

Coming up at Live Oak Theatre in Dec 2014

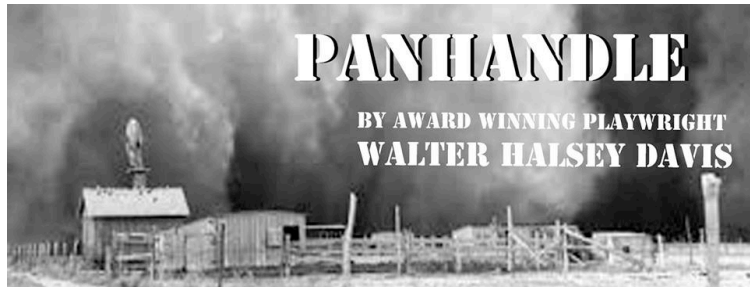
MADAME GUFAY'S LOVELUTIONARIES



By Norah Foster, Directed by Alan Barkan
A new play in a new series from **Actors Ensemble of Berkeley** featuring new works. Join **MADAM GUFAY** as her hilarious antics on behalf of free speech in the academic machine of UC Berkeley befuddles the higher-ups and her innocent eroticism wins over their hearts.

Coming up at Live Oak Theatre in January 2015

The first production of **Actors Ensemble's** 2015 season



Next up at Live Oak Theatre

TheatreFirst's 2014 season finale SEPT 26 – OCT 19



by Lauren Gunderson, Directed by Mina Morita.

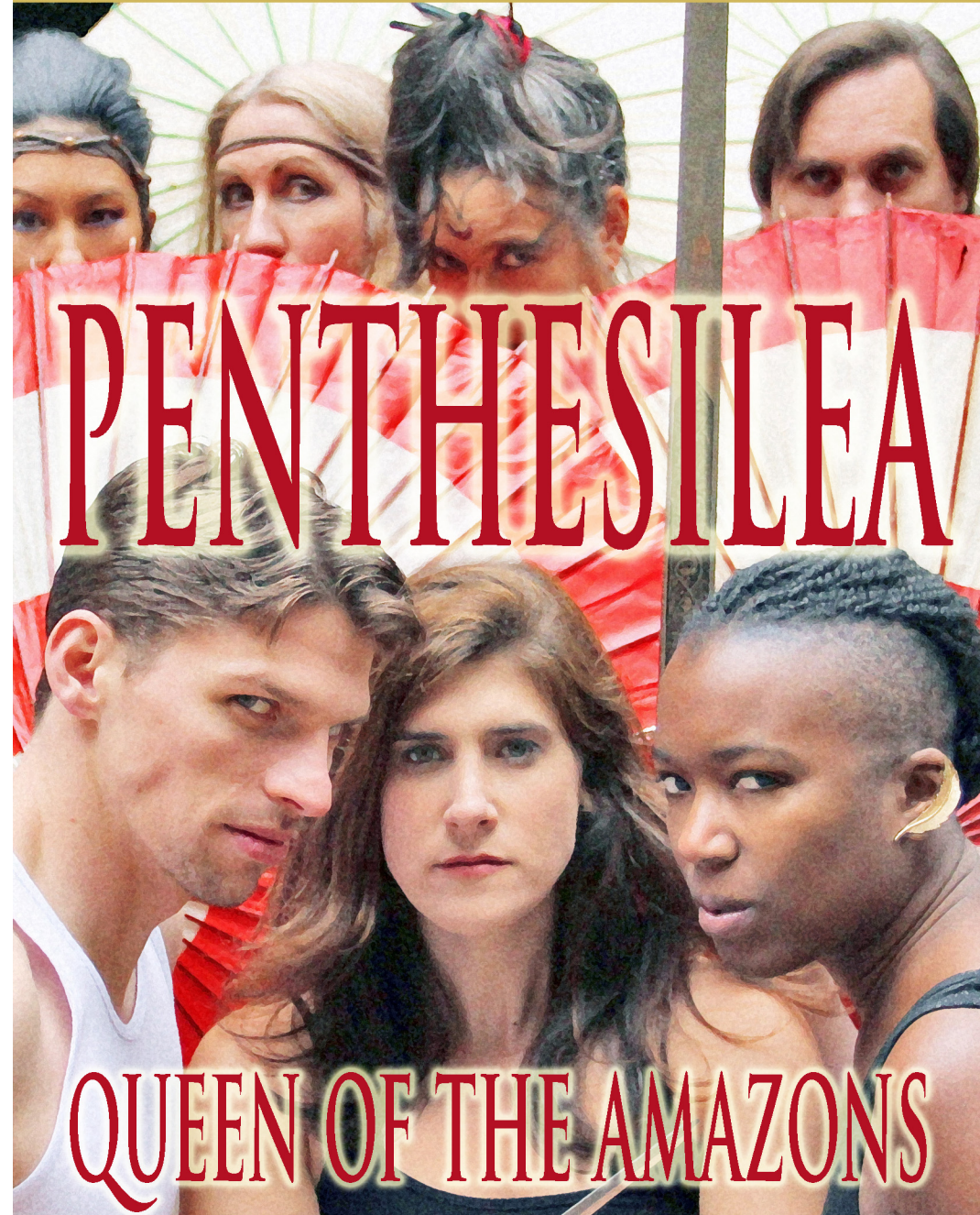
Actors Ensemble Especially Thanks
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Dry Cleaners to Actors Ensemble of Berkeley
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We're Proud to participate in the Earth Friendly
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1319 University Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94702
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ACTORS ENSEMBLE OF BERKELEY AND INFERNO THEATRE



