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Neil Simon's  
**RUMORS**

DIRECTED BY SEAN HENSON

MAY 6-8 & 13-15 @ 8 PM

MAY 16 @ 2 PM



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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Neil Simon gave us *Rumors* for no other reason than to make us laugh. Four couples arrive at the home of the deputy mayor of New York to celebrate a wedding anniversary, but nothing in their professional lives has prepared them for what they find. The hostess and servants are missing, and the host is half-conscious with a bullet hole through his ear. Rumors fly, doors slam, and we even lose something down the toilet as these high-society folks try to figure out what happened, while keeping the truth from each other and everyone else.

We have shared many laughter-filled evenings preparing this show for you. For the next two hours, may the world slip away as you revel in the absurd and hilarious antics on the stage.

### *The Rumor's True! A Great Show at Stage Coach!*

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### SEAN HENSON, DIRECTOR



Sean has worked on various Stage Coach productions as a director, designer, and stage manager since 2003. He is a puppeteer, and continues to be one of the teachers for SCP's annual children's theater workshops in the fall. He resides in Sycamore with his lovely wife and two children.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO

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# **RUMORS**

**A FARCE BY NEIL SIMON  
DIRECTED BY SEAN HENSON**

## **ACT ONE**

A spring evening in 1987.  
The home of the deputy mayor of New York.

## **ACT TWO**

An hour later.

There will be a fifteen minute intermission between acts.

## **NEIL SIMON, PLAYWRIGHT**

Neil Simon is considered by many to be the world's most successful playwright. He has had dozens of plays and nearly as many major motion pictures produced.

He has been showered with more Academy and Tony nominations than any other writer, and is the only playwright to have four Broadway productions running simultaneously. His plays have been produced in dozens of languages, and have been blockbuster hits from Beijing to Moscow. His true success, however, is in his unique way of exposing something real in the American spirit.



*Rumors*, Simon's twenty-fourth Broadway production, opened on November 17, 1988 at the Broadhurst Theatre, where it ran for slightly more than a year before transferring to the Ethel Barrymore, for a total run of 535 performances. Christine Baranski won the Tony Award for Best Performance by a Featured Actress in a Play for her portrayal of Chris Gorman.

# **THE CAST OF CHARACTERS**

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

CHRIS GORMAN .....TRACY SCHOENLE  
KEN GORMAN .....JOSH SMITH  
CLAIRE GANZ.....TERESA HAISH  
LENNY GANZ .....MIKE SCORZO  
ERNIE CUSACK .....LAWRENCE NEPODAHL  
COOKIE CUSACK.....ROBERTA MAXFIELD  
GLENN COOPER.....RYAN READ  
CASSIE COOPER .....BRIDGET CRASE  
OFFICER WELCH.....DAN HYDE  
OFFICER PUDNEY .....MANDY PASHEN

## **THE PRODUCTION CREW**

DIRECTOR .....SEAN HENSON  
STAGE MANAGER.....KIM LAMANSKY  
SET DESIGN .....JOSH NEAR  
SET DRESSING .....ROBERTA MAXFIELD  
COSTUMES.....JOANNE GARDNER,  
JEANNA HUNTER, JANET ROSENBERG  
LIGHTING & SOUND ..TOM GRADY, MICHAEL LANDSHAFT  
PROPERTIES .....JOANNE LANDSHAFT,  
JOANNE GARDNER, JEANNA HUNTER,  
MICHAEL LANDSHAFT, JANET ROSENBERG

### **SET CONSTRUCTION**

DAVE PEARSON, DENNY VAUPEL, JOSH NEAR,  
MIKE SCORZO, AMY SCORZO, TRACY SCHOENLE,  
DAN HYDE, TERESA HAISH, BRIDGET CRASE,  
ROBERTA MAXFIELD, MANDY PASCHEN, RYAN READ,  
MELISSA READ, VINCE VIRTUE, DANIEL LAMANSKY,  
KIM LAMANSKY, SEAN HENSON

# CAST BIOGRAPHIES

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

## **BRIDGET CRASE** as CASSIE COOPER

This is Bridget's third play with Stage Coach, having appeared in the casts of *Bus Stop* and *A Christmas Carol* in 2009. Bridget is finishing her freshman year at NIU, pursuing a degree in English with a teaching certificate. She also volunteers with the Children's Community Theater. Bridget thanks her family and friends for their support. She thanks the cast and crew for an enjoyable time working on a great show.



## **TERESA HAISH** as CLAIRE GANZ



Teresa is excited to appear in this Stage Coach production of *Rumors*. Although she loves the theatre, this is her first performance on stage. She thanks the Director and cast for working with a complete novice. She also thanks her brother, Vince, who convinced her to audition in the first place, and her husband for putting up with the crazy schedule.

## **DAN HYDE** as OFFICER WELCH

Dan is now in his third production at SCP, all in the last six months. He started as a Caroler and the Poulterer in *A Christmas Carol*, and then moved on to *The Music Man*, where he played Oliver Hix, a member of the River City barbershop quartet. Now he's having a great time in his first comedy. When not spending time at the theater, Dan works as an Information Technology Coordinator at the NIU College of Education. He thanks his patient wife, Debbie, for all the nights she spent alone while he was rehearsing, as well as for her unending support. He hopes to continue having such great fun at Stage Coach, only regretting that he didn't start sooner.



