



Actors Ensemble of Berkeley

www.aeofberkeley.org

If Music be the
food of love,
play on...



**William
Shakespeare's**

TWELFTH NIGHT

An Acoustic

Rock Musical

**John Hinkel Park
Amphitheater**

4:00 FREE

**August 20, 21, 27, 28
September 3, 4, 5**

Music by

Jay Africa

Musical Direction by

Linda Giron

Directed by

Michael R Cohen

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Twelfth Night or *What You Will*, while lively and hysterically funny, also explores some darker issues such as cruelty, loss, and betrayal. Malvolio is mightily abused, Olivia mourns the loss of her brother, Viola and Sebastian both assume each other's death, Antonio(a) seems betrayed by Sebastian, and it is a shipwreck that strands Viola and Sebastian on the shore of Illyria. These usually are not elements of comedy, but Shakespeare was not a usual playwright and *Twelfth Night* is not a usual play. Wildly comic moments are balanced with profoundly touching moments of sadness, loss, and regret. Perhaps no playwright before or since has so artfully and seamlessly blended the hilarious and often profane with the profound. And perhaps that is one of the many reasons that he remains vital and relevant today.

With *Twelfth Night*, Shakespeare's rich 400 year-old text challenges us to find the magic intrinsic to that text. From our mostly faithful use of Shakespeare's language to our modern costumes to Jay Africa's rock music and more seemingly anachronistic touches, our mix of old and new strives to complement Shakespeare's blend of the profound and profane. Peter Brook, the great British director and author of *The Empty Space* – which many consider to be the bible of post-modern theater – wrote, "Shakespeare doesn't belong to the past. If his material is valid, it is valid now. It's like coal. The only meaningfulness of a piece of coal starts and finishes with its combustion, giving us light and heat. And that to me is Shakespeare."

We hope that the sparks provided by the imaginations of our humble company of players cause combustion resulting in light and heat for us all – along with a few laughs.

Michael R Cohen

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Temple Beth Hillel (Richmond) for their generously allowing us to use their facility for rehearsal space, Cecilia Booker, Sue Ferrera, Eric Brenman, Pam Boland and the rest of the folks at the City of Berkeley Parks and Recreation Department, Carl Hovlich-Thomas and SF Shakes, Inferno Theatre, Paula Aiello, Robert Estes, Susannah Wood, Vicki Siegel, Haulaway Storage, and Hanson and Fitch.

About Actors Ensemble of Berkeley

Actors Ensemble (**AEB**) 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 performed primarily at Live Oak Theatre in North Berkeley. Recently we have also taken the opportunity to bring the magic of theatre to John Hinkel Park, the site of many wonderful performances from the forerunner of Cal Shakes, Shotgun Players, Women's Will, and others over the years. We hope you enjoy the show.

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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- Staged Readings
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Board of Directors

Michael R. Cohen, Robert Estes, Bob Gudmundsson, Martha Luehrmann, Norah Foster, William Martinelli, Emmy Pierce, Vicki Siegel, Jerome Solberg, Jeff Trescott, Susannah Wood.

Welcome new board members Crystal Brown and Terry Haley!

Act I is approximately 60 minutes long:

15 minute intermission

Act II is approximately 60 minutes long

Twelfth Night, or What You Will
By William Shakespeare
Music by Jay Africa
Cast

<i>Orsino</i>	<i>Brandon Dellis</i>
<i>Sebastian</i>	<i>Lee-Ron</i>
<i>Antonia/Valentine</i>	<i>Nicole Meñez</i>
<i>Sea Captain</i>	<i>Jeff Trescott</i>
<i>Curio</i>	<i>Polina Litvak</i>
<i>Sir Toby Belch</i>	<i>Terry Maloney Haley</i>
<i>Sir Andrew Aguecheek</i>	<i>Julian Marengo</i>
<i>Malvolio</i>	<i>Bruce Kaplan</i>
<i>Feste</i>	<i>Linda Maria Girón</i>
<i>Olivia</i>	<i>Emily Stone</i>
<i>Viola</i>	<i>Crystal Brown</i>
<i>Maria</i>	<i>Virginia Corrigan</i>
<i>Officer 1 (1st and third weekends)</i>	<i>Robia Lee</i>
<i>Officer 1 (2nd weekend)</i>	<i>Daniel Fielding</i>
<i>Officer 2</i>	<i>Polina Litvak</i>
<i>Priest</i>	<i>Jeff Trescott</i>

