



Actors Ensemble
of Berkeley

Panhandle

A Play with Music

by Emmy award winning playwright and screenwriter

Walter Halsey Davis

Music by

Marc Ream and Jeremy Sullivan

Director

Michael R Cohen

Musical Director

Emmy Pierce

January 9th - 31st

Fridays and Saturdays @ 8pm

Sunday Matinees January 18 & 25 @ 2pm

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Walter Davis attended the University of California Santa Barbara where he took a Bachelor and Masters Degree in English literature, and went on to UCLA where he received a Master of Fine Arts degree in Theater Arts.

Davis' first play, *The Tapioca Misanthropia* (a verse drama cum cosmic vaudeville), was produced for ABC television in Santa Barbara and later broadcast in Los Angeles on the PBS station KCET. *Tapioca* won the Lucille Ball Comedy Writing Award and was published by Painted Cave Books in Santa Barbara.

Davis' second play, *Panhandle*, a chronicle of a Texas family's struggle through the Great Depression, was first produced at U.C. Santa Barbara, then the Oxford Playhouse in Los Angeles, the Scott Theater in Fort Worth, North Texas State University, Texas Tech University, and in New York at the Walden Theater. *Panhandle* won the Samuel Goldwyn Writing Award, the Texas Bicentennial Playwriting Award, and the American College Theater Festival Playwriting Award (Region V). On the basis of *Panhandle*, Davis was selected to be a playwright in residence for one year at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco.

He has won an Emmy, a Writers Guild of America Award, an Edgar Allan Poe Award, two Christopher Awards, the Goldwyn Writing Award, the Red Cross Prize at the Monaco International Television Festival, The Peabody Award, The Humanitas Prize, and a Golden Globe nomination.

Additional Lyrics by Robert Potter.

Drunkard's Doom

The cup was filled at his command,
He drank of the poisoned bowl,
He drank, while wife and children starved,
and ruined his own soul.

A year had passed, I went that way,
A hearse stood at the door:
I paused to ask, and one replied:
'The drunkard is no more.'

Now, all young men, a warning take,
And shun the poisoned bowl;
'Twill lead you down to hell's dark gate,
And ruin your own soul.

Wayfaring Stranger

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger
A' trav'ling through this world of woe
But there's no sickness, toil nor danger
In that bright world to which I go.

I'm going there to see my father,
I'm going there no more to roam,
I'm just a-going over Jordan,
I'm just a-going over home

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
P.O. Box 663
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www.aeofberkeley.org
info@AEofBerkeley.Org



Board of Directors

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

Special Thanks To: The City of Berkeley, Michael Storm and TheatreFirst, Masquers in Point Richmond, D.C. Piano Company, California Historical Radio Society, Berkeley Playhouse, and Douglas Morrison Theatre.

The performance is approximately 2 hours 30 minutes long including a 15 minute intermission.

*Winter 2015 Performance Schedule: Fridays and Saturdays, January 9th – January 31st at 8 p.m.
Sunday matinees January 18th and 25th at 2 p.m.*

Panhandle Cast

In order of appearance

The Old Man.....	W. Davis
WPA Man/Ensemble.....	Chris Cruz
Pa.....	Lee Vogt
Clara.....	Laura Espino
Sis.....	Erika Bakse
Ma.....	Anne Fairlie
Orin.....	Ben Grubb
Clyde.....	Patrick Glenn
Preacher/Ensemble.....	Peter Weiss
Bartender/Auctioneer.....	David Weiner
Nase.....	Bruce Kaplan
Ely.....	Joseph O'Loughlin
Ensemble/Understudy Clara.....	Paloma George
Ensemble/Sound Effects.....	Julia Plafker
Ensemble.....	Patricia Long Davis
Ensemble.....	Deborah Shaw

Production Crew

Director	Michael R. Cohen
Musical Direction.....	Emmy Pierce
Piano Accompaniment.....	Alice Montgomery
Guitar.....	Owen Kelley
Banjo/Mandolin.....	Mokai
Stage Management/Sound Design.....	Owen Parry
Light Design.....	Michael Sweeney
Costume Design	Paula Aiello
Set Design.....	Lisa Sullivan
Choreography.....	Carol Hochberg
Set Construction.....	Bob Gudmundsson
Ass't Light Design/Light Operation.....	Bennie Brown
Props.....	Owen Parry, Mercedes Cohen
Photography.....	Anna Kaminska, Mercedes Cohen
Producer & Program, Graphics.....	Jerome Solberg

Cast and Crew Biographies

In Alphabetical Order

Paula Dodd Aiello (Costumer) is always thrilled to work for her beloved **AEB**, for which she most recently costumed *Pride and Prejudice* and *Relatively Speaking*. She thanks Mercedes Cohen for her great help in stitching many of the pieces in this show as well as the everyone in the cast and crew for their creativity and cooperation. Paula also thanks Walter for writing this play and dedicates her work on on it to all those who have suffered the consequences of “the subtleties of the system.”

