

Santa Clara Players

Laura



By Vera Caspary
and George Sklar

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Performance Dates:

Feb. 25, 26 , March 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 2005

Laura is produced by special arrangement with

Production Staff

Producer Jim Narveson
Assistant Producer. Glenn Cody
Director. Matt Matthews
Stage Manager Kamilla Khaydarov
Set Design. Jim and Marian Narveson
Lighting Design. George Doeltz
Sound Design and Recording. Sara Doeltz
Props. Marian Narveson
Props Run Crew Helena G. Clarkson, Duncan Heath
Costumes. Cheryl Vicary
Photography George Doeltz
Master Carpenters Karen & Kurt Narveson
Set Construction Andrew Narveson, Ray Boozer, George Doeltz
Set Decoration. Marian Narveson, Maxine Lukins, Elsie Riddle
Production Flyer and Program. George Doeltz
Technical Operator Kamilla Khaydarov
Box Office. George Doeltz
Opening Night Reception. Audrey Matthews, SCP Board
Painting of Laura by Bill Maluan

Special Thanks to

City of Santa Clara
Santa Clara Cultural Advisory Commission
Triton Museum of Art
Santa Clara Arts and Historical Consortium
City of Santa Clara Building Maintenance Department

Cast of Characters

Mark McPherson Todd O'Donnell
Danny Dorgan. Derrick Diazoni
Waldo Lydecker Paul Garrett
A Girl Jaime Wolf
Shelby Carpenter. Michael McDonald
Bessie Clary M. Beth Herner
Mrs. Dorgan Helena G. Clarkson
Olsen Duncan Heath

The living room of Laura Hunt's apartment in New York City

ACT I

An evening in August

ACT II

The next morning

ACT III

That night

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



The Cast

Todd O'Donnell (Mark McPherson) - Todd (a Santa Clara native) has been performing with local bay area theater companies for over a decade and has appeared in more than 25 plays. This is Todd's second play with the S.C. players and he would personally like to thank all the people for coming out and supporting the art of theater. Todd takes great pleasure in performing for family and friends and new friend's just like you reading this. Todd would like to dedicate his performance to his beloved Kira.

Derrick Diazoni (Danny Dorgan) - is a dance student at Mission and West Valley colleges looking to transfer for his BFA in Dance. A performer since birth, Derrick has taken part in countless musicals with CMTSJ and his high school, King's Academy, only recently branching out to Lyric Theatre, Sunnyvale Community Players and West Valley Light Opera. This past summer he enjoyed playing Ross in *Macbeth*, Cinderella's father in *Into the Woods* and a dancing carpet in the amateur premiere of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, all with Palo Alto Children's Theatre's summer stock. Derrick aspires to dance on a cruise line (look for him!) Or even Broadway (look out, world!). He is thrilled to be making his hometown performing debut with the Santa Clara Players, as well as with Great America this fall (if he is not 3000 miles away at school).

Paul Garrett (Waldo Lydecker) - This is Paul's second appearance at Santa Clara Players. He appeared last year as Tito in *Lend me a Tenor*". Paul says, "I love the intimacy of this venue, at Santa Clara Players Theater" and "I wish to thank everybody involved for allowing me the opportunity to grace this stage once again." Paul has appeared in several plays throughout the Valley during the last few years most notably in, *The Exonerated* at Santa Clara University in conjunction with San Jose City Lights Theater, *Queen of America* at San Jose City Lights and *Yellow Eyes* with San Jose Multicultural Artists Guild. I must also thank my Wife Shelly and Daughter Jacqueline for their total support along with all of my family and friends who constantly ask, "when's the next one"? Tally-Ho...

Jaime Wolf (A Girl) - has been acting since she was eight years old, at venues ranging from Marin to Stanford University, Cañada College, and West Valley College. Some of her favorite shows include: *West Side Story*, *Flip*, *the Wake of Jamey Foster*, *The Crucible*, and *Bad Habits*. Favorite roles include Collard Darnell (*Jamey Foster*), Lisa (*Flip*), Mary Warren (*The Crucible*), and April Pitt (*Bad Habits*). This is Jaime's first of what she hopes will be many more shows at Santa Clara Players! Jaime would like to thank her husband, Gary, for being so supportive during all of the shows she has done!

