

Don't miss the 3rd show in our 2013 Season!
(our 56th - since 1957)
Coming to Live Oak Theatre January 3rd 2014

Relatively Speaking

Three One Act Plays:

Honeymoon Motel by Woody Allen
Directed by Colin Johnson

Talking Cure by Ethan Coen
Directed by Michael Cohen

George is Dead by Elaine May
Directed by Martha Luehrmann

Running through Jan. 25th, 2014!



www.spectrum13.com

For help with the "Sheep" and "Matisse" Paintings

Actors Ensemble Especially Thanks
University One Hour Cleaners
Dry Cleaners to Actors Ensemble of Berkeley
Alterations/Same Day Service/Leather and Suede Cleaning
We're Proud to participate in the Earth Friendly
University One Hour Cleaners

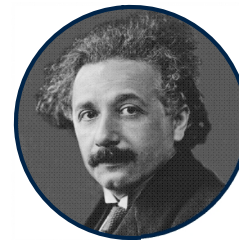


1319 University Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94702
510-548-1053



Actors Ensemble of Berkeley
presents

Picasso at the Lapin Agile by Steve Martin



directed by

Anna Andersen



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Montmartre, Paris, 1904. Frédéric Gerard serves drinks at The Cabaret au Lapin Agile. This “Cabaret of the Nimble Rabbit” was once known as “The Cabaret des Assassins” on account of its rough crowd and their regrettable tendency to shoot each other. Threatened with closure, it was Frédéric’s gentle touch that kept the place in business, attracting the local bohemian community with music, atmosphere, and easy credit. They came regularly to drink, carouse, and engage in endless discussions on the meaning of art. In this environment Steve Martin sets his play.

Albert Einstein wanders in at random and is welcomed by Freddy, our host. Albert is 25 years old. His Special Theory of Relativity will change the way we see the world, but it has yet to be published. Similarly unknown, Picasso often drops in (working up quite a bar tab, which he’ll eventually pay by means of “At The Lapin Agile”, a painting that includes Frédéric playing guitar in the background). Picasso is brooding about the artistic breakthrough he senses is close, which has so far eluded him. Two legends in the making, depicted in hilarity only Steve Martin (a legend of comedy himself) could achieve.

What is genius? Does it serve the man, or is he the servant to its purpose? Can a man who will live to change history sense his inevitable greatness? Who are these giants among men while they are still simply men?

And how much genius was lost to the silence of women?

Anna Andersen

About the Author

Steve Martin was raised in the Los Angeles suburbs (his father had been an aspiring actor). He began his comedic career working in the Magic Shop at Disneyland, later also performing in the Bird Cage theatre (Knott’s Berry Farm), which specialized in melodramas – whilst also learning the Banjo. He later worked on a degree in Philosophy (later changing the Theatre), and got the first of many big breaks working as a writer for the Smother Brothers Comedy Hour. This led to best selling comedy albums and tours, numerous stints as the headliner in the early years of Saturday Night Live, and, starting in 1979 with the hit comedy he co-wrote and starred in *The Jerk*, moved into film. His list of film credits is long, but perhaps a few can be pointed out – 1987’s *Roxanne* and 1991’s *L.A. Story*, both of which he wrote and which were critical and commercial successes, and 2009’s *It’s Complicated*, with Meryl Streep and Alec Baldwin. He has written novellas, short pieces for the New Yorker, and two other plays – *The Underpants* (an adaptation of a play by the German playwright Carl Sternheim), and *Traitor*. Recently as a banjo player, he has toured, appeared on The Grande Ole Opry, and released a critically acclaimed instrumental album.

About the Painting

The painting which is featured prominently at the end of the play is *Les Femmes d’Alger (O. J. M.)* (The Young Ladies of Avignon) by Pablo Picasso, was finished in 1907, and is seminal in the development of cubism in particular and modern art in general.

This is **Hilary Hesse’s** (Germaine) first show with **Actors Ensemble** and her third show in the Bay Area. An L.A. native, she recently appeared in *The Raven Musical* at The Victoria Theatre and *Sweet Bird of Youth* at Tides Theatre, both in San Francisco. Thanks to **Actors Ensemble** for a fun run and to her family for being the coolest EVER.

Joel Jacobs (Schmendiman) was last seen on stage in Spring 2013, as Milan in **AEB’s** production of Tom Stoppard’s *Rock n’ Roll*. Joel has a venerable and distinguished stage career, which dates all the way back to Spring 2013, when he appeared in Tom Stoppard’s *Rock n’ Roll*. He’d like to thank Anna Anderson for her dedication, creativity, and humor.

