


Actors Ensemble of Berkeley presents

SHE KILLS MONSTERS

By Qui Nguyen Directed by Kayla Minton Kaufman



ACTORS ENSEMBLE
OF

BERKELEY

JANUARY 10th
to FEBRUARY 1st

2020

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This play, full of badass adventure, comedy, and heart, is an ode to everyone who has ever battled a dragon. This is an ode to your strength, your perseverance, your cunning and cleverness, and your brave heart. I can't imagine what your dragon may have looked like, but I am sure they have been fearsome and manifold. Mine certainly have been of all shapes and sizes throughout my life—whether fighting through my own stages of grief, like Agnes, or coming to terms with my own queerness, like Tilly, it's hard to predict what that battlefield will look like and in what form healing may finally descend.

But this is really an ode to realizing that if you look around this theater, you will realize it is filled with fellow warriors. Not everyone has vanquished their dragon—in fact, I'd wager a guess that more are currently at battle than not. We are all doing our best to be the hero of our own stories, to find our own redeeming ending. Our complete inability to know what everyone around us is going through at all times is just a reminder that holding kindness and grace for as many people as possible is one of the most powerful things we can do. And telling those close to us that we love them is crucial. The magic we get to encounter every day is in the places we find or create refuge, the adventures where we can truly become a warrior, the moments we feel really seen as who we are, the unexpected ways we connect with others, and the fantastical powers of our imaginations that can show us a better, kinder future.

Kayla Minton Kaufman, January 2020

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

Board of Directors

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

AEB Thanks:

Ruth Giron Wong, Barbara Rabben, and members of the board for their generous donations. Paula Aiello for help with costumes. Gideon and Theatre Lunatico. Sean Owens for help with props. Chris Miller, Margaret Hee and Convent and Stuart Hall. Kent Leech and Berkeley Stereo. Paper Plus, Berkeley. Clyde and San Pablo Flea Market. Benjamin Grubb for initiating this with our staged reading of SKM in 2019. Erik Berkowitz and Redwood High School. Danielle Ferguson.

Produced by arrangement with Samuel French.

She Kills Monsters *by Qui Nguyen*

Cast In Alphabetical Order

<i>Amanda Bailey</i>	<i>Steve</i>
<i>Dylan Barrows</i>	<i>Chuck</i>
<i>Gertrudis “Tru” Colon</i>	<i>Narrator/Farah/Evil Gabbi</i>
<i>Joyce Domanico-Huh</i>	<i>Agnes Evans</i>
<i>Patrick Glenn</i>	<i>Orcus</i>
<i>Kirstin Louie</i>	<i>Kaliope</i>
<i>Peter Malmquist</i>	<i>Miles</i>
<i>Raquel Orendáin Shrestha</i>	<i>Lilith</i>
<i>Vicki Victoria</i>	<i>Vera/Evil Tina</i>
<i>Jaqueline Wolfe</i>	<i>Tilly Evans</i>

Crew

<i>Director</i>	<i>Kayla Minton Kaufman</i>
<i>Stage Manager</i>	<i>Kaitlin Weinstein</i>
<i>Costume Design</i>	<i>Lyre Alston</i>
<i>Props and Projections</i>	<i>Nathaniel J. Bice</i>
<i>Lighting Design</i>	<i>Kathryn Gubler</i>
<i>Sound Design</i>	<i>Hayden Kirschbaum</i>
<i>Fight Choreography</i>	<i>Josephine Czarnecki</i>
<i>Dance Choreography</i>	<i>Emily Simso</i>
<i>Producer & Many Other Things</i>	<i>Jerome Solberg</i>
<i>Graphic Design & Photography</i>	<i>Vicki Victoria</i>
<i>Assistant Stage Management</i>	<i>Simon Bhuller-Riordan</i>
<i>Assistant Fight Choreography</i>	<i>Darwin Garrett</i>
<i>Dress Rehearsal Photography</i>	<i>Jane Shamaeva</i>
<i>Lobby/House Management Coordination</i>	<i>Vicki Siegel</i>
<i>Box Office</i>	<i>Jeffrey Trescott</i>

Performance Schedule:

Fridays and Saturdays, Jan. 10th – Feb. 1st, 2020 at 8 pm

Sunday Matinees January 19th & 26th, 2019 at 2 pm

Performance is approximately 90 minutes, no intermission

Check out AEB’s Summer 2020 in John Hinkel Park

- ***Fortinbras***, by Lee Blessing, directed by Michael R. Cohen. Opens July 3rd, 2020.
- ***TBA*** opening August 19th, 2020

Cast and Crew Biographies

Lyre Alston (*Costumes*) is a costume designer residing in and working throughout the Bay Area. Recently having completed both two degrees and a fellowship in performance and design, and with a background in cosplay and video games, Lyre felt all too ready for the opportunity to design this incredible show. Past designs include *Cymbeline*, *She Loves Me*, and even some fun independent D&D original characters for friends and family alike. He'd like to thank his incredible team of fellow artists for making this show such an incredible experience!

