

## CHRISTMAS WITH THE CRAWFORDS - BRÜKA THEATRE SHOW INFORMATION

### **CHRISTMAS WITH THE CRAWFORDS** *A Star-Studded Hollywood Christmas Eve with Joan & The Family*

© 2000 Artfull Circle Theatre Created by Richard Winchester Written by Mark Sargent

Directed by Mary Bennett AD: Rose Sambrano Stage Manager: Kaitlynn Cooper

Costuming: Deborah Morrison Wig Design: John Paul Rivard

Technical Director: David Simpson Set Design: Lewis Zaumeyer

Music Director: \_\_\_\_\_

**Performances:** December 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22 @ 7:30 PM

Sunday Matinees: December 10 & 17 @ 2 PM 2023

15 Total Shows

Mark Sargent and Richard Winchester's *Christmas with the Crawford*s, which is also called "Mommie Dearest, the Musical with a Holiday Theme," originated at the Theatre Rhinoceros in San Francisco. The legendary story of Joan Crawford began life in 1992 in an old converted fire department horse barn and subsequently has packed houses in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland and Seattle. The 90 minute campy musical played at the Chelsea Playhouse in New York in November 2001, where it was nominated for a Drama Desk award. America's premiere drag comedienne/singer Hedda Lettuce was originally the epitome of a creepy Joan with a mile high '40s style black wig. Mark Sargent originated the Ethel Merman role.

*Christmas with the Crawford*s takes place on Christmas Eve, 1944, and Joan has recently been "fired" from MGM because they consider her "box office poison" (which was true). Ms. Crawford is up for the lead in the Warner Bros. film *Mildred Pierce*, but horror upon horror, she must take a screen test first (this was also true). "I have never had a screen test in my life!" she explodes. Joan needs to rebuild her public relations, so her friend Hedda Hopper decides to broadcast her live show from the star's Brentwood mansion with Joan and kids in tow. Jack Warner is also coming over to discuss the film right after the broadcast.

During the live broadcast, celebrity visitors who apparently have lost their way en route to the big Gary Cooper party next door, come dropping in at the house. To make matters worse, Joan is quite piqued that she has been omitted from her neighbor's guest list.

Among the guests who take over the spotlight to sing their favorite holiday songs are the Andrews Sisters, Judy Garland, Gloria Swanson, Hattie McDaniel carrying her Oscar, Carmen Miranda, and Ethel Merman.. Joan's "roommate," a frightening Baby Jane Hudson, is also present carrying a covered dish, which contains what else but a rodent.

### **CHRISTMAS WITH THE CRAWFORDS CAST: *Gender/Color Blind Casting***

Carmen Miranda / Patty Andrews - Sings

Judy Garland / LaVerne Andrews - Sings

Hedda Hopper

Gloria Swanson / Shirley Temple - Sings

Ethel Merman / Baby Jane Hudson -Sings

Christopher Crawford

Joan Crawford

Hattie McDaniel / Maxine Andrews - Sings

Liberace (Piano Player)

Tina Crawford

