

**Christian Brothers
High School
Presents**

THE 20TH CENTURY

**By Ben Hecht and
Charles MacArthur**

*A Virtual
Production*

**TWENTIETH CENTURY By Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur, Based on a
play by Charles Bruce Millholland in a new adaptation by Ken Ludwig.
Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.**

**Premiers April 23rd, 7 PM and is available to stream through May 2nd,
2021. Link available through the Ticket Hub at
www.cbhs-sacramento.org.**

Christian Brothers High School Presents

TWENTIETH CENTURY

By Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur

Based on a play by Charles Bruce Milholland in a
new adaptation by Ken Ludwig.

This adaptation was first produced in New York City in
2004 by Roundabout Theatre Company. Todd Haimes,
Artistic Director.

Originally produced at the Signature Theatre in 2003, Eric
D. Schaeffer, Artistic Director. Sam Sweet, Managing Di-
rector. Ronnie Gunderson, Producing Director.

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

SPECIAL THANKS

Matías Bombal

Original Cover art by Hunter Rojas '20

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

La Salle Street Station, Chicago, aboard the
Twentieth Century Limited, en route to New York,
March, 1933.

ACT TWO

Scene 1: En route to New York, still aboard the
Twentieth Century.

Scene 2: After a brief stop in Toledo, OH.

Scene 3: Grand Central Station, New York City.

CAST

In Order of Appearance

ANITA HIGHLAND.....	Anna Deukmejian '23
PORTER.....	Kaylie Von Schoech '24
DR. GROVER LOCKWOOD.....	Tim Warford '21
CONDUCTOR.....	Abigail Vandepol '23
OWEN O'MALLEY.....	Josh Muilenburg '24
OSCAR JAFFE.....	William Helman '21
MATTHEW CLARK.....	Tanner Meade '23
IDA WEBB.....	Racine Strong '21
LILY GARLAND.....	Aela Veerkamp '21
GEORGE SMITH.....	Cooper Davey '22
DETECTIVE.....	Josiah Foster '23
MAX JACOBS.....	Israel Reid '24

TECHNICAL CREW

DIRECTOR.....	Michael D. Jackson
DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT.....	Lindsay Shimizu '23
TECHNICAL ADVISOR.	Heather Christianson '01
COSTUMES/ PROPS/	
SOUND/ EDITING.....	Anna Hashimoto

DIRECTOR'S NOTES Twentieth Century

In 1999, my old friend Jack had been in New York for a while, but was moving to Hollywood to further his career as a screenwriter. I was moving from California to New York, so we arranged to visit in L.A. for a few days before we were 3000 miles apart again. Jack suggested we go to see what was playing at a revival cinema—something we always liked to do together since back in the days when the Sacramento Crest Theater showed classic films on a regular basis. This time it was *Twentieth Century*, a screwball comedy starring John Barrymore. I'd never heard of it before, but thought it was unusually original and very funny. The credits mentioned it was based on a play.

Years later, after I had moved to New York, David, a co-worker at Music Theatre International, brought up his adoration for that film one day. We talked about the musical version, *On the Twentieth Century* and I mentioned that it was a play originally. This inspired David to hunt down a copy of the 1933 play, which by all accounts hadn't been done since the 1950s. We were both a little disappointed that the play didn't contain all of the scenes in the film. The story had been opened up in the way that movies should—showing a back story to the characters in the play and allowing for various settings over a greater time-span. The play is seclused to the single set of a passenger train, which is economically sound, but it also had a very large cast and so I dismissed it as being too big to produce.

Not long after that, Ken Ludwig adapted the original play for a revival, which opened on Broadway in 2004. The Ludwig version slimmed down the cast and got rid of all the extras that were there for ambiance in order to focus on the main characters. Alec Baldwin and Anne Heche took the leads. That production revived my interest in the film again and I re-read the play with a fresh point of view. What Ludwig had done was make the old play produceable again and he also mindfully added a female character by changing Oliver Webb to become Ida Webb. And so, I've kept this rollicking comedy in the back of my mind, waiting for the right stage where I could do it justice.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES CONT'D.

The Twentieth Century Limited was a luxury speed train from Chicago to New York—between 1902 and 1967 it was the most exemplary example of public transportation around. The authors rightly seized upon the ultra-contemporary name of this train, along with the novel notion of setting a comedy on a train with its narrow corridors, compartments and doors providing a playground for the hi-jinx. For us, the challenge of building a life-size train set sounded like fun and would be quite different from anything we've done before.

In 1978, a musical version featuring Kevin Kline and Madeline Kahn opened on Broadway and ran for 449 performances. The show maintained a cult following, though productions have been few. Although, there was a Broadway revival as recently as 2015.

