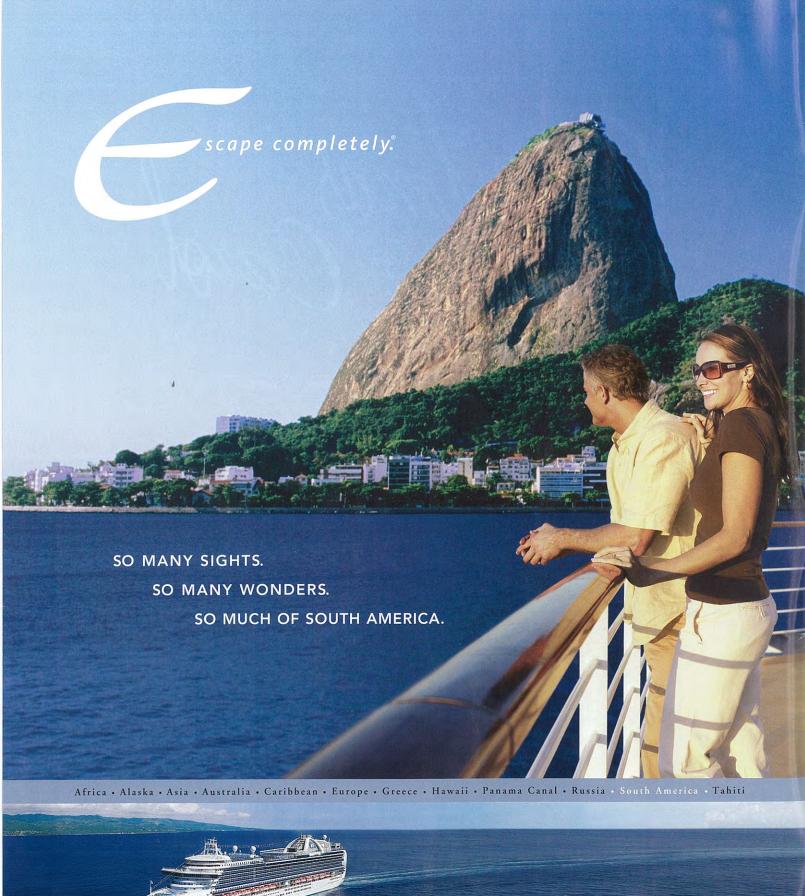
by Charles Dickens Adapted by Carey Perloff and Paul Walsh Music by Karl Lundeberg Choreography by Val Caniparoli Directed by Domenique Lozano Based on the original direction by Carey Perloff



A C T american conservatory theater

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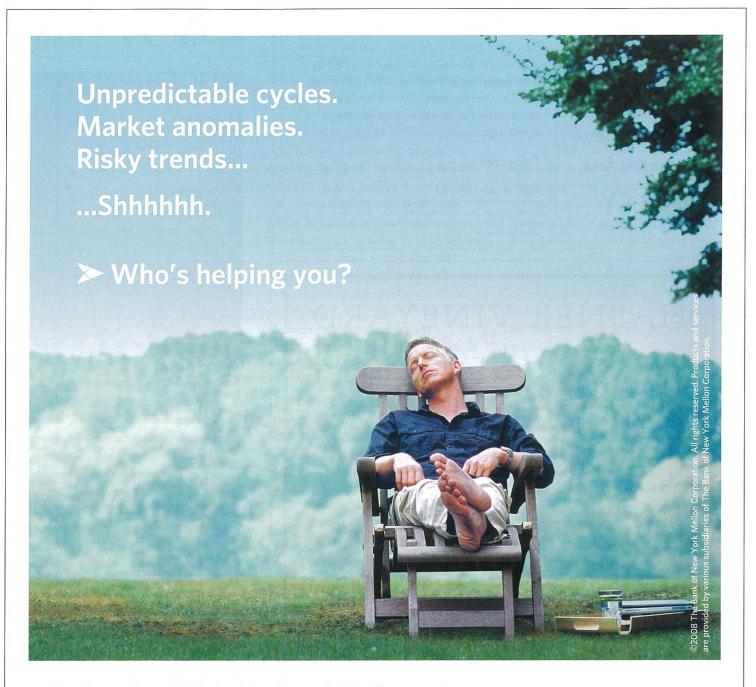




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December 2008 Volume 7, No. 3



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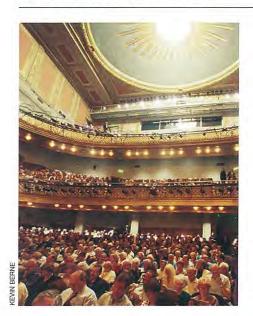




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ABOUT A.C.T.



AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER nurtures the art of live theater through dynamic productions, intensive actor training in its conservatory, and an ongoing dialogue with its community. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Carey Perloff and Executive Director Heather Kitchen, A.C.T. embraces its responsibility to conserve, renew, and reinvent its relationship to the rich theatrical traditions and literatures that are our collective legacy, while exploring new artistic forms and

new communities. A commitment to the highest standards informs every aspect of A.C.T.'s creative work.

Founded in 1965 by William Ball, A.C.T. opened its first San Francisco season at the Geary Theater in 1967. In the 1970s, A.C.T. solidified its national and international reputation, winning a Tony Award for outstanding theater performance and training in 1979. During the past four decades, more than 300 A.C.T. productions have been performed to a combined audience of seven million people; today, A.C.T.'s performance, education, and outreach programs annually reach more than 250,000 people in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 1996, A.C.T.'s efforts to develop creative talent for the theater were recognized with the prestigious Jujamcyn Theaters Award. In 2001, to celebrate A.C.T.'s 35th anniversary and Perloff's 10th season, A.C.T. created a new core company of actors, who have become instrumental in every aspect of its work.

Today A.C.T. is recognized nationally for its groundbreaking productions of classical works and bold explorations of contemporary playwriting. Since the reopening of the Geary Theater (now the American Conservatory Theater) in 1996, A.C.T. has enjoyed a remarkable period of audience expansion and financial stability. In 2001, A.C.T. began producing alternative work at Zeum Theater, which now serves as a venue for student productions and exciting new plays. The company continues to produce challenging theater in the rich context of symposia, audience discussions, and community interaction.

The conservatory, led by Melissa Smith and George Thompson, now serves 3,000 students every year. It was the first actor training program in the United States not affiliated with a college or university accredited to award a master of fine arts degree. Danny Glover, Annette Bening, Denzel Washington, and Elizabeth Banks are among the conservatory's distinguished former students. With its commitment to excellence in actor training and to the relationship between training, performance, and audience, the A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts Program has moved to the forefront of America's actor training programs, while serving as the creative engine of the company at large.



Carey Perloff, Artistic Director • Heather Kitchen, Executive Director

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American Conservatory Theater was founded in 1965 by William Ball.

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AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM OLYMPIA DUKAKIS



Dear Friends,

Welcome to *A Christmas Carol* at A.C.T.! As you may know, I have long considered A.C.T. my artistic home. This amazing company has both entertained and enlightened San Francisco audiences for more than four decades, and I am proud to be a part of that distinguished tradition. At its finest, theater is provocative and challenging, and, one hopes, leaves audiences better informed about the world around them. The first live theatrical experience for countless Bay Area residents, *A Christmas Carol* is a perfect example of what makes A.C.T. unique as a nonprofit theater: ambitious productions, a fantastic conservatory that has trained many of the young actors you are seeing onstage today, and thousands of free tickets

offered to local students who would not otherwise be able to experience live theater. Especially during these challenging times, I urge you to support A.C.T.'s continuing success.

Because they share my enthusiasm for A.C.T. and the valuable role this company plays in our lives, the trustees of the Shenson Foundation have pledged to match *every* gift to A.C.T.'s annual fund this season with a contribution of \$100, up to a total of \$150,000! Your participation in the Annual Fund has never been as vital as it is today, thanks to this generous matching grant.

Theater is never more important than in times of challenge and uncertainty. I ask that you join me in support of this remarkable organization. Together, we can make a real difference for A.C.T.

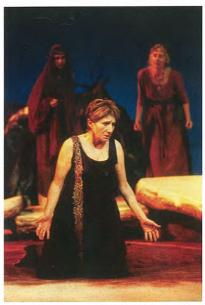
Sincerely,

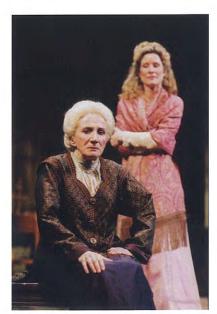
Olympia Dukakis

Member, A.C.T. Board of Trustees



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OLYMPIA DUKAKIS AT A.C.T. (L TO R): HECUBA (1998, PHOTO BY RICHARD FELDMAN); WITH MARCIA PIZZO IN A MOTHER (2004, PHOTO BY KEN FRIEDMAN); WITH MARCO BARRICELLI IN FOR THE PLEASURE OF SEEING HER AGAIN (2002, PHOTO BY KEN FRIEDMAN).



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FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

During my very first season at A.C.T., I sat in the audience of *A Christmas*Carol with my then three-year-old daughter, Lexie, and watched her experience the show, hiding her eyes in terror at the arrival of Marley's ghost and clapping

with delight when snowflakes finally fell on all the revelers at the end. Years later, my son, Nicholas, who was not even in the picture when we arrived in San Francisco, had the chance to play the rambunctious Ned Cratchit on the same stage. During my 17 seasons at A.C.T., I've had the pleasure of watching a generation of incredible children from A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory grow up with this story, and a remarkable crop of M.F.A. Program students make their mainstage debuts in the company of *Carol* each year. It is always a great joy to bring *A Christmas Carol* back into the repertoire, perhaps now more than ever.

Among other things, A Christmas Carol reveals that triggering the imagination is the key to triggering change in a person's heart. Ebenezer Scrooge is a desiccated, closed-up human being who has succeeded in squeezing all the humanity out of himself; he has severed all ties with his community and forgotten what it is to feel. His remarkable transformation into an emotionally alive human being is brought about by three ghosts. Ghosts! Dickens realized that if Scrooge could be convinced to believe in the three magical spirits, if his imagination could be stimulated by the poignant memories of Christmas Past, the sensual pleasures of Christmas Present, and the visceral terrors of Christmas Future, it would be possible for him to wake up on Christmas morning an entirely new man.

What an incredible endorsement of the power of art.

Perhaps this is why Dickens's tale has always appealed so deeply to theater people. Ours is the art of empathy and transformation. When the Puritans took power in London in the mid-17th century, two things quickly disappeared: theater and Christmas. Dickens almost single-handedly brought Christmas back. His Christmas is a theatrical, sensual affair, filled with family and food and fun, an occasion to remember one's fellow human beings traveling along the road, and to look ahead to the future. We have used Dickens's own rich language wherever we could, including his mouthwatering descriptions of Christmas abundance, which became, in our version, "The Waltz of the Opulent Fruit." Let it never be said that you missed the chance to see a dancing fig on the A.C.T. stage!

Dickens changed the way we look at child labor, urban poverty, and the responsibilities of the "charitable classes," and *A Christmas Carol* remains a landmark example of how art can change social consciousness. We find ourselves at an extraordinary moment both politically and economically as we present *A Christmas Carol* this season—it is a time of enormous financial anxiety but also profound excitement about the possibilities of hope and change. We trust that the empathetic spirit of Dickens's story will fill your heart, and the arrival of the three spirits will stimulate your imaginations to enter into the lives of people who need our attention and our belief.

Many thanks for being here!

