

# ARCADIA

by Tom Stoppard



directed by Robert Estes  
Live Oak Theater, Berkeley



JANUARY 20  
through  
FEBRUARY 18

8PM  
FRI &  
SAT

2PM  
SUNDAY  
MATINEE  
(2/12)

\$15 general  
\$12 students  
\$12 seniors

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ENSEMBLE OF  
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[www.aeofberkeley.org](http://www.aeofberkeley.org)

design by humanfiction



## director's note

Stoppard reportedly said about this play, "All you need to know about Arcadia is that I was in love when I wrote it."

Apparently, his love life was very rich at the time, as his love of science, math, landscape, language, literature, longing, history and theatre (to name just a few things) came shining through in this dazzling play. So what to make of all the references? All the (at times) esoteric knowledge on display? Perhaps we could have installed supertitles above the stage with running commentary such as "Et in Arcadia ego" means "Even in Arcadia, there am I," the "I" being death (I love the 13 year old Thomasina then saying "Oh phooey to death.")

But of course, subtitles are not necessary, we don't need to know what every reference means—I could tell you what DNB stands for, but no big whoop--as Stoppard also said, a play is not a text but an event, and in this play, the event is passion in action. It is desire that drives all of the characters in this play, whether it be the "minor poet" Ezra's Chater's perhaps misguided dream of writing poesy all the way to the very young Thomasina Coverly's astonishing determination to understand the actions of "bodies in heat." The passion for knowledge, the desire to discover, the lure of seeking fame, or as we learn, the supreme value of wanting to know, all of these passions drive the multi-faceted love story that is Arcadia.

So, enjoy the romance! Even if you're a rationalist at heart.

# cast

## IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

THOMASINA COVERLY	Alona Bach (understudy Greer Jansen)
SEPTIMUS HODGE	Paul Stout
JELLABY	Matthew Surrence
CHATER	Barry Eitel
NOAKES	Al Badger
LADY CROOM	Shifra Pride Raffel
CAPTAIN BRICE	Jerome Solberg / Greg Estes 27th, 28th, 10th, 11th, 12th
HANNAH JARVIS	Jody Christian
CHLOE COVERLY	Rachel Ferenowicz (understudy Greer Jansen)
BERNARD NIGHTINGALE	Christopher Kelly
VALENTINE COVERLY	Aaron Lindstrom
AUGUSTUS/GUS COVERLY	Anthony Sorrels-Jager (Sat+Sun) / Cameron Dodd (Fri)

## SETTING:

AN ENGLISH COUNTRY MANOR IN 1809 AND THE PRESENT  
DAY

GUNSHOTS WILL BE HEARD DURING THE PERFORMANCE

PIANO MUSIC PERFORMED BY ANTHONY SORRELS-JAGER

THERE WILL BE ONE INTERMISSION

# crew

DIRECTOR	Robert Estes
COSTUMES	Hilary Seeley
STAGE MANAGER / LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR	Chelsea Camp
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Ann O'Connell
SOUND OPERATOR	Carolyn Day
LIGHTING DESIGN AND LOBBY DISPLAY	Alecks Rundell
SET DESIGN	Jerome Solberg / Gunnar Ellam
SOUND DESIGN / COMPOSITION	Richard Herrera-Lopez
DRAMATURGY	Carolyn Day / Corrine Proctor
SET CONSTRUCTION	Bob Gudmundsson / Justin Scott / Adam Silva / Hugh Carlson
GRAPHIC DESIGN	Human Fiction (Norm De Veyra / Shu Ping Guan)
REPTON BOOK PROJECT TEAM	Human Fiction and Shayla Gahali
VOCAL COACH	Rebecca Castelli
PHOTOGRAPHY	Anna Kaminska
SNOWFLAKES	Joyce Huang / Victoria Siegel
MATHEMATICS CONSULTANT	Morgan Brown
PRODUCER	Jerome Solberg

# biographies

**Alona Bach** (Thomasina) is currently acting and teaching around the Bay Area and was most recently seen as Ruth (...Marigolds; Custom Made), Patience Wee (Patience Worth; Symmetry), and Alice (Down a Little Dirt Road; Just Theater). She admits that she indeed knows more about Fermat's Last Theorem than, say, carnal embrace.

