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COMMUNITY THEATER



October 14th-23rd

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# BLITHE SPIRIT

Directed by Eric Schoen

## The Setting

The action of the play passes in the living room of Charles Condomine's house in Kent

## Time

### Act I

Scene One: Before dinner on a summer evening

Scene Two: After dinner

### Act II

Scene One: The next morning

Scene Two: Late the following afternoon

### *Intermission*

Scene Three: Early evening. A few days later

### Act III

Scene One: After dinner. A few days later

Scene Two: Several hours later

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I am amazed at how well this play holds up. Nothing against Noel Coward – who I did not meet, sadly – but a comedy of manners/farce from the '40s, in rural England, couldn't possibly have any relevance to us today.

Or so I thought.

If one approaches this as a love story, then I think (I hope) a timeless aspect weaves its way from start to finish, burnished from the sweet heat of comic and romantic friction between lovers (both alive and dead), classes and points of view.

Noel Coward has a way with dialogue. The melody of this play is dense, muscular and I hope pleasing for anybody with a love of words. His characters tend to speak well, voluminous prose spinning out from martini-soaked mouths, compelling the audience to keep up with the double entendres, puns, poetry and metaphor. So, there's the story and there's the way it's told; one massages your heart, the other works your mind.

I hope, somewhere in the middle, you can find entertainment, laughter and a flight of fancy.

Dialects, physical comedy, the swordplay of sharp words and the eternal bonds of matrimony. What's not to love?

Eric Schoen

# BLITHE SPIRIT

Directed by Eric Schoen

## CAST

Edith ..... Miranda Blum  
Ruth ..... Abeth Spencer  
Charles..... Cody Bro  
Doctor Bradman..... Scott Sims  
Mrs. Bradman ..... Carol Gibson  
Madame Arcati ..... Martha Welty  
Elvira..... Helen Morris


## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director ..... Eric Schoen  
Stage Manager..... Phyl Deany  
Producer..... Cathy Merrill  
Costume Design..... Alison Rondone  
Set Design ..... Mike Rippenkroeger  
Set Decoration..... Michelle Johnston  
Props Design..... Joshua Merrill  
Sound Design/Tech ..... Carson Hayes  
Lighting Design..... Juliet Atchley  
Light Tech ..... Cheyenne S. Khoury  
Program Design ..... Raquel L Jarvill  
Program Cover ..... Samantha Hartwell

Cast & Crew bios may be found in our online program located at <https://starlightcommunitytheater.com/blithe>

Starlight Community Theater Presents  
a special, limited-run event

**November  
4-6, 2022**



**MISERY**

Directed by  
**Bob Taylor**

By William Goldman  
Based on the novel by Stephen King

Produced by special arrangement with  
Dramatists Play Services



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# STARLIGHT

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## COMMUNITY THEATER

### BOARD MEMBERS

President.....Cathy Merrill  
Vice President .....Abeth Spencer  
Secretary .....Samantha Hartwell  
Members At Large..... Justin Cain, JC Kovac, Elise Kurbat, Marisa Tualla  
Member Emeritus/Co-Founder .....Patricia Bennett  
Members Emeritus.....Raquel L Jarvill, Barbara Surloff

### OPERATIONAL DIRECTORS

Artistic Director.....Dan Ashlock  
Managing Director..... (Open)

### MISSION STATEMENT

Starlight Community Theatre is a 501c3 non-profit community theatre corporation dedicated to providing live theatre to entertain and enrich our community and to encourage youth and adult participation by providing growth and educational opportunities through a variety of theatrical experiences, both on and off stage.

**A Special Thank You to all who helped with this production, especially:**

Frank Nelson  
Samantha Hartwell  
Raquel L Jarvill



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Starlight's current sound system is desperately outdated and in need of an upgrade to continue to put on great productions! Every dollar raised goes into making community theater affordable, accessible and enjoyable for all!

