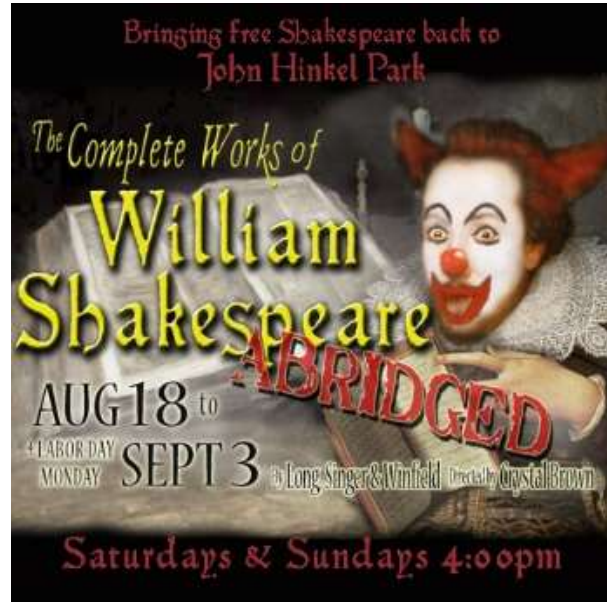


Join us for our 3rd production in 2018, also at John Hinkel Park



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Michael R Cohen
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Actors Ensemble of Berkeley &
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An Afternoon With Julia

An Adaptation of
ARCHES, BALANCE AND LIGHT
by Mary Spletter

September 29 & 30 at 2:00PM
Admission is Free and Open to the Public

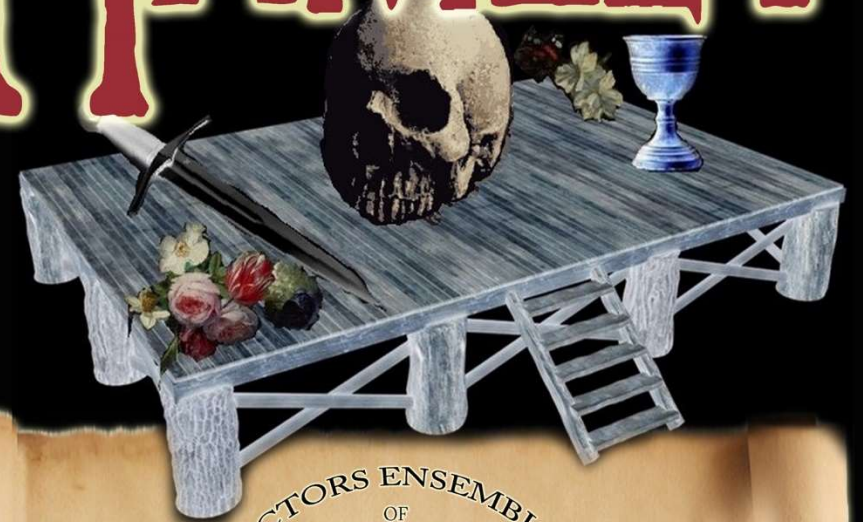


5000 Piedmont Ave,
Oakland, CA 94611

Produced by special arrangement with
Art Age Productions

HAMLET

By William Shakespeare Adapted & Directed by Stanley Spenger



ACTORS ENSEMBLE
OF



BERKELEY

SAT & SUN 4:00pm

FRI & SAT 8:00pm

JULY 4-22

JULY 27-28

John Hinkel Park
Berkeley

The Shops at Hilltop
Richmond

WWW.AEofBERKELEY.org

Partially supported by a grant from Berkeley Civic Arts

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This play has always fascinated me, from the time I first encountered it in middle school, in an educational series called *Hamlet: The Poisoned Kingdom*, with actors from the Stratford Festival in Canada (including my future teacher at A.C.T., Peter Donat, as Hamlet), all the way to my fourth production of it, a site-specific one, performed at the Berkeley Art Center in 2004. That early educational series explained how the play is a ghost story at first, then a detective story, and finally a revenge story. I sometimes think of these movements as *Poison, Play, and Duel*- the title of a book that explores this pattern throughout the play.

In 1979 I was doing my directing finals in college, and I proposed doing a production of *Hamlet*, in the outdoor amphitheater, with no actor as Hamlet, and everyone in the show sharing the role. My faculty advisor thought it was too ambitious of a project, and talked me out of doing it. Later that semester of course, in a switch, he did his own production of *Hamlet*- in the amphitheater- but without using my concept.

Still- . . . I vowed revenge. (I'll admit, It has taken me a little more time to achieve than I thought it would.) This has always been a political play as well. The polish critic Jan Kott recounted in his book, *Shakespeare Our Contemporary*, how, in a production he brought to Kraków, in Poland, shortly after the Soviet Communist Party's twentieth Congress in 1957, when the actor playing Hamlet said, "Denmark's a prison", at first, there were a few isolated outbursts of scattered applause, then- all at once, the entire house stood up, and gave the line an ovation that lasted for more than five minutes.

Stanley Spenger, Berkeley, June 2018

preparing for roles in the fall. He'd like to thank Stanley, Jerome, and the rest of the crew for this opportunity to put on Shakespeare in a very interesting setting.

