

Æ ACTORS ENSEMBLE OF BERKELEY

LUV

by **Murray Schisgal**

directed by **Alan Barkan**
















**ONE DARK COMEDY...
THREE VERSIONS...
ONE EACH NIGHT**

 **A Gay LUV Story**

 **A Lesbian LUV Story**

 **A Straight LUV Story**

Thurs	Friday	Sat
23 	24 	25 
30 	1 	2 
7 	8 	9 
14 	15 	16 
21 	22 	23 

**Thursdays – Saturdays
April 23 – May 23**

Heart over mind, mind over body, this is an age old story; one partner falls out of love with their current and in love with their wanna-be-current and schemes to painlessly shift currents. AE, with the blessings of Mr. Schisgal is staging three different views of LUV and in doing so asks the question, "are they really different"? *You've got to see all three.*

producer **Jennifer Rice**
assoc. director **Eric Carlson**
stage manager **Jose Garcia**

About Actors Ensemble of Berkeley (AE)

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley has been around the block (and just around the corner from you) since 1957, making us the longest running stage company in Berkeley. We began with seven UC Berkeley alumni from the World War II era. Their love of acting gave birth to a tradition that began with four plays in 1957, initially performed in a neighbor's basement. In 1965, AE began performing at the Live Oak Theatre — and has ever since.

Our mission is to enrich, entertain and improve our community through fascinating theatrical works. With social consciousness and an ensemble approach, we provide area residents with opportunities to attend and participate in theatre. Our shows will be affordable, our opportunities enjoyable, and our community impact felt year-round. 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.

AE Board of Directors:

Alan Barkan, Eric Carlson, David Cohen, Maureen Coyne, Jose Garcia, Bob Gudmundsson, Maggie Gudmundsson, Bill Martinelli, Roger Schrag, Jerome Solberg, Stanley Spenger, Kim Stewart

A Note from the Director:

When I was in my teens, one of my best friends worked at the Mineola Theatre on Long Island, N.Y., at the time (in the '60's) one of the few year-round legitimate theaters on the island. I hung out there with him, a lot. That's where I met LUV. On many levels, I was too young to appreciate it. Time certainly has remedied that.

When asked what I'd like to direct for AE's 2009 season, LUV immediately came to mind. I got it. I understood how bad we could be at loving and being loved.

Then I learned that Murray Schisgal, the author of LUV, was also the co-writer of the screenplay for the movie "Tootsie." Who knows why our minds take these foolish leaps, but leap mine did. Bringing us to here, three versions of LUV - straight, lesbian and gay.

But to get to here, Mr. Schisgal's permission was needed. Initially, my request to change the gender of the characters was denied by Dramatist Play Service (they handle use rights). To which I responded, "Surely the co-author of Tootsie would not have issues with gender bending." So I appealed to Mr. Schisgal's agent who passed it on to Mr. Schisgal. I was so pleased to learn I was correct - Mr. Schisgal did not have issues with gender bending. Thank you Mr. Schisgal.

Back to the leap. I tend to get disturbed by our need as humans to label our differences and then use the labels to be separated. Regardless of how we choose to label ourselves or how others choose to label us, we all draw from the same wells of need, desire, caring and fear. It's all real and it doesn't matter if you call it love or luv.

I encourage you to see all three stagings of LUV.

**Actors Ensemble of Berkeley
Presents**



**A Comedy by Murray Schisgal
Staged in Three Versions**

THE CASTS
The Gay Version

Cast

Harry Berlin **Harold Pierce**
Milt Manville **Stanley Spenger**
Elliot (Ell) Manville .. **Federico Edwards**

The Lesbian Version

Cast

Harriet (Harry) Berlin **Stacy Sanders**
Melissa (Mel) Manville . **Catherine Lerza**
Ellen (Ell) Manville **Crystal Bush**

The Straight Version

Cast

Harry Berlin **Eric Carlson**
Milt Manville **Benjamin Grubb**
Ellen (Ell) Manville **Danielle Martino**

Act I happens in the present. On a bridge. Late afternoon/
early evening on a gentle spring day.

There will be a ten (10) minute intermission

Act II happens months later. On a bridge. Late afternoon/
early evening on a warm summer day.



DESIGN TEAM & STAGE & PRODUCTION CREW

Design Team

Director Alan Barkan
Associate Director Eric Carlson
Lighting Designer Jeremy Cole
Set Designer Norman de Veyra
Stage Manager Jose Garcia
Producer Jennifer Rice
Costume Designer Helen Slomowitz

Stage & Production Crew

Light & Sound Operator..... Jennifer Rice
Props..... Jennifer Rice, Jose Garcia
Publicity Eric Carlson, Jerome Solberg
Set Construction..... Crystal Bush, Eric Carlson
Norman de Veyra, Federico Edwards
Jose Garcia, Bob Gudmundsson
Catherine Lerza, Danielle Martino
Harold Pierce, Jennifer Rice
Stacy Sanders, Jerome Solberg
Stanley Spenger, Robert Stewart
Stage Crew..... Crystal Bush, Eric Carlson
Federico Edwards, Ben Grubb
Catherine Lerza, Danielle Martino
Harold Pierce, Stacy Sanders
Stanley Spenger

Allow Us To Introduce Ourselves:

ALAN BARKAN (Director) is directing his second play with AE and with Eric. Alan appreciates how supportive AE and their board have been. When he proposed this idea, the board said, “sure, get permission and you can do it.” Little did they (or Alan) know.