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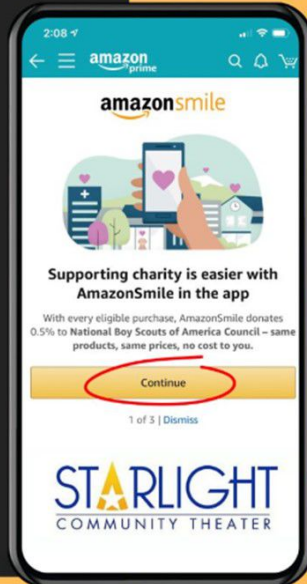
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# STARLIGHT

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1611 W Whispering Wind Dr, Suite 9, Phoenix, AZ 85085

[info@StarlightCommunityTheater.com](mailto:info@StarlightCommunityTheater.com)

## CAST

**Miranda Blum (*Edith*)** is so excited to be in her third show on the Starlight stage. She was recently seen as Atina in *The Little Mermaid* and Margaret in *Much Ado About Nothing*. She moved here from Chicago over a year ago and is grateful to have found so many wonderful people through Starlight. She would like to thank the director for giving her this opportunity. She would also like to thank her dog, Franklin.

**Cody Bro (*Charles*)** This is the seventh production at Starlight he has been a part of. Cody Bro likes acting. When Cody Bro is not acting, he is a teacher. Cody Bro's other hobbies include reading and walking. One day soon, Cody Bro hopes to become the most widely popular actor, a household name across the world. In his spare time, Cody Bro spends time with his friends or his wife, Emily.

**Carol Gibson (*Mrs. Bradman*)** Her love of acting began in 3rd grade when she portrayed Mrs. Cratchett in *A (much abbreviated) Christmas Carol*. Favorite roles include Gin in *The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek*, (SCC), Mickey in *The Odd Couple, Female Version*, Mother Superior in *Nunsense*, (AFTC), Sil in *20th Century Blues* (Stage Left), Alice in *I Never Sang for My Father* (Theatre Artists Studio) and Mary Murphy in *By the Water* (Theatre Artists Studio). "I am grateful and excited to perform in this Noel Coward classic at Starlight for the first time."

**Helen Morris (*Elvira*)** is a Zoni-award winning composer and musician, with recent ventures including the 2022 West Coast tour of *Luna + Solis*, as well as music direction for *Carrie the Musical*, *Evil Dead*, and more. Recent acting credits include Alice in *Alice's Canvas*, April in *Company*, and many others. You can check out her music on Spotify or at regular performances around the valley. "Thanks to Eric and Starlight for the opportunity to get back to acting and to the audience for supporting the arts!"

**Scott Sims (*Dr. Bradman*)** is no stranger to Starlight having appeared in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Dracula* (ZONI award), *Annie*, *Four Weddings And An Elvis*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Company*, *The Curious Savage*, and *Curtains*. He has also appeared in productions at Scottsdale Desert Stages and Zao Theatre. Scott directs choirs and teaches beginning guitar at Deer Valley High School, Glendale, and leads the praise band at Living Water Lutheran Church, Scottsdale.

**Abeth Spencer (*Ruth*)** is pleased to be returning to the Starlight stage. Her previous outing - as Jessica Olive in *Done to Death* - earned her an AriZoni Award nomination. When she's not pretending to be other people, Abeth enjoys playing video games with her kids and pawning the writing of her cast bios off on her brother, who definitely didn't mention the AriZoni Awards in order to put extra pressure on Abeth to deliver in *Blithe Spirit*, her 10th production at Starlight.

**Martha Welty (*Madame Arcati*)** got her B.A. in Theatre at ASU. Past work includes roles with Childsplay, Arizona Jewish Theatre, and Phoenix Theatre. At DBFRT, Martha played Mrs Banks in *Mary Poppins*, Helen Sinclair in *Bullets Over Broadway* and Aunt Queenie in *Bell, Book and Candle*. An artistic member at Theatre Artists Studio, Martha performed in *Love, Loss and What I Wore*, *Father Christmas* and

*the Snow Queen, Inherit the Wind*, and in a number of Summer Shorts. She also served there as casting director for the First Look play reading series. Martha's most recent work was in Desert Stages production of *Jake's Women* playing Karen.

## PRODUCTION CREW

Phyl Deany (*Stage Manager*) is delighted to experience her first production at Starlight. She fell in love with theatre as a child and with *Blithe Spirit* has reached an exciting milestone: her 50th production! From Michigan, Illinois, Texas, and now Arizona, the theatre is her home. "Cheers to the cast and crew and best wishes to our patrons...enjoy."

