

South Valley Civic Theatre presents

Two Suites by Neil Simon

California Suite

Directed by Tom Hepner

8pm May 11, 19, 25, and June

2. 2pm matinees on May
19 and June 2, 2007

Plaza Suite

Directed by Steve Spencer

8pm May 12, 18, 26, and

June 1. 2pm matinees on
May 12 and May 26, 2007

Produced by Carol Harris
and Anne Hepner

Produced in arrangement
with Samuel French, Inc.

Morgan Hill
Community Playhouse
17090 Monterey Rd,
Morgan Hill

www.svct.org
408/842-SHOW



California Suite

Visitors from New York

Hannah Warren Laura Glasspool
Billy Warren Jim McCann

Visitors from Philadelphia

Marvin Michaels Jonathan Bass
Bunny Theresa Sage
Millie Michaels..... Jennifer Langford

Visitors from London

Sydney Nichols Bill Corneth
Diana Nichols..... Pat Cianci

Visitors from Chicago

Mort Hollender Dave Leon
Terry Neil Kevin Heath
Pat Simon Jen Leon
Gert Franklyn..... Kae Jenny-Spencer

Directors Note

What more can be said of Neil Simon? He is the master story teller! He strips relationships down to their underwear and leaves you with nothing but pure emotion and insight into the human condition.

Hopefully our production of *California Suite* will make you happy, sad and maybe just a little irritated at this conflagration of funny, sad and irritated characters whose only flaw is their reflection of all of us sitting in the audience.

Message from the President

Welcome to the fourth production of South Valley Civic Theatre's 2006–2007 Season. *Plaza Suite*, and *California Suite* are being performed on alternate days giving our audiences the opportunity to enjoy two plays by the most performed playwright of all time since Shakespeare, and undoubtedly the most commercially successful playwright in history.

The final show of this season will be Merideth Wilson's ever popular *The Music Man*, complete with pick-a-little ladies, an engaging barbershop quartet, and 76 trombones. *The Music Man* will open June 29 and run through July 14.

SVCT is a non-profit organization supported by ticket sales, donations and grants. We are a volunteer organization made up of community members of all ages and from all walks of life with a passion for the theater and committed to our vision of bringing quality theater to South County and beyond. Each season we produce five shows; a children's production; a teen production ; a family musical; and two adult shows, usually comedies. Our new season for 2007 – 2008 will include *Pinocchio* (Children's Show), *Little Shop Of Horrors* (Teen Show), *Arsenic And Old Lace*, *Nunsense*, and our holiday production of *Scrooge, The Musical*. Open auditions are held for all shows.

If you are a regular to our theater I would like to thank you for your continued support. If you have not done so already, please consider becoming a member of SVCT. Membership, in addition to helping SVCT financially, brings additional benefits including discounted tickets and voting privileges at our annual "Members Choice" awards. Season tickets for the 2007 – 2008 season are now available and make unique gifts for family and friends. Be sure to add your name to our mailing list in the lobby to guarantee receiving audition, performance and season ticket notices. We thank you for your patronage as an audience member and welcome and encourage you to become involved onstage as well as behind the scenes.

Now sit back, relax and be prepared to chuckle, laugh and perhaps shed a few tears.

Carol F. Harris

President, SVCT Board of Directors

Plaza Suite

Visitors from Mamaroneck

Bellhop	Jonathan Bass
Karen Nash	Jen Leon
Sam Nash	Kevin Heath
Waiter	Jennifer Langford
Jean McCormack	Kat Hepner

Visitors from Hollywood

Waiter	Jennifer Langford
Jesse Kiplinger	Jim McCann
Muriel Tate	Laura Glasspool

Visitors from Forest Hills

Norma Hubley	Pat Cianci
Roy Hubley	Dave Leon
Borden Eisler	Tim Hepner
Mimsey Hubley	Kat Hepner

