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## Dinner and the theater, at a discount



Photo Charles Jarrett

Kieran Cross portraying comedian Eddie McCuen in "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940"

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Starlight Village Players will give you two regular theater tickets for the price of one if you present a receipt from an Orinda restaurant. The receipt must be from the same evening as the performance, and only one

discount is allowed per party.

The current play is "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940," with showings at 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8, and 8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9 and Saturday, Aug. 10. The Orinda Starlight Village Players are in their 36th season in Orinda Community Park.

Written by John Bishop, the play tells the story of the creative team responsible for a recent Broadway flop (in which three chorus girls were murdered by the mysterious "Stage Door Slasher") as the team assembles for a backer's audition of their new show at the Westchester estate of a wealthy "angel." The house is replete with sliding panels and secret passageways — all of which figure diabolically in the comic mayhem, which follows when the infamous "Slasher" makes his reappearance and strikes again — and again. As the composer, lyricist, actors and director prepare their performance, and a blizzard cuts off any possible retreat, bodies start to drop in plain sight, knives spring out of nowhere, masked figures drag their victims behind swiveling bookcases, and accusing fingers point in all directions. However, and with no thanks to the bumbling police inspector who snowshoes in to investigate, the mystery is solved in the nick of time and the "Slasher" unmasked — but not before the audience has been treated with what the OSVP describe as "a sidesplitting good time and a generous serving of the author's biting, satiric and refreshingly irreverent wit."

In September, the theater group will present Malcolm Cowler's adaptation of Wilkie Collins' "The Woman in White."

## Artist's inviting paintings on display at Wilder gallery

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In his early 20s, he joined his family business and also served in the U.S. Air Force, which forced him to put his painting on hold. He later returned to painting and studied for eight years under the direction of Todd Butler in Edison, New Jersey.

The artist owned a restaurant/catering business for 40 years while living in Denville, New Jersey, with his wife and two children. Lombardi, who is inspired by nature, painted on and off when time allowed and was a member of the Morris County Art Association and participated in their art shows. After retiring, the artist relocated to California in 2014 to be closer to his two chil-

dren and grandchildren and currently resides in Manteca. While he paints everything from natural landscapes to architecture, his favorite objects are small vignettes such as entryways, windows, and gardens.



"California Mission", 16" x 20", oil painting on canvas by Joseph Lombardi Jr.

To learn more about his work go to [www.josephlombardiart.ucraft.net](http://www.josephlombardiart.ucraft.net).



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