

Don't miss our main stage production, the first of our
2019 Season (our 62nd!)



Our next staged reading:

A Dybbuk or Between Two Worlds

Adapted by Tony Kushner

Translated from Yiddish by J. Neugroschel

From the original play by S. Ansky

Directed by Michael R. Cohen

A coproduction of **Actors Ensemble** and

Temple Beth Hillel

2 p.m., February 24th

\$10 Suggested Donation

Temple Beth Hillel, 801 Park Central, Richmond, 94803

Coming up next at Live Oak Theatre

TheatreFirst's second production of their 2018/2019 season

The Last Sermon of Sister Imani

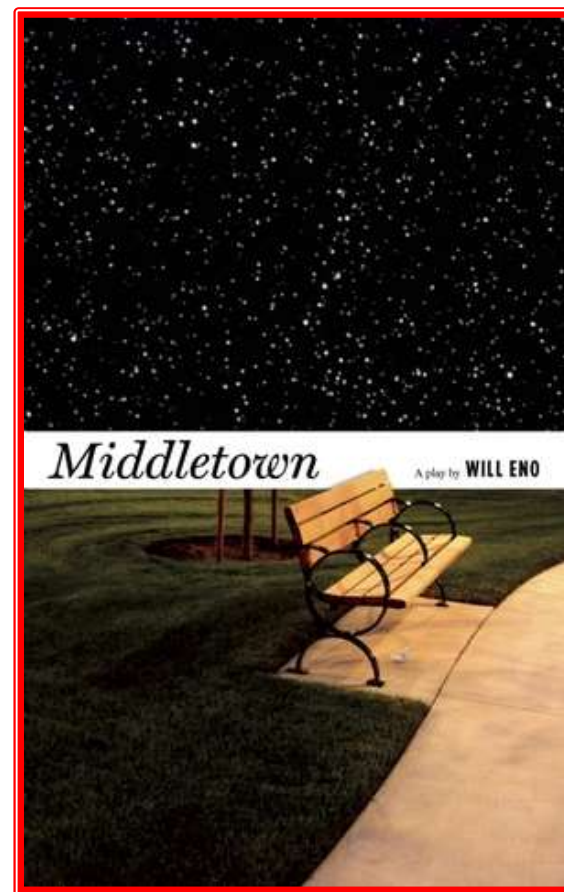
by Cleavon Smith, Directed by Michael Gene Sullivan

performances February 14th-March 10th 2019

www.theatrefirst.com



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Actors Ensemble of Berkeley
2019 Winter Staged Reading Series

Middletown

By Will Eno

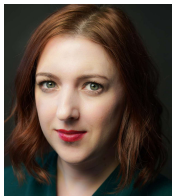
Directed by Lana Palmer

8 p.m. Monday January 21st
Live Oak Theatre, Berkeley



ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT & THE DIRECTOR

Will Eno is a Residency Five Fellow at the Signature Theatre in New York, which presented *Title and Deed* in 2012, and *The Open House*, in 2014. His new play, *Wakey, Wakey* premiered there in February 2017. Following an acclaimed run at Yale Repertory Theatre, his play *The Realistic Joneses* was on Broadway in 2014, directed by Sam Gold and starring Toni Collette, Michael C. Hall, Tracy Letts, and Marisa Tomei. *The Realistic Joneses* won a Drama Desk Award, was named USA Today's "Best Play on Broadway," topped the The Guardian's 2014 list of American plays, and was included in The N.Y. Times' "Best Theatre of 2014." *The Open House* won the 2014 Obie Award, the Lortel Award for Outstanding Play, and a Drama Desk Award, and was included in both the Time Out New York and Time Magazine Top 10 Plays of the Year. *Title and Deed* was on The N.Y. Times and The New Yorker magazine's Top Ten Plays of 2012. His play *Gnit*, a loving but aggressive adaptation of *Peer Gynt*, premiered at the Actor's Theatre of Louisville in 2013. *Middletown*, winner of the Horton Foote Award, premiered at the Vineyard Theatre and subsequently at Steppenwolf Theater and many other American Theaters and universities. His internationally heralded play *Thom Pain (based on nothing)* ran at the Geffen Playhouse in Winter of 2016 starring Rainn Wilson, was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize, and has been translated into more than a dozen languages. He was recently awarded the PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation Award. His plays are published by Samuel French, TCG, Dramatists Play Service, and Playscripts, in the U.S., and Oberon Books in London. <http://willeno.com/>



Lana Palmer (Director) is a Canadian-born, San Francisco-based director, sound designer, and actor working in theatre and film. Her directing projects include *Red* and *The North Pool* (Bread & Butter Theatre), and upcoming sound and music projects include *Schoolgirls; or The African Mean-Girls Play* (Kansas City Rep), *The Grapes of Wrath* (Los Altos Stage), and *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* (Town Hall Theatre). Next up, she will be directing *The How and The Why* at Dragon Theatre. Lana is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA, the SDC, and the Dramatists Guild. <http://www.lanapalmer.com>