ADAPTED & DIRECTED BY GIULIO PERRONE FROM A PLAY BY HEINRICH VON KLEIST

AUG 23 - SEPT 7, 2014 JOHN HINKEL PARK, BERKELEY, CA

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Freely adapted from Penthesilea by Heinrich von Kleist.

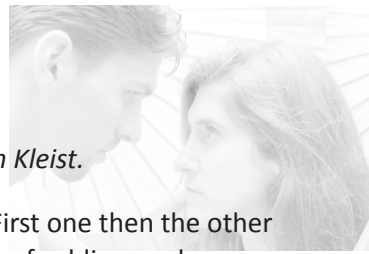
The Trojan War continues with no end in sight. First one then the other side gains a few inches, but at an enormous cost of soldiers and means. Into this stale of tortured inertia where every useless action is spent towards gaining one small victory bursts Penthesilea, the Amazon queen, breathless with rage or is it desire? “Who stands so high above me his face a blank?”

Penthesilea has just seen Achilles for the first time. He with a blank stare is nameless and without rank or importance. Whether he is a Greek or simply a man, his stare fascinates and draws her in until nothing else matters. He who the others call Achilles emerges as everything else fades for it is Achilles, the invincible, who stands above her. Penthesilea and Achilles look upon each other as if gazing into a mirror. Neither will settle for anything less than a victory and so, from the beginning, they will gain nothing but defeat. From the very first they find themselves “with their teeth at our throats.” The battle may be lost but the war continues as neither one will reconcile with their own destiny.

This production focuses on desire as the constant matrix driving the action as each shared breath, touch and wound only draws both characters closer toward the other. The physicality of the production is a constant shifting and melding of battle and dance of courtship between two indomitable soldiers, the Amazon queen and the Greek demigod. The constant flow of language and dialogue between each commander and the troops ultimately melts into the sultry banter of two beings coming together. The dust and sweat fly, as do the lines between one and the other as they realize that this war is their personal battle and may only lead to the ultimate surrender of both to the other. The stage is one boundless battlefield of sand, sweat and blood with the blinding glint of armor and spear crashing together in the air like thunder and lightning.

Penthesilea is a dance, a battle, a lover’s tender greeting and a fight to the death as both man and woman, demigod and queen, victor and vanquished, twist and writhe on the stage until desire ultimately consumes and devours them both.

—*Giulio Cesare Perrone*



Jerome Solberg (Diomedes, Co-producer) has been president or vice president of **AEB** since 2007. He’s happy to be here, and happy that you’re here as well.

