



Faeries of the Moonlight

Aug. 19 to
Sept. 4, 2023

ACTORS ENSEMBLE
OF



BERKELEY

About Actors Ensemble of Berkeley

Actors Ensemble (**AE**) 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 often performed at Live Oak Theatre and more recently at LaVal's Subterranean, both in Berkeley. Recently we have also taken the opportunity to bring the magic of theatre to the John Hinkel Park Amphitheatre, a wonderful outdoor space with a vast legacy of performance.

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



Subscribe to our email list for: Upcoming Shows, Staged Readings and Audition Notices: www.AEofBerkeley.Org

Board of Directors

Michael R. Cohen, Jeff Trescott, Jerome Solberg,
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Crystal Brown*, Susannah Wood*, Robert Estes*,
Martha Luehrmann*, Norah Foster* *=*alternate*

Performance Schedule:

August 19th – September 4th, 2023

Saturdays and Sundays plus Labor Day all at 4 p.m.

John Hinkel Park, 41 Somerset Pl, Berkeley, CA 94707

Performance is approximately 2 hours, with one intermission

All performances are free of charge

Actors Ensemble is partially supported

by a grant from The City of
Berkeley Civic Arts Commission



Faeries of the Moonlight

Book and Lyrics by Mercedes Cohen

Music Composed and Arranged by

Aoife Ni Conchobhair O'Connor

Additional Arrangements by

Pamela Connelly and Kara S. Poon.

Directed by Michael R. Cohen

Cast and Crew

in alphabetical order

Queen Catrina..... *Kate Bolton-Schmukler*
Shauna.....*Natalie Buck-Bauer*
Sunny..... *AnneJelika Ong Cortez*
Queen Rose.....*Maureen Coyne*
King Fergus/Green Man.....*Laszlo Horner*
Pixie Sophie.....*Grace Liu*
Maddie.....*Flannery Mays*
Rory.....*Jacob Miller*
Pixie Skylar.....*Grace Gibson Paxton*
Pixie Fern.....*Hanna Rachel Schultheis-Gerry*
King's Minister.....*Jerome Solberg*
Teagan.....*Vicki Victoria*

Director/Set Conception.....*Michael R. Cohen*
Music Direction and Performance.....*Pamela Connelly*
Stage Management*Mary Tran*
Additional Music/Sound Effects Performance.....*Katarina Fink*
Costume Design.....*Mercedes Cohen*
Choreography.....*Grace Gibson Paxton*
Set Design and Construction....*Jerome Solberg & Leif Pearson*
Props..... *Mary Tran, Jerome Solberg, Mercedes Cohen & Cast*
Producer and Misc.....*Jerome Solberg*
Poster Art/Photography.....*Vicki Victoria*

Actors Ensemble Gratefully Acknowledges:

Masquers Playhouse, Point Richmond/Shay Oglesby-Smith
for assistance with costumes and set pieces
United Site Services and Haulaway Storage/Magali Sainfield
The City of Berkeley Parks and Recreation Department
Pamela Connelly, Vicki Siegel and Paula Aiello
for various props and costumes

One-Hour Martinizing 1319 University, Berkeley, 94702 510-548-1053

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

Oh, Moonbow, so rare in the mortal world, but in the realm of the faeries, the moon glows brighter and the Moonbow Festival in the autumn shines brightest. In the places with waterfall mist or a light fog, the moonbow will appear.

When I saw the rarest of moonbows, a full circle surrounding an intense full moon, its magic inspired me to write this play and Marin Irish Music introduced me to the wonderful melodies from the Emerald Isle.

In my imagination, I visited the realm of the faeries and met these intense characters. In the 49 years since I originally wrote this story, there have been many versions (even since the start of rehearsal!) This production is a dream come true.

Now, I ask you to imagine this "other world," and let the fantastic, imaginative actors, singers, dancers, and fighters pull you into this story of friendship, longing, and danger. (There's humor too!) This musical required a huge team effort and thanks to the actors, our directors, the musicians, and designers who have brought the faery world to John Hinkel Park.

SONG LIST

AN ODE TO THE FAERIES -Queen Catrina, King Fergus, Rory, Fern, Skylar, Wizard's Apprentice and Queen Rose

HEALING - Maddie

THE IRISH CURSE - Teagan, Green Man

I'M THE UGLY ONE - Maddie

AN IRISH BLESSING - Teagan

FREEDOM'S PLEA –

Sunny, Shauna, Rory, Maddie, Queen Catrina, Fern, Skylar, Shauna

VERY INSULTING - Fern, Skylar, Maddie, Sunny

ROSE, ROSE, ROSE - Queen Rose, Maddie, Sunny, Rory, and the Roses

WELCOMING THE MOONBOW - Queen Catrina and the Pixies

A WISH TO THE FAERY WORLD - King Fergus, Queen Catrina, Wizard Apprentice, Sunny, Rory, Shauna, and the Pixies.

