

CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE'S **ROUCH OF
SUSANNA**

October 24
— November 22



Directed by Jeremy Cole



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: Alan Barkan, Eric Carlson, David Cohen, Maureen Coyne, Jose Garcia, Bob Gudmundson, Margaret Gudmundsson, Bill Martinelli, Jodi Maxwell, Jerome Solberg, Stanley Spenger, Kim Stewart, Wendy Welch

Christopher Marlowe's
DOCTOR FAUSTUS

Directed by Jeremy Cole

CAST

Doctor Faustus..... Harold Pierce
Mephistopheles Stanley Spenger

ENSEMBLE

Wagner, Envy, Cardinal of France,
Duke of Saxony, Servant, Devil..... April Bennett
Good Angel, Lechery, Banio, Friar,
Paramour, Duke of Vanholt, Devil.....Kerry Gudjohnsen
Evil Angel, Gluttony, Belcher, Friar, Benvolio, Carter, Devil.....James Tantum
Valdes, Lucifer, Pope, Knight, Hostess, Old Man, Devil Ulysses Pople
Cornelius, Sloth, Dick, She-Devil, Bruno, Devil..... Tavis Kammet
Scholar, Pride, King of Hungary,
Emperor of Germany, Horse, Duchess of Vanholt, Devil Theresa Adams
Scholar, Wrath, Cardinal of Padua,
Knight, Vintner, Horse-Courser, DevilMeira Perelstein
Robin, Covetousness, Friar, Alexander, Devil Matt Gunnison

CREW

Director, Light Design..... Jeremy Cole
Stage Manager Jose Garcia
Producer..... Jennifer Rice
Set DesignNorm De Veyra
Costume Design Maria Graham
Costume Assistant.....Daniel C. Yelen
Graphic Design Shu Ping Guan
Light Production Sang S. Kim
Sound Production..... Karen Oakley, Natascha Gruber
Backstage Crew Ezodin Towfigh
Publicity..... Eric Carlson

Costumes in part courtesy of Masquers Playhouse.
Costumes and props in part courtesy of Contra Costa Civic Theatre.
Please note that there is no intermission.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The tale of a man selling his soul to the devil is an old one (the earliest printed version, *Historia von D. Johann Fausten*, dates to 1587), yet it has never stopped fascinating us. Many versions of this story exist – from the grim (Thomas Mann's *Doktor Faustus*, Gounod's *Faust*) to the comic (Terry Pratchett's *Eric*, the musical *Damn Yankees*). Christopher Marlowe's *The Tragical History of the Life and Death of Doctor Faustus* is the oldest surviving adaptation for the stage, and it falls rather awkwardly in between the extremes of tragedy and comedy. In Marlowe's version, we have competing styles of writing – as evidenced by the introspective soliloquies of Faustus himself, the broad comic episodes of the secondary characters, and the tense exchanges between Faustus and Mephistopheles. The religious views in the script are equally diverse: the arguments of the Good and Evil Angels seem to espouse Arminianism, those of the Old Man suggest Catholicism, while Faustus' arguments with Mephistopheles (and with himself) are more in line with the Calvinism more prevalent at that time. Many productions try to homogenize the play by toning down the comic sub-plots (or cutting them entirely) and smoothing out the theological disparities. This may add cohesion, but it risks transforming the play from an entertainment into a sermon, and despite the religious issues at the core of the piece, it is a play, after all, and a little entertainment never hurt anybody (Abraham Lincoln, perhaps, excepted). When preparing to direct this play, I opted to go bold and embrace the show's inconsistencies and contradictions, and even to exaggerate them at times. To that end, this evening's performance will contain drama *and* comedy, predestination *and* free will, reality *and* magic, humans *and* demons, verities *and* anachronisms. Marlowe has been criticized for providing more questions than answers, but I believe that was his intent (it certainly makes for more spirited post-show discussions), and frankly, I wouldn't have it any other way.

THANKS

Jo Lusk and Masquers Playhouse
Darlene Almeida and Contra Costa Civic Theatre
Phoebe Lam
Eric Sweet
Brian Morran
T. Louis Weltz

CAST AND CREW



THERESA ADAMS (Ensemble). *Dr. Faustus* marks Theresa's first show with Actors Ensemble. Some of Theresa's favorite roles include Annelle Dupey Desoto in *Steel Magnolias*, Cory in *Private Eyes*, and perhaps her most memorable theater experience to date, Mary Zimmerman's *Metamorphoses* directed by Jeremy Cole.

APRIL BENNETT (Ensemble) recently moved to Berkeley from Santa Cruz where she began acting at the age of 8. Her favorite roles include Janet in *The Rocky Horror Show* and Caitlin in *Over the River and Through the Woods*. Endless thanks to Mom, Dad and B.C. for their love and support.