The original authors, Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur (husband of Helen Hayes), were a very successful comedy playwriting team of the 1920s and 1930s. With the advent of talking pictures, Hollywood called and they went on to do superb combined and individual work for the movies. Their most prominent collaborations include: *Swan Song*, *Front Page*, *Jumbo* and *Twentieth Century*. A few of the pair's important films include: *Wuthering Heights*, *Gunga Din* and *Scarface* as well as the screenplays to their own *Front Page* and *Twentieth Century*.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW



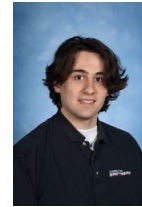
COOPER DAVEY '22 is (George Smith) has previously been seen on the CB stage in *Singin' in the Rain*, three editions of the CB Theatre Showcase, and as Peter Pan in *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Cooper is also the president of the CB Theatre Society.



ANNA DEUKMEJIAN '23 (Anita) is thrilled to be playing Anita Highland in her third production with CB, and she is excited to work with a wonderful cast and crew. Outside of acting, Anna loves to play guitar and sing. She thanks her friends and family for their support.



JOSIAH FOSTER '23 (Detective), is excited to be returning to CB theater for his third time as The Detective. Past productions include *Peter and the Starcatcher* and *CB Radio Theatre*. When he's not in front of his camera for rehearsal, he's in the same place but in a different class. Josiah would like to direct the awareness towards his family for their constant support.



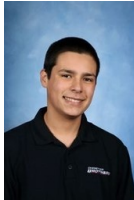
WILLIAM HELMAN '21 (Oscar Jaffe) is thrilled to play the role of Oscar Jaffe in his third and final Christian Brothers production. In addition to theater he enjoys history and film. He thanks his family for their support and encouragement.



TANNER MEADE '23 (Matthew Clark) is excited to finish *Twentieth Century* after it was canceled last year due to Covid. Tanner has been acting for a few years and his favorite production has been *The Lion King* where he played Young Simba. When off the stage, Tanner enjoys seeing his friends and playing video games.



JOSH MUILENBURG '24 (Owen O'Malley) is thrilled to be taking on the role of Owen O'Malley. He previously lent his voice to the CB Radio Theatre this past fall. Josh has been acting since age 8. He wants to thank his friends and family for their constant support.



ISRAEL REID '24 (Max Jacobs) is fairly new to acting and is ready to try his first virtual play. Off the stage you can find him drawing and doodling or in the kitchen where he loves to whip up meals and dishes.



JACQULYNNE SAMPLE '22 (Beard) is ecstatic to be in another Christian Brothers production as The Beard. Past CB productions include, *Singin' in the Rain* and *Peter and the Starcatcher*. When not immersed in the world of performing, she enjoys taking long walks, piña coladas and getting caught in the rain. Although she's not much into yoga, she has half a brain.



RACINE STRONG '21 (Ida Webb) is thrilled to be playing the role of Ida Webb. Favorite past productions include, *Peter and the Starcatcher* and *State Fair*. This is her last production at CBHS and she is very thankful for everything she has learned and experienced in her time with the CB Theatre program.



ABIGAIL VANDEPOL '23 (Conductor) thanks her friends and family for their love and support. She is thrilled to be playing the Conductor in CB's production of *Twentieth Century*. She is profoundly grateful for amazing director Michael D Jackson. She looks forward to rehearsal every day and wants to thank the amazing cast for making it such an amazing experience.



AELA VEERKAMP '21 (Lily Garland) has been passionate about theatre since kindergarten. She's sad that this is her last production with CB, but is delighted to go out with a bang as Lily Garland. Past CB productions include *The Martian Chronicles* and *Peter and the Starcatcher*. She is more grateful than words can describe for everyone who's supported and encouraged her these past four years.



KAYLIE VONSCHOECH '24 (Porter) is excited to be playing Porter in her first full production at CB after appearing in the CB Theatre Showcase. They are happy to be working with such an incredible cast and she's glad that CB was still able to have a production this year. When on stage they can be found painting, making music, or at cheer practice.



TIM WARFORD '21 (Dr. Grover Lockwood) is honored to be a part of his fourth CB production. He is so excited to be playing Dr. Lockwood and to be working with such a great cast and crew. His favorite past production is *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and the One Act plays he has been involved in. Tim also plays volleyball and is a passionate gamer.



LINDSAY SHIMIZU (Director's Assistant)

WHO'S WHO CONT'D

MICHAEL D. JACKSON (Director/Choreographer) is completing his 6th year teaching Theatre at CBHS. Past life chapters include a decade with Broadway Sacramento in a variety of capacities and 14 years in New York City as director, playwright, theatre critic and agent for Music Theatre International.

ANNA HASHIMOTO (Costumes/Props/Sound/Video Editing) has been managing the props for CB productions since 2015. She has worked on productions with Mr. Jackson throughout the past 20 years

HEATHER CHRISTIANSON '01 (Technical Director) Heather is a proud graduate of Christian Brothers and the USC School of Dramatic Art. Her technical theatre background has taken her to Los Angeles and London as well as Sacramento's own Broadway at Music Circus and Sacramento Theatre Company. None of this experience prepared her for producing theatre in a pandemic, though it has collectively given her the confidence to figure it out as we go.

Here's what we're planning for 2021/22!



March 25-27, April 1-3



November 12-14, 19-21