

William Martinelli, born January 5th, 1930, lifelong resident of Oakland and board member of Actors Ensemble of Berkeley since its incorporation in 1957, died in Oakland on July 13th, 2017.

Bill attended Cal where became part of an engaged coterie of students centered around Fred Harris, one of the founders of the Cal theatre department, and his no less dynamic wife, Mary. After graduation, many of these students stayed in touch and formed Actors Ensemble, with Bill one of the founding members.

Over the years Bill worked consistently behind the scenes to maintain the operations of the company with his friends Arnold Wolf, George Marchi, Ernest Landauer, Joseph Landisman, Donna Davis, Ralph Miller, Marge Glicksman, June Levin, Sue Anne Seton, Tom Reilly, Margaret Gudmundsson and countless others, finding time occasionally to act in productions. His attention to detail and appreciation for theatrical achievement were extraordinary, but he was a kind critic; he didn't have a malicious bone in his body. His eyes were always smiling, and he was always ready to laugh.

Some plays of note that Bill appeared in:

1961 – The Bald Soprano (Mr. Martin), **1963** – As You Desire Me
1969 – The Mother of us All, **1982** – Pal Joey
1999 – Murder at the Vicarage

UNION MAID, by Woody Guthrie

There once was a union maid, she never was afraid
Of goons and ginks and company finks and the deputy sheriffs who
made the raid.
She went to the union hall when a meeting it was called,
And when the Legion boys come 'round
She always stood her ground.

Oh, you can't scare me, I'm sticking to the union,
I'm sticking to the union, I'm sticking to the union.
Oh, you can't scare me, I'm sticking to the union,
I'm sticking to the union 'til the day I die.

This union maid was wise to the tricks of company spies,
She couldn't be fooled by a company stool, she'd always organize the
guys.
She always got her way when she struck for better pay.
She'd show her card to the National Guard
And this is what she'd say

You gals who want to be free, just take a tip from me;
Get you a man who's a union man and join the ladies' auxiliary.
Married life ain't hard when you got a union card,
A union man has a happy life when he's got a union wife.

Actors Ensemble
of Berkeley

Francis Beaumont

The
London
Merchant

Directed by Lelan Fernando

THE SPEAKERS' NAMES

VENTUREWELL, a rich merchant
JASPER, his apprentice
MASTER HUMPHREY, a friend to the merchant
LUCE, the merchant's daughter
MISTRESS MERRYTHOUGHT, Jasper's mother
MICHAEL, a second son of Mistress Merrythought
OLD MASTER MERRYTHOUGHT

THE CAST

Peter Weiss.....Venturewell
Kaz Valtchev.....Jasper
Polina Litvak.....Master Humphrey
Katherine Garcia.....Luce
Susannah Wood.....Mistress Merrythought
Shannon Mauldin.....Michael
Bruce Kaplan.....Master Merrythought

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Lelan Fernando.....Director
Tessa Maurer.....Stage Manager
Michael Cohen.....Producer
Jerome Solberg.....Producer
Elena Childs.....Set Designer
Marie Morley.....Costume Designer

THE PLAY

Venturewell, a wealthy merchant, wants his daughter, **Luce**, to wed the dimwitted nobleman, **Humphrey**. Luce, however is in love with Venturewell's apprentice, **Jasper**, son of the drunk ne'er do well, **Master Merrythought**, and the worried, struggling, **Mistress Merrythought**, whose main concern is providing for the future of their young son, Jasper's brother, **Michael**.

Scene 1. Venturewell fires Jasper after discovering the romance between Luce and the young apprentice.

Scene 2. Luce agrees to marry Humphrey, but secretly, she and Jasper have a plan to run off together.

Scene 3. Mistress Merrythought and Michael leave their home, frustrated with the drunk Master Merrythought.

Scene 4. Mistress Merrythought and Michael find themselves in Waltham Forest along with Jasper, Luce, and an oblivious Humphrey.

Scene 5. Venturewell, looking for his daughter, confronts Master Merrythought.

Scene 6. Luce and Jasper are caught after Humphrey leads Venturewell to Waltham Forest.

Scene 7. Jasper has another plan to reunite with Luce. He pretends that he has died of a broken heart and has the coffin, with him inside, brought to Venturewell.

Scene 8. Jasper appears to Venturewell as a ghost and the guilt ridden merchant regrets that he has fired Jasper.

Scene 9. All ends well with Jasper and Luce's love restored, and the Merrythoughts reunited.