

The Cemetery Club

DIRECTED BY ANNETTE SEE

by
Ivan Menchell

*Learning to
live and love
after loss*



@Sun
City
Players
Community
Theater.org

The Cemetery Club is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

Director's Notes

I truly am excited to be the director of today's show, *The Cemetery Club*. It is a story of three good friends who have known each other for over 20 years during which they traveled with their husbands to many places and now, as widows, do everything together. I saw this show many years ago and it made me laugh, cry and think how wonderful friendship can be for all of us. I hope each of you can find something of yourself in each of these wonderful, loving characters. While there are Jewish practices you may not be familiar with as told in the story, the universal themes of friendship, love and loss are to be shared by all of us.

Director
Annette
See



CAST OF THE CEMETERY CLUB



Celeste Hyland (Ida)

Celeste has been involved in many SCPCT productions as a performer or as a backstage crew member. She has appeared in *Nunsense* as Sister Mary Leo, and *Broadway on 107th Avenue*. Being committed to theater education, she is co-facilitating members' meetings that focus on the elements of theater. Acting in *The Cemetery Club* provides her with another opportunity to help tell the story of how women support each other through the challenges and joys of life.

Patty Mason (Lucille)

Patty has performed most of her life. Her first role was as an angel and her current role is as a widow! She has directed, produced, chaired publicity, and served on boards, including being president. Her favorite roles are Mother Superior in *Nunsense*, Annie in *Annie Get Your Gun*; and Gert in *70 Girls 70*. She sings with American Lutheran Church, Royal Oaks Chapel Singers and Sun City Women's Chorus. On with the show!



Nancy Larsen Chapin (Doris)

Nancy first starred in *Red Carnations*, playing opposite junior high's most popular boy. She knew all the screaming was for him, yet continued acting and pursued her Theater Arts degree at SJSU. She has lived in Sun City for six years. She loved playing diva Athena in SCPCT's *Suite Surrender* and now Doris in *The Cemetery Club*. Nancy appreciates all the talented and skilled volunteers who give their devotion to entertainment for our community.

Greg Engstrom (Sam)

Greg is a veteran of SCPCT and has acted in ten plays and directed *Making God Laugh* and *Over the River and Through the Woods*. He was the male lead in *Mary, Mary* and played the role of Cosme McMoon in *Glorious!*. Greg would like to thank all our team members who have donated their time and skills to make *The Cemetery Club* and all our plays a success.



Elizabeth Reaves (Mildred)

A native Phoenician, Elizabeth knew the moment she stepped across the threshold into her kindergarten class at Madison Meadows Elementary that she was destined to act. Professional dancing, singing, modeling, stage, studio audio book and television commercial acting ensued for 25 years after graduating from USIU, a performing arts university. She became a talent agent then the Entertainment Coordinator at MGM Grand, Las Vegas. Now coming full circle, Elizabeth is back to fulfilling her "actor's" destiny.

Annette See (Director)

Annette is no stranger to theater, having been a part of it since being a junior in high school back in Michigan. She has acted in over 40 shows including dramas, comedies, and musicals. She joined SCPCT in 2016 and has served as president, vice president, stage manager and Play Selection Committee head. Her most recent role was in *Suite Surrender* as "the lady in the closet!" She wishes her wonderful cast enormous success.



Setting

The time is mid Autumn

The place is Queens New York

Acts and Scenes

Act I Sc 1 - Ida's living room

Act I Sc 2 - Cemetery, same day

Act I Sc 3 - Ida's living room, same day

Act I Sc 4 - Cemetery, a few weeks later

Act II Sc 1 - Ida's living room, two weeks later

Act II Sc 2 - Ida's living room, 2 AM the next morning

Act II Sc 3 - Ida's living room, later that morning

Act II Sc 4 - Cemetery, weeks later



THE CEMETERY CLUB



Production Team

Director	Annette See
Stage Manager	Dan See
Set Design	Annette See, Herb Hyland
Set Building	Herb Hyland, Jim Pace, Tad Daughters, Jim Balk, Tom Swenson, Greg Engstrom, Teena Cunningham, Dan See
Props	Jean Balk, John Paul Reaves, Jim Balk
Line Coach	Pat Cook
Costumes	Lesley Watson
Make-up	Sharlene MacPhee
Dresser	Sunny Emerson
Sound	Mike Dvorak
Lights	Tad Daughters
Publicity & Hebrew Writing	Rhonda Krinsky, Norman Krinsky
Program Design/Print	Jan Murphy, Rosie Swain
Photography	Sun City Photography Club, Dan See
Box Office Managers	Laura Kuchler, Rosie Swain
House Manager	Bobby Havens