Carey Perloff

Artistic Director





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A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS

by Charles Dickens (1843)

Adapted by Carey Perloff and Paul Walsh (2005) Music by Karl Lundeberg Directed by Domenique Lozano Based on the original direction by Carey Perloff Choreography by Val Caniparoli Musical direction by Laura Burton

Scenery by

John Arnone

Costumes by

Beaver Bauer

Lighting by

Nancy Schertler

Sound by Dance Répétiteur

Jake Rodriguez Nancy Dickson

Casting by

Greg Hubbard, Meryl Lind Shaw

Dramaturg

Michael Paller

Assistant Director

Wolfgang Lancelot Wachalovsky

continued on page 13

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(in order of appearance)

ACT I

Ebenezer Scrooge

James Carpenter

Bob Cratchit

Stephen Barker Turner

Tiny Tim Cratchit

Kai Nau

Charitables

Natalie Hegg, Weston Wilson

Fred

Nicholas Pelczar

Mrs. Dilber

Sharon Lockwood Ken Ruta

Ghost of Jacob Marley Ghost of Christmas Past

Erin Michelle Washington

Davey J. Peter Scattini

Edward

Samuel Breakstone Tunick

Boy Dick

Ilya Verzhbinsky

Boy Scrooge

Noah Pawl Silverman St. John

Little Fan

Lauren Safier

FEZZIWIG'S WAREHOUSE

Mr. Fezziwig

Jarion Monroe

Mrs. Fezziwig

Sharon Lockwood

Young Scrooge

Christopher Tocco

Dick Wilkins

Patrick Russell

Belle

Allison Brennan

Ermengarde

Kelsey Venter

Felicity

Britannie Bond

Jim

Nick Gabriel

Giles the Fiddler

Philip Martinson

Dorothy

Liz Sklar

Burt

Weston Wilson

Alan

Lloyd Roberson II

Ruth

Natalie Hegg

Alfred

Tobiah Richkind

Children of Alan and Ruth

Nik Brocchini, Kathryn Hasson, Phyllis Wattis

Precious Wilkins

Kathryn Hasson

Sarah Wilkins

Phyllis Wattis

Rory Wilkins

Nik Brocchini

ACT II

Ghost of Christmas Present

BW Gonzalez

(Spanish) Onions

Isabella Ateshian, Ella Ruth Francis

(Turkish) Figs

Rachel Share-Sapolsky, Kira Yaffe Megan Apple, Megumi Nakamura

(French) Plums Produce Sellers

Nick Gabriel, Kelsey Venter

FRED'S PARTY

Mary

Cat Walleck

Beth

Mfoniso Udofia

Topper

Lloyd Roberson II

Annabelle

Britannie Bond

Thomas

Philip Martinson

CRATCHIT HOME

Anne Cratchit Peter Cratchit

Cindy Goldfield Joshua Rechtschaffen

continued on page 15

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2008-09 season

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FEB 13-MAR 15 SOUVENIR A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins by Stephen Temperley Directed by Vivian Matalon

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world PREMIERE MAR 26- APR 26 WAR MUSIC

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Renowned writer and director Lillian Groag reignites the fury and passion of the Iliad in this wildly theatrical, totally modern fusion of language, music, and movement-a must-see event!

MAY 7-JUN 7 **BOLEROS** for the DISENCHANTED

by José Rivera Directed by Carey Perloff

The Academy Award-nominated screenwriter of The Motorcycle Diaries explores the ineffable dreams of lovers in this brilliant, decadesspanning new work.

PREMIERE JUN 12-JUL 12

AT HOME at the ZOO (formerly titled PETER and JERRY)

by Edward Albee Directed by Rebecca Taichman

Edward Albee's (Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?) new spellbinder is a meticulously calibrated and dangerously brutal look at the lives of three New Yorkers.



Belinda Cratchit

Sarah Withers

Sally Cratchit

Amara Radetsky

Ned Cratchit

William Halladey Lanier

Martha Cratchit

Kelsey Venter

CHRISTMAS FUTURE

Ignorance

James Bigelow

Want

Britannie Bond

Gang Members

Rondrell McCormick, Philip Martinson, Rachel Share-Sapolsky, Ilya Verzhbinsky

Ghost of Christmas Future

Nicholas Pelczar, Lloyd Roberson II,

Businessmen

Patrick Russell, Christopher Tocco James Bigelow, Nick Gabriel,

Rondrell McCormick, Jarion Monroe

Mrs. Filcher Liz Sklar

FINALE

Boy in Sunday Clothes

Tobiah Richkind

UNDERSTUDIES

Ebenezer Scrooge—Anthony Fusco

Bob Cratchit—Philip Martinson; Ghost of Jacob Marley, Mr. Fezziwig—Steve Irish

Anne Cratchit, Mrs. Fezziwig, Mrs. Dilber—Nancy Carlin; Martha Cratchit, Mary, Felicity—Liz Sklar

Tiny Tim Cratchit—Amara Radetsky; Belle, Ermengarde, Dorothy, Ruth—Cat Walleck

Sally Cratchit, Little Fan, Daughter of Alan and Ruth, Precious Wilkins-Rachel Share-Sapolsky

Ghost of Christmas Present, Mrs. Filcher-Mfoniso Udofia; Peter Cratchit-Noah Pawl Silverman St. John

Belinda Cratchit—Megumi Nakamura; Ned Cratchit, Onions—Tobiah Richkind

Dick Wilkins, Produce Seller, Ghost of Christmas Future—Weston Wilson

Boy Dick, Boy in Sunday Clothes—Samuel Breakstone Tunick; Thomas, Giles the Fiddler—James Bigelow

Charitable Gentleman, Ignorance—Patrick Russell; Businessman—Lloyd Roberson II

Ghost of Christmas Past-Kelsey Venter

Son of Alan and Ruth, Rory Wilkins — Ilya Verzhbinsky; Davey, Edward — Nik Brocchini

Boy Scrooge—William Halladey Lanier; Young Scrooge—Nick Gabriel

Jim, Burt, Alan—Nicholas Pelczar; Beth—Allison Brennan

Figs—Kai Nau; Plums—Sarah Withers; Alfred—J. Peter Scattini

Daughter of Alan and Ruth, Sarah Wilkins-Lauren Safier

Want—Allison Brennan; Annabelle—Natalie Hegg; Topper, Fred—Rondrell McCormick

Gang Members—Joshua Rechtschaffen, Christopher Tocco, Phyllis Wattis

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ADDITIONAL CREDITS

Voice Coach—Jeffrey Crockett; Fight Director—Dave Maier; Speech Coach—Deborah Sussel Associate Scenic Designers—Jesse Poleshuck, Josh Ranger; Rehearsal Accompanist—Robert Rutt Period Movement-Francine Landes; Dance Captain-Nick Gabriel; Fight Captain-Cat Walleck

The children performing in A Christmas Carol are students in the A.C.T. Young Conservatory. Young Conservatory Performance Monitor—Christine L. Plowright

A Christmas Carol will be performed with one 15-minute intermission.

A MAN REDEEMED BY MEMORIES

BY MICHAEL PALLER

n 1843, the year that he wrote A Christmas Carol, the world belonged to Charles Dickens. His first book, Sketches by Boz, had been published in 1836, and his career had been on an upward trajectory since. Boz had been followed by one success after another, including The Pickwick Papers, Oliver Twist, and Nicholas Nickleby. He married Catherine Hogarth in 1836 and by 1839 was living with her and their four children (six more would follow) in a fine house in the Regent's Park section of London with marble columns in the dining room, rich mahoganypaneled doors, a well-stocked library, a walled garden, and a coach house complete with coach and groom. Every inch the dandy, he was instantly recognizable with wavy brown hair down to his shoulders. His velvet and satin waistcoats in deep greens and reds, often embroidered with brightly colored flowers, were festooned with gold watch chains matched with gold tiepins and rings. These were not affectations but irrefutable expressions of physical vitality and intellectual exuberance. He was a character of his own creation, and he knew it: he nicknamed himself "The Inimitable."

Dickens's energy could not be held in check by writing alone. In his early years, the books came almost unbidden; he could be found in the parlor amidst family and friends, contributing to the lively conversation while simultaneously working on the latest installment of *Oliver Twist*. Games, jokes, puns, songs, laughter poured from him around the dinner table and hearth, which he dominated with his oversized presence; after dark he stalked London, including its worst slums, often until sunrise, working off an inexhaustible fund of excess energy and exercising keen powers of observation and memory. He struck one, a biographer wrote, as "all fire and charm."

Beneath the blaze thrown off by his outward life was the darkness of another one, as vital to his work as the light. His vivacity, vigor, and high spirits were complemented by driving ambition, restlessness, and profound dissatisfaction. Something in the darkness had created the need for the light; the outward joy was rooted in desolation. Where the light took the form of boundless comic energy in his work, the darkness emerged as the melodrama of innocent people, children mostly, abandoned by parents and endangered by the callous, greedy, and cruel.

Where did the darkness originate? In 1822, when he was ten, the family moved from the town of Chatham to London, where the financial condition of his father, John (never strong to begin with), went from bad to worse. Young Charles, who had a voracious appetite for learning and reading, was taken out of school and sent to the pawn shop with the meager family

belongings. Among the first items to go was the small library they'd brought from Chatham.

In 1824, as John Dickens's debts mounted, Charles was put to work. For twelve hours a day, six days a week, he pasted labels on jars of bootblacking in a creaking, rat-infested warehouse on the Thames. Soon after, his father was sent to Marshalsea Prison for indebtedness, and, while the rest of the family went to live there with him, Charles was on his own, living in lodgings. When not laboring at the warehouse or visiting his family in Marshalsea, the solitary 12-year-old boy walked the city, almost always hungry. After about five months, John Dickens was released, and Charles, over the objection of his mother, who thought the family needed the money, was taken out of the blacking house and returned to school. Although his time in the ramshackle house on the water was relatively short, Dickens never got over the experience or forgave his parents for thrusting him into a frightening, alien world where he had to survive on his own.

No words can express the secret agony of my soul. . . . The deep remembrance of the sense I had of being utterly neglected and hopeless; of the shame I felt in my position; of the misery it was to my young heart to believe that, day by day, what I had learned, and thought, and delighted in . . . was passing away from me, never to be brought back any more; cannot be written. My whole nature was so penetrated with the grief and humiliation of such considerations, that even now, famous and caressed and happy, I often forget in my dreams that I have a dear wife and children; even that I am a man; and wander desolately back to that time in my life.

Dickens never spoke of the episode to anyone other than his friend and biographer John Forster. Neither his wife nor children learned of it until they read about it in Forster's biography after Dickens's death. For all his charm and volubility, there was in Dickens a well of feelings he never revealed; he held this inner life close. None of the people who knew, or thought they knew, the ebullient author of later years had any notion of the darkness he carried inside and could not forget, but as of yet could only approach sidewise in his work through a generalized, if sharp, sympathy for the poor.

OPPOSITE: *DICKENS'S DREAM*, BY ROBERT WILLIAM BUSS. © DICKENS HOUSE MUSEUM, LONDON, UK/THE BRIDGEMAN ART LIBRARY.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL TELLS US, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT A MAN LIKE SCROOGE CANNOT LIVE FULLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRESENT UNTIL HE COMES FACE TO FACE WITH THE DARKNESS OF HIS PAST.

number of events led to the writing of A Christmas Carol; the two most immediate balanced the pulls in him toward light and dark. A speaking engagement in the northwest industrial city of Manchester in the fall of 1843 took him to the Manchester Athenaeum, a charitable organization that provided education, exercise, and culture to

the working and middle classes. As he looked down from the platform over "the bright eyes and beaming faces" of the crowd, he spoke of his gladness that it provided outlets for body and mind amid the clanking machinery of the city's booming textile factories. Then, returning to London, his walks through the city took him to several Ragged Schools. These were free schools run

by volunteers who taught the poorest of the poor. He described the sight in a letter to his friend the philanthropist Angela Burdett-Coutts. The school

was held in three most wretched rooms on the first floor of a rotten house: every plank, and timber, and brick, and lath, and piece of plaster shakes as you walk. I have very seldom seen . . . anything so shocking as the dire neglect of soul and body as exhibited these children. among . . . To find anything within them-who know nothing of affection, care, love, or kindness of any sort-to which it is possible to appeal, is, at first, like a search for the philosopher's stone.

Dickens was so appalled by the conditions and so inspired by the efforts of the volunteer teachers that, in addition to seeking Burdett-Coutts's aid, he suggested to the editors of the *Edinburgh Review* that he write an article about them. Almost as soon as he suggested it, however, he put the idea aside in favor of writing a book for the holiday season: *A Christmas Carol*.

The story poured out of him. "[T]he little book established over him a strange mastery that drove it on to completion before the end of November," writes



MR. FEZZIWIG'S BALL, FROM A CHRISTMAS CAROL (1843), ENGRAVING BY JOHN LEECH. VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM, LONDON, UK / THE BRIDGEMAN ART LIBRARY.

Edgar Johnson, Dickens's first major 20th-century biographer. Dickens himself wrote that as he worked, he

wept and laughed, and wept again, and excited himself in a most extraordinary manner in the composition; and thinking whereof he walked about the black streets of London 15 and 20 miles many a night when all sober folks had gone to bed.

