



Actors Ensemble of Berkeley

2012 Summer Staged Reading Series

BENEFACTORS

By Michael Frayn

A staged reading, Directed by Matthew Surrence

ONE NIGHT ONLY - Tuesday, August 7th, 2012, 8 p.m.

Cast

David ----- Paul Stout
Jane ----- Anna Andersen
Colin ----- Greg Estes
Sheila ----- Martha Luehrmann

Matthew Surrence, formerly the theatre critic of the *Oakland Tribune*, has appeared at **Actors Ensemble** in *Curse of the Starving Class*, *Heartbreak House*, and *Arcadia*. During the run of *Arcadia* he directed a staged reading of *The Real Thing*, and during the run of *Heartbreak House* he directed a staged reading of *The Night of the Burning Pestle*, a revival of his Subterranean Shakespeare production. His plays include *The Agony of the Leaves*, a romantic comedy set in Berkeley, and '06: *A Not Entirely Untrue Tale of San Francisco*, a vaudeville melodrama about the 1906 earthquake and fire. He studied acting with Allan Miller. His mentor and American Studies thesis advisor at San Francisco State University is Humanities Chairman Emeritus Rodger C. Birt.

Cast

Anna Andersen is a recent transplant in Southern California, where she acted and directed in just over 75 plays in just under 25 years. Her favorites include playing Kate in *Taming of the Shrew*, directing *Macbeth*, and writing/ directing/ performing an educational outreach program that brought Shakespeare to thousands of students in LA. This is Anna's fourth staged reading and she's having a delightful time. A habitual director, she thanks and reproaches Vicki for putting her back on the stage.

Greg Estes has most recently played Captain Brice in **AE's** production of *Arcadia*, and Leopold Bloom, Stephen Dedalus, and Blazes Boylan in Wilde Irish's Annual *Bloomsday Celebrations*. A favorite quote of his from *Ulysses* is apropos of his feelings about being a beneficiary of AE's staged reading of *Benefactors*: A.E.I.O.U.

Martha Luehrmann (Sheila) Local audiences may remember Martha as Martha in James Keller's *Good Housekeeping*, the Nazi sympathizer in Roland David de Valayre's *BookKeepers*, the nanny in Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*, the murderess in Agatha Christie's *A Murder Is Announced*, Abby Brewster in *Arsenic & Old Lace*, and Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Ernest*. She is delighted to be working with Matthew Surrence in this Michael Frayn play.

Chico native **Paul Stout** (David) 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. He was last seen with **AE** as Septimus Hodge in our recent production of *Arcadia*.

Thanks to: Alecks Rundell and Jerome Solberg

Don't miss:

NOISES OFF, by Michael Frayn, directed by Colin Johnson

our Summer 2012 main show – runs Fri/Sat 8 p.m. till August 18th! (Sun. Aug 12th 2 p.m. matinee)

Staged Reading: **BENEFACTORS**, by Frayn, directed by Matthew Surrence, Tues. Aug. 7th, 8 p.m.

Staged Reading: **MADAM GUFAY** by Foster, directed by Barkan/Solberg, Sun. Aug 12th 7 p.m.

Staged Reading: **COPENHAGEN** by Frayn, directed by Coughran/Rundell, Tues. Aug. 14th at 8 p.m.

More info always at: www.aeofberkeley.org