



2023

JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 19

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@ CENTER STAGE, 1001 CENTER ST, SANTA CRUZ



Santa Cruz County Actors' Theatre

presents



Co-Artistic Coordinators

Brian Spencer & Gerry Gerringer

Light & Sound Design

Lyndsey Gould

Stage Manager / Light Operator

Lyndsey Gould

Master Electrician

Holly Boyd

Deck Crew

Siid Bobisuthi

Set Design

Suzanne Schrag

Set Change Coordinator

Buff McKinley

Audio Operator

Gabby Teresi

Box Office Manager

Sandra Beiser

Marketing

Andre Neu, Kathie Kratochvil

The photographing, videotaping, or other video or audio recording
of this production is strictly prohibited.

Sponsored in part by:



PART 1 – ACT I

Man's Best Friend

by Tim Lehnert

Directed by Buff McKinley

Setting: The reception area of an animal shelter

Naomi Rollins Lucie

Thomas Webb Jeffrey

Karin Babbitt Bagel

Plautus Testudines Kimberly

The Most Precious Thing

by Amy Dellagiarino

Directed by Sarah Albertson

Setting: Inside Jaqueline's mind.

Manirose Bobisuthi Jaqueline

Tristan Ahn Charlie

Wonder People

by Madeline Puccioni

Directed by Hannah Eckstein

Setting: The Uptown Bar in Oakland

Ward Willats Ken

Lee Ann Gray WW

Honest "Abe" Mazulu

by Stephen Cooper

Directed by Rebecca Haley Clark

Setting: An office of the Suisse Banc de Geneve, Zurich, et Bern

Avondina Wills Abe Mazulu

Thomas Webb M. Poulenc

Tristan Ahn David

Intermission

PART 1 – ACT II

Youth for Dark

by Keith Whalen

Directed by Kathryn Adkins

Setting: The office of Principal Durkis

Gino Danna Mr. Durkis

A.J. Davey Ouse David

Confessions à Deux

by Stephen Cooper

Directed by Helene Simkin Jara

Setting: A Catholic confessional

Ward Willats Fr. Martin Gregory

Tristan Ahn Fr. Henry Shannon

The Tree

by Barbara Anderson

Directed by Evan Hunt

Setting: The front yard of the home of the man and woman

Lee Ann Gray Tree

Gino Danna Old Man, Husband

Mary Ann LoBalbo Old Woman, Wife

Father Michael's Doing Mass

by Kevin Broccoli

Directed by Jim Schultz

Setting: A church on Sunday morning

Karin Babbitt Sheryl

Karen Schamberg Vicky

PART 2 – ACT I

Everything Happens for a Reason...Right?

by William J. Royce

Directed by Cathy Warner

Setting: A living room

Mindy Pedlar Mom

Andrew Yabroff Son

Unreasonable Situations

by Lindsey Brown

Directed by Kathie Kratochvil

Setting: A small park in an affluent residential area

Evandra Aurelia Lorin

Lyndsey Marks Officer Kent

An Awkward Conversation in the Shadow of Mt Moriah

by John Bavoso

Directed by Karin Babbitt

Setting: On the road home from Mount Moriah

Tom Arns Abraham

Andrew Yabroff Isaac

Something Holy in Croatia

by Steven Haworth

Directed by Marcus Cato

Setting: An abandoned warehouse in Croatia

Scott Kravitz Anton

David Leach Bogdan

Intermission

PART 2 – ACT II

Death Brings a Casserole

by Dan Borengasser

Directed by Peter Gelblum

Setting: An almost-empty church

Kostas Guzman-Gieseken Rudy

Martin Sampad Kachuck Death

Eddy & Edna

by Donald Loftus

Directed by Andrew Davids

Setting: The kitchen in Eddy and Edna's home

Steven Capasso Eddy

Mindy Pedlar Edna

August Materazzi Danny

Slave Trade

by Ian Patrick Williams

Directed by Gerry Gerringer

Setting: A home office

David Leach Bob McNamara

Sarah Cruse Alexa

An Adventure in Forms

by Christian Neuhaus

Directed by Wilma Marcus Chandler

Setting: An office

Martin Sampad Kachuck Brand

Kostas Guzman-Gieseken Rankin

Hannah Eckstein Hayworth

Helene Simkin Jara Foster



In Memorium

To all our theatre friends whom we have recently lost and
whom we celebrate with our continued work:
You are always with us in spirit and in our hearts.

