

# LIBERTY CALL



Manoa Valley Theatre Producing Director Dwight Martin says MVT provides an excellent opportunity for the local community to participate in the performing arts. The theatre is located at 2833 East Manoa Road, the Manoa Valley Theatre is situated on the 100-year-old grounds of Kawaiahao Church's Manoa Valley Chapel. MVT holds mostly Off-Broadway or smaller play productions to accommodate a very intimate house.

## Manoa Valley Theatre provides Off-Broadway entertainment

By JOCS(SW) Phil Eggman  
*Navy Region Hawaii*

Innovative, intimate and entertaining best describes both environment and fare at Oahu's Manoa Valley Theatre. "We are Honolulu's Off-Broadway Playhouse," said MVT Producing Director Dwight Martin. "We provide an excellent opportunity for the local community to participate in the performing arts."

Located at 2833 East Manoa Road, the Manoa Valley Theatre is situated on the 100-year-old grounds of Kawaiahao Church's Manoa Valley Chapel. MVT annually produces six or more productions from recent Off-Broadway or Off-Broadway shows from September through August.

According to Martin, MVT produces a nice balance of offerings, including comedies, dramas and musicals. "Sometimes we deal with issues, but for the most part, we believe in theatre first," he said.

Martin said what ultimately became MVT began in 1969 when a handful of graduate students from the University of Hawaii felt that there was not enough artistic opportunities in the community. So they decided to start their own company and founded the Hawaii Performing Arts Company (HPAC).

"HPAC roamed around the community and support for their productions grew, but they needed to establish a permanent location," Martin said. "One day they were driving by the old

church that was here and noted that it was not in use. With approval from the Church Board, the company moved here in 1972"

Support continued to grow and nearly \$1 million was raised to replace the old chapel facility. Finally, in 1987, the new 150 seat theatre was dedicated, with a backstage addition built in 1994.

"MVT fills a special niche in the local community," Martin said, pointing out other local productions focus on large Broadway musicals and dramas, while University of Hawaii focuses primarily on classics and Asian theatre.

MVT holds mostly Off-Broadway or smaller play productions to accommodate a very intimate house. "We have fewer cast members, less expensive productions that are written to be produced on the smaller side," he said, adding that 95 percent of their plays have not been seen in Hawaii before.

The Manoa Valley Theatre is open Wed.-Thur. 7:30 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 8 p.m. and Sun. 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for all seats, all performances.

Discounts are available for seniors and students; tickets are only \$10 for patrons under 25 years old. Minimum suggested age is 15 years old.

Manoa Valley Theatre is supported by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Call 988-6131 for tickets and additional information.



Still owned by Kawaiahao Church, the current location of the Manoa Valley Theatre holds the graves of many former residents of the valley.



The Manoa Valley Theatre stage brings six productions or more a year to Oahu, annually, from September through August.

Story and Photos by  
JOCS(SW)  
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### 'Deathtrap' to open May 17 at the Manoa Valley Theatre

By Aubrey Hawk  
*MANOA VALLEY THEATRE*

Manoa Valley Theatre will stage the wildly popular comedy thriller, "Deathtrap", starting May 17 and will run through June 4.

Guest Director Roger Long has cast Dwight Martin as Sidney Bruhl; Betty Burdick as Myra Bruhl; Jesse Michael Mothershed as Clifford Anderson; Jana Lindan as Helga Den Torp; and Greg Howell as Porter Milgrim.

Authored by Ira Levin (also author of Rosemary's Baby and The Boys from Brazil), Deathtrap is a scalp-tingling murder mystery and one of the great popular successes of Broadway history. The ingeniously constructed play offers a rare and skillful blending of two priceless theatrical ingredients: gasp-inducing thrills and spontaneous laughter.

Dealing with the devious machinations of a writer of thrillers whose recent offerings have been flops, and who is prepared to go to any lengths to improve his fortunes,

Deathtrap is a complicated game of murderous musical chairs involving bodies in the garden, a medieval crossbow, and a psychic who warns of disaster.

It provides twists and turns and sudden shocks in such abundance that audiences will be held spellbound until the very last moment.

A 1978 Broadway hit; the play was popularized in a 1982 film starring Christopher Reeve, Michael Deathtrap will be presented May 17 - June 4, Wed.-Thur. 7:30 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 8 p.m. and Sun. 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for all seats, all performances. Discounts are available for seniors and students; tickets are only \$10 for patrons under 25 years old. A buffet dinner by Beau Soleil is offered on the MVT lanai starting 90 minutes before curtain, Wed. through Sat. Minimum suggested age is 15 years old.

Manoa Valley Theatre is supported by the State Foundation on Culture & the Arts. The theatre is located at 2833 East Manoa Rd. For tickets or information, call MVT at 988-6131.