

ACTORS ENSEMBLE
OF
AE

BERKELEY

Admission Free!

Presents William Shakespeare's

The Taming of the Shrew



Aug 16 - Sept 1, 2025

<https://www.aeofberkeley.org...>



Directed by
Jay Manley

Associate Director:
Jane Goodwin

Sat & Sun, 4:00^{pm}

Plus **Labor Day Monday Show**

John Hinkel Park Amphitheater, Berkeley

Scan for photos & full show information

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

By William Shakespeare, c. 1590-1594

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Lucentio, later disguised as *Cambio* – **Ryan Chu**

Tranio, *Lucentio*'s servant, later poses as *Lucentio* – **Najee Joyner**

Baptista, father to *Katherine* and *Bianca* – **Evan Mooney**

Gremio, suitor to *Bianca* – **Bruce Kaplan**

Katherine, *Baptista*'s elder daughter – **Audrey Schultz**

Bianca, *Baptista*'s younger daughter – **J. V.**

Hortensio, suitor to *Bianca*, later disguised as *Litio* – **Abe Karplus**

Biondella, servant to *Lucentio* – **Isabella Shipman**

Petruchio, arrives to "wive it wealthily" in *Padua* – **Dominic Canty**

Grumio, *Petruchio*'s servant – **Adonis Reyes**

Servant to *Baptista* – **Veronica Dolginko**

Petruchio's Country Home Staff

Curtis – **Helen Kim**

Nathaniel – **Veronica Dolginko**

Phillip – **Patrice Binaisa**

Joseph – **Blue Scott**

Nicholas – **Al Badger**

A Merchant, later poses as *Vincentio* – **Al Badger**

A Haberdasher – **Blue Scott**

A Tailor – **Patrice Binaisa**

Vincentio, father to *Lucentio* – **Stanley Spenger**

A Widow, married to *Hortensio* – **Helen Kim**

The action of the play takes place in Italy: Padua, Petruchio's country home, and on the road between.

Staff

Director & Sound Design – **Jay Manley**

Associate Director – **Jane Goodwin**

Intimacy/Fight Coach – **Zoe Swenson-Graham**

Stage Manager – **Amanika Rapplin**

Costume Designer – **Lyre Alston**

Set Designer – **Kirsten Yamaguchi**

Properties Design and Construction – **Susan Dunn, Vance Martin**

Photos/Graphic Design – **Vicki Victoria**

Producer – **Jerome Solberg**

A Note from the Director

*And where two raging fires meet together,
They do consume the thing that feeds their fury.*

Was Shakespeare a misogynist? I've read articles condemning *The Taming of the Shrew* among others of his plays for their sexism. "Toxic masculinity" is sometimes tossed about especially in reference to this play. But I don't believe Shakespeare was a misogynist. Certainly, he was a person of his very patriarchal time, but in fact I think he was *ahead* of his time. It's impossible for me to believe that a misogynist would have created Rosalind or Viola, Cleopatra or Juliet, among so many other powerful women's characters.

Let's not forget that in Shakespeare's theatre, the women's roles were played by men, undoubtedly reinforcing gender bias. Sixteenth-century women were property, lacking in any kind of agency. In *Shrew*, Katherine's father, Baptista, most clearly represents this. His sole interest is in marrying off his two daughters to the highest bidders. Katherine's sister, Bianca, has learned to "play the game"; Katherine, intelligent and ahead of her time, refuses to play.

Enter Petruchio, seemingly a *man's man* if ever there was: "I come to wive it wealthily in Padua; if wealthily then happily in Padua," he arrogantly brags. But then he meets Katherine and his life and outlook will be changed: not in an instant, not in a day, but gradually, he will be fundamentally changed. At least that is what we hope our production of this classic will reveal. Yes, we've made some adjustments to the text, but then I think if the Bard were alive today, he'd make a few of his own, as well.

Finally, an acknowledgment: The most brilliant production of *Shrew* I have ever seen was William Ball's *Commedia dell'Arte*-infused production for San Francisco's ACT in the 1970's. I must pay homage to Ball and that production, and when we have borrowed from it, please know that we only borrow from the very best! Utilizing the feel of *Commedia*, we invite you, our audience, to be active participants. Call out! Laugh! Applaud! Join in with the fun! And thank you for supporting live theatre!

