

A C T O R S
ENSEMBLE OF
BERKELEY

PRESENTS

ROCK
IN A ROW

WRITTEN
BY

TOM
STOPPARD

DIRECTED BY

ROBERT ESTES
POETRY . POLITICS . PLASTIC PEOPLE

04.12.13 - 05.04.13

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

THE POETRY OF HISTORY AND THE PURE EMOTION OF THE
PLASTIC PEOPLE

BY ROBERT ESTES

WHEN I FIRST SAW ROCK 'N' ROLL AT ACT YEARS AGO, I THOUGHT I WAS SEEING A HISTORY PLAY. WHO IS THIS GUY MASARYK? OK, AFTER WORLD WAR I, HE WAS THE FIRST DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. WHO WERE THE BIG POWERFUL COUNTRIES THAT DID IN THE CZECH NATION? WELL, JUST BEFORE WWII, GERMANY, HUNGARY AND POLAND METHODICALLY CARVED UP THE DEMOCRATIC STATE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. WHO WERE THE TANKIES? I THINK YOU'LL KNOW THAT AFTER YOU SEE THIS PLAY! TRULY, BY THE END OF THIS PLAY, YOU MIGHT KNOW A LITTLE MORE ABOUT RECENT HISTORY.

YET, THIS IS HARDLY A HISTORY PLAY. I NOW SEE THE PLAY AS AN EXTENDED DRAMATIC POEM, COMPOSED OF SHARDS OF, YES, HISTORY, BUT ALSO OF LOVE, MUSIC AND THE SUBLIMELY GLITTERING FRAGMENTS OF THE POET SAPPHO. IF THE PLAY'S HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGICAL, THE POETRY AND PARADOXES CONTAINED WITHIN THE PLAY ARE ANYTHING BUT LINEAR.

AS STOPPARD ONCE NOTED, HE BECAME A PLAYWRIGHT SO THAT HE COULD PUBLICLY DISAGREE WITH HIMSELF. FOR ME, THE JOY OF THE PLAY HAS BEEN IN NOT SEEKING A PREMATURE ANSWER, BUT RATHER JUST SIMPLY ENJOYING THE TAUT, ALLUSIVE, EMOTIONALLY DENSE SCENES UNFOLD, ALWAYS REMEMBERING THAT FOR STOPPARD AND FOR CENTRAL EUROPEANS, HOLDING TWO OPPOSING, IRONICAL IDEAS IN MIND IS A POINT OF PRIDE.

JUST AS THE PLASTIC PEOPLE OF THE UNIVERSE EXPRESS THE PUREST HUMAN (NON-PLASTIC) EMOTION, SO THE PLAY'S POETIC DISTILLATION OF THE CHARACTER'S COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCE EXPRESSES THE PAIN, CONFLICT, TURMOIL AND JOY OF EACH CHARACTER'S INDIVIDUAL HISTORY. THANKS FOR JOINING WITH US FOR THE PARADOX, POETRY AND PASSION OF TOM STOPPARD!

THIS PRODUCTION WAS MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY A GENEROUS DONATION FROM THE ESTATE OF DONALD CASEY (1938-2011) LONGTIME RESIDENT OF MARIN, ACCOMPLISHED CIVIL SERVANT, AND PATRON AND SUPPORTER OF MUSIC AND THEATRE

ABOUT ACTORS ENSEMBLE OF BERKELEY

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. IN 1965, AE BEGAN PERFORMING AT THE 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 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



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- SPECIAL EVENTS
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- AND MORE!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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WILLIAM MARTINELLI, VICKI SIEGEL, JEROME SOLBERG, STANLEY SPENGER,
MATTHEW SURRENCE, KIM STEWART

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

PAULA DODD AIELLO, TIM BISHOP, REBECCA CASTELLI, BILLIE COX,
GUSTAVO DELGADO, NORM DE VEYRA, KATJA RIVERA, AND TO MICHAEL STORM AND THE
REST OF THEATREFIRST

THIS PRODUCTION IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF PAT HIRABARA, LONGTIME
DIRECTOR OF LIVE OAK RECREATION CENTER

CAST

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

PIPER/FERDINAND.....THOMAS ARNDT
YOUNG ESME/YOUNG ALICE.....EMMY PIERCE
JAN.....FRED WEBRE
MAX.....AVI JACOBSON
ELEANOR/ESME.....MONICA CORTES VIHARO
GILLIAN/MAGDA.....Yael ARANOFF
THE INTERROGATOR.....JEFF TRESMOTT
NIGELJEROME SOLBERG
LENKALISA WANG
MILANJOEL JACOBS
STEPHENBRIAN MARTIN
CANDIDA.....ANN O'CONNELL
GREG ESTES.....UNDERSTUDY