WHO LOVES YOU THERE? - Rory and Sunny

TAKE THE SILVER WHEEL - Shauna

AN IRISH BLESSING REPRISE – Teagan and Ensemble

Cast and Crew Biographies

In Alphabetical Order

Kate Bolton-Schmukler (Queen Catrina) is happy to make her John Hinkel Park debut with **AE**. She recently played Janet in Pacifica Spin-drift Player's *2 Across* and Monica in Ghostlight Theater's "*Festival 10*." Kate has also sung with local opera companies. During the COVID lockdown, Kate was compelled to return to "straight" acting and played Tracey for **AE**'s production of *Sweat* via Zoom. By weekday, Kate teaches visually impaired youth.

Natalie Buck-Bauer (Shauna) (She/Her) is delighted to be making her AE debut. By day she is an elementary teacher for Oakland Unified, where she teaches music to students TK-5, as well as to special needs classes. Natalie devotes her evenings to opera and musical theater, and has worked with Lamplighters Music Theater, Pocket Opera, San Jose Lyric Theater, CCCT, and the Pinole Community Players.

Mercedes Cohen (playwright, costumes) has a B.A. from San Francisco State and a M.F.A. from the USC. She has had her play, *Nonna and the Dressmaker* produced in Ross and Alameda. Thanks to husband, Michael for honesty and support, to the music arrangers and performers and thanks to the family and friends for all the encouragement and inspiration! Thanks to Vicki Siegel for the Wizard costume and Paula Aiello for the blue dress. Also, thanks to the cast for supplying character "self" costumes especially Vicki Victoria, Natalie Buck-Bauer, and AnneJelika Ong-Cortez, and a special thanks to Pamela Connelly for the "portal" and Queen Catrina's gown. I also want to thank **Actors Ensemble** for giving me a chance to share this play.

Michael R Cohen (Director) has directed *Fortinbras* (2022), *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *An Enemy of the People*, *Twelfth Night*, *Panhandle*, *The Talking Cure*, and *Fortinbras* (2013) for **Actors Ensemble of Berkeley** and currently serves as board president. He is currently a member at large of the Ross Valley Players board where, as chair of the New Works (formally Ross Alternative Works - RAW) committee, he has produced, directed and designed the sets for numerous works including the critically acclaimed productions of *Reservations* and *The Packrat Gene*. 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.

Pamela Connelly (Music Director) is a citizen of Ireland and the USA, and a graduate of Manhattan School Of Music (M.M.), San Francisco Conservatory of Music (B.M). Performance Highlights: New York

City Opera, San Francisco Opera, San Diego Opera, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Los Angeles Opera. Director and Instructor credits: International Performers - IPOP, IMTA, Singers Marin, Fullerton State University, San Bernardino School District. Numerous awards include a 3 time award recipient of The Metropolitan Opera Award. Currently instructs in Piano, Voice and Guitar at Marin Studio 81.

AnneJelika Ong Cortez (Sunny) (she/they) is ready to entertain with her AE debut. As a passionate devotee of the arts of all kinds — whether that be her involvement in dance theatre or her studies in animation and visual arts — she strives for storytelling in the best way: through a love of connecting with others. AnneJelika is currently studying voice acting and motion-capture acting in video games and animation. In their free time, AnneJelika loves playing video games, watching cartoons, and spending time with their 6 dogs and 1 (crazy) cat.

Maureen Coyne (Queen Rose) Maureen has worked with various theatre in the Bay Area over the years, including Actors Ensemble, One Act Theatre, Palo Alto Players, Ross Valley Players, Actors Theatre in San Francisco, the Curtain in Mill Valley, and others. Most recently she played Mrs. Eynsford-Hill in Shaw's *Pygmalion* with the Starlight Theatre in Orinda. Her grandfather was born in Galway, her grandmother in Mayo.

Katarina Fink (Music/Effects) is a passionate artist and storyteller who lives to bring characters to life. Animating for 6 years, editing for 10, and performing for longer, Katarina is a published and award winning creator that is completing her BFA in Cinema and Animation (2024). As Katarina accomplishes university, she's been showrunning her indie animated series Night Grim, scheduled to premiere in Spring/Summer 2024."

Laszlo Horner (King Fergus/Green Man) was most recently seen in CCCT's productions of *To Master the Art*, *All the Way*, and *All Is Calm* and Altarena Playhouse's revival of *Come Back, Little Sheba*. He also featured prominently in *A Dybbuk*, *Rosmersholm*, and *The Lady from the Sea* in staged readings with **Actors Ensemble of Berkeley**, with whom he is delighted to rejoin for a romp in the park.

