
Sound Board Operator	Linda Pozen
Assistant Scenic Designers.....	Julie Ahlgrim, Shelby Mellantine
Master Electrician	Courtney Christophe
Deck Crew	Alex Al-Akaila, Nick Belsanti, Aaron Moriak, Brielle Richmond, Anney Spencer
Scenic Shop Build Crew.....	Alex Al-Akaila, Mary Crosby, Patricia Gomez, Patrick Hardie, Kelsey Harlow, Molly Hass, Chloe Hurckes, Madi Kec, Emily Kraus, Dakota Mann, Caroline Norton, Ben Teich, Katelyn Weber, Michael Young
Scenic Shop Assistants	Julie Ahlgrim, Courtney Christophe, Mary Crosby, Ashlee Elder, Madeleine Farley, Jordan Feger, Melía Gonzalez, Adam Hastings, Katie Hauger, Shelby Mellantine, Michael Nicholas, Nick Parrott, Sarah Schlehlein, Nadja Simmonds
Props Master	Quinn Pickering
Costume Shop Manager	Connie Petersen
Assistant Costume Designer	Rebecca Gardner, Amelia Strahan
Wardrobe Supervisor	Rebecca Gardner
Wardrobe.....	Rene Leech, Jessica Szuminski
Costume Shop Assistants	Marissa Ellison, Rebecca Gardner, Cassie Gherardini, Molly Hass, Veronica Micklely, Lily O'Leary, Anna Otto, Wendy Rociles, Kathleen Rock, Amelia Strahan, Margaret Tomasiewicz
Costume Shop Build Crew	Annie Kefalas, Hannah Mascio, Lily O'Leary, Kathleen Rock, Owen Su, Andy Zarnowski
Assistant to the Chair	Aileen O'Carroll
Assistant to the Artistic Director	A.J. Magoon
House Manager	Marissa Ellison, Lindsay Webster
Box Office Assistant	Gloria Johnson
Ushers.....	Theatre Appreciation Class

SPECIAL THANKS

Amy Horst and Jim Guy, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre
Jeanne Schrank, Cardinal Stritch University

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Joyce Wolburg, Associate Dean

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Chester Loeffler-Bell

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Connie Petersen

Theatre Operations Coordinator

Courtney Buvid

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Jamie Cheatham, Artistic Director

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MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY THEATRE 2016-17 SEASON

***Blithe Spirit*, by Noël Coward**

When Charles' deceased wife, Elvira, returns home, Charles must decide between his past and his present. Hauntingly funny!

September 29 – October 9

***Two Rooms*, by Lee Blessing**

When terrorists kidnap Lainie's husband, she keeps vigil at home while the press and the government vie for her ear. Programming for *Two Rooms* is supported by the Phylis Ravel Theatre and Social Justice Fund.

November 10 – 20

***Fancy Nancy The Musical*,**

based on the books by Jane O'Connor

Based on the beloved children's books. Fun and fanciness for the whole family!

January 14 – 15 & 21 – 22

***The Skin of Our Teeth*, by Thornton Wilder**

The Antrobus family barely survives the Ice Age, The Great Flood, and a World War. Wilder's absurd and profound comedy told in a modern way.

February 16 – 26

***Anything Goes*, music and lyrics by Cole Porter**

When gangsters, showgirls, and the well-to-do meet on a luxury cruise liner, music and merriment ensues! Be ready to tap your toes!

April 6 – 23