



Actors Ensemble of Berkeley
presents

*Relatively
speaking*

Woody Allen's *Honeymoon Motel*
Directed by Colin Johnson

Elaine May's *George is Dead*
Directed by Susannah Wood

Ethan Coen's *Talking Cure*
Directed by Michael Cohen

Fridays &
Saturdays
8 p.m.

January
3rd - 25th
2014

Sunday
Matinees
2 p.m.
1/12 & 1/19

Live Oak
Theatre
1301 Shattuck
Berkeley

Don't miss our 2nd show in our 58th Season!
Coming to Live Oak Theatre May 2nd 2014

Over the Tavern

By Tom Dudzick, directed by Donna Davis

Based partly on the author's memories, *Over the Tavern* stars 12 year old Rudy, who's trying to grow up while navigating his complicated family life, centered on the crowded family apartment over his father's tavern, and the parish school, dominated by the all-powerful Sister Clarissa. Praised by the *New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Chicago Tribune*, among many others, Mr. Dudzick has written a kind of Ukrainian-Catholic version of *Lost In Yonkers* - a sweet family comedy that also confronts head-on all the confusion of growing up.

Playing Now! in association with Actors Ensemble
At the Berkeley City Club
Theatre@Liberty presents

SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE BROKEN MIRROR

By William Gilette, directed by Peter Ruocco, with Jeff Garrett

Thanks to Michael Tom & Pacific Interment for loaning us the casket!



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A NOTE FROM THE PRODUCER

It has been a real pleasure to bring together three very talented directors and a highly talented cast with many familiar faces (often in roles quite different from their typical casting) and a few new ones. A number of times people asked me whether I was crazy, putting together 3 directors with a cast of 17 opening just after New Years! Well, perhaps I was - but I hope in a good way ☺ Enjoy the show and we hope to see you again in May for **Over the Tavern**.

Jerome Solberg

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF *GEORGE IS DEAD*

The mysterious *George is Dead* is full of surprises and challenges for us, both as actors and audience. Ms May's enigmatic play explores a variety of relationship wounds, from parental neglect to faux sibling rivalry to a child's desperate need to be loved. George's death sets off a series of relationship disasters, but is Ms. May suggesting some sort of growth for these troubled characters -- in their own dysfunctional ways? Carla, Doreen, Michael, Nanny: they're not at all like us, thank goodness, are they?

Susannah Wood

Winter 2014 Performance Schedule

Friday/Saturday at 8 p.m.

Jan. 3rd & 4th

Jan. 10th & 11th

Jan. 17th & 18th

Jan. 24th & 25th

Sunday Matinees

Jan. 12th and 19th at 2 p.m.

Live Oak Theatre

1301 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, CA

Produced under arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Closer Than Ever. Shay is a part time student at DVC, and a full time mom. Enjoy the show!

Dominick Palamenti (Larry/Husband) moved from Virginia to Berkeley over the summer and is happy to be acting again after a long hiatus from theater. Favorite past roles include Sir Andrew from *Twelfth Night*, Bill from *Sure Thing*, and Bottom from *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Meira Perelstein (Wife) is pleased to be returning to Live Oak Theatre with **AEB**. She has studied theatre at ACT, DVC, CSULB, and other places with acronyms. She would like to dedicate this performance to her Grandmother Rose and Great Aunt Sarah, who never backed down either.

Stanley Spenger (Rabbi) founded Subterranean Shakespeare 25 years ago, and was artistic director for 15 years. He was also a member of Shotgun Players in its early years, and helped to define its artistic aesthetic in partnership with Patrick Dooley. Last year he appeared as *Richard III* for **Actors Ensemble**, and as *Galileo* for Masquers Theatre. Around the Bay Area, he has performed for North Bay Shakespeare, Impact Theatre, The Curtain Theatre, Shakespeare at Stinson, and The Berkeley Shakespeare Festival.

Christina Stoffan (Doreen) is very excited to be at the Live Oak Theatre with **AEB**. She was last seen in *Crimes of the Heart* at Altarena Playhouse. When not doing scripted theater, Christina also enjoys performing within the unpredictable world of improv. She'd like to thank her wonderful cast, Jared, and Carl.