## **ROBERTA MAXFIELD** as COOKIE CUSACK



Roberta is very excited to play the part of Cookie in *Rumors*. Her favorite SCP roles are Eulalie Shinn in *The Music Man*, Sister Amnesia in *Nonsense*, Lady Thiang in *The King and I*, Kate Keller in *All My Sons*, Mazeppa in *Gypsy*, and Mrs. Crow and Mrs. Fezziwig in *A Christmas Carol*. Roberta has also enjoyed roles at Steel Beam Theatre and Indian Valley Theatre in *True West*, *Honk*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *The Sound of Music*.

Roberta loves to work backstage as well, and has spent many hours doing special painting for Stage Coach productions. She thanks Brian, Jacob, Geoff and Frankie for their support.

**LAWRENCE NEPODAHL** as ERNIE CUSACK

Lawrence has played several different roles over the past few years in Stage Coach's annual productions of *A Christmas Carol*, most recently as Scrooge in last year's radio version. He has been active with SCP since 1996, and was the 2008 recipient of the SCOTY award. In 2005, Lawrence initiated the SCP Radio Theater, which has now become a Stage Coach tradition, providing a unique entertainment experience for those who see the live performance, for those who hear the shows broadcast on WLBK radio, and for the players themselves. Lawrence fell in love with *Rumors* when he first read the script, and he has enjoyed working with this fine ensemble of thespians, as well as its director, stage manager, and crew.



**MANDY PASHEN** as OFFICER PUDNEY



Mandy is very excited to be in *Rumors*. This is her fourth Stage Coach production, previously appearing in two years of *A Christmas Carol* and working backstage for *The Nerd*. Mandy recently decided she "needed a change of scenery" and moved to DeKalb from the small town of Walkerton, Indiana. She's happy to have found Stagecoach, her new "family." She hopes everyone enjoys the show as much as she has enjoyed being a part of it.

**Best of Luck!**

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**RYAN READ** as GLENN COOPER

Ryan is very happy to be back on stage after his directorial debut with *The Nerd* last year. A member of Stage Coach Players for twelve years now, Ryan has appeared in many shows, including *Heaven Can Wait*, *Postmortem*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Mouse Trap*, *Oklahoma*, *Damn Yankees*, *The Shadowbox*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, and five years of *A Christmas Carol*. When not on stage, Ryan enjoys working on his two blogs, "Time and Life of Being a Read" and "Realm of Kings;" hosting his monthly podcast, "The United Front;" or just taking daily bike rides around town. He thanks his wife, Melissa, and his family for their continuing love and support.



**TRACY SCHOENLE** as CHRIS GORMAN



Tracy is enjoying her sixth role onstage at Stage Coach Players, where she has previously appeared as Fairy Mae in *The Curious Savage*, Mrs. Cratchit (2007) and Mrs. Crow (2009) in *A Christmas Carol*, and the dinnerware-smashing Clelia in *The Nerd*. At Stage 212 in La Salle, she acted in nine roles from 2002-2006, her favorite being the gender-neutral Leslie in *Sylvia*. Tracy is thoroughly enjoying serving on SCP's play selection committee for 2011. A native of Iowa, Tracy received her Master's degree in English at Iowa State University and has been a book and magazine editor for the past dozen years.

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**MIKE SCORZO** as LENNY GANZ

Mike has been involved in theatre since he bounced across the stage, literally, as a bouncing ball when he was three. This is his second time performing in *Rumors* at Stage Coach. Nearly twenty years ago, he played the part of Glenn. More recently, Mike directed *Hello Dolly* for Stagecoach in 2009. Some of his favorite roles include Juan Peron (*Evita*), Charlie Cowell (*The Music Man*), Captain Von Trapp (*The Sound of Music*), and Ali Hakem (*Oklahoma*). Other shows have included *42<sup>nd</sup> Street*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Macbeth*. Mike thanks his wonderful wife of 22 years and his daughters, Emily and Amy, for their patience and love during this production.



**JOSH SMITH** as KEN GORMAN



Josh is happy to be returning to Stage Coach in Neil Simon's *Rumors*. He was last seen on the SCP stage in *Over the River and Through the Woods*, and before that in *Noises Off* and *The Crucible*. Josh graduated from Loyola University with a Bachelor's degree in Theatre and English. While at Loyola, he appeared in a number of productions; some favorites include Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Giles Corey in *The Crucible*, Tony Lumpkin in *She Stoops to Conquer*, and Lord John in *The Elephant Man*. He's happy for the opportunity to work with such a wonderful cast and crew. He thanks his friends and family for their continued love and support.

Stoops to Conquer, and Lord John in *The Elephant Man*. He's happy for the opportunity to work with such a wonderful cast and crew. He thanks his friends and family for their continued love and support.

*The act of giving flowers in the theatre is a time-honored and love-filled tradition.*

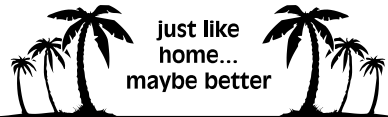


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