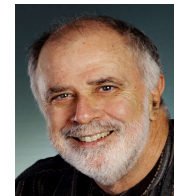
Dan Schwager (Cop): With a lengthy professional career in healthcare administration, Dan is delighted to perform with **Actors Ensemble** once again in *Middletown* in the role of "Cop". In just this past year, Dan has performed in *The Lady from the Sea* and *Rosmersholm* (**AE**), with The Pacifica Spindrift Players in *The Crucible* as Reverend Parris and at the Ross Valley Players in *Ricochet*. Previous musical roles include *My Fair Lady* ("Doolittle") and *Guys and Dolls* ("Benny Southstreet"), and dramatic roles in *Moliere's Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* ("Master of Philosophy") and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* ("The Prince").



Baki Tezcan (Mechanic) acted in Turkish in Istanbul and Ankara in the late 1980s and early 1990s. After twenty years in the US, he returned to stage in Davis, CA, with two Chekhov plays. His first appearance with the **Actors Ensemble** was last week in *What in the World?*



Jeff Trescott has been in numerous productions around the Bay Area and elsewhere. His most recent appearance with **Actors Ensemble** was as Polonius in last summer's *Hamlet*.



David Weiner (Freelancer) is excited to be back at AEB and to be in his first Staged Reading. He was last seen in **AE's** production of *Enemy of the People*. He rediscovered theatre in 2001. Some of his favorite roles have been *Grandfather* in Ragtime and Lt. Brannigan in *Guys and Dolls*, both at Alameda Civic Light Opera. He also was seen at Masquers as Paul in *The Marriage of Bette & Boo*, and Dorante in *The Gamester*. He retired from a myriad of jobs and spends his free time walking Rex the Wonder Dog.



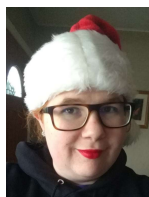
Stacey Winn is elated to be working with **Actors Ensemble** for the first time. Some of her favorite roles include Lucy in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, Fred in *Once Upon a Mattress*, Roxie in *Chicago (The Play)*, Mariane in *Tartuffe*, and Alice in *You Can't Take it With You*. She'd like to thank her family and her husband for always believing in her, even when she lost her way.



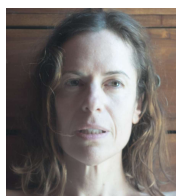
Polina Litvak (Sweetheart) is excited to start off her year with another reading at **AE**. She has worked onstage and backstage at various companies throughout the Bay Area, including RE:ACT, Dragon Productions, Theater of Others, Ninjaz of Drama, Theater Rhinoceros, and the Playwrights' Center of San Francisco. Her past favorite roles include Tearcat in *The Roaring Girl*, Humphrey in *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*, and Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



Jan Carty Marsh (Doctor) has a B.A. in Theatre and has served internships with The San Francisco Mime Troupe and Shakespeare Santa Cruz. She is a SAG/AFTRA member and Equity Membership Candidate. Although primarily an actor, she has helped get new works produced or read as an Associate Producer at Bindlestiff Studios and a Producing Director for the Playwrights' Center of San Francisco. She has spent 60 years in Middletown and enjoys speaking of simple, true things.



Jenna Peters-Ring (Radio Host): Jenna is thrilled to be performing with **Actors Ensemble** for her second time. She previously performed in **Actors Ensemble's** world premiere musical, *What Do Women Want: The Marriage of Sir Gawain* as Ensemble. Her most recent production was at her college CSU East Bay in the play *Blood Wedding* as the Servant/Ensemble. Jenna would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her theatre acting endeavors.



Marcie Rich (Public Speaker) trained and performed with City Garage in Santa Monica, in Jacquelyn Reingold's *Girl Gone*, Fassbinder's *Blood on the Cat's Neck*, and Joan Schenkar's *Universal Wolf*. Marcie wrote and performed her own one-person works with the Max10 Performance Lab in Venice, CA. She was last seen at the Berkeley Public Library, reading *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*. *Middletown* is Marcie's first performance with **Actors Ensemble**.



Victor Schutz (Miles) is thrilled to be in his first Actors Ensemble of Berkeley productions. He spends his days lighting Visual Effects for movies, and suiting up for the Motion Capture stage whenever he can. "Thanks to my wife and kids for enjoying and encouraging this theater based life we have and to my sister Lisa for inspiring my love of theater."

