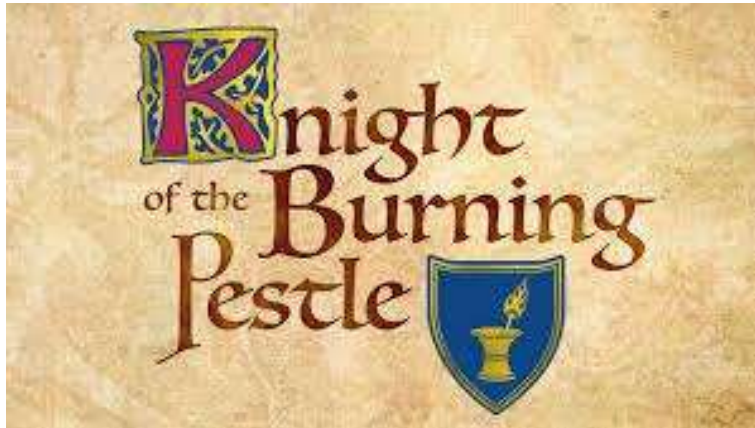


Join us for our 2nd production of Summer 2017
in the fantastic John Hinkel Park Amphitheatre:
The Knight of the Burning Pestle, by Francis
Beaumont, directed by up-and-coming director
Lelan Fernando. Perhaps the first modern play,
written in Shakespeare's time, it satirizes the more
genteel dramas of the era - the audience takes over
a production of "The London Gentleman" and forces
the actors to portray the title story instead.



FREE Weekends @ 4 p.m.
Aug. 19th–Sept. 3rd plus Labor Day
John Hinkel Park Amphitheatre, Berkeley

Check out our website www.aeofberkeley.org for exciting
announcements about our 2018 season. –Join our FB group! -
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/67180033800>



AEB thanks **Tower Cleaners**
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The Chalk Circle



Free in John Hinkel Park, Berkeley
Weekends @ 4pm, July 1st-16th plus July 4th

By Bertolt Brecht
Directed by Anna Smith



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

To many, the work of Bertolt Brecht can seem inaccessible, stiff, and tragic. As a politically motivated playwright, Brecht wanted his audiences to experience deep catharsis along with his characters, while remaining conscious that a play is an opportunity for social change and not, as Hamlet would say, "holding a mirror up to nature." **Chalk Circle** is more than certainly meant to give the audience perspective on what it means to be vulnerable in a time of great political uprising and violence, but there is more to it.

The story of Grusha's journey through the Caucasus Mountains (hence the name **Caucasian Chalk Circle**) to save an infant left behind by its mother paired with the story of Azdak's morally ambiguous sense of justice is, to me, an analysis of what it means to be a good hearted person in a world obsessed with the meaning of morality - be that fueled by religion, politics, or social media. While Grusha and Azdak are seen by their peers as ignorant, simple, and (in Azdak's case) drunk, their moral compasses drive the action of the play to what is, ultimately, a righteous conclusion despite their bourgeois antagonists.

Another unique characteristic of **Chalk Circle** is the juxtaposition of drama and humor. I believe that finding humor in even our darkest of times is one of our most human qualities, and this play brings that dichotomy to light. It is also something that we, as Americans, are dealing with every day as we find ourselves laughing at a misspelled Tweet the same day that we mourn our exit from the Paris Climate Agreement.

This play posits that through humor, community, and fighting for what we know in our hearts is right, we may ensure a world suitable for the next generation to inherit.

Anna Smith, June, 2017

Anna Smith has made a career as an actor and educator in the Bay Area over the last several years. Founding executive director of arts organization, [The Quinan Street Project](#), Anna has directed *Heathers: The Musical* and *A Winter's Tale* at Redwood High School, as well as creating choreography and movement for productions of *Urinetown*, *Into the Woods*, and *Animal Crackers*. For more information on The Quinan Street Project, visit www.QuinanStreet.org!

Jerome Solberg has been a huge part of **AEB** since 2005, he has also performed in various productions such as *Marriage of Figaro* and *Rock n Roll*. When not working with A.E Jerome enjoys restoring old cars and taking care of adorable street cats in need of a loving home.

Joel Stanley was born and raised in London, UK, went to Oxford University, and once served as the official selector for the Tibetan national soccer team. Previous acting roles include Hippolito in *The Revenger's Tragedy* and Boyet in *Love's Labour's Lost*.

Lisa Sullivan. This is her third set design for **AEB**. Earlier designs include *Panhandle* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. She began her career in set design at the Harris School for Boys and Girls; her first production repurposed several refrigerator shipping boxes to serve as street scenes of London for the sixth grade production of *Oliver Twist*. She put set design away for almost half a century to work in architecture, urban and graphic design, returning to join the incredible universe of Actors Ensemble.