Director's Note

Plaza Suite is not your typical Neil Simon play. Yes, it has the snappy dialogue filled with one liners that is so characteristic of Simon's writing, but this show is really three very different one-act plays tied together by their setting in the Plaza Hotel in New York. Two acts are not classic comedic plots, but the third is "full frontal" Neil Simon comedy (always leave 'em laughing). This presents a particular challenge to actors and directors. How do you mix comedy in situations that are not, on the surface, inherently funny? It is what all the greatest writers do, they grind comedy against tragedy to heighten the two and examine the complexities of human relationships. Will the audience feel free to chuckle at something funny in a situation where the dramatic tension is building? As a director, that will tell me if we have succeeded or not. *Plaza Suite* contains some of Neil Simon's most inspired and poignant writing and these talented actors have worked hard to bring it to life. Enjoy!

Production Staff

California Suite Director: Tom Hepner
Plaza Suite Director: Steve Spencer
Producers: Carol Harris & Anne Hepner
Stage Manager: Beth Dewey
Costume Design: Kae Jenny-Spencer
Lighting Design: Beric Dunn
Sound Design: Stephen Porter
Set Design: Steve Spencer
Artistic Design: Carol Harris
Box Office: Bruce & Renee O'Hara
Lobby Design: Terri Miles & Peggy Roberts
House Managers: Rich & Becky Kaiser
Master carpenter: Frank McGill
Photographer: Aimee Saul
Props: Marie Haluza & Loritta Johnson
Program Design: Zana Vartanian
Set Construction: Frank & Deanna McGill, Steve & Kae Spencer, Tom Hepner,
Jonathan Bass, Laura Glasspool, Terri Miles, Beth Dewey, Larry Tom, Rich &
Becky Kaiser, Scott Miles, Zana Vartanian

The producers wish to thank:

Rosso's Furniture, Out & About, Heabata Company

Producer's Notes

Hotel suites played a large part in playwright Neil Simon's life as he traveled extensively writing and premiering plays in various cities. They had a lasting effect on him and prompted him to write four suite works – *Plaza Suite*, *California Suite*, *London Suite*, and *Hotel Suite*.

In planning for this production we decided to present *Plaza Suite*, Mr. Simon's first compilation of one-act plays sharing a common setting (The Plaza Hotel in New York City), and *California Suite*, which contains four one-act playlets, each giving us a glimpse of various groups of guests in the same suite at the Beverly Hills Hotel at different times of the same year. Each play brings us heartfelt, insightful, and sometimes madcap portraits of widely divergent couples with vastly different dilemmas. In them Mr. Simon brings an unmistakable taste of real life to the stage, making us believe and allowing us to relate. We are able to laugh heartily at ourselves and others without guilt.

About the Actors

Jonathan Bass—Marvin Michaels (*California Suite*) **Bellhop** (*Plaza Suite*)

Jonathan is teacher at Del Buono Elementary School in Gilroy. He enjoys pretending he knows a little more about some things than his students. (He never fools them for long.) He especially enjoys playing pretend on stage. You may have seen Jonathan in recent years performing for Pintello Comedy Theater. He has also performed for Center Stage. Most recently, he played Andrew McNair in SVCT's production *1776*. Jonathan would like to thank his wife and two children for their support of his theater endeavors.

Pat Cianci—Diane Nichols (*California Suite*)

These are Pat's third & fourth SVCT Productions, alternating roles between a New York "Mother of the Bride" in *Plaza Suite* and an English Actress who mixes it up with some of Hollywood's best people in *California Suite*.

Pat wants to thank her family and friends for their encouraging support and of course to Joe Levine who "paid for everything!" Enjoy the show!

Bill Corneth—Sidney Nichols (*California Suite*)

Bill has been performing in local theatre since 1980, and this is his 37th show. This is the third time, and the third different vignette Bill has performed in *California Suite*. And each show has been 10 years apart. The first time, Bill was in *Visitors from Chicago* in 1987. The second time was *Visitors from New York* in 1997. And this time he is in *Visitors from London*, in 2007. He's thinking that he may have worn out his welcome at this hotel, and possibly might not be back in 2017.