Middletown **By Will Eno**

Cast

Public Speaker..... Marcie Rich
Radio Host/Speaker..... Jenna Peters-Ring
Cop..... Dan Schwager
Mechanic..... Baki Tezcan
John Dodge..... Nelson Brown
Mrs. Swanson..... Stacey Winn
Librarian..... Maureen Coyne
Tour Guide/Attendant 2..... Sara-Jean Bartky
Attendant/Female Tourist..... Tracy Baxter
Male Tourist/Ground Control..... Victor Schutz
Greg..... Joel Green
Freelancer..... David Weiner
Aunt..... Marika Kuzma
Sweetheart..... Polina Litvak
Man on Date..... Joel Jacobs
Woman on Date..... Hanna Rachel Gerry
Doctor..... Jan Carty-Marsh
Doctor..... Arcady Darter
Landscaper/Janitor..... Jeff Trescott

Staff

Director..... Lana Palmer
Producer & Publicity & Program..... Jerome Solberg
Front of House..... Michael Cohen, Vicki Siegel

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

This production is performed by arrangement with Samuel French. Made possible by a TBA Cash Grant and with the cooperation of Jon Tracy and the rest of TheatreFirst.

Actors Ensemble Board of Directors

Crystal Brown, Michael R. Cohen, Robert Estes, Norah Foster, Jane Goodwin, Bob Gudmundsson, Martha Luehrmann, Meryn MacDougall, Meira Perelstein, Emmy Pierce, Vicki Siegel, Jerome Solberg, Jeff Trescott, Ian Wilcox, Susannah Wood.

<http://www.aeofberkeley.org>, P.O. Box 663, Berkeley 94701

Biographies



Sara-Jean Bartky (Tour Guide, Attendant) is an actor, singer, improviser, sketch writer, and director hailing from New Jersey. Sara-Jean was a lead in *San Francisco, I Love You!* at The Shelton Theater in San Francisco. In the last few months, she starred in the short independent films, *Tension* and *j*. Sara-Jean has performed as part of the improvisational group, *FingerHands*, at *All Out Comedy Theater*, *La Peña Cultural Center*, in Drake's Dealership's comedy show, *What the Duck?*, and at Pan Theater as a member of *Sunday Brunch*. Sara-Jean has been an ongoing performer in *ShotzSF*.



Tracy Baxter has appeared in the *Theater of Others* and the *Ninjaz of Drama* productions, including *Hamlet*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Antigone*. When she isn't performing, she dreams of writing a stage play that sets tongues wagging. Her first attempt, *KUDZU 2012*, a satirical look at tech hubris, displacement, and working class life, scored a semifinal slot in the Bay Area Playwrights Foundation's 2016 new play festival.



Nelson Brown (John Dodge) is grateful to be working with **Actors Ensemble** for the first time. He has previously worked in Marin with the *Curtain Theatre* for *Henry IV Part 1* (Poins) and *The Miser* (LaFleche), and *Marin Musical Theatre Company* for *Guys and Dolls* (Nathan) and *Pippin* (Lewis). He also made his SF debut this past year for *Shotz* in the original short musical *Father and Queen*. In March he will be playing *The Adult Men* in *MMTC* and *Novato Theater Company's* co-production of *Spring Awakening*.



Maureen Coyne has worked with many Bay area theatres over the years. Some **Actors Ensemble** productions she has appeared in include Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*, Chekov's *Uncle Vanya*, Noel Coward's *Present Laughter*, Thornton Wilder's *The Matchmaker* and Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. Last year she was in *The Protegee of the Mistress*, and now Will Eno's *Middletown*, inspired by Wilder's *Our Town*, a play she worked on in high school.



Hanna Rachel Gerry is excited for her first project with **Actors Ensemble**! She holds a Bachelor of Arts in drama from University California, Irvine and a Master of Fine Arts in Dramatic Writing from California State University, Los Angeles. In September, she debuted her one-woman show *Being Me is Ridiculous*, in collaboration with *Fuse Theatre Ensemble* at Monday Night Marsh at *The Marsh* in San Francisco. She currently is the membership and events associate at Theatre Bay Area and is a new member of the Dramatists Guild of America. Enjoy the reading!



Joel Green is happy to return to **Actors Ensemble** where he played Bennett in Tom Stoppard's *Travesties* over 15 years ago. More recently, he was also happily in the ensembles of *365/365* and *Persephone Underground* here last week and *Annie* at *Berkeley Playhouse* last year.



Joel Jacobs (Man on Date) is excited to be back with **Actors Ensemble**, having previously appeared in four **AE** productions, most recently, *Pride and Prejudice*. He has worked various theater companies in the East Bay, but given that (1) **AE** is located in his home town of Berkeley, (2) he lived in Middletown, Connecticut for four years during college, and (3) at some point in the distant past he was a man on a date, this production has a special place in his heart. By day, he is an environmental lawyer, and sometimes massages people with his feet. He would like to thank his family for their loving support.



Marika Kuzma (Aunt) has appeared on stages at *Berkeley Rep* (u/s and perf *Watch on the Rhine*), *Marin Shakes* (*Three Musketeers*), *Piedmont Center for the Arts* (*Silent Sky*), *La Mama Theater* in New York, and others. As a musician, she has taken part in productions around the globe. Offstage, she is an aunt to three nieces and a nephew, whom she has indeed taken to various concerts and plays. She is very happy to take part in reading this beautiful play with **Actors Ensemble** alongside our wonderful cast and director.