He felt a great release when it was done. He described to a friend how he "broke out like a madman," and during the holidays that followed he threw himself into festivities as he'd never done before. "Such dinings, such dancings, such conjurings, such blind-man's-buffing, such theatregoings, such kissings-out of old years and kissings-in of new ones never took place in these parts before," he wrote.

What had A Christmas Carol unlocked that caused a release of energy extraordinary even for him? In it, Dickens didn't use the terrible memories that had haunted him for two decades, but he made a discovery that would, in fits and starts over the next few years, allow him to turn them into literature for the first time. For A Christmas Carol is the story of a man redeemed by his memories. For years, Ebenezer Scrooge had either blocked them out or chased them away, and as a result, could not live as a whole person. He worked, he ate, he slept, and rarely if ever raised his eyes above his ledger to see the hunger and need or the happiness of the people around him. The story tells us, among other things, that a man like Scrooge cannot live fully in the light of the present until he comes face to face with the darkness of his past. This is exactly what he does. As Scrooge watches his painful childhood and youth, he remembers, too, the happier times he has also forgotten. The pain of the lonely young Ebenezer is assuaged by the love of a sister; a boy abandoned by his father

WHAT THE DICKENS?



PORTRAIT OF CHARLES DICKENS, AGED 18 (1830), BY JANET ROSS

CHARLES DICKENS

was born February 7, 1812, in Portsmouth, England. The eldest son of a large middle class family, he experienced real poverty when his father was imprisoned for outstanding debts, and 12-year-old Charles was forced to leave home and work in a London factory. The experience deeply affected the boy and served as creative inspiration for the writer, whose many novels

naturalistically depict the difficult conditions of 19th-century British working-class life. Dickens later went on to work as an office boy and a reporter and experienced instant success as an author when The Pickwick Papers, a series of comic narratives written to accompany artistic engravings, was published in 1836. He followed The Pickwick Papers with the novels Oliver Twist (1839), Nicholas Nickleby (1839), Barnaby Rudge (1841), Martin Chuzzlewit (1844), A Christmas Carol (1843), and David Copperfield (1850). Featuring wild plot twists and lively depictions of London street life, his work, primarily published first in serial format, was easily adapted for the stage and appeared frequently at playhouses throughout England. In the 1850s Dickens's marriage to Catherine Hogarth dissolved, and his work began to tackle darker themes and more fully criticize industrial society. The novels of this period include Bleak House (1853), Hard Times (1854), Little Dorrit (1857), A Tale of Two Cities (1859), and, often considered his masterpiece, Great Expectations (1860). An exhausting series of reading tours late in life led to a decline in Dickens's health, and he died in 1870 working on the unfinished manuscript of The Mystery of Edwin Drood.

finds comfort and love in a family of Fezziwigs. "Do You Remember?" asks a song in A.C.T.'s version, and the answer is crucial. The man without a past has no future; in recovering his, Scrooge finds a life, a family, and a purpose.

Dickens couldn't yet draw directly on the experiences of his childhood for A Christmas Carol, but in it he created a character who could face the darkness in his past and, rather than make an orphan of it, acknowledge its value. That opened the way to *David Copperfield* and *Little Dorrit*, rich novels that draw on the full range of Dickens's life and experience, both the darkness and the light. *Carol* is a great gift to the world, and it was to Dickens, as well.

CREATING A HARMONIOUS CAROL



THE 2007 CAST OF A CHRISTMAS CAROL

hen A.C.T. Artistic Director Carey Perloff and dramaturg Paul Walsh set out to create a new adaptation of A Christmas Carol three years ago, they envisioned a theatrical experience that would employ the fantastical elements of stagecraft to evoke the themes of celebration and community in Dickens's novella. The resulting dramatic work is driven by an original musical score by Karl Lundeberg, as the cast becomes a chorus that follows Ebenezer Scrooge's journey from self-made outcast to jubilant member of society.

Written specifically to include roles for a full class of third-year A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts Program students (17 this year), 20 children from the A.C.T. Young Conservatory, and a complement of veteran professional actors, each year's *Carol* poses a particular challenge to the production's musical director, Laura Burton, who has been with the show since its inception. Burton, a composer and associate musical director of Canada's illustrious Stratford Shakespeare Festival, returns to San Francisco each November to transform the large and diverse cast into a harmonious ensemble

A.C.T.'s Lesley Gibson spoke with Burton about working with students, the relationship of music to dramatic text, and the power of voices coming together onstage.

YOU HELPED KARL LUNDEBERG ARRANGE THE VOCAL PARTS FOR THE ACTORS. WHAT SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS DID YOU GIVE THAT PROCESS?

One thing we had to consider is that the character of Christmas Past was written to be played either by a man or a woman, so we had to find a key that would be suitable for a solo sung by either gender. The key of a song makes a difference to how a performer communicates, and can change the way the audience views character. To make the choral parts a little less complex for the cast,

we concentrated on developing the harmonies, so the key wasn't quite as important. We wrote parts to stretch the range, which is a great way to show off the talents of the students.

LUNDEBERG SAID ONE OF HIS GOALS WAS TO CREATE A "PLAY WITH MUSIC" RATHER THAN A CONVENTIONAL MUSICAL. HOW DOES THAT AFFECT YOUR DIRECTION?

We're staying more in the Victorian period, and we discussed having a more traditional choral sound. We're not after a Broadway musical theater texture, which does change the way we teach the people who will be singing. We try to be true to the text, the story, and the historical era. I feel that it heightens communication when you sing a song; it's just a different way of engaging with people.

HOW DOES THE MUSIC HEIGHTEN THE WAY THIS PLAY IS COMMUNICATED TO THE AUDIENCE?

Everyone can relate to music, diverse audiences of children and adults. From the opening cue on, it adds excitement or "scary" elements for the ghosts. When you listen to people singing it can be so thrilling. The melodic line behind the lyric touches you in a different way, triggering your imagination to connect with the music and the lyrics. When the performers are also engaged emotionally in the acting, you have all the elements working together.

ARE THE ACTORS TYPICALLY RECEPTIVE, EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT TRAINED SINGERS?

Oh, yes, because I think they realize the value of the experience, especially if they're interested in classical texts. Almost every Shakespeare play has song in it, and any actor wants to have as much flexibility as possible in the skills they bring to their profession.

THE SCORE FEATURES EVERYTHING FROM NORWEGIAN FOLK MUSIC TO AMERICAN GOSPEL TUNES. HOW DOES THAT INFLUENCE YOUR APPROACH?

The "Waltz of the Opulent Fruit," for example, is almost like a patter song, because it's got such complex lyrics, so we concentrate on getting all of those images, all those figs and onions, really clear. Technically it's a challenge to find all the places for the actors to breathe, because they're dancing and singing at the same time. Stylistically, even though the music has a hint of Norwegian or gospel, we're still trying to be aware of the Victorian period. Norwegian fiddle music has been around for centuries, and it still makes you want to get up and dance. Music opens the play up to the audience and helps them embrace the story.

SHOWCASING THE A.C.T. MASTER OF FINE **ARTS PROGRAM CLASS OF 2009**



A.C.T. CONGRATULATES THE CLASS OF 2009! (FRONT ROW, L TO R) CAT WALLECK, NATALIE HEGG BRITANNIE BOND, NICK GABRIEL, MFONISO UDOFIA, WESTON WILSON, KELSEY VENTER, PATRICK RUSSELL, JAMES BIGELOW; (BACK ROW, L TO R) NICHOLAS PELCZAR, ERIN MICHELLE WASHINGTON, CHRISTOPHER TOCCO, LIZ SKLAR, RONDRELL MCCORMICK, ALLISON BRENNAN, PHILIP MARTINSON

ver the past year, you have seen members of this year's graduating M.F.A. Program class perform on the A.C.T. mainstage in 'Tis Pity She's a Whore (Kelsey Venter), Rock 'n' Roll (Natalie Hegg and Nicholas Pelczar), and today's performance of A Christmas Carol. You also saw them on the Zeum stage in Good Breeding in October, and we know you won't miss the opportunity to see them again next February in Philistines and next March in the mainstage production of War Music and the M.F.A. Program/Young Conservatory collaboration at Zeum, Volleygirls.

At the Class of '09 Showcase in April, the graduating class will perform together one last time in a diverse program of drama, comedy, and music chosen to highlight each graduate's individual talents. Following a San Francisco performance for local industry professionals, the students will head to both coasts to present their showcase to theater and film directors, agents, and casting directors in Los Angeles and New York.

While A.C.T. is able to provide some support for showcase expenses and makes arrangements on the students' behalf in each city, the class of '09 relies on the generosity of friends, family, and colleagues to help defray the remaining costs (which include travel and accommodations). Please help us launch the careers of these talented young artists!

TO DONATE TO THE 2009 A.C.T. MASTER OF FINE ARTS PROGRAM SHOWCASE FUND, PLEASE CALL EMILY CARR AT 415.439.2462 OR GO ONLINE AT WWW.ACT-SF.ORG/SHOWCASE2009.





Who's Who in A Christmas Carol



megan apple returns to A Christmas Carol at A.C.T. after appearing in the 2006 and 2007 productions. A student in the A.C.T.

Young Conservatory, she has also studied dance with City Ballet School since 2003 and has appeared in several City Ballet productions, including *The Nutcracker* and *Peter and the Wolf*. She is 11 years old and attends Kittredge School in San Francisco.



ISABELLA ATESHIAN is ten years old and attends The Young School in St. Helena. She returns to the A.C.T. mainstage for A Christmas Carol after

debuting in last season's production as a Turkish Fig. She has studied in the A.C.T. Young Conservatory since 2006, privately studies piano and voice, and is a member of the St. Helena Children's Chorus. She also studies ballet, tap, and jazz with Little Feet School of Dance.



JAMES
BIGELOW† has
been seen in A.C.T.
M.F.A. Program
productions of Great
Catherine, Serenading
Louie, Romeo and
Juliet, Ubu Roi, La

Ronde, Little Shop of Horrors, and, most recently, Good Breeding. Other credits include The Sugar Bean Sisters at San Jose Stage Company, Tartuffe and Murder at the Howard Johnson's at Northside Theatre Company, Home Front with the Pacifica Spindrift Players, Ghosts with Santa Clara Players, and You're Not the Man I Married for Lifetime Television. Bigelow is the

Susan and Bob Green Scholar and is originally from San Jose, California.



BRITANNIE
BOND† most
recently appeared in
the role of Electra in
the A.C.T. M.F.A.
Program production
of *Good Breeding*.
Additional A.C.T.

M.F.A. Program credits include Little Shop of Horrors, The Orphan Muses (Isabelle), Romeo and Juliet (Nurse), Ubu Roi (Buggerlas), Richard II (Queen Isabel), Great Catherine (Claire), The Happy Journey to Trenton and Camden (Beulah), and La Ronde (The Little Miss). Bond earned a B.F.A. in theater performance from the University of Evansville, where she appeared in such productions as Our Town (Emily), Necessary Targets (Melissa), and Anton in Show Business (Lisabette). Regional credits include performances in Seussical and Scapin with Hope Summer Repertory Theatre in Michigan. Bond was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada, and is a Heather M. Kitchen Scholar, supported by The Heather M. Kitchen Scholarship Fund, an endowed fund of The Next Generation Campaign.



ALLISON
BRENNAN† is a former member of the University of Ottawa Drama Guild in Ontario, Canada. Regional credits include

performances in *That Other Person* and *Crazy Eights* with Vision Theatre in Ottawa and *The Odyssey* for the National Arts Centre in Canada. In 2008 she appeared in California Shakespeare Theater productions of *Pericles* and *An Ideal Husband* (Lady Basildon). As a member of the A.C.T. M.F.A. Program she has been seen in *Romeo and Juliet*, *La*

Ronde, The Music Cure, Little Shop of Horrors, and Good Breeding. Brennan holds a B.F.A. from the University of Ottawa.



NIK BROCCHINI is in the fifth grade at Franklin Elementary School in Burlingame. He joined the A.C.T. Young Conservatory in 2008, plays the trumpet and drums,

and enjoys soccer, basketball, and fly fishing.



