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# NUNSENSE

OCTOBER 9 - NOVEMBER 15, 2015

DIRECTED BY CLAY DAVID  
MUSICAL DIRECTION BY DEAN STARNES  
CHOREOGRAPHY BY MATTHEW MCCOY

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

# KING LEAR



A COLLABORATION  
BETWEEN  
INFERNO  
THEATRE  
AND  
ACTORS  
ENSEMBLE  
OF BERKELEY

ADAPTED,  
DIRECTED  
& DESIGNED BY  
GIULIO CESARE  
PERRONE

JOHN HINKEL PARK, BERKELEY

SAT  
AND SUN  
SPECIAL MONDAY 9/7  
LABOR DAY SHOW  
AUG  
22<sup>to</sup>  
SEPT  
7  
4:00 PM  
ADMISSION FREE

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

*King Lear* is the story of two families. The full title of the play is normally omitted, *M. William Shakespeare; his true chronicle historie of the life and death of King Lear and his three daughters, with the unfortunate life of Edgar, sonne and heire to the Earle of Gloster, and his sullen and assumed humor of Tom, of Bedlam...*

The story of these two families, Lear and Gloucester, become closely intertwined by a vortex of generational conflicts between the fathers and their offspring. Political pressure, torture and physical violence have corrupted the family values in the world of this play. What is shown on stage reminds us of the greatest tragedies of the Twentieth Century, its wars, the atrocity of dictatorships and the brutality of modern genocide.

The collective tragedy in *King Lear* is ferociously intertwined in a series of plots, personal vendettas, greed and love-lust that twist layers upon layers like a series of Gordian Knots from which no one can disentangle. The weight of true and false words is the device that opens and closes the drama. Edgar epitomizes this in his last speech, “[t]he weight of this sad time we must obey. Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say.” But to understand the difference between true and false words, the humanity in the play has to endure violence, physical and emotional pain, insanity, and ultimately death.

— Giulio Cesare Perrone, August 2015



**Giulio Cesare Perrone** (*Adaptor, Director and Designer*), Inferno Theatre’s Producing Artistic Director, began his career in his native Italy. Since his arrival in the United States in 1995, he has directed and designed for both the theatre and opera, with over 200 professional theatre and opera productions to his credit. He has also worked internationally beyond Italy, in Croatia, Hungary, and Egypt. He was the recipient of a 2000 Pew National Artists Residency grant for his adaptation of Milton’s *Paradise Lost*, a 2002 Pew-TCG grant for his adaptation of *The Memoirs of Jacques Casanova*, and in 2014 he received the first Yuriko Doi Legacy Award.

**Christina Shonkwiler** (*Regan*) is an actor and clown who performs regularly with Inferno Theatre and Ragged Wing Ensemble. As a puppeteer, Christina’s credits include shows with Lunatique Fantastique, Bay Area Children’s Theater, and a national tour with Tears of Joy Theatre. She trained at Dell’Arte International School of Physical Theatre and earned an M.A. in Counseling Psychology, emphasis in Drama Therapy, from California Institute of Integral Studies.

**Tenya Spillman** (*Oswald*) made her debut with Inferno Theatre in 2014 as Athena in *Oblivion*. Tenya was also seen in *Penthesilea* and *Quantum Love*. Tenya has performed belly dance since 1999 and has danced with Tatseena’s troupes, Good Vibrations and Serpent Sirens. Tenya is elated to be performing in *King Lear* and thanks everyone in her life for their love and unwavering support.

**Phred Swain-Sugarman** (*Assistant Director/Stage Manager*) is currently living in her home town, Oakland. She works in Aquatics and Water Safety. She is a stage manager and designer for various performing arts groups around the Bay Area. She started as a performer, than began building, designing, and managing productions, under her mentor, Jim Cave.

