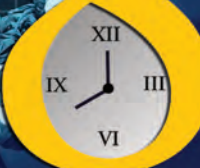


ACTORS' THEATRE @ CENTER STAGE THEATER

# 8 TENS @ 8 *Festival*



JAN 10 - FEB 9, 2020

Actors' Theatre @ Center Stage Theater  
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# White sky, Falling Dragon

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## *From the Producer*



*Bonnie Ronzio*  
*Producer & President, Actors' Theatre*

We are delighted to begin our 2020 season with the annual *8 Tens @ 8 Short Play Festival*.

Actors' Theatre has reached many milestones in the last two years, and our expansion into a season with two full-length plays have been met with critical acclaim. I want to thank you, the audience, for supporting our creative endeavors.

Producing plays that deal with vital issues in our contemporary lives, with humor and immediacy, has been our mission. In 2020 you can look forward to two Pulitzer and Tony Award winning plays – ***Clybourne Park*** by Bruce Norris in May and ***Sweat*** by Lynn Nottage in October.

But to continue this work we need your help. We've made our mark in the last 25 years. **Help us thrive and expand our programming**

**for the next 25 with a gift** – of any size – every dollar counts - to support your Actors' Theatre. **Giving is easy! Go to our website at [www.sccat.org](http://www.sccat.org).** There are many benefits we offer to donors, including special receptions and reserved seating.

I'd like to thank our hard working board members, Wilma Marcus Chandler, MarNae Taylor, Joyce Michaelson, Joan Van Antwerp, and Marcus Cato – without their support none of this would have happened. Also, Jana Marcus, who directs our Marketing and Creative, has helped to shape and guide us through our growth.

Tonight, enjoy *the Festival* and let the experience of live theatre take you away from all of life's craziness, even for a moment.

*Bonnie*

# From the Artistic Director

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our glorious **25th Anniversary Festival** – our Silver Anniversary.

Santa Cruz Actors' Theatre's **8 Tens @ 8** is now the longest-running and most respected short play festival in America, and I am always so grateful to you, our terrific audiences, for your faithful attendance and appreciation over the years.

Over all these seasons we have presented more than 200 short plays, had the pleasure of working with writers from many parts of the globe, and hundreds of directors, actors, technicians, and theatre designers from all over the Bay Area.

And, our first eight years were memorialized in the Smith & Kraus, Inc. anthology, *30 Plays from the 8 Tens @ 8 Festival*.

I say all this with a sense of both amazement and continuing determination. Each year seems to be more of a creative challenge, more demanding, more a mirror of how the world is changing.

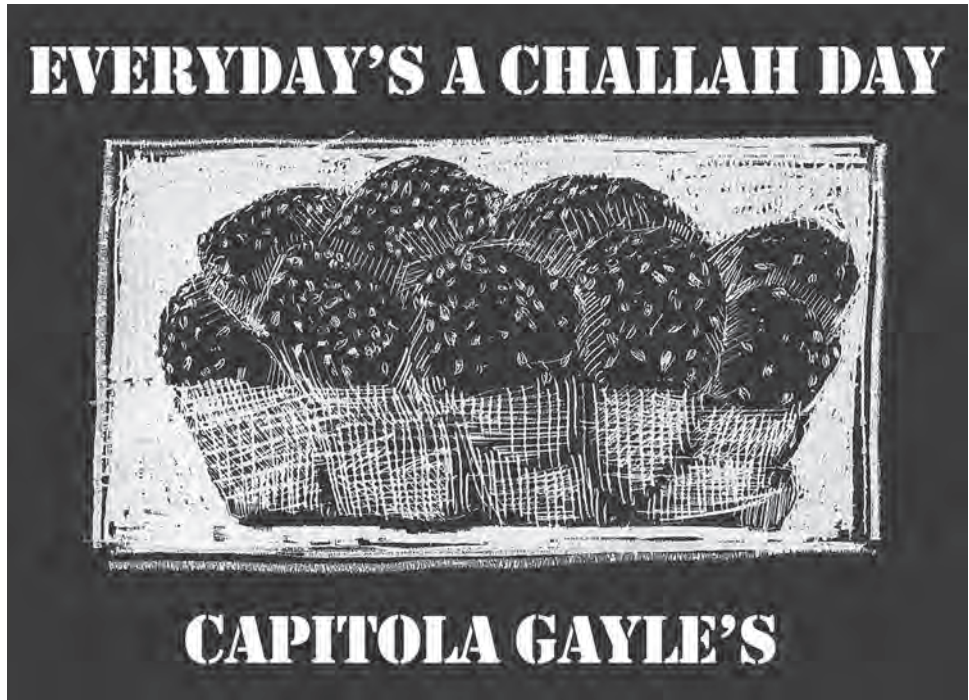
Our dedicated theatre company works hard and with great joy to bring this festival to fruition so that we are reliable, intelligent interpreters of the increasing complexity of our world.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, our playwrights, directors, cast and crew of Festival 2020, I want to thank you all for being here and hope you have a grand time!