JAMES
CARPENTER* has been seen at A.C.T. most recently as
Milan in Rock 'n' Roll,
Richardetto in 'Tis
Pity She's a Whore,
and Ebenezer

Scrooge in the last two seasons of A Christmas Carol. Other A.C.T. credits include Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, A Doll's House, and Glengarry Glen Ross. A San Francisco Bay Area resident for 25 years, an associate artist at Berkeley Repertory Theatre for 12 years, and currently an associate artist with California Shakespeare Theater, he is the recipient of numerous Drama-Logue, Backstage West, and Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle awards and was the 2007 recipient of BATCC's Barbara Bladen Porter Award for excellence in the arts. His theater credits include three seasons each with The Old Globe and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, as well as appearances with Shakespeare Santa Cruz, the Huntington Theatre Company, INTIMAN Theatre, San Jose Repertory Theatre, and Marin Theatre Company. Screen credits include the feature films The Rainmaker and Metro, the independents Singing and The Sunflower Boy, and the series Nash Bridges.

^{*} Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States

[†] Member of the A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts Program class of 2009 and an Equity Professional Theater Intern



FRANCIS makes her A.C.T. debut in A Christmas Carol. Past acting credits include roles in Once Upon a Mattress, Gypsy, and Footloose at Musical

Theatre Works, as well as school and church productions. She was a print model for Christine Foley Knits and studies acting, dancing, and singing. Francis is a sixth grade student at Katherine Delmar Burke School in San Francisco.



NICK GABRIEL† recently played Seymour in the A.C.T. M.F.A. Program production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. Regional credits include

Metamorphoses and Beast on the Moon with Capital Repertory Theatre, Twelfth Night with the Saratoga Shakespeare Company, The Overcoat with the Egress Theatre Company at The Brooklyn Lyceum, Dream of a Blacklisted Actor at The Spencertown Academy, The Magic of Frederick Loewe with the Bandwagon Theatre Company, Martha & Me in the New York International Fringe Festival, and The Nutcracker and Petrouchka with the Albany-Berkshire Ballet. Gabriel received his B.F.A. in musical theater from the University of Michigan.



CINDY
GOLDFIELD* has appeared at A.C.T. in three seasons of A Christmas Carol and is a two-time recipient of both the Bay Area Theatre

Critics Circle and the Dean Goodman Choice awards. Regional theater credits include the title role of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Center REPertory

Company); Another Midsummer's Night (TheatreWorks); Splitting Infinity (San Jose Repertory Theatre); Crimes of the Heart (Playhouse West); Brimstone, Moon over Buffalo, Dames at Sea, and Merrily We Roll Along (Willows Theatre); Oliver! (Broadway by the Bay); Moving Bodies (Marin Theatre Company); and Mabel in Mack & Mabel, Sweet Adeline, and Peggy Ann, as well as directing and choreographing As Thousands Cheer, Once in a Blue Moon, and The Roar of the Greasepaint—The Smell of the Crowd (42nd Street Moon). Goldfield also enjoys a successful voiceover career and the cabaret collaboration of Goldfield and Koldewyn with the inimitable Scrumbly Koldewyn.



BW GONZALEZ*

has appeared at A.C.T. in 'Tis Pity She's a Whore and as last season's Ghost of Christmas Present in A Christmas Carol.

She has also worked

locally with Berkeley Repertory Theatre, the San Francisco Mime Troupe, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, Oakland Ensemble Theatre, and San Diego Repertory Theatre. As a company member with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, she performed in The Tempest, The Three Sisters, The Good Person of Szechuan, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Trojan Women, Macbeth, and Joe Turner's Come and Gone. She created the role of Phoebe in Darker Face of the Earth, by Rita Dove, which she performed at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Crossroads Theatre Company, and the Kennedy Center. Recent television credits include three seasons as Lupe on Arrested Development. She was a company member with the Living Stage Theatre Company in Washington, D.C.; as a teacher and director she has taught master classes to all ages and backgrounds for more than 30 years. Gonzalez is the

recipient of a Citation for Excellence in Theatre from the Massachusetts House of Representatives and a graduate of the Boston University College of Fine Arts.



KATHRYN
HASSON is eight
years old and in the
second grade at
Convent of the
Sacred Heart
Elementary School
in San Francisco. She

joined the A.C.T. Young Conservatory this past summer, studies piano, and is a member of the Princess Soccer Team. She lives in Sausalito and enjoys reading and singing.



NATALIE HEGG†

recently made her A.C.T. mainstage debut in *Rock 'n' Roll*. Additional A.C.T. credits include the most recent First Look workshop and

reading of Lillian Groag's new adaptation of War Music and M.F.A.

Program productions of Overruled,
Romeo and Juliet, The Servant of Two
Masters, La Ronde, Richard II, Serenading
Louie, and Escape from Happiness. In the
summer of 2005 she was an acting
apprentice at the Great River
Shakespeare Festival in Minnesota. Hegg
received a B.S. in theater from the
University of Evansville and is a Heather
M. Kitchen Scholar, supported by The
Heather M. Kitchen Scholarship Fund,
an endowed fund of The Next
Generation Campaign.



WILLIAM
HALLADEY
LANIER attends
James Lick Middle
School in San
Francisco. He has
studied in the A.C.T.

Young Conservatory for four years, including summer intensives and the Middle School Edge. He made his debut at A.C.T. as one of the "no-neck monsters" in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, has appeared in *A Christmas Carol* for two years, and performed with the M.F.A. Program students in *David Copperfield* at Zeum Theater. He has been the lead in musical theater productions at James Lick and is the lead singer in a rock band.



SHARON
LOCKWOOD* has appeared at A.C.T. in 'Tis Pity She's a
Whore, The
Government Inspector,
Hedda Gabler, A
Christmas Carol

(2005, 2006, and 2007), The Rose Tattoo, Juno and the Paycock, The Royal Family, The Cherry Orchard, The Pope and the Witch, Gaslight, The Marriage of Figaro, and Saturday, Sunday and Monday. She originated the role of the 200-year-old woman in the Berkeley Repertory Theatre/La Jolla Playhouse coproduction of Culture Clash's Zorro in Hell, which she also performed in Los Angeles and San Diego (San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Award). Lockwood appeared at the Mark Taper Forum in the world premiere production of Nickel and Dimed as Barbara, a role she originated at INTIMAN Theatre in Seattle. Other theater credits include a 21-year association with Berkeley Repertory Theatre and work with The Old Globe, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, the Alley Theatre, Missouri Repertory Theater, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Pacific Alliance Stage Company, and California Shakespeare Theater. She was also a longtime member of the San Francisco Mime Troupe. Film and

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States television work includes Mrs. Doubtfire, Midnight Caller, Vonnegut Stories, and The Long Road Home.



PHILIP
MARTINSON†
has appeared in
A.C.T. M.F.A.
Program productions
of Good Breeding,
Little Shop of Horrors,
Romeo and Juliet,

and *Overruled*, among others. He holds a B.F.A. in theater from UC Santa Barbara.



RONDRELL MCCORMICK's† A.C.T. M.F.A. Program production credits include performances in Good Breeding, Great Catherine, Romeo

and Juliet, Ubu Roi, and La Ronde, among others. Regional credits include All's Well That Ends Well and Wild and Whirling Words at Shakespeare & Co. and Mahalia and Traveling to Tondo for North Carolina's The Barn Dinner Theater. He holds a B.F.A. in theater performance from North Carolina A&T State University.



JARION
MONROE* has
been seen at A.C.T.
as Jacob Marley in A
Christmas Carol and
The Player in
Rosencrantz and
Guildenstern Are

Dead. He appeared in 19 seasons at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. His 39 years in the business have included seasons with all the major theaters in the Bay Area, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, South Coast Repertory, Theatre Rhinoceros, Yale Repertory Theatre, the Joyce, the Ahmanson, and the Ukiah Playhouse (of which he is a cofounder). Film and

television credits include movies of the week and principal roles in *The Game, In Control of All Things*, and *The Californians*, as well as the first year of *Seinfeld* and the role of Henri in the season finale of *Frasier*. He is once again Lynch in the sequel to the videogame *Kane & Lynch*.



MEGUMI NAKAMURA is in the sixth grade and has been active in dance and musical theater for five years. She has appeared in the 2008 Mountain

Play production of *The Wizard of Oz* and Marilyn Izdebski's productions of 42nd St., Annie Get Your Gun, Gypsy, Singin' in the Rain, and Carousel. Nakamura is a student in the A.C.T. Young Conservatory and at Roco Dance & Fitness and has practiced voice with Denise Wharmby.



KAI NAU is in the fourth grade at Mary E. Silveira Elementary School in San Rafael. This is his second year in the role of Tiny Tim in A Christmas Carol

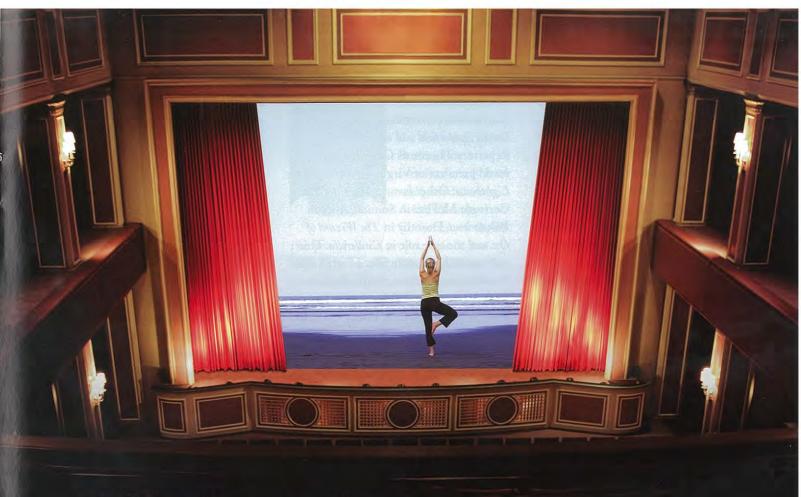
and his second year in the A.C.T. Young Conservatory. At school, he has played the Wizard in *The Wizard of Oz*, Mike Teevee in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, and the March Hare in *Alice in Wonderland*. He has also performed as the Witch Doctor in *Enchanted* at Kidstock! Creative Theater Education Center.



NICHOLAS
PELCZAR†
recently made his
A.C.T. mainstage
debut in Rock 'n'
Roll. Other Bay
Area credits include
A Midsummer Night's

Dream for the San Francisco Shakespeare

[†] Member of the A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts Program class of 2009 and an Equity Professional Theater Intern



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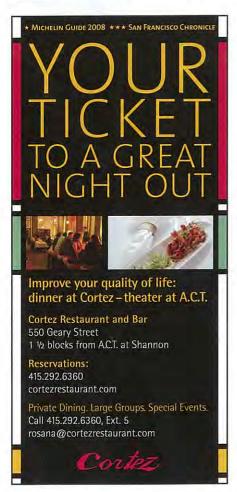
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Festival, Marius and Dublin Carol for Aurora Theatre Company, and Daniel Handler's 4 Adverbs for Word for Word, as well as The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby, Othello, All's Well That Ends Well, and The Importance of Being Earnest, all for California Shakespeare Theater. Pelczar has trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London and at Michael Howard Studios in New York. He is the recipient of the 2008 Shenson Performing Arts Fellowship from the San Francisco Foundation, a graduate of the University of Virginia, and a Shenson Scholar.



AMARA
RADETSKY is ten
years old and returns
to A Christmas Carol
for a third season,
having previously
appeared as Tiny



Tim, Little Fan, and Precious Wilkins. She has also performed at A.C.T. in David Copperfield and at Berkeley Repertory Theatre as Cam Ramsay in the world premiere of Virginia Woolf's To the Lighthouse. Other favorite roles include Gertrude McFuzz in Seussical, Alice in Wonderland, Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz, and the title role in Cinderella. This year marks her feature film debut in The Prankster, currently in postproduction. Radetsky is in the fifth grade and has been part of the A.C.T. Young Conservatory for three years.



JOSHUA
RECHTSCHAFFEN
performed as Edward
in the 2007 A.C.T.
production of A
Christmas Carol.
He has appeared in
numerous bilingual

productions in the French American International School drama program, working with Word for Word director Sheila Balter. He played the role of Willy Wonka in a French-language production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Recently, he played the role of Standish in A. R. Gurney's *The Dining Room*. Rechtschaffen has participated in the A.C.T. Young Conservatory for the past three years; he has also participated in the Bay Area Shakespeare Camp, Kids on Camera, and the School of the Arts Theater Camp.



TOBIAH RICHKIND, in his third season of A Christmas Carol, has also been seen at A.C.T. in Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. A Young Conservatory

student since 2005, Richkind recently played a victimized Amish boy in *Fields of Gold*. He has also danced in ODC/

Dance's *The Velveteen Rabbit*. A fifth grader at Marin Country Day School, he plays guitar and trumpet.



