



Shakespeare's CYMBELINE

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Directed by
Glenn Havlan & Gaby Schneider

July 4-20, 2025

John Hinkel Park Amphitheater, Berkeley

Admission Free

CYMBELINE
by William Shakespeare
Adapted and Directed by
Glenn Havlan and Gaby Schneider

Cast

(in alphabetical order)

<i>Philario / Belarius</i>	<i>Al Badger</i>
<i>Cornelius / gaoler</i>	<i>Marc Berman</i>
<i>First Lord / Sicilius</i>	<i>Patrice Binaisa</i>
<i>Dominic Canty</i>	<i>Posthumus</i>
<i>Second Lord / Aviragus</i>	<i>Ryan Chu</i>
<i>Imogen</i>	<i>Alexandra Fry</i>
<i>Cymbeline</i>	<i>Mark Goldman</i>
<i>Frenchman / Guiderius</i>	<i>Emi Hegarty</i>
<i>Clotin</i>	<i>Kenneth Matis</i>
<i>Lady Helen / Soothsayer</i>	<i>Virgie Poole</i>
<i>Queen</i>	<i>Michelle Sanner Vargas</i>
<i>Pisanio</i>	<i>Stanley Spenger</i>
<i>Caius Lucius / Jupiter</i>	<i>Jeff Trescott</i>
<i>Iachimo</i>	<i>Jean-Paul Zuhur</i>

Staff

<i>Director</i>	<i>Glenn Havlan</i>
<i>Co-Director/Dramaturg</i>	<i>Gaby Schneider</i>
<i>Stage Manager</i>	<i>Jose Garcia</i>
<i>Costumer</i>	<i>Lyre Alston</i>
<i>Set Designer</i>	<i>Kirsten Yamaguchi</i>
<i>Props</i>	<i>Susan Dunn</i>
<i>Music and Sound</i>	<i>Jerome Solberg & Glenn Havlan</i>
<i>Photography / Graphic Design</i>	<i>Vicki Victoria</i>
<i>Concessions Coord</i>	<i>Michael & Mercedes Cohen</i>
<i>Aurora Duncan</i>	<i>Set Construction Assistance</i>
<i>Producer & Many Other Things</i>	<i>Jerome Solberg</i>

For Photos of the Cast and More check our website or
@actorsensemble on FB or @aeofberkeley on Instagram or X

A Note from the Director

Cymbeline is one of Shakespeare's lesser-known works. It belongs to his later period, along with *The Winter's Tale*, *Measure for Measure*, and *The Tempest*. He was no longer writing dramatic histories. He was done with merry comedies about love and marriage. He'd had enough of terrible tragedies centered on flawed titanic figures. He was just writing great plays and letting them go to where they needed to be. To aficionados familiar with the entire canon, *Cymbeline* is very often a favorite. Its language is intricate; its imagery is vivid. Its characters are recognizably and thoroughly human.

The setup couldn't be simpler. The place is ancient Britain, two thousand years ago, under Roman domination. A princess has married a "poor but worthy gentleman." She has a scheming stepmother. The new Queen wants to set the princess up with her brutish son and control "the placing of the British crown." The King banishes the husband. The Princess goes on a quest to find her lost love.

But what happens after that becomes a kind of strange loop, two figures traversing a Mobius Strip in opposite directions and at various speeds, encountering different obstacles until they catch up with each other. Their separation is worsened by a reckless gambler who deceives the banished man into believing his Princess has betrayed him, even as she searches for him. Along the way there is a major subplot involving a long ago kidnapping of the King's two sons and the complication of a Roman invasion.

In part, the play is beloved of those who know it because it does all that Shakespeare does. It has everything. It starts with banishment and exile. It is about an intrepid young woman who dresses as a boy on a quest to find her lost love, by then a jealous husband. There is a sleeping potion that gives the appearance of death. There is a battle, single combat, and a beheading. There are rings and letters. We see dreams, ghosts, and a god. A comic gatekeeper appears, like Macbeth's porter or Hamlet's gravedigger. We witness regret, confession, forgiveness, mercy, redemption, and reunion. Characters communicate to the audience through monologues, soliloquies, and asides. It is a wonderful story that is beautifully told. We think that you will come to appreciate it and return to it for more careful readings.

GH, July 2025.

Cast and Staff Biographies

In Alphabetical Order

Lyre Alston (he/him/she/her) (*Costume Designer*) is a designer working in and around the bay area in both Costume design and Wig/Makeupdesign/artistry. Some recent shows include *Hadestown* with Throckmorton Theatre, *Daisy* with Hillbarn Theatre, Peter Panto at Presidio Theatre, and *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Imaginary Invalid* with **AE** last summer. Please enjoy the show!

