



*Actors Ensemble of Berkeley
Presents*



***Machinal**
By Sophie Treadwell
Directed by Hilary Buffum
La Val's Subterranean Theatre
Monday, January 27th, 2020, 8 p.m.
Part of our Winter 2020 Staged Reading Series*

Machinal
by Sophie Treadwell

Cast

In Alphabetical Order

Filing Clerk/2nd Reporter/Ensemble.....Ilan F. Halpern
Telephone Girl/Bailiff/Ensemble.....Jen Halsing
George H. Jones (Husband) & Ensemble.....Jeff Trescott
Young Woman.....May Ramos
Doctor/Table 2 Man/Ensemble.....Carrie Rudner
Stenographer/Nurse/Ensemble.....Miyoko Sakatani
1st Man/3rd Reporter/Ensemble.....Mark Veldnitsky
2nd Man/Prosecution Lawyer/Ensemble.....Matthew Weinberg
Adding Clerk/1st Reporter/Ensemble.....Evan Winet
Mother/Matron/Ensemble.....Susannah Wood

Staff

DirectorHilary Buffum
Producer.....Jerome Solberg

Performance Schedule:

Monday, January 27th, 8 p.m.

La Val's Subterranean Theatre

Performed by arrangement with
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Tuscon

Check out AEB's Summer 2020 in John Hinkel Park

- **Fortinbras**, by Lee Blessing, directed by Michael R. Cohen. Opens July 3rd, 2020.
- **TBA** opening August 19th, 2020

More info about **Actors Ensemble of Berkeley**, Berkeley's
longest-running theatrical organization (since 1957) at our
website: **www.aeofberkeley.org**

Cast and Crew Biographies

Hilary Buffum (*Director*) is a Bay Area actor and director and an alum of the San Francisco State Theatre department. She has directed short new works including most recently *Enough* by Haunah King. She also co-produced two Shakespeare plays with HearthFire theatre company in 2015 and 2016. She is excited to be directing this staged reading of *Machinal*.

Illan F. Halpern (*Ensemble*) has acted in plays in Brazil, Canada and both coasts of the United States. He holds a Physics Ph.D. from UC Berkeley, and a Theater Arts minor from MIT. After *Lysistrata* last fall, he's happy to be back with **Actors Ensemble** for another play reading.

Jen Halsing (*Ensemble*) is delighted to join the cast of *Machinal*. Most recently, she performed in **AEB's** 2019 Fall Staged Reading series in *Jizo*. Other credits include the following North Carolina Theatre productions: *Ragtime*, *A Chorus Line*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

May Ramos (*Young Woman*) (she/they) This is May's third appearance in **AEB's** staged readings. She has previously worked with Shotgun Players, Killing my Lobster, Cutting Ball, Z Space, and other theatres around the Bay Area. She is honored to be a part of this story, and encourages audiences to think critically about the destructive societal mechanisms that oppress female identities. The National Domestic Abuse Hotline is: 1-800-799-7233.

Carrie Rudner (*Ensemble*) has a BA in Anthropology from UCSC and a Masters in Social Work from Boston University. She recently finished co-writing the play *Hell is Other People*. She can be seen performing in the improv troupe, Stone Soup and the murder mystery show, *Dinner Detective*. You can follow Carrie's travel antics on Instagram at [mytravelingbuddies](#).

Miyoko Sakatani (*Ensemble*) is an actor~singer. Her favorite shows include, *Uncle Vanya*, *Distracted*, *Vanya*, *Sonia*, *Masha* and *Spike*. Films include the award winning feature, *East Side Sushi*. Miyoko performed her solo piece at the Marsh Theater about her family's immigration and internment. She is founding Executive Director of Playland Productions.

Jeff Trescott (*Husband/Ensemble*) has appeared in several **AEB** productions, most recently as Polonius in *Hamlet*. He also helps out in various other ways.

Mark Velednitsky (*Ensemble*) has sometimes been called a machine (in the sense that he frequently encounters technical problems and breaks down.) He hopes you enjoy the show!

Evan Winet's (*Ensemble*) recent Bay Area credits include Clive/Cathy in Churchill's *Cloud Nine* (Custom Made Theatre); Arden in Arden of Faversham (*Theatre of Others*); Claudius/Ghost in Hamlet (**AEB**) and Pandarus in *Troilus and Cressida* (New York Public Theater/Stanford University). By day, Evan works as a trust and estates attorney.

Matthew Weinberg (*Ensemble*) is a veteran of such legendary AEB staged readings as *A Protege of the Mistress*, *The Wilde Life*, and *The Time of Your Life*, and has received accolades for his nuanced portrayals of "Dinosaur" in *The Skin of Our Teeth* and "Angry Townsperson" in *An Enemy of the People*. He is thrilled once again to be playing nameless characters in tonight's performance.

Susannah Wood (*Ensemble*) performs and directs often in the Bay Area, including with **AEB** most recently with *The Skin of Our Teeth*. Currently she is stage director for Poulenc's *Dialogue of the Carmelites* with Berkeley Chamber Opera and consultant with the Armenian Women's Archives.

About *Machinal*

Machinal is a 1928 play by American playwright and journalist, Sophie Treadwell. Its Broadway premiere with Clark Gable as the lover is considered one of the high points of expressionist theater on the American stage. Sophie Treadwell was a campaigning journalist in America between the wars. Among her assignments was the sensational murder involving Ruth Snyder, who with her lover, Judd Gray, had murdered her husband and gone to the electric chair. Out of this came ***Machinal***, a powerful drama about the dependent status of women and the living hell of a loveless marriage. The play was revived in New York and London in the 1990s and more recently at the Roundabout Theater in NY in 2014.

Expressionism developed in Europe (principally Germany) in the early decades of the 20th century and later in the United States. It forms part of the broader movement of Expressionism in the arts. Expressionism enjoyed a brief period of popularity in American theater in the 1920's, including plays by Eugene O'Neill (*The Hairy Ape*, *Emperor Jones* and *The Great God Brown*), Elmer Rice (*The Adding Machine*) and *Machinal*. Expressionist plays often dramatize the suffering and spiritual awakening of their protagonists. Instead of long acts and scenes, they often have short scenes or a series of episodes as in *Machinal* - **Vicki Siegel, AEB Board Member and Dramaturge**

