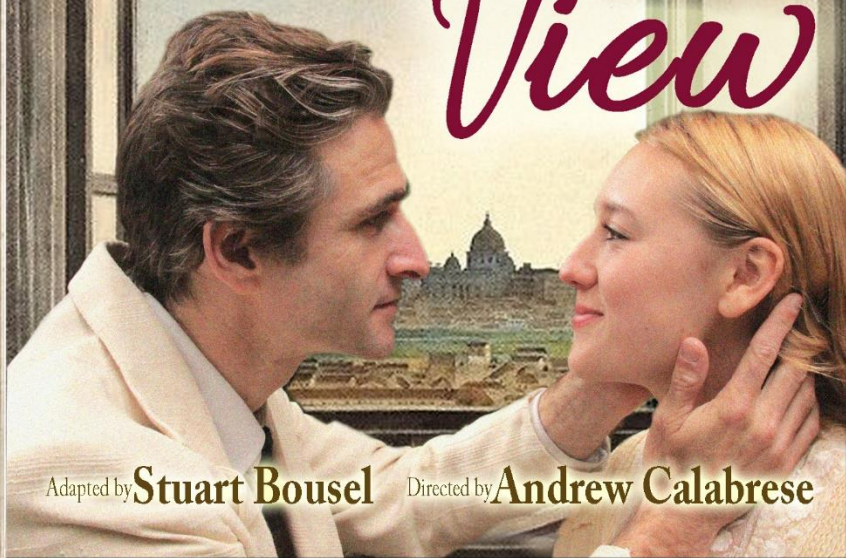


An Actor Ensemble of Berkeley World Premiere!

A
E.M. Forster's
Room with a
View



Adapted by **Stuart Bousel**

Directed by **Andrew Calabrese**

The story of a young English woman who, while on a holiday in Italy, meets a rich ensemble of characters who will change her life and shape her emerging consciousness, *A Room with a View* encourages all of us to say "Yes!"

With: Megan Briggs, izzy iqbal, Joyce Jacobson, Keith Jefferds, Tyler Scott Null, Sophie Ruf, Francis Serpa, Stanley Spenger, Marsba van Broek, Lisa Wang

Creators: Paula Dodd Aiello, Susan Dunn, Leif Pearson, Genevieve Purdue, Alyssa Riddell, Adri Schurman, Spencer Spencer, Jerome Solberg, Mary Tran, Vicki Victoria

Saturday & Sunday 4pm

July 1-16
2023

Holiday Monday Show

July 4

Show at 6pm on

July 8

Admission
Free!

John Hinkel Park
Amphitheater
Berkeley, California
www.aeofberkeley.org



ACTORS ENSEMBLE
OF



BERKELEY

Reservations encouraged but not necessary
Rustic steps & seating, bring a low chair, blanket or cushion

About Actors Ensemble of Berkeley

Actors Ensemble (**AE**) has been around the block (and just around the corner from you) since 1957, making us the longest-running stage company in Berkeley. Since 1965 we have often performed at Live Oak Theatre and more recently at LaVal's Subterranean, both in Berkeley. Recently we have also taken the opportunity to bring the magic of theatre to the John Hinkel Park Amphitheatre, a wonderful outdoor space with a vast legacy of performance.

As Berkeley's only true community theatre company, we depend on our volunteers to bring their energy and creative vision to each play we produce. If you would like to volunteer in our theatre, give us a call or send us an email! We'd love for you to play a part in our next show!

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley

P.O. Box 663
Berkeley, California 94701

www.aeofberkeley.org
info@AEofBerkeley.Org



Subscribe to our email list for: Upcoming Shows, Staged Readings and Audition Notices: www.AEofBerkeley.Org

Board of Directors

Michael R. Cohen, Jeff Trescott, Jerome Solberg,
Tracy Baxter, Jane Goodwin, Paulette Herring, Gabriel Ross,
Victoria F. Siegel, Meryn MacDougall*, Ian Wilcox*,
Crystal Brown*, Susannah Wood*, Robert Estes*,
Martha Luehrmann*, Norah Foster* **=alternate*

Performance Schedule:

