

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. Recently the management of Live Oak Theatre has transferred to TheatreFIRST, under the leadership of Michael Storm. They have graciously allowed us to continue performing here – please help support their efforts by attending the other enchanting productions which are being performed here.

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
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Check out www.AEofBerkeley.Org and subscribe to our email list for

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- Staged Readings
- Audition Notices
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Board of Directors

Anna Andersen, Paula Bauer, Michael R. Cohen, Robert Estes, Margaret Gudmundsson, Bob Gudmundsson, Martha Luehrmann, William Martinelli, Emmy Pierce, Alecks Rundell, Vicki Siegel, Jerome Solberg

Special Thanks To: Michael Storm and TheatreFIRST

This production is dedicated to Margaret Gudmundsson, for her 30+ years of service to Actors Ensemble and to all victims of genocide. May their memories be a blessing. We will never forget.



Actors Ensemble of Berkeley
@ Live Oak Theatre



Cast

In Order of Appearance

Benjamin Levi.....Patrick Glenn
Maria Romano.....Sabrina De Mio
Anna “Nonna” Romano.....Susannah Wood
Belle Levi.....Yael Aranoff
Angelo Romano.....Peter Weiss
Carlo Dominico.....Jerome Solberg
Policeman 1.....Mike Callan
Policeman 2.....Forrest Jessing
Mario the Barber.....Mike Callan
Neighbor.....Forrest Jessing
Narrator.....DeepakSohane

About the Playwright

Mercedes Cohen always treasures tales where the future turns on a moment. A background in literature and writing comes from a bachelor's degree in English from San Francisco State and a M.F.A. in professional writing from the University of Southern California. She has written plays, novels and screenplays. *Giovanni is Here* was created after visiting Rome and is based on real historical events and people. She looks forward to participating in Actors Ensemble productions in the future. Now retired from teaching after 27 years, Mercedes resides in the San Francisco Bay area with her husband, Michael.

About the Director

Michael R Cohen returns to the Actors' Ensemble of Berkeley where he has directed *Fortinbras* by Lee Blessing at John Hinkel Park this summer and a staged reading of *The Memorandum* last fall. Recently, he has directed "The Packrat Gene" and "Pete's Place" for Ross Valley Players RAW. He served for 25 years as Director of Performing Arts at Rosemead High School east of Los Angeles. He holds a BA in Theater Arts from UCLA and a MA in directing from San Diego State University.

About the Cast

Yael Aranoff is happy to return to Actor's Ensemble. This project is personally meaningful to her because members of her own family perished in the Holocaust. Yael was previously seen in Actor's Ensemble's production of *Rock 'N' Roll* as Gillian/Magda, and she is the dramaturg for Actor's Ensemble's current production of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. She has previously acted with companies such as Town Hall Theatre Company, Crowded Fire Theater, Subterranean Shakespeare and All Terrain Theater. You can catch her in another staged reading on November 14 of *Hector*, a part of the San Francisco Olympians Festival.

Mike Callan appears in his first show at Actors' Ensemble. His last role was Leonato in *Much Ado About Nothing* at Ohlone College. Other roles are Doctor Seward in *Dracula* and Captain Treville in *The Three Musketeers*. He hopes he does a good job.

Sabrina De Mio is very excited to be a part of this fun project. She has the honor of most recently working with Performers Under Stress (PUS), San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Shotgun Players, Astrid Bas and Thumbprint Theater. You can catch her next in Jessica Ferris' *Doppelganger* in November. She studies acting with Ponder Goddard and Bobby Weinapple. She hopes you will enjoy the show tonight.

Patrick Glenn is thrilled to be working with Actors' Ensemble once again. He previously performed with AEB as Forinbras in *Fortinbras* and as Rosencrantz in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. Raised in Albany, CA. Patrick has studied acting, improv, comedy, and drama in San Francisco, New York, and Los Angeles. He would like to thank his awesome parents, sisters, brothers-in-law, girlfriends, friends, and every single audience member.

Forrest Jessing is happy to be working with Actors' Ensemble for the first time and he looks forward to many more appearances in the future.

Deepak Sohane Deepak is a recent Bay Area Transplant and a UC Berkeley Graduate. He is very happy to be working with the Actors Ensemble of Berkeley and looks forward to many adventures in the future.

Jerome Solberg has been in and around Actors Ensemble of Berkeley since 2005. Along the way, he has produced some 26 shows, countless staged readings, directed "Exit the King" by Ionesco to good reviews, and occasionally acts, most recently as Nigel in our recent production of Stoppard's "Rock 'n' Roll". Thanks to Michael for putting all this together, and Mercedes for writing a great play.

Peter Weiss last appeared in Actors Ensemble production of *Fortinbras*. He comes to Berkeley from Los Angeles where he appeared in films, television shows, and theatre. His stage roles include everything from Atahualpa in Peter Shaffer's *The Royal Hunt of the Sun* to John Laroquette's sidekick in the original comedy farce, *Tarboosh*.

Susannah Wood has appeared with AEof B in *Henry VI Part III*, *The Memorandum* and *Fortinbras*. Wood has performed as an actress and singer with various other companies, including Ivoryton Playhouse, KQED Radio Drama, SF Playwrights Center, and Opera Piccola. Last month, she played four different roles in *The Golden Dragon* at ACT Costume Shop, SF, with Do It Live Productions,

Don't Miss the next event in our Fall 2013 Staged Reading Series



Directed by Emmy Pierce

While watching the royal procession, housewife Louise Maske has had a little accident: without warning, her underpants slipped down to her ankles -- landing in full view! An adaptation of the classic play by the Carl Sternheim. -- Monday, October 21st at 8 p.m.