LLOYD ROBERSON II†

was recently seen in the role of Audrey II in the A.C.T. M.F.A. Program production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. Additional

A.C.T. M.F.A. Program production credits include Good Breeding, The Music Cure, Romeo and Juliet, The Servant of Two Masters, Clownation, and The Lady from the Sea, among others. Regional credits include Exonerated at Lynx Performance Theatre and Hamlet Machine at Ion Theatre Company. He is a graduate of San Diego State University, where he appeared in productions of Alice and Wonderland/Through the Looking Glass, Othello (title role), Skin, Hamlet (title role), and The Laramie Project, which won a Patté Award for Best Ensemble.



PATRICK RUSSELL† has been seen in A.C.T. M.F.A. Program productions of Good Breeding, Little Shop of Horrors, Our Lady of 121" Street, The

Lady from the Sea, Ubu Roi, Romeo and Juliet, Great Catherine, and The Happy Journey to Trenton and Camden. Last summer he was an instructor in the A.C.T. Young Conservatory and appeared with the San Francisco sketch comedy troupe Killing My Lobster in Killing My Lobster Springs Forward, Falls Back. Originally from Reno, Nevada, he holds a B.F.A. in acting from UC Santa Barbara.

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States

† Member of the A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts Program class of 2009 and an Equity Professional Theater Intern



KEN RUTA*,

Scrooge in A.C.T.'s first production of *A Christmas Carol* (1989–91), returns to the role (Marley) he created in Carey Perloff and Paul

Walsh's adaptation (2005). Since the company made its 1967 debut at the Geary Theater, Ruta has been part of more than 60 A.C.T. productions, from Sophocles, Shakespeare, and Shaw to Wilder, Williams, and Stoppard. A founding member of Cincinnati's Playhouse in the Park and Minneapolis's Tyrone Guthrie Theater (more than 40 productions as actor/director/associate artistic director), he has worked with most of this country's leading resident theaters. He is an associate artist of San Diego's Old Globe Theatre and has enjoyed a quarter-century association with Arizona Theatre Company. He has appeared in all media and in the Broadway productions of Inherit the Wind, Ross, Separate Tables, Duel of Angels, The Three Sisters, and The Elephant Man and has extensive credits with the Lyric Opera of Chicago and Minnesota Orchestra. Among the many rewards and awards of his half-century career, he is the current recipient of Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards for his performances in TheatreWorks's Trying and A.C.T.'s The Circle.



LAUREN SAFIER

lives in San Francisco and is in the fourth grade. She enjoys science and acting and has appeared in productions of Shakespeare's

Twelfth Night, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and The Comedy of Errors. This is her first production of A Christmas Carol.



J. PETER
SCATTINI is in
the seventh grade at
Burlingame
Intermediate School
and joined the
A.C.T. Young
Conservatory earlier

this year. In local productions he has played the Monkey King in *Disney's The Jungle Book KIDS* and Balthasar in *Romeo and Juliet*. He recently played Polixenes in *The Winter's Tale* for a San Francisco Shakespeare Festival summer program. He plays piano, percussion, and guitar.



RACHEL SHARE-SAPOLSKY

returns to the A.C.T. mainstage for a second season of A Christmas Carol.

Previous credits

include Richard III at Project Artaud Theater; A Midsummer Night's Dream, Two Gentlemen of Verona, and Twelfth Night with the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival; The Music Man at Pied Piper Players; and Peter Pan (title role) at Hope Musical Theatre. Share-Sapolsky is in fourth grade, studies piano and dance, and lives in San Francisco.



LIZ SKLAR† has appeared in A.C.T. M.F.A. Program productions of *The Lady from the Sea* (title role), *The Servant of Two Masters, The Orphan*

Muses, Village Wooing, Richard II, Little Shop of Horrors, and, most recently, Good Breeding. Other local credits include The Tempest at California Shakespeare Theater, The Winter's Tale at Marin Shakespeare Company, The Foreigner with the Ross Valley Players, and A

Gown for His Mistress at College of Marin. She recently costarred with Stacy Keach in the film Imbued (currently in postproduction). Sklar holds a B.A. in theater arts from Brown University, where she wrote and performed the solo show Message One and appeared in Molière, The Green Bird, and Cloud Nine, among others.



NOAH PAWL SILVERMAN ST. JOHN attends the seventh grade at Martin Luther King Middle School in Berkeley. He is a student in the A.C.T.

Young Conservatory and at California Shakespeare Theater. St. John practices capoeira and is a student teacher at Pitts' Martial Arts Academy in Oakland, where he earned his black belt in tae kwon do at the age of eight.



CHRISTOPHER
TOCCO† recently
performed at Davies
Symphony Hall
with the San
Francisco
Symphony under
conductor Michael

Tilson Thomas in a celebration of the music of Leonard Bernstein. His A.C.T. M.F.A. Program credits include Good Breeding, Little Shop of Horrors, The Music Cure, The Servant of Two Masters, The Lady from the Sea, Our Lady of 121st St., and Escape from Happiness. As a company member of Santa Rosa's Summer Repertory Theatre, he was seen in The Mystery of Edwin Drood, The Talented Mr. Ripley, and Tick, Tick . . . Boom! Additional credits include The Lion in Winter and The Importance of Being Earnest at the Dorset Theatre Festival. Last summer he participated in a training program at Prima del Teatro in San Miniato, Italy. He received a B.A.

in theater arts and theology from Boston College.



SAMUEL
BREAKSTONE
TUNICK has
studied acting in the
A.C.T. Young
Conservatory for
three years and
returns to A

Christmas Carol following his performance last season as Boy in Sunday Clothes. Previously, he performed with Lafayette Town Hall Theatre Company, Diablo Light Opera Company, and in school. Additional roles include Baxter Warner in Fifty Million Broadway Gold Diggers and Vizzini in The Princess Bride. He is in the eighth grade at Palmer School in Walnut Creek, where he is the current student body president. He is also a drummer in his band at Redhouse Recording Studio.



STEPHEN
BARKER
TURNER* has
appeared at A.C.T.
in 'Tis Pity She's a
Whore, The
Government Inspector,
The Rainmaker,

Hedda Gabler, and Luminescence Dating. Other Bay Area credits include Cymbeline (Dean Goodman Choice Award), The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby (title role) and Twelfth Night at California Shakespeare Theater. Off-Broadway credits include productions with the New York Shakespeare Festival, Classic Stage Company, Roundabout Theatre Company, MCC Theater, Primary Stages, and The Next Stage. Regionally he has performed at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, Arena Stage, Long Wharf Theatre, INTIMAN Theatre, Denver Center Theatre Company, Hartford Stage Company, New York Stage & Film, the

Humana Festival of New American Plays, and Yale Repertory Theatre, among others. Turner's film and television credits include *The Scene* (upcoming), *Satellite* (2005 Tribeca Film Festival), *The Warrior Class, The Disappearance of Andy Waxman, Cosmopolitan* (PBS), *Blair Witch 2, Machiavelli Rises, We Pedal Uphill, Hack, Sex and the City, Law & Order, Law & Order: Criminal Intent, Law & Order: SVU, Guiding Light, and One Life to Live.* Turner is a graduate of The Juilliard School, on the faculty of the Berkeley Repertory Theatre School, and a Fox Fellow.



MFONISO
UDOFIA† has
appeared in A.C.T.
M.F.A. Program
productions of Good
Breeding, Little Shop
of Horrors,
Overruled, Romeo

and Juliet, The Servant of Two Masters, La Ronde, and Our Lady of 121st St. She earned a B.A. in political science from Wellesley College, where she performed in The Vagina Monologues, Angels in America, Honey Hush, and for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf, among others. A classically trained soprano, she has appeared in Wellesley College Opera productions of La Bohème and Gianni Schizzi and as a gospel singer with Boston's BroadComedy.



KELSEY
VENTER† was
recently seen on the
A.C.T. mainstage as
Philotis in 'Tis Pity
She's a Whore. San
Diego credits include
I Love You, You're

Perfect, Now Change, Grease, and BEEHIVE, the 60's Musical Sensation. She has appeared in A.C.T. M.F.A. Program productions of Good Breeding, Little Shop

of Horrors, The Great Catherine, Romeo and Juliet (Juliet), The Servant of Two Masters, The Lady from the Sea, and Serenading Louie. Venter holds a B.A. in theater from San Diego State University.



ILYA
VERZHBINSKY is
in the seventh grade
at Lycée Français La
Pérouse, a San
Francisco French
school. He has been
cast there as Maurice

in La Belle et la Bête, Orpheus in Orphée, in the title role of the Scarecrow in L'Épouvantail, and as John Worthing and Gwendolen Fairfax in The Importance of Being Earnest.



CAT WALLECK† received an A.B. in romance languages and literatures from Harvard University, where she appeared in many Harvard-Radcliffe Drama

Club productions, including Equus, Twelfth Night, Rhinoceros, Lulu (title role), and The Playboy of the Western World. Since joining the A.C.T. M.F.A. Program, she has appeared in Good Breeding, The Orphan Muses, La Ronde, and Romeo and Juliet (Juliet), among others. Last summer she participated in A Guthrie Experience for Actors in Training, where she collaborated with a group of M.F.A. students from around the country to conceive and perform a musical film-noir comedy, Caviar on Credit, directed by Marcela Lorca. Walleck is originally from Lakewood, Ohio.

^{*} Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States

[†] Member of the A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts Program class of 2009 and an Equity Professional Theater Intern



ERIN MICHELLE
WASHINGTON†
has appeared in
A.C.T. M.F.A.
Program productions
of Good Breeding,
Ubu Roi, The Lady
from the Sea, Our

Lady of 121st Street, and Romeo and Juliet, among others. She has performed as a company member of the Summer Repertory Theatre in Santa Rosa, California, and in 2008 attended a summer workshop at the Prima del Teatro school in San Miniato, Italy. A native of Montgomery, Alabama, Washington received her B.A. in theater performance from Florida A&M University.



PHYLLIS
WATTIS, nine
years old, has been a
student in the A.C.T.
Young Conservatory
for the past three
years. Before joining
A.C.T., she was cast

in local children's theater productions of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Beauty and the Beast*. Wattis has studied voice with Krista Wigle for three years.



WESTON
WILSON† has
appeared in A.C.T.
M.F.A. Program
productions of Good
Breeding (Orestes),
Romeo and Juliet
(Romeo), Richard II

(title role), The Servant of Two Masters, The Orphan Muses, and The Lady from the Sea, among others. Other credits include work as a vocal soloist with the San Francisco Symphony and Summer Repertory Theatre productions of The Learned Ladies, Working, and The Mystery of Edwin Drood. Originally from Rocky River, Ohio, Wilson has attended Fairfield University in Connecticut, the

National University of Ireland in Galway, and the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin (Ireland).



SARAH
WITHERS is in
the seventh grade at
St. Eugene's School
in Santa Rosa.
Previous credits
include Broadway
Bound Kids' High

School Musical, Peter Pan, and Seussical. Withers has been a student in the A.C.T. Young Conservatory for four years, has a successful modeling career, and has appeared in several national commercials. She studies ballet, tap, jazz, voice, and piano.



KIRA YAFFE, a fifth grader at Children's Day School in San Francisco, has been acting since the age of four. She began her studies with the

Young Performers Theatre at Fort Mason Center and has been a student of the A.C.T. Young Conservatory for two years. She has also studied and performed ballet, tap, jazz, and hip-hop with Star Dance Studio. *A Christmas Carol* is her first musical production.



NANCY CARLIN*
(Understudy) is
an associate artist
at California
Shakespeare Theater,
an affiliate artist at
The Foothill Theatre
Company, and a

member of PlayGround. A former longtime company member of A.C.T., she has also performed with Berkeley Repertory Theatre, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Marin

Theatre Company, Aurora Theatre Company, the SF Playhouse, and TheatreWorks. Carlin has directed productions for Aurora Theatre Company, Center REPertory Company, the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, The Foothill Theatre Company, B Street Theatre, and the A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts Program and will direct The Floating Light Bulb for Traveling Jewish Theatre this spring. She is the coauthor of a new musical, Max Understood, which was developed at The Eugene O'Neill Center's National Music Theater Conference last summer. She holds a B.A. in comparative literature from Brown University and an M.F.A. in acting from A.C.T.