Saturdays/Sundays at 4pm July 1st-16th plus July 4th, 2023

No performance July 8th

John Hinkel Park, 41 Somerset Pl, Berkeley, CA 94707

Performance is approximately 2 hours, with one intermission

All performances are free of charge

Actors Ensemble is partially supported

by a grant from The City of
Berkeley Civic Arts Commission



A Room with a View

By *E. M. Forster* Adapted by *Stuart Bousel*

Cast and Crew

Charlotte.....*Megan Briggs*
Freddy/Phaeton.....*Khizer (Izzy) Iqbal*
Teresa Alan/Cockney Maid.....*Joyce Jacobson*
Mr. Emerson.....*Keith Jefferds*
George.....*Tyler Scott Null*
Lucy.....*Sophie Ruf*
Cecil.....*Francis Serpa*
Arthur Beebe/Mr. Floyd.....*Stanley Spenger*
Catharine Alan/Mrs. Vyse.....*Marcia van Broek*
Eleanor/Marion.....*Lisa Wang*

Director/Set Conception.....*Andrew Calabrese*
Stage Management.....*Mary Tran*
Costume Design.....*Genevieve Purdue*
Assistant Costume Design.....*Adriana Schurman*
Props/Set Pieces.....*Susan Dunn*
Music/Effects.....*Spencer Spencer*
Set Design and Construction.....*Leif Pearson*
Fight/Intimacy Choreography.....*Megan Briggs*
Assistant Stage Management.....*Alyssa Riddell*
Costumes Consultant.....*Paula Dodd Aiello*
Producer and Misc......*Jerome Solberg*
Poster Art/Photography.....*Vicki Victoria*

Actors Ensemble Gratefully Acknowledges:

Berkeley Oddfellows Lodge #270/Anita Donnell, *for providing rehearsal space.* <https://www.facebook.com/iooof/>

Masquers Playhouse, Point Richmond/Shay Oglesby-Smith
for assistance with costumes and set pieces

Inferno Theatre/Giulio Perrone *for their cooperation and assistance*

United Site Services and Haulaway Storage/Magali Sainfield

The City of Berkeley Parks and Recreation Department

One-Hour Martinizing 1319 University, Berkeley, 94702 510-548-1053

ADAPTERS/DIRECTORS NOTE

Why A Room With A View?

STUART (SB): Because I think now is an excellent time for Forster. His vision, of humankind in harmony with themselves, Society, Nature, the Universe, and ultimately God, more or less in that order, is such a balm right now. His core directive, "Only Connect" is the one we need to follow in this alienating age.

Why now?

ANDREW (AC): Having lived through the past 3 years with few to no theatrical opportunities, I was presented with this incredible script and the chance to get back in the rehearsal room with fantastic talent who would tell this story in a stunning setting. And I very nearly turned it down. Like Lucy Honeychurch, I could barely fathom what would happen if I just followed my heart and said "yes.". It just didn't seem like a possibility. Then a good friend said, "Why are you even questioning this? All I've heard from you for over two years was that you missed doing theatre."

And what's been the best part of this process?

SB: Honestly, I've wanted to create some kind of adaptation of this work for most of my life. Since I was fifteen or so. The best part is that it's happening and in a way I didn't really predict. Which is very Forster, if I let it be, to be surprised by one's own delight in how it falls together. I'm letting myself be.

Something you want the audience to walk away with?

SB: That life is short and precious, and all of us play a role in one another's lives, often in ways we can't foresee, but what we can do is choose to be kind, generous, honest and above all else: engaged.

Favorite line?

AC: Life is a public performance on the violin in which you must learn the instrument as you go. SB: It is Fate that I am here. But you can call it Italy if it makes you happy.

Favorite character?

SB: I love them all, or I wouldn't be doing this, but I've related to some more than others at different points. When I first encountered the book, I was such a Freddy. When I first fell in love, George. With every break up, I've understood Cecil more. As I get older, Charlotte's tragedy, and triumph, resonates deeper. Of course, I aspire to be Lucy, but I'm probably ultimately Mr. Beebe.

Favorite moment? AC: I really love the moments that repeat themselves: Lucy and Mr. Emerson discussing the Giotto's and then Lucy and George talking about them; Lucy and Cecil shaking hands in their lovers' game and then when they are parting; Cecil telling the story of meeting the Emersons in the National Gallery and then George's version of the encounter.

Favorite idea?

AC: "At the side of the everlasting Why, there is a Yes..."

What is the everlasting Why?

SB: The problem of the Universe, and how nothing and nobody seems to fit.

What is the Yes?

AC: The window. Naturally. The view.

Cast and Crew Biographies

In Alphabetical Order

Stuart Bousel (*Adaptation*)(he/him) is an award winning playwright (Everybody Here Says Hello!, Pastorella!), director (Grey Gardens, Passion, The Crucible, Desk Set, Paradise Street), screenwriter (Insomnia, Wish U Were Here), and novelist (Dry Country) who works at the SF Marin Food Bank, The SF Ballet, The SF Opera, and The EXIT Theatre Arcata in a variety of jobs. He owns a rug that's been in his family for over a century, and many many house plants. www.stuartbousel.com.