Stanley Spenger (Director) was Actors Ensemble board president from 2005-2011. He founded Subterranean Shakespeare in 1988, and in 1994 joined Shotgun Players, acting and directing in both companies. He studied with Julian Lopez-Morillas and Tony Taccone at Berkeley Shakes, Peter Donat at A.C.T., John Russell Brown and Simon Ward with The Royal National Theatre (at UC Berkeley), and Jonathan Moscone at the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre. Around the Bay, he has performed for Berkeley Shakes, Shakespeare at Stinson, Actors Ensemble, North Bay Shakes, Impact Theatre, Curtain Theatre and Masquers Playhouse.

Ian Wilcox (Horatio/Hamlet) is a Bay Area native, who attended AMDA-New York. He has previously appeared in *Enemy of the People* with Actors Ensemble, *Merchant of Venice* with Theater of Others, and *The Tempest* with Inferno Theater. He is very excited to spend his summer in John Hinkel Park, and thanks you for coming!
www.iwilcox.com

Evan Winet (Claudius/Ghost) bore his fardels afar before he and his wife Anne returned to California in 2009. Evan is now a trust litigator and occasional UC Berkeley professor. He was last seen as Pandarus in the 2010 Stanford/NY Public Theater production of *Troilus & Cressida*. In 2007, he portrayed a colonial administrator, speaking in Indonesian and Dutch, in *Abang Thamrin, Anak Betawi* at the Jakarta Arts Center. He has two sons, Dominic and Horatio.

Vicki Siegel (Props) has been a board member of Actors Ensemble for many years. **AE** has produced two of her original musicals – *A Hot Day in Ephesus* based on *The Comedy of Errors* and *What Do Women Want: The Marriage of Sir Gawain*. She adapted last year's **AE** production of *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*. Acting credits include Mrs. Candour in *School for Scandal* (15th St. Playhouse), Lady in *Superior Donuts* (Custom Made) and Kate in *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (Masquers). Congrats to this wonderful cast and crew!

Helen Slomowitz (Costume Design) is happy to return to Actors Ensemble for another show filled with wonderful people! She has worked with **AE** numerous times throughout the past 15 years as well as other Bay Area theatres and in many a film & TV. Alas, Helen is very thankful to the cast & crew & Stan for all their patience, support & brilliant ideas.

Vicki Victoria (Graphic Design) creates graphics, photography and scene painting for various Bay Area theatres. Vicki was last seen in **AE's** *The Protege Of The Mistress* and *The Chalk Circle*. In Sept/Oct she returns to musicals to find her grail in PCT'S *Spamalot*.

crew for all their hard work, but especially our fight choreographer Meryn for making sure no eyes were poked out. He'd also like to thank our director Stanley for giving him the opportunity to die in excruciating pain every night, it's been fun.

Constance Jiang (ASM/Sound Op) is a software engineer who has been looking to jump back into theater after moving to the Bay, so she is thankful for this opportunity with **AE**. In the past, she stage managed various musicals and plays in high school, including *Taming of the Shrew*, and then worked in TV production in New York on series including *Elementary* and *The Following*.

Jasper Leach (Sound Design) is a musician and writer living in Berkeley, CA. He currently works with Bill Baird, Smiles, Tony Molina, and Burner Herzog & His Universal Forces.

Polina Litvak (Bernardo/Player Queen) is excited to be back for her third summer at **AE**. She has worked onstage and backstage at various companies throughout the Bay Area, including RE:ACT, Dragon Productions, Theater of Others, Ninjaz of Drama, and Theater Rhinoceros. Her past favorite roles include Tearcat in *The Roaring Girl*, Humphrey in *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*, and Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Sam Logan (Laertes) is excited to be working with Stan Spenger again. Previously played Edgar to Stan's King Lear with B8 theatre Company. Sam has previously played Claudius, Bernardo, and The Ghost in past *Hamlet* productions. Sam doesn't need an alarm clock because he has a puppy.

Meryn MacDougall (AD/fight choreographer) is a Bay Area actress that, in addition to fight choreography, works in theatre, film, and voice over. Some of her favorite acting credits include: *King Of The Moon* and *The Fantastics* with Willows Theatre, *All Wrecked Up* and *Tomorrow's Sound* with Theatre of Yugen, *Twelfth Night* with TheaterCore, and *Pride and Prejudice* with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. "Thank you to the cast and crew of Hamlet. Thank you to my husband and puppy for all the support and love."

www.merynmacdougall.com

Kate McGrath (Ophelia/Hamlet) received her BA in Dramatic Art from UC Davis where she appeared in *Noises Off*, *Cymbeline*, *Urinetown* and others. Bay Area credits include *An Ideal Husband* (Marin Shakespeare), *Cats* (Broadway by the Bay), *On the Town*, *White Christmas* (Diablo Theatre Company), *Rabbit Hole* (Palo Alto Players), and *Compleat Female Stage Beauty* (City Lights). She has worked as a teaching artist for the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival and has understudied for Cal Shakes.