*Wilma*



*Wilma Marcus Chandler*  
*Artistic Director, Actors' Theatre*



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# Santa Cruz County Actors' Theatre

presents



Producer

**Bonnie Ronzio**

Artistic Director

**Wilma Marcus Chandler**

Light Design

**Carina Swanberg**

Set Design/Tech Director

**Kurt Meeker**

Sound Design

**Davis Banta**

Stage Manager

Light Board Operator

**Bonnie Ronzio**

Deck Manager

Sound Board Operator

**Buff McKinley**

Master Electrician

**Cameron Morgan**

Props Master

**Cheryl Wong**

Asst. Stage Manager

**Amy Fette**

Asst. Light Design

**Lucas Hampton**

Backstage Crew

**Merlin Madrone**

Backstage Crew

**Cameron Morgan**

Box Office Manager

**Sandy Beiser**

Marketing & Creative Director

**Jana Marcus**

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# "A" NIGHT – ACT I

## **Life On Land**

by Tom Sime

Directed by Gerry Gerringer

*Setting: The patio of an assisted living retirement buiding*

*Time: The present*

Lillian Bogovich *Betty*

Frank Widman *Cecil*

Avondina Wills *Ira*

Scott Kravitz *Doc*

Rachel Newman *Mary Lee*

## **The Argument**

by Seth Freeman

Directed by MarNae Taylor

*Setting: Jerusalem • Time: The present*

Donna Johansen *Emily*

Travis Coleman *Zev*

## **More Than Stink**

by Brian Spencer

Directed by Jim Schultz

*Setting: A living room • Time: A sunny afternoon*

Maxwell Björk *Benji*

MarNae Taylor *Mom*

## **The Winner**

by Lori Londigan

Directed by Nat Robinson

*Setting: A run-down basement of a house • Time: The present*

Tristan Ahn *Evan*

Dray Bowens-Rubin *Adam*

Gabrielle Gangitano *Jess*

# "A" NIGHT – ACT II

## **Waking Up**

by Gail Borkowski

Directed by Wilma Marcus Chandler

*Setting: The Cassidey bedroom • Time: Morning*

Avondina Wills *Jackson Cassidey*

Karin Babbitt *Dina*

Karen Blagmon *Jessica Cassidey*

Alfredo Montero Gonzalez *Bennett*

## **Vanishing Borders**

by Elyce Melmon

Directed by Buff McKinley

*Setting: A stark interview room at San Quentin prison • Time: Fall, 1995*

Ward Willats *Douglas*

Austin Bruce *Luke*

Lillian Bogovich *Julliet*

## **Stranded Traveler**

by Eric Thomas

Directed by Kathie Kratochvil

*Setting: A bus stop • Time: Now*

Sally Bookman *Jackie*

Dray Bowens-Rubin *Earl*

## **Uncle Nutty's Final Days**

by William J. Royce

Directed by Daria Troxell

*Setting: An executive office at Paramount Studios • Time: The present*

Joyce Michaelson *Director*

Tristan Ahn *Male Writer*

Scott Kravitz *Uncle Nutty*

Donna Johansen *Female Writer*

MarNae Taylor *Producer*

# "B" NIGHT – ACT I

## **Knots**

by Robert Moulthrop

Directed by Brian Spencer

*Setting: A lovely spring afternoon in Santa Cruz • Time: The present*

Marc DeSellem *Michael*

Austin Bruce *Joseph*

Rebecca Massek *Suzie*

## **The Memory of Us**

by Mary Caroline Rogers

Directed by Andrew Davids

*Setting: A home in the Southwest • Time: The present*

Lyndsey Marks *Celina*

Ward Willats *Steve*

## **Counting Pedestals**

by Carlos Jerome

Directed by Suzanne Schrag & Noel Warwick

*Setting: Sonia's office at the Lower East Side Community College,  
Manhattan • Time: Now*

Tiffany L. Cesarin *Sonia*

Luis Leonor *Otis*

## **Why God Made Beggars**

by Steve Koppman

Directed by Marcus Cato

*Setting: An urban coffee house • Time: The present*

Evan Hunt *John*

Gino Danna *Dan*

# "B" NIGHT – ACT II

## **Fish Pond**

by Joe Lauinger

Directed by Cathy Warner

*Setting: A fish pond in a deserted public park*

*Time: Twilight*

Rebecca Massek *Kate*

Adrian Miller *Harry*

## **Florida**

by Steve Doloff

Directed by Dave Halper

*Setting: A New York City sidewalk with little foot traffic*

*Time: The present*

Mary Ann LoBalbo *Didi*

Marcus Cato *Roger*

## **The Next Ivan Sharansky**

by Jim Geoghan

Directed by Hannah Eckstein

*Setting: A sandwich joint on Hollywood Boulevard*

*Time: Now*

Steve Capasso *Carl*

Tiffany L. Cesarin *Ida*

## **Press Pray**

by Seth Freeman

Directed by Miguel Reyna

*Setting: A house of worship • Time: The present*

Ward Willats *Martin*



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# THE ACTING COMPANY



**Tristan Ahn** (*Uncle Nutty's Final Days*) is a Theatre Arts major at Cabrillo College working to transfer to a UC. He's relatively new to the theatre community, having only started getting involved with acting in early 2018 in Harbor High School's production of *Guys and Dolls* playing Rusty Charlie. Some of his acting roles include Christian de Neuville (*Cyrano de Bergerac*), a Greek soldier (*Trojan Women*), the Newsboy (*The Time of Your Life*), and most recently one of Sky's frat boy friends in Mountain Community Theater's production of *Mamma Mia!* This is his second year being a part of the 8 Tens, and he looks forward to performing for you all!



**Karin Babbitt** (*Waking Up*) was born and raised in Hollywood, eventually becoming a resident stand up at the Comedy Store and on TV. After moving to the SF Bay Area in 1988, Karin distinguished herself in the local comedy scene before hanging up her comedy hat to become a high school teacher. Now retired from that career, Karin manages the Options for All Film and Media Studio in Sunnyvale. Excited to return to the 8 Tens stage, Karin is proud to be performing in *Waking Up* as Dina.



**Maxwell Björk** (*More Than Stink*) is honored to be in the 8 Tens Festival. Maxwell's previous theater credits include *Time of Your Life* at Cabrillo Theater, *The Departed* at UCLA's Acting and Performance Institute, *David Copperfield* at Rose Theater, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at Santa Cruz Shakespeare. In his free time Maxwell likes to play guitar, do ceramics, and walk his Schnauzer.