Megan Briggs (*Charlotte*) (she/her) has performed and directed all over the Bay Area and is excited to be working on this fantastic show! She is co-host of *Cooking, Stage Left* an online and in-person cooking show which recently won Best of Fringe at the San Francisco Fringe Festival. www.cookingstageleft.com.

Andrew Calabrese (*Director*) (he/him) is a performance artist, actor and director who has been working in the Bay Area for over 25 years. In 2022 he founded the [SF Eagle Players](#), which hosts *ScripTease*, a queer performance incubator that holds bimonthly readings at a popular leather bar in SF. He is co-host of the popular YouTube series *Cooking, Stage Left!* which was awarded "Best of San Francisco Fringe" last year. On rare nights off, he can be found hanging out at a certain cigar factory with husband Aaron and princess pooch Hazel.

Susan Dunn (*Props/Set Pieces*)(she/her) An escapee from corporate high tech, Susan has been finding her creative outlet in Bay Area Theater since 1991, doing whatever is fun, compelling, challenging or just something no one else will do. She has worked for [Hillbarn Theatre](#), [Berkeley Playhouse](#), [Altarena Playhouse](#) and **AE**, focusing the zany on crazy props and scavenging set pieces. She is charmed to be part **of A Room with a View**.

Khizer (Izzy) Iqbal (*Freddy*) (they/them) is a multidisciplinary artist interested in stage performance, circus, and games. They recently have been working on visual art and games projects but are really excited to be part of this production of **A Room with a View**.

Joyce Jacobson (*Teresa Alan/Cockney Maid*) (she/her) is delighted to be performing with Actors Ensemble. Over the years she has been seen as Heddy in *How to Succeed* with [Hillbarn Theatre](#), Veda in Har-

vey with Pacifica Spindrift Players, and most recently as Ensemble in *Living Large* an original musical at Potrero Stage. Look for her on Instagram under rejoycerags where she sells her unique clothing and collectables.

Keith Jefferds (*Mr. Emerson*) (he/him) Keith is thrilled to be back for his third **AE** production—and to work with such a wonderful director, cast, and script! Favorite roles through the years: Shelley Levene (*Glengarry Glen Ross*), King Henry (*Lion in Winter*), Tartuffe (*Tartuffe*), Elwood P. Dowd (*Harvey*), and Boss Mangan (**AE's Heartbreak House**).

Tyler Scott Null (*George*) (he/him) is thrilled to be performing with **AE**. Outside of the production, Tyler is Exec Director at Tomorrow Youth Repertory, where he directs, produces, (and sometimes writes) plays with young performers. This is Tyler's first time back on the stage since pre-pandemic and he is incredibly excited!

Leif Pearson (*Set Design/Construction*)(he/him) is a Theatre Major at San Diego State just starting his journey in the theatre industry. He has been focusing on broadening his knowledge of all things theatre, and has branches out in the fields of lighting, sound, and now, scenic. This marks Leif's debut as set designer, and he delights in learning yet another of the many elements that come together in live performance.

Genevieve Perdue (*Costume Design*) (she/her) is a bay area theatre artist seen both on the stage (*Six Degrees of Separation*, *The Awakening*, *Casa Valentina*) and behind the scenes designing costumes or props (*The Mineola Twins*, *I Saw It*, *Drowning Kate*, *Un-hinged*). Her latest, most immersive performance is mother to a 5-year-old hobbit.

Alyssa Riddell (*Assistant Stage Manager*)(she/her) is a student and has been a stage manager/assistant stage manager for two years at Oakland Technical High School. Alyssa has also loved working in set construction, lights, sound, and anything else to help put on a show! She is very excited for her first time working with **Actors Ensemble**.

Sophie Ruf (*Lucy*) (she/her) is an Oakland based architect. She is delighted for her **Actors Ensemble** debut. Her most cherished past roles have been Ophelia in *Hamlet* and Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. When not playing adult dress-up she is likely making jewelry or folding origami.

Adri Schurman (*Assistant Costume Design*) is a full time Puppy School counselor and Private dog trainer. Her experience as an assistant costume designer started in 2019 as an apprentice in high school.

Francis Serpa (*Cecil*) (they/them)- is delighted to be working with **Actors Ensemble** again, having appeared in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. They went to Florence twelve years ago and long to return.