Peter Weiss (Jerry) last appeared in an **Actors Ensemble** staged reading of *Giovanni Is Here*. He comes to Berkeley from Los Angeles where he appeared in films, television shows, and theatre. His stage roles include everything from Atahualpa in Peter Shaffer's *The Royal Hunt of the Sun* to John Laroquette's sidekick in the original comedy farce, *Tarboosh*.

Susannah Wood (Director, *George is Dead*) is happy directing her first play for **AEB**. She has directed for SF Fringe Festival, Fringe of Marin, R.A.W. Mill Valley, Opera Piccola, KPFA radio, and over 100 student productions. As an actress, she has recently performed with **AEB** in *Giovanni is Here* and *Fortinbras*, as well as *The Dining Room* with Piedmont Ave Repertory, *The Golden Dragon* with Do It Live Productions, and improvised full length plays with Synergy Theater.

Carmen Yu (Stage Manager/Sound Design) is a recent graduate from UC Davis. Her previous theatrical experience dates back to her high school days in musicals and class performances. While too shy and out of practice to be in the centre stage, she contributes her best backstage and wherever else she is needed from the technical standpoint.

Cameron Dodd (Sal Buonacotti) is a senior at Berkeley High. Cameron has learned acting from the best, including Berkeley Rep, CalShakes, acting coach Anna Andersen, and everyone at **AEB**. Here, he has played Gus/Augustus in *Arcadia*, acted in several staged readings, and served as Assistant Director for *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*.

Robert Gudmundsson (Light Design) has been a backstage mainstay for many years in such duties as stage manager, set designer and as with this production light design. He has also appeared in such productions as *Camping with Henry and Tom* and *A Murder is Announced*.

Aren Haun (Michael) was last seen in *The Downside of Suicide* at the Actors Center of San Francisco. New York credits include *Froth* at the Beckman Theatre and *Expecting* at Player's Loft.

Colin Johnson (Director, *Honeymoon Motel*) is a writer, director and filmmaker who has been a Bay denizen since 2008. Locally you may have seen his work in Playground, SF Olympians Festival, SF Fringe, Theatre Pub, Bay One Acts Festival, Albany Film Fest, Image Comics and various other unsavory quadrants in the Bay Area. He co-founded Oakland's sketch comedy troupe *BattleStache Studios* and is terribly thrilled to once again collaborate with **AEB** after directing 2012's *Noises Off*.

Bruce Kaplan (Eddie) is delighted to appear again with **AEB**, where he began acting in 2000. His two favorite recent roles have been in *The Haunting* for San Leandro Players and *The Cripple of Inishmaan* at Masquers Playhouse. In 2001, he won the Goodman Choice Award for Orphans. Thanks for supporting community theatre!

Davy Koszka (Paul) is new to the Bay Area and happy to be involved in his first show here. He hails from Olympia, WA where some of his favorite past credits include : A Chorus Line, Into The Woods, and The Diviners. Many thanks and much love to his twin sister.

AEB audiences may remember **Martha Luehrmann** (Nanny) as the nanny in *Uncle Vanya* and the murderess in *A Murder Is Announced*. Other local roles include Martha in James Keller's *Good Housekeeping*, the Nazi sympathizer Marguerite Paulus in de Valayre's *BookKeepers*, Abby Brewster in *Arsenic & Old Lace*, and Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Ernest*.

Shay Oglesby-Smith (Judy) is happy to be doing her second show with **AE**. She was last seen here as Sally, in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. Her "home" theatre is The Masquer's Playhouse, where she has appeared in many shows, the most recent being

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
P.O. Box 663
Berkeley, California 94701
www.aeofberkeley.org
info@AEofBerkeley.Org



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Special Thanks To: Michael Storm and TheatreFIRST, Vicki Siegel, Paula Bauer, Michael Tom of Pacific Interment Service, Inc., Wendy Cohen of Berkeleyside.com, The City of Berkeley, and Marvin & the rest of the folks at Live Oak Recreation Center

Act I is approximately 75 minutes long:

George is Dead
Talking Cure

15 minute intermission

Act II is approximately 30 minutes long:

Honeymoon Motel

Cast

in Order of Appearance

GEORGE IS DEAD by *Elaine May*, directed by *Susannah Wood*

Carla.....Erika Bakse
Doreen.....Christina Stoffan
Michael.....Aren Haun
Nanny.....Martha Luehrmann
Funeral Director.....Jerome Solberg

