

Jewish Federation of the
Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys'
JFed Players present:



by Osborne and Eppler

Directed by Kerr Lordygan

May 2 - 10 , 2026
The Ahiah Center, Pasadena

JFED
PLAYERS



JEWISH
FEDERATION
OF THE GREATER SAN GABRIEL
AND POMONA VALLEYS

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In the South, they say you can tell everything you need to know about a family by what happens after someone dies. It's about who shows up and who doesn't, who brings drama, who brings food (assigning hierarchical value to fare ranging all the way up from casserole to rum cake), and who manages to make you laugh through the tough.

Southern Fried Funeral lives there.

This is a comedy of grief and adversity, strength and principle, one that won't sit quietly in the corner wearing a cherry lipstick, smile-painted muzzle. Even in the face of mourning, the play meets loss with laughter: bold, irreverent, human.

As the late, great Joan Rivers once so eloquently stated, "Comedy is to make everybody laugh at everything and deal with things... you idiot."

Laughter, while unable to erase pain, so often carries it.

At its core, this story is about family, both the ones we're born into and the ones we choose: the people who test us, support us, frustrate us, and ultimately stand beside us when it matters most. And sometimes it's about finding the courage to stand up for yourself, your family, and what is fair and right, even when it's uncomfortable.

While this play is rooted in a particular place and culture, its heartbeat is universal. Grief and laughter belong to all of us. They cross every boundary—of background, belief, and community—granting us the privilege of sharing them together now, right here in this room where we are given a rare opportunity to remain in this moment (an often too-difficult task).

The world can feel heavy. Fractured. Loud in all the wrong ways. It is easy to become overwhelmed by current events, with division and alarmism, by media-focused energy heists, by fear, including the very real rise in antisemitism and other forms of hate affecting our own communities. In times like these, gathering together to sit in a room and share a story and laugh is not just entertainment, but an act of resilience. Yes, it offers a moment of relief but also a reminder of the strength, connection, and compassion we'll need when we step back outside. It's a reminder that these things are not meant to stay in the theater.

We carry them with us.

If we're lucky, we leave not only entertained by lingering laughs but a little more open. A little more patient. A little more willing to reach for one another, even when it's hard. Especially when it's hard.

Kerr Lordygan, Director

Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys'

JFed Players present:

SOUTHERN FRIED FUNERAL

Directed by Kerr Lordygan

There will be a 15-minute intermission

CAST

Kevin DeLoughry Dewey, Jr. (Dewdrop)
Michael DiRosa Benny Charles
Angelique Duncan Harlene Frye
Mark Hilliard Dub Frye
Laura Manasewich Samantha Jo Frye
Kate Landro Martha Ann
Lori McKenna Dorothy Frye
Jane Ryan Ho Fairy June
Andy Stetkevich Attie Van Leer
Robert Polachek Beecham

PRODUCTION STAFF

Kerr Lordygan Director
John Carlton Assistant Director
Cantor Judy Sofer Producer
Brian Gordon Set Design and Construction
Edeena Gordon Set Design and Construction/Sound
Joanne Karr Lighting
Shlomo Sofer Lights
Lori McKenna Costumes
Terrie Collins-Grant and Ken Grant Props
Karen Hochman Brown Program Design

Southern Fried Funeral is presented by special arrangement with
Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

GET INVOLVED WITH LIVE THEATER!



The JFed Players of the Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys is a great place to start! We are always looking for people who are interested in theater and who would like to be part of a group of people who share that interest! We welcome all who want to participate, whether on stage in the limelight, or back stage in the work lights.

Who's Who - The Cast



Kevin DeLoughry Dewey, Jr. (Dewdrop)

Kevin DeLoughry (pronounced Dee-Lock-Ree for those curious) is a New Jersey born, Los Angeles based writer, director, and actor for stage and screen, and is thrilled to bring Dewey, Jr. to life! Drawn to accents and outcasts, he portrays a wide array of characters from the sensitive to the ridiculous. He studies at Anthony Meindl's Acting Workshop and Upright Citizens Brigade, and teaches himself to juggle in his spare time.



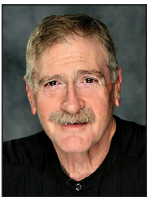
Michael DiRosa Benny Charles

Michael has done television and film as a member of SAG/AFTRA, but the stage is still his preference. Michael has performed in over 20 productions with JFed Players, including *Damn Yankees*. In addition to acting, he has enjoyed being Assistant Stage Manager for two shows after which he has gained a new experience and respect for stage management.



