

**ACTORS ENSEMBLE OF BERKELEY
PRESENTS
AN ONLINE READING OF**

**BY SWEAT
LYNN NOTTAGE**

DIRECTED BY TRACY BAXTER

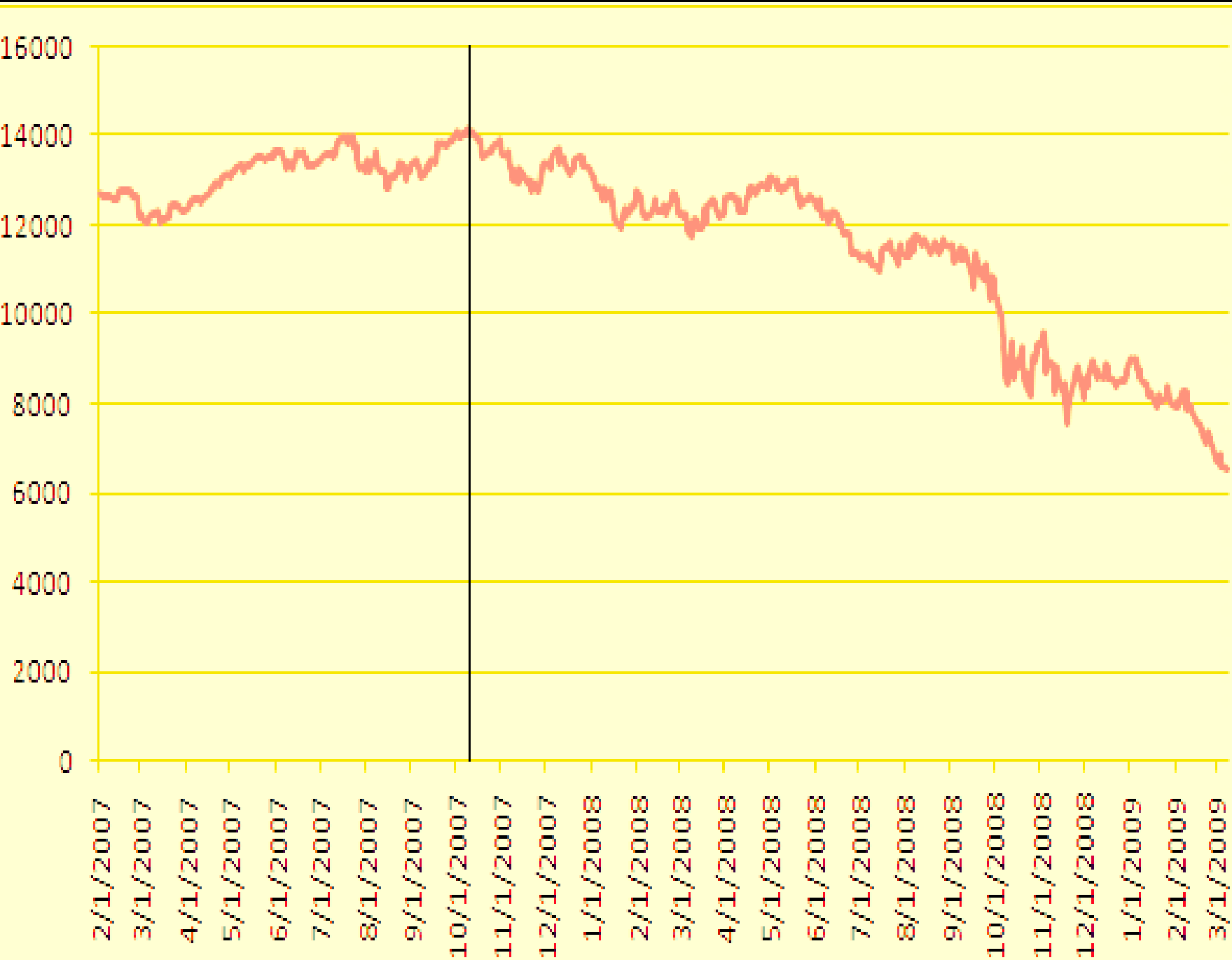
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

JULY

30 + 31

2021

**FUNDED IN PART BY A GRANT FROM
THE CITY OF BERKELEY
CIVIC ARTS
COMMISSION**



US stocks
plunge 733
point, the 2nd
biggest drop in
history

September 29
2008

Lynn Nottage

(playwright)

Lynn Nottage (born November 2, 1964) is an American playwright whose work often deals with the lives of marginalized people. She is a professor of Playwriting at [Columbia University](#).

