

ACTORS ENSEMBLE OF BERKELEY PRESENTS

HEDDA GABLER

ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY STANLEY SPENGER

A PLAY BY
HENRIK IBSEN

LIVE OAK THEATRE, BERKELEY

OCTOBER 20-NOVEMBER 18, 2006

8PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

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TRUE WEST

by Sam Shepard

Directed by Paul Shepard

January 19 - February 17

LYSISTRATA

BY ELLEN McLAUGHLIN

INSPIRED BY ARISTOPHANE

DIRECTED BY NOONA NOLAN

APRIL 14 - MAY 12

A Dream Play

By August Strindberg

Directed and Adapted by David Stein

June 9 - July 1 * Free Outdoors @The Berkeley Art Center

All in the Timing

by David Ives

Directed by Jon Wai-Keung Lowe

July 13 - August 11

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead

By Tom Stoppard

Directed by Stanley Spenger

October 19 - November 20



sign up for audition notices@ www.aeofberkeley.org

HEDDA GABLER

by Henrik Ibsen

Adapted and Directed

by Stanley Spenger

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Berta.....Marian Simpson
Aunt Juliana.....Maureen Coyne
Jurgen Tesman.....Aaron Murphy
Hedda Tesman.....Wendy Welch
Thea Elvsted.....Thais Harris
Judge Brack.....Louis Schilling
Eilert Lovborg.....Eric Carlson

Production

Technical Director.....Jerome Solberg
Lead Set Construction.....Bob Gudmundsson
Set Construction.....Christian Carter
Stage Manager.....Jodi Maxwell
Lighting Design.....Christine Dickson
Set Design.....Rose Anne Raphael
Costume Design.....Helen Slomowitz
Assistant Costume Design/
Props Manager.....Shu Ping Guan

Special Thanks to:

Phillip Campbell, Eric Carlson, Contra Costa Civic Theater,
Noelle Dexter, Cari-Lynn Ellis, Rich Leeds, Jennifer Lin,
Roberto, Savvy Properties, Marian Simpson, Stage Craft Studios,
Treefrog

In Loving Memory of Ernest Landauer and John Swackhamer

Crew Biographies

Christine Dickson (Lighting Designer) Go figure! The design team is at it again. This is Christine's 2nd show with AE this season, her other being "Twelfth Night". She'd like to give everyone who helped a big thanks for making the job fun. To Stan, the Director and all the actors, "Have a good run! You deserve it."

Shu Ping Guan (Assistant Costumer/Prop Manager) Shu was raised in Los Angeles, but moved to the Bay Area to study architecture at UC Berkeley. She is currently earning her keep as a Publications Designer, but the theatre beckons. She loves art, design, musical theatre, clothing, and far off places.

Rose Anne Raphael (Set Designer) This is Rose Anne's sixth set for AE, and her fourth involving her mentor Stanley Spenger. In January, she will design the set for "Light Up the Sky" at the Spreckels Theater in Rohnert Park. Inspirations for this set include the works of artist Joseph Cornell and the Winchester Mystery House.

Helen Slomowitz (Costumer) has enjoyed working within the costume world in film and theatre and especially with Actors Ensemble in past productions such as: "Present Laughter," "Seduced," "Working" and more. Love & thanks to a great cast & crew with Hedda!

Jodi Maxwell (Stage Manager/Hair/Makeup) spent more than 10 years in Los Angeles working in talent management, publicity, hair/makeup and film & television development with companies that include Warner Bros. TV, Hanna-Barbera and Talent Entertainment Group (Management 360). Hair/makeup credits include episodic television. The Northern California native now resides in Oakland with her American Eskimo dog, Abbi.

Jerome Solberg (Technical Director) Jerome has never water skied. He lives in Berkeley with his beautiful wife, Hitomi.

Stanley Spenger (Director) has been acting and directing in the Bay Area for over 40 years. In 1987, he founded Subterranean Shakespeare, and inaugurated the Subterranean Cabaret at La Vals, as a theater space. After fifteen years as artistic director, and three years acting and directing with Shotgun Players, he founded New Shakespeare Company, directing his fourth "Hamlet" at the Berkeley Arts Center in a site specific production. This was after he inaugurated the center as a theater space, with his production of Debra Rogin's "Phaedra." his last show for Sub Shakes. He has directed three shows for Actors Ensemble, and is now the President of the Board of Directors.