**Karen Blagmon** (*Waking Up*) is excited to be cast in her second play ever, having gotten the bug from her debut performance as the pianist, Leslie, in the *Time of Your Life*. Karen is a classical pianist, and enjoys performing freelance piano music in Santa Cruz, as well as her new-found passion for acting. Karen is a retired Defense Contract Manager, holding a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University of Redlands, as well as a professional designation in Purchasing and Materials Management from UCLA. Her most recent academic pursuit is for an advanced degree in Musicology with an interest in teaching.



**Lillian Bogovich** (*Life on Land/Vanishing Borders*) has appeared at many Bay Area theatres, including City Lights, Aurora, Calaveras Rep, Northside Theatre, Broadway West, and Los Altos Stage. Recently, she played Ruth in *Looking for Normal* at Actors' Theatre, Hecuba in *Trojan Women* at Cabrillo College and Eleanor of Aquitaine in MCT's *The Lion in Winter*. Other notable plays include *August Osage County*, *Harold and Maude*, *On Golden Pond*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *Mothers and Sons*, *The Gin Game*, *Rapture*, *Blister*, *Burn*, *A View from the Bridge*, *Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Steel Magnolias*, *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*, and Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*. Lillian studied acting at The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C.



**Sally Bookman** (*Stranded Traveler*) was born in London and has lived in Santa Cruz for over forty years. She has been a realtor all that time, as well as an artist and performer. She was on the board of Shakespeare Santa Cruz and the Capitola Arts Commission. Her stage work includes a previous 8 Tens @ 8 play, Mountain Community Theater's *Lend me a Tenor*, Cabrillo College's *Three Penny Opera*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, and their short play festival. She currently performs and directs with NextStage Productions, a local group of seniors who perform wherever they are needed, primarily senior assisted living facilities. She is also a current member of the Cabrillo Chorale under the direction of Cheryl Anderson. Sally is thrilled to be back with the 8 Tens @ 8 Festival.



**Dray Bowens-Rubin** (*The Winner/Stranded Traveler*) is an astronomy grad student at UCSC by day and by night where they search for exoplanets and develop technology to help telescopes see through the atmosphere better. Before moving to Santa Cruz last year, Dray lived in Boston where they performed with the MIT Musical Theater Guild and the Gilbert and Sullivan Players. Dray is a playwriting fellow with two groups devoted to bringing more SciFi and science theater to the stage: the Catalyze Collaboration (Cambridge, MA) and Quantum Dragons (San Francisco, CA). A few of their playwriting credits include: *Hack*, *Punt*, *Tool* (MIT Musical Theater Guild), *Yaoi!!! on Fire* (MIT Spinning Arts), *Polycule* (Central Square Theater), *Discovery Hut* (members of McMurdo Station, Antarctica), and *Dear Pluto* (UCSC Barnstorm). This is Dray's first show with Actors' Theatre.



**Austin Bruce** (*Vanishing Borders/Knots*) started his acting career at Cabrillo College, under the wonderful tutelage of Sarah Albertson. After performing at Cabrillo he set his sights on 2019's 8 Tens Festival, Playing Bobbi Brightwater in Gwen Flager's *Jornada Del Muerto*, directed by the talented Marcus Cato. In his sparetime he enjoys reading, practicing yoga, and trying out free gym memberships across the city.



**Steven Capasso** (*The Next Ivan Sharansky*) is a local actor, improviser, and playwright. He has been acting for over forty years performing with Actors' Theatre, Mountain Community Theatre, and Cabrillo College. For the past 12 years Steve has performed in the 8 Tens Festival. Most recently he was seen playing Kit Carson in Cabrillo College's 2019 spring production of *The Time of Your Life*. In 2017, Steve performed his one man show *You Always Remember* at United Solo Theatre Festival in NYC. Steve is a member of Santa Cruz's 36 North, a playwright's collective.



**Marcus Cato** (*Florida*) is proud to have acted and directed for the 8 Tens @ 8 Festival since 2011. Locally he last appeared in *Me and My Girl* for Jewel Theater, where he has appeared in *David Copperfield*, *Streetcar Named Desire*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Harper Regan* and *Blythe Spirit*. Other credits include Santa Cruz Shakespeare, Bear Republic Theater, El Teatro Campesino, and Blue Wolf Productions. Marcus has worked as an Arts Administrator with Shakespeare Santa Cruz and Tandy Beal & Company.



**Tiffany L. Cesarin** (*Counting Pedestals/The Next Ivan Sharansky*) is thrilled and honored to be returning to the 8 Tens @ 8 stage. She was recently seen in MCT's *Sordid Lives* as Dr. Eve Bollinger and as a dancer in Cabrillo College's *Nice Work If You Can Get It*. Other credits include Cabrillo Stage's *Chicago* as Liz "Pop," and ensemble in *Anything Goes*, *Cabaret*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Funny Girl*. Tiffany also teaches beginning tap dance and jazz dance at Dancenter in Capitola. Many Saturdays are spent studying improv at The Fun Institute with Dixie Cox and Clifford Henderson, and she has also dabbled in stand-up comedy with Carol Roberts. Her day job is that of an RN Case Manager at Hospice of Santa Cruz County, bringing peace, comfort, and end-of-life education for patients and families during their final days.



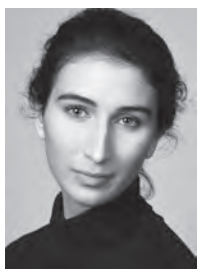
**Travis Coleman** (*The Argument*) is performing in Santa Cruz for the first time. Previously, he appeared as Frederick in a production of *Noises Off* at SF's Shelton Theater and as Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Berkeley's Backyard Theater Festival. Travis also performed with Oakland's Ragged Wing Ensemble on a number of devised theater pieces including *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Artist* and *Destination Home*. Now teaching Math and Government at the Kirby School, he occasionally directs or assists with school productions, and is thrilled to be back on the stage for *The Argument*.



