

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley  
Presents

**Five  
Women  
Wearing  
The  
Same Dress**

by Alan Ball  
directed by Zara Benner



Live Oak Theatre  
March 27th - April 18th  
2015

## 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  
P.O. Box 663  
Berkeley, California 94701  
[www.aeofberkeley.org](http://www.aeofberkeley.org)  
[info@AEofBerkeley.Org](mailto:info@AEofBerkeley.Org)



Check out *AEofBerkeley.Org* and subscribe to our email list for  
Staged Readings  
Audition Notices  
Two-for-One Nights Other Discounts – and More!

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alan Barkan, Paula Bauer, Michael R. Cohen,  
Robert Estes, Bob Gudmundsson, Martha Luehrmann,  
William Martinelli, Emmy Pierce, Vicki Siegel, Jerome Solberg,  
Jeff Trescott

THIS PRODUCTION IS DEDICATED TO RUTH KRUSEN, WHOSE GREAT GENEROSITY  
HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN KEEPING ACTORS ENSEMBLE AFLOAT.



Presents

# **Five Women Wearing the Same Dress**

by ALAN BALL

directed by ZARA BENNER

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## **CAST**

MELISSA CLASON	—	MINDY
DANIELLE DIAZ	—	FRANCES
LAURA DOMINGO	—	TRISHA
ANDREW MACIVER	—	TRIPP
LORA OLIVER	—	MEREDITH
LISA WANG	—	GEORGEANNE

## **PRODUCTION CREW**

EMMY PIERCE	—	STAGE MANAGER
SYDNEY PROVAN	—	ASST. STAGE MANAGER
ROBERT GUDMUNDSSON	—	TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
PAULA AIELLO	—	COSTUME DESIGNER
OWEN PARRY	—	SET DESIGNER
RYAN LEE SHORT	—	SOUND DESIGNER
MICHAEL SWEENEY	—	LIGHTING DESIGNER
JEROME SOLBERG	—	PRODUCERS
MICHAEL COHEN		
MAX CHERVIN	—	LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR
GHAZAL MONDCARESSI	—	PUBLICITY/GRAPHICS

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Performance is approximately 2 hour 30 minutes  
including a 15 minute intermission.

Produced by arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's funny how a shot in the dark can sometimes land so squarely. When I was asked by AEB to direct a winter staged reading, my first thought was "I need to choose a script with a lot of great female roles." Almost at random, I chose Alan Ball's *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*, because it seemed to fit the bill. It had five roles for women, a truly ensemble cast, and character exploration to match.

It wasn't until I started rehearsing the show that I realized just how wonderful Ball's script is. Together with this talented cast, I've been able to truly take a journey with these characters. They have issues with family, friends, lovers, their hometown, their religion, and their direction in life. They are funny, vulnerable, and real. Like all of us, they are imperfect - and that is what makes us care for them.

In another serendipitous moment, I recently learned that March is Women's History Month. I would like to dedicate this show, not to the "great" women of history, but to the ordinary women like the ones in this show. Your stories are everyone's stories, and they deserve to be told. I can only hope that I will have further opportunities to help tell them.

Zara Benner  
Director



Presents



### **Five Women Wearing the Same Dress**

by ALAN BALL

directed by ZARA BENNER

**Friday & Saturday at 8PM**  
**March 27th - April 18th, 2015**

**Sunday Matinees at 2PM**  
**April 5th & April 12th**

Box Office opens  
30 minutes before curtain.

Reservations  
510-649-5999

On-Line  
[AEOfBerkeley.Org](http://AEOfBerkeley.Org)

Live Oak Theatre  
Berkeley

## CAST AND CREW BIOGRAPHIES

*In Alphabetical Order*

**PAULA DODD AIELLO** (Costumer) began costuming for her celebrity friends, Barbie and Ken, in the early 1960's. Now she is costume coordinator for AE having recently costumed Panhandle and Pride and Prejudice. Many thanks go to Mercedes Cohen; without her help, there might only be three women wearing the same dress.

**ZARA BENNER** (Director) is an actor, playwright, and director. She was last seen at AEB as Jane Bennett in Pride and Prejudice. She also recently finished her first year as a playwright member of PlayGround. She would like to thank Carter for being her unofficial assistant, chauffeur, and all around great guy.

**MAX CHERVIN** (Lighting Board Operator) is a student at Berkeley City College and will be transferring to University in the fall. He is happy to be behind the scenes again with AE, after working on Picasso and Einstein at the Lapin Agile and Rock n' Roll as well as playing Hamlet in Fortinbras.

**MELISSA CLASON** (Mindy) since returning home to California 3 years ago, Melissa has ecstatically worked with Custom Made Theatre Company, Performers Under Stress, SF Olympians, SF Theatre Pub, Bay One Acts, the Metropolitan Club, and now Actors Ensemble of Berkeley! She extends heartfelt gratitude to her family for their unwavering love and support.

**MICHAEL COHEN** (Co-Producer) returns to AEB where he directed Panhandle, Talking Cure, part of Relatively Speaking last Winter, and Fortinbras at John Hinkel Park in 2013. He has directed and co-produced several Ross Alternative Works (RAW) productions for the Ross Valley Players including Giovanni is Here.