Tenya Spillman (Belly Dancer) is excited to be performing with **Inferno Theatre** for the second time. Her debut role as Athena was in *Oblivion*. She has been involved with the art of belly dance since 1999 and danced with Tatseena’s original troupe Good Vibrations. In more recent years she has enjoyed performing with Tatseena’s Serpent Sirens and Swords. Tenya is thrilled to be performing in *Penthesilea* with an incredible cast.

Vicki Victoria (Meroe, Understudy) runs marathons and triathlons, and therefore felt qualified to be a female warrior on stage as well. Often in musicals, she recently returned from the *South Pacific* as Bloody Mary. Her mastery of over the top Asian accents was also witnessed in *Avenue Q* and then traded for Cockney in *Les Miserables*. This is her stage debut with **AEB** and **Inferno Theatre**. A photographer and visual and graphic artist, she resides in El Cerrito with a patient spouse and two spawn and is quite giddy to share this fantastic experience with you, family and friends.

Carmen Yu (Stage Manager) is in the business of managing. By day, she manages money as a financial professional. By night, she occasionally manages actors and plays. Last seen helming the lights and backstage in **AEB’s** *Relatively Speaking*, she returns once more to tackle a new challenge: managing an open-air play. She is easily recognizable by her tendency to be in suits and her trusty sidekick, a Doctor Doom action figure.

Summer 2014 Performance Schedule at John Hinkel Park

The performance is approximately 1 hour long without intermission

Saturday, August 23rd at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 24th at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 31st at 4:00 p.m.

Monday, September 1st at 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 6th at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 7th at 4:00 p.m.



Penthesilea

Cast

Penthesilea.....Danielle Martino
 Achilles.....Jacob Dean
 Prothoe.....AnJu Hyppolite
 AsteriaEmmy Pierce
 Meroe.....Vicki Victoria
 Priestess.....Simone Bloch
 Odysseus.....Michael Needham
 Diomedes.....Jerome Solberg
 Belly Dancer/Maiden #1.....Tenya Spillman
 Belly Dancer/Maiden #2.....Kate Potter
 Prince Lycaon.....Manuel Perrone
 Greek Soldier.....Diego Perrone
 Understudy, Prothoe & Penthesilea.....Vicki Victoria

Production Crew

Director & Adaptation.....Giulio Cesare Perrone
 Assistant Director/Music Direction.....Emmy Pierce
 Stage Manager.....Carmen Yu
 Set & Costume Design.....Giulio Cesare Perrone
 Co-Producer & Asst. Costumes.....Jamie Greenblatt
 Co-Producer & Set Construction.....Jerome Solberg
 Technical Director.....Robert Gudmundsson
 Photography/Graphic Design.....Vicki Victoria
 Violin.....Emmy Pierce
 Berimbau & Choreography.....Manuel Perrone
 Assistant Producer.....Robert Estes
 Fabrics.....Crystal Barnes

Special Thanks To:

The City of Berkeley, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival,
 Paula Bauer, Wendy Cohen, Berkeleyside.com, Tara Stroud,
 East Bay Express, Gina Calicura/KALX radio,
 Jovelyn Richards/KPFA, Hanson & Fitch,
 Zoe Jakes and Beats Antique for use of their music
 and to David Valenzuela

Cast and Crew Biographies

In Alphabetical Order

Simone Bloch (Priestess) is a founding member of **Inferno Theatre** and has acted in all productions of the company but one. She comes from France, where she danced and acted from a young age. In the US she has been part of Sun and Moon Ensemble as well as various plays and dance-theater shows. She's excited to collaborate with **Actors Ensemble** under the artistic direction of Giulio.

Jacob Dean (Achilles) is excited to be working with **AEB** and **Inferno Theatre** in Penthesilea. He's an acting student at Ohlone College. He's been recently honorably discharged from the Marines and in his other life he works as a personal trainer.

Jamie Greenblatt (Co-producer) is the Managing Director of **Inferno Theatre** and is a member of Play Cafe, Theatre Bay Area and The Dramatists Guild of America. The plays she writes often include music, movement and puppetry. Her full-length play, *My Recollect Time*, was produced by Inferno Theatre in 2013.

