

*Actors Ensemble of Berkeley*  
*Winter 2015 Staged Reading Series*

**The Wife of Bath/Marriage of Sir Gawain**

*Book, lyrics and music by Vicki Siegel*

*Additional music, arrangements, music direction by Evan Alparone*

A staged reading directed by Robert Estes

**One Night Only –Tuesday, January 27, 2015, 8 pm**

**CAST**

<b>The Wife of Bath</b>	Jennie Brick
<b>Chaucer, Sir Pellinore</b>	Matthew Surrence
<b>Merlin, Narrator</b>	Stanley Spenger
<b>King Arthur</b>	Phillip Percy Williams
<b>Sir Bevedere, Gromer Somer Joure</b>	Johnny DeBernard
<b>Sir Gawain</b>	Steve Beecroft
<b>Crone</b>	Emmy Pierce
<b>Knights and Modern Guys/ Ensemble</b>	Andrew MacIver Chris Cruz
<b>Ladies and Modern Women/ Ensemble</b>	Christine Sheppard Virginia Corrigan Yael Aranoff

*Special thanks to Jo Lusk, Paula Aiello and Steve Beecroft.*

**Notes on the play:**

*The Wife of Bath/Marriage of Sir Gawain*, is based on a set of old medieval tales, but it asks the eternal question “What do women most desire?” And is any time not the right time for that question?

If you know your Chaucer, and I’m sure you all do, you will recall that the Wife of Bath is one of the characters on a pilgrimage to Canterbury, during which all the pilgrims decide to tell stories to lighten their journey. The best story wins a free dinner back at the Tabard Inn on their return. The Wife of Bath’s contribution is a tale that has evolved through the years into “The Marriage of Sir Gawain,” alternatively called “Sir Gawain and the Loathly Lady.” Also woven into this musical is the tale of “Gawain and the White Hart,” a story that tells us more about the early days of Arthur’s court and the formation of young Gawain’s character.

But the crux of the stories, however they’re put together, is that Arthur, in order to save Camelot, has to find the answer to the question:

***What do women most desire??***

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**Any ideas?**

**What do you most desire of AE? What plays would you most like to see for productions or staged readings? What genres of plays? Any other comments:**

*Please write down your ideas on the attached page. Thank you.*

*The Wife of Bath and Marriage of Sir Gawain*

Please give King Arthur and Sir Gawain your opinions and advice:  
What do women most desire?

What do you most desire of Actors Ensemble of Berkeley?  
Ideas for shows, staged readings, plays you'd like to see? Genres of plays?

Thank you!

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