**Gino Danna** (*Why God Made Beggars*). This is Gino's second straight year with 8 Tens @ 8. He is a longtime Santa Cruz resident, ran a local business for over two decades, and is currently working as an educator. He has performed in local stand-up and improv shows over the last several years.



**Marc DeSelle** (*Knots*). New to the Santa Cruz theater scene, Marc has studied acting at Skyline College in San Bruno. After moving to Santa Cruz in 2016, Marc joined the improv group at the Fun Institute studying with Clifford Henderson and Dixie Cox for the past year. Recently Marc has worked on a short film, a political satire called *Moat's Moat*. Directed by Linda Janakos, the film will be released in early 2020. Marc is delighted to make his debut with 8 Tens @ 8. He plans to fully immerse himself in all things theater – song, dance, and performance.



**Gabrielle Gangitano** (*The Winner*) is thrilled to debut in the 8 Tens Festival this year, returning to Santa Cruz after working in experimental contact-improv theatre, and being the Narrator in *She Kills Monsters* at UCSD. She is currently acting in an immersive theatre project in development, *Auriferra Republic*. Gabrielle has portrayed Olivia in *Twelfth Night*, Maria in *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*, Ms. Haviland in *Wildwood Park/Unwrap Your Candy*, and Heavenly Lady Gabriella in the musical production of *It's a Wonderful Life*.



**Evan Hunt** (*Why God Made Beggars*) is delighted to be back at Actors' Theatre, where he's been acting and directing in both the 8 Tens @ 8 and Best of the Rest festivals for over 20 years, and performed improvisational comedy as a member of the All Night House of Psychic Bozos before that. Originally from San Francisco, he moved to Santa Cruz for college and then couldn't imagine a reason to leave.



**Donna Johansen** (*The Argument/Uncle Nutty's Final Days*) has worked the last four years behind the scenes as a costume mistress for Kirby School, and only recently made her debut back on to the stage as an ensemble member of MCT's *Mamma Mia!*, directed by Kathie Kratochvil. She is thrilled to be joining the ranks of the well-respected members of Actors' Theatre and to work under the talented direction of MarNae Taylor and Daria Troxell. Outside of theatre Donna is a yoga enthusiast, vinyl collector, and Ayurvedic wellness counselor, creating custom teas, remedies, and oils. Lots of love and gratitude goes out to her husband, daughters, and her newly acquired theatre family for all their support and encouragement!



**Scott Kravitz** (*Uncle Nutty's Final Days / Life on Land*) is delighted to return to the 8 Tens family. Last year's festival found Scott performing as Gabriel in *Frameworks* and Neil in *The Greyback Payback*. Thank you to Daria and Gerry for their direction and encouragement, and to Bonnie and Wilma for creating this wonderful festival year after year.



**Luis Leonor** (*Counting Pedestals*) He says, "Soy Luis Leonor. Nacido en Watsonville California. Estoy echándole ganas a ser actor. Para La Raza. Viva La Raza."



**Mary Ann LoBalbo** (Florida) was last seen on stage with Mountain Community Theater (MCT) in *Four Old Broads* as Ruby Sue, and singing and dancing in the annual MCT 2019 Subscriber Thank You show. She's been performing for over 35 years in Santa Cruz Area and says she has enjoyed every performance.



**Lyndsey Marks** (*The Memory of Us*) has an extensive background in Improvisational theater, with a four-year stint in Scriptease Improv and Sketch Comedy Troupe. She has performed in *The Vagina Monologues* as Mona, or possibly better known as Moan-a, and in her own self written piece, *First Date*. She is excited to be part of 8 Tens for the first time.



**Rebecca Massek** (*Knots/Fish Pond*) grew up coming to Santa Cruz every summer, and is excited to be a part of the 8 Tens. She studied acting at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in LA, and was accepted into their third-year company. There, she was privileged to perform in such shows as *Doubt* by John Patrick Shanley, *A Lie of the Mind* by Sam Shephard, and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* by Stephen Adly Guirgis. She has also performed several of Shakespeare's works including *As You Like It* and *Midsummer Night's Dream*. While living in LA she played a sea monster with a heart of gold on the webseries *Life as a Mermaid*. She would like to thank her family for their never-ending support.



**Joyce Michaelson** (*Uncle Nutty's Final Days*) is happy to return to 8 Tens @ 8 for a fourth season. She was last seen on stage in last summer's production of *Into the Woods* at Cabrillo Stage. Joyce has performed in numerous productions for the last twenty years with Actors' Theatre, Lampshade Productions, Cabrillo Stage, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Mountain Community Theater, Open Stage, Cabrillo College, Scotts Valley Performing Arts, and Loose Cannon Theater.



**Adrian Miller** (*Fish Pond*) is a student at Cabrillo College. Before arriving at the college he worked both in high school productions with SLVHS as well as community theater productions with Cinnebar Theater in Petaluma, CA. Since attending Cabrillo, he has been awarded the Faculty Achievement Award for his work in official semester productions. Along with formal college work, he has enjoyed work both as an actor and director under the college's student club. This is his second time he has made an appearance here at the 8 Tens Festival.



**Alfredo Montero Gonzalez** (*Waking Up*) is a local actor based in Watsonville. He began acting in a middle school production of *The HaHa House* where he played Brewster Havershorne. Ever since, acting has become a major part of his life. While attending Watsonville High he took acting classes and performed in *Almost Maine*. Currently he is a student at Cabrillo College where he plans to obtain his A.A. in Theater Arts and transfer. He continues to take classes to perfect and expand his acting abilities.



**Rachel Newman** (*Life on Land*) is delighted to take the stage again this year with Actors' Theatre. Her most recent stage performances include the role of Donna in *Gossip Queens* at the 2019 8 Tens Festival, Claudia Barnes in The Shelburne Player's production of *The Butler Did It* and Maggie in their production of *Lend Me A Tenor*. Rachel has also dabbled in digital and new media, appearing in several short films for the New York Film Academy and American Film Institute.



