

Join us for our *Winter 2018 Staged Reading Series*

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley

WINTER 2018 STAGED READING SERIES

1/22 JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN BY IBSEN

1/15 A PROTEGEE OF THE MISTRESS BY OSTROVSKY

Produced in collaboration with *TheatreFirst's T1 Presents Performance Series*. Four important but rarely-seen works by Henrik Ibsen and his contemporary, the great Russian playwright Alexander Ostrovsky. All readings are **Pay-What-You-Will**

The Lady From the Sea, by Henrik Ibsen

Live Oak Theatre, Monday January 8th, 8 p.m.

Directed by Susannah Wood

A Protegee of the Mistress, by Alexander Ostrovsky

Live Oak Theatre, Monday, January 15th, 8 p.m.

Directed by Jeff Trescott

John Gabriel Borkman, by Henrik Ibsen

Old Finnish Hall, Monday, January 22nd, 8 p.m.

Directed by Aaron Murphy

Rosmersholm, by Henrik Ibsen

Old Finnish Hall, Monday, January 29th, 8 p.m.

Directed by Crystal Brown

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



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1110 University Ave
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ACTORS ENSEMBLE
OF
AE
BERKELEY

A PLAY BY **HENRIK IBSEN**
ADAPTED BY
ARTHUR MILLER

AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE

DIRECTED BY **MICHAEL R. COHEN**

FRI & SAT 8:00 PM
JANUARY 5-27, 2018

SUNDAYS 2:00 PM
JANUARY 14 & 21

LIVE OAK THEATER
1301 SHATTUCK AVE.
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

What is the truth? Is the truth absolute? According to Ibsen, "Truths are by no means the wiry Methuselahs some people think them. A normally constituted truth lives—let us say—as a rule, seventeen or eighteen years; at the outside twenty; very seldom more. And truths so patriarchal as that are always shockingly emaciated." How do we know when we hear it or see it or read it? What do we do if the truth is inconvenient? What do we do if the truth conflicts with our preconceptions? Are we ever justified in withholding or suppressing the truth even if it is for the common good? What happens when the truth hurts others? What happens when the truth hurts our community or our loved ones or us?

At the core of this play among several other important themes, ***An Enemy of the People*** illustrates the costs of the truth and in Ibsen's play, as adapted by Arthur Miller, the truth is costly and complicated. Of course Dr. Stockmann's assertion that the water is poisoned is true. The university lab verifies it. But, Mayor Peter Stockmann's predictions of economic disaster are also true. If the news of the contamination of the springs spreads, will the faith of potential visitors ever be restored? Even Hovstad's pragmatic concerns regarding the financial health of the People's Daily Messenger are truthful. Nobody in this play lies. They speak the truth as they perceive it at the moment they say it.

This play is not about the truth vs. lies or even good vs. evil. It is about the consequences of the truth when that truth is unpopular or inconvenient or even harmful. We have the right to speak the truth, but is it always right or wise to do so? Dr. Stockmann proclaims that, "Rights are sacred until it hurts for somebody to use them." How far must we go to proclaim, reveal, and defend the truth?

I hope you find this 135-year-old play as thought provoking, relevant, moving, and current as I do.

Michael R. Cohen, Berkeley, Ca, January 2018

A Note about sound: Much of the music heard during the show is derived from various piano works of the Norwegian composer Geirr Tveitt

Drama (for whom she recently played Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*), and Theater of Others. This is her 4th show with **AEB**, last summer she played Humphrey in *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*.

Ayumi Namba (Stage Manager) was born in Japan and raised in Berkeley, and is now a junior in high school. This is her second show with **AEB** after last summer's *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*. She has been voted most likely to succeed by a secret society called The Illuminati. Oops, that was a secret!

Madison Jane Schlader (Greta) is in the 8th grade attending ACLC in Alameda. She has been in shows at Woodminster Ampitheater (*Les Miserables*, *Mary Poppins*, *Shrek*, and *Beauty and The Beast*) and Tri Valley Repertory Theater (*Wizard of Oz*).

Randy Solomon (Ensemble) has done both adult and children's shows through the years including *Christmas Carol*, *Child's Play*, He also was in *Chicken* at Ross Valley Players. This is his first Ibsen play.

Julie Ann Valdez (Ensemble) was adopted into a family of troll-minders in Norway. Desiring to escape dreary, icy Lapland, she eloped with a nutritionist studying the health effects of reindeer yogurt, and made her way to sunny California, where she hopes to open a foodtruck specializing in Lutefisk Tacos.

Lisa Wang (Aslaksen) is happy to be returning to her theatre home away from home. Favorite roles with **AEB** over the years have included Beaumarchais' *The Marriage of Figaro*, Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, and Sarah Ruhl's *Passion Play*. Lisa can be seen next in *The Secret in The Wings* at Contra Costa Civic Theatre. Lisa is a member of *The Five Deadly Improvisers*, and has performed in improv festivals across the country. More at fivedeadly.com.