Director's Note

It seems so appropriate to bring "Hedda" back to the Live Oak Theater stage in the centennial year of Henrik Ibsen's death and to produce the play, which had a previous Actors Ensemble production, on the eve of our 50th anniversary year. However, the truth is, we picked this play because we love it, knowing full well how difficult it would be to bring off, let alone say something new about it. Because the great plays should always be done for their intrinsic quality alone, and for the sake of that theater goer who, like all of us at one time, has not experienced them. -**Stanley Spenger**

The music played before the show and during the intermissions is by two eminent Norwegian composers, Edvard Grieg and Geirr Tveitt. Edvard Grieg was a contemporary of Ibsen, and rose to fame partly on the strength of incidental music composed for the premier of Ibsen's play "Peer Gynt." Geirr Tveitt was a 20th century Norwegian composer, most famous for his short pieces based on Norwegian folk tunes. The "theme" played before each act is "The Long, Long Winter Night," from Tveitt's "Fifty Folk Tunes from Hardanger, Op. 150, Nos. 1-37," performed by Havard Gimse on the piano. The tune played by Hedda on the piano is "Halling," from Edvard Grieg's "Lyric Pieces," performed by Emil Gilels on the piano. The rest of the music during intermission and before the program consists of various pieces from these two works, and from Grieg's "Lyric Pieces," performed by Leif Ove Andsnes on the piano. The vocal piece used to conclude the show is by Svante Henryson, and performed by Ann Sofie von Otter and Elvis Costello on their album "For the Stars." *Please note that there will be gunshots heard during the program.* -**Jerome Solberg, Technical Director**

About Us

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley has been around the block (And just around the corner from you) since 1957, making us the longest running stage company in Berkeley. We began with seven UC Berkeley alumni from the World War II era. Their love for acting gave birth to a tradition that began with four plays in 1957, which were initially performed in a neighbor's basement. In 1965, AE began performing at Live Oak Theatre—and has ever since.

Our mission is to enrich, entertain and improve our community through fascinating theatrical works. With social consciousness and an ensemble approach, we provide area residents with opportunities to attend, participate in and be helped through theatre. Our shows will be affordable, our opportunities enjoyable, and our community impact felt year-round.

As Berkeley's only true community theater company, we depend on our volunteers to bring their energy and creative vision to each play we produce.

If you would like to be a volunteer in our theater, 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 is proud to present to you the final play of our 49th season, Henrik Ibsen's "Hedda Gabler."

Board of Directors

Eric Carlson, Christian Carter, David Cohen, Bob Gudmundsson,
Maggie Gudmundsson, Bill Martinelli, Rose Anne Raphael, Stanley Spenger,
Jerome Solberg, David Stein, Kim Stewart

The Live Oak Theatre is available for rental. Please call (510) 841-5580 or email us at info@aeofberkeley.org for rates and availability.

Cast Biographies

Eric Carlson (Ellert Lovborg) After a brief affair with the world of song and dance in CCCT's recent revival of the Marx Brothers' "Animal Crackers," Eric is happy to be back at AE where he last appeared in "Twelfth Night." While still a considerable threat to sing off-key, he contends that his dancing feet are the real blight, menacing cast members' toes everywhere.

Maureen Coyne (Juliane Tesman) A veteran of the One Act Theatre of San Francisco and Subterranean Shakespeare, Maureen's credits with AE include Albee's *A Delicate Balance* and Noel Coward's *Present Laughter* (also directed by Stan Spenger). She has also recently appeared at the Douglas Morrison Theatre in Hayward, in Clare Boothe Luce's *The Women* and Matthew Barber's *Enchanted April*. Last Summer she played Elizabeth in Tina Howe's *The Art of Dining* at the Dragon Theatre in Palo Alto.

Thais Harris (Thea Elvsted) started her theatre training at age 12, in Brazil, where she is originally from. Since moving to the US she has appeared in *Picasso* at the Lapin Agile, *The Good Doctor* (Royal Palm Players); *A Few Good Men* (Venice Little Theatre); *Breaking Legs* (Lemon Bay Playhouse); among others; and local credits include *Shocktoberfest 2005* (Thrillpeddlers); and *They Survived!* (Multi-Ethnic Theatre).

Aaron Murphy (George Tesman) has appeared in productions of *American Buffalo*, *The Homecoming*, *Real Inspector Hound*, *Beauty Queen of Leenane* and *Private Eyes*. He has a B.F.A. in acting from U.C. Santa Barbara.

