

The Curtain Theatre presents

Molière's

The Miser

Directed by Kim Bromley



2:00 PM

Old Mill Park Amphitheatre
Mill Valley

Saturdays, Sundays,
and Labor Day Monday

August 19th to
September 10th



curtaintheatre.org



PLAYERS in alphabetical order:

BINDAVOINE, MR. SIMON, & MAGISTRATE	Javier Alarcon
VALÈRE	Steve Beecroft
LA FLÈCHE	Nelson Brown
FROSINE	Heather Cherry
LA MERLUCHE	Daniel Helmer
ÉLISE	Isabelle Grimm
CLÉANTE	Nick Moore
MARIANNE	Krystina Morrill
ANSELME	Tom Reilly
MASTER JACQUES	Bruce Vieira
MISTRESS CLAUDE	Georgie Craig and Vicki Siegel
HARPAGON	Grey Wolf

DRAMATURGE'S NOTE:

Molière was the chief satirist of 17th century France. Fully aware of his predecessors - classical theater, Shakespeare, Italian commedia dell'arte - he pointed his long and probing finger at the absurdities of government and the life of the rich. He made his audiences laugh at the excesses of Louis XIV (the Sun King) who drained the country's coffers while building Versailles and mounting wars against his neighbors. He nailed those human weaknesses that were as evident and flagrant then as they are now: hypocrisy, self-interest, avarice, authoritarianism.

In *The Miser* we find a man in love not just with his wealth but with money itself, the gold and silver coins that he hides away in his 'little' casket. Harpagon, played originally by Molière himself, is a man whose abuse of his power affects everyone he comes into contact with, including his two children, the galant Cléante and the secretive Élise. With the help of the eternal grifter Frosine, Harpagon plans to marry Marianne, a girl more than forty years his junior (ah, *plus ça change*), not knowing that his son Cléante also plans to marry her. Trouble ensues, and the conflicts and contradictions that emerge tell a story of human folly as sharp and lonely now as it was four centuries ago.

-Peter Bradbury



PRODUCTION

DIRECTOR	Kim Bromley
CHOREOGRAPHER/PRODUCER	Steve Beecroft
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Don Clark
SET DESIGN	Steve Coleman
COSTUME DESIGN	Adriana Gutierrez
STAGE MANAGER	Diane Pickell-Gore
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Lisa Immel
HOUSE MANAGERS	Nic Meredith, Angelica McManus
DRAMATURGE	Peter Bradbury
PUBLICITY	Pat Meier-Johnson
PHOTOGRAPHY	Russell Johnson
POSTER DESIGN	Mark Shepard
PROPERTIES	Michele Delattre, Vicki Siegel
SET BUILDING MANAGER	Eugene DeChristopher



BAND

Don Clark (guitar); Michele Delattre (concertina);
Hal Hughes (fiddle); Alice Montgomery (flute)



DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

If you subscribe to the notion that laughter is the best medicine, then Moliere was one of the great healers of his day. Ironic, considering the disdain he felt for the medical profession (*The Doctor In Spite of Himself*, *The Imaginary Invalid*). His ability to skewer the foibles of humanity is put to no better use than in *The Miser*. The satirical Harpagon possesses keen resonances to this very day. But let's not dwell on now. Sit back, relax, enjoy the redwoods, the late 17th Century and the antics of one of the finest casts with whom I've had the pleasure of working.

-Kim Bromley

THE COMPANY

Javier Alarcon (Bindavoine, Mr. Simon & Magistrate) is grateful to return to the Curtain Theatre as a member of this wonderful cast. Javier performed as Lord Capulet in the Curtain Theatre's production of *Romeo and Juliet* some years ago. Known for his rugged good looks and charming manners, Javier has been a part of the community theater scene in Marin for over a decade. He would like to thank the audience for supporting live theatre and must thank his critical wife, Erika, for all her support and input.

Steve Beecroft (producer/choreographer/Valère) is a Curtain regular. Previous roles include Caliban in *The Tempest*, Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Tranio in *Taming of the Shrew* and Cookie in *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, for which he won a SFBATCC award for best featured actor in a musical. Steve also does solo concerts and recently directed and performed the role of Jean Valjean in a concert version of *Les Misérables*. Thanks to the always creative Curtain team. And thanks to you for supporting theatre in beautiful Old Mill Park.

Peter Bradbury (dramaturge - from the French or German, mid-19th century, originally from the Greek dramaturgos [drama worker]) started following Curtain Theatre when his wife Heather, the better part of him, was cast as the melancholy Jacques in *As You Like It*. He kept turning up to rehearsals and couldn't resist talking to cast and crew so they gave him a title.