Angelique Duncan Harlene Frye

Angelique is a New Jerseyan who stands firm in her faith, and that faith is reflected in her works. Many of those works are art! She is a singer, actress, songwriter, rapper, poet, filmmaker, stand-up comedian, screenwriter, and dancer – a truly versatile, all-around artist. Angelique embraces life like a box of chocolates, as Forrest Gump famously said. Remarkably, those trials shaped her into the devoted disciple and dynamic performer she is today.



Mark Hilliard Dub Frye

This is Mark's third show with JFed Players. After returning to the stage, following a thirty-year hiatus, he was the Rabbi and Constable in JFed Players' production of *Fiddler on the Roof* and Harry in *Company*. Last year, he appeared

at Knott's Berry Farm's Birdcage Theater as the Host/Sketch artist for the *Peanuts Sketch School*. Since his first play in second grade, Mark has appeared on stage over 70 times. He would like to thank his friends at the JFed Players for welcoming him with open arms. He would especially like to thank his wife, Mila for encouraging him to return to the stage.



Laura Manasewich Samantha Jo Frye

Laura Manasewich is thrilled to make her JFed Players' debut with *Southern Fried Funeral*. A New England transplant, she writes and performs with the Los Angeles sketch team, Little French Boy, and is a stand-up comedian, short film producer, and director. Laura began performing comedy with Sea Tea Improv in Hartford, CT, but as the youngest child, she's been entertaining for decades. She thanks her friends and family for their love and support, especially her husband Michael for his unwavering patience while she perfected her Mississippi accent. Follow Laura on Instagram at @sassymanassy.



Kate Landro Martha Ann

Kate has appeared in various roles with JFed Players including Aimee in *Company*, Karen in *Wisdom of Eve*, and Grandma Tzeitel in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Other stage roles include Sandra Snyder in *Grumpy Old Men (the Musical)*, Vivian in *Church Basement Ladies*, and Mrs. Brill in various productions of *Mary Poppins*. Kate has also appeared in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Christmas Carol*, *The Music Man*, and *Lend Me a Tenor* among others. New York City area roles included: Louisa in *Nine*, Edith Zuckerman in *Charlotte's Web*, and Charlotte in *The Mad-rati* among others. Film and TV: *Homeland Security* (MTW), *Tales from the ER*. Kate is also a member of The Group Rep Theater in Burbank.



Lori McKenna
Dorothy Frye

Lori has been involved in many JFed Players' productions, both on stage and behind the scenes, and has enjoyed them all! Her favorite roles include Georgia Henricks in *Curtains*, Elizabeth in *A Little Piece of Heaven*, and Yenta in *Fiddler on the Roof*. A heartfelt thank you to this talented group of actors and production staff – fellow thespians and good friends.



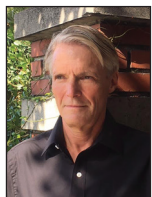
Jane Ryan Ho
Fairy June

It is always fun and a pleasure to “play” with JFed Players – the production staff and actors! Jane dedicates this production to Mary and John who recently moved on but are with her in spirit wherever the family gathers. Peace!



Andy Stetkevich
Attie Van Leer

Andy Stetkevich is thrilled to be making his JFed Players stage debut playing the role of Atticus "Attie" Van Leer in *Southern Fried Funeral*. He is honored to join such a talented cast. He is a Southern California-based artist who rekindled his passion for the performing arts after spending many years working as an educator. Andy is especially grateful to his wife and children for their unending support.



Robert Polachek
Beecham

Having started his thespian career in Minnesota in the annual "Cemetery walk," it's Rob's pleasure to return to the theater in the role of Beecham in the JFed Players' production of *Southern Fried Funeral*. Beecham is Rob's latest role in his acting tour of Los Angeles, which has brought him to many interesting places, people, and roles over the last ten years. He hopes you enjoy the play and getting to know Beecham.

PRODUCTION STAFF:



Kerr Lordygan
Director

Kerr is a multi-award winning L.A. Theatre veteran with numerous stage and screen credits as an actor (including *Law and Order: the Musical*, *Gross Indecency*, *Pam and Tommy*, *Time Zero*, *Super Drags*), director (including *No Love*, *The Last Train to Nibroc*, *Special*—a comedy about the making of the Star Wars Holiday Special, and as a writer (including plays *Askance*, *The Hit*), and cowriting the original hard rock musical *Gothmas*. His audiobook performances can be found streaming and his original hard rock music can be found on Spotify and all music platforms.



John Carlton
Assistant Director

John is a veteran of many JFed Players productions, each of which has been a unique, challenging, and enjoyable experience. Many thanks to a wonderful group of talented artists and friends.