Miranda Tilley. This is her first show with **AEB**. She's studying Drama at DVC. She has previously done *Circle Mirror Transformation* as Theresa, and sings with Her Majesty's Royal Opera at Dickens Fair.

This will be **Vicki Victoria's** fourth consecutive summer in Hinkel, having appeared in Inferno's *The Tempest* and **AEB**/Inferno collaborations *King Lear* and *Penthesilea*. Her favorite musicals include *South Pacific* (PCT), *Avenue Q* (TVRT, MST), *Les Miserables* (MST). Vicki is also a visual artist/photographer who resides in El Cerrito with a very patient spouse and 2.5 kids.

Matthew Weinberg is appearing in his first full production with **AEB**, although he previously appeared in their staged readings of *The Time of Your Life* and *Oscar Wilde Slept Here*, and also recently played a gay 22-year-old Montana chef in PCSF's staged reading of *Billings*. Matthew has gravitated toward the theater after having made such legendary short films as *23 Ways In Which I Could Die* and *The Buddhist News* and while he occasionally refers to himself as an "aspiring novelist/screenwriter/ playwright/film critic/music critic/philosopher/pop culture guru," this July he is honored to simply wear his acting hat for Actors Ensemble.

Ryan Gonzalez graduated from The University of the Pacific in 2014 with a degree in theatre arts. He then moved to North Carolina where he performed in Green Day's *American Idiot* and *Rock of Ages* before returning to California. Ryan would like to thank the **AEB** for allowing him to debut with them.

Jaime Guerrero is a sculptor, interaction designer, and amateur architect in San Francisco. This is his first foray into theatrical set design.

Paulette Herring is happy to be back with **AEB**, her home away from home for many years. Some of her favorite roles have been Brenice in *Member of the Wedding*, Gladys in *Skin of our Teeth* and Alison in *Lady in the Dark*.

Julie Horenstein is working on her first show with **AEB**, after five years of productions at Berkeley Playhouse, such as *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Legally Blonde*, *RENT* and more. She is a junior at Oakland School for the Arts who sings and writes.

Alejandra Leon has been heavily involved with the non-profit EnActe Arts in San Jose, where she performed in two of their production, *The Conference of the Birds* and *Soundwaves*. She began ballroom dancing at an early age. She's been active in local theatre, and the voice over, and the film industries. She's fascinated with cats, not the musical, and bringing theatre education to every child. A native Oaklander she is obsessed with Gene Kelly and the 1940's, she hopes to resurrect that same love of live theatre in Oakland, CA!

Ghazal Modarresi has always been artistic but never knew design was her calling until she was in college. She holds a bachelor's degree in Graphic Design from San Francisco State University. Careerwise, she is still trying to figure out what she wants to do, but she knows she wants to pursue something related to design. Other than art and design, she also loves music, being outdoors, foreign languages and traveling

Arianna O'Day's first musical stage managing was *Into The Woods*. O'Day has been involved in theatre for most of her life starting as an actor. It was in High School that she decided to dabble in tech. As a stage manager O'Day thrives off the organization of the play. When not managing she enjoys spending time with her fur babies.

Joseph O'Loughlin is pleased to return to **AEB** for *Chalk Circle*. He was last seen with **AEB** playing multiple roles in *Panhandle*. He has performed as Cardinal Richelieu in *The Further Adventures of the Three Musketeers*, the Judge in *Government Inspector*, Tom Parker in *Elvis has Left the Building*, numerous staged readings for Subterranean Shakespeare, and is a member of the Opera San Jose chorus.

About Actors Ensemble of Berkeley

Actors Ensemble (**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 from the forerunner of Cal Shakes, Shotgun Players, Women's Will, and others over the years. We hope you enjoy the show.

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



Check out www.AeofBerkeley.Org and subscribe to our email list for

- Staged Readings
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Board of Directors

Crystal Brown, Michael R. Cohen, Robert Estes, Linda Giron, Bob Gudmundsson, Terry Haley, Martha Luehrmann, Norah Foster, William Martinelli, Emmy Pierce, Vicki Siegel, Jerome Solberg, Jeff Trescott, Susannah Wood.

**Act I is approximately 1 hour 15 minutes long:
15 minute intermission**

Act II is approximately 45 minutes long
Performances @ 4 p.m. Sat/Sun 1/1-1/16 2017 plus July 4th
Actors Ensemble would like to thank the Civic Arts Commission of the City of Berkeley for the grant of \$5,200 in 2016 to Actors Ensemble, enabling us to continue to provide free or low cost opportunities for community members to participate in the life changing activities of theater arts.