She was the first (and remains the only) woman to have won the [Pulitzer Prize for Drama](#) twice; the first in 2009 for [Ruined](#), and the second in 2017 for [Sweat](#).

Nottage was included in [Time](#) magazine's 100 Most Influential People in 2019.



Overnight
fire leaves
mother
with five
children
homeless

March 2
2000



Tracy Baxter (director)

Tracy Baxter is a writer based in Oakland. Her script “KUDZU 2012” was a semifinalist selection in the 2018 Bay Area Playwright Foundations New Play Festival and a finalist selection in the 2020 Screencraft Stage Play contest. She's performed with Actors Ensemble of Berkeley, The Ninjaz of Drama, and Theater of Others. This is her first directorial effort.

Director's Notes

Lynn Nottage's SWEAT will long stand as a clear-eyed, poignant chronicle of capitalism's shattering assault on the lives of working people. It's been truly gratifying to watch such talented actors bring the story so brilliantly to life. Thanks to you all!





Protesters
disrupt
World Bank
and IMF
fund
meeting

April 17
2000



Kate Bolton-Schmukler (Tracey)

An East Bay native, Kate Bolton-Schmukler is thrilled and humbled to make her adult 'straight acting' theatrical debut with Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. A classically trained singer, Kate has sung with various opera choruses and community opera productions round the Bay Area. Kate also enjoys acting in local films and shorts, and is also exploring the realm of voice over acting.



Irina Dianova (Jessie)

Irina is incredibly honored to be taking part in this production of Sweat at AE and thrilled to work with such an amazing cast and crew. She has previously performed with various Bay Area companies including Coastal Rep, Ninjaz of Drama, Theater of Others, and Theatre Lunatico. Favorite roles include Vera/Dr. Zavala (Distracted), Mrs. Dilber (A Christmas Carol), Miss Prism (The Importance of Being Earnest), Hermia (A Midsummer Night's Dream), Dromio of Syracuse (Comedy of Errors), and Katya (Inhale/Exhale). Irina is forever grateful for the love and support of her family and countless amazing friends.



Shelley Doty (Cynthia)

Shelley is a career musician with a persistent jones for theater. Previous appearances include: “Girlfriend” (by

Todd Almond, 2010 Berkeley. Rep); “The Idea of Order”, (by Todd Almond & Lisa Petersen, Workshop Reading 2017, Groundfloor); “We 3” (by Shelley Doty, Groundfloor, 2018). Shelley is thrilled to make her dramatic debut [no playing guitar, really?!?!] in the role of Cynthia. For more info: <www.skiptheneedle.com> And... Shout out to Zev for keeping mama on her toes -- I love you sunshine!



Power shut-offs
for
delinquent customer rise 111%
in Berks County

March 13
2008



David Ghilardi (Stan)

David Ghilardi was recently seen In Alpha New York's Theatre production of Spoon River. Check out David's Film/TV work on IMDB or Davidghilardi.com. His 8th book, **The One You Feed** will be out in October. Available on Amazon/Kindle. (Horror/Suspense). Much Love to Jazz.