Grace Liu (Pixie Sophie) is thrilled to be part of this production with **AE!** By day she is a finance exec at a tech company where she gets to use the analytical side of her brain. And she feels extremely lucky to be able to express her artistic side through the wonderful world of musical theatre! Credits include *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, *The Boy From Oz* with Theatre Rhinoceros, *The Music Man* with Pacifica

Spindrift Players, *Afsaaney* with Bay Area Drama Company and *Mamma Mia* with City College of SF. Heartfelt gratitude goes to her beloved family, friends, and her boyfriend, Jing, for the unwavering support in the pursuit of her dreams!

Flannery Mays (Maddie) is a non-union actor & model in the Bay Area. Originally from Los Angeles, she graduated from UC Berkeley with an Honors Bachelor of Arts. Flannery began pursuing her creative passions with improv comedy, vocal performances for Ecstatic Dance, and acting with Dinner Detective. Most recently, Flannery was a lead in *A Slice of Life*, and a supporting role in *Pericles* for Theater Rhinoceros. "Faeries" is her first performance with Actors Ensemble of Berkeley.

Jacob Miller (Rory) was born to a family of tar-sand miners in the wilds of northern Alberta. After a youth spent hunting caribou and operating various examples of exotic machinery, he caught the theatre bug after seeing a production of *Henry IV* on a school trip to Edmonton. After a sojourn at McGill University in Montreal, where he also dabbled in circus with Cirque de Soleil, he moved to U.C. Berkeley, where he is presently pursuing a double-major in entomology and theatre performance.

Aoife Ni Conchobhair O'Connor (Composer) was born in Belfast, Ireland. She graduated with a degree in music from U.C. Berkeley. Presently, she's working in the entertainment industry in Los Angeles and New York.

Grace Gibson Paxton (Pixie Skylar/Choreographer) is proud to join the company after spending many years away from the stage while attending UC Berkeley and establishing her career. She has a degree in microbiology and by day works as a soil scientist. She likes to spend her free time gardening and doing Irish céilí and Scottish country dancing. Previously, she was a company member with Lyric Opera San Diego.

Hanna Rachel Schultheis-Gerry (Pixie Fern) (She/Her) is grateful to be back on the stage! Hanna stays busy as a drama therapist and solo show performer and novice gluten-free baker. Special thanks to Erik, friends, family and the fluffies for their support. Hanna has performed at the Marsh, ZBelow and with Fuse theatre and Bay Area Children's Theatre. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Jerome Solberg (King's Minister/Producer) has been helping keep **AE** going since 2007. By day he works as a Computational Mechanician. Thank you for coming to see the show!

Mary Tran (Stage Manager)(she/her) is a retired nurse and epidemiologist. She became involved in local theater work just over a year ago to help a playwright friend with her Masquers Playhouse production. Since then, she has been stage manager for two subsequent shows, helped with prep of costumes and sets for several, and worked lights and sound for a play. This is her second project with **Actors Ensemble**.

Vicki Victoria (Teagan, Graphic Design) has appeared in **AE's** *She Kills Monsters* and *The Skin of Their Teeth*, where the *Faeries* playwright decided she found her Teagan. She is beyond honored to help bring Mercedes' dream to life. Vicki's many summers at Hinkel, include AE's *Chalk Circle*, and a collaboration of *King Lear* with Inferno Theatre. She will play her dream role of Frau Blucher <<frightened whinny>> in Pittsburg Theatre Company's *Young Frankenstein* in October and is co-starring in the indie feature film, *Sweet Nothing*, a Queer dramedy premiering in November. @Vicki.Victoria.Actor

Donate to Actors Ensemble!

Faeries of the Moonlight is presented Free of Charge. Our volunteer board of directors works very hard but we depend on your contributions to pay insurance, rent space, build sets, buy and/or construct props, and most importantly provide some funds to help support our actors, designers, and crew as they create magic on stage.

Donate: www.aeofberkeley.org/donate

*Our website accepts **Paypal** – We are a 501(3)c organization.*

Checks: PO Box 663, Berkeley, CA 94703

Venmo: [https://account.venmo.com/u/Actors Ensemble](https://account.venmo.com/u/Actors_Ensemble)

Or for Venmo
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Thanks to Ruth Giron Wong, Lisa Wang, Martha Luehrmann, Kevin Karplus, Jeff Trescott, Jerome Solberg, and everyone who has supported **AE** over the past year.

Find out what's next via our website, social media, or our mailing list!

Join us in 2024 for More Great Theatre in the Park!