The Caucasian Chalk Circle
by Bertolt Brecht
Cast in Alphabetical Order

The Singer.....Annika Bergman
Shauva/Young Woman/Ensemble.....Pennell Chapin
Mother-in-Law/Ensemble.....Maureen Coyne
Simon..... Ryan Gonzalez
Azdak/Ensemble.....Paulette Herring
Doctor/Architect/Ensemble Alejandra Leon
Prince Kazbeki/Ensemble.....Joseph O'Loughlin
Natella, the Governor's Wife/Ensemble.....Samantha Rassler
Michael(7/1,7/2,7/15,7/16).....Leo Sanchez
Michael(7/4,7/8,7/9)..... Pious de la Cruz
Governor/Yussup/Ensemble.....Jerome Solberg
The Corporal/Ensemble Joel Stanley
Grusha..... Miranda Tilley
Doctor/Innkeeper/Ensemble.....Vicki Victoria
Adjutant/Ensemble.....Matthew Weinberg

Staff

DirectorAnna Smith
Stage ManagerArianna O'Day
Assistant Stage Manager.....Julie Horenstein
Costume Designer.....Paula Aiello
Assistant Costume Design.....Naseem Alavi, Ramona Dennis
Set Design..... Lisa Sullivan with Bob Gudmundsson (trees),
.....Jaime Guerrero and Elena Childs(sails)
Props.....Elena Childs
Assistant to Props.....Vicki Siegel
Producer & Publicity..... Jerome Solberg
Technical Direction/Hot Dog Coordinator.....Bob Gudmundsson
Assistant Hot Dog Coordinator.....Michael R. Cohen
Graphic DesignJamie Danila and Ghazal Mondaressi
Photography.....Vicki Victoria and Anna Kaminska
SPECIAL THANKS TO: Masquers Playhouse in Point Richmond, The City of Berkeley Civic Arts Commission. Stephanie Courtney, Mark Booher, Britt Block, Salim Razawi, The students of EPIC, Jef Labes for the use of the music for the "Azdak" song, Bertolt-Brecht-Erben, Katy MacDonald for the use of her head, and Joanne Sterricker.

*This production is dedicated to life, work, and memory of
Patricia M. Troxel.*

Cast and Crew Biographies
In Alphabetical Order

Paula Dodd Aiello is a Bay Area native who has been sewing for over 50 years and costuming for over 35 of them. She has worked with **AEB** since 2012 on such shows as *What Women Want – The Marriage of Sir Gawain, Panhandle and Pride and Prejudice*.

Naseem Alavi is making their first appearance on the crew for **AEB**. They have a talent for sewing and design and have worked costumes for numerous other theater companies such as Foolish Mortals Shakespeare Players and the Berkeley Rep. and also attends Oakland School for the Arts for literary arts.

Annika Bergman has recently just closed *Bonnie and Clyde* where she played Bonnie, and after *Caucasian Chalk Circle* hopes you'll join her in San Jose where she'll be playing Columbia in *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. When not performing, she enjoys brunch and Disneybounding. Enjoy the show!!

Pennell Chapin is thrilled to be making her fifth appearance with **AEB** where she recently played Catherine Stockman in a staged reading of *An Enemy of the People*. She has acted in various Bay Area theatre companies, including San Rafael Fringe Festival, Novato Theater Company, Ross Valley Players, Masquers Playhouse, Marin Classic Theatre, Pacific Spindrift Players and CCCT. Favorite roles include Mrs. Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice*, Ms. Cheveley in *An Ideal Husband*, Elvira in *Blithe Spirit*. Pennell lives in a far-away exotic place called Corte Madera and she doesn't mind crossing the bridge for this wonderful theatre company.

Elena Childs has an MFA in Scene Design from SFSU, but has been in a self-imposed exile from theatre for more than a handful of years. Because of an (un)fortuitous event and a gain of a tremendously long "vacation," she has returned to the welcoming arms of theatre, choosing **AEB** for her debut.

Maureen Coyne has performed in number of shows with **AEB** over the years. Last fall she played Martha in Ken Ludwig's *The Game's Afoot* with the Benicia Old Town Theatre group, and this past spring she was Maxinne in *Way Out West* with Ross Valley players. Fun fact: she is something of a clothes horse.

Jamie Anne Danila was born and raised in the Philippines, and moved here to continue exploring and learn experimental art. She has a bachelor's degree in animation from De La Salle University. Currently falling in love with detailed graphic design and lomography while trying not to be a big spender when it comes to 35mm films.