Matthew Weinberg (Ensemble) is appearing in his second production with AEB (this time indoors!), having previously appeared in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* last summer in John Hinkel Park. He tends to describe himself as an "aspiring novelist/screenwriter/playwright/film critic/music critic/philosopher/pop culture guru," but at this point he should probably add "actor" to that list.

David Weiner (Ensemble) was last on stage at Live Oak Theatre in **AEB's** *Panhandle*. Some of his favorite roles are: Paul in Masquers' *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*, Lt. Brannigan in ACLO's *Guys & Dolls*, and the Old Jew in Role Players Ensemble's *Incident at Vichy*. Twice a year he can be seen tap dancing with Dance 10 Performing Arts Center – He's the tapper in back, trying to figure out what's supposed to be the next step.

Ian Wilcox (Hovstad) most recently appeared in *Backstage Stories* with 16th Street Players and *The Merchant of Venice* and *The Roaring Girl* with Theater of Others. He is thrilled to play Hovstad, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Rachael L. Olliff Yang (Petra) is a PhD candidate at UC Berkeley, researching flowering time shifts with climate change. She is new to **AEB**, and is excited to be a part of such a timely production. She has been acting, performing, and studying theatre her entire life, and was most recently a member of Pan Theatre Improv in Oakland. Rachael would like to thank her family, especially her husband Alex, for all the love and support despite some crazy schedules. I love you!

Charlotte Curtin (Morten) is excited to make her debut with **AEB**. Previous MainStage productions include: *Annie*, *Billy Elliott*, *Beauty & the Beast*, *Mary Poppins*, and *A Little Princess* with Berkeley Playhouse, *Sound of Music* with Contra Costa Civic Theater, *Nutcracker* with Alameda Civic Ballet, and *Beauty & the Beast* with Woodminster Summer Musicals. Following *Enemy of the People*, Charlotte can be seen in *Ragtime* at Berkeley Playhouse.

Ron Dritz (Morten Kill) is delighted to be joining this stellar cast of *An Enemy of the People* at the **AEB**. Favorite roles include Hirst in *No Man's Land* (Piedmont Center for the Arts), Dr. Gerald Lyman in *Bus Stop* (Ross Valley Players), Richard in *The Lovers* (Pop-Up Theatre) and Sandy Sonnenberg in *The Paris Letter* (New Conservatory Theatre Center). Prior to his stage career, Ron spent 30 years as a practicing anesthesiologist in San Francisco and Berkeley. Ah, but that's another story...

Glenn Havlan (Peter Stockmann) last performed with **AEB** at the Live Oak over twenty years ago, when he played Don Pedro in *The Rover*. Glenn has appeared in seven seasons with the Marin Shakespeare Company, most notably as Jaques in *As You Like It*. Glenn was the Producing Director of the San Francisco Free Civic Theater from 2000-2010, presenting 37 shows during that time, including *Enemy*. In 2014 he started the Theater of Others, producing Elizabethan and Jacobean plays at the Cullen Auditorium in San Francisco, all performances pay-what-you-will. He will be directing their next production, Shakespeare's *All's Well That Ends Well* (3/23 – 4/8). See to-sf.org for more

Paulette Herring (Ensemble) is happy to be doing her second show for **AEB** in the past year, she was last seen in their summer 2017 production of *The Chalk Circle* as Azdak. Some of her favorite roles at **AEB** have been Bernice in *Member of the Wedding* and Alison Dubois in *Lady in the Dark*.

Bruce Kaplan (Dr. Thomas Stockmann) is honored to be playing such a fabulous role in this important and relevant piece, especially with **AEB**, where he began his acting career in 2000. His previous favorite role with **AEB** was Malvolio in *Twelfth Night* at John Hinkel Park in 2016. Other favorite roles around the East Bay have included Robert in *Proof*, Candy in *Of Mice and Men*, and the Wizard in *The Wizard of Oz*. Bruce is an environmental planner by day, but prefers the nights. Thanks for supporting community theatre! **#Resist**

Clementine Leonard (Morten) has been acting since she was five. She attends Oakland School for the Arts in the vocal music program. Apart from acting, she loves to sing and dance. Clementine has been in many mainstage and kidstage shows at Berkeley Playhouse. She thanks her family and friends for their wonderful support.

Simon Levchenko (Ensemble) was born in Santa Clara and raised in nearby San Jose. After travelling in his youth, he returned to the Bay Area where he attends Leland High School. With the encouragement of drama teacher Melissa Webb, he auditioned for Actors Ensemble and subsequently joined the cast of *An Enemy of The People*.

Polina Litvak (Light Board Operator) graduated from UC Berkeley in 2016, and since then has worked with multiple theatre companies in the Bay Area, including RE:ACT, Dragon Productions, Marin Summer Theater, Ninjaz of

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

- Staged Readings
- Audition Notices
- Two-for-One Nights and Other Discounts – and More!

Board of Directors

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

Act I is approximately 1 hour long:

15 minute intermission

Act II is approximately 45 minutes long

Performances @ 8 p.m. Fri/Sat 1/5-1/27 2018 plus Sunday 1/4 and 1/21 at 2 p.m.

Actors Ensemble would like to thank the Civic Arts Commission of the City of Berkeley for the grant of \$8000 in 2017 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.

