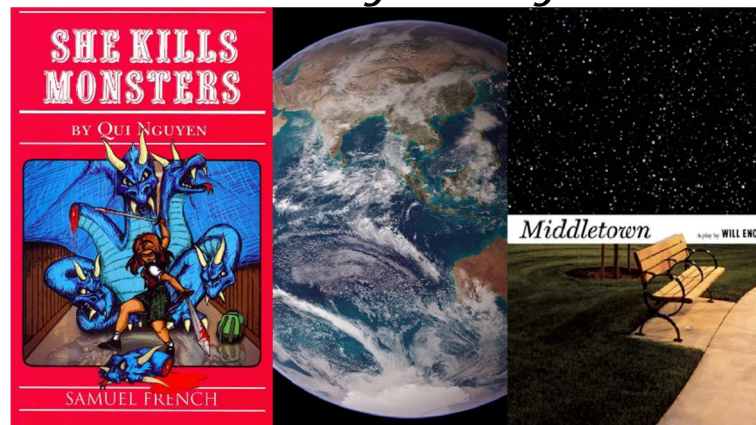


Our Pay-What-You-Can

2019 Winter Staged Reading Series



She Kills Monsters

By Qui Nguyen, directed by Ben Grubb

1 night only, Monday January 7th, Live Oak Theatre, 8 p.m.

What in the World? Short Plays by Parks and Lashof

By Suzan-Lori Parks and Carol Lashof

Directed by Susannah Wood

1 night only, Monday January 14th, Live Oak Theatre, 8 p.m.

Middletown

By Will Eno, Directed by Lana Palmer

1 night only, Monday January 21st, Live Oak Theatre, 8 p.m.

Coming up next at Live Oak Theatre

TheatreFirst's second production of their 2018/2019 season

The Last Sermon of Sister Imani

by Cleavon Smith, Directed by Michael Gene Sullivan

performances February 14th-March 10th 2019

www.theatrefirst.com



AE thanks **University Cleaners**
1319 University Ave
Berkeley, 94702 (510) 548-1053



Actors Ensemble of Berkeley
2019 Winter Staged Reading Series

What in the World?
Short Plays by Parks
and Lashof

By Suzan-Lori Parks
and Carol Lashof

Directed by Susannah Wood

8 p.m. Monday January 14th
Live Oak Theatre, Berkeley

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS

Named among Time magazine's "100 Innovators for the Next Wave," **Suzan-Lori Parks** is one of the most acclaimed playwrights in American drama today. She is the first African-American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize in Drama, is a MacArthur "Genius" Award recipient, and in 2015 was awarded the prestigious Gish Prize for Excellence in the Arts. Parks' project *365 Days/365 Plays* (where she wrote a play a day for an entire year) was produced in over 700 theaters worldwide, creating one of the largest grassroots collaborations in theater history.



Her other plays include: *Topdog/Underdog* (2002 Pulitzer Prize winner); *The Book of Grace*; *Unchain My Heart: The Ray Charles Musical*; *In the Blood* (2000 Pulitzer Prize finalist); *Imperceptible Mutabilities in the Third Kingdom* (1990 OBIE Award, Best New American Play); *The America Play* and *Fucking A*. Her adaptation of The Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* won the 2012 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical. Her newest plays, *Father Comes Home*

From The Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)—set during the Civil War, was a 2015 Pulitzer Prize Finalist.



Carol Lashof makes plays to change the stories we believe in because it's the best way she knows to change the world we live in. Her work has been broadcast on BET (*Gap*, dir. Ryan Coogler) and NPR (*The Story*, dir. Martin Esslin) and staged on five continents from The Magic Theatre of San Francisco to Peking University in Beijing. Carol is Professor Emerita at

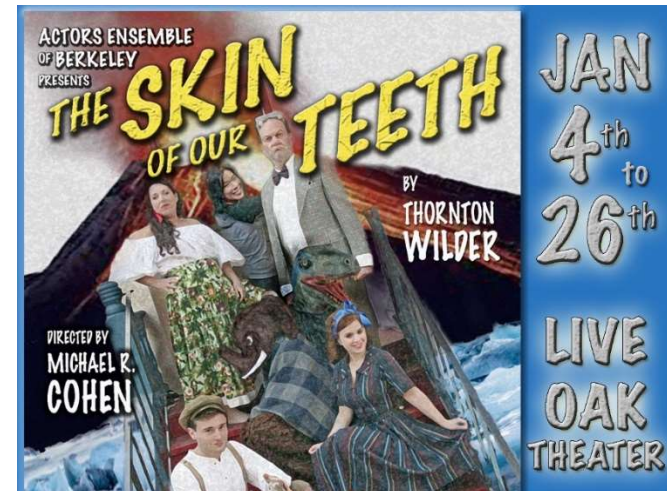
Saint Mary's College and the Executive Director of Those Women Productions

Susannah Wood (Director) has been active as a professional actress and singer for many years, in the Bay Area and beyond. She has directed over 50 classic and new plays for **Actors Ensemble**, Crowden Summer Opera and Opera Piccola ("Small Works"). She is excited about collaborating on plays whose themes creatively parallel Wilder's ***The Skin of Our Teeth***.

