

Æ Actors Ensemble of Berkeley presents

LYSISTRATA

By Ellen McLaughlin

Based on the play by Aristophanes

Directed by Noona Nolan

Live Oak Theatre, Berkeley

APRIL 13 - MAY 12

Fridays and Saturdays 8 p.m. \$12

Thursday, May 10th Show: Students/Seniors \$10



This play contains mature themes
One Act, No late entry

ACTORS ENSEMBLE OF BERKELEY has been around the block (and just around the corner from you) since 1957, making us the longest running stage company in Berkeley. We began with seven UC Berkeley alumni from the World War II era. Their love of acting gave birth to a tradition that began with four plays in 1957, which were initially performed in a neighbor's basement. In 1965, AE began performing at the Live Oak Theatre — and has ever since.

Our mission is to enrich, entertain and improve our community through fascinating theatrical works. With social consciousness and an ensemble approach, we provide area residents with opportunities to attend, participate in and be helped through theatre. Our shows will be affordable, our opportunities enjoyable, and our community impact felt year-round.

As Berkeley's only true community theatre company, we depend on our volunteers to bring their energy and creative vision to each play we produce.

If you would like to volunteer in our theatre, give us a call or send us an email! We'd love for you to play a part in our next show!

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley is proud to present to you the first play of our 50th season, Sam Shepard's *True West*.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Eric Carlson, David Cohen, Margaret Gudmundsson, Bob Gudmundsson, William Martinelli, Jodi Maxwell, Rose Anne Raphael, Jerome Solberg, Stanley Spenger, David Stein, Kim Stewart, Wendy Welch



THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS: Thomas W. Edwards, Howard and Cindi Goldberg, George W. Goth, Ken and Corinee Gustafest, Earl Karn, Annette and Jeremy Lys, Alex and Kate Pope, Roger and Lise Schrag, Bernard and Sally Sklar, Tom Vargo

LYSISTRATA

By Ellen McLaughlin
Based on the play by Aristophanes
Directed by Noona Nolan

CAST

Lysistrata	Tina Arriola
Calonice	Meira Perelstein
Lampito	Nina Carduner
Myrrhine	Eden Nelson
Dipsas	Jocelyn Truitt
Ismenia	Samantha Garcia
Magistrate	David Cohen
Belphragia	Samantha Garcia
Fisherwoman	Jocelyn Truitt
Cinesias	Sean Kelly
Athenian Chorus Leader 1	Emily Broderick
Athenian Chorus Leader 2	Melissa Craven
Geezer 1	Sean Kelly
Geezer 3	Jose Garcia
Geezer 2	Lance Huntley
Old Woman 1	Melissa Craven
Old Woman 2	Emily Broderick
Old Woman 3	Eden Nelson
Spartan Envoy	Jose Garcia
Spartan Delegate	Lance Huntley

STAFF

Director	Noona Nolan
Production Designer	Paul Hayes
Costume Designer	Helen Slomowitz
Lighting Designer and Technical Director	Bob Gudmunson
Light Board Operator	Tobias Barton
Rehearsal Stage Manager	Vicki Seigel

This production was made possible by permission from The Joyce Ketay Agency

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

ELLEN MCLAUGHLIN'S plays have received numerous national and international productions. They include *Days and Nights Within*, *A Narrow Bed*, *Infinity's House*, *Iphigenia and Other Daughters*, *Tongue of a Bird*, *The Trojan Women*, *Helen*, *The Persians* and *Oedipus*. McLaughlin is also an actor. She has worked on and Off Broadway as well as extensively in regional theater. She is most well known for having originated the part of the Angel in Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, appearing in every U.S. production from its earliest workshops through its Broadway run.

ABOUT THE PLAY

LYSISTRATA tells the story of citizens fed up with war. Sparta and Athens have been fighting for decades with no end in sight, so Lysistrata, an Athenian housewife, takes diplomacy into her own hands. Her strategy: a sex strike. Grecian women won't have sex until there is peace! Originally written by Aristophanes in 411 B.C. and brought to modern hilarity by acclaimed playwright Ellen McLaughlin, *Lysistrata* offers a timeless and satirical glimpse into gender politics and the ridiculous business of war.

CAST AND CREW

CRISTINA ARRIOLA (Lysistrata) Cristina is happier than an ouzo infused fig to be working with Sean Kelly and Noona Nolan in yet another great acting get together. Bay Area audiences (mi familia) have been flocking to see her perform in such dramas as *The Howling Man* and witty comedies, such as *Heist A Crow*. Ms. Arriola is proud of her son Max, also an aspiring actor and will miss many of his little league games in the pursuit of peace, drama and your applause.

DAVID COHEN (Magistrate) This is David's fourth production under the auspices of the Actor's Ensemble. As William in *Inherit The Wind*, Ferapont in *Three Sisters* and the Lawyer and Chaplain in *Devil's Disciple*. David studied with Jean Shelton for five years and Leonard Pitt for one year. These artists formed the foundation and inspiration for David's work as an actor.

MELISSA CRAVEN (Athenian Chorus Leader #2, Old Woman #1) After a cesarean birth, Melissa used her round head to ponder and scheme in both words and images. She studies to become an expressive arts therapist while acquiring wealth in non-profit, social work. Her favorite scent is amber, favorite color often purple, and favorite quotes are by Jack Handey.