**Cast and stagehands for the upcoming Sun City
Players Community Theater production of
*The Cemetery Club***

Led by director Annette See are props managers Jean Balk (in yellow chair) and John Paul Reaves, Nancy Chapin as Doris (in white chair), Patty Mason as Lucille and Celeste Hyland as Ida (on the couch), with Greg Engstrom as Sam and Elizabeth Reaves as Mildred (in the background).

We thank these members for their help with the production.

House Staff Volunteers

Carolyn Andrews, Jim Balk, Nancy Dearborn, Sarah Elliott, Glen Grant, Teri Grant, Alan Hanser, Cindy Hanser, Norman Krinsky, Debbie Kruep, Mark Kruep, Marilyn LeClair, Sharlene MacPhee, Marilyn Moore, Jan Murphy, Debbie Paddock, Anna Thompson, and Wally Walston

Ticket Volunteers

Sunny Emerson, Larry Freeman, Terri Grant, Cindy Hanser, Sheila Harmell, Bobby Havens, Siobhan Henry, Linda Liang, Bill Loslo, Tammy Ohm, Lil Scharenbroich, Joan Serbin, Barbara Snyder, Tom Swenson, and Anna Thompson

Special thanks to:
Lutheran Thrift Shop
Costume Connection



Line Coach Pat Cook and Stage Manager Dan See



Sound Tech Mike Dvorak & Sound Engineer Tad Daughters

Production History of Sun Cities Players Community Theater

1964 Vaudeville Show; The Red Mill; Thanks Awfully

1965 La Senorita

1966 Orpheus Male Chorus of Phoenix

1967 Breath of Spring

1968 Poor Little Orphan Girl; See How They Run

1969 Caught in the Villain's Web

1970 Susan Slept Here; Come Blow Your Horn

1971 Oh, Men! Oh, Women!; The Girls in 509

1972 Curse You, Jack Dalton; Gazebo

1973 Born Yesterday; An Evening of Three One Act Plays

1974 The Silver Whistle; Sheep on the Runway

1975 The Curious Savage; White Sheep of the Family

1976 The Mousetrap; Guys and Dolls; Bicentennial Pageant – Gloryland

1977 The Mouse That Roared; Desk Set

1978 Damn Yankees; The Second Time Around

1979 My Three Angels; South Pacific

1980 The Best Man; Witness for the Prosecution

1981 Kiss Me Kate; Absence of a Cello

1982 Catch Me If You Can; Oklahoma!

1983 Two Blind Mice; Solid Gold Cadillac

1984 The Pajama Game; Send Me No Flowers

1985 Silver Jubilee Review-Best of the Musicals; Caught in Del Webb's Web; Harvey; Kismet

1986 Never Too Late; Separate Tables

1987 See How They Run; Little Mary Sunshine

1988 Squabbles; The Prisoner of Second Avenue

1989 Annie Get Your Gun; A Bad Year for Tomatoes

1990 Anything Goes; When We Are Married

1991 The Robin Hood Caper; Run for Your Wife

1992 Prescription Murder; Funny Girl

1993 Home Free; Rumors

1994 Fiddler on the Roof; A Gown for His Mistress

1995 The Sloth; One More Time; Carousel



1996 Luxury Cruise; Divorce Southern Style

1997 Rodgers & Hart: A Celebration; Angel Street

1998 The Second Time Around; My Fair Lady

1999 Exit Who?; Squabbles

2000 Oklahoma!; Here Lies Jeremy Troy

2001 Steel Magnolias; Brigadoon

2002 Blithe Spirit; The Odd Couple (Female Version)

2003 Guys and Dolls; Morning's at Seven

2004 The Cemetery Club; The Pajama Game

2005 Over the River and Through the Woods; Wildcat

2006 Sylvia; Web of Murder; Chapter Two

2007 Camelot; Office Hours; The Butler Did It

2008 70 Girls 70; Daddy's Dyin', Who's Got the Will?; Night Watch

2009 Social Security; George M!; 37 Postcards

2010 Side by Side by Sondheim; Our Town;

To Grandmother's House We Go

2011 Once Upon a Mattress; The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wild;

Send Me No Flowers

2012 Two by Two; Night of January 16th; A Bad Year for Tomatoes

2013 South Pacific; Moon Over Buffalo; Squabbles

2014 Fiddler on the Roof; Glorious!; Mixed Nuts

2015 Playing the Palace; Three Murders and It's Only Monday;

Mary, Mary

2016 Murder Most Fouled-Up; Annie Get Your Gun; Dixie Swim Club

2017 Chapter Two; A Bag Full of Miracles; Blithe Spirit

2018 Making God Laugh; Nonsense; Southern Fried Funeral

2019 Over the River and Through the Woods, Phantom of the Country Opera,

Gladys in Wonderland

2020 Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church,

Broadway on 107th Avenue

2021 Suite Surrender

2022 Murder on the Menu, Don't Talk to the Actors

2023 The Curious Savage, Old Hams, Ripcord

2024 The Cemetery Club



***The Cemetery Club* is Sun City Players' Next Production**

Printed in The Sun City Independent newspaper on January 31, 2024