CRYSTAL BUSH (Lesbian Version, Ellen Manville) is originally from Chicago and has been in California for eight years. She was in the first graduating class of Broadway by the Bay Musical Theatre Summer Conservatory, and holds an MFA in Performance and Theatre from Roosevelt University. She’s been seen in the premiere of Aida (Willows Theatre), Ragtime (Broadway by the Bay), and Passing Strange (Berkeley Rep).

ALLOW US TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES:

ERIC CARLSON (Straight Version, Harry Berlin; Associate Director) is extremely happy to be working with Alan, Jen, and Jose at AE, although he had doubts on whether three casts would equal three times the fun. Well, he's overjoyed to have been proven very wrong. Thanks also to Anne, Boothe, and Peter Sellers for being there/"Being There."

JEREMY COLE (Lighting Design). Jeremy returns to AE after having directed Doctor Faustus last fall. He will be directing three more shows in the near future: Aaron Trotter and the Incident at Bikini Beach for Thunderbird Theater Company, Great Expectations at Contra Costa Civic Theatre and our season closer in 2009, As It Is In Heaven.

NORM DE VEYRA (Set Design) considers set design a break from the code books and city clerks of his regular architectural work. He was set designer for AE's 2008 production of Doctor Faustus and is honored to be involved with the company again. Norm hopes to continue designing sets in the future.

FEDERICO EDWARDS (Gay Version, Elliot Manville). Federico is proud to be a part of this talented ensemble. "It's my farewell song, too! I'm moving back to New York – But I'll be back." So please, enjoy the show. Peace, Love.

JOSE GARCIA (Stage Manager) has stage managed many of AE's productions: Exit The King, Doctor Faustus, The Matchmaker, Uncle Vanya, and Barefoot In The Park. He also loves to perform on stage; his favorite roles have been the Teacher in A Dream Play, and the Ambassador in Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead.

BEN GRUBB (Straight Version, Milt Manville) Ben appeared previously with AE as Lee in True West. Other recent Bay Area credits include Macbeth (Macduff) and Into the Woods (Baker). Ben works as a carpenter for Habitat for Humanity, and he'd like to thank Lauren and Abby for their help and support.

CATHERINE LERZA (Lesbian Version, Melissa "Mel" Manville). Cathy luv's playing a role originated by Eli Wallach. She performed in Bay Area streets for years with Plutonium Players in Ladies Against Women as the Cheerleader and Phyllis LeShaft. Other favorite roles: Judge Danville (The Crucible), Clytemnestra (Oresteia) and Ma Joad (Grapes of Wrath). Luv always to Peter, Lucky and Jonathan.

DANIELLE MARTINO (Straight Version, Ellen Manville). Danielle is thrilled to join the AE for Luv. She recently finished a B.F.A. in acting from UC Santa Barbara and is currently studying psychology in graduate school. She has previously appeared as Rosaline in Love's Labors Lost, Jo in Little Women, and Lady M in Macbeth. She would like to thank her amazingly supportive friends and family.

ALLOW US TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES:

HAROLD PIERCE (Gay Version, Harry Berlin) is back at AE after playing Faustus in Doctor Faustus and The Player in Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead. Other recent performances include Lysander from A Midsummer Night's Dream with North Bay Shakespeare and Richardetto in Impact Theater's 'Tis Pity She's A Whore.

JENNIFER RICE (Producer) returns to AE after playing Yelena in Uncle Vanya, and producing Doctor Faustus. Favorite roles include 'C' in Three Tall Women and Jackie/Kate/Ben in Anton In Show Business.

STACY SANDERS (Lesbian Version, Harriet "Harry" Berlin). Stacy, an accountant with a theatre degree, has recently returned from seven years in NYC, where she: danced with fire, studied with the Upright Citizens Brigade, hosted a story slam for The Moth, started an international beauty pageant circuit for freaks of all sexes...and...where she drank. A lot.

HELEN SLOWOWITZ (Costume Design) is at AE for the second time this season, having recently costumed Exit the King. She currently works in wardrobe for Tony n' Tina's Wedding in San Francisco and has worked locally with other theaters. Helen has also had the marvelous opportunity to work in films locally and in Los Angeles.

STANLEY SPENGER (Gay Version, Milt Manville) has performed for Subterranean Shakespeare, Shotgun Players, The Berkeley Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare at Stinson, and Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. Last year he performed for AE in Uncle Vanya and Doctor Faustus, and in two different productions of A Midsummer Night's Dream, for North Bay Shakespeare and for Impact Theatre.

WE'D LIKE TO THANK:

Kate Culbertson at Contra Costa Civic Theatre - for props

Jean Fichtenkort, Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies at U.C. Berkely - for props

Sleeping Dog Productions - for program, postcard & poster design

Jerome Solberg - for his unwavering support and advice

Pacific E-Bike - for their generous loan of a scooter

University Village Community Center - for jump padding

Pat, Eugene and the Live Oak Park staff - for all their help

McLaughlin Coffe Company - for use of coffee equipment

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Actors Ensemble 2009 Season

EXIT THE KING

Eugene Ionesco

Directed by Jerome Solberg

January 23 through February 21

LUV

Murray Schisgal

Directed by Alan Barkan

April 23 through May 23

WONDERFUL TOWN

Comden and Green, music by Leonard Bernstein

Directed by Margaret Gudmundsson

July 17 through August 15

AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

Arlene Hutton

Directed by Jeremy Cole

October 23 through November 21



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