BONNIE RONZIO
BARBARA BURKHART
LILE CRUSE
SUZANNE DUVALL
PATRICIA GRUBE
LISA HADLEY
ELEANOR HUNTER
ROBERT JOHNSON
FRANK LEVY
TOMMY MARQUEZ
DHARAJ MAXFIELD
CYNTHIA PARKS
JORY POST
DAVID RUPERT
CHARMAIGNE SCOTT
ARMON STOVER
ROBERT SWARD
JEAN WEISZ
SARA WILBOURNE



THE ACTORS



Tristan Ahn (*The Most Precious Thing*, *Honest "Abe" Mazulu*, *Confessions à Deux*) is a current Theatre Arts major at UC Santa Cruz. He recently performed the role of Eddie in the world premiere of *White Sky*, *Falling Dragon* at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts. His other previous roles include Rusty Charlie (*Guys and Dolls*), Christian de Neuville (*Cyrano de Bergerac*), and various roles in the Actors' Theatre 8 Tens @ 8 (Sam in *Frodo Lives*, 2019; Evan in *The Winner*, 2020; and Male Writer in *Uncle Nutty's Final Days*, 2020). He looks forward to performing in his third year of 8 Tens!



Tom Arns (*An Awkward Conversation in the Shadow of Mount Moriah*) is making his second appearance in the 8 Tens @ 8 Festival. He played the Donor in *The Anonymous Donor* and Walter Graham in *The Homecoming* in the 2018 festival. Favorite roles include Grandpa Joe in *Willy Wonka*, Guard/Black Knight/Maynard in *Spamalot*, and Albert Lennox in *The Secret Garden*, all at Theater in the Mountains. Tom is an avid improviser and has performed frequently at the Fun Institute, American Improv Theater, and ComedySportz. When he's not on stage, Tom enjoys writing and playing jazz trumpet.



Evandra Aurelia (*Unreasonable Situations*) is a Santa Cruz native. She graduated last year from AMDA (NY). Since then she started teaching mindfulness-focused voice lessons, became a prominent ongoing actor for Illumeably Media, musical directed for *Urinetown* at SVHS, and performed in the new play reading of *Eradicated* with MCT. Notable past stage roles include Eileen Evergreen in *Nice Work if You Can Get It*, Carla in *In The Heights*, and Brooke Ashton in *Noises Off!* In her free time she likes to crochet, go on walks in nature, and make new vegan recipes! See more at evandraaurelia.com



Karin Babbitt (*Man's Best Friend*, *Father Michael's Doing Mass*) was a standup comic, appearing at The Comedy Store in Hollywood for a decade, was a finalist in the San Francisco International Comedy Competition, and appeared on nightclub stages around the country. She's done standup on TV, acted in films, and was a screenwriter on a few bad sitcoms. Karin has a BA and MA in Theatre Arts, with a teaching credential to boot. She directed plays and taught drama and video at San Lorenzo Valley and Scotts Valley High Schools, and taught Stand Up and Improv Comedy at San Jose State. Locally, she enjoyed performing as the Wicked Witch of the West in *The Wizard of Oz* at Cabrillo Stage and as the Jailer's Auntie in *Wind in the Willows* with Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and had a lead role in *August Osage County* at MCT (and is a *Spamalot* Alumn! Woot!). A member of the Actors Theatre Board of Directors, Karin has performed and

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directed a number of 8 Tens over the years, and is delighted to be doing so again. Presently, she is the Studio Manager for Options for All Film and Media of the Silicon Valley. Also, she is back to standup.



Manirose Bobisuthi (*The Most Precious Thing*) is delighted to be returning to the stage after a 20 year break to raise her family. Manirose was very active in the Santa Cruz theater community from 1999 to 2002, performing in 8 Tens @ 8 at Actors' Theater, and in *Everyman* and *The Marat/Sade* at Cabrillo College, as well as shows with Pisces Moon Theater Company. Manirose would like to thank her husband, kids and friends for the overwhelming support in her return to acting.



