



**Vicki Victoria** (*Graphics*) is an actor and graphic designer. She recently appeared in **AE's** *She Kills Monsters* and *The Skin of Our Teeth* and Anton's Well's *Here We Go*. Musical theatre includes TVRT's *AVENUE Q*, MST'S *Les Miserables* and PCT's *Into The Woods* and *Spamalot*. Vicki is also an actor in commercial, independent and major studio film and television productions. Thanks for supporting local artists!



**Lisa Wang** (*Beline*) feels very grateful and excited to be part of this **AE** production, which is helping to explore and shape what theatre can look like in a pandemic world. Theatre and art are vital, especially in an apocalyptic world, so she is honored to be part of the effort to keep art in our lives. She has been involved in many past **AE** productions, including *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *An Enemy of the People*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, and *The*

*Marriage of Figaro*, to name a few. She has also performed with other companies, including Contra Costa Civic Theatre, Playwright's Center of San Francisco, and in the SF Olympians Festival! Lisa is also active in Improvised theatre, and has performed throughout the country and locally; she has performed with groups in the Bay Area including: BATS Improv, Un-Scripted, Secret Improv Society, Improv Marin, and Social Studies Improv. Lisa was also a founding member of the improv group, The Five Deadly Improvisers. Thank you for supporting theatre and artists!



**Kaitlin Weinstein** (*Stage Manager*) is in her final year of her bachelor's degree in both Theater & Performance Studies and English at UC Berkeley. On the Berkeley campus, she has been involved with five productions in the Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies, and she holds management positions in two student theater organizations. Outside of school, she has worked with theater companies such as Cal Shakes, ACT, Theatre Lunatico, and

**AE**. Kaitlin began her technical theater journey in costume design, which she continues to love doing in addition to stage management. *The Imaginary Invalid* has been a journey in exploring a new medium, and she is excited to share with you what the team has discovered along the way.

*The Imaginary Invalid* is dedicated to  
**Marge Glicksman (1932-2020)**  
Actors Ensemble co-founder (1957)



Actors Ensemble of Berkeley

Presents

Molière's farce adapted for the covid Age:

# The Imaginary Invalid



Adapted/ Directed by **Meryn MacDougall**

Coming to your computer screen

**Sunday, 7:00pm PST**  
**September 13, 2020**

[www.aeofherkeley.org](http://www.aeofherkeley.org)

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This Invalid journey started in December 2019, when I decided to revisit *The Imaginary Invalid* as a possible production for our 2020 summer season. I enjoy Molière's commedia dell'arte style of comedic satire. After rereading it I remembered why I enjoyed the play and also why I had never considered it for a production previously. The original (translated) script is a meandering 4 hour loquacious piece clunking along with pages upon pages of rambling monologues against medicine, ballet and music interludes, and many inconsequential one page characters.

Yet at its heart is a quick witted little physical comedy experience. With an election year just around the corner where health care for all would be a hot button issue, I saw the opportunity to tame Molière's Invalid into a quick comedy lightly nodding to the importance of universal access to healthcare. So off I went adapting, little did I know what lay ahead in 2020.

For obvious reasons we were unable to perform live in the John Hinkel Park amphitheater this summer (ahem... Covid). So the new hurdle became, how to perform comedy that is mostly physical on the zoom screen. What it took was a talented and committed cast coming together and figuring out creative ways to energize and work the camera. It has been a wonderful learning experience where the limitations of tech and budget lead to wonderful creativity and stretched our view of art.

I want to thank the wonderful cast and our wizard of a stage manager Kaitlin for always pushing through the frustrations and finding gold. I hope you, the audience, enjoy this piece of work and are able to fully grasp what you are a part of. Artists worldwide are, once again, innovating and adapting. Whenever the world stills on the edge of despair, art and storytelling find a way to be the breath that holds our hearts up. It connects across all demographics, unifying us and whispering hope.

*Meryn MacDougall*  
Berkeley/Richmond, CA



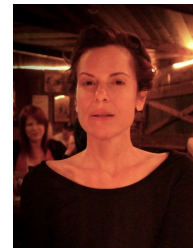
**Meryn MacDougall** (Director/Adapter) is thrilled to have the opportunity to create during the Covid Era, "It has been an honour to work with such talented artists as we navigate and explore what it means to perform a farce in the digital world." In addition to directing, Meryn is also an actor (theatre, film, and voice over), fight director, and writer. Meryn would like to thank Actors Ensemble of Berkeley for taking a leap of faith and producing a zoom performance. Special thanks to Kaitlin, Kate, Jerome and Michael. Thank you to her husband and dog Kingsley for all the love and support.



