



*Actors Ensemble of Berkeley*  
*At Live Oak Theatre*

*2011 Fall Staged Reading Series*



**The Crucible**  
**by Arthur Miller**  
- A staged reading -  
Directed by Colin Johnson

**ONE NIGHT ONLY**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 15th, 8 p.m.**

PARRIS - **Jeff Trescott**

TITUBA / CHORUS - **Holly Nunez**

SUSANNAH WALCOTT / CHORUS -

**Mary Guiver**

ABIGAIL - **Theresa Christine**

ANN PUTNAM / MARTHA COREY / CHORUS - **Paige Lubawy**

BETTY PARRIS / SARAH GOOD / CHORUS - **Emmy Pierce**

MERCY LEWIS / CHORUS -

**Lynsday Weber**

MARY WARREN - **Sheila O'Toole**

JOHN PROCTOR - **Ben Grubb**

GILES COREY - **Joe Christiano**

REBECCA NURSE / CHORUS -

**Victoria Siegel**

REV. HALE - **Brian Quakenbush**

ELIZABETH PROCTOR - **Maura Halloran**

CHEEVER - **Josh Han**

HERRICK - **Lucas Buckman**

HATHORNE - **Mark Katz**

DANFORTH - **Stanley Spenger**

THOMAS PUTNAM / HOPKINS -

**Jess Thomas**

FRANCIS NURSE - **Jerome Solberg**

"I believe that the reader will discover here the essential nature of one of the strangest and most awful chapters in human history," Arthur Miller wrote in an introduction to *The Crucible*, his classic play about the witch-hunts and trials in seventeenth-century Salem, Massachusetts. Based on historical people and real events, Miller's drama is a searing portrait of a community engulfed by hysteria. In the rigid theocracy of Salem, rumors that women are practicing witchcraft galvanize the town's most basic fears and suspicions; and when a young girl accuses Elizabeth Proctor of being a witch, self-righteous church leaders and townspeople insist that Elizabeth be brought to trial. The ruthlessness of the prosecutors and the eagerness of neighbor to testify against neighbor brilliantly illuminate the destructive power of socially sanctioned violence. Written in 1953, *The Crucible* is a mirror Miller uses to reflect the anti-communist hysteria inspired by Senator Joseph McCarthy's witch-hunts in the United States. Within the text itself, Miller contemplates the parallels, writing: "Political opposition...is given an inhumane overlay, which then justifies the abrogation of all normally applied customs of civilized behavior. A political policy is equated with moral right, and opposition to it meets with diabolical malevolence."

**Colin Johnson** (Director) Colin was born, raised and educated in Washington State, which he ditched for The Bay Area right after graduation. Since his migration in 2008, he's involved himself in guerilla, independent theatre (Round Belly Theatre Company and BattleStache Studios), freelance filmmaking and producing/writing comic books for Image Comics. He also works at Pegasus Books in Berkeley. For lack of a better term, he likes art. He will be directing *Actors Ensembles'* 2012 main stage production of **Noises Off** in the summer of 2012.

*Don't miss the remaining shows in our Fall 2011 Program:*  
**DOUBT** by John Patrick Shanley, though **November 19th**  
Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>: **Journey of Light**, conceived by Alecks Rundell  
More info always at: [www.aeofberkeley.org](http://www.aeofberkeley.org)