Steven Capasso (*Eddy & Edna*) is an actor, improviser, and playwright. He has performed with the Actors' Theatre 8 Tens Festival since 2008, as well as with Mountain Community Theatre and Cabrillo College. Favorite roles include Morty (*Nobody's Hero*, 8 Tens Reboot, 2022) Cheswick (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, MCT, 2022) Stan (*SWEAT*, Cabrillo College, 2020), Kit Carson (*The Time of Your Life*, Cabrillo College, 2019), Sawyer (*Miracle on 34th Street*, MCT, 2018) and Lendell (*Almost Maine*, Cabrillo College, 2021). In 2017, Steve performed his solo show *You Always Remember* at United Solo Theatre Festival in NYC. He is a member of 36 North, a playwright's collective.



Sarah Cruse (*Slave Trade*) has chosen a road of expressive freedom. As a spoken word artist, actress, singer and sound explorer she supports people and communities in activating their own inner creative pathways. She is currently a practitioner of energetic sound healing and trauma clearing, the lead singer of her band Yaya's Kitchen, and a channel for a wise, humorous and loving character named Granny. Sarah believes in the brilliance of collaborative intelligence and lives with a curiosity that continues to invite her into places and spaces that reveal the genius and the generosity of the collective heart that guides us all. She is excited to be a part of Santa Cruz theater and this year's 8 Tens @ 8.



Gino Danna (*Youth for Dark*, *The Tree*) has performed in local community theater and improv shows for the last several years. He was last seen on stage screaming obscenities as Rucky in MCT's production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. This is his third time with 8 Tens @ 8 and he is delighted to be working once again with all the talented and dedicated individuals involved with the Festival.

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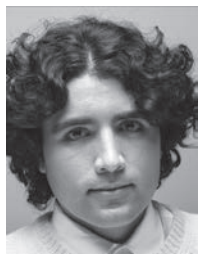
LOCAL DELIVERIES



Hannah Eckstein (*An Adventure in Forms*) is thrilled to return again, acting and directing for her sixth season of 8 Tens @ 8. She performs locally with Mountain Community Theater, Jewel Theatre, Center Stage, Nextstage, Cabrillo, Monterey History, DNA Comedy, and numerous other playhouses. Hannah recently directed *Calendar Girls* and *Sordid Lives* for MCT. She has performed in film, TV and stage in Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York.



Lee Ann Gray (*Wonder People*, *The Tree*) is thrilled to be performing for the first time in the 8 Tens @ 8 Festival. She has been involved in local theatre for over 40 years as an actor, improviser, director, and clown. She taught drama for the last 13 years of her teaching career, produced numerous plays and was constantly inspired by the creativity of young people she had the privilege to direct. Her favorite roles include LaVonda, *Sordid Lives* (Mountain Community Theater), Mme. Josephine, *Madwoman of Chaillot* (MCT), Felicia, *I Hate Hamlet* (MCT), and Yvette, in a zoom production of *Clue* (Next Stage). She also played Henrietta in *Honk, the Musical*, and appeared in *Annie Get Your Gun* (Scotts Valley Performing Arts). She currently sings with the Choraliers, the Follies, and The Little Big Band. Retirement is her renaissance!



Kostas Guzman-Gieseken (*Death Brings a Casserole*, *An Adventure in Forms*) is studying Philosophy and taking acting classes at UC Santa Cruz. He has acted in two student written/directed plays and two student short films.



Helene Simkin Jara (*An Adventure in Forms*) received her BA in Theatre Arts from UCLA in 1969. She has performed in Los Angeles, NYC, and at The Western Stage in Salinas, Carl Cherry Center for the Arts in Carmel, Scotts Valley Performing Arts, Pisces Moon, SEE Theatre, and Cabrillo College. She is also a frequent collaborator with Actors' Theatre, having directed eight 8 Tens @ 8 shows, as well as acting in five Best of the Rest shows and ten 8 Tens @ 8 shows. In September 2020, Helene was featured in *Side x Side*, a Zoomed play reading of three short plays by Jory Post, presented by 36 North Playwright's Collective. In addition to performing, Helene is an award-winning author. Her poems, stories, and plays have been published over 32 times, and have won various awards. Learn more at helenesimkinjara.com.