Kim Bromley (director) has a BA in Theater Arts and an MA in film production. She directed *Sylvia*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Diary of Adam and Eve*, *Urinetown* (Best Director nomination BATCC), *The Last Five Years* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* at Novato Theater Company. Most recently, she directed *Next to Normal* (Best Director nomination TBA) and *Into the Woods* (Best ensemble nomination BATCC) in co-productions with Theatre-at-Large and The Novato Theater Company. Both productions were re-mounted at Spreckels Performing Arts Center. Kim has directed *The Boys Next Door* and *Old Money* at Ross Valley Players as well as seven new works for RVP's RAW series. Kim is a playwright, actress and pitch consultant for After August Entertainment, currently developing content for new media markets.

Nelson Brown (La Flèche) is elated to be making his Curtain Theatre debut. He has previously performed in the Bay Area with improv troupe "I Heard

Chicken, Thank You.” He can also be seen in the short films *Too Late*, *Call Back*, and *The Follower* from Side Films. By day, Nelson enjoys bringing characters to life in another medium as an animator at Lucasfilm. He would like to thank the exceptional cast and crew of the Curtain for welcoming him in.

Heather Cherry (Frosine). Following a stint as men and animals, Heather is thrilled to play a human female. Roles with Curtain have included Dromio of Syracuse in last year’s *Comedy of Errors*, and Grumio in *Shrew*. She has played Trincula, Beatrice, Mistress Page, and Jacques (all with Curtain), Snug/Lion in Shoebox Shakespeare’s *Midsummer*, and the Widow in *All’s Well That Ends Well* at Marin Shakes. Next up: Titania in Theater of Others’ *Midsummer Night’s Dream*, directed by Curtain alum Alison Sacha Ross. Love and thanks to PB and CC!

Don Clark (music director/band) has taken part in seventeen of the Curtain’s eighteen summer shows. A recovering journalist, he regularly collaborates on music with spouse Michele Delattre; both play in the Curtain band along with Alice Montgomery (flute) and Hal Hughes (fiddle). For *The Miser*, he and Hal sought out and composed music with a French flair.

Steve Coleman (set designer) is a longtime artist in Mill Valley and award winning set designer. He is known for his loving, often fantastical creations of everything from small models to the elegant reborn stage at the 142 Throckmorton Theater. He is a founding member of the Curtain Theatre.

Georgie Craig (Mistress Claude) is delighted to return to The Curtain as Dame Claude. Georgie has been in such previous Curtain productions as *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *As You Like It*. When she’s not indulging in her love of theater, Georgie can be found acting in Investigation Discovery’s reenactment series. Her day job is as a substitute teacher in Marin schools, where performance experience comes in very handy. Georgie is grateful to her husband, Keith, and daughter, Miranda, for allowing her to have this adventure.

Michele Delattre (band) is a founding member of the Curtain Theatre where she has worn many hats. She acted in all the earliest productions and directed *As You Like It*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Tempest*, and the library’s staged reading of *A Winter’s Tale*. She particularly enjoys playing in the band with her husband, Don Clark. Thanks to this year’s wonderful director Kim Bromley and the hard-working company for their many talents, and to our audience for sharing in the fun!

Isabelle Grimm (Élise) is thrilled to return to the Curtain Theatre after last summer's production of *The Comedy of Errors*. A Bay Area native, she received her BFA in Theatre Performance from Chapman University and recently returned from Shakespeare & Company's Month-Long Intensive in Lenox, Massachusetts. Locally, she has worked with Marin Shakespeare Company (*Cymbeline*, *Richard III*, *Twelfth Night*), Theatre Lunatico (*Macbeth*), Theater of Others (*Cymbeline*), Sonoma Arts Live (*I Hate Hamlet*), and Novato Theater Company (*Dancing at Lughnasa*, *The Cagebirds*, *Rumors*). Follow her to the Barn this fall for Ross Valley Players' production of *The Game's Afoot*. For more information, please visit her website: isabellegrimm.com

Adriana Gutierrez (costume designer) has dressed actors all over Marin with Stapleton Theater Company, Novato Theater Company, Ross Valley Players, Marin Musical Theater and various film and television projects.

Daniel Helmer (Le Merluche), now a veteran of Curtain productions, has joined again to play a servant of the ever greedy miser. Daniel has played a wide variety of roles ranging from an adventurous sword fighter to a mini mobster of Syracuse. When Daniel is not on the stage, he enjoys drawing and reading some rather dark novels by Stephen King.

Hal Hughes (band) has worked with music and theater in the Bay Area since the 1970s, with Tumbleweed, Overtone Theater, Nightletter Theater, Subterranean Shakespeare, Word for Word, Backyard Beckett, and others. He's recently been playing lots of Breton and Swedish tunes. He's celebrating having written his eighth Curtain Theatre bio. Voila!