Cantor Judy Sofer
Producer

Cantor Judy Sofer serves as the Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys' Cultural Arts Program Director and is Cantor Emerita at Temple Beth Shalom of Long Beach. She continues to perform, direct, and conduct in her roles as both a cantor and director. Cantor Sofer has served as either director or producer for every JFed Players production.



Brian Gordon
Set Design and Construction

Brian has been doing set, prop design, and construction since 2017 starting with *Twilight Zone*. He was on stage crew for *Once Upon a Mattress* and has been involved with many JFed Players productions where needed in a non-acting role. In addition, since 2006, Brian volunteers as a mentor for his local high school FIRST Robotics team 589. He

has been a passionate amateur woodworker for many years.



Edeena Gordon
**Set Design and Construction/
Sound**

Edeena has been involved in every production of JFed Players since their founding in 2011. In nearly all the musicals, she has been in the ensemble along with taking on specific supporting characters. Her non-acting support includes Assistant Stage Manager for *Rumors*, coordinating sound and/or lights for non-musicals. Starting in 2017 with *Twilight Zone*, she was on the production staff, providing set and prop construction along with sound support.



Joanne Karr
Lighting

Joanne is a retired high school theater director who now volunteers and works part-time in education. She is a two-time Fulbright Exchange teacher to the UK and a member of the Director's Guild of America. Her work with JFed Players includes directing *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Play On!*, and several Yom HaShoah staged play-readings. She also appeared in *Twelve Angry Jurors* and *Scapino!* and provided technical assistance for many other shows. She is a member of JFed Players' Steering Committee and has been honored as the Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys Volunteer of the Year.



Shlomo Sofer
Lights

Shlomo has been involved with the JFed Players, working behind the scenes in various jobs. In previous musicals, he has run spotlights and worked as a stagehand backstage. He has built sets for the JFed Players productions of *Curtains*, *Twilight Zone*, and *She Loves Me*; he was Master Set Builder for *Damn Yankees*.



Terrie Collins-Grant
Props

Terrie came to theater at an advanced age, having been a writer for most of her life, and she is glad she did. She's happy to be part of a JFed Players production once again. Thank you, Judy!



Ken Grant
Props

Ken loves to build things and finds great joy in finding objects and morphing them into something new. The JFed Players have given him a new hobby in his retirement from IT that keeps his mind sharp and his hands creative. Thanks to the JFed Players, he is really having fun finding and making props!



Raise your Voice in Song!

Kol HaEmek Jewish Community Chorale, celebrates a diverse range of Jewish music, from liturgical to contemporary, and welcomes singers from all backgrounds, whether connected to a synagogue or not. As the sole Jewish community choir in Southern California, they perform an annual concert and frequently participate in Shabbat services, Cantors' concerts, and other Jewish music events across our area. If you're passionate about singing and wish to be part of this musical community, consider joining Kol HaEmek!

Rehearsals Wednesdays,
7:00-9:00 p.m. at the
Jewish Federation office in Monrovia

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Cultural Arts Calendar

2026

- **May 31:** Shir Delights XVI, Kol HaEmek annual concert | Temple Beth David
- **Sept. 26 - Oct. 4 -** JFed Players present: *Murder on the Orient Express* by Ken Ludwig



JEWISH FEDERATION
OF THE GREATER SAN GABRIEL AND POMONA VALLEYS

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114A W. Lime Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016
626.445.0810 • federation@jewishsgpv.org • www.jewishsgpv.org



May 14, 10 a.m.

CSI TOWN HALL AND SECURITY BRIEFING

A timely security update with local/federal law enforcement and CSI, focused on strengthening community awareness and safety.



May 19, 7 p.m.

HOW TO WIN HEARTS AND MINDS: COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES FOR COMBATING ANTISEMITISM | IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ADL

Build skills to address antisemitism effectively.



May 31, 3 p.m.

KOL HAEMEK JEWISH COMMUNITY CHORALE PRESENTS: SHIR DELIGHTS XVI

A joyful afternoon of Jewish choral music and song.



June 15 - July 18 in Pasadena | July 21 - August 7 in Pomona CAMP GAN SHALOM

A vibrant Jewish day camp filled with play, learning, and laughter. Programs for grades entering K-10th. Scholarships available.

To learn more or RSVP, visit www.jewishsgpv.org, or call 626-445-0810.



HERE WHEN OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS US MOST

Strengthening Jewish life in the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys

When Jewish families face hardship or antisemitism, they turn to our Jewish Federation. From fire relief to community programs and advocacy, we protect and strengthen Jewish life every day.

No other organization does what we do for our community.

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