Al Badger (*Philario / Belarius*) is honored to return to **Actors Ensemble** for the first time since 2012's *Arcadia*. In what time remains after yarn crafting and feral cat maintenance, he has performed many times with San Francisco's Generation Theater, most notably as Escartefigue in Marcel Pagnol's *Marseille Trilogy*. His IMDB listing has two entries, only one of which is an X-rated hand-puppet movie.

Marc Berman (*Cornelius / gaoler*) is honored to join **Actors Ensemble** for the second time. After being in Sacramento for a decade, Marc moved back to the bay area and took the theater world by storm. Performing in over 30 shows in the past decade, the roles have been strewn across the spectrum. Marc owns his own make-up design company (Seduction Make-up). He wishes to thank his consort Lisa, stepson Aidan and son Xander for their constant support.

Patrice Binaisa (*1st Lord / Sicilius*) is a Berkeley-based Ugandan-American actor, making his second foray into the world of Shakespeare. Patrice is dedicating his performance to his sister Lillian Binaisa.

Dominic Canty (*Posthumus*) is making his **Actors Ensemble** debut in Cymbeline. Later this summer you will also see him as Petruchio in **AE's** *The Taming of the Shrew*. Some recent credits include the role of MacDuff in Macbeth and Peter in Peter and the Starcatcher, both at The College of Marin.

Ryan Chu's (*Second Lord / Arviragus*) is delighted to collaborate with **AE** again as he takes his first foray into the lofty task of realizing the eminent Bard's work. Outside of the theater, you can find him rereading the books of Brandon Sanderson, picking up and putting down heavy things at the gym, or cooing at and trying to adopt stray cats from his neighborhood. He thanks his parents and friends for their support, and YOU for supporting live theater!

Aurora Duncan (she/her) (*Assistant Set Construction*) is volunteering for the first time in the theatre world. She was a part of her high school drama club, participating in both performance and technical roles. In her free time, Aurora likes to play video games and crochet.

Susan Dunn (*Props*) is thrilled to work props once again at **AE** Productions at her favorite outdoor venue, John Hinkel Park. — A Shakespeare play with emotional and character twists and turns, and fine actors to bring them to life. Susan is a devotee of all things theater: she has worked Theater Boards at 5 local theaters, had a stint as president of Altarena Playhouse, been a theater critic at SFBATCC and TBA and contributes to Bay Area Theatre by continuing one of her most valuable roles in theater - Audience. She attends theater and opera in all parts of the Bay Area. Read her reviews on [Theatrus.com](#)., [For All Events](#), [Aisle Seat Review](#) and [Reviews Bay Area](#). Thanks again to **AE** for this chance to contribute to Cymbeline.

Alexandra Fry (*Imogen*) Favorite shows include Our Town, The Children's Hour (Ross Valley Players), Gypsy, Camelot (Mountain Play), and Romeo and Juliet (Curtain). She holds a Bachelor's Degree in English and Anthropology from Sonoma State University. She would like to thank Glenn and Gaby for giving her this opportunity as it is her dream role in her favorite Shakespeare play. For all the Imogens out there, who learn their own strength when their world is turned upside down.

Jose Garcia (*Stage Manager*) is glad to be back with Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. He has worked on stage and behind the stage many times. He previously worked as an actor at the San Francisco Dungeon and is currently working as a standardized patient at UCSF. He enjoys salsa dancing and taking long hikes.

Mark Goldman (*Cymbeline*) is very happy to perform for you in this his third AE production. Mark has shared his love for Shakespeare's works in productions by Reed College theater, Marin Shakespeare festival, the Live Oak Theater, the San Francisco Free Civic Theater and the wonderfully Bard-centric Theater of Others. Enacting Cymbeline will be his fifth foray into Shakespearean royalty. Happily retired from a long career in Biotechnology, Mark also enjoys travel, stringed instruments and learning new languages.

Glenn Havlan (*Director*) returns to **Actors Ensemble** after appearing in *Mothers All* in 2022 and adapting and directing their *Much Ado About Nothing* at Hinkel in July of 2024. Previously with **AE**, he played Peter Stockmann in *An Enemy of the People*. He most recently performed this past February, in Hillbarn Theatre's production of *"Daisy"*. The last four summers with the Curtain Theatre in Mill Valley, he appeared as Nick Bottom in *"A Midsummer Night's Dream"*, Friar Laurence in *"Romeo and Juliet"*, The Duke of Milan in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night*. He acted in nine shows with the Marin Shakespeare Company and played Jaques in their 25th Anniversary production of *As You Like It*. Glenn has performed in and/or directed forty productions of twenty different Shakespeare plays. He founded two San Francisco companies, the Free Civic Theater and the Theater of Others, staging fifty productions from 2000-2019.