Want even more short-play goodness?
Check out the “Best of the Rest”
staged readings of the 8 runners-up
coming in April 2023



Martin Sampad Kachuck (*Death Brings a Casserole, An Adventure in Forms*) is a veteran performer who has worked with various theatre companies in and around the Bay Area, including Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Cabrillo Stage, Carmel Shakespeare, and Actors' Theatre. Martin had the more recent honor of playing the artist Mark Rothko in the production of *Red* at Actors' Theatre, directed by Wilma Marcus Chandler. Last year, in the filmed *8 Tens @ 8* he was in the short play *Free Hugs*, directed by Marcus Cato. Other favorite roles include Tevye in *Fiddler on a Roof*, Matt Friedman in *Tally's Folly*, and Puck in *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Recently stepping away after nearly 40 years as the Director of Performing Arts at Mt. Madonna School, he continues to teach English core for 7th and 8th Graders at the school. Martin received his MA in Directing Children's Theater from San Jose State University.



Scott Kravitz (*Something Holy in Croatia*) is thrilled to be returning to the 8 Tens Festival once again. Scott has been recently seen playing the role of Lopakhin in *The Cherry Orchard* (MCT - directed by Bill Peters). A New York native, Scott arrived in Santa Cruz in 2002 and has since found a home in the theatre community from Monterey to the San Francisco Bay.



David Leach (*Something Holy in Croatia, Slave Trade*) is thrilled to be making his debut in the 8 Tens @ 8 Festival. He has appeared in many shows for MCT, pre-pandemic. Most recently he played in Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* (Gaev) and *Rapture, Blister, Burn* (Don), both in MCT's 2019 season. For MCT's 2018 season David played Brother Boy in *Sordid Lives* and the title character in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*. During the pandemic, David and a group of local actors collaborated to create an original comedy series you can find on YouTube, under the name Mountain Comedy Theatrics. The programs all feature original comic sketches, written and performed by the cast, along with various improv sketches. Each episode features local musical talent as well. We wanted to share laughs and songs to keep everyone entertained, as we all sheltered in place. I hope you enjoy the show.



Mary Ann LoBalbo (*The Tree*) was last seen "in person" in 8 Tens @ 8 in *Florida* as Didi in 2020, and on film in *Dress Blues* as Mrs Simmons in 2022. She has been Zooming and performing from home with multiple groups from Mountain Community Theater (mixed media *Life in the Circus*) to Next Stage (*Clue* and *Poof*). Looking forward to seeing and hearing your voices of reactions live back in the dark again!



Lyndsey Marks (*Unreasonable Situations*) 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*. Her first 8 Tens @ 8 performance was in 2020, and she is excited to be part of the Festival for the second time.



August Materazzi (*Eddy & Edna*) returned to the stage after a thirty-one year hiatus in Mountain Community Theater's 2022 production of *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*. Prior to that, he had roles in *See How They Run* and *Anything Goes*. In between he was moving around the U.S. and learning to play various instruments. Raised in New England, he now spends his time designing solar systems and finding unusual places to explore in the mountains.



AJ Davey Ouse (*Youth for Dark*) is so very grateful to be performing for this year's festival. Though this is his first opportunity to work with Actors' Theatre, he has been acting for just over a decade, and finds more and more joy in it with each performance. Some of his favorite credits include Tybalt (*Romeo and Julieta*), Charley (*Charley's Aunt*), Hope (*Urinetown*), and Ensemble in a whole lot of other shows he won't bore you with the names of at this time.



Mindy Pedlar (*Everything Happens for a Reason...Right?*, *Eddy & Edna*) is delighted to be participating in her first 8 Tens @ 8 with Actors' Theatre. She was last seen in *Native Gardens* at The Western Stage in Salinas. Favorite local roles include Margarethe Bohr in *Copenhagen* with Brian Spencer Productions, Alice in *Rapture*, *Blister*, *Burn* with Mountain Community Theater, Rebecca in *Middle of Nowhere* with Actors' Theatre and Katherine in *Mothers and Sons* with SEE Theatre. Mindy often performs with Cabrillo Stage, her favorite show being *The Wizard of Oz* where she had great fun flying as Glinda/Auntie Em. Other favorite roles with various musical theater companies include Mother Abbess in *Sound of Music*; Anna in *King & I*; the Duchess in *Nice Work if You Can Get It* and Mrs. Tottendale in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Mindy also had the honor of appearing in Peter Gelblum's film *The CZU Fire in Their Own Words*.