Meira Perelstein (The Countess) is pleased to be returning to **AEB**. Previously, she performed in *A Hot Day in Ephesus* and *Dr. Faustus* among others. She has studied theatre at ACT, Berkeley Rep, DVC and CSU Long Beach. Playing The Countess in this production has helped fulfill a lifelong dream that started when she fell in love with a counting vampire muppet when she was a child.

Francis Serpa (The Mysterious Visitor) - You know someone said that the world’s a stage and each must play a part. Fate had me playing Romeo, Long John Silver, and Chris from *All My Sons*. I learned to read my lines so cleverly and never miss a cue at College of Marin and UCSB.

Fall 2013 Staged Reading Series

Pay what you can! - At Live Oak Theatre

Giovanni is Here

by Mercedes Cohen, directed by Michael Cohen

Tuesday, October 15th at 8 p.m.

On the 70th anniversary of the round-up of the Jews in Rome— **AEB** presents *Giovanni is Here* - centering on the relationship of a young Jewish woman hidden by a Catholic family as Italy is occupied by Germany. The grandmother, the collaborator, the partisan, the ignorant and the Jew must decide between right and wrong, self-preservation and risk, despair and hope, life and death.

The Underpants

by Steve Martin, directed by Emmy Pierce

Monday, October 21st at 8 p.m.

While watching the royal procession, housewife Louise Maske has had a little accident: without warning, her underpants slipped down to her ankles -- landing in full view! Suddenly their spare room is very popular! An adaptation of the classic play by the Carl Sternheim.

Doors. He has performed on both sides of the San Francisco Bay and both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. He also writes plays for stage and radio. His plays have been performed around the Bay Area, in Edinborough, Scotland, in Baltimore, and even in Belleville, Illinois. His radio play, *He's Mad, I Tell You!* was distributed nationally via the Public Radio Satellite Service.

Stefin Collins (Sagot) is thrilled to be doing his 2nd **AEB** show. Last seen, at CMTC, as Little Stone in *Eurydice*, he's worked with BoxCar, Thunderbirds, Wily West & others. Two favorite roles: Praxis, the owl *Maidrid's Bow*, & Otto *The Food Chain*. He's a member of TBA, CMTC, & is ASL fluent. AJ - ILYE. www.stefincollins.com

Norm de Veyra (set design) is a designer /dilettante. He draws things. Then makes things. Then prays they don't fall apart during a performance. Success so far. His previous work include shows for Masquers Playhouse, The Thunderbird Theater Company, and **Actors Ensemble**.

Nick Dickson (Einstein) would love to do this play again, it's so great. He last joined **Actor's Ensemble** in 2012's *Noises Off*.

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_0 &= E_1 + \frac{1}{2}L + \frac{1}{2}L_1 \\
 H_0 &= H_1 + \frac{1}{2}L \frac{1 - v \cos \phi}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}} + \frac{1}{2}L \frac{1 + v \cos \phi}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}} \\
 &= H_1 + \frac{L}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Cameron Dodd (Asst. Director), a Berkeley High Independent Study senior, is proud to be doing his senior project here at AEB where he feels at home, having played Gus/Augustus in Arcadia and been in several staged readings. Cameron has studied acting with Berkeley Rep, CalShakes, Eric Hayes and Anna Andersen, among others. He thanks Anna especially for the honor of being her minion in this production!

Vince Faso (Picasso) is enjoying his time here at the intersection of genius and beauty. Around the Bay he has worked with companies such as Diablo Actor's Ensemble, CalShakes, SF Theater Pub, Performers Under Stress, and is happy to return to **AEB** after last summer's *Noises Off*. Vince is a founding member of the SF-based comedy improv team, Chinese Ballroom, and finds inspiration (mostly comedic) from his job teaching middle school drama.

Rachel Ferensowicz (Suzanne #1) is overjoyed to return to the Bay Area after spending the past year soaking up the opposing worlds of Hollywood and the national forest surrounding Lake Tahoe. She is a PianoFight company member-- watch out for their theater space opening soon in San Francisco-- and has performed with Bay One Acts, TheaterPub, SF Olympians Festival, as well as **AEB**. Thanks Cate and Isfi for giving me a home!

About Actors Ensemble of Berkeley

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. In 1965, AE began performing at the Live Oak Theatre — and has ever since. Recently the management of Live Oak Theatre has transferred to TheatreFIRST, under the leadership of Michael Storm. They have graciously allowed us to continue performing here – please help support their efforts by attending the other enchanting productions which are being performed here.

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, participate in and be helped through 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. 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
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 Berkeley, California 94701
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Check out www.AEOfBerkeley.Org and subscribe to our email list for

- Special Events
- Staged Readings
- Audition Notices
- Two-for-One Nights and Other Discounts
- Season Tickets – And More!