Laura Glasspool—Hannah Warren (*California Suite*) **Muriel Tate** (*Plaza Suite*)

Laura is a native Gilroyan, born and raised and has been involved in local theater for the past 10 years. Initially, her involvement was limited to the backstage aspects of theater, beginning with jobs as House Manager and Props Coordinator and working her way up to Producer of South Valley Civic Theater's wildly successful 2000 production of *Oklahoma!* and then again in 2002, producing SVCT's *The Wiz*. Shortly after her stint working behind the scenes, Laura was bitten by the acting bug and decided to give it a shot in front of the curtain. Laura has performed in many productions with South Valley Civic Theater, Odyssey Theater and Pintello Comedy Theater. Some of her favorite roles were Elvira in SVCT's *Blithe Spirit*, Cassie Cooper in PCT's *Rumors* as well as Sally Stern in another PCT production, *The Supporting Cast*. Laura is thrilled to be playing the roles of Hannah Warren in *California Suite* and Muriel Tate in *Plaza Suite*.

About the Actors

Kevin Heath—Terry (*California Suite*) **Sam Nash** (*Plaza Suite*)

Kevin just finished a phenomenally successful run of *Boeing, Boeing* with Pintello Comedy Theatre and is pleased to be back for another SVCT show. He was last seen on this stage in *Inspecting Carol*. An avid actor since birth, Kevin's first words were "I need better lighting" and "Line!". He would like to thank Marion Pintello and the late Evelyne Thomas (his original Director for this show 15 years ago, back east), for their friendship, direction and the ability to make him a better actor and person over the years.

Kat Hepner—Jean McCormack (*California Suite*) **Mimsey Hubley** (*Plaza Suite*)

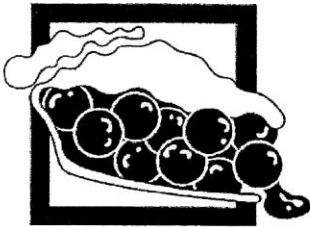
Kat is excited to be in *Plaza Suite*, one of her favorite shows of all time. She hopes you enjoy it!

Tim Hepner—Borden Eisler (*Plaza Suite*)

Tim is pleased to be working with SVCT again. The last time he graced the SVCT stage was in *Tom Sawyer* (1988). He would like to thank his unbelievably talented and beautiful wife for being so supportive (and for writing his bio). Much love to Caleb. Enjoy the show!

Jennifer Langford—Millie Michaels (*California Suite*) **Waiter** (*Plaza Suite*)

Her most recent appearance was as Dolores in *You Can't Get There from Here* at the Pintello Comedy Theater. Other credits include *Right Bed, Wrong Husband* (Pintello Comedy Theater), *Honeymoon to Die For* (Mystery By Design) and *Lend Me a Tenor* (South Valley Civic Theater). Huge thanks to this creative & fun team of cast members, directors, and producers. Favorite Credits: husband, Rob and sons, Kyle & Dylan and Mom, Shirley.



Cherry Pie Graphics, Inc.

**Cherry Pie Graphics, Inc.
is proud to support
South Valley Civic Theatre's
2006–2007 season.**

(408) 847-2585

About the Actors

Dave Leon—Mort Hollander (California Suite) Roy Hubley (Plaza Suite)

Dave has been involved with SVCT since 2001, when he made his debut in *The Foreigner*. Since then, he has been seen in *My Fair Lady*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Honk!* and *Inspecting Carol* for SVCT. Dave has also appeared onstage in Pintello Comedy Theater's *Nobody's Perfect* and *The Foursome*. Most recently, Dave co-produced SVCT's teen show, *Schoolhouse Rock*. Dave would like to thank his wife Jen for always being there for him, his family (hi, Ma!) and the audiences who came out to see the show. That means you...yes, you!

Jen Leon—Pat (California Suite) Karen Nash (Plaza Suite)

This is Jen's 2nd show with SVCT, having previously performed as Queen the Cat in *Honk!* She was also on stage with Pintello Comedy Theatre's *Nobody's Perfect*. In "real Life" Jen has begun certification to become a massage therapist and she runs her own Passion Parties business for women. Jen would like to thank her husband, Dave, for allowing her to drive him insane daily and everyone else for putting up with her favorite word, "LINE!"

