

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley  
Presents

# THE EMPEROR OF THE MOON



By Aphra Behn  
Adapted by Victoria Siegel and Erin Perry

A STAGED READING  
DIRECTED BY ERIN PERRY

MAY 26th - 8PM

LA VAL'S  
SUBTERRANEAN  
THEATER

Ralph in *The Gods of Comedy* (Masquers Playhouse) and Hamlet in *Hamlet* (The Foodbank Players).

**David Boyll** is a working actor, voice over artist, photographer, and lifelong San Franciscan. This summer, he will appear in SF Playhouse's production of *Hairspray*.

**Sara Guillen** is thrilled to be working with **AE** for the first time. Most recently in *Cyrano* (Berkeley Shakespeare Company) and *As You Like It* (PVTC), she is so excited to help bring **The Emperor of the Moon** to life. Enjoy the show!

**Bruce Kaplan** is delighted to be back in the basement, where he last appeared as Willy Loman in *Death of A Salesman*. Look for him at John Hinkel Park in August for **AE's** production of **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. He dedicates this performance to Donna Davis.

**Abe Karplus** is excited to return for his fifth production with Actors Ensemble. Abe has been acting since the age of four and will next be seen as Jonathan Harker in Orinda Starlight Village Players' *Dracula*. Outside of the theater, he's a software engineer, designing satellites to bring internet access across the globe.

**Virgie Poole** is grateful to be working with director Erin K. Perry on this exciting project. Come see her as the Queen of Hearts in **AE's** summer production of **Alice In Wonderland** opening July 3rd at John Hinkel Park!

**Jess Rodgers** is very excited to be working with **AE** for the first time and this awesome team of artists! He's born and raised in the Bay Area and he's performed at different theaters from San Francisco to Sonoma. You can find him on social media @sourdoughjrod.

**Joshua Roberts** is thrilled to be a part of another **AE** production. Some notable recent roles have been Lenny in *Rumors*, Coriolanus in *Coriolanus*, and Biff in *Death of a Salesman*. He'd like to thank his dear friend and talented director Erin Perry for this opportunity to perform Aphra Behn's hilarious play with such lovely actors.

**Vicki Siegel** is an **AE** Board Member who has been in and worked on many plays over the years, including two of her original musicals. She is happy to support Erin in her directorial debut bringing this classic play to life.

**Jean-Paul Demitri Zuhur** is a stage, film, television, and voiceover actor. In his spare time Jean-Paul enjoys playing guitar, hiking with his wife, son and peekapoo and has been known to throat sing occasionally.

pay-what-you-will

[www.aeofberkeley.org](http://www.aeofberkeley.org)

## *The Emperor of the Moon*

By *Aphra Behn*

Adapted by *Erin Perry and Vicki Siegel*

Directed by *Erin Perry*

Cast and Crew

Doctor.....Bruce Kaplan  
Scaramouch.....Abe Karplus  
Harlequin.....Joshua Roberts  
Mopsophil.....Virgie Poole  
Charmante..... Paul Bisesi  
Cinthio.....Jess Rodgers  
Elaria.....Sara Guillen  
Bellemante.....Juleanne Milan Antunez  
Kepler/Stentor.....Jean-Paul Zuhur  
Stage Directions..... David Boyll

Stage Management..... Mary Tran  
Graphics.....Mia Perry  
Lighting Assistance.....Nathan Bogner  
Producer/Program.....: Jerome Solberg

Thanks to Ruth Giron Wong, Gina D'Souza, Kevin Karplus, Lisa Wang, Jeff Trescott, Martha Luehrmann, Jay Manley, Jerome Solberg, the City of Berkeley Civic Arts, and all our supporters.

Thanks to **Theater Lunatico** for their ongoing cooperation in the use of LaVal's Subterranean Theater.

Special thanks to Elaine Hobby and Alan Hogarth's edition for Volume IV of the **Cambridge Edition of the Works of Aphra Behn** for serving as the basis of this adaptation.

Performed One Night Only  
Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 8 p.m.  
LaVal's Subterranean Theater  
Berkeley, California  
Actors Ensemble (**AE**) of Berkeley – since 1957  
[www.aeofberkeley.org](http://www.aeofberkeley.org)

## Director's Note

I was first introduced to Aphra Behn in college, through her most popular play, *The Rover*. While revisiting the play I became curious about Behn's other pieces, and ultimately found ***The Emperor of the Moon***. Upon first reading, it was funny, energetic, silly, and sexy. A moon-obsessed patriarch, young lovers vying for romantic freedom, a bit of a love triangle.

The longer I sat with the story I began to see how surprisingly modern it was. A familiar concept revealed itself. An intelligent man had fallen mad due to the influence of media sources he'd trusted. I thought about colleagues, friends, and loved ones, we've seen fall victim to the age of misinformation we currently live within. The Doctor's madness affects the lives and well-being of his loved ones, and an intervention becomes urgent. This story shows the ease in which someone can be misguided, and it shows the effort it takes to bring them back to reality.

This play is funny, really funny. But it is also poignant, and a cautionary tale of the creeping influence media can have on us. Aphra Behn created something that continues to feel relevant today. It felt important that my directorial debut be a piece written by a woman, nearly 400 years ago, with biting female characters, and sharp themes that continue to resonate today.

Thank you to my overwhelmingly supportive friends and family. And thank you **Actors Ensemble of Berkeley** for trusting me with this opportunity.

### Biographies

*In Alphabetical Order*

**Juleanne Millan Antunez** is working on her MA in Theatre Arts at San Francisco State University, trained at Shakespeare & Company's Summer Intensive in Massachusetts, and internationally in London with CSU Summer Arts. Recent roles include Fritzie in *Cabaret* with Pacifica Spindrift Players, U/S Cyrano in *Cyrano* with Berkeley Shakes. @juleanne.millan.

**Paul Bisesi** is excited to return to **AE**, having previously played Dr. John Watson in *Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Missing Mystery* and Zac Connor in *Kudzu 2012*. Other recent roles include