

Santa Clara Players



The Insanity Case of Mrs. A. Lincoln

By Richard C. Goodman

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Performance Dates:

Oct. 24, 25, 31

Nov. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 2003

Production Staff

Producer	Ross Browning
Director.	Marie Cushen
Set Design.	Jim Narveson
Lighting Design.	George Doeltz
Script Continuity	Anne Creighton, Susan Wheeler
Costumes.	Marilyn Gold, Sharon Mahoney
Make-up	Sharon Mahoney
Props.	Jackie Hughes, George Doeltz
Publicity, Photography.	George Doeltz
Set Construction	Jim Narveson, Ross Browning
	Marian Narveson, Jim Boynton
Set Decoration.	Marian Narveson, Jim Narveson
Production Flyer and Program.	George Doeltz
Technical Operator	Sarah Kishler
Box Office.	George Doeltz
Opening Night Reception.	SCP Board

Cast of Characters

(in order of appearance)

Mary Todd Lincoln Peggy Burgi
Mrs. Harrington Helena G. Clarkson
Mary Gavin Sharon Mahoney
Leonard Swett Steven Lewis
Robert Lincoln Todd O'Donnell
Dr. Danforth Gene Sullivan
Dr. Patterson Glenn Cody
Myra Bradwell Carol A. Hensel
Franc Wilkie David Lischinsky
Elizabeth Edwards Marian Narveson

There will be a fifteen minute intermission after Act I . During intermission you are invited to the lobby for refreshments as the guest of the Santa Clara Players.

☞ Please - No eating or drinking in the theater. Smoking is permitted only off the wood deck. Please use the ash cans provided. Thank you.

Following Mrs. Lincoln's second trial, she went to live in France in the city of Pau where she thought the hot springs might be good for her arthritis. However, loneliness and her worsening health drove her back to Springfield four years later. She passed her remaining years at the home of her sister, Elizabeth. Robert at last paid her a visit, but no record is available of what went on between them. She died in 1882 and was laid to rest with her husband and three of her sons in the Lincoln Mausoleum in Springfield.

The Cast

Peggy Burgi (Mary Todd Lincoln)

Peggy has been involved with theater on the Peninsula since she moved here from Texas in 1987. She took classes at ACT in SF, and was cast in her first show in CA with Menlo Players Guild in 1989, where a back-stage flirtation has developed into an 11 year marriage and three kids. She has almost given birth onstage at least once (it's a long story) and she was an Elvis impersonator in Santa Clara Players' production of *Radio TBS*. Other roles have included the title role in *Lysistrata*, Chick in *Crimes of the Heart*, Anne in *Death of Zukasky*, M.J. in *Inspecting Carol*," and Tink in *Museum*, with MPG, Ohlone College, Stage One, and Canada College. She was seen most recently at Hillbarn in *The Women* as a Fury. She keeps herself busy these days homeschooling her kids, bookkeeping for several non-profits, providing breastfeeding information and support through Nursing Mothers Counsel, and occasionally acting as a childbirth support person/Doula. She would like to thank the cast for going above and beyond the call of duty to help her with this show!

Helena G. Clarkson (Mrs. Harrington)

Helena is pleased to be performing in Santa Clara for the first time. She has been seen on stage with TheatreWorks, City Lights, Busbarn, Palo Alto Players, Sunnyvale Community Players, Broadway West, Pacifica Spindrift Players, as well as many other theaters (since she was bitten by the acting bug at a young age. She is thrilled to be a part of this production and would like to thank everyone for supporting live theater!

Sharon Mahoney (Mary Gavin)

Sharon is thrilled to be returning to the Santa Clara Players after completing two years of theatre training at the Foothill Theatre Conservatory. Previously, she has appeared as Mrs. Kinkaid in *The Ringing of Doorbells* at Foothill College, and as Connie Dayton in *Come Blow Your Horn* at Santa Clara Players. She will be celebrating her 21st wedding anniversary in November and would like to thank Bob for his love and unwavering support.

Steven Lewis (Leonard Swett)

Steve is grateful to Santa Clara Players for allowing him to make a return appearance. After appearing in the Santa Clara Players' summer production of *Suddenly, Last Summer* as the "sniveling, greedy brother", he has graduated to playing a lawyer. Yes cynics, there is a difference! Many thanks to cast and crew.

