



Fox Among The Hens

A Fable

By James Keller

Directed by Martha Luehrmann

Tuesday, Oct. 16th, 2018
Oddfellows Hall, Berkeley
Friday, Oct. 19th, 2018
St. Paul's Tower, Oakland

A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

FOX AMONG THE HENS was suggested to me when my friend film director Karel Reisz (French Lieutenant's Woman) showed me his collection of Japanese netsuke and I was taken by a weeping fox holding a drum. He said that there was a legend that the fox (who turns up in many Japanese folk tales) was supposed to be carrying the skin of his mother inside the drum for burial at home. Many years later, this anecdote blossomed into this parable about gullibility.

James Keller

October, 2018

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. Now we are presenting a special show of "Fox Among the Hens" at Oddfellows Hall in Berkeley, and then "The Skin of Our Teeth" back at Live Oak Theatre in January. We hope you enjoy the show – come back and see us again!

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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Berkeley, California 94701
www.aeofberkeley.org
info@AEofBerkeley.Org



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

- Staged Readings
- Audition Notices
- Two-for-One Nights and Other Discounts – and More!

Board of Directors

Crystal Brown, Michael R. Cohen, Robert Estes, Jane Goodwin, Bob Gudmundsson, Terry Haley, Martha Luehrmann, Norah Foster, Emmy Pierce, Vicki Siegel, Jerome Solberg, Jeff Trescott, Susannah Wood.

Fox Among the Hens
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Cast

Hannibal.....*Michael Callan*
Trumpet.....*John Chakan*
Fox.....*Bill Chessman*
Marina.....*Emma and Charlotte Curtin*
Mrs. Short & Long.....*Paulette Herring*
Pompey..... *Polina Litvak*
Widow Black.....*Hima Menon*
Mrs. Chickory & Mrs. Brownfeather...*Sara Renauer-Reid*

Staff

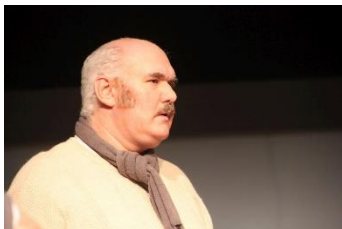
Director*Martha Luehrmann*
Producer & Publicity & Program.....*Jerome Solberg*
Set Construction.....*Robert Gudmundsson*
Costumes.....*Martha Luehrmann & The Cast*
Props...*Martha Luehrmann, Jerome Solberg + The Cast*
Rehearsal Photos.....*Anne Neunsinger*
Performance Photos.....*Shiyi Huang*
Front of House...*Michael Cohen, Vicki Siegel, Jeff Trescott*

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Anita Donnell, Suzanne Waligore, and the board of directors of The Independent Order of the Oddfellows, Lodge #270, Berkeley, Ca. The folks at St. Paul's Tower, Oakland. Mercedes Baca and The Old Finnish Hall, Berkeley

Cast and Crew Biographies

In Alphabetical Order



MICHAEL CALLAN (Hannibal) is glad to be back performing at Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. His past shows with that company were Falstaff and an enemy of the people. Michael hopes you enjoy this show.



JOHN CHAKAN (Trumpet) has been acting since he was a Muchkin in 3rd grade. A graduate in Drama from Stanford, he loves Shakespeare, improv and tacos. Favorite roles include Iago, Falstaff, Agamemnon and Curly from Oklahoma! He is thrilled to be back performing with the Actors Ensemble of Berkeley after taking a break to have children, coach baseball and make lots of tacos. He would like to thank Kelly, Reilly, Aidan, and Fallon.



BILL CHESSMAN (Moustache-and-Cake) has been acting since 1990. He has been writing since the dawn of time. He has been focused on writing, directing, producing and acting in radio dramas since 1999. He is very tall.



CHARLOTTE CURTIN (Marina) is excited to do her first staged reading with Actors Ensemble of Berkeley after performing in the recent production of Enemy of the People (Morten). Previous Main Stage productions include: Miracle Worker (School Girl/Jimmy) with Altarena Playhouse; Ragtime, Annie(Tessie), Billy Elliott, Beauty & the Beast, Mary Poppins, Shrek the Musical, and A Little Princess with Berkeley Playhouse; Joseph/Technicolor DreamCoat, and Beauty & the Beast with Woodminster Summer Musicals; and Sound of Music (Gretl) with Contra Costa Civic Theater. Charlotte is a 5th

grader at St Theresa.

