



Actors Ensemble of Berkeley

At Live Oak Theatre

2012 Winter Staged Reading Series

PROOF

by David Auburn

- A staged reading -

Directed by Donna Davis

ONE NIGHT ONLY

Tuesday, Jan. 31st, 2012, 8 p.m.

Catherine – **Rachel Ferensowicz**

Robert – **Bruce Kaplan**

Hal – **Alfred Webre**

Claire – **Kathleen Davis**

Proof is a play by David Auburn originally produced by the Manhattan Theatre Club on 23 May 2000. It then went to Broadway on 24 October 2000 at the Walter Kerr Theatre, and was directed by Daniel J. Sullivan, with Mary-Louise Parker as Catherine, Larry Bryggman as Robert, Ben Shenkman as Hal, and Johanna Day as Claire. The entire original Broadway cast received Tony nominations for their performances, with Parker winning. Later during the Broadway run, Jennifer Jason Leigh (September 13, 2001 to June 30, 2002) and Anne Heche took over the lead role. Josh Hamilton and Neil Patrick Harris subsequently played the role of Hal.

The play won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and Tony Award for Best Play. Gwyneth Paltrow played Catherine in the 2005 film Proof, which was directed by John Madden. Along with Paltrow, it starred Anthony Hopkins, Hope Davis, and Jake Gyllenhaal. The film version added more characters (in minor supporting roles), whereas the play has only four.

Donna Davis (Director) Donna has a long history of directing in the East Bay, including numerous productions at Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. She has directed comedies, tragedies, melodramas, musicals, radio plays, premieres, classics – you name it. She recently made her return to AE with a well-received production of *Doubt* in the Fall of 2011.

Rachel Ferensowicz (Catherine) has recently made her debut at Actors Ensemble of Berkeley with her performance as Chloe Coverly in our concurrent production of *Arcadia*. She received BA's in Theatre and English, and is a member of PianoFight productions, where she acts, directs, and produces. She drinks her coffee black.

Bruce Kaplan (Robert) is excited to be back at AEB and working with Donna Davis again. Bruce most recently appeared as the Ghost of Marley in *Christmas Carol: the Musical*, and as Candy in *Of Mice and Men*, Artie in *House of Blue Leaves*, and Saunders in *Lend Me a Tenor*. Thanks for supporting community theatre!

Alfred Webre (Hal)

Kathleen Davis (Claire) Kathleen Davis is happy to be at Live Oak Theater again. Her first role here was Susanna Shakespeare in *A Cry of Players*; her second-to-last role here was *Babe in Crimes of the Heart*. This past winter she played Sister James in AE's production of *Doubt*. She has studied with Donna Davis in The Drama Workshop, Richard Seyd, Peter Egan, and others.

Don't miss the remaining shows in our Winter 2012 Program:

ARCADIA by Tom Stoppard, though **February 18th**

Feb. 7th: Staged reading of **The Real Thing** by Stoppard, dir. by Matthew Surrence

Feb. 14th: Staged reading of **Henry IV** by Pirandello/Stoppard, dir. by Anna Andersen

Feb. 4th and 12th: **IMPROV at AE**, with The Streetlight People and The 5 Deadly

Improvvisers

More info always at: **www.aeofberkeley.org**