Naomi Rollins (*Man's Best Friend*) is a mother, teacher, and proud member of the Santa Cruz community for the last 18 years. Thank you to Karin for always encouraging me to perform. Thank you to my family, colleagues, dear friends, and my newest friends in this show. What a treat to play with you all!



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Karen Schamberg (*Father Michael's Doing Mass*) fell in love with acting in 1990 in an Actors' Theatre production of a Philip Slater play, *Yesterday's Paper*. She has acted, directed and just generally helped out in stage productions ever since. Some of her favorite roles have been Mother Superior in *Nunsense*, Bubbie in *Crossing Delancy*, Gertie in *Fuddy Meers* and Mary in *Waiting for Seven*. Her first experience with 8 Tens @ 8 was directing in 1999. She has appeared with Actors' Theatre, Friends of Gus, Willing Suspension Armchair Theater, Dangerous Neighbors, Pisces Moon, and Elf Empire Productions in Santa Cruz, as well as productions at Cabrillo College in Aptos, Western Stage in Salinas, Unicorn Theatre in Carmel, Scotts Valley Performing Arts, and Mountain Community Theater in Ben Lomond.



Plautus Testudines (*Man's Best Friend*) made his stage debut in the role of Plautus/Lightning in Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* produced by Friends of Gus in 2003. Since then, he has reprised his namesake role in productions with the Firehouse Theater Company in Denver, Colorado; at San Francisco State University under the direction of Bill Peters; and most recently with Shotgun Players in Berkeley. He's excited to be expanding his repertoire and honing his acting chops by tackling the emotionally complex and demanding role of Kimberly in *Man's Best Friend*.



Thomas Webb (*Man's Best Friend*, *Honest "Abe" Mazulu*) is thrilled to be making his debut appearance in the 8 Tens. Earlier this year you may have seen him playing five different roles in *Candide* at Cabrillo Stage, as Don Capuleto in *Roméo & Julieta* at Cabrillo's Black Box Theatre, or as a Shepherd in Kirke Mechem's new opera *Befana: A Christmas Fable*. In 2021 he was honored to play a heightened version of himself in *Tomfoolery* and a pirate/policeman in *Pirates of Penzance*, both with Cabrillo Stage. When he's not on stage, Thomas sings with several choirs, gives private voice lessons, plays piano, and loves staging/choreographing scenes. He hopes this is the first of many collaborations with Actors' Theatre.



Ward Willats (*Wonder People*, *Confessions à Deux*) has performed with many local theater companies over the last 40 years, most recently with MCT as the wildly hallucinating Martini in *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, and the dancing, affable John in *Calendar Girls*. Last seen live on this stage in the 2020 8 Tens @ 8 wrestling with God's automated answering system in the popular comedy *Press Pray*, Ward naively shouted, "See you next year, Santa Cruz!" during the final curtain, little realizing it would be nearly 3 years of covid trauma and Zoom plays before we could all gather together in-person again. He prepared three pieces for the cancelled-by-covid 2022 festival, which are available for viewing on the Actors'

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The Humans

By **Stephen Karam**

Directed by **Miguel Reyna**

March 17-April 9

The Viewing Room

By **Mark Smith**

Directed by **Peter Gelblum**

May 26-June 18

New Works Weekend

Play to be Announced

Directed by **Hannah Eckstein**

August 18-20

Something Rotten!

By **Karey Kirkpatrick and John O'Farrell**; Music & Lyrics by **Karey & Wayne Kirkpatrick**

Directed by **Kathie Kratochvil**

September 22-October 15

A Home for Christmas

By **Ann Eskridge**

Directed by **Karin Babbitt**

November 24-December 17



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Theater YouTube channel. Ward runs his own channel at [youtube.com/WardCo](https://www.youtube.com/WardCo), holds a theater BA from UCSC, and is very grateful for you, the generous and adventurous Santa Cruz audience who make all of this possible.



