



# Mariemont Players Limelight Review January, 2020

4101 WALTON CREEK RD., CINCINNATI, OHIO 45227

Art Kibby, Distribution

Jackie Miesle, Editor ([jmiesle@gmail.com](mailto:jmiesle@gmail.com))

## Current Show

Mariemont Players and director **Jennifer Keith** are excited to announce the cast of *Evelyn in Purgatory*, by Topher Payne:

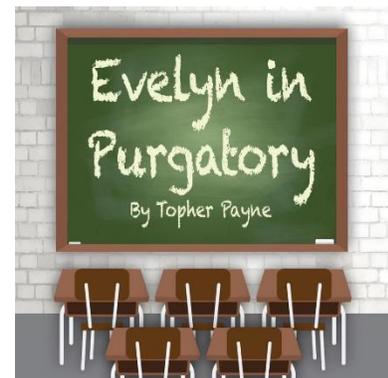
### The Cast Includes:

Evelyn: **Heather Abbott**  
Roberta: **Chessie Vigran**  
Lila: **Cathy Ross**  
Candace: **Aimée Ward**

Fred: **Chuck Ingram**  
Toby: **Evan Blanton**  
Atwood: **Robert Weidle**

Production dates: **January 10 - 26, 2020**

A sort of Breakfast Club for teachers, *Evelyn in Purgatory* shows what happens when teachers land in their own version of detention. A claim of improper behavior by a failing student lands Evelyn Reid in the New York Public School's Reassignment Center, one of a series of empty offices in the Department of Education Building. There she encounters a group of teachers who have to sit and wait for their cases to be reviewed. Some are guilty, some are not, but all have long since lost any hope of returning to a classroom. Over the course of the school year, these colleagues form an unlikely alliance, reminding each other of forgotten passions, emerging to face life outside in unexpected new directions. They also learn French, workshop a screenplay...and learn some troubling secrets about each other.



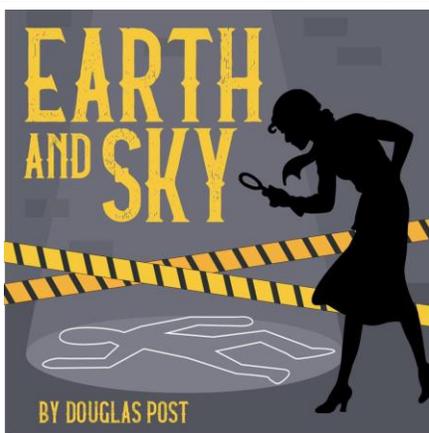
## Cast Announcement - "Earth and Sky"

Mariemont Players and director **jef brown** are excited to announce the cast of our March production, "Earth and Sky" by Douglas Post:

Sara McKeon – **Patricia Mullins**  
David Ames – **CJ Bossart**  
Detective Al Kersnowski – **Michael Ireland**  
Detective H.E. Weber – **Darren Lee**  
Joyce Lazlo – **Elizabeth Hickerson**  
Billy Hart – **Bryce Willson**  
Carl Eisenstadt – **Burt McCollom**  
Marie DeFaria – **Natasha Boeckmann**  
Julius Gatz – **Fred Murrell**

"Earth and Sky" is about would-be poet and part-time librarian Sara McKeon, whose lover of ten weeks, David Ames, is found dead one hot August morning in the city of Chicago. It appears that David may have been involved in illicit activities, including kidnapping, rape, and murder. Sara begins her own investigation of the crime and is led deeper and deeper through the urban labyrinth into the contemporary underworld. As the detective story moves forward in time, scenes from the love affair take us back to the moment when Sara and David first met. The plots converge, and Sara finds herself face to face with David's murderer.

**Performance Dates: March 13-29, 2020**



# Upcoming Auditions ("The Art of Dining")

Mariemont Players and director **Laura Berkemeier** announce auditions for *The Art of Dining* !

**Auditions:** Monday, February 10 at 7pm, Wednesday, February 12 at 7pm, Thursday, February 13 at 7pm - call backs if needed. Auditions will be held at the Walton Creek Theatre at 4101 Walton Creek Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45227. Please reserve your time via [this link](#)

**Audition Requirements:** If available, bring headshot and resume. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script.