Sun City Players Community Theater is currently in rehearsal for ***The Cemetery Club***. It is a thought-provoking comedy by Ivan Menchell. The play will be directed by Annette See, who is no stranger to patrons of the theater community in Sun City. She has not only performed in many shows, the latest of which was in ***Suite Surrender***, but also has worked backstage as manager and props/costume organizer. Annette has served in all the top positions of the theater's executive board and has been active as a member of the play selection committee. The play centers around the friendship and love among three female friends who have known each other as married wives, but who now sustain each other as widows. You will hear all about the places they visited together and all the fun they enjoyed before becoming widows. Through their stories of family, friendship, children, grandchildren and the special bond they share, you will be able to relate to them. You will recognize how all our lives change and can be enriched as we grow older.



“I am very excited to be directing my first show at Sun City Players Community Theater,” stated Annette. “When I first saw ***The Cemetery Club*** many years ago, I placed it on my list of plays I wished to direct. It made me laugh, cry, and fall in love with both the story and the characters.” Annette is truly honored to work with five wonderful actors and a talented production team in bringing this play to the stage in March.



The Cemetery Club: Intro to the Actors

Published in The Sun City Independent newspaper on February 14, 2024

You were introduced to Annette See, the director of ***The Cemetery Club***, in a previous article. Now it is time to meet the three featured women actors in this Sun City Players Community Theater production. The play is centered around three senior citizen widows who meet regularly to visit their husbands' graves. They each have different takes on the significance of their doing so.

Lucille is tired of it and is flagrantly out to catch a new man. This role is performed by Patty Mason, who is certainly not a stranger to theater goers. You have seen her as Mother Superior in ***Nunsense*** and as Annie in ***Annie Get Your Gun***. She also played the lead of Rosie O'Grady in ***Playing the Palace***. Patty envisions Lucille as her alter-ego. According to Mason, "she affords me the opportunity to 'cut loose' and work on my character development. I will enjoy portraying someone I have never been in real life." Outside of acting, Patty has served as president and vice president of the executive board, helped with sets and props, as well as been a dresser behind the scenes and an usher at performances.

Ida is sweet-tempered and is ready to begin a new life. She is portrayed by Celeste Hyland, who most recently was the stage manager for ***Ripcord***. Celeste has acted in ***Blithe Spirit***, ***Broadway on 107 th*** and ***Nunsense***, in which she was Sister Leo, her most favorite role. Celeste sees Ida as a person who cares about her friends, loves her family, and is trying to bring stability to the three women's friendship. She is looking to move on with her life, meet new people, and possibly date. Hyland also served as stage manager for last season's ***Murder on the Menu*** and ***Old Hams***. Celeste's dream role would be to portray Dolly Levi in ***Hello Dolly***, "as she is as high energy as I am."

Nancy Chapin is cast as Doris, who is priggish and judgmental, and is the third member of ***The Cemetery Club***. Nancy likens herself to Doris, whom she feels is more matter of fact and a defender of her standards. "I treasure true friends and I am loyal, just the same way that Doris remains with Lucille and Ida." Nancy last appeared on stage as Athena in ***Suite Surrender***. This was a role which allowed her to show her expressive nature, since she was able to move about the stage with grand gestures and enthusiasm. Chapin enjoys performing in plays that are diverse with intense emotions. Nancy has been vocal in speaking up at RCSC meetings and in writing letters to newspapers advocating for Sun City's long overdue theater upgrade. She has also supported the theater group by ushering, ticket selling, set painting and some playwriting.