Daniel Meyer (Guildenstern [Hilltop]) is excited to be working with **AE**. He is a college student at Las Positas College, where he is

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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- Two-for-One Nights and Other Discounts – and More!

Board of Directors

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

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.

Act I is 70 minutes , 15 minute intermission, Act II is 45 minutes

2018 Summer Schedule:

John Hinkel Park, 4 pm July 4, 7,8,14,15,21,22

The Shops at Hilltop: 8 pm July 27 and 28

All show are free of charge

Hamlet
by William Shakespeare
Adapted by Stanley Spenger

Cast

In Order of Appearance

Polina Litvak.....Bernardo/(Hamlet)/(Ghost)/Reynaldo/
.....PlayerQueen/Gentleman/
.....Servant/Messenger/Second Clown
Sam Logan..... Francisco/Laertes/Hamlet
Evan Winet.....Claudius/(Hamlet)/Ghost
Ian Wilcox.....Horatio/Hamlet
Holly Bradford.....Marcellus/(Hamlet)/Player King/Osric
Jeff Trescott.....Polonius/(Ghost)/First Clown
Kate McGrath.....Hamlet/Ophelia
Maria Frangos.....Gertrude/(Hamlet)/(Ghost)
Ethan Fry.....Hamlet/Rosencrantz
Zara Chastain.....(Hamlet)/Guildenstern/(Ghost)/Sailor [Hinkel]
Daniel Meyer.....(Hamlet)/Guildenstern/(Ghost)/Sailor [Hilltop]

Staff

Director.....Stanley Spenger
Assistant Director/Fight Choreographer.....Meryn MacDougall
Stage Manager [Hinkel].....Emma Buechner
Assistant Stage Manager/Sound Op[Hilltop]...Constance Jiang
Costume Designer.....Helen Slomowitz
Costume Assistant.....Kacy Dapp
Set Design..... Elena Childs
Sound Design.....Jasper Leach
Props.....Jeff Trescott, Vicki Siegel, Jerome Solberg,
..... Elena Childs & Emma Buechner
Producer & Publicity.....Jerome Solberg
Co-Producer.....Michael R. Cohen
Technical Direction/Hot Dog Coordinator.....Bob Gudmundsson
Concessions Coordinator.....Michael R. Cohen
Graphic Design.....Vicki Victoria

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Denise Brown of the City of Berkeley, Leslie Lundin and The Shops at Hilltop, Pegasus Books, Daniel Tom and Hanson & Fitch, and Magali Sainfeld and Haulaway Storage.

Cast and Crew Biographies

In Alphabetical Order

Holly Bradford (Marcellus/Player King) is pleased to return to Actors Ensemble (**AE**)! Holly played Paulina in *The Winter's Tale* and Ella in *Curse of the Starving Class* with **AE**. Most recently, she played Gloucester in *King Lear* with B8 Theatre. Other roles include the lead in *Lysistrata*, Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet* (Woman's Will), nurse Susie Monohan in *Wit* (Town Hall Theater), Martha in *Strange Snow*, Mariana in *Measure for Measure*, and Holly was the understudy for Mrs. Ramsay in *To The Lighthouse* at Berkeley Rep. Holly loves acting outdoors, especially at the magical John Hinkel Park!

Emma Hahn Buechner (Stage Manager) is excited to return to John Hinkel Park after beginning her theater career here as Thisbe in second grade. More recently, she has stage managed and acted in several productions at Carleton College, from which she graduated in June. Her past favorite roles include Mariane in *Tartuffe* and Hermia in *Dead Man's Cell Phone*.

Zara Chastain (Guildenstern [Hinkel]) was last seen onstage at **AE** as Jane in *Pride and Prejudice* (where she met her future/now current husband, who played Mr. Bingley!) She also directed **AE's** *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* in 2015. Before her maternity break from acting, she was last seen as the roller-skating waitress Audrey in Roleplayer Ensemble's *Leading Ladies*. This is her first role since becoming a mother to twins in 2017.

Elena Childs (Set Design) received an MFA in Scene Design from SFSU in 2010, but had 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" last year, she returned to the welcoming arms of theatre. She designed the set for **AE's** *Enemy of the People* at Berkeley's Live Oak Theatre earlier this year, and both of last summer's outdoor productions in John Hinkel Park. She wishes to give many thanks and much love to her partner of 10 years, her Sweetness, for lots of patience and assistance.

Maria Frangos (Gertrude) is excited to be working with **AE**. She has performed in The Grapes of Wrath with Ubuntu Theater Project and in staged readings for the Playwright's Center of San Francisco. Maria has also worked as a dramaturg at La Jolla Playhouse and Santa Cruz Shakespeare, where she is currently dramaturg for *Venus in Fur*. She has taught Script Analysis at Berkeley Rep and teaches at UC Santa Cruz and DeAnza College.

Ethan Fry (Rosencrantz/Hamlet) is excited to make his debut with **AE**! He has studied at A.C.T. and is a current student at San Francisco State University. Some of his favorite past roles include Jim Jones (*The Other Side*/ SFSU Fringe) and Paul Bratter (*Barefoot in the Park*/ Brown Bag Theater). He'd like to thank the cast and