ANTHONY
FUSCO*,
(Understudy) an
A.C.T. associate
artist and core acting
company member,
has appeared at
A.C.T. in Rock 'n'

Roll, 'Tis Pity She's a Whore, The Government Inspector, The Rainmaker, The Imaginary Invalid, Hedda Gabler, Travesties, The Rivals, The Voysey Inheritance, The Gamester, A Mother, Les Liaisons Dangereuses, The Three Sisters, Night and Day, The Room and Celebration, Enrico IV, The Misanthrope, Edward II, and A Christmas Carol. Other Bay Area credits include leading roles in King Lear, The Tempest, The Importance of Being Earnest, Arms and the Man, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and The Skin of Our Teeth for California Shakespeare Theater; My Old Lady at Marin Theatre Company; and Traveling Jewish Theatre's production of The Chosen. On Broadway, he was in Tom Stoppard's The Real Thing and The Real Inspector Hound. Fusco's many off-Broadway credits include The Holy Terror, Cantorial, Danton's Death, and A Life in the Theatre. He is a graduate of The Juilliard School.



STEVE IRISH*

(Understudy) most recently appeared in The Foreigner at San Jose Repertory Theatre and Nixon's Nixon at Center REPertory Company.

Other Bay Area credits include Mae West's Sex at Aurora Theatre Company and Man and Superman at California Shakespeare Theater. A.C.T. credits include roles in The Gamester, Lilies, or The Revival of a Romantic Drama, and A Christmas Carol and understudying The Goat, or Who is Sylvia? and The Quality of Life. Irish received critical acclaim for his portrayal of Orson Welles in Marin Theatre Company's Orson's Shadow and starred in The Long Christmas Ride Home at Magic Theatre. Regional credits include Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2 at the Shakespeare Theatre Company; The Show-Off and Twelfth Night at CENTERSTAGE; Oleanna and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof at Capital Repertory Theatre; The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui at Classic Stage Company; Fool for Love at Portland Stage Company; and The Scarecrow, opposite Orson Bean, and Richard III, opposite Alfred Molina, both in Los Angeles. He appeared in the feature films Just Like Heaven and The Darwin Awards, Irish trained at The Juilliard School.

PAUL WALSH (Co-adaptor) is associate professor (adjunct) of dramaturgy and dramatic criticism at Yale School of Drama. For nine years (1996–2005), he was dramaturg and director of humanities at A.C.T., where he collaborated on dozens of productions, including his own translations of Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House (2004) and Hedda Gabler (2007). Walsh's 2006 translation of Ibsen's The Master Builder was produced to acclaim by Aurora Theatre Company in Berkeley. He is currently working on

new translations of August Strindberg's five Chamber Plays for production by San Francisco's Cutting Ball Theater in 2012. Walsh is artistic director of the New Harmony Project, a new-play development program in southern Indiana dedicated to serving writers who celebrate the human spirit. He has worked as dramaturg, translator, and coauthor with theater companies across the country, including the late and beloved Theatre de la Jeune Lune, with whom he collaborated on such award-winning productions as Children of Paradise: Shooting a Dream, Don Juan Giovanni, and The Hunchback of Notre Dame. Walsh serves on the board of directors of Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas. He received his Ph.D. from the Graduate Centre for the Study of Drama at the University of Toronto.

DOMENIQUE LOZANO

(Director) directed last year's production of A Christmas Carol at A.C.T. Other directing credits include The Countess with Center REPertory Theatre, Two for the Seesaw with Marin Theatre Company, Inspecting Carol and the West Coast premiere of Jane Martin's Anton in Show Business with San Jose Stage Company, and The Norman Conquests, Holiday, The Real Thing, and She Loves Me with Napa Valley Repertory Theatre, of which she was a founding member and associate artistic director. An associate artist at A.C.T., Lozano teaches in numerous programs and has directed many projects with the Young Conservatory and M.F.A. Program. Young Conservatory projects include the American premiere of After Juliet; the world premieres of Sarah Daniel's Dust and Constance Congdon's Nightingales; a coproduction with the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Zürich of Paul Steinmann's Only Victory; and the West Coast premieres of Jeffrey Hatcher's Korczak's Children and Wendy MacLeod's School Girl Figure. Directing

work with the M.F.A. Program includes Caught with Her Pants Down, Richard III, and several graduating class showcases, as well as a coproduction with the M.F.A. Program and the Young Conservatory of Amy Herzog's The Wendy Play. Acting credits include work with such theaters as California Shakespeare Theater, where she is an artistic associate, A.C.T., Berkeley Repertory Theatre, San Jose Repertory Theatre, San Jose Stage Company, and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Lozano has also taught throughout the Bay Area at such institutions as Saint Mary's College, UC Davis, California Shakespeare Theater, and Berkeley Repertory Theatre.

KARL LUNDEBERG (Composer), a CBS/Sony recording artist, has recorded four albums with his jazz/ world music group Full Circle. He has performed extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Scandinavia, continental Europe, Japan, and Brazil. His contemporary classical music compositions have been performed by a variety of orchestras, including the Boston Symphony, Sinfa Nova, and the National Radio Orchestra of Sweden and featured at the prestigious Mitsui, Perugia, Biennale, Teatro Español, Next Wave, Castle Hill, and San Sebastian festivals. Theater and ballet music includes scores for the American Repertory Theatre, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Center Stage, Arizona Theatre Company, Pan Asian Repertory Theatre, The Kennedy Center Theater, South Coast Repertory, the Mark Taper Forum (composer-in-residence, 1996-2001), and the Ahmanson Theatre. Film and television scores include works for PBS, NBC, CBS, ABC, ESPN, NRK (Norwegian State Television), Imagine Films, Paramount Pictures, and United Paramount Network. He recently served as musical director for the Shakespeare

repertory directed by Sir Peter Hall at the Ahmanson Theatre.

VAL CANIPAROLI's (Choreographer) versatility has made him one of the most sought-after choreographers in the United States and abroad. Although he is most closely associated with San Francisco Ballet, his artistic home for more than 30 years, Caniparoli has contributed to the repertories of more than 35 companies, including Boston Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Northern Ballet Theatre, Pennsylvania Ballet, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Ballet West, Washington Ballet, Israel Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Singapore Dance Theatre, Atlanta Ballet, State Theatre Ballet of South Africa, and Tulsa Ballet, where he is resident choreographer. His most recent creation for San Francisco Ballet, Ibsen's House, has received enthusiastic critical acclaim. Caniparoli has also choreographed for the Chicago Lyric Opera, San Francisco Opera, and the Metropolitan Opera. He has worked on several occasions with the San Francisco Symphony, most recently on the Rimsky-Korsakov opera-ballet Mlada, conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas. Caniparoli has received ten grants for choreography from the National Endowment for the Arts, an artist fellowship from the California Arts Council, and two awards from the Choo-San Goh and H. Robert Magee Foundation. Previous work with A.C.T. includes choreography for the 2004 production of Ibsen's A Doll's House and the creation, with Carey Perloff, of a new movement-theater piece, The Tosca Project.

NANCY DICKSON (Répétiteur) has danced with both American Ballet Theatre and San Francisco Ballet. As a principal dancer, her roles included the Sugarplum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, Lise in *La Fille Mal Gardée*, the title role of *Cinderella*, and leading roles in ballets by Smuin, Balanchine, Caniparoli, and Robbins, among others. She has taught

for City Ballet School and Oregon Ballet Theatre.

LAURA BURTON (Musical Director) has served as assistant conductor/ musical director for more than 30 musicals at the Stratford Festival in Canada. Credits in the United States include composing at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia, music direction at A.C.T., and the national tour of The Mikado and H.M.S. Pinafore, which included stops at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and City Center in New York. Composing/arranging credits include The Misanthrope and Don Carlos for Soulpepper Theatre Company and A Midsummer Night's Dream for the Canadian Stage Company in Toronto, as well as more than a dozen productions at the Stratford Festival. Favorites at Stratford include Hamlet (starring Paul Gross), Romeo and Juliet, Inherit the Wind, Memoir, King Lear, and Journey's End. Burton has been honored with four Guthrie Awards, including the Louis Applebaum Award for most promising composer, and two Sterling Awards for musical direction at The Citadel Theatre in Edmonton (for The Music Man and Oliver, both directed by Robin Phillips).

JOHN ARNONE (Scenic Designer) won a Tony for The Who's Tommy on Broadway. Other set designs for Broadway include Turgenev's Fortune's Fool (dir. Arthur Penn), Edward Albee's The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?, The Full Monty, How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying, Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992, Sacrilege (with Ellen Burstyn), The Best Little Whorehouse Goes Public and Grease for Tommy Tune, Sex and Longing (dir. Garland Wright), The Deep Blue Sea (with Blythe Danner), Patio/Porch, Lone Star/Pvt. Wars, Marlene, Minnelli on Minnelli, Gore Vidal's The Best Man, and Arthur Miller's The Ride Down Mt. Morgan. He has received two OBIE awards for outstanding excellence and

sustained achievement in set design and, in addition to the Tony, earned the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle, Dora Mavor Moore, Outer Critics Circle, American Theatre Wing, Drama Desk, and Olivier awards for *The Who's Tommy*. His work has been seen at the New York Shakespeare Festival, the Guthrie Theater, Arena Stage, A.C.T., The Old Globe, and La Jolla Playhouse, as well as in London, Vienna, Frankfurt, Berlin, Prague, Australia, Venice, and Athens.

BEAVER BAUER (Costume Designer) has designed costumes for A.C.T. productions of The Government Inspector, The Imaginary Invalid, The Rivals, The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?, The Gamester, A Mother, Waiting for Godot, Blithe Spirit, The Beard of Avon, The Misanthrope, Edward II, Tartuffe, Insurrection: Holding History, The Royal Family, The Matchmaker, Uncle Vanya, The Learned Ladies, Good, Twelfth Night, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Feathers, A Lie of the Mind, and The Floating Light Bulb. She is the resident costume designer at Teatro ZinZanni and has designed the Brian Boitano Skating Spectacular for eight years. She has also designed for the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Eureka Theatre Company, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, the Lamplighters, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Magic Theatre, the Pickle Family Circus, Classic Stage Company, Theater of Yugen, and the Riviera and Desert Inn hotels in Las Vegas. From 1972 to 1984 she worked for Angels of Light, a troupe that specializes in cabaret and theater, and in 1995 she designed a circus that traveled to Moscow and Japan. Bauer has won several Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards.

NANCY SCHERTLER (Lighting Designer) has designed the Broadway productions of Bill Irwin's Fool Moon

^{*} Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States

and Largely New York (Tony nom.) and off-Broadway productions of Hilda (dir. Carey Perloff), Texts for Nothing, A Flea in Her Ear, Scapin, and Falsettoland. Regional theater credits include, After the War, The Gamester, Levee James, Perloff's The Colossus of Rhodes, and The Difficulty of Crossing a Field at A.C.T.; The Three Musketeers and The Sisters Matsumoto at Seattle Repertory Theatre; Moby Dick among others at Milwaukee Repertory Theater. Later this season she will design Crowns for Arena Stage, where she is an associate artist. Opera credits include: Later the Same Evening, an opera inspired by the work of Edward Hopper and commissioned by the National Gallery of Art and the University of Maryland; Don Giovanni and The Barber of Seville for Boston Lyric Opera; Il Trovatore for Baltimore Opera; and numerous productions with Wolf Trap Opera Company.

JAKE RODRIGUEZ (Sound Designer) sound design associate at A.C.T., has carved out sound and music for A.C.T., Berkeley Repertory Theatre, California Shakespeare Theater, Aurora Theatre Company, Marin Theatre Company, the Shotgun Players, and Art Street Theatre. Recent A.C.T. credits include sound design on Rock 'n' Roll, 'Tis Pity She's a Whore, and Speed-the-Plow, as well as world premiere productions of After the War and A Christmas Carol. Additional recent sound design credits include world premieres of Passing Strange, The People's Temple, and Fêtes de la Nuit at Berkeley Repertory Theatre; Mark Jackson's 2008 adaptation of Don Juan at San Francisco State University and his 2006 adaptation of Salomé at Aurora Theatre Company; and The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby at California Shakespeare Theater. Other credits include original music and sound for Cal Shakes's 2004 production of A Comedy of Errors; sound for Marin Theatre Company's Lifex3; sound for Ibsen's Ghosts at Berkeley Rep;

and sound for the Shotgun Players and Studio Theatre productions of *The Death of Meyerhold*. Rodriguez won the 2003 Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award in sound design for *The Death of Meyerhold* and a 2004 Princess Grace Award.