Justin P. Lopez

(Oscar)

Justin is an actor, singer, writer, and boba-milk-tea enthusiast, who loves to find true connection and humanity in each script and song. Recent credits include the world premieres of Kiss My Aztec! (Berkeley Repertory Theatre) and Unbreakable by Andrew Lippa (SFGMC). Other favorite roles include Claudio (Much Ado About Nothing) and Juan Perón (Evita). In 2020, Justin focused on his playwriting work with ESPA Primary Stages and The Playground Experiment (PGE). His new play, The Re-Education of Fernando Morales, was selected for development by several companies, including Custom Made Theatre Company. Find out what else Justin is up to at www.justinplopez.com



Jourdán Olivier-Verdé (Brucie and Parole Officer)

is an East Coast transplant who has been seen throughout the SF Bay Area for the last 5 years! He was last seen at 6th Street Playhouse as Tom Robinson in "To Kill a Mockingbird" Recent credits include: Delray in "Memphis" (Berkeley Playhouse) and Bottom in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (Marin Shakespeare Company) He is a Teaching Artist and serves on the Board of Directors and BIPOC Alliance Council Chair for Marin Shakespeare Company.



Venus and Serena
take the gold at the
Sydney Summer
Olympics

September 28
2000



Alfred J. Robinson IV

(Chris)

Alfred J. Robinson IV is a Los Angeles native.

Although he just graduated cum laude from Cal State Northridge with a bachelors in theatre, he's already off to a great start with both film and stage credits under his belt. He was most recently seen in the Cal state Northridge Little Theatre production of "Our Lady of 121st Street" and regularly brings the funny doing standup at The HaHa Comedy club in North Hollywood



Marcus Schenck (Jason)

Marcus Schenck is a singer-actor active in the Boston area, singing roles with companies such as Boston Opera Collaborative, Opera on Tap, and Raylynmor Opera. In his most recent theatre credit, he was seen as Male 4, The News Anchor, King Creon, and An Actor in Charles Belov's *The Making of Medea's Medea* with Third Citizen Theatre Company. Recent operatic credits include Don Bartolo in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Boston Opera Collaborative and The King in Rachel Portman's *The Little Prince* with NEMPAC Opera Project. He also serves as the Executive and Artistic Director of Promenade Opera Project, a 501(c)(3) non-profit opera company based in greater Boston dedicated to creating modern immersive opera productions.



Kaitlin Weinstein

(Stage Manager)

is excited to be working with Actors Ensemble of Berkeley again after previously stage managing *She Kills Monsters* and *The Imaginary Invalid*. She is a Bay Area-based stage manager, producer, and costume designer. She has worked with theater companies around the Bay Area such as Actors Ensemble of Berkeley, American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Playhouse, California Shakespeare Theater, Playwrights Foundation, and Theatre Lunatico. She holds a B.A. in Theater and English from UC Berkeley. She is a recipient of UC Berkeley's Roslyn Schneider Eisner Prize for Continuing Creative Achievement, honoring her work in Stage Management and Costume Design.



George Bush
and Al Gore
are neck-
and-neck in
the polls

November 3
2000

Who We Are

Actors Ensemble (AE) is a non-profit corporation which has been producing plays in Berkeley since 1957. We currently present several shows a year at John Hinkel Park Amphitheatre and Live Oak Theater, and recently other venues such as LaVal's Subterranean or The Old Finnish Hall, and now online. Our website www.aeofberkeley.org has a comprehensive history as well as our open call for proposals for **2021** and **2022**. We always have open auditions and welcome folks interested in participating on- and off-stage – write us at info@aeofberkeley.org

We regard theater as a medium of entertainment, an opportunity for reflection, and a stimulus for change. For this reason, we are dedicated to the idea of an acting company as an ensemble: a group of equals working together to give life to a playwright's ideas.

We are governed by a volunteer board of directors. The board of directors, actors, staff, and volunteers donate their time to maintain our community theater. As in the case with almost all performing arts groups, paid admissions defray only a percentage of our operating expenses.

We select plays which give participants the chance to amplify their theater skills and to develop their capacities for communication. We hope to entertain our audiences, to stimulate and touch them, and to affect their lives.



200 people
camp
overnight at
a Reading
superstore
to buy a
Playstation
3

October 7
2000