PRODUCTION CREW

DIRECTOR.....ROBERT ESTES
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.....KEITH JEFFERDS
STAGE MANAGERJAMES BANH
SET DESIGN.....BOB GUDMUNDSSON
COSTUME DESIGN.....HELEN SLOWOWITZ
LIGHT DESIGNALECKS RUNDELL
PROJECTIONSDANIELA NIKOLAEVA
PROPSAVI JACOBSON
VICKI SIEGEL
SET CONSTRUCTION.....BOB GUDMUNDSSON
ALECKS RUNDELL
SCENE PAINTING.....GUNNAR ELLEM
SHU PING GUAN
LIGHT/SOUND BOARD OPERATOR.....MAX CHERVIN
STAGEHANDEZODIN TOWFIGH
GRAPHIC DESIGN.....NORM DE VEYRA
JAMIE WEI
PHOTOGRAPHY.....ANNA KAMINSKA
PROGRAM DESIGN.....MATTHEW STANDLEY
PRODUCER.....JEROME SOLBERG

PRODUCED UNDER ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

PERFORMED FRI-SAT AT 8 P.M. APRIL 12TH - MAY 4TH, 2013
SUNDAY MATINEES APRIL 21ST + 28TH, 2 P.M.

ACT I IS APPROXIMATELY 75 MINUTES
15 MINUTE INTERMISSION
ACT II IS APPROXIMATELY 60 MINUTES

CAST AND CREW BIOGRAPHIES

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Yael Aranoff (Gillian/Magda) is excited to be making her AE debut with Rock 'N' Roll! She has acted with theatre companies such as Crowded Fire Theater, Town Hall Theatre, SF Olympians Festival, and All Terrain Theater. She has studied acting at U.C. Berkeley, Studio A.C.T. and A.C.T.'s Summer Training Congress, and University of Bristol, England. Cheers

Thomas Rockwell Arndt (Ferdinand) is delighted to back on stage with AE, where he was last seen as Wesley in Curse of the Starving Class. He teaches acting with Bay Area Children's Theatre, Destiny Arts Center, and Bahia. He also recently finished writing the children's rock musical Makin' Magic. He believes deeply in the change that can be created through organized movement!

James Banh (Stage Manager) has been a stage manager for many years doing live performance, plays, music shows and events with Kearny Street Workshop of San Francisco, Locus Arts, Hyphen Magazine and Rama. When he is not behind the scenes at night, he is a school teacher by day. James is thrilled and delighted working with Robert Estes on Rock 'N' Roll, his first Stoppard.

Max Chervin (Light/Sound Operation) is very excited to be working with AE again. He has previously worked as an assistant director for Stagedoor Conservatory and is very excited to see their 2013 teens production of Legally Blonde. Max has been in such musicals as Urinetown, Anything Goes and Les Misérables.

Ann O'Connell (Candida) originally hails from the UK (so here's hoping the accent is OK!) and is very excited to be acting for the first time with AE after a few stints backstage for the company. She has acted in numerous roles over the years from Puck to the Scarecrow in Wizard of Oz in various countries including the UK, Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands. She has acted in a couple of shows in California since moving here a year and a half ago, including Eleanor in No Sex Please We're British at CCCT. Ann is an accountant by day and enjoys karaoke and correcting her children's "Americanisms" (a losing battle..).

Norm de Veyra (Graphics) is an architect/ designer/ dilettante and co-founder of the Human Fiction Design Collective. He makes things and prays they don't fall apart during a performance. Success so far.

Robert Estes (Director) has previously directed Curse of the Starving Class, Heartbreak House and Arcadia for AE. He's recently directed for the Masquers, Ross Valley Players, SF Theater Pub and other local theater companies. He's served as dramaturg at the California Shakespeare Theater, Town Hall Theater among others.

Rock 'N' Roll is **Joel Jacobs'** (Milan) first play ever. He would like to thank Robert Estes for taking a chance on him, his acting teacher, Donna Davis, and his family for tolerating this peculiar and time-consuming midlife crisis. You can watch his music video, I Will Eat Raw, on YouTube.