AnJu Hyppolite (Prothoe) made her debut with **AEB** last summer, as Horatio, in Lee Blessing's *Fortinbras*. She is elated to be working with **AEB** once again. AnJu was last seen on stage in *The Color Purple* (Olivia). Additional theater appearances include *110 in the Shade* (Becky) and *Aeschylus' Agamemnon* (Cassandra). When she is not performing, AnJu works as a freelance copy editor. She is thankful to her family and friends for their unwavering support!!!

Danielle Martino (Penthesilea) is thrilled to be making her debut with **Inferno Theatre**, and is very happy to return to **AEB**, having last been seen as Ellen in LUV. Other favorite performances include Hedda in *Hedda Gabler* (UC Santa Barbara), Sarah Siddons in *The Actor's Nightmare* (UCSB Studio Theatre) and Beverly in *Help*. Danielle received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in acting at UC Santa Barbara, and currently works as an actor and a Drama Therapist in the Bay Area.



Michael Needham (Odysseus) has studied at Studio ACT, and the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre in Blue Lake, California, and has received an Acting Shakespeare certificate from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. This is his third show with **Inferno Theatre**, and second with **AEB**. He has also appeared with the Cabrillo Music Festival, Chameleon Theatre Company, Napa Valley Shakespeare Festival, The San Leandro Players, and Shakespeare at Stinson.

Giulio Cesare Perrone (Director) is **Inferno Theatre's** Producing Artistic Director. Giulio is a playwright, director, as well as a set and costume designer with over 200 theater and opera production credits in both Europe and the US. He has received two Pew National Artists Residency grants and in February 2014 he received the first ever Yuriko Doi Legacy Award. His theatre and opera work includes the following companies, the San Diego Repertory Theatre, the San Jose Repertory Theatre, Dell'Arte International, Opera San Jose, California Shakespeare Festival, TheatreWorks, Marin Theatre Company, Word for Word, Magic Theatre and the Alley Theatre.

Emmy Pierce (Asteria, Assistant Director) has been working with **AEB** for three years as an actor, board member, occasional lighting designer, and doer of whatever needs doing. She most recently appeared as Lydia in **AEB's** recent production of *Pride & Prejudice*; prior to that, she worked behind the scenes as the stage-manager for *Over the Tavern*. When not on the stage or behind it she plays music, writes, and occasionally takes pictures with oversized cameras. She can frequently be seen around Berkeley, petting friendly cats and drinking cappuccinos.

Kate Potter (Belly Dancer) is returning to theatre after many years. Kate was an active Thespian for many years in her youth, playing such roles as Bianca in *The Taming the Shrew* among others. As an adult, Kate's passion has been studying belly dance in its many different forms. From Raqs Sharqi with Cassandra Shore and Sedona Soulfire, to Tribal Fusion with Rachel Brice, to Fire Dance with Nagasita. She has performed with various troupes, and as a soloist under the stage name Katarina.

About Actors Ensemble of Berkeley

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley (AEB) 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 performed primarily at Live Oak Theatre in North Berkeley. Recently we have also taken the opportunity to bring the magic of theatre to John Hinkel Park, the site of many wonderful performances over the years. We hope you enjoy the show and welcome us back for years to come!

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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www.aeofberkeley.org

Board of Directors: Paula Aiello, Anna Andersen, Alan Barkan, Paula Bauer, Michael R. Cohen, Robert Estes, Bob Gudmundsson, Martha Luehrmann, William Martinelli, Emmy Pierce, Alecks Rundell, Vicki Siegel, Jerome Solberg

About Inferno Theatre

Inferno Theatre is a cutting-edge ensemble theatre, artist based, dedicated to the creation of original works of consequence, incorporating movement, music and multimedia. Inferno Theatre has 501(c)(3) non-profit status and is in residence at South Berkeley Community Church in Berkeley, California. Recent productions include adaptations of Dracula, and Ovid's Metamorphoses, written by Mr. Perrone and My Recollect Time written by Jamie Greenblatt. Next May look for Inferno's **Second Annual Contemporary Performance Diasporas Festival**, which will include dance, music and film as well as theatre - many of the pieces will be works in progress. Inferno is a proud recipient of a two year City of Berkeley Civic Arts Grant.

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