**Vicki Victoria’s** (*Cornwall, Photography, Graphic Design*) insatiable bloodlust returns to Hinkel Aphitheater after serving as an Amazon in last summer’s *Penthesilea*. When not maiming and killing, she delights in musical theatre: *Into the Woods*, *South Pacific* (PCT), *Avenue Q* (TVRT, MST), *Les Miserables*, *Music Man* (MST), *Children of Eden* (CCCT), *JC Superstar* (BAS) and the web comedy series *The Smiths*. Vicki is in awe by the talented, dedicated and giving people in this fantastic cast and crew. Thank you joining us on this amazing journey and supporting local theater.

**Susannah Wood** (*Gloucester*) played Sister Clarissa last year with AEB in *Over the Tavern*. She also recently played Martha with Pinole Players in *Arsenic & Old Lace* and two roles with Wily West in the futuristic plays, *Zero Hour: The Mars Experiment* and *I Saw It*. Wood has performed in or directed plays and musicals in Chicago, California, and on the East Coast.

**Stephan Golux** (*Verse Coach and Dramaturge*) most recently served as Experiential Dramaturge for Inferno Theatre's *Quantum Love*. A recent transplant to the Bay Area, he has a twenty-odd year directing career Off-Broadway, Off-Off-Broadway and Regionally. Lately, more engaged in training directors and actors and in laboratory research on performance techniques. Proud and devoted member of SDC; the independent National Trade Union representing Stage Directors & Choreographers.

**Jamie Greenblatt** (*Production Assistant*) is the Managing Director of Inferno Theatre. She's a member of Play Cafe, Theatre Bay Area and The Dramatists Guild of America. Her play, *My Recollect Time*, was produced by Inferno in 2013.

**Nic Griffin** (*Musician*) has followed the pull of many creative things in her life: Theater, Clowning and Commedia; Puppetmaking, Painting and Trash Fashion. She also plays and sings in a band called The Krelkins. Some things tug more strongly at different times and theater is pulling her again. It's a delight to participate in this old favourite and hear the rich language again.

**Scott G. Hartman** (*Edgar*) studied Acting at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. Shakespeare credits include: *Julius Caesar* (Brutus, Antony); *As You Like It* (Orlando); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oberon); *Antony and Cleopatra* (Enobarbus); *Romeo and Juliet* (Friar Laurence). Scott would like to dedicate his performance to his Dad and his 9-month-old son, Rainer. "He childed as I father'd..."

**Karina McLoughlin** (*Kent*): Londoner born and bred, has been acting within the film and theater community in the Bay Area for almost a decade now. In addition to *King Lear* she is currently acting in a feature still in production titled, *To No Good End*. She's incredibly grateful to you for coming out to see live entertainment, showing your support and keeping theater alive!

**David Andres Mejia** (Understudy) loves animals, both human and non-human animals alike. He was a vegetarian for 10 years before going vegan in 2014. He was last seen in AEB's production of *Falstaff!*

**Benoît Monin** (*France*) Trained at ACT's Summer Training Congress, Studio ACT, and the BATS school of improvisational theater, Benoît Monin is one of the co-founders of the San Francisco Improv Collective. Recent scripted roles include Dorian in *Opus* (Piedmont Players), Marius in *Fanny* (GenerationTheater), Simon, *The Real Inspector Hound* (JCCSF Players), Lillas Pastia in *Carmen* (Opera On Tap).

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

## 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) status and is in residence at South Berkeley Community Church. Recent productions include an adaptation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and an original work *Quantum Love* both written by Mr. Perrone.



Next year look for Inferno's Third 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 City of Berkeley Civic Arts Grant and a grant from the Alameda County Arts Commission.

Join Inferno's mailing list by visiting [www.infernotheatre.org](http://www.infernotheatre.org)  
Like us on Facebook: **Inferno Theatre Company**

## 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 begun performing in beautiful John Hinkel Park.



This is our 3rd year in John Hinkel, our 2nd year collaborating with **Inferno** following last year's *Penthesilea*, and our 2nd production this summer following *Falstaff!* We hope you enjoy the show and welcome us back for years to come! Visit our website [www.aeofberkeley.org](http://www.aeofberkeley.org)

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Hitomi Solberg for graciously storing the set at her house, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Savers Thrift Stores, Manuel Perrone, Sophia MacMillian, Shoshana Yaswen, Cody Carrona, The City of Berkeley, and the neighbors of John Hinkel Park.