Director's Note: Although these plays seem completely different, I chose them because they address a question that is central in **Actors Ensemble's** current main stage production: how does our planet survive its troubles?

Like ***The Skin of Our Teeth***, both ***Persephone Underground*** and ***365/365***, touch on politics, the environment, war, human folly and social justice. I love how these three writers – Thornton Wilder, Suzan-Lori Parks and Carol Lashof- express the struggles of humanity in such completely different and exciting ways.

Don't miss our main stage production, the first of our 2019 Season (our 62nd!)



Persephone Underground
By Carol Lashof

Cast

In order of Appearance

<i>Persephone</i>	<i>Julia Christy</i>
<i>Sophia</i>	<i>Liv Wisely</i>
<i>Amaryllis</i>	<i>Venus Ke</i>
<i>Myrhinne</i>	<i>Helen Kim</i>
<i>Demeter</i>	<i>Wendy Wisely</i>
<i>Theseus</i>	<i>Joel Green</i>
<i>Hippolyta</i>	<i>Sarah Negron</i>
<i>Hades' Son</i>	<i>Kahlil Lineus</i>
<i>Iris</i>	<i>Tracy Baxter</i>
<i>Hermes</i>	<i>Bryan Munar</i>
<i>Mortals</i>	<i>Joel Green, Tareka Le Shay, Sarah Negron, Dan Schwager, Baki Tezcan</i>
<i>Stage Directions/ Narration</i>	<i>Dan Schwager, Susannah Wood</i>

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Jerome Solberg, Producer and Publicity. Tracy Camp.
The Actors Ensemble Board of Directors, Carol Lashof,
and United Talent Agency (agency for Ms. Parks).

365 Plays/365 Days is performed with permission from
Jamie Kay-Phillips, agent for Susan Lori-Parks.

Persephone Underground is performed by special
arrangement with YouthPlays, Inc.

Made possible by a generous Theatre Bay Area CASH
Grant and with the cooperation of Jon Tracy and the rest
of TheatreFirst.

About Actors Ensemble of Berkeley

Actors Ensemble (**AE**) 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. 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
P.O. Box 663
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, Norah Foster, Jane Goodwin, Bob Gudmundsson, Martha Luehrmann, Meryn MacDougall, Meira Perelstein, Emmy Pierce, Vicki Siegel, Jerome Solberg, Jeff Trescott, Ian Wilcox, Susannah Wood.

365 Days/365 Plays
By Suzan-Lori Parks

Excerpts and Cast

November 13: Start Here

Krishna: Tareka Le Shay
Arjuna: Kahlil Lineus

The First Constant: Remember Who You Are

Someone Else: Baki Tezcan
Someone: Tareka Le Shay

November 16: Window of Opportunity

Window Meister Joel Green
Ones Who Got Away Venus Ke, Bryan Munar

January 16: Out to Sea

The One in Charge Sarah Negron
Woman Wendy Wisely
Man Dan Schwager
Actors Ensemble

February 24: Ask the Experts!

Host Tracy Baxter
X & Y Liv Wisely, Bryan Munar
Chuck, the Expert Baki Tezcan
TV Audience Ensemble & Audience

The Second Constant, Action in Inaction

Helen Kim, Tracy Baxter,
Dan Schwager, Venus Ke

March 19, No War and March 20, More of the Same

Crowd Ensemble
One Person Dan Schwager
Another Person Helen Kim
Writer Sarah Negron

March 21: How do you Like the War?

Ensemble

March 22: The Act of Forgiveness

One Protester: Sarah Negron
Teacher Baki Tezcan
Students Liv Wisely, Kahlil Lineus,
Venus Ke Ensemble

June 1: The Red Blanket

Other Tareka Le Shay
One Dan Schwager
Doves of Peace Bryan Munar, Tracy Baxter,
Helen Kim, Wendy Wisely

The Third Constant: Inaction in Action

Ensemble & Audience

October 18: The Light at the End of the Tunnel

Youngest Liv Wisely
Oldest Joel Green
Leader Wendy Wisely
Fearful Sarah Negron

The First Constant: Remember Who You Are

Someone Else Sarah Negron
Someone Tracy Baxter

November 11: The Blank Before World

Ensemble

~~ SHORT INTERMISSION ~~

Snacks in the Lobby