Amanda Bailey (*Steve*) is a drama student at Chabot College, and a long-time performer with Happily Ever Laughter Parties. She is so excited to get to be a part of **AEB's** production of **She Kills Monsters**, as it's one of her favorite off-Broadway shows, celebrating the so-called 'weird' and different. This year she's performed as a cheerleader #1 in Theatre Cultura's *iCheer!*, as Daniel in Plethos Productions summer show *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*, and assistant-directed Plethos' fall production of *Next to Normal*. She wants to thank her Mom Cindy and her best friend Blue for all their support!

Dylan Barrows (*Chuck*) Stay awhile and listen. Can you believe they made a play about being a nerd! As someone who has been a giant nerd all my life this is great news! I am 28 years old and definitely passed my prime. My parents always used to tell me I was going to be an actor when I grew up but little did they know I never really grew up. I get to play make believe for a living. Which is exciting, to say the least. So kids, if you're reading this, listen to your parents, they probably know what you want.

Nathaniel J. Bice (*Props/Projections*) is a scenic and costume designer based in Oakland. They are currently an assistant to scenic designer Nina Ball, on shows such as *Vinegar Tom and Bull in a China Shop*. They recently completed the costume fellowship at American Conservatory Theater, and they graduated from Cornish College of the Arts with a BFA in Performance Production in 2018. Recent projects include the 2019 *Moby Dick Marathon* at the SF Maritime Museum, and *The Revolutionists*, directed by Kayla Kaufman in the A.C.T. Costume Shop Theater. See their work in Poltergeist Theater's upcoming project *Gaslit*, and Kristin Damrow & Company's *Acclimate*. njbice.com

Simon Bhuller-Riordan (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is excited to Assistant stage manage *She Kills Monsters* with an incredible cast and crew! His past credits have included Stage Managing for Bay Area Zeta Player's production of *Starmites*, Assistant Directing for the *New Works Festival* at Oakland School for the Arts, and Directing for the 24 hour play festival at Oakland School for the Arts. He wants you to be prepared for a crazy show of mythical monsters and adventure.

The name's **Gertrudis Colon** (*Narrator/Farah/Succubus*) but everyone calls me **Tru**. I'm a proud Latina cuentista who was originally based in Boston but decided to expand to the West Coast about 3 years ago. I just wanted the opportunity to use my voice to lift the hearts of others and bring them along my journey of story-telling. And here I am doing just that. Are you vibing with me yet?

Josephine Czarnecki (*Fight Choreography*) has been doing fight directing and teaching for ten years, with much of her training in London through the BADC and BASSC, and has been a stage combat intern at both Santa Cruz Shakespeare and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. She is also currently an MFA student at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama working on her masters thesis in the form of a immersive steampunk event called the *Auriferra Republic*, as she enjoys overly ambitious projects. She oft works under her company name of GayInnocentHeartless Theatrics:
www.GayInnocentHeartless.com

Joyce Domanico-Huh (*Agnes*) is a Korean theatre artist, born and raised in the Bay Area. She's thrilled to perform again with **AEB**, where she last participated in the Fall Staged Reading Series (as Calonice in *Lysistrata*). She's performed with companies such as Killing My Lobster, Theatre Rhinoceros, Shotgun Players, and Magic Theatre, among others. She is a proud member of the Oakland-based ORO Arts Lab, a 2019 KML Comedy Fellow, and trains regularly with Barrow Group classes. She thanks Kayla, Actors Ensemble, and this dynamic cast for the tremendous opportunity to play Agnes. ILYSM fam, buds, Ben n Hawk.

Name: **Patrick Glenn** (*Orcus*). Class: Bartender/Actor. Alignment: Mischievous. Race: You can't ask that. Strength: 10. Wisdom: 4. Charisma: Electric. Speed: Declining. **AEB** Roles: Many. ABV: 7.2%.

Kathryn Gubler (*Lighting Design*) is very excited to be working with **Actors Ensemble** for the first time. She is in her last semester at Saint Mary's College of CA. Her most recent design was *This is Modern Art* directed by Amissa Miller. Katie would like to thank her family, friends and mentors for all of their support. She would like to say get lost in the fantasy and enjoy the show!