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

**Summer 2015 Performance Schedule (all at 4 p.m.)**

*Saturdays and Sundays August 22nd – September 6th*

*Special performance Monday Sept. 7th*

## KING LEAR

## Cast

Lear.....	Michael Needham
Goneril.....	Melissa Clason
Gloucester.....	Susannah Wood
Kent.....	Karina McLoughlin
Oswald.....	Tenya Spillman
Edmund.....	Adam Elder
Albany.....	Pierson Bishop
Regan.....	Christina Shonkwiler
Cordelia/Fool.....	Jody Christian
Edgar.....	Scott Hartman
Burgundy/Soldier/Servant/Captain.....	Karen Caronna
France.....	Benoît Monin
Cornwall.....	Vicki Victoria
Soldier.....	Sohail Alamkhel
Soldier.....	Paul Davis
Musician.....	Nic Griffin
Understudy.....	David Andres Mejia

## Crew

Adaptor, Director and Designer.....	Giulio Cesare Perrone
Assistant Director/Stage Manager.....	Phred Swain-Sugarman
Verse Coach/Dramaturge.....	Stephan Golux
Fight Training Advisor.....	Andrej Diamantstein
Technical Direction.....	Robert Gudmundsson and Jerome Solberg
Production Assistant.....	Jamie Greenblatt
Hot Dog Men.....	Robert Gudmundsson and Michael Cohen
Graphics/Photography/Makeup.....	Vicki Victoria
Program.....	Jerome Solberg and Vicki Victoria

**Sohail Alamkhel**, (*Soldier*) is a theater student at Ohlone College. He's very excited to be a part of an ensemble cast for the first time with so many talented people.

**Pierson Bishop** (*Albany*) gives all thanks to God, his family, AEB, Inferno Theatre, Giulio, Stephan, Phred, Jamie, Jerome, Juanita, and the rest of the ensemble for making this production possible. Cheers & Love.

**Karen Caronna** (*Burgundy/Soldier/Servant/Captain*) is honored to be a part of this wonderful collaborative process that is theater. Special thanks to Giulio for giving me the opportunity, Stephan for his invaluable guidance, and to the marvelous cast and crew, superb magicians all.

**Jody Christian** (*Cordelia & Fool*) is a physical actor thrilled to be working once again with two of her favorite local companies. She was last seen as Hannah in *Arcadia* with AEB and played Ophelia/Judith in Inferno Theatre's *Quantum Love* at this year's SFIAF. She's in awe of the process, this play, her cast mates, and is looking forward to resting her contused ribs.

**Melissa Clason** (*Goneril*) Although a Marin County resident, Melissa frequently performs in San Francisco and worked with AEB earlier this year, playing Mindy in *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*. Melissa sends love to her family & thanks to Giulio for this opportunity. She dedicates her performance to survivors of child abuse & individuals living with mental illness; there is hope & help.

**Paul Davis** (*Soldier*) thanks Giulio Perrone for a second opportunity to appear in one of Mr. Perrone's works. Paul previously appeared as Van Helsing in *Dracula*. Paul also appeared as Scrooge in Moonlight Productions rendition of the musical *Scrooge*.

**Andrej Diamantstein** (*Fight Training Advisor*) has studied Iaido since 1984 and is currently the representative of the seito seryu muso jikiden eishin ryu Iaido koku-sai remain (the eishin ryu international organization based in Tokyo) in the USA. Trained as an actor and stage combat instructor in Germany and working in the German film industry and its national theater system as protagonist, Iaido became Andrej's balance point and anchor of integrity during his work as a performer, and has held its fascination as a method of self-improvement since.

**Adam Elder** (*Edmund*) is a graduate of the William Esper Studio in New York, and settled in the Bay Area less than two years ago after spending five years living and working in Florence, Italy. He recently appeared in a production of Lauren Gunderson's *Silent Sky*, and will appear later this fall in Harold Pinter's *Betrayal* and Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*.