

ACTORS ENSEMBLE OF BERKELEY has been around the block (and just around the corner from you) since 1957, making us the longest running stage company in Berkeley. We began with seven UC Berkeley alumni from the World War II era. Their love of acting gave birth to a tradition that began with four plays in 1957, which were initially performed in a neighbor's basement. In 1965, AE began performing at the Live Oak Theatre — and has ever since.

Our mission is to enrich, entertain and improve our community through fascinating theatrical works. With social consciousness and an ensemble approach, we provide area residents with opportunities to attend, participate in and be helped through theatre. Our shows will be affordable, our opportunities enjoyable, and our community impact felt year-round.

As Berkeley's only true community theatre company, we depend on our volunteers to bring their energy and creative vision to each play we produce.

If you would like to volunteer in our theatre, give us a call or send us an email! We'd love for you to play a part in our next show!

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Eric Carlson, David Cohen, Margaret Gudmundsson, Bob Gudmundsson, William Martinelli, Jodi Maxwell, Maureen Coyne, Jerome Solberg, Stanley Spenger, Kim Stewart, Wendy Welch

**Thank you:** Helen Pau, Gilbert Johnson and the Viaticum Production; Jean Fichtenkort, UC Berkeley Properties; Stagecraft Studios.

## ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD

By Tom Stoppard Directed by Stanley Spenger

## **CAST**

| Melanie Curry  | Gertrude                                   |
|--|--|
| Clem DeGiovanni  | Alfred (10/19, 20, 27, 11/1, 3, 9, 15, 16) |
|  | Ambassador and Soldier                     |
| Patrick Glenn  | Rosencrantz                                |
| Ariel Herzog   | Hamlet                                     |
| Marcus Liefert   | Polonius                                   |
|  | Horatio                                    |
| Harold Pierce  | Player                                     |
| Mikey Prizmich   | Alfred (10/18, 25, 26, 11/2, 8, 10, 17)    |
| Gabriel A. Ross  | Guildenstern                               |
| Jerome Solberg   | Claudius                                   |
| Wendy Welch  | Ophelia                                    |
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## STAFF

| Anita Akella      | Lighting and Sound Operator              |
|-------------------|--|
| Alan Barkan       | Stage Management                         |
| Shu Ping Guan     | Design for Postcard, Poster, and Program |
| Bob Gudmundsson   | Construction                             |
| Rose Anne Raphael |  |
| Alecks Rundell    | Lighting Design                          |
| Helen Slomowitz   | Costumes                                 |
|                   | Co-Producer and Sound Designer           |

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Incorporated

## A BIT MORE ABOUT US

#### MELANIE CURRY, Gertrude

Melanie has appeared in a number of Actors Ensemble productions, including *Present Laughter* and *Twelfth Night*, and is happy to keep doing quick costume changes as long as the costumes are fun.

#### CLEM DEGIOVANNI, Alfred (certain performances)

Clem is a fifth grader at Malcolm X Middle School. He has acted at school, and also loves sports, particularly bike riding.

#### JOSE GARCIA, Ambassador and Soldier

Believe it or not, this is Jose's fifth production with AE. He recently appeared in AE's production of *A Dream Play* at the Berkeley Art Center. He would like to thank Stanley Spenger for giving him the opportunity to work with AE once more.

#### PATRICK GLENN, Rosencrantz

Patrick is acting in his first show with the Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. He has trained at Berkeley, ACT, TESC, and the Michael Howard Studios in New York. He would like to thank his ever-supportive family and friends, and no one else since the rest are all against him.

#### ARIEL HERZOG, Hamlet

Ariel's favorite experiences in the Theater have been *Taming of the Shrew* (Biondello/Haberdasher) with African American Shakespeare Company, *Sure Thing* (Bill) at the Novato Theater Company's One Acts Festival, *Suddenly Last Summer* (George) with San Leandro Players and *Anything Goes* (Ensemble) with Stage 1 Community Theater.

#### MARCUS LIEFERT, Polonius

Marcus, a Berkeley native, first acted in this theater as Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He has been a performer ever since, playing Septimus Hodge in a high school production of Stoppard's *Arcadia*, and King Lear at Vassar College. He is currently playing toward a degree in Experimental Performance from New College of California.

#### COLIN JOHNSON, Horatio

Colin was born across the country long ago in Richmond, VA, then lived in Michigan and somehow he has been living in San Francisco for six and a half years and acting for three and a half of those. He also loves writing about himself in the third person.

#### **HAROLD PIERCE**, Player

Harold was born on a cold winter's morning in Paris, France. When he dies he would like to become a tree. Not a big tree, but a little tree.