**Rehearsal times:** Times will be finalized based on actor availability, however, the likely schedule will be Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 7pm-9:30pm at the Walton Creek Theatre. Rehearsals would begin on March 30th. Actors must be available for photos on April 5th at 7pm and for all of Tech week which will be Sunday, May 3rd through opening on Fri., May 8th.

**Production Dates:** May 8<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Synopsis:** Cal and Ellen are the owners and sole staff of a small, elegant gourmet restaurant. Cal's main preoccupation is paying back the \$75,000 it cost to start it up, and that means packing in the customers. Chef Ellen is preoccupied with the food's quality and stopping Cal from sampling the ingredients. The diners act out their own private dramas over dinner and their conversations are exquisite burlesques of contemporary attitudes. There's a sensual middle aged couple who go into paroxysms of ecstasy just reading the menu and then there's three crass chic young career women. Finally, there's Elizabeth, a maladroit, shy and neurotic writer who's dining with her prospective publisher. Her actions and conversation are unintentionally hilarious and a delicious example of how not to act and what not to talk about while dining.

**Description of Characters: 3m, 6f**

ELLEN - co-owner and chef extraordinaire of The Golden Carrousel, mid 30's.

CAL - co-owner and supple head waiter of The Golden Carrousel, Ellen's husband, mid 30's.

HANNAH GALT - beautifully dressed and hungry, mid to late 40's.

PAUL GALT - beautifully dressed and hungrier, mid to late 40's.

ELIZABETH BARROW COLT - exceedingly shy and nearsighted. A writer, in her early 30's, afraid of food.

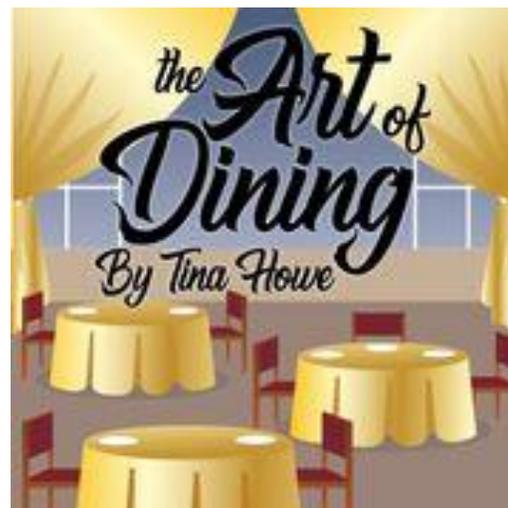
HERRICK SIMMONS - enthusiastic and a good eater, early 30's.

NESSA VOX - easily upset and a more neurotic eater, early 30's.

TONY STASSIO - perpetually on a diet and miserable, early 30's.

DAVID OSSLOW - the head of his own publishing company, successful, at ease, son & husband of good cooks, mid 50's & in top shape.

Any questions please reach out to **Patricia Mullins** ([patricia.n.mullins@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.n.mullins@gmail.com)) or **Kristen Vincenty** ([kvincenty23@gmail.com](mailto:kvincenty23@gmail.com)).



## All Around Town

 **Elizabeth Molloy** will play Woman in the Know Theatre production of *In the Night Time (Before the Sun Rises)*.  
Production dates: January 17-February 8, 2020.

 **Liz Taylor** will play Delia in the Falcon Theatre's *Blues for an Alabama Sky*. Performance dates: January 24-February 8, 2020.

 **Eric Day** will play Lennie and **Bill Hartnett** will play Candy in the Footlighters, Inc. production of *Of Mice and Men*. Performance dates: February 13-29, 2020.

 **John Langley** will play Alonzo in the Cincinnati Landmark Productions production of *Meet Me In St. Louis* at the Covedale Center, directed and choreographed by **Dee Anne Bryll**. Performance dates: February 13-March 8, 2020.

 **Chuck Ingram** will play Bullfrog in the Beechmont Players, Inc. production of *Honk! the Musical*. Performance dates: February 14-22, 2020.