**Marco Neves** (Thomas) is a Bay Area native, who is thrilled to be making his debut at **AE**. This is his fourth professional production as a featured actor. Recently, he featured in the play, *Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue* at [Pear Theatre](#). His previous credits include: *This Street and the Next*, and *The Circuit*.



**Grace Nix** (Insurance, Understudy Argan and Dr. Diaforus) Hi all! I hope you're as safe as you can be this 2020! I'm new to the Bay Area theater scene, coming from Massachusetts and New Orleans. I have over 15 years of acting and comedy experience, a B.A. in Theater and Film Studies from Wesleyan University, including a summer learning at the National Theater Institute, have spent years performing improv comedy, and most recently acted and wrote in a devised theater company in New Orleans. I'm so excited to perform in my first Bay Area production with the **AE!** Tune in to this virtual version of ***The Imaginary Invalid*** and entertain your stir-crazy, corona-addled brains with some 17th-century French ridiculousness! Much love to all of you.



**Marcie Rich** (Argan) is very pleased to be working with Director Meryn MacDougall and the production team at **AE**. Marcie has performed in **AE's** staged readings of *Priscilla Dreams the Answer* and Will Eno's *Middletown*. Before ***The Imaginary Invalid***, Marcie performed in [Inferno Theatre Company's](#) production of *Metamorphoses* and in [Anton's Well Theater Company's](#) production of Caryl Churchill's *Here We Go*.





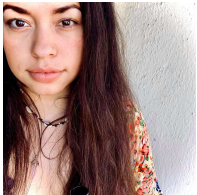
**Jai Jhala** (Beralde) is originally from India but now calls the Bay area his home. Jai is an Engineer by day and an Actor at night. This is his first production with **AE** and he is thrilled to be a part of this cast. This also happens to be his first English Play and he is ever so excited for that as well! Most recent roles include Lallan Prasad in *Rishtaa* (adaptation of Anton Chekhov's *The Proposal*) by Cloud Play House and Pradeep in

*Divided/By*, a production of Bay Area Drama Company. Apart from acting, Jai enjoys sports, music and reading history.



**Abe Karplus** (Mr. de Bonnefoi, Understudy: Cleante, Thomas, Beralde) is excited to be making his debut with **AE**. He has been acting since the age of four, and has performed with UC Santa Barbara's Shakespeare in the Park and as part of an acting conservatory with Shakespeare Santa Cruz. Currently, Abe is working as a software engineer at Astranis, designing

communications satellites.



**Rosemarie Kingfisher** (Angelique) has been acting in the Bay Area since she graduated from Sonoma State University in 2017. Since then she has acted with Theatre companies including the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Bay Area Children's Theatre, Ross Valley Players and Playground SF. She has gained further experience training with Shakespeare and

Company's Actor Training program in Lenox, MA and recently graduated from San Francisco Circus Center's 7-month Clown Conservatory, a professional circus training program. Most recently she has performed in two 'Zoom' style productions, a new play, *The Emeryville Horror* with Same Boat Theatre Co. and as Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet* with Lake County Theatre Co. Rose is very excited to continue exploring the world of Zoom theatre, this time through comedy with the cast of ***The Imaginary Invalid*** and **AE**.



**Regina Leon** (Cleante) A lover of theatre, folkloric dancing and amateur botany, Regina Leon found her truest self while acting. She is an actor and dancer based in San Francisco and graduated from San Francisco State with a BA in Drama in 2018. During her last year in school,

her interest in and love for devised work partnered her up with young companies such as Troupe Theatre and SoundPlay. With her peers, she helped devise classical plays, folktales, and short stories.

## 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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Berkeley, California 94701  
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[info@AEofBerkeley.Org](mailto:info@AEofBerkeley.Org)



Check out [www.aeofberkeley.org](http://www.aeofberkeley.org) and subscribe to our email list for

- Staged Readings
- Audition Notices
- 2-1 Nights and Other Discounts – and More!

### **Board of Directors**

Nathan Bogner, Crystal Brown, Michael R. Cohen, Robert Estes, Norah Foster, Jane Goodwin, Martha Luehrmann, Meryn MacDougall, Vicki Siegel, Jerome Solberg, Jeff Trescott, Ian Wilcox, Susannah Wood.

