



ACTORS ENSEMBLE

presents

an opera without music by

GERTRUDE STEIN

THE MOTHER OF US ALL

directed by Jane Bogard

designed by Zena Cornin

incidental music by Alfred Stern

technical direction by Gene Lowrance

"But if you emancipate the slaves, what will you do with them? What will the black man do with himself, is the question for him to answer! I am yet to learn that the Saxon man is the great reservoir of human rights to be doled out at his discretion to the nations of the earth. Do with the Negroes? What arrogance in us to put the question!"

----- Susan B. Anthony, 1857

Susan B. Anthony, born 1820,

daughter of the Quaker abolitionist, Daniel Anthony,

in association with Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Stanton

crusaded to achieve for women the rights of citizenship equal with men;

a stubborn, intelligent woman,

she squinted fiercely at the world through tiny, sharp glasses, and fought tirelessly in lecture halls, courts and Congress a life-long battle to improve the legal and social status of women;

her goal was achieved fourteen years after her death in 1906, when passage of the Nineteenth Amendment granted women suffrage.

The play begins with a Prologue.

Act One is in eight scenes:

- 1) Theme and Variations
- 2) Character Notes
- 3) A small and LARGE Dialogue
- 4) Comings and Goings -- an Interlude
- 5) Men and Women
- 6) Women and Men
- 7) V.I. P.'s
- 8) A Meeting

There follows a fifteen-minute intermission, refreshments and discussion.

Act Two is in four scenes:

- 1) A Wedding
- 2) Susan at Home
- 3) The Passion of Susan B. Anthony
- 4) Apotheosis

THE STAFF:

Costumes Susan Winters
 assisted by..... Bertha Harder and Elizabeth Ratcliff
Make-up Kathy Thomsen
Consultants Aida Brenneis and Edna Brean
Stage Crew..... David Joly, Aaron Laub, Kayanne Golub
Set Del Curry, David Glicksman,
 Wolfgang Heinritz and David Joly
Production Assistant Genevieve Lowrance
House Management..... Benbow Ritchie
Tickets Allison Ralston
Publicity..... Richard Ehlers
Photography..... Alfred Stern

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sion, The Berkeley Parks and Recreation Department. The
Live Oak Park Staff.

THE CAST, in order of speaking:

Virgil T., a musical actor	..... Alfred Stern
G. S., a lady poet	..... Grace Fretter
Daniel Webster, an elocutionist	..... Ben Frankel
Jo the Loiterer, a loiterer	..... Hayward Coleman
Chris the Citizen, a citizen	..... Marvin Hubbard
Indiana Elliot, a forthright ingénue	..... Genevieve Lowrance
Susan B. Anthony, the mother of us all	..... Rose Wood
Angel More, a virgin martyr	..... Patricia Anderson
Henrietta M., a martyr	..... Joan Fritz
Anthony Comstock, inventor of vice	..... Joseph Kramer
John Adams, presidential timber	..... William Martinelli
Thaddeus S., an abolitionist	..... Brendan O Hehir
Constance Fletcher, a dear soul	..... Esme Turner
Gloster Heming, a name	..... Marvin Hubbard
Isabel Wentworth, a lost lady	..... Maxine Wolf
Anna Hope, a feminist	..... Patricia Anderson
Lillian Russell, a chanteuse	..... Marilyn Jackson
Jenny Reefer, a bloomer girl	..... Maxine Wolf
Ulysses S. Grant, a military man	..... Brendan O Hehir
Herman Atlan, a name	..... Kenneth McClellan
Donald Gallup, a librarian	..... Joseph Kramer
Anne, a dedicated disciple	..... Elizabeth Forest
Andrew J., the other Johnson	..... Kenneth McClellan
Negro Man, who has the vote	..... Hayward Coleman

ABOUT THE PLAY:

"At the very end of her life, she (Gertrude Stein) had written one of her most powerful and beautiful works. Her libretto, which she composed after long and careful rereading of dozens of works of the period...., is a kind of 'memory book' of the United States in the lifetime of Susan B. Anthony, a woman whose struggles to gain the vote for women, like Gertrude Stein's own struggle, occupied all of many years.... In the series of intimate tableaux that comprise the whole dramatic substance,Susan B. and her compatriots, along with a wildly various complement of other characters who exist only for their charm or their dilemmas or their gifts as chirping commentators....reiterate the great and small meanings.Essentially (The Mother of Us All) is a discussion....that forms a single lyric in depth, as self-contained as a motto worked in colored wool and framed in mahogany."

----- John Malcolm Brinnen, The Third Rose

ABOUT ACTORS ENSEMBLE:

Actors Ensemble was organized in 1957 by a group of dedicated individuals to provide an opportunity for the experienced as well as the inexperienced person with limited time to participate in any or all phases of the theater.

We are a non-profit Corporation managed by a Board of Trustees. Once the play is selected a director has complete artistic freedom in its interpretation, manner of presentation, selection of cast, and in conducting rehearsals. Actors Ensemble is maintained by its members. We welcome the support and participation of anyone interested in becoming a member. Membership is \$5 per year and entitles you to four tickets to each of our major productions.

ACTORS ENSEMBLE - P.O. Box 663 - Berkeley, California 94701