Michael McDonald (Shelby Carpenter) - Michael has been intensely studying acting for the last year and a half and is honored to be working with Matt and the Santa Clara Players. He has also appeared in *Servant of Two Masters* (Foothill

Community Theatre) and *The Taming of the Shrew* (Bus Barn Shakespeare in the Park). He dedicates this performance to his friend Justin.

M. Beth Herner (Bessie) - This will be Beth's third appearance with the Santa Clara Players in the past thirteen years, but her second time playing Bessie the maid. (The first time was with North Valley Players in Milpitas in 1993). Her first play here with SCP was as Mrs. Potts, the next door neighbor in in 1993 in *Picnic*. Then in 1999 she played Edith the psychiatrist in Neil Simon's *Jakes Women*. In between she has done several plays in the South Bay, most recently as Mrs. Frank in Northside Theater's *Diary of Ann Frank*. She wants to thank Matt Matthews for casting her in this part. And she would like to thank the cast and crew for their support and lots of laughs. Break a leg, guys.

Helena G. Clarkson (Mrs. Dorgan) - is ecstatic to be back on the boards at Santa Clara Players. She was seen last season as the Irish housekeeper in *The Insanity Case of Mrs. A. Lincoln* and as Maria in *Lend Me a Tenor*. Helena has performed all over the Bay Area including TheatreWorks, Festival Theatre Ensemble, Pear Avenue Theatre, City Lights, Shady Shakespeare, Busbarn, Palo Alto Players, Sunnyvale Community Players, Pacifica Spindrift Players, Menlo Players Guild - to name a few. She was most recently seen at Foothill College as Lily Mortar in their production of *The Children's Hour*. Helena would like to thank everyone in attendance for supporting live theater!!

Duncan Heath (Olsen) -Duncan Heath is delighted to participate in the role of Olsen in *Laura* with the Santa Clara Players. Born and raised in Connecticut, he enjoys a business career in Silicon Valley. Before moving to California, Duncan enjoyed dramatic roles in local Connecticut productions of Edward Albee's *Zoo Story* and Harold Pinter's *The Birthday Party* along with performing roles in musical revues featuring the music of George Cohan and Cole Porter.

Matt Matthews (Director) - Matt is very happy to be back at *Santa Clara Players* to direct *Laura*. He has always had a lot of fun directing for Santa Clara Players, most recently with *Tender Lies*, and before that, *Radio T.B.S.*, *On Golden Pond*, and others. When not directing, Matt might be found acting, singing, or directing a chorus somewhere. To finance his artistic endeavors, his day job is as a technical course developer for a telecommunications company. Matt wants to thank Jaime, Todd, Paul, Michael, Beth, Derrick, Helena, and Duncan for being talented actors, fun to work with, and wonderful people in their own rights. He also wants to thank Jim, Marian, and George for always being helpful and supportive and for being friends. Matt especially wants to thank his wife, Audrey, for her support and patience with his endeavors.

Director's Notes:

In the late 1940's, a movie was made based on our play, *Laura*. The movie was a good example of the film noir genre, and some people may remember it. If you are one of those people, do not expect to see that movie here. You are going to experience the intimacy that only live theatre can bring. In addition, we are always in color, not black and white. Our story is one of a killing and the intrigue that surrounds it. Someone has shotgunned Laura, and our hero, detective McPherson, is on the case. He spends a week in Laura's apartment trying to find clues, or even a reason for the killing, and concocts a mental image of the woman, mostly based on his fantasies around a prominently displayed portrait of her. As the story unfolds, we meet several interesting people who are part of Laura's life, and we find out that things are not always what they seem. The idea that a tough, intelligent, hard-nosed policeman can develop a romantic interest in what is no more than a painting of a face, an empty apartment, and the belongings of the lady, is part of what makes this play alluring. What happens when we think we could be in love with a dream person, then find out that the reality of their life is not as wonderful as our high-flown fantasies? And what is it about this particular lady that is so remarkably appealing to every man she encounters? That is the mystery wrapped within this mystery.

Santa Clara Players has made it possible for this director to be engaged by this wonderfully crafted story. I have also been fortunate enough to be blessed by a stellar cast, who will bring to life for you the "interesting people" in Laura's life. I want to thank Jim and Marian Narveson, George Doeltz, and the rest of the crew for their wonderful work in realizing this production. And most of all, I want to thank you, our patrons, for coming to see our play. We all want you to feel the attraction of our mystery lady, *Laura*.

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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