



Fig. 1
Fig. 1
Actors Ensemble of Berkeley
presents

REPOSSESSED

***What if you could have your brain
improved ... on the installment plan?***

By Greg Lam

Directed by Gabriel A. Ross

***With: Alan Coyne, David
Ghilardi, Claire Houghton
Renoe, Rachael Richman &
Natalie Tichenor***

***Creatives: Nate Bogner, Jose
Garcia, Vanessa Price, Jerome
Solberg & Larry Tasse***

July 31st - August 9th 2026

La Val's Subterranean Theater, Berkeley

www.aeofberkeley.org

REPOSSESSED

by Greg Lam

Directed by Gabriel A. Ross

Cast

(in alphabetical order)

Rich.....Alan Coyne
Ted.....David Ghilardi
Gretchen.....Claire Houghton Renoe
Regina.....Rachael Richman
Cindy.....Natalie Tichenor
Ensemble.....Jose Garcia

Staff

Director.....Gabriel A. Ross
Stage Manager.....Jose Garcia
Technical Direction.....Nate Bogner
Costumer.....Vanessa Price
Set Designer.....Nate Bogner
Light Design.....Nate Bogner
Sound Design.....Larry Tasse
Props.....Nate Bogner, Jerome Solberg, Jane Goodwin
Intimacy Choreography.....Bessie Zolno
Publicity Photos.....Jay Manley
Production Photos.....Jane Shamaeva
Producer & Many Other Things.....Jerome Solberg

Performance Schedule:

***Performance Schedule: 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2
p.m. Sunday, July 31st through August 9th, 2026***

La Val's Subterranean Theater

The Performance is around 2 hours including an intermission

Produced by Arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing

*Thank you to Theatre Lunatico for the use of La Val's
Subterranean and La Val's Pizza for their hospitality.*

A Note from the Director

We place a great deal of faith in the idea that people transform themselves through effort. But what if that is not entirely true? What if we are defined by qualities we did not choose and cannot easily alter? Employers, investors, friends, and partners want certain things. Perhaps you possess them, or perhaps you do not. What if effort is admirable, but does not ultimately make a difference?

Years ago, I saw a documentary about the possibility of genetically enhancing human beings. Near the end, a scientist was asked whether giving people enhanced abilities would provide them with an unfair advantage. He responded, in essence: Why is it more unfair to give someone an advantage deliberately than for that person to receive the same advantage by accident of birth? LifeEnhanced operates upon the premise of this uncertainty.

If such a service existed, it might follow the trajectory of online dating, and artificial intelligence. At first, many would find it appalling. But curiosity would overcome some. As it became more effective, its popularity would silently grow, while users would be too embarrassed to admit their habit. But eventually the shame would fade, the practice would become ordinary and refusing it might seem stranger than accepting it. The question would evolve from, "Why would anyone do this?" to, "Why wouldn't you?"

Repossessed asks: Are we defined by the challenges we do or don't overcome? Or are we defined by our choices? And if choice is what makes us free, shouldn't more choices make us freer? LifeEnhanced promises to remove barriers and expand possibilities. But limits also shape us. If every version of ourselves could be made available, would we become our best selves, or would we just be another product to customize? Is transformation freedom, or an escape from the difficult, imperfect process by which life acquires meaning. If LifeEnhanced were real, how long would we hold out? ----- Gabriel A. Ross, July 2026.

Cast and Staff Biographies *In Alphabetical Order*

Nate Bogner (*Set & Light Design, Technical Direction*) studied Technical Theater and Stage Management at Diablo Valley College and Performance and Playwrighting at Berkeley Rep School of Theater. In the ensuing years he's been involved in 100's of productions, been the resident Lighting Designer for Diablo Actors Ensemble, for V.P. of **Actors Ensemble**, and is currently creating a website to teach theater to Home Schooled Students.

This is **Alan Coyne's** (*Rich*) second production with **Actors Ensemble**, after 2016's *What Do Women Want?* He has also performed with We Players, Center Rep, Shotgun Players, ACT's school tour, SF Shakes, and Central Works, among others. You can see him next in Pinecones and Portals' *Alice in Wander Land* at Codornices Park, September 5 & 6. He dedicates this performance to his puffin, Danielle, and one year of implanted memories. Happy dodecamesaversary!

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

David Ghilardi (*Ted*) just finished his 13th book: [Eurydice Came Back](#). Available this Fall. See his Film/TV work at <https://davidghilardi.com/film>. Great to

be back with **AEB!** Much love to Jazz. (Show 190).

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0315757>

Vanessa Price (*Costumes*) is thrilled to make her Costume Design debut with **Repossessed**. Recent Bay Area credits include Assistant Costume Designer for *The Fre* and *Stitcher* for *The House of Bernarda Alba*, both with Oakland Theater Project. She has a master's degree in Television, Radio, and Film from Syracuse University and has 14 years of cosplay design and sewing experience. Offstage, she shares her home with an Alaskan Malamute named Aether and two cats, Gilgamesh and Enkidu.