Cast and Staff Biographies

In Alphabetical Order

Lyre Alston (he/him/she/her) (Costumes) is a designer working in and around the bay area in both Costume design and Wig/Makeup design/artistry. Some recent shows include *Hadestown* with Throckmorton Theatre, *Daisy* with Hillbarn Theatre, *Peter Panto* at Presidio Theatre, and with **AE** *Cymbeline* earlier this year, *Death of a Salesman* last Fall and *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Imaginary Invalid* last summer.

Al Badger (Merchant/Ensemble) is honored to return to **Actors Ensemble** for the second time since 2012's *Arcadia*, after playing Belarius earlier this summer in *Cymbeline*. In what time remains after yarn crafting and feral cat maintenance, he has performed many times with San Francisco's Generation Theater, most notably as Escartefigue in Marcel Pagnol's *Marseille Trilogy*. His IMDB listing has two entries, only one of which is an X-rated hand-puppet movie.

Patrice Binaisa (Tailor/Ensemble) is a Berkeley-based Ugandan-American actor, making third foray into the world of Shakespeare, after recently appearing as the 1st Lord and Sicilius in **Actors Ensemble's** production earlier this summer of *Cymbeline*. Patrice is dedicating his performance to his sister Lillian Binaisa.

Dominic Canty (Petruchio) made his **Actors Ensemble** debut earlier this summer as Posthumus in *Cymbeline*. Some recent credits include the role of MacDuff in *Macbeth* and Peter in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, both at The College of Marin.

Ryan Chu (Lucentio) is delighted to collaborate with **AE** again as he takes his second foray into the lofty task of realizing the eminent Bard's work, after portraying the Second Lord and Arviragus earlier this summer in **AE's** production of *Cymbeline*, after playing Happy in **AE's** acclaimed production of *Death of a Salesman*. Outside of the theater, you can find him rereading the books of Brandon Sanderson, picking up and putting down heavy things at the gym, or cooing at and trying to adopt stray cats from his neighborhood. He thanks his parents and friends for their support, and YOU for supporting live theater!

Veronica Dolginko (Nathaniel/Ensemble) (also known as *Titus Androgynous*) is an SF-based writer and performer. Her books can be found on [Readict](#) and [JoyLit](#) under her drag name and she is the co-founder of the alternative movie site [Back Row Cinema](#). She also is a board member of Eclectic Box in the Mission District.

Susan Dunn (props) is thrilled to work props once again with Actors Ensemble at her favorite outdoor venue, John Hinkel Park, after having designed the props for *Cymbeline* with AE earlier this summer. Susan is a devotee of all things theater: she has worked Theater Boards at 5 local theaters, had a stint as president of Altarena Playhouse, been a theater critic at SFBATCC and TBA and contributes to Bay Area Theatre by continuing one of her most valuable roles, theater Audience. She attends theater and opera in all parts of the Bay Area. Read her reviews on [Theatrus.com.](#), [For All Events](#), [Aisle Seat Review](#) and [Reviews Bay Area](#). Thanks again to AEB for this chance to contribute to *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Jane Goodwin (Associate Director) is happy to be back again at Hinkel this summer assisting Jay Manley with the iconic *Shrew* after doing the same last summer with the fun *Imaginary Invalid*. Eons ago she performed here with Berkeley Shakespeare Festival & has been in a couple of shows & play readings with **Actors Ensemble**. After retiring from UC Berkeley's Cal Performances she joined **AE's** Board to keep her hand in the biz she loves - supporting the arts which is so important these precarious days. Many thanks for coming!

Najee Joyner (Tranio) is a young actor and writer from the small town of Saint Stephen, South Carolina. Population: everyone knows everybody. Now residing in San Francisco, California where he was able to earn his Master of Fine Arts in acting at the Academy of the Arts University. During his time in San Francisco, he has been able to perform for the African American Shakespeare company as Vincentio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, multiple characters for the staged reading of *3rd and Palou* by Biko Eisen-Martin, and as well as act in different short film productions for his alma mater. The world of acting first called out to him in his last year of high school which led to him making it a career path during his time at the University of South Carolina-Upstate where he earned his Bachelors of Arts in theatre performance with a minor in film studies. To Najee acting and writing help him dive and expound upon worlds known to him and help him discover different sides of humanity unknown to him as well. Najee's goal in his art is showing the expressions of his community in all facets, however they may show themselves.