-  **Rob Weidle** will play Winston in The Drama Workshop production of *A Catered Affair*, directed by **Dan Maloney**. Performance dates: February 21-March 8, 2020.
-  **Chris Bishop** will play Marchand and **Lon Nease** will play Von Berg in the Alibi Players production of *Incident At Vichy*. Performance dates: March 13-22, 2020.
-  **Cat Cook** will play Susan B. Anthony in the Falcon Theatre's *The Agitators*. Performance dates: March 20-April 4, 2020.
-  **Liz Taylor** will perform in the ensemble of The Covedale Center production of *All Shook Up*, performance dates: April 2-26, 2020.
-  **Jackie Miesle** will play Winnie Tate in the Footlighters Inc. production of *Annie Get Your Gun*. Performance dates: April 23-May 9, 2020.
-  **Jessica Archer** will perform in the ensemble for the CenterStage Players production of *Heathers*. Performance dates: May 1-10, 2020.
-  **Rob Weidle** will perform in The Drama Workshop production of *Ring of Fire*, directed by **Linda Abbott**. Performance dates: May 1-17, 2020.
- By **Anna Nixon**

## NEW Website!

# WE'VE REDESIGNED OUR WEBSITE!

Same URL. New, AMAZING look!

Keep up with auditions, cast announcements, events, usher sign-ups, and more at

WWW.MARIEMONTPLAYERS.COM

## December, 2019 Play Reading Report

We had a good crowd to read Act One of "It's a Wonderful Life" by Frank Capra in its radio play format. Each reader had to take on five or more characters which was a little challenging! The reading was well done and very successful, however. Of course, most readers had Jimmy Stewart from the movie in mind.

Overall it was good fun but we still have to read Act 2 to complete the play.

Readers were: **Laura Hovland, Joyce and Art Kibby, Karen Zaugg, Linda Callahan, Maris Ryan, Fred Rothzeit, Jan Costello, Bill Hartnett, John Nixon** and **yours truly**.

Next reading will be in the New Year on **January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.30pm.**, weather permitting.

My thanks to one and all for attending the party and bringing such a wonderful array of food and drink. Thank you all too for making our readings so enjoyable and successful throughout this year. May 2020 be as good!

# Broadway Bound - "A Lovely Theatrical Experience"

**Set Design:** "It can certainly be daunting to build a two-story set on a stage as intimate as Mariemont's, but **Messers, Pauly** and **Oelker** were up to the challenge. Making good use of every foot of available space, they created a set that was compact, but never gave the impression of being unduly crowded."

**Costume Design:** "The costumes of the show not only were period but were elevated realism. Each piece was appropriate to each character, but the colors and textures used added richness to the visuals and added depths to each character. From Blanche's mink coat to the patterns of Jack's ties, each piece was a subtle calling card to who was wearing it and what details of their characters may be found beneath the dialogue. I loved the subtle touch of Kate's hamsa necklace, too. Well done!"

**Producer:** "There were many elements to assemble in this show. It must have been a formidable task for Ms. Vincenty to assemble a team who could recreate the appropriate period feel required. That everything fell into place so neatly and (seemingly) effortlessly is a tribute to Ms. Vincenty's skill as a producer."

## **Acting:**

**LINDA CALLAHAN as Kate:** "**Ms. Callahan** gave a layered performance, hitting just the right notes, both comedic and dramatic. Her interactions with all of the other characters – from vexation with her father to unspoken resentment of her sister to desperation mixed with anger at her husband – were fully developed. Her monologue about dancing with George Raft was a dramatic high point." "This is now my third time seeing **Linda** on stage and it is always a pleasure. She always brings such depth to her characterizations and enriches the performance of those who she shares scenes with. Not every actor acts through smaller details like arm touches or forehead kisses, but Linda does and it added such tender realness to her performance as the matriarch of a family."

**ARNY STOLLER as Ben:** "I've now been able to see **Arny** in multiple roles and greatly enjoy seeing him in a meatier, more personable role. His performance was open and honest, and he consistently timed the comedic bits well while also being a conscious scene partner with his other actors who set up the jokes." "**Mr. Stoller** allowed us to see him as the doddering old grandfather as he went through the challenges of forgetting things and having accidents, which set us up nicely for his confrontation with Jack – where he showed us that he was indeed still the head of the family. Nice job!"

