

# ACTORS ENSEMBLE OF BERKELEY'S 54<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF PERFORMANCES

## 2012 SEASON TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

### ARCADIA

By Tom Stoppard

Directed By Robert Estes

JANUARY 20 TO FEBRUARY 18, 2012

From its first line, "what is carnal embrace?," Arcadia brilliantly intermixes sex, mathematics, romance and landscape architecture in a contemporary comic drama that deftly travels from today's England back to the time of the wild poet Lord Byron. All in pursuit of desire--desire for love, desire for fame, and the desire for simply knowing how it all turns out. Part mystery, part history - all engrossing intrigue. Filled with Stoppard's shining wit and darting intelligence, Arcadia is considered one of the greatest plays written in the last twenty years. Come see it in January 2012 at Actor's Ensemble of Berkeley.

### A HOT DAY IN EPHEBUS

By Vicki Siegel

Directed By Bruce Coughran

APRIL 20 TO MAY 19, 2012

A Hot Day in Ephesus is based on Shakespeare's Comedy of Errors. The original play, updated by Shakespeare, was written by the Roman comic playwright Plautus, who has also given us the original of Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. Comedy of Errors is about two sets of twins; twin masters both named Antipholus and twin servants both named Dromio. In classic Shakespearean twist, each Antipholus and Dromio pair are separated by shipwreck. When they all end up in Ephesus there is much opportunity for comic farce and mistaken identity. For some who know Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart's 1930s hit Boys from Syracuse based on the same theme, you'll find Hot Day in Ephesus an update of an update complete with a Motown number, a sassy tango and a rap. A Hot Day in Ephesus, by AE Member Vicki Siegel, began its production career in 2009 as a hit for the Curtain Theatre in Mill Valley and is now coming to the East Bay. We hope you'll come and see this musical farce in April 2012 and enjoy this upbeat new take on a classic comedy.

### NOISES OFF!

By Michael Frayn

Directed By Colin Johnson

JULY 20 TO AUGUST 18, 2012

Noises Off, a comic masterpiece, is not one play, but two: the hilariously horrible, British farce, Nothing On, and the comedic nightmare that ensues backstage. Slamming doors, flying props, prat falls, sardines and two-story revolving sets abound as we see the first act of Nothing On presented three times, each with successively less attention to the script. The under-rehearsed actors and technicians desperately try to perform even as their rapidly deteriorating relationships cause mass hysteria and make for some hysterical comedy both off-stage and on. They all quickly find that as they muddle through, the more they work to take control, the funnier and more chaotic it gets! Noises Off is written with a wit and heart that allows it to be more than mere farce or parody of farce; it speaks to what we love about theatre and makes us laugh at our dramas, both onstage and off.

### RICHARD III

By William Shakespeare

Directed By Sharon Robinson

OCTOBER 19 TO NOVEMBER 17, 2012

The original villain you love to hate or hate to love--you just can't help but let yourself be seduced by him, Richard III lets no one stand in the way of his one true love: the crown of England. But is he really just a singularity: an extraordinarily devious force of evil or is he the logical result of a corrupted political system? The history is centuries old, the situation startlingly modern: is there nothing in politics but simply the pursuit of power? Written early in Shakespeare's career, Richard III staked Shakespeare's claim as the greatest playwright of his day. We know you will be more than content - you will love it! In the winter of our new season, come see Richard III.

[www.AEofBerkeley.Org](http://www.AEofBerkeley.Org)

**2012 SEASON TICKETS**  
**ALL FOUR (4) OF**  
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**REGULAR - \$45**  
**STUDENT/SENIOR - \$40**  
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Actors Ensemble of Berkeley  
P.O. Box 663  
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We'll begin mailing Season Tickets shortly after December 1, 2011.

**YOU CAN RESERVE YOUR SEAT(S) IN ADVANCE:** Just call our Reservation Hot Line at (510) 649-5999. We start accepting reservations 3 weeks before each shows opening.

**TIME:** Our fabulous shows are at 8PM Fridays and Saturdays. Some shows include one or more Sunday matinees at 2PM.

**PLACE:** Performances are held at Live Oak Theatre (Actors Ensembles home since 1964). Live Oak Theatre is an intimate indoor theatre that's part of Live Oak Park in Berkeley's northside, next door to the "Gourmet Ghetto." There's a map on the other side.

**OH! & BECOME A MEMBER:** Just check the box and add \$15. Vote for board members, get an invite to our annual members barbecue, and just feel good.



Actors Ensemble of Berkeley

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Mail to Actors Ensemble of Berkeley, P.O. Box 663, Berkeley, California 94701

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Actors Ensemble of Berkeley  
Live Oak Theatre  
P.O. Box 663  
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Live Oak Theatre  
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