**MarNae Taylor** (*More Than Stink/Uncle Nutty's Final Days*) holds her B.F.A in Theatre with a minor in Music from USU. She has taught in Utah, Louisiana, Korea, and is currently in her 19th year at Kirby School where she directs and teaches theatre. MarNae has won several national competitions for Best Actress roles. She has been involved in 8 Tens @ 8 productions for the last 12 years, and she currently serves as the secretary on the board of Actors' Theatre. See her full bio on the Directors' page.



**Frank Widman** (*Life On Land*) was last seen performing in Actors' Theatre's *Looking for Normal*. He last performed with the 8 Tens Festival four years ago in three of the short plays. A 1979 Graduate in Drama from San Francisco State University, Frank has performed throughout the Bay Area, as well as in Santa Cruz, including Tandy Beal's *Nutz Remixed* and *HereAfterHere*. He lives in Boulder Creek with his wife, Martha Rabin, and daughter, Sophie Widman, who is pursuing an acting career in Minneapolis.



**Ward Willats** (*Vanishing Borders/Memory of Us/Press Pray*). This 8 Tens @ 8 Festival marks Ward's return to the Actors' Theatre following his performance in their 1985 production of Agatha Christie's *Ten Little Indians*, where he distinguished himself by being the first character to die. Recently, Ward has appeared in Mountain Community Theater's *Julius Caesar* (Trebonius) and *A Flea In Her Ear* (Rugby, the Brit), as well as the original Elf Empire comedy *Hummus And Homicide*. Ward holds a BA in theater from UCSC and produces an electronics repair and computer comedy channel on YouTube at <https://youtube.com/c/WardCo>. Like and subscribe!



**Avondina Wills** (*Life On Land/Waking Up*) is honored to once again be in the 8 Tens @ 8 Festival. You saw him in last year's Festival in *What's Left Over*. He has previously been seen in Actors' Theatre productions of *Looking for Normal* as the Minister, *The Realistic Joneses* as Bob, Pepper in the 8 Ten's *Salt and Pepper*, Alan in *God Of Carnage*, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in *The Mountaintop*. Thanks so much for coming out and supporting local arts. Enjoy the show!

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*Jana Marcus*  
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## THE DIRECTORS



**Marcus Cato** (Director, *Why God Made Beggars*) is proud to have acted and directed for the 8 Tens @ 8 Festival since 2011. Locally he last appeared in *Me and My Girl* for Jewel Theater, where he has appeared in *David Copperfield*, *Streetcar Named Desire*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Harper Regan* and *Blythe Spirit*. Other credits include Santa Cruz Shakespeare, Bear Republic Theater, El Teatro Campesino and Blue Wolf Productions. Marcus has worked as an Arts Administrator with Shakespeare Santa Cruz and Tandy Beal & Company.



**Andrew Davids** (Director, *The Memory of Us*) is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and has performed in several stage and screen productions, mostly in Los Angeles. He is very pleased to be returning to the 8 Tens @ 8 Short Play Festival and its stellar team of creative, dedicated artists. Local credits include *The Mystery Plays* and *Julius Caesar* with Mountain Community Theater, *The Nether* with SEETheatre, and *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenan*, and *The Explorers Club* with Jewel Theatre.



**Hannah Eckstein** (Director, *The Next Ivan Sharansky*) is happily returning for her sixth season with Actors' Theatre's 8 Tens @8 Festival. She recently directed the sold out hit *Sordid Lives* at Mountain Community Theater and will be directing *Calendar Girls* at MCT this Spring. Hannah has been featured in many roles with MCT. She also performs locally at Center Stage, DNA Comedy Lab, NextStage, Cabrillo, and with Living History Theatre in Monterey. Hannah is currently the Artistic Director of NextStage Productions.



**Gerry Geringer** (Director, *Life On Land*) has been associated with Actors' Theatre since the stage was located where the last few seating rows and the tech booth are now. A long time. He has worked as an actor and director for several local companies and has produced and directed independently. He has directed for the 8 Tens @ 8 Festival for many years and sincerely appreciates how special this festival is to our community. Thank you for being here.



**Dave Halper** (Director, *Florida*) is thrilled to be making his directorial debut in this year's 8 Tens @ 8 Festival. He has been onstage since he was in the third grade, playing such roles as "The Farmer," "Sir Robin the Brave," "Bowser the Dog," "The Sewerman," "Inspector Kemp," "Odell," "Yepikhodov," and others, in plays such as *Spamalot*, *8 Tens @ 8*, *The Madwoman of Chailot*, *Murder Rides the Airwaves*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Young Frankenstein*, *9 to 5*, *Julius Caesar*, *Sordid Lives*, and *The Cherry Orchard*.



**Kathie Kratochvil** (Director, *Stranded Traveler*) has been active in the Santa Cruz Theatre scene for over 30 years as an actor, director, and designer. Some of her recent directing credits include *Mamma Mia!*, *Four Old Broads*, *The Ultimate Christmas Show*, *Spamalot*, and *Kimberly Akimbo* for MCT, *The Birthday Gift* for 8 Tens @8 (2018), *She's Got Me* for San Francisco New Musical Works, and *Dead Man Walking* at SJSU. Kathie holds a B.A. degree in Creative Arts and Drama, an M.A. degree in Theatre, and a Doctorate degree in Arts Education. She teaches Acting, Theatre, and Arts Education courses at SJSU and UC Santa Cruz.



