




# Mid-Century Moderns

a new musical






Concept



The story of Maryann  
Kopecky and her musical  
journey from Wisconsin  
widow...



... to Mid-Century  
Modern!



An original jukebox musical  
with tunes of the day (Petula Clark,  
Tom Jones and their contemporaries).

## Synopsis

1966,  
Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin!  
Maryann Kopecky is  
recently widowed.

All she has left  
in the world is...  
her late husband's  
Mercury Monterey  
(with a touch  
of engine trouble),

his insurance policy  
(guess how long  
that's gonna last),  
and a stuffed kangaroo  
(or is it a rat?).

And now, she's heading  
West to make her dreams  
come true in Santa Monica,  
California by becoming...  
a secretary!

But her car breaks down in  
Palm Springs, and oh, yeah,  
the guy she picked up in  
Oklahoma City

steals all the  
insurance money,  
along with her car,  
and winter coat.

But she's determined to make a go of it,  
and with a little help from her friends (and  
her big mouth), little Maryann Kopecky  
becomes a "Mid-Century Modern"!



Our Characters



MARYANN, the girl next door: our star



ERNIE, Maryann's recently dead husband (her Greek Chorus) /

MISS SIMPSON, the office manager



RICKY, the lively neighbor with 10 jobs /  
The BARTENDER



MRS. HONEYHOUSE, the magical landlady /  
DORIS, her best friend



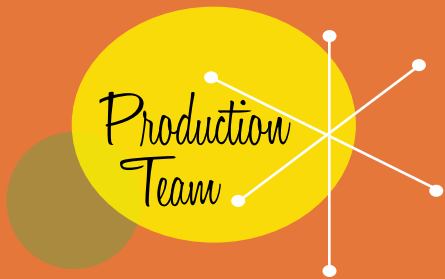
BREWSTER, the silver fox,  
Maryann's leading man



TOM, the slick gambler /  
MICHAEL, Ricky's hippie boyfriend



KELLEE McQUINN,  
the narrator of the reading



Mark Christopher  
and Dan Gelfand

### **MARK CHRISTOPHER -**

Book Writer / Director / Producer

Music and Place have always been at the heart of Mark's work. His film "54" (starring Ryan Phillippe, Salma Hayek and Mike Myers) tells the tale of legendary nightclub Studio 54 using music as a story-telling device. Mark has written and directed film and TV for most of the major studios and networks in the U.S. He also works in Europe and Brazil. His award-winning short films have been screened at all major international film fests and at MoMA.

### **DAN GELFAND -** Producer

Dan brings a wealth of experience in producing, marketing and promoting film, network and syndicated shows. He and Mark Christopher previously created and exec-produced the musical reality show *Real Life: The Musical* for the Oprah Winfrey Network.

### **JOEY PIZZI -** Choreographer

Joey is the choreographer of this year's delightful *Mary Poppins Returns*. His Broadway credits include choreographer of *Jekyll & Hyde*, *The Nance*, and associate choreographer of *Catch Me If You Can*, *Urban Cowboy*, *Cry-Baby*, *Follies* (Revival). His film work includes *Dreamgirls*, *Burlesque* and *Into the Woods*.

### **MATT BERMAN -** Lighting and Sound Designer

Matt is a lighting and sound designer working on Broadway and in Europe. His shows include Kristin Chenoweth's *My Love Letter to Broadway*, *Liza at the Palace*, *Kathy Griffin Wants a Tony* and *Bea Arthur on Broadway*, among others.

### **ALEX DANSON -** Musical Director

Alex is a Romanian-born classically trained pianist and composer with degrees from Bucharest, Romania, and Redlands, California. He toured Europe with such groups as The Platters, and has worked as both music director and pianist throughout Europe.

### **JACE BORBA -** Associate Producer

Jace was a drama/theatre instructor for many years. He has worked on productions of *Cabaret*, *Rhinoceros* and *Barefoot in the Park*, among others.





## The Cast

### **RENA STROBER** (Maryann)

Rena has been seen on Broadway (*Les Miz*, *Fiddler...* and any show that's over three hours long where everybody dies). Also, national tours, film and network TV, but her favorite place to perform is on the 405.