Board of Directors

Anna Andersen, Paula Bauer, Michael R. Cohen, Robert Estes, Margaret Gudmundsson, Bob Gudmundsson, Martha Luehrmann, William Martinelli, Emmy Pierce, Alecks Rundell, Vicki Siegel, Jerome Solberg

Special Thanks To: Michael Storm and TheatreFIRST, Vicki Siegel, Paula Bauer, Cheryl Cleary, Lauren Delaney, Matthew Standley, Crystal Barnes, Matthew Standley, Oding Muata, Chris Mathers, The City of Berkeley, and Marvin & the rest of the folks at Live Oak Recreation Center

Acts I is approximately 45 minutes long
15 minute intermission
Acts II is approximately 30 minutes long

This production is dedicated to Margaret Gudmundsson,
2/26/37 – 10/1/2013
35+ years of service with Actors Ensemble

Cast

In Order of Appearance

Freddy.....Doug Boyd
Gaston.....Bill Chessman
Germaine.....Hilary Hesse
Albert Einstein.....Nick Dickson
Suzanne.....(10/04-10/19)....Rachel Ferensowicz
.....(10/20-10/26).....Layne Austin
Sagot.....Stefin Collins
Pablo Picasso.....Vince Faso
Charles Dabernow Schmendiman.....Joel Jacobs
The Countess/A Female Admirer.....Meira Perelstein
A Mysterious Visitor.....Frances Serpa

Production Crew

Director..... Anna Andersen
Assistant Director.....Cameron Dodd
Stage Manager.....Jam Mistry
Light Board Operator.....Max Chervin
Set Design.....Norm de Veyra
Costume Design.....Paula Dodd Aiello & Anna Andersen
Set Construction/Technical Direction.....Alecks Rundell
Additional Set Construction.....Norm de Veyra,
.....Gustavo Delgado, Becca del Monte, Brian Dodd
Props.....Brian Dodd, Vicki Siegel, Anna Andersen
Dramaturg.....Yael Aranoff
Graphic Design.....Anna Andersen, Jerome Solberg
Photography.....Anna Kaminska & Mercedes Cohen
Program.....Jerome Solberg & Mercedes Cohen
Producer.....Jerome Solberg

Fall 2013 Performance Schedule

Friday/Saturday at 8 p.m.

Oct. 4th& 5th

Oct. 11th& 12th

Oct. 18th& 19th

Oct. 25th& 26th

Sunday Matinees

Oct. 13th and 20th at 2 p.m.

Live Oak Theatre

1301 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, CA

Produced under arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Cast and Crew Biographies

In Alphabetical Order

Paula Dodd Aiello (Costumer) learned theatrical costuming from the late Norman Kirschbaum, her mentor during the 1984 musical production of *George M!* Mostly, she designs for period events and youth productions. Last year, she joined **AEB** to work on *Arcadia* and she is delighted to be back, at least until she gets the call to do costumes for *Downton Abbey*.

Anna Andersen (Director) began her theatrical career with a heartrending performance as Sneezing Rabbit in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*. 20 years and 60 plays later, her passion for the stage led her, inevitably, to directing. Riding the success of her first mainstage production (compliments of a stunningly talented cast) she directed professionally throughout Los Angeles and was eventually given the opportunity to write, direct, and perform an educational outreach program that took the magic of Shakespeare to over 2000 students in Southern California. She is thrilled at the chance to work with another ridiculously talented cast, and grateful to **Actors Ensemble** for giving her the opportunity.

Layne Austin (Suzanne #2) was born in Grass Valley where she really enjoyed being in her high schools productions of *Steel Magnolias* and *You Can't Take It With You*. Since then, she's taken a collegiate leave of absence from this acting mumbo jumbo, only to be reeled back in by Steve Martin, and she couldn't be more excited. She'll be graduating from SFSU this December.

Nathan Bogner (light design) studied technical and design theater at Diablo Valley College in the early nineties. He has stage managed, lit, painted, gripped or costumed over 150 productions including *Peter Pan* with CTA, *Candide* with DLOC and more recently *The Gin Game* with Diablo Actors Ensemble, which earned him a Shellie Award nomination.

Doug Boyd (Freddie) is returning to **AEB** for the third time, but most recently was seen in *Wizard of Oz* with the Diablo Theater Company. He is happy to have not had to learn French for this show, but he did study Sam Malone in "Cheers" carefully for authentic bartender moves! www.boydcall.com

Max Chervin (Light Board) is looking forward to being in the booth again with **Actors Ensemble**. His most recent roles have been Hamlet in Actors Ensemble's *Fortinbras* and Wilbur in Berkeley High's production of *Hairspray*. Max is currently enrolled at Berkeley City College and is hoping that this show may be useful for his Modern Art History class.

Bill Chessman (Gaston) has appeared on **AEB's** stage in past productions of *A Chorus of Disapproval*, *Holiday*, and *Communicating*