Spencer Spencer (*Sound Design*) (he/him) wears many hats. He is a graphic artist, horticultural enthusiast and knows his way around the kitchen. In 2021 he was named Royal Grand Duke 30 of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and has since helped raise over \$30,000 for LGBTQ+ organizations and underserved communities as part of the *Royal Ducal Court*. ***A Room with a View*** marks his premiere in sound design and is a terrific venture to showcase his knack for choosing the perfect soundscape (a talent he often displays at dinner parties.) Spencer lives in Vallejo with his loving husband Samuel and their furry children, Oreo and Percy.

Jerome Solberg (*Producer*)(he/him) has helped keep **Actors Ensemble** going since 2007 and is delighted to be a part of the production of ***A Room with a View***.

Stanley Spenger (*Arthur Beebe/Mr. Floyd*) (he/him) longtime Actors Ensemble associate, is the founder of *Subterranean Shakespeare*, and, during a 25-year period, acted in the Subterranean Cabaret with three of its resident theatre companies: Sub Shakes, Shotgun Players, and Impact Theatre. His most recent roles include *King Lear*, *Falstaff*, and *Walt Whitman*.

Mary Tran (*Stage Manager*)(she/her) is a retired nurse and epidemiologist. She became involved in local theater work just over a year ago to help a playwright friend with her Masquers Playhouse production. Since then, she has been stage manager for two subsequent shows, helped with prep of costumes and sets for several, and worked lights and sound for a play. This is her first project with **Actors Ensemble**, and she is loving it.

Marsha van Broek, (*Catharine Alan/Mrs. Vyse*) (she/her) is delighted to be working again with **Actors Ensemble**. She recently appeared at Ross Valley Players as Lady Lucas in *Pride and Prejudice, The Musical*. In addition to RVP, Marsha has worked with Los Altos Stage Company, Utopia Theatre Project, SPARC, San Leandro Players, Chanticleers Theatre, and Novato Theatre Company. She enjoys reading, hiking, bird-watching, and playing with her grandchildren. Many thanks to her family for supporting her interest in theatre.
www.marshavanbroek.com

Lisa Wang (*Eleanor/Marion*)(she/her) is thrilled to be returning to the beautiful John Hinkel Park, where she has wonderful memories performing with **Actors Ensemble**. Prior outdoor theatre productions include: *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Fortinbras*. Lisa is a proud company member at BATS Improv and Berkeley Shakespeare Company. More at improv.org.

Check out our website for color photos of the actors and more!

Donate to Actors Ensemble!

A Room with a View is presented Free of Charge. Our volunteer board of directors works very hard but we depend on your contributions to pay insurance, rent space, build sets, buy and/or construct props, and most importantly provide some funds to help support our actors, designers, and crew as they create magic on stage.

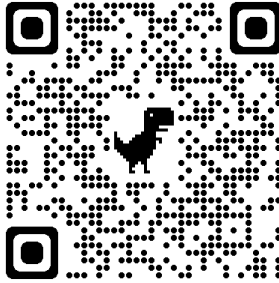
Donate: www.aeofberkeley.org/donate

*Our website accepts **Paypal** – We are a 501(3)c organization.*

Checks: PO Box 663, Berkeley, CA 94703

Venmo: [https://account.venmo.com/u/Actors Ensemble](https://account.venmo.com/u/Actors_Ensemble)

Or for Venmo
scan this:



Thanks to Ruth Giron Wong, Lisa Wang, Martha Luehrmann, Kevin Karplus, Jeff Trescott, Jerome Solberg, and everyone who has supported **AE** over the past year.

Next up at Actors Ensemble

Faeries of the Moonlight

Book and Lyrics by Mercedes Cohen

Music Composed & Arranged by Aoife Ni Conchobhair O'Connor

Music Direction & Additional Arrangements by Pamela Connelly

Directed by Michael R. Cohen

Opening **August 19th** at the John Hinkel Park Amphitheatre
4 p.m. Sat & Sun plus Labor Day thru **September 4th**, 2023

Faeries of the Moonlight follows the adventure of a rebellious teenager, Sunny, who crosses over to the fairy realm after she has a fight with her mother, a Celtic rock singer. Rory and Maddie, (short for Medusa), rescue her. Sunny's fate hangs in suspense as magic, betrayal, and sacrifice shape the events that catapult the characters into a life and death struggle. It's a modern fairy tale that shows the importance of friendship and loyalty. Presented Free-of-charge.