**Wilma Marcus Chandler** (Director, *Waking Up*) is a writer, director, and theatre teacher and has taught dance and theatre arts at University of Iowa, UCSC and is Emeritus Chair of the Theatre Arts at Cabrillo College. She is artistic director of the Santa Cruz Actors' Theatre's 8 Tens@ 8 Festival and her theatre books are published by Smith & Kraus, Inc. She is the founder of In Celebration of The Muse writers' festival, the Willing Suspension Armchair Theatre, co-founder of The National Festival of Women's Theatre, and last year directed Actors' Theatre's production of John Logan's *Red*.



**Buff McKinley** (Director, *Vanishing Borders*). After 12 years of involvement behind the scenes with 8 Tens, Buff is thrilled to be directing this year. With a BFA in Theater and Film Production, she has worked behind the scenes in a variety of technical roles with some of the best local theater companies including Actors' Theatre, Rose Theater, Mountain Community Theater, SEE Theater and Van Antwerp Theater Company, LPRT, Blue Wolf Productions, Evergreen Theater and more. She's delighted to be part of this show and glad you're here.



**Miguel Reyna** (Director, *Press Pray*) is participating in his seventh 8 Tens @ 8, and his fourth time directing. Miguel has been acting and directing theater in Northern California for the past 35 years. Miguel has been known to produce and do stage adaptations of the TV Series *The Twilight Zone* locally. He is currently set to direct MCT's *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* going up in March of 2020. He is thrilled and honored to be participating in the 25th anniversary of the 8 Tens @ 8.



**Nat Robinson** (Director, *The Winner*). 2020 marks the tenth year that Nat has been involved in the 8 Tens @ 8 Festival, starting with 2011's *Love Liza*, part of the Best of The Rest portion of the festival (kudos if you remember the Best of The Rest). Since then, the 8 Tens has become a regular part of his life, having acted with, and been directed by, so many greatly talented and caring artists in our community over the past decade. No other festival could give an actor such a wide range of experience, styles, and characters as the 8 Tens, tackling a diverse array of difficult and relevant issues. This will be Nat's fourth time in the director's chair at 8 Tens, which started with 2017's *The Transaction*. Nat is proud to direct such an exciting, eclectic trio of young performers in this year's festival.



**Suzanne Schrag** (Co-Director, *Counting Pedestals*) is a long-time member of Um...Gee...Um Improv Troupe, and has acted with many local companies, including Actors' Theatre, MCT, Dangerous Neighbors, Autumn Stage, Friends of Gus, and Shakespeare Santa Cruz. Most recently she was seen in *Quality of Life* with Blue Wolf Productions. She directed *Sylvia* for Friends of Gus many moons ago, and more recently has directed several plays for 8 Tens with her partner in crime and life, Noel Warwick.



**Jim Schultz** (Director, *More Than Stink*) has acted in a number of productions at both Cabrillo and Actors' Theatre. They were so long ago the titles have begun to fade, and it seems the memories have, as well. He now prefers directing for 8 Tens @ 8 (this is his fourth time, fifth time, something like that) because his diminishing memory retention can still get him through a ten-minute play without getting lost in the script or forgetting the actors' names. As always, he's quite proud of whatever the name is of this new one. He really likes his two actors. They both start with M.



**Brian Spencer** (Director, *Knots*). Brian has directed several plays for the 8 Tens Festival and has had several of his own plays produced. *The Rug*, from last year's 8 Tens has been chosen for presentation in the Winters, CA, first-ever 10 minute play festival. His play, *Runner*, was presented as the first reading for Actors' Theater's Playwright's Arena for New Works. He will be directing *The Father* by Florian Zeller for a Spring production this year. Brian has directed full-length stagings of *Copenhagen*, *Freud's Last Session*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *A Number*, *Shakespeare's R&J*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, to name a few. Brian holds a Masters Degree in Theater Arts (Playwriting) from San Jose State University.

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**MarNae Taylor** (Director, *The Argument*) holds her B.F.A in Theatre with a minor in Music from USU. She has taught in Utah, Louisiana, Korea, and is currently in her 19th year at Kirby School where she directs and teaches theatre. MarNae has performed shows with Army community theatre in Louisiana, where she won several national competitions for Best Actress in her roles as Ruth in *High Spirits*, Mrs. Peacock in *Clue* and Suzette in *Don't Dress For Dinner*. Locally, MarNae has performed as, Nancy in *Oliver*, Marie in *Incorruptible*, Izzy in *Rabbit Hole*, Annette in *God Of Carnage*, Mrs. Webb in *Our Town*, and Barbara in *August Osage County*. She also played Elizabeth in *Young Frankenstein*, Violet in *9 to 5* and Donna in *Mamma Mia*. She has been involved in 8 Tens @ 8 productions for the last 12 years, and she currently serves as the secretary on the board of Actors' Theatre.



**Daria E. Troxell** (Director, *Uncle Nutty's Final Days*) is ecstatic to be involved with the 25th Anniversary of Actors' Theatre's 8 Tens @ 8 Festival, for which she has directed *The Unwedding* (2012), *Color Me Screwed* (2016), *Counting Dogs Like Sheep* (2017), *High Grass* (2018) and *The Greyback Payback* (2019). She is the resident director of Little Peoples' Repertory Theatre, and proud mama of two amazingly-talented thespians.



**Cathy D. Warner** (Director, *The Fish Pond*) is a theatre artist, choreographer, and educator, who ran the Theatre & Dance programs at Harbor High for 37 years, where she had the pleasure of working with 1000's of students and functioning as Artistic Director/Producer for over 100 productions. Sharing her deep passion for theatre and all aspects of performance enabled her to mentor generations of burgeoning young directors, designers, choreographers, techies, and performers in the context of numerous plays and musicals, and in the development of Escapade, a multi style student-driven dance company now in its 22nd season. Favorite directing experiences include Lampshade Production's presentation of *Going to St Ives*, and 8 Tens @ 8 presentation of *Tempus Fugit*. She is a recently retired teacher who is absolutely delighted to be directing for the 8 Tens @ 8 for the second time!



