



Actors Ensemble of Berkeley
Proudly Presents

SIX (6) DIFFERENT WOMEN PLAYING...

FALSTAFF!

Adapted & Directed by
ROBERT ESTES

John Hinkle Park Amphitheatre
Berkeley
Saturdays & Sundays
June 20th - July 5th
plus
Friday July 3rd

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In this play *Falstaff!*, I've adapted the two Shakespeare plays, *Henry IV, Part 1* and *Henry IV, Part 2*, and made them one play. Yet, even though abridged, in our "two hours traffic" on the stage today, you will see how the story turns out (which you would not know if you only saw Part 1) for the major characters of Falstaff, Prince Hal, and the King. I hope that the adaptation is much more than a "greatest hits" of Falstaff comic scenes and that you see a story with enormous personal and political stakes.

But how you see the story will be a little different. Six women will play Falstaff. All of the actors will switch off playing others roles as well. Yet, every word in this community endeavor will be by Shakespeare.

In adapting the two plays for the community theater Actors Ensemble, I began to embrace the production as a shared enterprise: every actor would have a chance to play one of the great characters. Instead of lead actors and supporting actors, everyone is both a lead and a supporting actor. In preparing for a staged reading of the script, I realized that the Everyman qualities of Falstaff (his comic joy in misrule and his absolute internal freedom) could be played by Everywoman. So I hope that the community known as the audience will greatly enjoy the community known as The Villainous Company as we all together experience the unbounded spirit of Falstaff!

Robert Estes
Berkeley, CA
June 2015

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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info@AEOfBerkeley.Org



Board of Directors

Alan Barkan, Paula Bauer, Michael R. Cohen, Robert Estes, Bob Gudmundsson, Martha Luehrmann, William Martinelli, Emmy Pierce, Vicki Siegel, Jeff Trescott, Jerome Solberg

Special Thanks To: Hitomi Solberg for graciously hosting the rehearsals at her house (thanks for the Pringles), The City of Berkeley and the neighbors of John Hinkel Park, and Sleeping Dog Productions for staying awake long enough to create the promotional graphics.

The performance is approximately 2 hours 15 minutes long including a 15 minute intermission.

*Summer 2015 Performance Schedule:
Fridays and Saturdays,
June 20th – July 5st at 4 p.m.
Special performance Friday July 3rdth at 4 p.m.*

Falstaff!
The Villainous Company

Falstaff! #1.....Virginia Corrigan
Falstaff! #2.....Lynne Hollander
Falstaff! #3.....Maureen Coyne
Falstaff! #4.....Karina McLoughlin
Falstaff! #5.....Sheila Cress
Falstaff! #6.....Lisa Klein

Ensemble.....Pierson Bishop
Ensemble.....Michael Callan
Ensemble.....Greg Estes
Ensemble.....Lijesh Krishnan
Ensemble.....Chris Martin
Ensemble.....David Mejia
Ensemble.....Stanley Spenger

Production Crew

DirectorRobert Estes
Costume DesignPaula Aiello
Set Design/Program.....Jerome Solberg
Props.....Jerome Solberg,
Emmy Pierce,
Vicki Siegel
Set Construction.....Robert Gudmundsson
Graphic Design.....Alan Barkan
Scene Painting.....Stanley Spenger,
Masako Minawa,
Robert Gudmundsson,
Karina McLoughlin,
David Mejia,
Michael Cohen,
Jerome Solberg
Producers.....Jerome Solberg
Michael Cohen

Cast and Crew Biographies

In Alphabetical Order

Paula Dodd Aiello (Costumer) has worked with **AEB** and Director Robert Estes in many shows over recent years. She is a lifelong student of Shakespeare, who wrote at a time when only men were allowed to perform on stage and they had to play women's roles. Fortunately, women actors are now wonderfully welcome. In this performance, THEY get to play the MENS' roles. Robert has made the most of this, casting MANY WOMEN as one man – Falstaff. Remembering Shakespeare's observation that "the apparel oft proclaims the man," their clothing is not limited to Elizabethan because Falstaff is a man beyond any one time, and his fellows are timeless as well.

This is **Pierson Bishop's** (Ensemble) second show with **AEB** following the *Falstaff!* reading. He currently resides in Berkeley and has a passion for rare steak. A very special thanks to the ensemble, Robert, **AEB**, my family, and my best & true friend Nina. Cheers!

This is **Michael Callan's** (Ensemble) first show at **AEB** (not counting the staged reading of *Giovanni is Here*) past shows include "the Three Musketeers," "Much ado about Nothing" and "Dracula" Mike would like to thank his sister Cathy and his Mom and Dad for their support and encouragement

Michael R. Cohen (Producer) returns to **AEB** where he directed *Panhandle* at Live Oak Theatre this past January, "Talking Cure", part of *Relatively Speaking* in January 2014, and *Fortinbras* at John Hinkel Park in 2013. He has directed and co-produced several Ross Alternative Works (RAW) productions for the Ross Valley Players including *Giovanni is Here*. He served for 25 years as Director of Performing Arts at Rosemead High School east of Los Angeles. A member of Actors' Equity. He holds a BA in Theater Arts from UCLA and a MA in directing from San Diego State University.