Bruce Kaplan (Gremio) is excited to be performing in his happy place (Hinkel Park) once again. Last summer he played Argan here in *The Imaginary Invalid*. He followed that by playing Willy Loman in AE's *Death of a Salesman*. Other recent favorite roles include Mayor Shinn in *The Music Man* and Mr. Mushnik in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Pinole Players), Gloucester in *King Lear* (Berkeley Shakes), and the Wizard in *Wizard of Oz* (Tri-Valley Theater). Thanks for supporting community theater!

Abe Karplus (Hortensio) is excited to be working with Actors Ensemble again. Abe has been acting since the age of four, most recently with Bard Theatre, Berkeley Shakes, and the BL Rocky Horror shadowcast. Outside of the theater, he's a software engineer, designing satellites to bring internet access across the globe.

Helen Kim (Curtis/Widow/Ensemble) is thrilled to be back with **Actors Ensemble** where she was previously seen in *Fortinbras* and *The Skin of Our Teeth*. Most recently, she played Grace in *Into The Breeches!* At Masquers Playhouse. Other Bay Area credits include *CLUE* (Onstage Repertory Theatre); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Curtain Theatre Company); *Pride and Prejudice* *The Musical*, *Reservations*, and *The Packrat Gene* (Ross Valley Players); *Pygmalion* (Orinda Starlight Village Players); and the U.S. Premiere of *The Great Wave* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre).

Jay Manley (Director) returns to **AE** after following summer's production of Moliere's *The Imaginary Invalid*. A Berkeley native and long-time Bay Area theatre director, Jay has recently helmed productions at Ross Valley Players and The Mountain Play. In the South Bay, Jay chaired the theatre department at Foothill College and directed scores of productions for award-winning Foothill

Music Theatre. With his husband, Vance Martin, Jay leads annual theatre tours to New York City and Ashland, Oregon: nytheatretour.com

Evan Mooney (Baptista) is excited to be working again with **Actors Ensemble** after appearing last year as Ben Loman and Stanley in *Death of a Salesman* at LaVal's. Recently he's appeared with Masquers as John in *Calendar Girls* and as Russ/Dan in *Clybourne Park*. Other roles include Edmund in *King Lear* with Foodbank Players in Alameda and Samuel Ratchett in *Murder On the Orient Express* with the San Leandro Players. Evan dedicates his performance to the memory of his Mom who first introduced him to theatre and was always his biggest fan.

Amanika Rapplin (she/they) is thrilled to be joining **Actors Ensemble** as stage manager! While she loves stage managing and plans to continue in the future, her biggest passion is dance and combining it with theatre. She is currently transferring to SFSU as a double theatre and dance major. You may have seen her in Marin Musical Theatre Co.'s production of *Cabaret* (Rosie) or College of Marin's *The Snow Queen* (Cobweb), *Macbeth* (Lady Macbeth), or *The Late Wedding*. When she's not on- or back-stage, you'll find her singing, dancing, reading, or cuddling with a small, rotund chihuahua.

Adonis Reyes (Grumio) is making his **Actors Ensemble** debut in *The Taming of the Shrew*. Adonis is a new alumni from the College of Marin and has performed at COM over the years (*The Snow Queen*, *Much Ado About Nothing*). Alongside that, he has worked with Novato Theater Company (*Shakespeare in Love*) and worked backstage at Ross Valley Players. An aspiring clown at heart, he is excited for audiences to enjoy this show!

Blue Scott (Haberdasher/Ensemble), 19, has been in nine Shakespeare plays, most recently *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, and *Richard II* with American Youth Shakespeare. In his free time he enjoys reading, writing, and watching films. Shakespeare has been a wonderful source of community for Blue since he was 13, and he is excited to be involved in *The Taming of the Shrew*!