### **Actors Ensemble Thanks:**

Phillip Apps, Crystal Barnes, Paula Bauer, Michael Beer, Matt Binder, Vurnetha Bitoy, Robert Carlson, June Castle, Sally Chuah, Michael Clement, David Cole, Benay Dara-Abrams, Paul Draper, Connor Finnell, Avery Flasher-Duzgunes, Electra Flink, Lisa Glicksman, Jane Goodwin, Jen Halsing, Janice Hart, Joyce Huh, Laura Ingraham, Kevin Karplus, Conny Lederer, Laurie Levinson, David Lieberman, Andrew MacDougall, Paul Marcelin, Kathleen Mill, Franziska Raediker, Jerome Rainey, Nan Rich, Jean Schoenfeld, Damir Sudar,

Ed Stres, Nancy Tyler, Tom Vargo, Monique Vazire, Karen Voets, Stanley Voets, Jen Waihee-Polk Elizabeth Whalley, Cory Wiltshire, Heidi Wise, and Elizabeth Wright for their contributions to this production!

Ruth Giron Wong, Lisa Wang, and members of the board for their generous donations to **AE** throughout 2020.

***The Imaginary Invalid***  
**by Moliere**

**Adapted by Meryn MacDougall**

*Cast*

*Toinette*.....*Sionne Elise*  
*Argan*.....*Marcie Rich*  
*Beline*.....*Lisa Wang*  
*Angelique*.....*Rosemarie Kingfisher*  
*Cleante*.....*Regina Leon*  
*Dr. Diafoirus*.....*David Ghilardi*  
*Beralde*.....*Jai Jhala*  
*Thomas*.....*Marco Neves*  
*Insurance*.....*Grace Nix*  
*(understudy for Argan and Dr. Diafoirus)*  
*Billing*.....*Alice Highman*  
*(understudy for Toinette, Angelique, and Beline)*  
*Mr. de Bonnefoi*.....*Abe Karplus*  
*(understudy for Cleante, Thomas, and Beralde)*

*Crew*

*Director/Adapter*.....*Meryn MacDougall*  
*Stage Manager*.....*Kaitlin Weinstein*  
*Costume Design*.....*Kate Patrick*  
*Graphics*.....*Vicki Victoria*  
*Producer*.....*Jerome Solberg*

Check back with Actors Ensemble in early 2021 to see what the future holds...



**Cast and Crew Biographies**

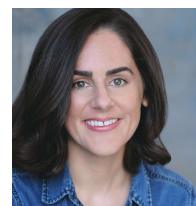


**Sionne Elise** (Toinette) made her stage debut with Actors Ensemble of Berkeley at age 13, in their production of *Curse of the Starving Class*. Now, she is a graduate of both Oakland School for the Arts and UCLA's School of Theater Film and Television. She loves theater as well as film, having worked closely with the likes of Francis Ford Coppola (*Distant Vision*) and Spike Jonze (*The New Normal*). In non-COVID times, Sionne would have been in Scotland for the summer performing in the Edinburgh Fringe Theater

Festival. Luckily, when one door closes another one opens! Now, she couldn't be more excited to be part of the amazing cast in *The Imaginary Invalid*. She feels lucky to still have the opportunity to perform, and is so proud of everyone coming together to make this virtual show possible. Break a virtual leg! [sionneelise.com](http://sionneelise.com)



**David Ghilardi** (Dr. Diafoirus) is the author of the *Dark Chicago* series. *The One You Feed*, (7th book) will be out this November, 2020. You can see his Film/TV credits on IMDB and at [Davidghilardi.com](http://Davidghilardi.com). Love to Jazmin. (Show 174)



**Alice Highman** (Billing, Understudy: Toinette, Angelique, Beline) is thrilled to be part of the cast of ***The Imaginary Invalid!*** Some of her recent acting credits include *Puppet Show* (Shelton Theater), *The Misanthrope* (Troupe Theatre), *Pear Slices* (Pear Theatre), and *Orange Julius* (SF Olympians Festival). Alice is passionate about storytelling across mediums and is a firm believer in the power of art to move the needle and challenge the status quo. She is a founding artist of the ORO Arts Lab for Theater, Film, and Performance, and is a graduate of USC and Harvard Law School. [www.alicehighman.com](http://www.alicehighman.com)