NINA CARDUNER (Lampito) Nina has been performing regularly in theater for the past eight years and is proud to make her Bay Area debut at the Live Oak Theater. She recently graduated with honors with dual degrees in acting and dance from Beloit College. Past credits include Francesca in *Perfect Pie*, Gianinina in Carlo Goldoni's *The Fan*, and the title role in Jean Anouille's *Anitigone*. She would like to thank the friends and family who support her and Noona for this opportunity to do what she loves.

SEAN KELLY (Cinesias, Geezer #1) Hand in a bucket of KFC, the cowboy who rides at dawn at midnight, normalizer of tables, confuser of fables, Coral Gables, Augean Stables, Sean likes to write like a left and portray horny dudes. He'd like to give you an uncomfortably long hug but the guy sitting next to you is a narc—hide the stuff.

EDEN NELSON (Myrrhine, Old Woman #3) This is Eden's first production in the Bay Area. She recently moved to San Francisco from Humboldt County where, for several years, she had been acting in various staged productions and performing in public schools as an actor/reader in a Reader's Theater troupe. In 2005, she spent the year in Portland, Oregon working as a writer and performer with EgoProduction's *Sketch Comedy at the Speed of Light*. Eden wishes that she had a soldier of her own from whom she could withhold sexual relations to end our current war. She is glad to be a part of this project.

Actors Ensemble Celebrates

SAMANTHA GARCIA (Ismenia, Belphegia) Samantha has been acting since the third grade. Her first role as Snow White left her swooning for theater arts. She continues to practice the art of falling gracefully but mostly off stage. Samantha is a full time witch/social worker. She also fully supports women's efforts to stop war and inspire peace by creative means.

LANCE HUNTLEY (Geezer #2, Spartan Delegate) Lance is delighted to join the long chain of actors who have performed this 2500 year old play. He was most recently seen in *Taming of the Shrew* with the African-American Shakespeare Company, in *Fathers... and Other Strangers* with BayART, and in the Peninsula Ballet Theatre's *Nutcracker*. In tights.

JOSE GARCIA (Geezer #3, Spartan Envoy) Jose Garcia was previously involved with Actors Ensemble in the production of *True West* as an assistant stage manager, helping to build the set and assisting with props. Last summer he appeared as the Officer/Jailer in *The Comedy of Errors* at the Orinda Starlight Theater.

JOCELYN TRUITT (Dipsas, Fisherwoman) Jocelyn is excited to be working with Actor's Ensemble of Berkeley, and to be part of such a dynamic cast. She has studied at Berkeley Rep and A.C.T. Past roles include: Silvia in *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and Steele in *A Piece of My Heart*. She is a member of Theater Bay Area.

MEIRA PERELSTEIN (Calonice) Meira is a tree-hugging liberal with violent tendencies. She has a BA in Theatre from Long Beach State, where she played "the mom" so many times she has lost track of her children. She was last seen in this area in Impact Theatre's *Hamlet* as a very sassy Rosencrantz. She is happy to once again be onstage performing one of the most noble, serious & cathartic Classic works of Theatre. Boy, will she be confused when the play begins. Plus she really likes cheese.

EMILY BRODERICK (Athenian Chorus Leader #1, Old Woman #2) Emily enjoys long walks on the beach and pancake breakfasts. This is her Berkeley debut. She is overjoyed to be in this production of *Lysistrata*. Many thanks to Noona, the cast and crew. All my love and gratitude to the lovely residents of the Intense Girl Kingdom, and our friends and family. Cheers!

TOBIAS BARTON (Light Board Operator) Most often found behind the scenes of Bay Area arts and cultural events, Tobias eagerly involves himself in the technical aspects of productions and artistic endeavors. A strong passion for the culture of dissent naturally drew him to our production of *Lysistrata*.

PAUL ANDREW HAYES (Production Designer) Paul received a BFA in Illustration from Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), where he would often create large, site specific installation pieces as a solution to ordinary illustration assignments. This type of experimentation lent itself to set work with Perishable Theatre in Providence RI, and set design with Knife Beats Finger, a small theater group in SF. Paul currently has an art installation at the Exploratorium as part of the Liminality exhibition through early June.

HELEN SLOMOWITZ (Costume Designer) Helen enjoys playing with costumes in both realms of theatre & film in the area. She is thrilled to be back at AE and the opportunity to work on *Lysistrata* with such a creative & incredible director, as well as an amazing cast!

NOONA NOLAN (Director) Noona has spent many years in the production field for diverse companies including the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre Program and Intersection for the Arts. As a director, she created *Popcorn Anti-Theater*, a mobile theatrical event of site specific theater and performance which ran monthly for two years. In 2003 she adapted and directed *Reservoir Dogs*, *The Play* and directed *Night of the Living Dead*, *The Play*. This led to the formation of Knife Beats Finger, a San Francisco based theater company dedicated to the creation and production of new plays. Recent projects include *Heist a Crow*, *Future Mission* and *Measured Cuts*, written by company co-founder Sean Kelly and *The Howling Man* by Charles Beaumont.



ACTORS ENSEMBLE 2007 SEASON

True West

by Sam Shepard

Directed by Paul Shepard

January 19–February 17

A Dream Play

by August Strindberg

Directed and Adapted by David Stein

June 9–July 1

Free Outdoors at the Berkeley Art Center

Lysistrata

by Ellen McLaughlin

Inspired by Aristophanes

Directed by Noona Nolan

April 14–May 12

All in the Timing

by David Ives

Directed by Jon Wai-Keung Lowe

July 13–August 11

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead

by Tom Stoppard

Directed by Stanley Spenger

October 19–November 20

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