MICHAEL PALLER (Dramaturg) joined A.C.T. as resident dramaturg and director of humanities in August 2005. He began his professional career as literary manager at Center Repertory Theatre (Cleveland), then worked as a play reader and script consultant for Manhattan Theatre Club, and has since been a dramaturg for George Street Playhouse, the Berkshire Theatre Festival, Barrington Stage Company, Long Wharf Theatre, Roundabout Theatre Company, and others. He dramaturged the Russian premiere of Tennessee Williams's Small Craft Warnings at the Sovremennik Theater in Moscow. Paller is the author of Gentlemen Callers: Tennessee Williams, Homosexuality, and Mid-Twentieth-Century Drama (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005) and has written theater and book reviews for the Washington Post, Village Voice, Newsday, and Mirabella magazine. Before his arrival at A.C.T., he taught at Columbia University and the State University of New York at Purchase.

GREG HUBBARD (Associate Casting Director) joined A.C.T.'s casting department in 2002 and since then has cast productions of Brainpeople, Luminescence Dating (coproduction with the Magic Theatre), The Imaginary Invalid (co-cast with Meryl Lind Shaw), several productions of A Christmas Carol, and many new play workshops and readings. Additional local casting credits include the world premieres of Rebecca Gilman's The Crowd You're In With and the musical The Opposite of Sex (Magic Theatre), Doubt (Center REPertory Company), The Mystery Plays (SF Playhouse), and Holes (Family Stages at

the Orpheum). Previously, he was the associate director at Calaveras Repertory Theatre, where he directed productions of A Midsummer Night's Dream and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, in addition to casting many productions. Hubbard has an M.F.A. in directing from the Professional Director Training Program at Ohio University.

KAREN SZPALLER* (Stage Manager) has worked with A.C.T. on Curse of the Starving Class, A Christmas Carol (2006 and 2007), The Imaginary Invalid, Blackbird, and M.F.A. Program productions. Favorite past shows include Eurydice, Fêtes de la Nuit, The Glass Menagerie, Brundibar, and Comedy on the Bridge at Berkeley Repertory Theatre; Urinetown, The Musical at San Jose Stage Company; Striking 12 at TheatreWorks; Salomé at Aurora Theatre Company; and Ragtime and She Loves Me at Foothill Music Theatre. She recently worked on Yellowjackets at Berkeley Repertory Theatre and is the production coordinator at TheatreWorks in Menlo Park.

DANIELLE CALLAGHAN* (Assistant Stage Manager) was most recently the assistant stage manager for Rock 'n' Roll. Previous A.C.T. credits include The Government Inspector, Speed-the-Plow, Sweeney Todd, The Imaginary Invalid, Blackbird, A Christmas Carol (2006), and Death in Venice. Other favorite shows include My Buddy Bill and All My Sons with the Geffen Playhouse; Albert Herring, Don Pasquale, and The Rape of Lucretia with San Francisco Opera's Merola Program; and Cosi fan tutte and Lorca, Child of the Moon with the UCLA Department of Music.

^{*} Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States

A.C.T. Profiles



CAREY PERLOFF
(Artistic Director) is
celebrating her 17th
season as artistic
director of A.C.T.,
where she most recently
directed Tom Stoppard's
Rock 'n' Roll, John Ford's

'Tis Pity She's a Whore,

and Nikolai Gogol's The Government Inspector. Known for directing innovative productions of classics and championing new writing for the theater, Perloff has also directed for A.C.T. the world premieres of Philip Kan Gotanda's After the War (A.C.T. commission) and her own adaptation (with Paul Walsh) of A Christmas Carol; the American premieres of Tom Stoppard's The Invention of Love and Indian Ink and Harold Pinter's Celebration and The Room; A.C.T.-commissioned translations/ adaptations of Hecuba, The Misanthrope, Enrico IV, Mary Stuart, Uncle Vanya, and A Mother (based on Maxim Gorky's Vassa Zheleznova); Harley Granville-Barker's The Voysey Inheritance (adapted by David Mamet); the world premiere of Leslie Ayvazian's Singer's Boy; and major revivals of Bertolt Brecht/Kurt Weill's Happy End (including a critically acclaimed cast album recording), A Doll's House, Waiting for Godot, The Three Sisters, The Threepenny Opera, Old Times, The Rose Tattoo, Antigone, Creditors, Home, The Tempest, and Stoppard's Travesties, The Real Thing, Night and Day, and Arcadia. Perloff's work for A.C.T. also includes Marie Ndiaye's Hilda, the world premieres of Marc Blitzstein's No for an Answer and David Lang/Mac Wellman's The Difficulty of Crossing a Field, and the West Coast premiere of her own play The Colossus of Rhodes (Susan Smith Blackburn Award finalist). Her play Luminescence Dating premiered in New York at the Ensemble Studio Theatre, was coproduced by A.C.T. and the Magic Theatre, and is published by Dramatists Play Service. Her play Waiting for the Flood has received workshops in A.C.T.'s First Look series and at New York Stage & Film and Roundabout Theater Company; her latest play, Higher, was developed at New York Stage & Film and as part of A.C.T.'s First Look series at Stanford University. Her one-act play The Morning After was a finalist for the Heideman Award at Actors Theatre of Louisville. Perloff has collaborated as a director on new plays by many notable contemporary writers, including Gotanda, Robert O'Hara, and Lucy Caldwell. She is currently developing a new dance-theater piece, The Tosca Project, with choreographer Val Caniparoli; a major production of Phedre

(translated by Timberlake Wertenbaker) for the Stratford Shakespeare Festival; and a new *Bacchae* for the Getty Center in Los Angeles.

Before joining A.C.T., Perloff was artistic director of Classic Stage Company in New York, where she directed the world premiere of Ezra Pound's *Elektra*, the American premiere of Pinter's *Mountain Language* and *The Birthday Party*, and many classic works. Under Perloff's leadership, Classic Stage won numerous OBIE Awards, including the 1988 OBIE for artistic excellence. In 1993, she directed the world premiere of Steve Reich and Beryl Korot's opera *The Cave* at the Vienna Festival and Brooklyn Academy of Music.

A recipient of France's Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres and the National Corporate Theatre Fund's 2007 Artistic Achievement Award, Perloff received a B.A. Phi Beta Kappa in classics and comparative literature from Stanford University and was a Fulbright Fellow at Oxford. She was on the faculty of the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University for seven years and teaches and directs in the A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts Program. She is the proud mother of Lexie and Nicholas.



HEATHER KITCHEN

(Executive Director), now in her 13th season with A.C.T., has strengthened the organization's infrastructure and overseen the company's

expansion to include the development and performance of new work and the addition of a third year to A.C.T.'s acclaimed Master of Fine Arts Program, Her decision to undertake an M.B.A. degree from the Richard Ivey School of Business at The University of Western Ontario followed a 15-year career in stage, tour, and production management ranging across Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Credits include the Stratford Festival, Canadian Stage Company, Charlottetown Festival, Theatre New Brunswick, New Play Centre, Vancouver, and Neptune Theatre in Halifax. As general manager of The Citadel Theatre, Kitchen managed a five-theater performing arts complex and school that annually produced 16 productions, an International Children's Festival, and a Teen Festival. As a member of the executive committee of the Edmonton Performing Arts Consortium, Kitchen authored the benchmark study Economic

Impact of the Nonprofit Arts in Edmonton. An active community member, Kitchen serves on the board of the Commonwealth Club of California, as well as the board of the National Corporate Theatre Fund in New York. She is a past member of the San Francisco Leadership Board of the American Red Cross, the board of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, San Francisco and the Peninsula, and the Salvation Army Auxiliary in Edmonton and served three terms on the executive committee of the League of Resident Theatres. She has also participated on peer review panels for Theatre Communications Group, Canada Council of the Arts, and Forbes magazine's Business and the Arts Awards. The San Francisco Business Times has named Kitchen one of the most influential women in business in the Bay Area for the past five years.

MELISSA SMITH (Conservatory Director) oversees the administration of the A.C.T. Conservatory's Master of Fine Arts Program, Young Conservatory, Summer Training Congress, and Studio A.C.T., in addition to serving as the master acting teacher of the M.F.A. Program. Before joining A.C.T. in 1995, Smith served as director of the program in theater and dance at Princeton University, where she taught acting for six years. She has worked with people of all ages in venues around the country, including teaching in Hawaii and in Florence, Italy. Also a professional actor, she has performed in numerous off-off Broadway plays and at regional theaters, including A.C.T. In 2004 she toured London and Birmingham (U.K.) in Berkeley Repertory Theatre's production of Continental Divide. Smith holds a B.A. in English and theater from Yale College and an M.F.A. in acting from the Yale School of Drama.

JAMES HAIRE (Producing Director) began his career on Broadway with Eva Le Gallienne's National Repertory Theater as an actor and stage manager. He also stagemanaged the Broadway productions of And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little and Georgy (a musical by Carole Bayer Sager), as well as the national tour of Woody Allen's Don't Drink the Water. Off Broadway he produced Ibsen's Little Eyolf (directed by Marshall W. Mason) and Shaw's Arms and the Man. Haire joined A.C.T. in 1971. He and his department were awarded Theater Crafts International's award for excellence in the theater in 1989, and in 1992 Haire was awarded a lifetime achievement award by the Bay Area Theatre Critics' Circle.



Frannie Fleishhacker, Co-chair * Deedee McMurtry, Co-chair

Producers Circle members make annual gifts of \$10,000 or more to A.C.T. Their extraordinary generosity supports season productions, actor training in our conservatory, and arts education in our community. Members are invited to participate in the artistic development of A.C.T.'s season by attending production meetings and taking part in numerous behind-the-scenes opportunities. We are privileged to recognize these members' generosity during the October 1, 2007-October 31, 2008 period. For information about membership, please contact Paul Knudsen at 415.439.2353 or pknudsen@act-sf.org.

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National Corporate Theatre Fund is a nonprofit corporation created to increase and strengthen support from the business community for ten of this country's most distinguished professional theatres. The following foundations, individuals and corporations support these theatres through their contributions to NCTF:

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List complete November 2008

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As A.C.T. is both a cultural and an educational institution, many employers will match individual employee contributions to the company. The following corporate matching gift programs honor their employees' support of A.C.T., multiplying the impact of those contributions.

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THE GALLERY AT A.C.T.



WINDSWEPT TREE II, BY TERRY SAUVÉ

Pind yourself with some extra time before a performance or during intermission? We invite you to visit the second floor of the theater (just outside the auditorium doors, along the north bank of windows, and by the elevator) to view original artwork by a diverse range of artists, presented in a series of rotating exhibits throughout the 2008–09 season.

TERRY SAUVÉ: OIL LANDSCAPES

Following last winter's successful show, the work of Terry Sauvé returns to the Gallery at A.C.T., December 4–February 8. Sauvé has been painting in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1996, when she settled here to attend the Academy of Art College. Feeling a deep connection with nature, she focuses primarily on landscape painting. Sauvé is inspired by the natural light falling over a scene; capturing this magical quality of light is one emphasis of her paintings, as is "pushing" the color found in nature to enhance the image. Her most recent work reflects her love of the beautiful scenery of Northern California and the Northwest.

Sauvé has studied with some of the area's finest painters, including Brian Blood, Craig Nelson, William Maughan, and Randall Sexton. Her work was selected for the PaintAmerica 2007 Paint the Parks Mini Top 50, a national honor, as well as Artspan's 2007 Selections Exhibit. Her prize-winning paintings were included in the Academy of Art's annual spring show for four consecutive years.

A reception celebrating Terry Sauvé's work will be held at the theater Friday, December 12, 4:00–6:30 p.m. Each artwork purchase benefits A.C.T. For more information about Terry Sauvé, please contact Kevin Simmers at 415.474.1066 / krscreativeoptns@aol.com.

Looking for A JOLLY GOOD GIFT IDEA?

Give the gift of great theater! A.C.T. gift certificates are available in any denomination—from a single ticket to a five-play package. Plus they NEVER expire and are redeemable for all A.C.T. performances and events.