Kae Jenny-Spencer—Gert (California Suite)

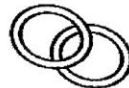
Kae has been seen in SVCT's productions of *Gypsy*, *Ten Little Indians* and *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*. Other productions include *Fools* (Pintello Comedy Theater) and *Quilters* (Odyssey Theater). Last season she directed SVCT's production of *Inspecting Carol*. She also co-produced and co-directed *Moon Over Buffalo*. Kae has been costume designer for many SVCT productions and her favorites include *Lend Me A Tenor*, *Grease*, *Treasure Island* and *Pirates of Penzance*. Kae is a Speech Pathologist for Morgan Hill Unified School District and in her free time has a Pampered Chef business. Thank you family and friends for your love and support. Enjoy the shows!



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About the Actors

Jim McCann—Billy Warren (*California Suite*) Jesse Kiplinger (*Plaza Suite*)

This is Jim's first SVCT production, after 10 years of working off and on with Odyssey Theatre. There Jim's favorite roles included Otto in *Yours, Anne*, Avram in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and Senator Phogbound in last summer's *L'il Abner*. Behind the scenes he has designed many OTC flyers and programs, and even played in the band for *Quilters*. He is excited about acting in these great Neil Simon pieces with such a talented group of actors, directors and production staff – but would mostly like to thank his wife for her continued patience and encouragement.

Theresa Sage—Bunny (*California Suite*)

Ten years ago, Theresa Sage had the fabulous opportunity to play Bunny in *California Suite*, so she was thrilled to be able to join this cast in a repeat performance! When she is not busy with play performances, she is a social studies teacher at Sobrato High School in Morgan Hill. She is so blessed to have family and friends that have supported her in this adventure – especially her husband and three children that were so accommodating during rehearsals. Her guide dog, Hilda, was very helpful too!



Dance Unlimited

Advanced Theatre Camp

Auditions: May 12 and May 19, 1-4pm
at Dance Unlimited, Morgan Hill (ages 8 & up)

Camp runs June 26th through July 27
Performances July 27th and 28th

Directed by Lori Paolini
Partial Scholarships are available

15750 Vineyard Blvd., Morgan Hill, CA 95037 (408) 776-0303

About the Staff

Tom Hepner—Director (*California Suite*)

Tom's local thespian career began in 1984 with Gilroy Community Theatre's *South Pacific*. Since then he has worked with South Valley Civic Theatre, Pintello Comedy Theatre, San Jose Civic Light Opera and Center Stage. His favorite roles include Johnny Cantone (1940's *Radio Hour*), Elwood P. Dowd (*Harvey*), George Hay (*Moon Over Buffalo*) and Rooster from last year's *Annie*.

This is Tom's second directing assignment and he has enjoyed the cast, crew and production staff immensely. He hopes you enjoy the show

Steve Spencer—Director (*Plaza Suite*)

Steve has been active in the theater scene in South County since 1994, first with SVCT and then with Center Stage in Gilroy and Pintello Comedy Theater. He has served on the Board of Directors of SVCT both as a general member and as President. Steve has earned SVCT Best Actor awards for *Bleacher Bums* and *The Foreigner* and a Best Director award for *Wash Your Troubles Away*. His acting credits include *Death Trap*, the long suffering director in *Noises Off*, the trusty sidekick in *Run For Your Wife*, Charlie Baker in *The Foreigner*, Joseph and the... *Dream Coat*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, and most recently as Larry in *Inspecting Carol* in 2005. Steve's directing credits include *Gypsy*, *Run For Your Wife*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Laughter On The 23rd Floor* and *Moon Over Buffalo* (co-directed with his talented wife Kae). Steve would like to thank the exceptionally talented cast of *Plaza Suite* for sharing this experience with him, but most of all he thanks his wife Kae and his daughters Malia and Alika for being the solid rock upon which his life is founded.



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