Todd Clayton O'Donnell (Robert Lincoln)

Todd (A Santa Clara native) has been performing with local theater companies for over a decade. Todd is very proud to make his first appearance with the S.C. players. A veteran of more than twenty plays and always looking for a new project, Todd takes great pleasure in performing for friends and family. Todd would like to dedicate his performance to his Mother (Marlene) whom he promises never to put in an asylum. He only hopes she will return the favor.

Gene Sullivan (Dr. Danforth)

Gene, originally from Brooklyn, New York, has appeared in many shows. He has been the Orange Merchant in *Kismet*, Sailor with a Pipe in *Carousel*, Crooked Irish Landlord in *I Remember Mama*, Captain in *Anything Goes*, and Jean Claude the Stage Manager in Maury Yeston's *Phantom of the Opera*. He is currently at work writing a musical called *City of Masks* and has had two plays produced and staged, *The Wounded Bird*, and *The Black Cat*. His most recent onstage appearance was in Mission City Opera's production of *Die Fledermaus*.

Glenn Cody (Dr. Patterson)

Ever since his first encounter with Santa Clara Players last season, Glenn has ended his search for the Promised Land. In addition to *Play On!* and *Tender Lies*, other favorite productions include *Inherit the Wind*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Nuts*, *Lend Me a Tenor 1776*, *Little Murders*, *Hotel Paradiso*, *Lovers and Other Strangers*, *Black Coffee* and *Victoria's House*. In real life he works as a healthcare analyst. He is pleased to be working with such a talented cast and director.

Carol A. Hensel (Myra Bradwell)

This is Carol's first production with the Santa Clara Players. Past shows in both Community and College theater include *The Green Bough*, *The Stolen Sword*, and *Skin of our Teeth*. She is currently employed as a sales rep for an electronics firm. Carol is thankful to have this opportunity to work with such a great cast, crew, and director.

David Lischinsky (Franc Wilkie)

David spent his early years on a farm in Virginia where his father raised cattle. At the age of twelve he said goodbye to his pet chicken and bovine companions and moved to a wheat farm in Saskatchewan in search of a more glamorous life. The following year he came to California to thaw out. He now lives on the sunny side of a street in Palo Alto with his first wife, their two children and a guinea pig named Porkchop. He enjoys tennis and playing violin in the Palo Alto Philharmonic. David first became interested in theater while living in the south of France. He was cast as the philandering Australian poet, Steve Hutchinson, in the Troupe du Rhum's production of *L'Amour est un Enfant du Onzieme Arrondissement* largely on the strength of his ability to speak French with a Sydney accent. On his return to the land of the People Who Don't Eat Frogs he studied acting with Jeannie Forte and Diane Tasca at the Pear Theater. He is grateful to the Santa Clara Players for this first chance to appear on the American stage.

Marian Narveson (Elizabeth Edwards)

For the past twenty plus years Marian has followed her interest and love of theater, serving in many areas - Director, producer, set designer, stage crew, etc. As an actress, she has appeared in a variety of roles, from comedy (*Barefoot in the Park*), to mystery (*Swan Song*) and many other productions. Marian also likes to sing, paint, read, work on her dollhouse, and take care of her family.

Marie Cushen (Director)

Marie has been involved in Community theater since 1985 and has acted in over fifteen plays and several corporate videos. Her experience also includes play direction and makeup design. Behind the scenes, Marie has used her considerable business experience to work on the Board of Directors for Belmont Community Players both as VP-advertising and as its President. Marie is very excited about her efforts on *The Insanity Case of Mrs. A. Lincoln* for the Santa Clara Players and she thanks playwright Richard C. Goodman for selecting from the pages of history a rich assortment of compelling characters to pick apart and put back together, and she is extremely proud of all the hard work and creativity brought to it by her cast.

About the Players

The *Santa Clara Players* is a non-profit community theater group dedicated to wholesome entertainment. We provide an opportunity for anyone with dramatic or stagecraft aspirations to work with experienced directors and producers. We provide high quality, family theater for the enjoyment of the citizens of Santa Clara and the surrounding areas.

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