Staff

<i>Stage Manager</i>	<i>Robia Lee</i>
<i>Assistant Stage Manager</i>	<i>Polina Litvak</i>
<i>Costume Designer</i>	<i>Mercedes Cohen</i>
<i>Producer</i>	<i>Jerome Solberg</i>
<i>Musical Director</i>	<i>Linda Maria Girón</i>
<i>Director/Adaption</i>	<i>Michael R Cohen</i>
<i>Photography Gunnar Ellam, Mercedes Cohen, Jerome Solberg</i>	
<i>Set Design</i>	<i>Michael R Cohen</i>
<i>Jail</i>	<i>Jerome Solberg</i>
<i>Graphic Design</i>	<i>Michael R Cohen & Jerome Solberg</i>
<i>Postcard</i>	<i>Rob Dario</i>
<i>Hot Dog Coordinator</i>	<i>Robert Gudmundsson</i>
<i>Program</i>	<i>Jerome Solberg</i>

Cast and Crew Biographies

In Alphabetical Order

Jay Africa (music) has worked with numerous theaters nationwide both on and off-stage-- including Shakespeare and Company, Theater League, Sacred Fools and his own S.O.B. Theatre Company. His previous composition credits include *#HAPPYHANGOVER* (2016, Midnight Central Theatre Co. at the Hollywood Fringe Festival) and *Cymbeline* (2014, Santa Clarita Shakespeare Festival). Recent accomplishments include playing guitar for the hit Hollywood Fringe production of *The Pokémusical* (2013, Color and Light Theatre Ensemble), scenic design for the world premiere of Luis Valdez' *Valley of the Heart* (2013, El Teatro Campesino) and sound design for *Dog Sees God* (2016, College of the Canyons). Jay is a tabletop gamer, husband to his director wife, Erin, and father to two fantastic kids.

Crystal Brown (Viola Crystal is thrilled to be working with **AEB**. Favorite stage credits include *Nonsense* (Altarena Playhouse), *Happily Whatever After* (Berubian Theater), *Scenes from the Iliad* (Accidental Festival), and *Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg* (Royal Opera House). Crystal studied music theater at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and specializes in devised theater. She enjoys teaching the theater arts and is a member of the Teaching Artist Guild.

Mercedes Cohen (Costumes), as a first time costumer found the show challenging, but having been assistant on previous AEB shows and the mentoring of Paula Aiello, the main concept has fallen into place. The cast has been invaluable as contributors to the costume design. In fact, many of the actors have designed and provided costumes. Each person is wearing his/her own pants! I have enjoyed designing, sewing, photographing and recording for this show. Thanks to **AEB** for giving me this opportunity.

Michael R. Cohen (Director) directed *Panhandle*, *The Talking Cure*, and *Fortinbras* for **AEB** and is board president. While Director of Performing Arts at Rosemead High School - a public high school east of Los Angeles - he taught musical director Linda Giron and Stage Manager Robia Lee. 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.

Virginia Corrigan (Maria) is very pleased to be performing with **AEB** for the third time (previous appearances in *Falstaff!* and *What Do Women Want?*). By day she is a lawyer and Michigan transplant.

Thanks to Rosa and Mr. C for putting up with her frequent absences for the past two months.

Brandon Dellis (Orsino) is an "actor" from Grass Valley, CA.

Daniel Fielding (Ensemble/Officer 1 2nd weekend) is a San Francisco native, and is about to start his second year at UCLA as a theater major with a focus on acting. He would like to thank Michael Cohen for inviting him to be part of this production, and is happy to be volunteering his summer with such a wonderful cast.

Linda Maria Girón (Feste/Music Director) is thrilled to join **AEB** again following her appearance in *The Marriage of Figaro*. Her past theatrical credits include: *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Cecily Cardew), *Chavez Ravine* (Richard Neutra, Nicky the Third, co-Musical Director) and *Twelfth Night: A Rock Musical* (Viola). At present, Linda is a theatre student at Cal where she is currently developing a workshop staging of her first full-length play, *La Memoria del Silencio*, set to premiere in Spring 2017. Lastly, infinite thanks to **AEB** for an incredible experience and to her mom, dad, family and friends for the love and support that they always provide.

Bob Gudmundsson (Hot Dog Coordinator) has been with Actors Ensemble since 1988, where he has worked on countless productions. He sends his love to Bird.

Terry Maloney Haley's (Sir Toby Belch) favorite roles include Bottom and Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Proteus in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Polonius in *Hamlet*, and the creepy drag Host(ess) in *Screaming Queens* at Left Coast Theater Company last year. He has a kid, a dog, and a husband, and they are wondering where he's been all summer.