Erika Bakse (Sis) is excited to kick off the new year once more with Actor's Ensemble of Berkeley. You may have seen her this time last year with **AEB** as Carla in *Relatively Speaking*. She also appeared this year in San Francisco as part of the world premiere of *Pleiades* in the role of Diane. All my love to Reg.

Bennie Brown (Light Board Operation) is an Actor & Flutist, playing since age 12. He has trained at the American Conservatory Theatre's Studio A.C.T. program. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from Tuskegee University. His civic involvement includes being an AmeriCorps VISTA Alumnus & Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America.

Michael R. Cohen (Director) returns to **AEB** where he directed “Talking Cure”, part of *Relatively Speaking* last Winter, 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

was assistant stage manager for the Barn Theater in Augusta, Michigan, and stage manager for the Ensemble Studio Theater and the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts in Los Angeles. He holds a BA in Theater Arts from UCLA and a MA in directing from San Diego State University.

Chris Cruz (Ensemble) was last seen at Actors Ensemble in *Madame Gufay's Free Speech Lovelutionaries*. A musical theatre/dance student at SJSU, Chris will next be seen in *Ragtime* with Marquee Productions in San Jose and *The Wife of Bath* right here as part of AEB's staged readings.

Patrica Davis (Ensemble) has taken acting and singing classes at Berkeley Rep and at Stagebridge, Oakland's senior performing arts company, where she is a member of the "Antic Witties" improv troupe. She's appeared most recently in *Arsenic and Old Lace* at CCSF, *The Provoked Wife* at Generation Theatre, and *FSM*, a play with music about the Free Speech Movement.

W. Davis (Old Man) (he can't remember what the "W" stands for) has not acted for over 37 years (he can't remember any further back than that, either). He knows you will understand and forgive him if he forgets some of his lines.

Laura Espino (Clara) makes her AEB debut with *Panhandle*. Recent credits include: *Leading Ladies* (Audrey); *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Stella); *Steel Magnolias* (Shelby). She studies theatre at ACT. In 2006, she made her film debut in *Devotion*, which won Best Narrative Independent Feature at the New England Film Festival. She would like to thank her 4 year-old daughter, Evita, for allowing her to practice her love of theatre.

Ann Fairlie (Ma) began her career in kindergarten as a gingerbread cookie in her school's production of Hansel and Gretel. Some favorite roles since then: Ophelia; Belle Starr in *Jesse and the Bandit Queen* (won 5 local awards); Miss Daisy in *Driving Miss Daisy* (three tours in India). Loves this profession!

Paloma George (Ensemble) is thrilled to be doing her first show with Actors Ensemble! This past year, she trained in Meisner acting technique at the Waterfront Playhouse and Conservatory. Other notable roles include Varya in *The Cherry Orchard*, the Witch in *Into the Woods* and Penelope Pennywise in *Urinetown*. Next, Paloma will appear onstage in a revival production of *Di Megileh of Itzik Manger* at the New Yiddish Theatre in February.

Patrick Glenn (Clyde) is pleased as punch to be in his fourth full production with **AEB**. Highlights include title characters in *Fortinbras* and *R&G are Dead*. He thanks everyone except for the actors taller than him. Big ups to friends and family, big downs to his foes. He is represented by the Johnson Talent Agency.

Ben Grubb (Orin) is glad to be back onstage at the Live Oak Theatre with **AEB**. He has been previously seen here in *True West*, *Luv*, *Passion Play*, and many readings. Thanks to Libby, Abby, and Joy!

Bruce Kaplan (Nase) is delighted to be back with **AEB** at Live Oak, where he acted in his very first show (2001), and also in *Relatively Speaking* last January. Other favorite roles in 2014 included Robert in *Proof* and Nunzio in *Over the River and Through the Woods*. Bruce

is an environmental consultant. Thanks for supporting Actors Ensemble!

This is **Owen Kelley's** (Guitar) first performance with **AEB**. A guitarist for the past 20 years, he enjoys performing and teaching throughout the Bay Area. Currently plays in rock groups *Cash Pony* and *Talkies*. Composing, recording, and touring are also among his musical interests.

Carol Hochberg (Choreography) was a sailor, dancer and choreographer in New York. Since moving to Berkeley in 2000 she has published poetry and had her play *Emily and Walt* produced in the Fringe of Marin. The choreography for *Panhandle* is a fortunate follow-on from her work in the *Diasporas Festival* with Inferno Theatre last May. Thank you, Giulio!

Mokai (banjo, mandolin) has been called "a stalwart of the Bay Area folk scene" by *Acoustic Guitar Magazine*. He performs Americana style folk and blues with one foot rooted in the tradition and the other towards his own original songwriting. He has released two albums of music. You can find him at venues around Northern CA, singing and playing on fingerstyle guitar, banjo, and other folk instruments. www.mokaimusic.com.