**JAKE HART as Eugene:** "**Mr. Hart** was impressive in the central role of Eugene. He commanded the stage, carrying the show confidently on his shoulders. His dance with his mother was a beautiful moment, giving us a welcome dose of warm humanity. I fully expect big things from this young man." "He clearly separated the moments when he was engaged as Eugene in the present v. Eugene in the story he was telling; and he even had a hilarious sneeze that caused the audience to react with a blessing that he rolled with to organically establish that report again after intermission."

**TANNER MCDOLE as Stan:** "**Mr. McDole's** chemistry with **Mr. Hart** was very believable, balancing brotherly camaraderie with frustration. He had a good handle on Stan's eager ambition, mixing confident excitement with nagging self-doubt. In addition, he seemed to have stepped straight out of the era. A nicely rounded performance." "**Mr. McDole** did a great job in showing us Stan's energy, drive and ambition to be a writer – along with his little brother!"

**PEGGY ALLEN as Blanche:** "Blanch definitely stood in contrast to her more down-to-earth sister, but from their interactions it was evident they were members of the same family. Her scene of pleading with her father, kneeling by his chair, was well-played and moving." "I don't think I will soon forget **Peggy's** delivery of "Why do we have so much trouble understanding each other?" in Blanche's very poignant scene with Ben. I could feel Blanche's heartbreak over not being able to reach her father like her sister could and her conflict with her status in society. **Peggy** also created a great freeze moment with **Arny** that just added to their character's conflict through the audience being able to focus on their body language rather than their words."

**FRED MURRELL as Jack:** "It can be hard to make a character who makes questionable choices likeable and able to hold the audience's sympathy despite their disappointment, but **Fred** did it very well with his portrayal of Jack. His argument with Kate, his explanations of why he picked the other woman he did, and his leaving scene were all wonderfully complex. I also appreciated **Fred's** connection to the set itself with how he acknowledged the mezuzah on the door frame." "Jack is an interesting character. It needs to be a perfect balance between loving him and hating him. **Mr. Murrell** have us that balance so we could decide for ourselves. He was always in character and focused"

**STEVE PHELAN as Announcer:** "**Mr. Phelan** has a great radio voice and brought an authenticity to all his recorded performances. Nice job!"

**CHUCK INGRAM as Radio Actor Chubby Waters:** "I really enjoyed **Mr. Ingram's** performance as Chubby Waters. He brought the right timing and again, authenticity to the performance to really bring the radio show to life. Nice job!"

**LIZ INGRAM as Mrs. Pinkin:** "I thought that this actress not only did a lovely job of performing the script, she did a great job making it sound like a caricature of Kate. Nice job!"

**Stage Management:** "Overall, the show was executed timely and smoothly. Scene changes were quick; and entrances and cues seemed spot on. With such an intimate space, timing is a very serious thing with the audience being so up close; however, there seemed to be nothing amiss with everything happening naturally for the whole show."

**Ensemble:** "All members of the Jerome family had their own interests, issues, goals, etc., but one still got the sense of them as a family. All interacted as though they'd been putting up with each other's foibles for years and all set were Blanche, who though part of the family, was something of an outsider and (to a degree) Jack, who had his own issues that kept him at a bit of a distance."

**Direction:** "It was obvious that this Director took the pains to understand the script and all the character's drives and motivations and worked well with the cast to help them be successful in accomplishing all their goals as individual actors and as a unit. Very nice job!" "**Mr. Weisenhahn** seemed to have a good feel for the show's character and milieu and was able to impart this to his cast. The show moved swiftly and surely and the audience was fully in the characters' stories. Relationships between all characters were firmly established and believable. The blocking was particularly well. Space was limited, considering a two-story apartment had to be fit into an intimate playing area. Yet the blocking felt natural, and there was never a sense of the stage being crowded. A fine job."

## MPI Culture - Who We Are

We believe that stating our shared values and who we are as a community strengthens and fosters our organization and our members. The Mariemont Players Culture Statement and Code of Conduct are both summarized on the back/second page of our Membership Form (enclosed, at the end of the newsletter). If you haven't read it recently, take a minute to review it and read about who we strive to be every day!