An Enemy of the People
by Henrik Ibsen
Adapted by Arthur Miller
Cast in Order of Appearance

Morten Kiil.....Ron Dritz
 Billing.....Nate Bogner
 Catherine Stockmann.....Ann Barnett
 Peter Stockmann.....Glenn Havlan
 Hovstad.....Ian Wilcox
 Dr. Stockmann.....Bruce Kaplan
 Morten (January 6, 13, 19, 26 & 27).....Charlotte Curtin
 Morten (January 5, 12, 14, 20 & 21).....Clementine Leonard
 Greta.....Madison Schlader
 Captain Horster.....Michael Callan
 Petra.....Rachael Olliff Yang
 Aslaksen.....;.....Lisa Wang
 Ensemble/Drunk.....Paulette Herring
 Ensemble.....Elijah Benjamin Tiger Lajmer
Simon Levchenko, Randy Solomon
Julie Ann Valdez, David Weiner & Matthew Weinberg

Staff

Director.....Michael R. Cohen
 Stage Manager.....Ayumi Namba
 Costume Designer.....Paula Aiello
 Set Design.....Elena Childs
 Lighting Design.....Nathan Bogner
 Props.....Elena Childs, Mercedes Cohen & Jerome Solberg
 Sound Design.....Jerome Solberg
 Producer & Publicity.....Jerome Solberg
 Technical Direction & Set Construction.....Bob Gudmundsson
 Light Board Operator.....Polina Litvak
 Lobby Coordinator.....Vicki Siegel
 Graphic Design.....Vicki Victoria
 Photography.....Alexander C. Yang & Anna Kaminska

Produced by arrangement with Dramatists Play Service
 SPECIAL THANKS TO: Jo Lusk and Masquers Playhouse, Daisy Neske-
 Dickerson and Douglas Morrison Theatre, Joel Schlader and Woodminster
 Summer Musicals, Crystal Barnes, Joanne Sterricker of The Sanctuary, Bart
 Selden and Mercedes Baca of the Old Finnish Hall, The Live Oak Recreation
 Center, and Jon Tracy, Kristoffer Barrerra, and the rest of TheatreFirst.

Cast and Crew Biographies

In Alphabetical Order

Paula Dodd Aiello (Costumer), who's proudly costumed for **AEB** many times, jumped at the chance to participate in this production of *Enemy*. As a lifelong literary scholar (cal.berkeley.edu/pda), artist (www.sewbecoming.com), and activist (see Facebook!), she finds that this project integrates all her callings. Now, like in Ibsen's time, when science uncovers facts that challenge the boundaries of our understanding and beliefs, threatening plans we have made, we are tempted to cling fearfully to doubt and shout down the voice that affirms reality. May this play will embolden that voice of truth.

Ann Barnett (Catherine Stockmann) is making her debut in a speaking role with *An Enemy of the People*. After a long career teaching middle school and high school English, she began studying acting through Berkeley Repertory's School of Theatre. Her first audition landed her a small role in this play, which turned into an opportunity to take on the role of Catherine. She is delighted to be performing with such a remarkably talented group of actors, all of whom helped guide her through the thrilling process of stage performance. A special thanks to Director Michael Cohen.

Nate Bogner (Billing, Lighting Designer) studied Technical Theater at Diablo Valley College and then Acting and Playwriting at Berkeley Repertory School of Theater. Some of his favorite roles as an actor include Dr. Hermann Einstein (*Arsenic and Old Lace*, Jewish Community Center, Walnut Creek), Pfc Loudon Downey (*A Few Good Men*, Diablo Actors Ensemble) and Ned Weeks (*The Normal Heart*, Pittsburg Community Theater) for which he was nominated for a Shellie award for Best Actor. As a lighting designer his favorite, and most recent, design is from *Tender Napalm* (Anton's Well), although other shows he enjoyed designing for include *Picasso at the Lapin Agile AEB*, *Driving Miss Daisy* (DAE/MTC), and *The Gin Game* (Diablo Actors Ensemble) which also garnered him a Shellie nomination for Best Lighting.

This is **Michael Callan's** (Captain Horster) second show at **AEB**, after *Falstaff!* in 2015. Past shows include *The Three Musketeers* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Mike is really glad to be back.

Elena Childs (Set Design) Elena Childs received an MFA in Scene Design from SFSU in 2010, but has been in a self-imposed exile from theatre for more than a handful of years. Because of an (un?)fortunate event and a gain of a tremendously long "vacation" during the summer, she returned to the welcoming arms of theatre, choosing **AEB** for her debut. She designed the set for last summers *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* and was assistant set designer for *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, both in John Hinkel Park amphitheater.

Michael R. Cohen (Director) has directed *Twelfth Night*, *Panhandle*, *The Talking Cure*, and *Fortinbras* for **AEB** and is board president. He also co-chairs the Ross Alternative Works (RAW) committee and is a board member at large for the Ross Valley Players. For 25 years he served as Director of Performing Arts at Rosemead High School - a public high school east of Los Angeles. An AEA member, 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.