**Noel Warwick** (Co-Director, *Counting Pedestals*) began his life in the theater as Vladimir Lenin's corpse in a previous 8 Tens @ 8. Since then, he's been on the selection committee, directed for the Festival (*Our Lady of Palmyra* in 2016 and *After the Darkness* in 2017), and played a detective and a homicidal reindeer in *The Last Noel* at Mountain Community Theater.

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# THE WINNING PLAYWRIGHTS - 2020

## **Tom Sime – Life On Land**

Tom is a prize-winning playwright from Jersey City, NJ who worked as a Dallas Morning News journalist for many years before moving East in 2008. His New York productions include full-length work and short plays and he was a recent semi-finalist at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Conference.

## **Seth Freeman – The Argument & Press Pray**

Seth is an award-winning playwright, journalist, and writer/producer of television, for which he created the series *Lincoln Heights*. His print work has appeared in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and many other publications. He has had over 180 productions of his plays produced around the world.

## **Brian Spencer – More Than Stink**

Brian is a well-known Santa Cruz actor, director, producer, and playwright. His play *Where There's a Will* was read on public radio in San Jose and his short plays have been produced at San Jose State University as well as in several of the 8 Tens @ 8 festivals. He is the director of *Knots* in this year's festival.

## **Lori Londigan – The Winner**

Lori lives in Chewelah, WA and most recently her play *Chipotle (chi POTE lay)* was produced by the Shawnee Theatre and was a finalist in the Acorn Festival. Her work has been produced in Manhattan, Hollywood, and this, her newest play, *The Winner*, is under production at the Stockwell Playhouse in London.

## **Gail Thornton Borkowski – Waking Up**

Gail has been producing, directing, and acting in Santa Cruz since 1984. She has directed and performed in several past 8 Tens @ 8's and she also DJs the *Heritage Gospel Uplift* music show alternating Sundays on local station KSQD.org. She's thrilled to be a featured playwright in this year's 25th Anniversary festival.

## **Elyce Melmon – Vanishing Borders**

Elyce is a retired teacher whose writing has appeared in many literary journals and her plays have been performed in several theaters in California and around the U.S. – most recently at the Pear Theatre in Mountain View, and the Pacific Resident Theatre in Venice, CA. She has had four of her short plays win spots in previous 8 Tens @ 8 festivals.

### **Eric Thomas – Stranded Traveler**

Eric is from Kentucky and is an award-winning actor and playwright in the Cincinnati area. His short plays have been performed internationally and he is grateful to the actors and directors who commit to his work. One day he hopes to write a full-length play!

### **William J. Royce – Uncle Nutty’s Final Days**

William is an award-winning author who has written for stage and screen. His first play *Don’t Ask!* premiered on this very stage forty years ago. He is the co-author of *The Road to Villa Page – A He Said/She Said Memoir of Buying Our Dream Home in France*, recently published by Sunbury Press. His television credits include the Emmy Award-winning series *Murder, She Wrote*, *Diagnosis: Murder*, and *In the Heat of the Night*. Mr. Royce would like to thank his mentor, Wilma Marcus Chandler. He would also like to thank his wife and daughter for making each and every day a fascinating, toe-tapping, laugh-out-loud adventure. He is, obviously, the luckiest human alive.

### **Robert Moulthrop – Knots**

Robert has worked in marketing, copywriting, and communications for non-profits and theatrical producers. His award-winning writing includes both plays and fiction, as well as his 2017 ACLA Batchelder Award for translation of a Danish children’s picture book *Cry, Heart, But Never Break*. He lives and works in New York City.

### **Mary Caroline Rogers – The Memory Of Us**

A native of Princeton, NJ, Mary Caroline’s plays have been widely produced in theatres including Actors’ Theatre of Santa Cruz, PKE Los Angeles, and theatre companies in Palm Springs, Albuquerque, Lake Charles, LA., and the Arizona Women’s Theatre Company in Phoenix.

### **Carlos Jerome – Counting Pedestals**

Carlos, a Lower East Side boy, was on the editorial team for the *Simon & Schuster International English-Spanish Spanish-English Dictionary*, is a member of the Dramatists Guild, Actors’ Studio Playwrights/Directors Unit, Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre Playwrights, Harlem Playwrights 21, and Times Square Playwrights. He has taught playwriting for *Around The Block*, *Pregonos/Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre*, and for Latin American Theatre Ensemble at the Museo del Barrio. His *The Pain Inside* – directed by Robin Aronson in Actors’ Theatre’s *8 Tens @ 8* of 2017– was published in *The Best Ten-Minute Plays of 2017* (Smith & Kraus).

### **Steve Koppman – Why God Made Beggars**

Steve is an Oakland-based actor and writer whose many plays have been

produced throughout the U.S. and in Australia. His work has also appeared in Smith & Kraus' *Best Ten-Minute Plays* and youth anthologies from Applause Books. He also co-authored *The Treasury of American-Jewish Folklore* (Rowman & Littlefield).

### **Joe Lauinger – The Fish Pond**

Joe is from Ossining, NY and many of his plays have been produced throughout the U.S. The pilot for his television series *Blood and Gravy* was featured at the Big Apple Film Festival in 2017.

### **Steven Doloff – Florida**

A playwright and Professor of Humanities and Writing at Pratt Institute, Steven lives in New York City and his works have been produced in New York, New Jersey, and California.

### **Jim Geoghan – The Next Ivan Sharansky**

Jim lives in Los Angeles and has been nominated for two Drama Desk awards, has been published by Samuel French, and has work purchased by HBO. He has been produced throughout the U.S., is a two-time Emmy nominee and wrote the book for many shows including *Beehive* on Broadway, directed by Debbie Allen.