**Alan Badger** (Noakes) is honored to make his AE debut. He has worked recently with Fringe of Marin and San Leandro Players and participated in Subterranean Shakespeare's series of staged readings of the Canon. Special thanks to Robert and Carol. Excelsior!

**Chelsea Camp** (Stage Manager) recently received her Master's degree in Applied Theatre (Drama Education) from Central School of Speech and Drama in London, England. While in London, she stage-managed the World Premiere of Mad Women in Attics with Bare Faced Theatre Company. She also has stage managed for Yorba Linda Spotlight Theatre (Orange County, CA).

**Jody Christian** (Hannah) - Jody's background in theater involves dance, comedy and Shakespeare. She is thrilled to be acting in a full production with Robert after many staged readings together (and with such a great cast and crew and play!) She was last seen in Titus Andronicus at CalShakes and in Blithe Spirit here at Actors Ensemble of Berkeley.

**Carolyn Day** (Dramaturgy / Sound Operator) was honored that her first theatre experience was as part of Team Dramaturgy for Arcadia! She is an avid Shakespeare lover and has a BA in English Literature from UC Davis. Her hobbies include photography and the occasional hike.

**Cameron Dodd** (Gus / Augustus) - This is Cameron's first performance with Actors Ensemble. He's been interested in theater for many years, first studying improv then focusing on Shakespeare with CalShakes, including its Summer Conservatory. This year, he's studying dialect / performance with Deb Eubanks (Berkeley Rep). Cameron thanks Robert for the chance to be in Arcadia.

**Barry Eitel** (Chater) is pumped to be in his second West Coast production after moving to the Bay Area from Chicago in July. He was last seen as Mr. Praed in San Leandro Players' Mrs. Warren's Profession.

**Gunnar Ellam** (Set Design), a native of Estonia, received his graduate architectural degree from Cal Berkeley. His over-forty-year architectural practice was in the East Bay with several Award-winning building designs throughout northern California. Now retired, his interests are in the arts and travel.

**Greg Estes** (Brice) first dreamed of being in this play the day he saw it in 1993. Most recently he played Leopold Bloom in Wilde Irish's 8th Annual Bloomsday Celebration. A favorite quote of his from Ulysses is apropos of his feelings about being involved in AE's production of Arcadia: A.E.I.O.U.

**Robert Estes** (Director) has previously directed Curse of the Starving Class and Heart-break House for AE. Later this spring, he'll direct Harmony in Hiding for RAW at Ross Valley Players and staged readings of August Strindberg plays for the Cutting Ball Theater in San Francisco.

**Rachel Ferensowicz** (Chloe) thanks the cast and crew for making this an enjoyable first experience with AE. She received BAs in Theater and English, and is a current member of PianoFight Productions, where she acts, directs and produces. She drinks her coffee black.

**Christopher P. Kelly** (Bernard) was last seen as John Bender in Middle School Poetry's Breakfast Fight Club. Other 2011 roles include Ginger Grant in Moore Theatre's Gilligan's Island and Thomas Beckett in Dark Porch Theatre's Eleanor, an original musical about Eleanor of Aquitaine. Find him at [www.facebook.com/ckactor](http://www.facebook.com/ckactor)

**Richard Herrera-Lopez** (Composer) - After playing as a guitarist in San Diego, Richard Herrera-Lopez moved to Hollywood where he studied jazz with the late Dick Grove, worked at the world-renowned Sunset Sound Recorders and began composing for film ([infectiousbeat.com](http://infectiousbeat.com)). The music school at Cal brought him to Berkeley and he is pleased to be working again with Robert Estes.

**Greer Jansen** (Understudy) is currently a senior at Berkeley High and was last seen in Berkeley Playhouse's *Cinderella Enchanted*. Though new to Actors Ensemble, she is thrilled to be involved in this production of *Arcadia!*. Aside from theatre, various interests include helping things grow, 90's boy bands, and circuses.