TALKING CURE by *Ethan Coen*, directed by *Michael Cohen*

Dr.....Geoffrey Colton
Larry/Husband.....Dominick Palamenti
Wife.....Meira Perelstein

15 minute intermission

HONEYMOON MOTEL by *Woody Allen*

directed by Colin Johnson

Jerry.....Peter Weiss
Nina.....Zara Benner
Eddie.....Bruce Kaplan
Judy.....Shay Oglesby-Smith
Sam.....Scott Alexander Ayres
Fay.....Yael Aranoff
Rabbi.....Stanley Spenger
Sal.....Cameron Aiello Dodd
Dr. Brill.....Geoffrey Colton
Paul.....Davy Kozka

Production Crew

Director, *George is Dead*.....Susannah Wood
Director, *Talking Cure*.....Michael Cohen
Director, *Honeymoon Motel*.....Colin Johnson
Stage Manager/Sound Design.....Carmen Yu
Set Design.....Michael Cohen
Costume Design.....Paula Dodd Aiello
Light Design.....Robert Gudmundsson
Set Construction.....Jerome Solberg, Michael Cohen,
.....Crystal Barnes, Robert Gudmundsson
Photography.....Anna Kaminska & Mercedes Cohen
Silhouettes.....Shu Ping Guan & Crystal Barnes
Producer/Program/GraphicDesign.....Jerome Solberg

Cast and Crew Biographies

In Alphabetical Order

Paula Dodd Aiello (Costume Designer) began costume-making for her celebrity friends, Barbie & Ken. Since moving on to bigger projects, she's focused on period and character costume design, but she discovered theatrical design in 1984 while working on the musical *George M!* This is her third production with **AEB**.

Yael Aranoff (Fay) is happy to return to **Actors Ensemble** for Woody Allen's *Honeymoon Motel!* Yael was last seen in **AEB's** staged reading of *Giovanni is Here* as Belle Levi, and was previously seen in **AEB's** *Rock 'N' Roll*. She also was the dramaturg for **AEB's** *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. She has previously acted with Town Hall, Crowded Fire, Subterranean Shakespeare and All Terrain, and in festivals such as the San Francisco Olympians Festival and the Playwrights Foundation's One-Minute Play Festival. Yael is very excited to begin the ATLAS Fellowship Track with Theatre Bay Area this month. Thanks to Eema, Abba, Ronit and Jackie.

Scott Alexander Ayres (Sam) is excited to be back at **Actors Ensemble**, having been in **AEB's** productions of *Working*, *Uncle Vanya*, and *Passion Play*. Most recently Scott was seen as Moonface Martin in *Anything Goes*, for which he was nominated for a BroadwayWorld.com SF 2013 Awards, for Best Featured Actor in a Musical.

Erika Bakse (Carla) is excited to join the cast of *Relatively Speaking!* You may have seen her most recently in *Red All Over* as part of the Bay Area One Acts. She sends all her love to Reg for all his support.

Zara Benner (Nina Roth) is excited to be returning to the theater with her first show in the Bay Area. A University of Arizona theater graduate, her past roles include Alice Sycamore in *You Can't Take It With You* and Agnes Nolan in *George M!*

Michael Cohen (Director, *Talking Cure*, Set Designer) has directed, produced, designed and stage-managed for over 35 years in Educational, Professional, and Community Theater. This past summer he directed our acclaimed production of *Fortinbras* in John Hinkel Park. Additionally, he serves as producer and director for Ross Valley Players Ross Alternative Works (RAW).

Geoffrey Colton (Dr./Dr. Brill) recently appeared in *Scamoraland*, *Agamemnon*, *Sherlock Holmes* and *Perfectly Imperfect*. Over a hundred stage productions, over half with SF Lamplighters including Mjr General (*Pirates*), Sir Joseph (*Pinafore*), Higgins (*My Fair Lady*), Falke (*Fledermaus*) and more. Other roles: Quixote (*La Mancha*), Sykes (*Oliver*), and roles in *How the Other Half Loves*, *The Good Doctor*, *A Thousand Clowns*, *Dracula*, *Private Lives*.