BORN IN PHILADELPHIA, **AVI JACOBSON** (MAX) IMMIGRATED TO ISRAEL AT THE AGE OF 16. AVI PERFORMED WITH ISRAELI MUSICAL ENSEMBLES FROM BLUEGRASS TO RENAISSANCE TO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. HE SANG WITH THE NEW ISRAELI OPERA AND WAS ITS DIALECT COACH. HE PERFORMED WITH THE PACIFIC MOZART ENSEMBLE, AND WITH THE NOW-RETIRED EDLOS, THEN THE BAY AREA'S LEADING A CAPPELLA AND COMEDY QUARTET. RECENT THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES INCLUDE BROADWAY BOUND (BEN) AT MASQUERS, NOISES OFF HERE AT AE (LLOYD), AND DOWN AN ALLEY FILLED WITH CATS (TIMOTHY) AT DIABLO ACTORS' ENSEMBLE.

FOR **KEITH JEFFERDS** (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR), 2013 TURNS OUT TO BE THE YEAR OF THE DIRECTOR. LAST SEEN ON THIS STAGE IN AE'S HEARTBREAK HOUSE, KEITH IS ALSO DIRECTING HIS OWN SCRIPT BELOVED EDDIE AT ROSS VALLEY PLAYERS (RUNS APRIL 18-29), AND RECENTLY COMPLETED A DIRECTING CLASS AT BERKELEY REP SCHOOL.

BRIAN MARTIN (STEPHEN) IS EXCITED AND GRATEFUL TO BE A PART OF ROCK 'N' ROLL! HE WAS RECENTLY SEEN IN THEATER PUB'S PRODUCTION OF THE TAMING OF THE SHREW. OTHER RECENT CREDITS INCLUDE CUSTOM MADE THEATRE'S THE MERCHANT OF VENICE AND VIRAGO THEATRE'S A TASTE OF HONEY. BRIAN WOULD LIKE TO THANK HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR THEIR CONSTANT SUPPORT!

EMMY PIERCE (YOUNG ESME/ALICE) FIRST APPEARED ON THIS STAGE AS THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST IN AN AFTER-SCHOOL PRODUCTION OF A 1995 CHRISTMAS CAROL. PERFORMANCES ELSEWHERE INCLUDE EURYDICE, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, AND AN ALL-APA PRODUCTION OF THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES. SHE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CAST AND CREW, AND ESPECIALLY THE DIRECTOR, FOR BRINGING THIS PLAY TO LIFE.

ALECKS RUNDALL (LIGHTING DESIGN) I AM HAPPY TO BE WORKING WITH MAX AND THE REST OF TALENTED PRODUCTION CREW. I AM GRATEFUL TO THE ACTORS ENSEMBLE FOR SUPPORTING FABULOUS LIVE ART, ESPECIALLY JOURNEY OF LIGHT, A GLO-OPERA, RECENTLY SEEN AT THE SF FRINGE FESTIVAL. PLEASE SUPPORT AE FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY ART, AND LOVE TO PRISCILLA.

VICKI SIEGEL (PROPS) IS A BOARD MEMBER OF AE AND WAS THRILLED TO HAVE HER ORIGINAL MUSICAL, A HOT DAY IN EPHEBUS PRODUCED BY AE LAST YEAR. SHE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF CURTAIN THEATRE AND WILL BE APPEARING IN THE MASQUERS ENVISION PRODUCTION OF MCDONAGH'S THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN EARLY IN MAY. GOOD LUCK TO THIS WONDERFUL CAST AND CREW!

HELEN SLOMOWITZ (COSTUMER) IS THRILLED TO BE WORKING ON ONE OF HER FAVORITES, ROCK 'N' ROLL AT HER FAVORITE THEATRE, ACTORS ENSEMBLE! HELEN HAS COSTUME DESIGNED FOR MANY THEATRES, FILM & TV IN THE BAY AREA, AS WELL AS LA. SHE THANKS THE CREW & CAST & MARVELOUS DIRECTOR FOR ALL THEIR INPUT, HELP & JUST PLAIN WONDERFULNESS!

JEROME SOLBERG (NIGEL/PRODUCER) HAS BEEN SEEN IN AND AROUND AE SINCE 2005. HE WAS LAST SEEN ONSTAGE LAST YEAR AS CAPTAIN BRICE IN ARCADIA. HE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CREW AND TECH PEOPLE FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND ESPECIALLY THE AUDIENCE, FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF LIVE THEATRE.

EZODIN TOWFIGH (PROPS/BACKSTAGE), ORIGINALLY FROM TEHRAN, HAS WORKED WITH AE BACKSTAGE ON EXIT THE KING AND DOCTOR FAUSTUS. HE IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING WITH AE AGAIN, AND LOOKS FORWARD TO MANY ADVENTURES IN THE FUTURE.