Nic Meredith (front of house manager) brings unfettered enthusiasm and charm to the role matched only by his inexperience and lack of co-ordination. His only experience on the stage was as a young woman in the school play back in his native England, but at least he has kept his nice accent. Coming from a long line of skinflints and pick pockets, you'd better count your change twice when buying coffee and snacks at the break.

Alice Montgomery (band) has been part of the Curtain since its first production in 2000. She has accompanied for Virago theatre as well as several productions for Actors Ensemble in Berkeley including Vicki Siegel's *Hot Day in Ephesus* and Walter Halsey Davis' *Panhandle*. She teaches piano and flute in Oakland and Piedmont.

Nick Moore (Cléante) is thrilled to make his debut at Curtain Theatre. Nick recently appeared in: *Everything That's Beautiful* at The New Conservatory Theatre Center; *Peter and the Starcatcher* at Marin Onstage; *Twelfth Night* and *Othello* at Marin Shakespeare Company; and *Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *A Christmas Carol* at Novato Theater Company. When he's not performing, Nick is either studying acting at College of Marin or managing social media for Novato Theater Company!

Krystina Morrill (Marianne) discovered her passion for the performing arts through 14 years of dance training at Marin Ballet. She is beyond excited to be in her first ever play and is so happy to have the experience with the wonderful Curtain Theatre. Thank you to friends and family for their endless love and support!

Diane Pickell-Gore (stage manager) is happy to be back at Curtain Theatre for her seventh summer! She previously stage managed *Comedy of Errors*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Tempest*, *King Stag*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and two productions of *Return to the Forbidden Planet*. She has also stage managed for Marin On Stage, Marin Baroque, Ross Valley Players, Novato Theater Company, and Lorraine Hansberry Theatre . . . and on Sunday mornings can be found "stage managing" services at Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church in Corte Madera.

Tom Reilly (Anselme) is delighted to be in his fifth Curtain Theatre production, having appeared in *As You Like It*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *The Comedy of Errors*. In the past several years, he has worked with The Piedmont Theater Center and Pop-Up Theatre (*No Man's Land*), Actors Reading Writers at the Berkeley City Club, the New Conservatory Theatre Center (*Casa Valentina* and *The Paris Letter*), the Douglas Morrison Theatre (*Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *Candide*, *Eurydice*, and *Grey Gardens*), Ross Valley Players (*Impressionism*, *November*, and *The Miracle Worker*) and Bay Area Children's Theatre (*Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang*). He is not really from Naples.

Vicki Siegel (Mistress Claude). This is Vicki's ninth Curtain Theatre production. Favorites have been *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Mistress Quickly), her original musical *A Hot Day in Ephesus* based on *A Comedy of Errors* . . . and all the others. Shows for Actors' Ensemble of Berkeley include her musical *The Wife of Bath/Marriage of Sir Gavain* and an adaptation of *The Knight of*

the Burning Pestle which is playing through Labor Day at Hinkel Park in North Berkeley. It is a joy to work with this excellent cast and crew, in this delightful show.

Bruce Vieira (Master Jacques) who essentially left acting many years ago to pursue directing, is glad to be back on stage with the Curtain Theater. His roles elsewhere include: Teyye in *Fiddler On The Roof*, Jud in *Oklahoma!*, Daddy Warbucks in *Annie* and the Cowardly Lion in the *Wizard of Oz* all with the Mountain Play. He has also acted many times at the Ross Valley Players and for years he did regional theater around the country. Bruce is also a sound designer for local theaters and presently Bruce directs two shows a year for the Stapleton Theatre Company, where he is now the Resident Director.

Grey Wolf (Harpagon) was last seen at Marin Onstage as Willie Clark in *Sunshine Boys*. Previously he played Gremio in the Curtain's *Taming of the Shrew*. He has appeared in many Shakespeare shows around the Bay Area. Other favorites are *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, *Inspecting Carol*, and *Medea*. Thank you gracious redwoods and welcome joyful Curtain Theatre.



Meet our *PRODUCTION SPONSORS* for *The Miser!*

SETS - Mill Valley Outdoor Art Club

COSTUMES - Tianna Wimmer and Warren Leiden

PROPS - Colin and Silvana Wong

PUBLICITY - Larry Snyder

*If you would like to help the Curtain as a production sponsor,
please contact Steve Beecroft: sjbeecroft11@gmail.com*



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Masquers Playhouse, Novato Theater Company,

Micheal Berg at Ross Valley Players, Theatre-at-Large

Russell Johnson (photography), Mark Shepherd (poster design)

Dyanis Carniglia (set painting)

The Curtain Theatre is a 501c3 non-profit organization.