3-PLAY PACKAGES START AS LOW AS \$55

RICH AND FAMOUS

by JOHN GUARE
Directed by JOHN RANDO

SOUVENIR

A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins
by STEPHEN TEMPERLEY
Directed by VIVIAN MATALON

WORLD PREMIERE

WAR MUSIC

Adapted and directed by LILLIAN GROAG
Based on the book by CHRISTOPHER LOGUE

BOLEROS FOR THE DISENCHANTED

by José Rivera
Directed by CAREY PERLOFF

WEST COAST PREMIERE

AT HOME AT THE ZOO

by EDWARD ALBEE
Directed by REBECCA TAICHMAN

At Zeum Theater

PHILISTINES

by MAXIM GORKY
in a version by ANDREW UPTON
Directed by RICHARD E. T. WHITE



415 Geary Street

Carey Perloff, artistic director | Heather Kitchen, executive director

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE EVENTS . . .



From free parties to in-depth discussions with the artists, A.C.T. offers events for all-at no additional cost.

KORET PROLOGUE

A conversation with the director before the preview performance

- Tuesday, 1/13 (5:30-6 p.m.)
- Tuesday, 2/17 (5:30-6 p.m.)

KORET AUDIENCE **EXCHANGES**

Free postperformance discussions with the actors and/or A.C.T. staff members

- Tuesday, 1/20 Sunday, 1/25* Wednesday, 2/4*
- Tuesday, 2/24 Sunday, 3/1* Wednesday, 3/11*
 - *indicates matinee performance

OUT WITH A.C.T.

A gathering of gay and lesbian theatergoers, immediately following the 8 p.m. performance

- Wednesday, 1/21
- Wednesday, 2/25

THEATER ON THE COUCH

An exciting collaboration between A.C.T. and The San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis. After the show, the panel will discuss the psychological aspects of the play and take questions from the audience in Fred's Columbia Room

Friday, 1/16 Friday, 2/20

KORET VISITING ARTISTS SERIES

A Conversation with John Guare

Before the 2 p.m. performance Moderated by A.C.T. Dramaturg and Director of Humanities Michael Paller

This event is FREE, but tickets are required available at the box office and online.

Saturday, 12/13, 10 a.m.

On Florence Foster Jenkins and the Upcoming Production of Souvenir

Guests to be announced

Saturday, 1/17, 10 a.m.

RICH AND FAMOUS

SOUVENIR

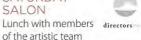
All events take place in the American Conservatory Theater, unless otherwise indicated.

A.C.T. Donor Events

DESIGN PRESENTATION

Hear the director's vision at the first meeting of the company of Rich and Famous.

SATURDAY SALON





of the artistic team before the matinee performance of Rich and Famous. Saturday, 1/24, 12 noon

To support A.C.T. and receive invitations to Annual Fund, Directors Circle, and Producers Circle events, please contact Liv Nilssen at Inilssen@act-sf.org or 415.439.2450.

Due to the spontaneous nature

SAVE THE DATE! ILLUMINATE THE NIGHT SEASON GALA 2009

A benefit for A.C.T.'s renowned conservatory for actor training

Enjoy guest artist Judy Kaye fresh from her dazzling performance in Souvenir, together with the musical talents of A.C.T.'s M.F.A. Program and Young Conservatory students, in an unforgettable evening supporting the future of American theater. For more information, contact Luz Perez at Iperez@act-sf.org or 415.439.2470. Sunday, 4/19/09, 5 p.m.

OPENING NIGHT DINNER

Monday, 12/8, 11 a.m.

Dine with the director directors before the opening night performance of Rich and Famous. Wednesday, 1/14, 5:30 p m.



of live theater, all times are subject to change.

ARTISTIC

Pink Pasdar, Associate Artistic Director Meryl Lind Shaw, Casting Director Michael Paller, Dramaturg
Greg Hubbard, Associate Casting Director
Vinly Eng, Producing Associate
Carly Cioffi, Artistic Associate

Associate Artists

René Augesen Anthony Fusco Giles Havergal Steven Anthony Jones Domenique Lozano Craig Slaight Gregory Wallace Jud Williford Jack Willis

Directors

Jane Anderson John Carrafa Timothy Douglas Lillian Groag Warren David Keith Domenique Lozano Vivian Matalon Carey Perloff John Rando Rebecca Taichman Richard E. T. White

Choreographers

Val Caniparoli James Donlon Daniel Pelzig

Composers/Orchestrations

Karl Lundeberg Fabian Obispo Richard Woodbury

Musical Directors

Laura Burton

First Look Playwrights

Rob Ackerman Lillian Groag Len Jenkin Daniel Kramer Timothy Mason

Interns

Deborah Munro, Artistic Administration Megan Cohen, Dramaturgy

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Jeff Rowlings, Production Manager Dick Daley, Meg O'Neil, Associate Production Managers Marion Bechthold, Production Administrator

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Kent Dorsey, Lighting
Alexander V. Nichols, Lighting
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Francine Landes, Movement Domenique Lozano, Acting Frank Ottiwell, Alexander Technique Michael Paller, Director of Humanities Jack Sharrar, Culture and Text Melissa Smith, Acting Deborah Sussel, Speech, Verbal Action Gregory Wallace, Acting Jud Williford, Director Jack Willis, Acting

M.F.A. Program Adjunct Faculty

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Studio A.C.T. Rachael Adler, Acting

Rachael Malet, Acting
Andy Alabran, Acting
Letitia Bartlett, Movement/Physical Acting/
Clowning
Laura Derry, Improvisation Frances Epsen Devlin, Singing Jeffrey Draper, Voice and Speech, Acting Paul Finocchiaro, Acting
Dawn-Elin Fraser, Acting
Marvin Greene, Acting
Jessica Heidt, Audition Technique Christopher Herold, Acting Greg Hubbard, Acting Andrew Hurteau, Acting Mark Jackson, Movement W. D. Keith, Audition Technique Rose Adams Kelly, Alexander Technique Drew Khalouf, Voice and Speech, Acting Francine Landes, Acting Domenique Lozano, Acting Trina Oliver, Acting Regina Saisi, Improvisation Vivian Sam, Dance Naomi Sanchez, Singing Barbara Scott, Improvisation Lynne Soffer, Speech, Acting, Textwork Damon Sperber, Acting Ava Victoria, Singing

Young Conservatory

Young Goiservalory
Michele Leary, Acting
Nancy Gold, Physical Character, Acting
Cindy Goldfield, Acting
Jane Hammett, Musical Theater, Directing, Acting
W. D. Keith, Director
Domenique Lozano, Director
Christine Mattison, Dance, Choreographer Pamela Rickard, Acting
Robert Rutt, Musical Arranger, Accompanist Vivian Sam, Musical Theater, Dance Craig Slaight, Director, Acting Amelia Stewart, Director, Acting

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Horton Foote, Advisor, Playwright
Rob Ackerman, Timothy Mason, Playwrights

YC Accompanist

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A.C.T. thanks the physicians and staff of the Centers for Sports Medicine, Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, for their care of the A.C.T. Company: Dr. James Garrick, Dr. Victor Prieto, Dr. Minx Hong, Don Kemp, P.A., and Chris Corpus.

For Your Information

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

A.C.T.'s administrative and conservatory offices are located at 30 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94108, 415.834.3200. On the Web: www.act-sf.org.

TICKET SERVICES INFORMATION A.C.T. Ticket Services

Visit us at 405 Geary Street at Mason, next to the theater, one block west of Union Square. Hours are 12-8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 12-6 p.m. Sunday and Monday. During nonperformance weeks, business hours are 12-6 p.m. daily. Call 415.749.2ACT and use American Express, Visa, or MasterCard. Or fax your ticket request with credit card information to 415.749.2291. Tickets are also available 24 hours/day on our website at www. act-sf.org. All sales are final, and there are no refunds. Only current subscribers enjoy ticket exchange privileges and lost-ticket insurance. Packages are available by calling 415.749.2250. Half-price student and educator packages are also available. A.C.T. gift certificates can be purchased in any amount online, by phone or fax, or in person.

Discounts

Half-price student and senior rush tickets are available at the A.C.T. Ticket Services office two hours before curtain. Matinee senior rush tickets are available at noon on the day of the performance for \$22 for Premiere and \$17 for all other sections. All rush tickets are subject to availability, one ticket per valid ID. Student and senior citizen subscriptions are also available. A.C.T. offers one Pay What You Wish performance during the regular run of each subscription production, excluding special events.

Group Discounts

For groups of 15 or more, call Edward Budworth at 415.439.2473.

AT THE THEATER

A.C.T. is located at 415 Geary Street. The lobby opens one hour before curtain. Bar service and refreshments are available one hour before curtain. The auditorium opens 30 minutes before curtain.

A.C.T. Merchandise

A.C.T.-branded merchandise-clothing, jewelry, DVDs, music, and other novelty items—as well as books, scripts and Words on Plays, are on sale in the main lobby, at the Ticket Services office, and online.

Refreshments

Full bar service, sweets, and savory items are available one hour before the performance in Fred's Columbia Room on the lower level and the Sky Bar on the third level. There is also a minibar in the main lobby. You can avoid the long lines at intermission by preordering food and beverages in the lower- and third-level bars. Bar drinks are now permitted in the auditorium.

Cell Phones!

If you carry a pager, beeper, cellular phone, or watch with alarm, please make sure that it is set to the "off" position while you are in the theater. Text messaging during the performance is very disruptive and not allowed.

Perfumes

The chemicals found in perfumes, colognes, and scented after-shave lotions, even in small amounts, can cause severe physical reactions in some individuals. As a courtesy to fellow patrons, please avoid the use of these products when you attend the theater.

Emergency Telephone

Leave your seat location with those who may need to reach you and have them call 415.439.2396 in an emergency.

Latecomers

A.C.T. performances begin on time. Latecomers will be seated before the first intermission only if there is an appropriate interval.

Listening Systems

Headsets designed to provide clear, amplified sound anywhere in the auditorium are available free of charge in the lobby before performance. Please turn off your hearing aid when using an A.C.T. headset, as it will react to the sound system and make a disruptive noise.

Photographs and recordings of A.C.T. performances are strictly forbidden.

Rest rooms are located in Fred's Columbia Room on the lower lobby level, the Balcony Lobby, and the Garret on the uppermost lobby level.

Wheelchair seating is available on all levels of the theater. Please call 415.749.2ACT in advance to notify the house staff of any special needs.

A.C.T. is pleased to announce that an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) is now available on site.

AFFILIATIONS

A.C.T. is a constituent of Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for the nonprofit professional theater. A.C.T. is a member of the League of Resident Theaters, Theatre Bay Area, Union Square Association, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, and San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau. A.C.T. is a participant in the National Theatre Artist Residency Program, administered by Theatre Communications Group and funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

LORT A.C.T. operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theaters and Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.



The director is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union.



The scenic, costume, lighting, and sound designers in LORT theaters are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.

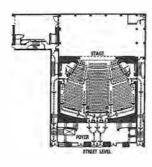


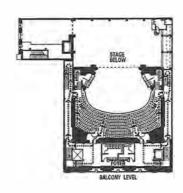
A.C.T. is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

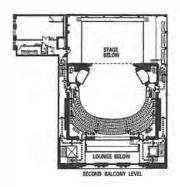


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American Conservatory Theater Exits







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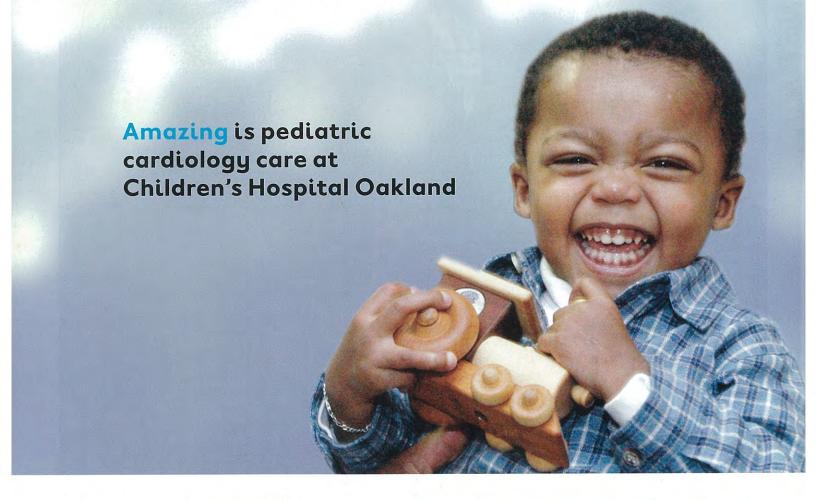
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– Warren Hellman, philanthropist

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