Maureen Coyne (Falstaff) has been in other shows with AEB, among them *The Matchmaker* (Dolly Levi), *Uncle Vanya* (Vanya's mother), and *Antigone* (Antigone's Nurse). But she has never done Shakespeare in John Hinkel Park. What a beautiful place!

Sheila Cress (Falstaff) is thrilled to be making her debut at AEB. At age 4, she fell in love with theatre, when she saw *My Fair Lady*. Last fall she performed Flo in *Lives of the Saints* at Studio ACT Performance Project. She has been studying acting, singing and dancing at Studio ACT and Berkeley Rep School of Theatre. She wants to thank her acting coach and her wonderful teachers at ACT and Berkeley Rep.

Greg Estes (Ensemble) is happier than Falstaff with a cup of sack to be playing in John Hinkel Park. He has performed often in Berkeley with AEB, *Wilde Irish*, and *Sub-Shakes*; at this time last year he was stationed in the cool climes of Fort Point working as a Sergeant on *We Players Macbeth*. Hence, he will not tolerate any complaints about weather at John Hinkel Park. He thanks Diane.

Robert Estes (Adapter and Director) is thrilled that AEB has given him the chance to present a play about one of his heroes, Falstaff. Robert has previously directed *Curse of the Starving Class*, *Heartbreak House*, *Arcadia*, and *Rock n'Roll* for AEB. His production of Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing* opens in late August at the Masquers in Point Richmond.

Lynne Hollander (Falstaff) is happy to be performing for the first time with AEB. Since returning to acting after an absence of over 40 years, Lynne has appeared in Shotgun Players' *By and By* (Amanda) and in Masquers Playhouse' *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Mrs. Gottlieb) among other productions. She is a member of Stagebridge senior theater's Antic Witties Improv troupe and is the co-founder/co-director of NextAct, a newly established senior theater program in Sonoma County.

Lisa Klein (Falstaff) is a storyteller in a variety of ways: actress, improviser, writer, director, and arts educator. She's the artistic director of Dolphintales StoryTheatre and has recently created/performed with Ragged Wing Ensemble. She's delighted to connect people, nature, arts and build community.

Lijesh Krishnan (Ensemble) is happy to be in his second **AEB** show and thanks you all for coming out to support live theater. He played Mr. Darcy in last year's production of *Pride and Prejudice*. His recent shows include *The Taming of the Shrew* (Tranio) with Theatre of Others, *The Understudies* (Evadne) with Entitled Theatre Company and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Jesus) with Aluminous. He thanks Colin for his love and support.

Chris Martin (Ensemble) is returning to **AEB** after appearing in the reading of *The Time of Your Life* at Live Oak Theatre this past January. In December of last year, he played Felix Ducotel in *My Three Angels* at Masquers Theatre. He has a bachelor's degree in English and Dramatic Art from Michigan State University

Karina McLoughlin (Falstaff) Londoner born and bred, has been acting within the film and theater community in the Bay Area for almost a decade now— Falstaff! being her first production with The Ensemble (woot!). Her favorite roles to date are: Rosencrantz (*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*), and most recently as, Veronica Novak in *God of Carnage* at the Jean Shelton Theater. Additionally, Karina is acting in a feature currently in production titled, *To No Good End*. She can be found via mainstream social media or happy to meet you after the show!

David Andres Mejía (Ensemble) is recent graduate from UC Berkeley, where he performed as Hector in a production of Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida* with the English Undergraduate Association. He was a vegetarian for almost 10 years before going a vegan in 2014. This is his first

performance with the Villainous Company (A.K.A. **Actors Ensemble**), who have most graciously taught him the rudiments of a villainous life.

Masako Minawa (Scene Painting) loves supporting creative art projects. It was an honor to help in a small way.

Jerome Solberg (Set Design, Producer) has been in and around **AEB** for more years than he cares to admit. Thank you for coming to the show and make sure to check out our next show, **King Lear** in late August/early September.

Stanley Spenger (Ensemble) founded Subterranean Shakespeare, joined Shotgun players as an early member, and later became board president of **Actors Ensemble**, acting and directing for all three.. He has also performed at North Bay Shakespeare, Impact Theatre, The Curtain Theatre, Shakespeare at Stinson, and The Berkeley Shakespeare Festival.

*Come see our next show in John Hinkel Park
A co-production with **Inferno Theatre**, Aug. 22nd-Sept.7th*

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN
INFERNO THEATRE AND
ACTORS ENSEMBLE
OF BERKELEY

SAT + SUN AUG 22-SEPT 7

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
KING LEAR

ADAPTED, DIRECTED & DESIGNED BY GIULIO CESARE PERRONE
4:00 PM T JOHN HINKEL PARK, BERKELEY T FREE

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