#### MIKEY PRIZMICH, Alfred (certain performances)

A student at Longfellow Middle School, Mikey has studied acting at Berkeley Rep's Drama School for two summers and performed on the thrust stage. He loves bike riding, and when he grows up he wants to be a sous chef, an actor, a computer technologist, or a combination of the three.

#### GABRIEL A. ROSS, Guildenstern

This is Gabriel's first performance with Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. He is thankful for the opportunity to play one of his all time favorite characters. He was recently seen at Berkeley's Impact Theatre in *Sleepy* by Steven Yockey. He is a member of Custom Made Theatre Company in San Francisco. He has performed in *Equus* (Alan Strang), *The Water Engine* (Charles Lang) and *Assassins* (Lee Harvey Oswald) with CMTC. Other theatrical affiliations include work with Festival Theatre Ensemble, Renegade Theatre Experiment, Three Wise Monkeys, Berkeley Rep, CalShakes, SF Shakes and The Magic Theatre.

**JEROME SOLBERG,** Claudius, Co-Producer, and Sound Designer Jerome commutes daily from the *Coast of Utopia*, with occasional forays to *Brazil*. He enjoys theater, finding it an interesting diversion from the *Real Thing*. He finds that, even after all this time, it's still good to be the king. Someday he'd like to travel in time to the *Invention of Love* - would that be forwards or backwards?

#### WENDY WELCH, Ophelia

Wendy is pleased to work with Stan again on this, her fourth production with Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. She works as an HR manager and a writer and loves her Beagle.

#### STANLEY SPENGER, Director

A board member of Actors Ensemble of Berkeley since 2004, director Stanley Spenger founded the theater company Subterranean Shakespeare in 1988, serving as its artistic director for fifteen years. In 1994, he joined Shotgun Players, where he played Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* to critical acclaim, and was dramaturg on an award-winning production of *Doctor Faustus*, as well as directing the West Coast premiere of Deborah Rogin's play, *Where Were You When They Killed Victor Jara?*, Shotgun's first original play. Ms. Rogin won the LA Drama Critic's Circle Award in 1995 for her adaptation of Maxine Hong Kingston's novel, *The Woman Warrior*. In 2003, Mr. Spenger also directed the premiere of her revisionist play, *Phaedra*, for Subterranean Shakespeare, at the Berkeley Art Center. He studied theater in the Bay Area for four decades, most recently with Jonathan Moscone at the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre. His pioneering work in the Subterranean Cabaret and the Berkeley Art Center helped launch the two locations as theater spaces.

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#### **PRODUCTION TEAM**

#### ALAN BARKAN, Stage Manager

Alan was stage manager for AE's production of *True West*. In his younger years he was artist-in-residence for The Goddard Summer Repertory Theater and a teaching fellow at Goddard College in Vermont. He performed in *The Knack, Three Penny Opera, The Fantasticks,* and *Dylan*.

#### SHU PING GUAN, Postcard, Poster and Program Design

Shu Ping has been involved with Actors Ensemble since the beginning of the 2006-07 season. She has worked in various capacities on each of this season's productions. Whether it has been as a props mistress, a backdrop artist, or a graphic designer, she is proud to be a supporter of community theatre.

#### **ROSE ANNE RAPHAEL, Co-Producer**

Rose Anne thanks all who gave their talents and time to this production. You made it a pleasure to be involved. This is Rose Anne's fourth production with Stanley Spenger and her seventh with AE of Berkeley.

#### **ALECKS RUNDELL**, Lighting Designer

Alecks has recently moved to the Bay Area and is very happy to be working with the Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Reed College, Portland OR, where he completed his thesis on Fractals and Chaos Theory as applied to Modern Theatre. His previous lighting designs include *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Phantom of the Opera*, West Palm Beach, Florida; as well as summer repertory theatre in Creede, CO.

#### **HELEN SLOMOWITZ, Costumer**

Helen is thrilled to be a part of this production of *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern*. Helen has worked with Actor's Ensemble in many productions and could not be happier to be part of the "Dream Team!" Helen has also been a part of costuming for other Bay Area theatres and has played many parts in the production realm for film as well. She would like to thank the cast & crew for their patience and input.

# GET YOUR 2008 SEASON TICKETS NOW!

### Wow! It's Actors Ensemble's 2008 Season!

Barefoot in the Park by Neil Simon
The Play about the Baby by Edward Albee
Uncle Vanya by Anton Chekhov
The Matchmaker by Thornton Wilder

It's very Berkeley to be a season ticket holder, or better yet a member!

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To subscribe, make checks payable to **Actors Ensemble**, and include your name, mailing and email addresses, and phone number.

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Berkeley, CA 94701

You'll find ticket and other info at www.aeofberkeley.org or (510) 841-5580—messages left will be returned (eventually). And, you can always pay for tickets in advance by credit card at www.brownpapertickets.com. *Merci!* 

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