Bay Area theater artist **Kayla Minton Kaufman** (*Director*) keeps her fingers in many pies as a director, producer, dramaturg, playwright, actor, and beyond. She has recently directed *How to be a Failure in San Francisco* for Cutting Ball's *Variety Pack Short Cuts*, *The Revolutionists* as part of her A.C.T. fellowship, *Men I'm Not Married To* for Santa Cruz Shakespeare and *Crumble (Lay Me Down, Justin Timberlake)* for the Women's Theatre Festival in Raleigh, N.C. She is grateful for her work with A.C.T., Portland Stage Company, Burning Coal Theater Company, PianoFight, and **AEB**. She is deeply grateful to this powerfully kind and nerdy group of artists for this wonderful

adventure. She thanks her friends and family for their continued love and support from quest to quest. <https://www.kaylamkaufman.com>

Hayden Kirschbaum (*Sound Design*) is a UC Berkeley student studying Engineering and Theater. He is excited to be making his sound design debut with **AEB**. He began working on theater as a clarinetist in the pit orchestras for school productions of *Into the Woods*, *Cabaret*, *Curtains*, and *Pippin*. He has also recently acted in *As You Like It* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with UC Berkeley's BareStage Productions. Up next, Hayden will be Assistant Lighting Designing *The Arsonists* with UC Berkeley's Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies.

Kirstin Louie (*Kaliopé*) is an East Bay native and is so excited to be in her first full production with **AEB**. She was last seen playing the role of Athenian Chorus Leader 2 in *Lysistrata*, as part of **AEB's** staged reading series. Recent projects include playing Courtney in Ray of Light Theatre's production of *American Psycho* and understudying the role of Hana in Berkeley Rep's *The Great Wave*. She thanks her mom and dad for their support and always encouraging her to use her imagination!

Peter Malmquist (*Miles*) is from Mill Valley, CA. He received a B.A. in Acting from Penn State University. Recent theatre credits include: Valere in *The Miser* by Moliere (Conservatory Theatre Ensemble), Dennis in *Loot* by Joe Orton (Novato Theater Company), Jimmy in *The Speakeasy* (Boxcar Theatre Company), and Buddy in *The Diviners* by Jim Leonard Jr. (Blackbox Theatre Company).

Raquel Orendáin Shrestha (*Lilith*) is an actor, filmmaker, videographer and editor. She is a graduate of A.C.T.'s Summer Training Congress and holds a B.A. from Stanford University, where she worked on 25 theatre productions in various roles. Previous Bay Area work includes Mari in *Memoria del Silencio* at MCCLA. She recently returned to the bay and is thrilled to be part of this exciting production, and thanks her family and friends for their support.

Emily Simso (*Dance Choreography*) was delighted by the opportunity to create cheerleading inspired 90s hip-hop for a D&D party. Originally from Minnesota, Emily is new to San Francisco and loves that SKM was her introduction to choreography in the Bay. For her day job, Emily works in environmental finance and sustainability.

Vicki Victoria (*Vera/Evil Tina*) Vicki Victoria recently appeared in Anton's Well's *Here We Go* and **AEB's** *The Skin Of Our Teeth*. 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 being here tonight and supporting local artists!

Kaitlin Weinstein (*Stage Manager*) is an undergraduate student pursuing a double major in Theater & Performance Studies and English at UC Berkeley. She is excited to be returning to La Val's Subterranean Theatre after stage managing *Walls: A New Musical* with a student group from UC Berkeley and *Inhale-Exhale* for Theatre Lunatico's Shoebox Reading Series last year. Over the summer, she worked as a stage management apprentice on *House of Joy* at California Shakespeare Theater. She also recently costume designed *Who Shot La Miguelito* at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Playhouse. This spring, she will be stage managing *Snowflakes, or Rare White People* for UC Berkeley's Theater Department.

Jacqueline Wolfe (*Tilly*) is an LA trained actress whose most recent works include *Lysistrata* and *A Man for All Seasons*, two staged readings for **AEB**, *The Julie Cycle*, an original adapted piece with the Poltergeist Theatre Project, and *Freddy* with the Fountain Theater in Los Angeles. Wolfe is immensely grateful and excited to be working with such a distinguished company and hopes everyone will get in touch with their sense of play and enjoy this wild ride into our collective imagination.

2020 Winter Staged Reading Series



The Mammaries of Tiresias, by Apollinaire

Translated by Maya Slater, directed by Meryn MacDougall.

One night only, Sunday January 12th, 5 p.m., Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive. Free w/Museum Admission.

Priscilla Dreams the Answer, by Walt McGough

Directed by Michael J. Hawkins, One night only
Monday January 20th, La Val's, 8 p.m., Pay-What-You-Will

Machinal, by Sophie Treadwell

Directed by Hilary Buffum. One night only, Monday January
27th, La Val's, 8 p.m. Pay-What-You-Will

***She Kills Monsters is dedicated to
George Marchi (1926-2019)
AEB Co-founder in 1957***

