

***Poof!, Lynn Nottage***

Samuel has raised his hand to Loureen many times in the past. But this time is a bit different. Loureen and her neighbor and good friend, Florence, debate what has happened and what the hell to do next. From two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner Lynn Nottage, written when she was only 25, *Poof!* balances themes of domestic abuse and friendship in a way that's funny and touching. *Poof!* by Lynn Nottage is produced by arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.

***The Killing, William Inge***

Mac picks up Huey, a casual hustler, at a bar. But when they arrive at his home, Mac stuns Huey by revealing that he wants a very different kind of intimacy. Warning: a gun does what guns do. *The Killing* by William Inge is produced by arrangement with Dramatists, Inc.

***Our Man in Madras, Gert Hofmann, \*translated by Michael Hofmann***

Mr. Sieg has called his company's operative in Madras intending to let him go, but a calamity presents an intriguing business opportunity, if he can only keep Bob on the line. "Our Man in Madras" is produced by generous permission from Michael Hofmann.

We'd like to acknowledge **Michael Cohen** and **Glenn Havlan** for their time and contribution.

Special Thanks to our wonderful assistant on this production **Nate Bogner** who has acted as Asst Director, Stage Manager, Lighting Designer, Office Boy, Derring Doer, and Prop Maker.

Additional gratitude for **Laurie Smith**, **Shawn Oda**, and the rest of **Theater Lunatico** for their support and generosity.



***Tracy Baxter, Director:*** Tracy is a board member of **Actors Ensemble**. Her play, *KUDZU 2012*, was a semifinalist selection in the Playwrights Foundation's 2018 Bay Area Playwrights Festival and a finalist selection in the Screencraft 2020 Stage Play Writing Competition, with staged readings at the 2022 San

Francisco Women's Theater Festival and San Francisco's 3Girls Theatre, where she is now a Brady Fellow, an incubator program for writers over 40.

**Actors Ensemble** is the longest-running theatre organization in Berkeley, founded in 1957. We aim to produce quality theatre emphasizing the ensemble, with a community flavor. We can be reached at: P.O. Box 663, Berkeley, CA 94701. Or: [info@aeofberkeley.org](mailto:info@aeofberkeley.org) Or: [www.aeofberkeley.org](http://www.aeofberkeley.org)

Actors Ensemble Presents

# Three For Thought



Curated Plays Directed by Tracy Baxter

***Poof!*** by Lynn Nottage

***The Killing*** by William Inge

***Our Man in Madras*** by Gert Hofmann\*

Hosted by Ginorma Desmond

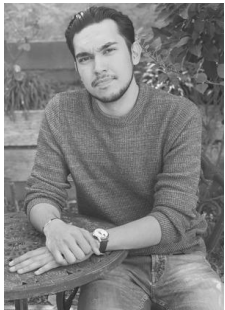
***The Performance runs 90 minutes, without an Intermission.***

Photo above "Scared Girl", by **Victor Bezrukov** courtesy of Wiki Commons and licensed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)



**Shelley Doty** (*Loureen*) made her dramatic debut in the role of Cynthia in **Actors Ensemble's** 2021 Zoom production of *SWEAT*. (Not counting that play her college roommates wrote and directed). In the last several years, Shelley's career as itinerate rock guitarist has steadily expanded and trickled into the realm of theater. Previous appearances include: "Girlfriend" (by Todd Almond, 2010 Berkeley. Rep); "The Idea of Order", (by Todd Almond & Lisa Petersen, Workshop Reading 2017, Groundfloor); and "We 3" (by Shelley Doty, Groundfloor, 2018). More info at

<http://www.skiptheneedle.com>.



**Braeden Harris** (*Huey*) is very excited to be working with **Actors Ensemble** on this one act showcase! Braeden is most known for his work in Sacramento in such shows as *Gumbo*(2022), *Lost Girl*(2022), *The Christmas Carol Rag*(2021) and more. He received his Associates Degree in Theatre Arts from American River College and is a KCACTF Irene Ryan Nominee. Braeden would like to thank his high school theatre teacher

Jennifer Ray for inspiring him to pursue acting.



**Polina Litvak** (*Jane*) is excited to be working with **Actors Ensemble** again after several years away from the stage. She has worked onstage and backstage with various theatre companies across the Bay, including Theatre Rhinoceros, Ninjaz of Drama, San Players, and the Playwrights Center of SF. Some of her favorite past roles include Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Sir Humphrey in *Knight of the Burning Pestle*.



**Brandace Moore** (*Florence*) is thrilled to be a part of **Three for Thought** and **Actors Ensemble**. She recently portrayed Sam in an adapted performance of *This is Our Youth*. Brandace studied the Meisner Technique, a 2-year intensive acting program, at Empowerhouse Acting Studio in Berkeley, California. When she is not onstage, Brandace loves exploring national parks with her family and friends, outdoor photography, hiking, and studying the filmmaking process.



**Jerome Solberg** (*Mr. Sieg*) has worked with **Actors Ensemble** since 2005, and has been on their board since 2007. Mostly that has been behind the scenes, and well, as they say, now for something different.



**Casey Robert Spiegel** (*Mac*) is so excited to return to the Bay Area theatre community. He received his BA in Drama from San Francisco State in 2017. Previous credits include *WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD* (Hollywood Fringe), *BORN YESTERDAY* (SF Playhouse), *SPEED OF LIGHT* (Quantum Dragon), *ADVENTURES IN TECH* (PianoFight), and many more that he would prefer not to think about.



**Ginorma Desmond**, (*Host*) Ginorma Desmond (Alter ego of comedian Nick Leonard) is a San Francisco based drag performer, appearing in plays, revues, traditional drag cabaret and stand up comedy.