MONICA CORTES VIHARO (ELEANOR/ESME) WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS HER GRATITUDE TO ROBERT ESTES FOR ENTRUSTING HER WITH ELEANOR AND ESME; THE BEST ROLES SHE'S EVER PLAYED! MONICA IS A MEMBER OF SAG/AFTRA, A THEATRE BAY AREA TITAN AWARD WINNER, AND A RABID OAKLAND A'S FAN. SHE HAS WORKED WITH COMPANIES INCLUDING CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER, THE SAN FRANCISCO SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL, AND ROLE PLAYERS ENSEMBLE. SHE THANKS ELVIS PRESLEY, WILL VIHARO, AND HER CATS FOR THEIR LOVE AND INSPIRATION.

LISA WANG (LENKA) WAS SEEN WITH AE IN PASSION PLAY, IN HER TURN AS QUEEN ELIZABETH, ADOLF HITLER AND RONALD REAGAN. SHE HAS COLLABORATED WITH AE IN THEIR IMPROV AT AE AND VARIOUS STAGED READINGS. LISA IS A MEMBER OF THE IMPROV THEATER GROUPS THE STREETLIGHT PEOPLE AND THE FIVE DEADLY IMPROVISERS, HAVING PERFORMED AT FESTIVALS IN SF, AUSTIN, ATLANTA, AND SEATTLE. MORE INFO AT: THESTREETLIGHTPEOPLE.COM AND FIVEDEADLY.COM

FRED NEBRE (JAN) ATTENDED UC BERKELEY, NYU, UC SAN DIEGO, AND OXFORD UNIVERSITY. HE IS VERY HAPPY TO BE WORKING WITH THE ACTORS ENSEMBLE OF BERKELEY.

JAMIE WEI (GRAPHICS) IS A BAY AREA NATIVE AND RECENT U.C. BERKELEY GRADUATE. SHE HAS DESIGNED SEVERAL PROGRAMS FOR AE AND IS EXCITED TO BE PART OF THE AE FAMILY.

DON'T MISS THE 2ND SHOW IN OUR 2013 SEASON!

PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE

BY STEVE MARTIN

DIRECTED BY ANNA ANDERSEN

OPENS OCTOBER 6TH 2013

AUDITIONS APRIL 22ND AND 23RD

EMAIL ANNA@AEOFBERKELEY.ORG FOR MORE INFO

SPRING 2013 STAGED READING SERIES

ALL SHOWS AT LIVE OAK THEATRE - \$5-\$10 SLIDING SCALE

SUNDAY APRIL 14TH AT 7 P.M. THE MEMORANDUM BY VACLAV HAVEL, DIRECTED BY MICHAEL COHEN - THE COMIC DRAMA ABOUT LANGUAGE AND BUREAUCRACY THAT ESTABLISHED HAVEL'S REPUTATION OVERSEAS.

SUNDAY APRIL 21ST AT 7 P.M. THE SHOWING BY WOLFGANG HILDESHEIMER, DIRECTED BY DAVID STEIN - A REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION TURNED INSIDE OUT.

SUNDAY APRIL 28TH AT 7 P.M. DOUBLE YOUR VANEK: AUDIENCE AND UNVEILING BY VACLAV HAVEL, DIRECTED BY LEE VOGT AND MEIRA PERELSTEIN - THE SEMINAL WORKS OF PROTEST BY THE FUTURE PRESIDENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC.

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BY A. R. GURNEY



DIRECTED BY KALLI JONSSON

MAY 10 – JUNE

Greg and Kate are empty-nesters in the big city. On a walk in the park, Greg is adopted by Sylvia, a bouncy, frisky poodle mix (played by a human). Soon, Kate feels that she is losing Greg to his adoring new friend. This imaginative take on midlife crisis leads to lots of laughs and thoughtful insights on love, marriage and jealousy.

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LIVE OAK THEATER, BERKELEY

1301 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley

Preview on Friday, May 10. Opening night Saturday, May 11.

Performances are Friday and Saturday at 8:00pm and Sunday at 7:00pm.

May 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25.

FT. MASON, SAN FRANCISCO

Building C, Room 300, 3rd Floor, San Francisco

Preview on Friday, May 31. Opening Saturday, June 1.

Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8:00pm and Sunday at 7:00pm.

June 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28.

SWEETWATER MUSIC HALL, MILL VALLEY

19 Corte Madera Ave, Mill Valley

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May 26, June 29, 30.

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