**Aaron Lindstrom** (Valentine) recently received a BFA in Acting from the University of Montana. When not on stage, Aaron is playing music throughout the bay ([facebook.com/aaronlindstrommusic](http://facebook.com/aaronlindstrommusic)). Past stage credits include 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Macbeth, and The Merry Wives of Windsor.

**Corinne Proctor** (Dramaturgy) - Corinne was thrilled to be half of Team Dramaturgy, as it provided her the opportunity to impose her decade-long obsession with *Arcadia* on many people at once. Corinne graduated with a BFA in Acting from Ithaca College and is also a performer and a dialect coach ([www.auditionconnection.com/CorinneProctor](http://www.auditionconnection.com/CorinneProctor)).

**Shifra Pride Raffel** (Lady Croom) is an Actors Ensemble member who is a computer programmer by day. She has been seen in a number of Actors Ensemble staged readings, one of her favorites being Knight of the Burning Pestle. She would like to thank her incredible husband Stephen for all his help and support and for putting up with the endless mess and chaos while she sewed her own costume.

**Alecks Rundell** (Light Design / Lobby Display) has long been a fan of fractals and is happy to be sharing his fractal lighting with everyone. He hopes people see the fractal shapes in his life, and enjoy the website [fractalecks.com](http://fractalecks.com). He also wants to thank his parents and wish Priscilla a happy journey.

**Hilary Seeley** (Costumer) - Hilary literally jumped at the chance to select and design costumes for this exceptional dual-period piece. With a BA from UC Berkeley in and a lifetime of experience with cultural expression, Hilary strives to harmonize historical accuracy and creative beauty, helping to bring the story and characters further to life.

**Victoria Siegel** (Snowflake detail) began her theater career playing witches and other forces of evil in Shakespeare plays. Many other opportunities have come along since then. She is delighted to be working with this magnificent cast and the redoubtable Robert.

**Anthony Sorrels-Yager** (Gus / Augustus) is a junior at Oakland School for the Arts. He is excited to perform with the wonderful cast of *Arcadia*. Anthony has performed in many shows such as *A Comedy of Errors*, *The Trial*, and *Bye Bye Birdie*.

Chico native **Paul Stout** (Septimus Hodge) lives in San Francisco and has in the past three years appeared with various local troupes including Marin Shakespeare, Custom Made Theatre, Boxcar Theatre, Off-Broadway West and TheatrePub.

**Matthew Surrence** (Jellaby) played Mazzini in Heartbreak House (2011) and Slater in Curse of the Starving Class (2010) at this theater. Also in 2011, he played Pistol, Rugby, and Robert in The Merry Wives of Windsor at the Curtain Theatre in Mill Valley.

**Jerome Solberg** (Brice / misc) has been in and around Actors Ensemble for a few years now and he is happy to be bringing you this wonderful production with such a great cast and amazing production crew.

# thank you

HILARY SEELEY (COSTUMER) SENDS OUT A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

- Liz Martin for her help, guidance, and supplies
- Paula Dodd Aiello for all her help
- Pink Depford Design and the Butterfield 8 Theatre Company
- Jo Lusk and the Masquers Playhouse
- John Lewis and the Douglas Morrisson Theatre
- Mary Beth Dockendorf, Ron Seeley, Cameron Cuchulainn, Gigi Benson, and Sara Neff for their guidance and support

- Produced under arrangement with Samuel French, Incorporated. All rights reserved.
- Various pieces of Lady Croom's costume by Shifra Pride Raffel

- Thanks to Wesley Cayabyab for instruction in dancing the waltz

## actors ensemble of berkeley

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**January 31st | PROOF** by Auburn, directed by Donna Davis

**February 7th | THE REAL THING** by Stoppard, directed by Matthew Surrence

**February 14th | HENRY IV** by Pirandello, adapted by Stoppard, directed By Anna Andersen

**IMPROV at AE** – featuring The StreetLight People and The Five Deadly Improvisers – 7 p.m. Sunday, **February 5th** and Sunday, **February 12th** \$5-\$10 sliding scale – no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Special Zheng (Chinese Zither) performance by Jing-Yi Chung.

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