Louis Schilling (Judge Brack) is back at AEB for the third time; two years ago he played flamboyant Garry Essendine in "Present Laughter," last year he was gullible Dr. Fine in "Six Degrees of Separation" and now Judge Brack. Last month, Louis appeared in Hillbarn Theatre's acclaimed "Grand Hotel, the Musical" and will reprise his role as Madame du Cirque in San Francisco Ballet's "Nutcracker" in December.

Marian Simpson (Berta) appears regularly with Orinda Starlight Village Players' summer season, and is a member of East Bay Children's Theatre which takes classic folk tales to local schools. Favorite roles include Lady Lucy Angkatell in *The Hollow*, Ariadne Oliver in *Cards on the Table* and Aida Gianelli in *Over the River and Through the Woods*. She lives in Berkeley with her husband and son, whose support she greatly appreciates.

Wendy Welch (Hedda Tesman) is more than thrilled to be in this show. Hedda is her favorite role, surpassing previous ones like Laura from "The Glass Menagerie" and Essie in "You Can't Take it With You." When she's not in the theatre, Wendy's working with other characters as an HR Manager. She'd like to thank the incredibly giving cast, crew and director, and tonight she'd like to shout out to her late Grandma—who, unlike her brothers, wasn't allowed an education beyond 8th grade.

THE ACTORS' ENSEMBLE OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESENTS

HENRIK IBSEN



HEDDA GABLER

ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY STANLEY MENDEL

Henrik Johan Ibsen (March 20, 1828 – May 23, 1906) was an influential Norwegian playwright who was largely responsible for the rise of the modern realistic drama (dubbed "the father of modern drama"). It is said that Ibsen is the most frequently performed dramatist in the world after Shakespeare. Despite spending much time in exile, living in Germany and Italy, Ibsen is held to be one of the greatest Norwegian authors of all time, being celebrated as a national symbol by Norwegians, and as one of the most important playwrights in world history. His plays were considered scandalous to many of his era, when Victorian values of family life and propriety largely held sway in Europe and any challenge to them was considered immoral and outrageous.

Ibsen's work examined the realities that lay behind many façades, possessing a revelatory nature that was disquieting to many contemporaries. Ibsen largely founded the modern stage by introducing a critical eye and free inquiry into the conditions of life and issues of morality. Victorian-era plays were expected to be moral dramas with noble protagonists pitted against darker forces. Every drama was expected to result in a morally appropriate conclusion meaning that goodness was to bring happiness, and immorality only pain. Ibsen challenged this notion and the beliefs of his times and shattered the illusions of his audiences.

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www.azofb -Wikipedia



Thank YOU Berkeley for

2006

Hedda Gabler
The Night of the Iguana
The Devil's Disciple
Twelfth Night

2004-5

Six Degrees of Separation
A Murder is Announced
Working
Seduced
Present Laughter

2003-2004

A Delicate Balance
The Sisters Rosensweig
Helen of Troy (Revised)
Camping with Henry & Tom
The Bacchae

2001-2002

The Heidi Chronicles
Long Day's Journey into Night
The Three Sisters
Travesties

2000-2001

The Great Sebastians
Death of a Salesman
The Road to Mecca
Inherit the Wind

1999-2000

Crimes of the Heart
Prelude to a Kiss
Rough Crossing
Murder at the Vicarage

1998-1999

You Can't Take it With You
To Kill a Mockingbird
Sylvia
This Day and Age

1997-1998

What the Butler Saw
Dancing at Lughnasa
Jake's Women
Shadowlands

1996-1997

Other People's Money
Painting Churches
Quilters
Holiday

1995-1996

She Loves Me
Lettice and Lovage
Lost in Yonkers
A Chorus of Disapproval

1994-1995

Lips Together, Teeth Apart
Breaking the Code
Lady in the Dark
Angel Street (Gaslight)

1993-1994

The Firebugs
God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater
Floodwaters
Dream of a Common Language

1992-1993

Jacques Brel is alive and well
and living in Paris
Uncommon Women and Others
Tartuffe
Night Must Fall

1991-1992

Design for Living
The Rover
Coastal Disturbances

1990-1991

Summer and Smoke
Chicago
Born Yesterday
The Importance of Being Earnest

1989-1990

The Man Who Came to Dinner
The Member of the Wedding
The Real Thing
Kiss Me Kate

1988-1989

The Time of Your Life
How the Other Half Loves
Desire Under the Elms
Mack and Mabel