### **ALIX KOREY** (Doris / Mrs. Honeyhouse)

Alix is a veteran of ten Broadway shows, the most recent being the revival of *Fiddler on the Roof*. She has received multiple Drama Desk and Outer Critics nominations.

### **TOM LOWE** (Brewster)

Tom is a British-born and raised international singer, actor, TV host and composer. Among his credits are starring roles in the London West End award-winning productions of *Cats* and *Les Misérables*.

### **BEN GOLDBERG** (Tom / Michael)

Ben Goldberg is an actor/singer/writer and lots of other slashes currently residing in Los Angeles, working in film, TV and stage. A regular performer in the LA cabaret scene, Ben also has onscreen credits in shows such as *Shameless* and *Castle*.

### **TOM WARRICK** (Ernie / Miss Simpson)

From Indiana to New York to Los Angeles and finally to Palm Springs, Tom has always loved being a part of the theater. An original member of New York's Circle Rep Lab Company, he has been doing theater locally for the last twelve years, including roles in *Cabaret*, *Oliver!* and *1776*.

### **SERGI ROBLES** (Ricky / Bartender)

Originally from Barcelona, Spain and raised in Florida, Sergi has worked professionally in regional theaters, commercials, cruise ships and vocal groups, traveling to more than 31 countries along the way. His credits include roles in *Evita*, *Forever Plaid*, *The Student Prince* and *Schoolhouse Rock Live*.

**KELLEE McQUINN** (Narrator) Kellee is a writer, choreographer, performer, director and producer best known for creating television shows and education programs for kids, including *KidTribe* and *Mack & Moxy* for PBS and Netflix.



The Story



After the death of her husband, Ernie, Maryann dreams of venturing forth from Wisconsin.

“Who Am I”



Maryann says farewell to all and heads West!

“Who Am I” reprise



Stopping in Tulsa, Maryann is plagued by second thoughts...and by something else.

“How Can I Be Sure”

# The Story



Maryann hits a local bar to drown her fears...and meets the slick and sexy Tom.

“It’s Not Unusual”



Maryann continues toward California, now with Tom—she has regrets about the wild night she’s just had with him...in bed...including her first orgasm...But Tom has no regrets. In fact, it appears that he may have ideas of his own...

“Something Stupid”



After the Mercury overheats in Palm Springs, Maryann meets Mrs. Honeyhouse, who insists they come by for a drink. Maryann is wowed by Mrs. H’s modern life.

“New World Coming”



# The Story



Tom wants to keep heading West,  
but Maryann wants to stay.

“You Don’t Own Me”

End of Act 1

## Act II



Depressed and hopeless, Maryann cuddles  
her stuffed kangaroo.

“I Know a Place”



Maryann meets Mrs.  
Honeyhouse’s handsome young  
neighbors—Michael and Ricky.  
She has no idea they are  
a couple.

“Eso Beso”



# The Story



Michael returns with a gift—a trip to...

“Incense and Peppermints”

Ricky and Michael  
decide it’s time to  
remake Maryann  
and what a fabulous  
job they do!

“Windy”



Maryann’s dream of becoming  
a secretary is crushed when  
she’s hired to be...a file clerk.  
Mrs. Honeyhouse has some  
advice.

“Never Throw Your  
Dreams Away”

## The Story



Maryann discovers that the handsome Brewster Norton (whom she has seen in the magazines) is actually her boss. He takes a liking to his new employee.

“Help Yourself”

Note: A different Maryann is in this clip as the actor who will play Brewster was in an earlier reading. (This is his rendition.)



Ernie, Maryann’s dead husband, returns once again to haunt her, but she finally stands up to him with...

“Am I the Same Girl”

## The Story



Maryann tries to reject Brewster's advances (she'd rather keep her job), but he makes his plea.

"I'm a Believer"



Ernie disappears for good from Maryann's life while she is won over by Brewster, but it has to be on her own terms. She wants to live the life of a mid-century modern—never again an "everyday housewife."

She proposes that they live in sin!

"Sign of the Times"

Behind the  
Scenes



Behind the  
Scenes