Bruce Kaplan (Malvolio) is delighted to be a part of this rockin' *Twelfth Night*, playing a role that's been on his acting bucket list for years. He's done many shows with **AEB**, including his very first show ever; his most recent was What Women Want. Other favorite roles have been Robert in *Proof* and Candy in *Of Mice and Men*. Thanks to all the revelers in the cast and audience for being a part of this production.

After a long break from the theatre world, **Robia Lee** (SM/Officer 1 1st and 3rd weekends) is excited to be making her debut with **AEB**. Originally from Los Angeles, she recently moved to the Bay Area and now works at a non-profit where she works with families and educators to build early literacy skills in children 0-5 years old. She is honored to have worked with such an amazing cast

Lee-Ron (Sebastian) previously worked with **AEB** in *The Marriage of Figaro*. Recent credits include *A Few Good Men* (Broadway West Theatre Company), the world premiere of *Valley of the Heart* (San

Jose Stage Company), and *M. Butterfly* (City Lights Theater Company). Lee-Ron trained at Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York and American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco..
www.lee-ron.com

Polina Litvak (ASM) has long since accepted that however hard she tries to escape, she is doomed to a lifetime of theater. (She doesn't really mind). She is eternally grateful to everyone at Actor's Ensemble for allowing her to be part of such an amazing show. She has been involved in many productions in the past years, her favorites of which include *The Women* (CCSF), *Hair* (Barestage Productions), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Marin Summer Theater).

Julian Damian Marenco (Sir Andrew Aguecheek) is a fifth year UC Berkeley student double majoring in History and Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies (TDPS) at UC Berkeley. This is his first production with AEB and he hopes everyone enjoys *Twelfth Night!*

A Bay Area native, **Nicole Meñez** (Antonia/Valentine) is a director, actor, singer and dancer. She is a graduate of the University of California in Santa Cruz where she received degrees in Environmental Studies and Theater Arts. Nicole currently works at New Conservatory Theatre Center as the Program Manager for their YouthAware Educational Theatre program and as a teaching artist. She has most recently played Balthasar in Theater of Others' production of *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Jerome Solberg (Producer) has been in and around Actors Ensemble and helping to keep it going since 2005.

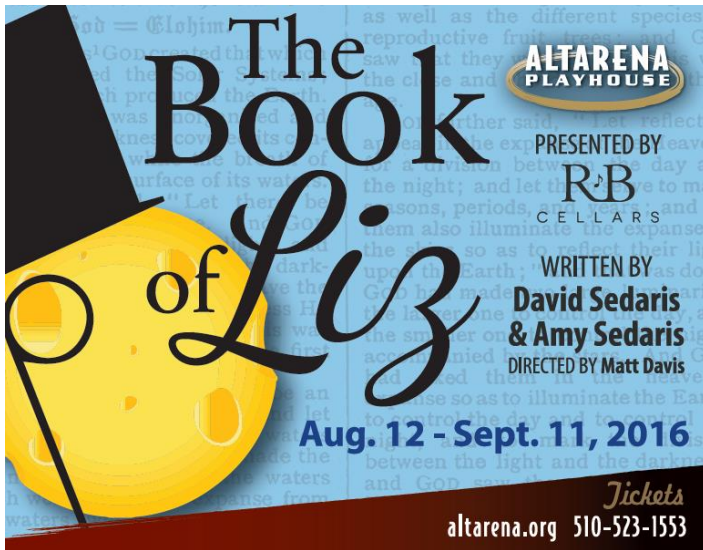
Emily Stone (Olivia) lives two miles from John Hinkel Park and loves performing Shakespeare. She will appear next in this year's Olympians Festival in San Francisco.

Jeff Trescott (Sea Captain/Priest) caught the acting bug early, and has appeared as an actor in over 100 productions. However, he decided early on that this was not a good way to make a living, so he became a software engineer (now retired). He was one of the founding members of the Theatre of the Blue Rose and was with them for 18 years, until they folded. Over the years, he has done almost every job there is in the theater: actor, director, set designer and carpenter, lighting designer and technician, musical director, voice coach, stage manager, house manager, box office, et cetera. He is currently **AEB** Treasurer. His most recent acting gig was as Selsden/The Burglar in Broadway West's production of *Noises Off*.

Come see **AEB** at the Solano Stroll, September 11th

A reading of ***Fairies of Moonlight*** by Mercedes Cohen will be performed in the amphitheater at 1:30 on August 28th just before the Twelfth Night performance and will feature many of the same actors!

Actors Ensemble's next production will be ***The Importance of Being Earnest***, by Oscar Wilde, at Live Oak Theatre in January 2017. Make plans also to see us in John Hinkel Park in Summer, 2017!



The Book of Liz

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