KERRY GUDJOHNSEN (Ensemble). Favorite credits include *Betrayal's* Emma (3RPT) and *Richard III's* Queen Elizabeth (SubterraneanShakes). A member of the improvised film group, Barewitness (www.barewitness.com), Kerry co-starred in *IPO* (available on Netflix!), and directed films *Spent*, *Served Cold*, and *Canvas*. When not repenting, Kerry loves hanging with loved ones, especially her ornery cat, Stan.

MATT GUNNISON (Ensemble). A transplant to San Francisco from the Southwest, Matt Gunnison has appeared in several plays around the Bay Area, most recently in Killer Bee Productions' *Macbeth*. Matt holds a BFA in Theatre from Eastern New Mexico University, and he says hi to Claire, whom he hasn't seen much of recently.



TAVIS KAMMET (Ensemble) is a Berkeley actor acting in Berkeley. He feels good about that. Tavis was recently seen in *An Ideal Husband* at Cal Shakes. And long ago there was no way you saw him in *From the Vagina to the Vagina* unless you were in London. A bad part of London.

Actors Ensemble Celebrates



HAROLD PIERCE (Faustus) is happy to be back at Actors Ensemble almost exactly a year after his debut here as The Player in *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*. Other recent performances include Lysander from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with North Bay Shakespeare and Richardetto in Impact Theater's *'Tis Pity She's A Whore*. A big thank you to Stan.

ULYSSES POPPLE (Ensemble) is an aspiring actor and part-time computer programmer. He is currently a senior at Albany High, and hopes to continue acting in college. At fifteen, he was Gloumov in *The Diary of a Scoundrel* at Masquers Playhouse, and he appeared again in *The Tempest* with Ragged Wing.



MEIRA PERELSTEIN (Ensemble) has appeared in Actors Ensemble's productions of *The Matchmaker* as Ermengard and Cabbie, and in *Lysistrata* as Calonice. She also portrayed Rosencrantz in Impact Theatre's *Hamlet*. She loves performing with Stagebridge's Improv Troupe. In her spare time she likes to juggle small animals and go into your home and misplace your remote control, keys and glasses.

STANLEY SPENGER (Mephistopheles), a Board Member of Actors Ensemble of Berkeley since 2004, he founded the theater company Subterranean Shakespeare in 1988, and was Artistic Director until 2003. 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*.



JAMES TANTUM (Ensemble), in Philly before San Francisco, is a conceptual artist and co-founded the comedic theatre troupe, Parsley, with Aram Aghazarian; their last two Fringe productions were *Lowbrow* and *This One's For You*. Jim was recently an extra in *4 Christmases* which is due to be released near Christmas.

JEREMY COLE (Director, Light Design) is a recent transplant from Denver, where he received awards for his direction of *The Kentucky Cycle* and *Metamorphoses*. Since relocating to the Bay Area, he has directed productions of *Richard III* and *Macbeth*, both for Subterranean Shakespeare. *Doctor Faustus* marks his debut with Actors Ensemble.

NORM DE VEYRA (Set Design) considers set design a break from the code books and city clerks of his regular architectural work. He's been an assistant set designer for productions at UC Berkeley and set designer for a high school production of *The Odd Couple*. He hopes to do more of the same in the future.

JOSE GARCIA (Stage Manager) has performed on stage while stage managing Actors Ensemble's previous productions of *The Matchmaker*, *Uncle Vanya* and *Barefoot in the Park*. His favorite roles have been The Teacher in *A Dream Play* and The Ambassador in *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*. He is also a member of Actors Ensemble's Board of Directors.

MARIA GRAHAM (Costume Design) is a former artists' model who has been costuming community theatre for almost three years, including *The Hitler Roast for Comedy Noir* (Eureka Theatre), *The Skin of Our Teeth* and *The School for Scandal* for San Francisco's Free Civic Theatre, and SF Pocket Opera's *Don Pasquale*. She lives in a very small San Francisco apartment with her artist husband, two cats, and a very large handbag collection. Her favorite color is Sequins.

SANG S. KIM (Light Production) has been working with several Bay Area theater companies, most prominently with Thunderbird Theatre, for the past ten years. He is currently writing the third incarnation of the critically lauded sketch comedy show *Serve By Expiration* which debuts March 2009 in San Francisco.

JENNIFER RICE (Producer) is pleased to return to Actors Ensemble after playing Yelena in *Uncle Vanya*. Favorite roles include 'C' in *Three Tall Women* and Jackie/Kate/Ben in *Anton In Show Business*. Her current obsession is the Twilight vampire book series.

PRESENTING THE 2009 SEASON

Exit the King

by Eugene Ionesco

Luv

by Murray Schisgal

Wonderful Town

a musical by Joseph A. Fields and Jerome Chodorov

lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green

music by Leonard Bernstein.

TBA

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