Alice Montgomery (piano) has performed with **AEB** many times including Vicki Siegel's original musical *A Hot Day in Ephesus*. You can hear her play flute with the Curtain Theatre Band in Mill Valley every August and September. She teaches piano and flute in the East Bay. Her main gig is high school alternative education teacher with Hayward Unified.

Joseph O'Loughlin (Ely) is pleased to return to **AEB** for *Panhandle*. He was last seen here as the Burglar in *Heartbreak House*. He has performed as Cardinal Richelieu in *The Further Adventures of the Three Musketeers*, the Judge in *The Government Inspector*, Tom Parker in *Elvis has Left the Building*, in numerous staged readings for Subterranean Shakespeare, and is a member of the Opera San Jose chorus.

Owen Parry (Stage Management/Sound Design) is back stage managing for **AEB** for a second time, following a successful run of *Pride and Prejudice* in John Hinkel park over the summer. He'd like to thank the cast and crew for pulling together to make this show amazing, and not faltering in the face of almost constant rewrites.

Emmy Pierce (Music Direction) has been working with Actors Ensemble of Berkeley for three years as an actor, board member, and doer of whatever needs doing. She was most recently assistant director and musical director of *Penthesilea*, *Queen of the Amazons*, presented by **AEB** in collaboration with Inferno Theater. Prior to that, she appeared as Lydia in **AEB**'s production of *Pride & Prejudice*. When not on the stage or behind it, she plays music, writes, and reads a lot of science fiction.

Julia Plafker (Ensemble) is making her second consecutive appearance onstage and backstage with **AEB**, having previously worked on *Madame Gufay*. When not working in theater, Julia trains her mind to combust inanimate objects, a power she has vowed never to use for evil. If she could be any dinosaur, she would be a Pachycephalosaurus. She thanks her friends, probably.

Deborah Shaw (Ensemble) is a trained therapeutic Vocal Sound Healer practicing in Novato, Ca.

<http://www.sacredweaver.com>. Credits include: *Music Man, Sound of Music, Oklahoma, West Side Story*.

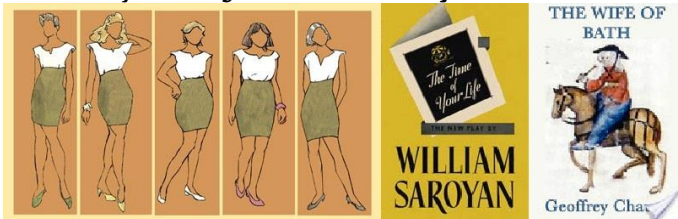
Lisa Siegel Sullivan (Set Design) is pleased to join the crew of **AEB** as a set designer and painter. Lisa is an architectural designer, planner, and illustrator, as well as a writer specializing in the arts, design, and the built environment. She has loved the chance to work with **AEB** on this outstanding production. Lisa has a Masters of Architecture from UC Berkeley.

Lee Vogt (Pa) is glad to be back at Live Oak Theatre with **AEB**, having first appeared here in Shaw's *The Shewing Up of Blanco Posnet* in 1978.

David Weiner (Ensemble) is excited to be returning to **AEB** with such a talented cast. He was previously in **AEB**'s production of Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale*. He has been performing in the East Bay for the last 10 years. He's also appeared in *Fiddler on the Roof* with ACLO and at Role Players Ensemble (Danville) in Arthur Miller's *Incident at Vichy* and Rod Serling's *Requiem for a Heavyweight*. He dedicates his performance to his family.

Peter Weiss (Preacher, Banker, Ensemble) last appeared with **AEB** as Jerry in *Relatively Speaking*. Subsequently he played Angelo in the Ross Valley Players' production of *Giovanni is Here*, which was directed by Michael Cohen and written by his wife, Mercedes. He comes to the Bay Area 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*. His day job is a Math teacher at Mount Diablo High School in Concord.

Join us for our Winter 2015 Staged Reading Series
Tuesdays during Panhandle – **Pay What You Can**



Tuesday, Jan 13th, 8 p.m. – **Five Women Wearing the Same Dress**

by Alan Ball, directed by Zara Benner

Tuesday, Jan 20th, 8 p.m. - **The Time of Your Life**

By William Saroyan, directed by Darryl Jones

Tuesday, Jan 27th, 8 p.m. – **The Wife of Bath/Marriage of Sir Gawain**

A Musical Reading, by Vicki Siegel, directed by Robert Estes

Opening March 27th, 2015 in Live Oak Theatre
Five Women Wearing the Same Dress
By Alan Ball, directed by Zara Benner

Join us for our Summer 2015 Season in John Hinkel Park

All performances are FREE and start at 4 p.m.

Falstaff!

Adapted and Directed by Robert Estes

Saturdays and Sundays **June 20th – July 5th**

Special Performance Friday **July 3rd**

King Lear

Adapted and Directed by Giulio Cesare Perrone

A collaboration with *Inferno Theatre Company*

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

Special Performance Monday, **September 7th** (Labor Day)

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