Rachael Richman (*Regina*) is delighted to join **Repossessed**. Credits include: *Innocence* (San Francisco Opera), *Curious Incident* (San Francisco Playhouse), *The Karamazovs* (New Ohio Theatre/feature film), *The Hairy Ape* (Eugene O'Neil Foundation), *The Portrait* (Central Stage, TheatreLab), *Funeral Game* (Potrero Stage), *Aunt Leaf* (HERE Arts, Hudson Opera), *Silent Sky* (Bristol Valley Theatre), *Soulographie* (La Mama ETC), *Offending the Audience* (Flea Theatre), *Are We Here Yet?* (PS 122), *Body Drama* (Whitney Museum), *The Speakeasy* (Palace Theatre), and *Man of La Mancha* (Custom Made Theatre) for which she received the SFBATCC Award for Principal Actress. Co-created many works including *Private(i)* (Brooklyn Navy Yard/BEAT Festival) and *Prime* (Art Monastery Project) which toured internationally.
@richman.rachael, www.thekaramazovs.com

Claire Houghton Renoe (*Gretchen*) is an actor from Berkeley, California. She recently returned to the Bay

Area from New York City, where she played Tina in *Johnny Doo Wop Dracula* at Theater for the New City. Bay Area credits include *Every Brilliant Thing* at Korsa Musical Theater, *Boeing Boeing* at Onstage Rep, *The Spitfire Grill* at Ross Valley Players, and *The Marriage of Figaro* with **Actors Ensemble of Berkeley**. She recently enjoyed directing *The C Word*, an original feminist comedy by Sarah Lina Sparks, for the Hollywood and Edinburgh Fringe Festival. She graduated from UCLA in 2024 with a B.A. in Theater, where she originated roles in *The C Word* and *I Swear to God* by DJ Hills. clairehoughtonrenoe.com

Gabriel A. Ross (*Director*) Gabriel first joined **AE** on stage, mumble-mumble years ago, in *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead* (Guildenstern). He has directed and performed in several readings with **AE** over the years, most recently directing *Truman v Israel*. During the pandemic, he directed the online production of *Two Jews Walk into a War*, and the workshop of *Too Many Crucibles*. Last year he directed *Big, Scary Animals* for Masquers. Recent performances include *Book Club Play* (Alex) at RVP and *Cabaret* (Shultz) at The Rhino. He is grateful to Jerome and the **AE** Board for their support.

Jerome Solberg (*Producer*) has been in and around **Actors Ensemble** since 2005, and on their board since 2007. He has produced many of their productions since then, acted a little, and fulfilled a variety of other roles as well. Thanks to Hitomi for all her support.

This is **Larry Tasse's** (*Sound Design*) first gig with **Actors Ensemble of Berkeley**. Thank you. He was the recipient of the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle award for Best Sound Design for Quantum Dragon's production of *Fahrenheit 451*. He is also an accomplished recorded and produced pianist, songwriter and composer. Please Google and YouTube. He thanks his actress wife GiGi for her loving support and their mystical cat Georgie.

Natalie Tichenor (she/they) (*Cindy*) is a Bay Area actor, and a Speech and Language Pathologist in Richmond. She was last seen on this stage as Inez in *No Exit*. Past favorite shows include: *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet), *Spring Awakening* (Ilse), *Dr. Voynich and Her Children* (Hannah), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tzeitel), *12 Angry Jurors* (Juror #8), and *Clybourne Park* (Betsy/Lindsay). You can see her after this performance as Judith in *Equivocation* at Spreckels Performing Arts Center in September. As always, she thanks her friends and family, her life-partner and "professional audience member," Jamari, and her very important cats, Eurydice and Ari, for all their love and support.

Next up for Actors Ensemble

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT's DREAM

by William Shakespeare, directed by Michael R. Cohen.

John Hinkel Park Amphitheater,

August 22nd - September 6th

The IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

by Oscar Wilde, directed by Jay Manley w/Jane Goodwin.

Live Oak Theater,

October 2nd - October 18th

We depend on your generous donations for our continued survival!

Actors Ensemble: 69 years & counting, since 1957

Donate:

www.aeofberkeley.org/donate

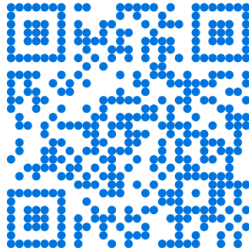
*Our website accepts **Paypal** – We are a 501(3)c organization.*

Checks: PO Box 663, Berkeley, CA 94703

Venmo: https://account.venmo.com/u/Actors_Ensemble

Or for Venmo

scan this:



Board of Directors: Michael R. Cohen[^], Victoria F. Siegel[^], Jeff Trescott[^], Jerome Solberg[^], Ron Anderson,, Jane Goodwin, Paulette Herring, Jay Manley, Gabriel Ross, Mary Tran
[^]=officer

Join our mailing list! - www.aeofberkeley.org
Volunteer! Email us @ info@aeofberkeley.org

Check out www.aeofberkeley.org, or follow us on Instagram or X or BlueSky @[aeofberkeley](https://www.instagram.com/aeofberkeley) or Facebook @[actorsensemble](https://www.facebook.com/actorsensemble)

Thank you to all our supporters, especially Ruth Giron Wong, Gina De Sousa, Kevin Karplus, Lisa Wang, Jeff Trescott, Martha Luehrmann, Jay Manley, Jerome Solberg, and our webmaster Jonathan Gordon.



*Actors Ensemble is supported in part
by a grant from The City of Berkeley
Civic Arts Commission*