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# THE PRODUCTION TEAM

**Bonnie Ronzio** (Producer/Stage Manager) A veteran stage manager, Bonnie currently serves as President of Santa Cruz Actors' Theatre. She is the producer and stage manager behind Actors' Theatre's highly successful 8 Tens @ 8 Festival which has been produced every January for the past 25 years. She produced and stage-managed *Looking for Normal* and *Company*.

**Wilma Marcus Chandler** (Artistic Director) is a writer, director, and theatre teacher and has taught dance and theatre arts at University of Iowa, UCSC and is Emeritus Chair of the Theatre Arts at Cabrillo College. She is artistic director of the Santa Cruz Actors' Theatre's 8 Tens@ 8 Festival and her theatre books are published by Smith & Kraus, Inc. She is the founder of In Celebration of The Muse writers' festival, the Willing Suspension Armchair Theatre, co-founder of The National Festival of Women's Theatre, and last year directed Actors' Theatre's production of John Logan's *Red*.

**Jana Marcus** (Marketing & Creative Director) is a well-known photographer and arts marketer, creating marketing campaigns and design work for arts organizations in the Santa Cruz area since 2003, including Tandy Beal & Co., Santa Cruz Shakespeare, SC Ballet Theatre, and Cabrillo College's Visual and Performing Arts Division. She also served 12 years as the Marketing and Creative Director for Cabrillo Stage. She joined Actors' Theatre in 2015 to support their growing efforts, including a full season of productions. Jana is the author of two photography books and has been creating award-winning imagery for over 25 years, specializing in theatre production and publicity stills, contemporary portraiture, headshots, and documentary photography. Jana received a Gail Rich Award in 2016 for her contribution to the arts in Santa Cruz County. [www.janamarcus.com](http://www.janamarcus.com)

**Kurt Meeker** (Set Design/Tech Director) Theatre credits include: *Love's Labors Lost, Romeo and Juliet, The Liar, Macbeth*, (Santa Cruz Shakespeare); *Once in a Lifetime, Romeo and Juliet, Much Ado About Nothing, Playboy of the Western World* (Shakespeare Santa Cruz); *The Odd Couple, All My Sons, A Streetcar Named Desire, Guys and Dolls* (Jewel Theatre); *The Tempest, Of Mice and Men* (PCPA TheatreFest); *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Brigadoon* The Barn Theatre, *Augusta, MI; Reckless, Lulu* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre); *O Pioneers!* (Theatreworks); *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (SF Mime Troupe/Lorraine Hansberry Theatre); *Chicago* (Cabrillo Stage). Film: *Opal, The Ugly Duckling, Six Against the Rock*. Television: *Rescue 911, Missing Reward, Starman*. Kurt lives in Santa Cruz and teaches Theatre Arts at Prospect High School in Saratoga, CA.

**Carina Swanberg** (Light Design) has been with Actors' Theatre since 2016 when she was a student at UC Santa Cruz. She has designed 8 Tens @ 8 (2019, 2018, 2016), *Company, Looking for Normal, Red, The Realistic Joneses, The Mountaintop, and God of Carnage*. She has also designed at

Los Altos Stage Company: *Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play*; at Cabrillo College: *Carrie: The Musical*, *Trojan Woman*, and *Nice Work If You Can Get It*; at Mountain Community Theater: *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Sordid Lives*, *Assassins*, and *Julius Caesar*; at Rose Theatre: *Our Town*; and at Santa Cruz Shakespeare: *Orlando*. In her free time, she enjoys backpacking, skiing, drawing, and cooking.

**Davis Banta** (Sound Design) has worked as an actor/director/sound designer in Santa Cruz since 2008. Directing credits include Actors' Theatre's 8 Tens @ 8 Play Festival, *True West* by Sam Shepard, *Isaac's Eye* by Lucas Hnath, and *A Contemporary American's Guide to a Successful Marriage ©1959* by Robert Bastron, *The Quality of Life* by Jane Anderson, and *Assassins* by John Weidman and Stephen Sondheim. Davis is one of the founders of local comedy troupe You Had To Be There, which has produced two original sketch comedy shows and won the "Best Theatre Troupe" award from the Santa Cruz Weekly. His sound design credits include *Harper Regan* for Jewel Theatre, *Death of a Salesman* for Cabrillo College, and the past 7 years of the 8 Tens @ 8.

**Buff McKinley** (Deck Manager) has been involved for 12 years behind the scenes with 8 Tens, and is thrilled to also be directing for the first time this year. With a BFA in Theater and Film Production, she has worked behind the scenes in a variety of technical roles with some of the best local theater companies including Actors' Theatre, Rose Theater, Mountain Community Theater, SEE Theater and Van Antwerp Theater Company, LPRT, Blue Wolf Productions, Evergreen Theater and more. She's delighted to be part of this show and glad you're here.

**Cheryl Wong** (Properties Master) has been involved in community theater for over 10 years. She has worked on *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Mikada* (Cabrillo), *Chinese Coffee* (Lamplight Productions), *I Ought To Be In Pictures* (SC Jewish Theater), *A Delicate Balance* (Van Antwerp Theater), *Assassins* (Mountain Community), *Company*, and the 8 Tens Festival (Actors' Theatre). Her roles have ranged from assistance stage manager, backstage manager, properties manager, crew, box office, and duties as assigned. She is happy to be rejoining the 2020 8 Tens production team.

**Sandy Beiser** (Box Office Manager) has been working box office for the Santa Cruz theater community for the past 18 years, starting right here at the Actors' Theatre in 2001. Sandy managed the box office for 9 years. In 2007 Sandy also began managing the Cabrillo Stage Summer Season box office and working for the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. In 2012 Sandy was hired by Cabrillo College to create and manage the Vapa Box Office Department. After 13 years as the Cabrillo College Box Office Manager for Vapa and Cabrillo Stage it was time to move on, to come back home to Actors' Theatre where it all began.

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