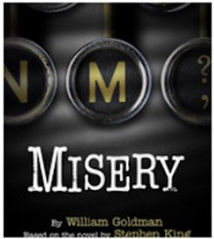
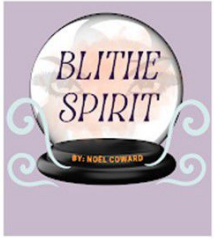
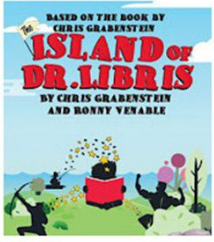
Carson Hayes (*Sound Designer*) is thrilled to be crewing for *Blithe Spirit*. He is excited to return to Starlight Community Theater. Carson was recently in Starlight's '22-'23 season opener *Heathers The Musical* as Kurt Kelly. Carson has done plenty of run crewing in the past, but sound design is a new field he is grateful to have explored.

Michelle Johnston (*Set Decoration*) has been a part of Starlight for over 8 years now when she painted her first set for *Beauty and the Beast*. When not designing enchanted woods, stately living rooms, or sneaking in the occasional role on stage, she's an investigator at MUFJ Union Bank. She's been in the field of financial crimes for over 20 years and retired from the US Army reserves in 2016 after 26 years of service.

Joshua Merrill (*Props Manager*) is super excited to be the Props crew for a production here at Starlight! You may have recently seen him as Jetsam in *The Little Mermaid*, but now he's trying his hand at some behind the scenes work. He gives special thanks to Eric for this opportunity and to his mom, Cathy, who inspired him to get out of his comfort zone and try something other than acting onstage!

Alison Rondone (*Costume Manager*) has been involved in dance and musical theater for the past 40+ years. A dancer, teacher, and choreographer for many years, she has designed costumes for multiple musical theater productions such as *Oliver!* and *South Pacific*, and full-length ballet productions *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Nutcracker*, among others. Recently, she has been the head costumer for *Sponge Bob Square Pants the Musical* in December 2021, *Godspell* (teen and adult casts) in Spring 2022, and is currently costuming *Blithe Spirit* and *Elf the Musical* for Starlight in the fall and winter seasons of 2022.

Eric Schoen (*Director*) is happy to be directing his first show at Starlight. He's directed at Mesa Encore, PVCC, Desert Foothills, Desert Stages, and over a dozen shows at Class 6 Theatre where he was founder and artistic director for 8 years. He's been an adjudicator for ASU Gammage's HSMTA program at valley high schools for several years, made his living as an actor, dancer and director for a long time, and written six books, available on Amazon. "Thank you for supporting local theater!"



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**Heathers: Teen Edition (Jul. 29-Aug. 14)**

*a teen musical directed by Megan Gardner*

**The Island of Dr. Libris (Sep. 9-18)**

*a youth play directed by Kelly Swope & Dan Ashlock*

**Blithe Spirit (Oct. 14-23)**

*an adult play directed by Eric Schoen*

**Elf the Musical (Dec. 2-18)**

*an all-ages musical directed by Susan Oberg*

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time (Jan. 13-22)**

*an adult play directed by George Canady*

**Alice in Wonderland (Feb. 17-26)**

*a youth musical directed by Christina Clodt & Josh Hengst*

**Xanadu (March 31-April 8)**

*an adult musical directed by Dan Ashlock*

**Loving Lives (May 5-13)**

*a teen/adult play directed by Nicole Thompson & Barbara Dalmazzo*

**School of Rock (Jun. 2-18)**

*an all-ages musical directed by Bertha A. Cortez*

**Misery (Nov. 4-6)**

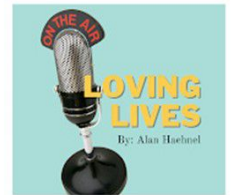
*a special event adult play directed by Bob Taylor*

**The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) (Jan. 27-29)**

*a special event adult play directed by Abeth Spencer*

[www.starlightcommunitytheater.com](http://www.starlightcommunitytheater.com)

# 2022-2023 Season



# UPCOMING AUDITIONS

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**

*an adult play directed by George Canady*

**Saturday, October 15, 9am-12pm**

**Alice In Wonderland**

**A youth/teen musical directed by Christina Clodt and Josh Hengst**

**Saturday, December 3, 9am-12pm**