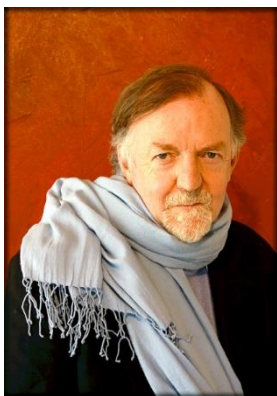


EMMA CURTIN (Marina) is excited to do her first staged reading with Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. Previous Main Stage credits include: Miracle Worker (Helen), Oklahoma! (featured dancer) and Our Town (Rebecca) with Altarena Playhouse; Watch on the Rhine (Babette) at Berkeley Repertory Theater; Ragtime (Little Girl), Tarzan, Billy Elliott (Debbie), Fiddler on the Roof (Bielke), Mary Poppins, Shrek the Musical (Young Fiona), The Music Man, A Little Princess, and The Sound of Music (Gretl) with Berkeley Playhouse; Wait Until Dark (Gloria) and A Christmas Carol (Helen/Fan/Belinda) at

Chanticleers; and Joseph/Technicolor DreamCoat, and Beauty and the Beast at Woodminster Summer Musicals. She attends Oakland School for the Arts in the Vocal department.



PAULETTE HERRING (Mrs.Short-Long) , is happy to be back with Actors Ensemble her theatre home away from home, some of her favorite roles for A.E. have been Bernice in Member of the wedding, Rosa in Summer and Smoke and Gladys in The Skin Of Our Teeth.



JAMES KELLER (playwright) was raised in rural Australia, acted and wrote plays in London winning two Arts Council awards and is now a citizen of the United States. He has written far too many plays but is fond of Fox and is currently writing a novel on his lifelong obsession with Egypt, ancient and modern and finalizing a new collection of poems The Music of the Years Gone By.



POLINA LITVAK (Pompey) is excited to be doing another reading with Actors Ensemble! Other companies she has worked with include Theater Rhinoceros, Theater of Others, Ninjaz of Drama, Dragon Productions, RE:ACT, and the Playwrights' Center of San Francisco. Some favorite roles include Tearcat in The Roaring Girl, Sir Humphrey in Knight of the Burning Pestle, and Puck in A Midsummer Night's Dream.

MARTHA LUEHRMANN (Director) has been acting since she was 12, and directing since she was 23. Her husband complains that she not only directs, but tries to control as well.



HIMA MENON (Widow Black) is very happy to be part of a staged reading with Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. This is her first production with Actors Ensemble. She is passionate about art in any form and is looking forward to being consistently a part of theatre from here on.



SARA RENAUER-REID (Mrs. Chickadee and Mrs. Brownfeather) is delighted to be joining Actors Ensemble of Berkeley! She originally hails from Louisville, Kentucky, where she earned her B.A. in Theatre Arts. She more recently obtained a Masters in Drama Therapy from California Institute of Integral Studies and now works as a school-based therapist using drama and creative arts as healing modalities. She has worked with a variety of

companies throughout the Bay Area and the Midwestern United States and is currently continuing her training at Studio A.C.T. Many thanks to friends and family for keeping her sane!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT LET'S FEED THE KIDS

"Food for Thought" provides nonperishable foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, breads, and a turkey for over 1,000 students and family members during the Winter School Vacation when free or subsidized meal programs are not available.

To volunteer or contribute, please contact:

Michael R Cohen
michael@acofberkeley.org



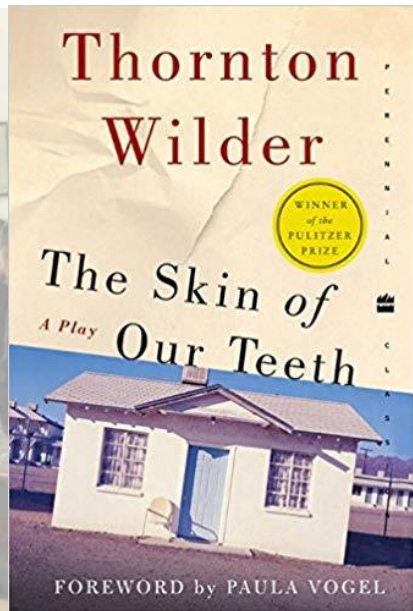
TEMPLE BETH
HILLEL OF
RICHMOND



ACTORS
ENSEMBLE OF
BERKELEY



MULTI-FAITH
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Don't miss our next production!

The Skin of our Teeth by Thornton Wilder

Directed by Michael R. Cohen,
opening January 4th, 19 at Live Oak Theatre

Please patronize some of the other fine theatres in the East Bay

Inferno Theatre – *The Gods Are Not Happy* – through October 28th

Indra's Net – *A Time for Hawking*- opening December 20th

Ubuntu Theatre – *Hamlet* – through November 4th

Central Works – *Checkhov's Ward 6* – through November 4th

TheatreFirst – *The People's History of Next* – opening December 6th

Contra Costa Civic Theatre – *Allegiance* – through October 21

Altarena – *Clybourne Park* – through November 8th



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