Audrey Schultz (she/her) (Katherine) is a local Bay Area actor based in Berkeley, California— and is excited to be in this wonderful production! Recent credits include Peggy Day in *The Women* with Napa Valley Players, Siduri in *The Epic of Gilgamesh* with Stray Dog Theater Co. She has a BA in Theatre and Performance Studies from UC Berkeley, where she put emphasis into acting. Audrey enjoys making sense of difficult language, and when not performing, loves to write and direct when she can. IG: @_aschu_

Isabella Shipman (she/her) (Biondello) is thrilled to be making her Actors Ensemble debut! She is extra ecstatic to be in her favourite Shakespeare play! You might have spotted her recently in UC Berkeley's *Lysistrata* or BareStage Productions' *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812*. When she's not on stage, you may find her singing, rehearsing, and most definitely yapping. She wants to thank everyone involved in this fantastic project, and her amazing loved ones!

Stanley Spenger (Vincenzio/Ensemble) has been treading the **AE** boards for four decades since 1985's *Ah! Wilderness*, most recently appearing in last year's show *The Imaginary Invalid* as well as playing the role of Pisanio earlier this summer in **AE's** *Cymbeline*. Along the way, he became the founder of Subterranean Cabaret Theater and Subterranean Shakespeare, and was among the early founding members of Shotgun Players. He's appeared in Shakespeare productions all over the Bay Area, where he continues his long, occasionally ridiculous, always passionate love affair with the Bard.

J.V. (Bianca) (picture not available) originally hails from Stillwater, Oklahoma, where her parents were mid-level administrators for Oklahoma State University. In the amazingly stimulating environment of her home state, she caught the theater bug early on (the state song is, after all, *Oklahoma!*) but married young to an heir to the Omaha Steaks fortune and began her life as a jet-setting bon-vivant. Her subsequent life led to achievements as diverse as discovering a new species of annelid worm in Papua New Guinea and becoming the leading purveyor of powered unicycles in the Balkan Peninsula. Still, periodically she has to tend to her theatrical heart, and thus alights in the Bay Area, where she has performed with many local companies, including a few productions for **Actors Ensemble**.

Kirsten Yamaguchi (Set) This is the fifth AE production Kirsten has designed after *Cymbeline*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, and *Death of a Salesman*. In addition to set design, Kirsten Yamaguchi has designed many theater programs and posters, taught theater design and animation, and worked as an animator on feature films, games and more. As a youth in Los Angeles, Kirsten performed on stage in many musicals and with choirs. <https://www.yamaguchianimation.com/>

For Photos of the Cast and More check our website or
@actorsensemble on FB or @aeofberkeley on Instagram or X

Actors Ensemble thanks many people for their encouragement and assistance, including *Shay Oglesby-Smith* and the rest of the folks at **Masquers** in Point Richmond for help with set pieces, *Giulio Perrone* and **Inferno Theater** for their cooperation with the park and joint promotion, **Theater Lunatico** for their cooperation with rehearsal space at **LaVal's**, *Joyce Hulbert* for the donation of certain costume pieces, *Harvena Tracy*, *Terrie Vargas*, *Jason Matthews*, *Walter Vandernald* and *Bruce Pratt* of the **City of Berkeley** for help with John Hinkel Park, Michael and Mercedes Cohen and Vicki Siegel for their assistance with organizing concessions, our webmaster Jonathan Gordon, and all the volunteers who help keep our productions in the park going – join us and help keep the tradition going!

Actors Ensemble: 68 years & counting, since 1957

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

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Performance Schedule:

4 p.m. Saturdays /Sundays plus Labor Day Monday

August 16th – September 1st

John Hinkel Park Amphitheater

The Performance is a bit over 2 hours including an intermission

Board of Directors: Michael R. Cohen[^], Victoria F. Siegel[^], Jeff Trescott[^], Jerome Solberg[^], Ron Anderson, AnneJelika Ong Cortez, Jane Goodwin, Paulette Herring, Jay Manley, Gabriel Ross. [^]=officer

***Next up – a Mini-Production of Jean-Paul Sarte's NO EXIT,
September 5-7 at LaVal's Subterranean Theater – Check our
website for more info!***

Join our mailing list! - www.aeofberkeley.org

Join the board or just volunteer and help us move forward!

info@aeofberkeley.org



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