

“Christy Mathewson was a great pitcher, a great competitor and a great soul. Both in spirit and in inspiration he was greater than his game. For he was something more than a great pitcher. He was one of those rare characters who appealed to millions through a magnetic personality attached to clean honesty and undying loyalty to a cause.”

— Grantland Rice, sportswriter and friend

“We need real heroes, heroes of the heart that we can emulate. We need the heroes in ourselves. I believe that is what this show you’ve come to see is all about. In Christy Mathewson’s words, “Give your friends names they can live up to. Throw your BEST pitches in the ‘pinch.’ Be humble, and gentle, and kind.” Matty is a much-needed force today, and I believe we are lucky to have had him. I hope you will want to come back. I do. And I continue to reap the spirit of Christy Mathewson.”

— Kerrigan Mahan, Director of “MATTY”

“A lively visit with a fascinating man ... A perfect pitch! Pure virtuosity!”

— Clive Barnes, NEW YORK POST

“A magnificent trip back in time!”

— Keith Olbermann, FOX SPORTS

“You’ll be amazed at Matty, his contemporaries, and the dramatic baseball events of their time.”

— Bob Costas, NBC SPORTS

“One of the year’s ten best plays!”

— NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

“Catches the spirit of the times -- which includes, of course, the present -- with great spirit and theatricality!”

— Ira Berkow, NEW YORK TIMES

“Remarkable! This show is as memorable as an exciting World Series game and it wakes up the echoes about why we love baseball. When MATTY comes to your town don’t miss it! A great way to get hooked on baseball again!”

— Tim Wendel, USA TODAY

Audiobook version of “Matty” NOW available at audible.com and iTunes!
E-book & print versions available at amazon.com! Visit the Matty Web Site:

www.matty.org

The West Ranch High School Baseball and Theatre Programs
in association with The Mathewson Foundation
present

Eddie Frierson
in
“MATTY”



An Evening With Christy Mathewson

Directed by Kerrigan Mahan

West Ranch High School Theatre 26266 W. Valencia Blvd. Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381
Sunday, November 15, 2015 FREE ADMISSION Curtain 3:00 P.M.

***Donations not solicited but gratefully accepted**

“MATTY”

Written and Performed by Eddie Frierson
Directed by Kerrigan Mahan
Costume Design Suzan Kay Frierson
Lighting Design Jeff Hampton

ACT ONE

Bonehead
Umpires
Opportunities
Repercussions
The Alibi
The Giant Jinx Killer

ACT TWO

The Early Days
Practical Jokes
McGraw
Factoryville and Nicholas
Fears
Deception
Consumption

There will be one 15-minute intermission

The taking of photographs or the operation of any recording device, without permission, is STRICTLY prohibited.

This evening's performance is dedicated in loving memory of Suzan Kay Frierson whose love, devotion and undaunted support of this project inspired it to fruition

SOME PEOPLE YOU'RE LIKELY TO MEET TODAY: George M. Cohan, Fred Merkle, Johnny Evers, “Turkey Mike” Donlin, Frank Chance, Umpire Hank O’Day, Harry Pulliam, “Iron Man” Joe McGinnity, Umpire Bob Emslie, Umpire “Mr.” Bill Klem, actress May Tully, Chief Meyers, White & Kreamer, Jane Mathewson, Charley Faust, a fan, some newspaper boys, “Old Amos,” “Broadway Alec” Smith, a Boston Bellboy, Frank Bowerman, Andrew Freedman, a young player, Grantland Rice, Nicholas Mathewson, “Eagle Eye” Jake Beckley, Joe Kelley, “Bugs” Raymond, Hal Chase, Jimmy Ring, Hugh Fullerton, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis and others.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Casey Burrill, Christopher Cook, West Ranch Baseball and Theatre programs, Grace Mathewson Van Lengen, Betty Cook, Doris Dysinger, The National Baseball Hall of Fame, Bob Costas, Roy Firestone, The Society for American Baseball Research, Brad Tufts, Keystone College, Bucknell University, Nick Newton, Keith Olbermann, the Borough of Factoryville, PA, Bettye Davies and, of course, Dad.

CHRISTY MATHEWSON

Christy Mathewson is an American hero. His life, on and off the field, epitomized America. He was a farm boy who became one of the greatest to ever play America’s game, a hero figure to the nation’s youth, and a courageous soldier. Mathewson was cheered in every city he played. And, he never forgot his roots.

He earned his first money playing baseball for Mill City (PA) in 1895. In 1897, he played his first professional baseball in Honesdale, Pennsylvania. In 1900, he joined the National League’s New York Giants, for whom he would pitch 16 ½ seasons and win 373 games, including 37 in 1908. As a big league player in 1905, Christy shut out the Philadelphia Athletics three times within five days during the World Series, scoring his greatest baseball triumph. In 1908, he beat all previous records for endurance by pitching 425 innings, winning 37 games (officially) and losing 11. Christy helped the Giants win five pennants, playing in the World Series in 1905, 1911, 1912 and 1913 (no series was played in 1904). He pitched two no-hitters, against St. Louis in 1901 and Chicago in 1905.

Following his retirement in 1916, Mathewson managed the Cincinnati Reds. And, in 1918, he served his country in World War I. Upon returning, he coached the New York Giants from 1919 through 1921. In 1923, Mathewson became President of the Boston Braves and held that position until his untimely death from tuberculosis on October 7, 1925. He was inducted posthumously into the Baseball Hall of Fame’s Inaugural Class in 1936.

EDDIE FRIERSON

In the summer of 1984 Eddie Frierson began his research on the life and career of one of baseball’s greatest pitchers, Christy Mathewson. His in-depth study has involved thousands of travel miles, dozens of interviews and hundreds of uncounted hours in college, library and museum archives.

A native of Nashville, Tennessee, Eddie helped pitch his Hillwood High School baseball team to a State Championship. He then threw collegiately for the UCLA Bruins. While at UCLA he obtained his degree in Theatre Arts and by-passed the dream of a professional baseball career in order to pursue his love for acting. With “MATTY” Frierson combines the best of both worlds and, as an “Honorary Inductee” into Baseball’s Hall of Fame in Cooperstown he has gone farther in baseball through the stage than he ever would have on the field.. MATTY was the first outside event ever invited to perform at the HOF. In 2011 he and his family were honored to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Hall’s Inaugural Class with the families of Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Honus Wagner and Walter Johnson.

Eddie was the head varsity baseball coach at Santa Monica High School (coaching there 8 seasons). He has broadcasted Bakersfield Blaze Baseball on the radio and has performed on both coasts in dozens of theatrical productions receiving numerous awards. For 14 years he was the voice of PETCO Pet Stores. As a kid, he and his sisters sang with the famed gospel BILL GAITHER TRIO. He has also been featured in hundreds of television shows, cartoons and many feature films. Recently, he has worked on the television shows CRIMINAL MINDS and GRIMM. He is featured in dozens of theatrical films including the baseball biopic 42 and MONEYBALL. Listen carefully in the movie THE ROOKIE while Dennis Quaid loosens up in the pen in Durham as you’ll hear Eddie announce, “Your attention please ... now batting for the Bulls, number 38, Eddie Frierson!” IMDB for more info and credits.

“Gee! It’s a Wonderful Game,” performed by Juliet Lambert and the Dodsworth Saxhorn Band courtesy of Elektra Records by arrangement with Warner Special Projects.

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