1987-1988

The Country Girl
E-R
The Boy Friend
A Man for All Seasons

1986-1987

The Club
A Taste of Honey
The Good Doctor
Idiot's Delight

1984-1985

5th of July
The Dining Room
Bus Stop
The 1940s Radio Hour

1982-1983

Look Homeward Angel
Kind Lady
Pal Joey
Strange Bedfellows

1981-1982

Working
Never Sang for My Father
Pippin
Rosencrantz and
Guildenstern are Dead

1980-1981

The Rainmaker
The Hostage
Company
The Royal Family

1979-1980

Pygmalion
Marat/Sade
The Boys from Syracuse

1978-1979

The Philadelphia Story
Witness for the Prosecution
The Threepenny Opera

1977-1978

The House of Blue Leaves
The Rimers of Eldritch
Candide

1976-1977

The Best Man
Hay Fever
Cabaret

1975-1976

Misalliance
Yes is for a Very Young Man
The Visit

a Great First 50 Years!

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1974-1975 | 1966-1967 | 1957-1958 |
| Antigone | The Little Foxes | Love for Love |
| The Night of the Iguana | Hedda Gabler | Easter |
| Brigadoon | Intermezzo | Naked |
| | The Amphitryon Package | Major Barbara |
| | Deal | |
| 1973-1974 | | *Workshop |
| The Heiress | 1965-1966 | **Staged Reading |
| The Skin of Our Teeth | Heartbreak House | |
| Under Milkwood | The Learned Ladies | |
| | Design for Living | |
| 1972-1973 | | |
| A Delicate Balance | 1964-1965 | |
| Major Barbara | Por Lucrece | |
| Billy Budd | An Ideal Husband | |
| | | |
| 1971-1972 | 1963-1964 | |
| The Dance of Death | Hanjo and Soto Komachi | |
| The Lady from the Sea | (Japanese Noh Plays) | |
| A Cry of Players | Enter Elijah | |
| | "An Evening of Shaw" | |
| 1970-1971 | Man of Destiny | |
| Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf | | |
| The Queen and the Rebels | 1962-1963 | |
| An Evening of Scenes from | Célimare | |
| Shakespeare* | The Miracle Worker* | |
| A Flowering Part** | As You Desire Me | |
| After the Rain | | |
| Death of a Salesman | | |
| | 1961-1962 | |
| 1969-1970 | The Bald Soprano | |
| Shaw Workshop* | The Good Woman of Setzuan* | |
| -Dark Lady of the Sonnets | The Trojan Women | |
| -Great Cathering | | |
| -Mrs. Warren's Profession | 1960-1961 | |
| (Act I) | The Three Sisters | |
| -Press Cuttings | The Summer of the | |
| -Shakes vs. Shaw | Seventeenth Doll | |
| Shewing Up of Blanco Posnet | | |
| | 1959-1960 | |
| 1968-1969 | "An Evening of One Acts" | |
| The Mother of Us All | -The Stronger | |
| Blithe Spirit | -Lord Byron's Love Letters | |
| The Side Show and The | -Before Breakfast | |
| Minstrel Show | -Hughie | |
| Open All Night (Revue) | Passages from Finnegan's Wake | |
| "Four Plays with Six | | |
| Players" | | |
| Everything in the Garden | | |
| | 1958-1959 | |
| 1967-1968 | Electra | |
| Dona Rosita | The Winter's Tale | |
| The Ghost Sonata | Ghosts | |
| Every Man in His Humour | Alcestes | |

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2007 Season

True West (1/19-2/17)

Lysistrata (4/12-5/12)

*A Dream Play (6/9-7/1)

All in the Timing (7/13-8/11)

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern
are Dead (10/19-11/19)

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Coming in January 2007

TRUE WEST

A Play by Sam Shepard

Sons of a desert dwelling alcoholic and a suburban wanderer clash over a film script. Austin, the achiever, is working on a script he has sold to producer Sal Kimmer when Lee, a demented petty thief, drops in. He pitches his own idea for a movie to Kimmer, who then wants Austin to junk his bleak, modern love story and write Lee's trashy Western tale. This American classic explores alternatives that might spring from the demented terrain of the California landscape. "It's clear, funny, naturalistic. It's also opaque, terrifying, surrealistic. If that sounds contradictory, you're on to one aspect of Shepard's winning genius; the ability to make you think you're watching one thing while at the same time he's presenting another." S.F. Chronicle.

Directed by Paul Shepard

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For more information:

info@aeofberkeley.org



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