## Membership

MPI Membership Renewal – Please stay and play with us for another year!

The 2019-2020 membership year began July 1<sup>st</sup> and we hope you will renew! If you haven't sent your renewal (\$15 for individual or \$25 for family), please do so as soon as possible so you can continue to receive **the Limelight Review, party invitations, and other news!** See the membership form (enclosed, at the end of the newsletter) for more information.

## Follow Us!



Let's be social!  
Like/Follow **Mariemont Players Inc.**  
on Facebook for updates, pictures,  
and more.



# Mariemont Players Membership Application

Participation in any capacity with Mariemont Players requires membership. Membership entitles you to voting privileges (18 & older), the Limelight Review newsletter, and participation in all member social activities. Membership dues expire at the end of the fiscal year (June 30th). Membership dues paid for the July show will be extended through the next fiscal year.

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY** – Please include contact information and email address, so that you may receive our newsletter, "The Limelight Review".

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please sign below, acknowledging that you have read the Culture of Mariemont Players and Code of Conduct Summary on the back of this form:**

Acknowledgement Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check appropriate membership box:*

\$15 - Individual membership       \$25 - Family membership

Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Associate member (*free*) available only for crew and crafts persons: *List job served:* \_\_\_\_\_

Associate member may not appear on stage in an acting role, vote, hold office, produce, or direct.

\$5 - Junior membership (*under 18*) Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## MPI Donors Play a Part

We strive continuously to improve our facility to provide a more enjoyable theater experience for everyone. Recent improvements include an auditorium renovation with new theater seats, upgraded lighting control system, and a new modern audio mixer. These were made possible by the generosity of MPI Donors. Donations are tax-deductible and are acknowledged in the show program. Your donation can be included with your membership application. Select one of the following levels and add the tax-deductible contribution amount to your membership dues payment below.

\$100+ Director     \$75-99 Producer     \$50-74 Angel     \$25-49 Quarter Club     \$15-24 Patron

How would you like your name(s) to appear on the program donation page?

Names for Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues:                    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Deductible Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Payment Amount:        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Mariemont Players.

Send completed application with payment to:

**Mariemont Players Membership Chair**

**4101 Walton Creek Road**

**Cincinnati, Ohio 45227**

## **Culture of Mariemont Players**

We are DEDICATED TO ETHICAL AND ARTISTIC STANDARDS

We are responsible for our commitments and hold ourselves accountable to deadlines and obligations. We respect others' opinions and ideas, promptly communicate schedules, and attend to conflict in a constructive manner.

We are FAMILY

We accept our colleagues for who they are. We laugh together, support each other through good and bad times, and celebrate group and personal accomplishments. We treat our facilities like home and our colleagues with respect.

We embrace CONVERSATION

We communicate honestly. We understand that mistakes happen, and when they do, we apologize, and we acknowledge them and learn from them.

We are PASSIONATE

We are dedicated to our art form. Our creative work gives us satisfaction and fulfillment. We learn from our colleagues as we seek to be pioneers in the world of community theater. We reward our mental and physical labor by creating a congenial place where we can safely communicate our passion, where everyone belongs to our family.

## **Code of Conduct Summary for Mariemont Players**

Mariemont Players strives to maintain a safe and creative work environment where everyone is treated in a professional manner and with respect.

Mariemont Players does not tolerate discrimination, harassment, or retaliation against our volunteers, contractors, or audience members.

Mariemont Players does not tolerate harassment based on gender, race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, military status, political affiliation, or ancestry.

Mariemont Players does not tolerate verbal abuse or bullying.

Inappropriate conduct with any minor is prohibited and must be reported in accordance with the Mariemont Players' Guidance for the Protection of Minors policy.

Incidents can be reported to the President, the Senior VP of Production, or the Senior VP of Business. Mariemont Players takes reports seriously.

An individual who is found to have engaged in conduct prohibited by Mariemont Players policy will be subject to discipline, up to revocation of membership in Mariemont Players. Remedial action will be taken to remedy the effects of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation that is found to have occurred.