The Cemetery Club is a poignant mix of comedy and drama, reminding us to cherish the past while embracing the future.



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The Cemetery Club: The Other Actors

Published in The Sun City Independent newspaper on February 21, 2024

Three Jewish widows accompany one another every month to the local cemetery where their husbands are buried. These three women comprise an informal club with its own rules. A widowed butcher, Sam, comes into their lives and begins to alter their routine. He then brings a fourth widow, Mildred, into the picture, as they all go off to witness the fifth marriage of yet another widowed friend.

Playing the relaxed character role of Sam the butcher is Greg Engstrom, who has returned to the Sun City stage after a four-year hiatus. Engstrom comfortably fits the part of Sam, whom he envisions as kind, considerate, helpful, and nostalgic. According to Greg, "Sam is shyer than me and is business polite. He would never try to insult anyone, a virtue that I lack sometimes."

Engstrom has not only performed in ten past Players' productions dating back to 2012, but he has also directed two plays. His favorite acting role was that of Cosme McMoon in ***Glorious!*** "especially since the character was so unlike me." Greg has served as president of the executive board, ushered at many performances, worked with both set building and backstage crews, and was very much instrumental in initially starting the Wednesday Clubhouse workshops.

Mildred, who is played by Elizabeth Reaves, knows she does not belong with the other three women, but is an excellent contrast to them. Reaves, a newcomer to Sun City Players, is just as happy and grateful to be cast in this part as Mildred is to be invited by Sam to attend the wedding.

Reaves, who recently moved to Sun City from Las Vegas, has danced professionally, and acted in local, regional, national, and international commercials. She has even performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. Her favorite acting role was as Gladys in ***The Pajama Game***. Her dream character would be to play a femme fatale in a radio murder mystery play.

It is still not too late to reserve your seats for this funny and moving play about the true meaning of friendship.

The Backbone of *The Cemetery Club*

Published in The Sun City Independent newspaper on March 6, 2024

A theatrical production would not be complete without the efforts of three significant, behind-the-scenes positions, those of stage manager, lighting, and sound designer. The stage manager helps to coordinate the work to prepare the show for the stage. This job requires technical knowledge, organization, attention to detail, a passion for the performing arts, and the ability to work in a team environment. The lighting designer collaborates with the director to determine the initial lighting plan. Without the proper lighting, the production would be severely impacted, if not impossible. Intertwining creativity with technical expertise, the sound designer will analyze scripts and collaborate with the director, stage manager and lighting designer to produce the desired sound effects in the theater.

Dan See, the stage manager for ***The Cemetery Club***, envisions his role “as a problem solver for all issues during the run of the show. I ensure that everything runs smoothly and as planned by the director.” See has been a very active participant with Sun City Players not only as a stage manager, but also as an actor, singer and director.

“I really enjoy directing as I look at it as the creative process of bringing the playwright’s work from the page to the stage through the art of people. By doing so, I can offer a piece of entertainment to the audience,” says See.

Tad Daughters will be handling the stage and house lighting for ***The Cemetery Club***. According to Daughters, “lighting helps set the mood for the action in the play, in addition to letting the audience know when the performance is about to start and end.”

Daughters has been a stalwart member of Sun City Players, having acted in 19 plays, sometimes portraying multiple roles. He has also helped with set construction, set painting, play production, stage crew, ticket selling, ushering and membership. He is content “to take on whatever task is needed in a production to make sure that the play is a success.” Daughters is currently serving on the executive board.

Mike Dvorak started providing sound design for Sun City Players in 2016, when he was working for RCSC in the entertainment division. He joined the theater group at that time. Dvorak now continues to offer his services during his retirement years. He is responsible for looking over the equipment, checking connections, maintaining sound quality, and coordinating with the lighting designer and stage manager.

Dvorak began his “theater” career in college as a broadcasting major. In fact, he deejayed at one time for one of the top 50 radio markets in Michigan. He also has the distinction of being one of the youngest city mayors in the state of Michigan. “I was always great at public speaking, but never tried my hand at acting because I could not memorize lines,” stated Dvorak.