**DANIELLE DIAZ** (Frances) studied theater at and is a recent graduate from UC Berkeley. She has been involved with the theater for 17 years, performing in numerous productions. She loves acting and hopes to pursue it for the rest of her life.

A PROUD MEMBER OF



LAURA DOMINGO's (Trisha) previous roles include Elizabeth Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice* (Actors Ensemble), Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Curtain Theatre), Meg in *Crimes of the Heart* (Altarena Playhouse), and Maria in *Lend Me a Tenor* (Ross Valley Players, SFBATCC Award). A bridesmaid tonight, Laura will be playing the role of bride this October when she marries her partner-in-crime, Ryan.

ROBERT GUDMUNDSSON (Technical Director) has been up to quite a lot of adventure lately, but has found the time once more to contribute to an AEB production. He sends his love out to Bird.

ANDREW MACIVER (Tripp) has only recently begun acting in the Bay Area. An East coast transplant by way of Paris and Los Angeles, Andrew enjoys singing, podcasts, and pizza in equal measure. Sometimes he cooks food for money, and sometimes he teaches math to youths. He currently spends his evenings playing in a quasi-real prog rock band with his closest friends and allies.

GHAZAL MODARRESI (Publicity/Graphics) has always been artistic but never knew design was her calling until she was in college. She holds a bachelor's degree in Visual Communication Design from San Francisco State University. Although she is skilled in various aspects of design, her greatest areas of expertise are stationary design, book design, illustration and typography. Other than art and design, she also loves music, being outdoors, foreign languages and traveling.

LORA OLIVER (Meredith) is excited to be working with such a talented group for *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*. In her personal time, she is a thrift store aficionado, avid bibliophile, and gypsy. Lora loves feedback, so please direct all compliments to her directly. Criticism and hate mail are handled by her feline agent, Lotus Chief.

OWEN PARRY (Set Designer) is designing for the first time for AEB. Owen came to the bay area just over a year ago, and has since been involved in several productions with Actor's Ensemble, most notably as stage manager for *Panhandle* and *Pride & Prejudice*. He'd like to thank the production team for all pulling together.

EMMY PIERCE (Stage Manager) has been working with Actors Ensemble of Berkeley for three years as an actor, board member, occasional lighting designer, and doer of whatever needs doing. She most recently was the musical director for AE's production of Panhandle; prior to that she appeared as a musician and actor in Penthesilea and as Lydia in Pride and Prejudice. When not on the stage or behind it, she plays music, writes, and occasionally takes pictures with oversized cameras.

SYDNEY PROVAN (Asst. Stage Manager) originally hails from New Mexico and Colorado, and recently moved to Oakland within the last year. She has been involved in theater her whole life, but this is the first show she has worked on since moving to the Bay Area. Outside of the theater you will most likely find her teaching toddlers or tackling people on the rugby field.

RYAN LEE SHORT (Sound Designer) is designing his first show for Actors Ensemble after doing some ghost-design last summer for Pride and Prejudice. No stranger to the Live Oak Theater, he is also an Artistic Associate with TheatreFIRST and a Resident Artist at SF Shakes across the bay. He strives to be a real-life Tripp to his one true Trisha, the inimitable Laura Domingo.

JEROME SOLBERG (Co-Producer) has been in and around Actors Ensemble since 2005. Thanks to YOU for supporting us and thanks to TheatreFirst for continuing to host AEB at Live Oak Theatre.

LISA WANG (Georgeanne) enjoys sunsets, looking at the ocean, traveling, dancing and watching foreign movies. One of her favorite ways to relax is to enjoy teatime (or coffeetime, depending on her mood), along with a good book and something sweet. She loves to eat breakfast foods at any time of the day or night. Lisa has been a bridesmaid in 6 weddings. <https://www.facebook.com/fivedeadly>

## **Thanks To**

Sleeping Dog Productions (program design and production)  
Theatrefirst  
City of Berkeley



## **SUMMER 2015 IN JOHN HINKEL PARK**

All performances are FREE and start at 4 p.m.

### ***Falstaff!***

Adapted and Directed by Robert Estes

Shakespeare's great rogue makes his way  
through Henry IV parts I and 2

*Saturdays and Sundays June 20th – July 5th*

*Special Performance Friday July 3rd*

### ***King Lear***

Adapted and Directed by Giulio Cesare Perrone

A collaboration with INFERNO THEATRE COMPANY

*Saturdays and Sundays August 22nd – September 6th*

*Special Performance Monday (Labor Day), September 7th*

## **AE APRIL STAGED READING SERIES AT BERKELEY CITY CLUB**

All Readings - PWYC (Pay What You Can)

Tuesday, April 7th at 8 p.m. - Berkeley City Club

*Falstaff!* adapted from Shakespeare and directed by  
Robert Estes - Shakespeare's great rogue makes his way  
through Henry IV parts I and 2

Tuesday, April 14th at 8 p.m. - Berkeley City Club

*Loose Knit* by Theresa Rebeck, directed by Yael Aranoff  
Five women in a knitting circle experience the highs and  
lows of life (and a shady millionaire)