Emi Hegarty (*Frenchman / Guiderius*) recently graduated from Duke University where she majored in Biology and Theater Studies and is excited to be back on the West Coast. When not acting, she enjoys rock climbing and working on stage combat. She most recently performed in *Eurydice* (Eurydice) and *Twelfth Night* (Viola/Fight Captain). This is Emi's first production with **Actors Ensemble**, and she is thrilled for the opportunity to work with everyone.

Kenneth Matis (*Clotin*) is excited to be performing in his second production for **Actors Ensemble** after performing in the title role **AE's** production of *Fortinbras*. Previously, he's had roles throughout the Bay Area from Marin to Half Moon Bay. Some recent roles include Oswald in Berkeley Shake's *King Lear*, the lead role of Simon Bright in San Leandro Player's *The Games Afoot*, and Benedick in Orinda Starlight Player's *Much Ado About Nothing*. He's very excited to perform at John Hinkle Park, the birthplace for his love of Shakespeare.

Virgie Poole (*Lady Helen / Soothsayer*) discovered a passion for musical theater before she could walk. Though a longtime lover of acting and performing, she took a distinctly long hiatus in the pursuit of science. She recently performed with **AE** as Margaret in last summer's *Much Ado About Nothing*. Hopefully, you'll be seeing even more of her.

Gaby Schneider (*Co-Director/Dramaturgy*) returns to **AE** after having co-adapted and directed our production of *Much Ado About Nothing* at Hinkel in July of 2024. Gaby has been studying and performing Shakespeare since childhood. She was a core company member of

Theater of Others founded by Glenn. She has worked at various theaters around the Bay Area, including Marin Shakespeare, Marin Theatre Company, and Playwrights Foundation (where she is now a board member). When not on stage, she works as a staff attorney at Bay Area Legal Aid.

Stanley Spenger (*Pisanio*) has been treading the **AE** boards for four decades since 1985's *Ah! Wilderness*, most recently appearing in last year's show *The Imaginary Invalid*. Along the way, he became the founder of Subterranean Cabaret Theater and Subterranean Shakespeare and was among the early founding members of Shotgun Players. He's appeared in Shakespeare productions all over the Bay Area, where he continues his long, occasionally ridiculous, always passionate love affair with the Bard.

Jerome Solberg (Producer) has been in and around **AE** since 2005.

Jeff Trescott (*Caius Lucius / Jupiter*) has worked in many plays, both as an actor and backstage. Most recently he was in *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Kudzu 2012* with **AE** and *The White Card* in Pinole. He has a BA in Mathematics from Harvard and is AE's treasurer.

Michele Sanner Vargas (*Queen*) is excited to join **AE** for the second year after having had the pleasure of working with Gaby and Glenn in *Much Ado About Nothing* last summer. When not acting, she can be found teaching Chemistry and annoying her sons with show tunes.

Jean-Paul Demitri Zuhur (*Iachimo*) is a stage, film, television and voiceover actor. He moved back to Berkeley in 2023 after a long couple decades away. Some of his most recent roles include Balthasar in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Julius Caesar in *Julius Caesar* and Florizel in *The Winter's Tale*. You may have caught him last summer as the im-peckable Claude D'Aria in **AE's** *The Imaginary Invalid* directed by Jay Manley. He would like to thank Glenn and **Actors Ensemble** for casting him in his first Shakespeare since he moved back to Berkeley.

Kirsten Yamaguchi (*Set Design*) This is the fourth **AE** production Kirsten has designed after *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, and *Death of a Salesman*. In addition to set design, Kirsten Yamaguchi has designed many theater programs and posters, taught theater design and animation, and worked as an animator on feature films, games and more. As a youth in Los Angeles, Kirsten performed on stage in many musicals and with choirs. <https://www.yamaguchianimation.com/>

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Performance Schedule:

4 p.m. Friday July 4th and Saturdays /Sundays till July 20th

John Hinkel Park Amphitheater

The Performance is a bit over 2 hours including an intermission

Next up:

Shakespeare's ***The TAMING OF THE SHREW***

Directed by Jay Manley and Jane Goodwin

Free in the John Hinkel Park Amphitheater

Saturdays and Sundays **August 16th – August 31st**

& Labor Day Monday, **September 1st**

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