Avondina Wills (*Honest "Abe" Mazulu*) is once again honored to be in the 8 Tens @ 8. In these times of pandemics and controversies, theatre arts is a true expansion of joy and exploration of spirit for me and I hope for you as well. I would like to dedicate my performances to my family and friends. Without their support I would not be here! Enjoy the shows!



Andrew Yabroff (*Everything Happens for a Reason...Right?, An Awkward Conversation in the Shadow of Mount Moriah*) is thrilled to be working on 8 Tens @ 8! He was last seen performing in Santa Cruz in Jewel Theatre's *The Explorers Club* in 2019. You may have also seen Andrew perform regionally during five seasons of Island Shakespeare on Whidbey Island; at Harlequin Theatre, Greenstage and Tacoma Arts Live in the Puget Sound area; at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland; or in an LA night club with his companies Shakes on the Rocks and RIOT! Andrew has a BFA in Acting with a minor in Shakespeare Studies from Southern Oregon University. He wants to thank Cathy and Karin for welcoming him back to Santa Cruz theatre! www.andrewyabroff.com

SPECIAL THANKS

Sarah Albertson, Cabrillo College, Community Printers, Juls Goodwin, Harbor High School, Jewel Theatre, Robin Lasser, June Magnaldi, Knights-Pirates Theatre Collective, Oasis High School, Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church, Saint Philip's Episcopal Church, Terri Steinmann, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Noel Warwick, Kent Washburn, WEST Performing Arts



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THE DIRECTORS



Kathryn Adkins (*Director, Youth for Dark*) is thrilled to return to 8 Tens @ 8, having directed *Janis Gives Comfort* in 2016. A music and theater specialist, she has performed with Opera Theater of St. Louis, Santa Cruz Symphony, and Tandy Beal and Company, and has played numerous leading ladies for Cabrillo Stage and throughout the South Bay. Favorite roles include Liza in *My Fair Lady* and Frau Schneider in *Cabaret*. She is on the faculty of Cabrillo College where she has directed many musicals, most recently *Carrie, the Musical*. She is co-founder and current president of NextStage Productions, a nonprofit company bringing performance opportunities, education and improved health through the performing arts to mature adults, including touring shows, Open Mic and Drumming for People Living with Parkinsons. Learn more at nextstagesantacruz.org.



Sarah Albertson (*Director, The Most Precious Thing*) has worked off-Broadway and with theatre companies in the U.S. and Canada. She most recently appeared as Llubov in Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* at Mountain Community Theater and in *Mermaid Madonna* at Center Stage. Sarah is on the Theatre Arts faculty at Cabrillo College. She delights in each opportunity to direct in the 8 Tens @ 8 Festival.



Karin Babbitt (*Director, An Awkward Conversation*) was a standup comic, appearing at The Comedy Store in Hollywood for a decade, was a finalist in the San Francisco International Comedy Competition, and appeared on nightclub stages around the country. She's done standup on TV, acted in films, and was a screenwriter on a few bad sitcoms. Karin has a BA and MA in Theatre Arts, with a teaching credential to boot. She directed plays and taught drama and video at San Lorenzo Valley and Scotts Valley High Schools, and taught Stand Up and Improv Comedy at San Jose State. Locally, she enjoyed performing as the Wicked Witch of the West in *The Wizard of Oz* at Cabrillo Stage and as the Jailer's Auntie in *Wind in the Willows* with Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and had a lead role in *August Osage County* at MCT (and is a *Spamalot* Alum! Woot!). A member of the Actors Theatre Board of Directors, Karin has performed and directed a number of 8 Tens over the years, and is delighted to be doing so again. Presently, she is the Studio Manager for Options for All Film and Media of the Silicon Valley. Also, she is back to standup.



Marcus Cato (*Director, Something Holy in Croatia*) has acted and directed in the annual 8 Tens @ 8 Festival since 2011. He has acted for many local theater companies including Jewel Theatre, Santa Cruz Shakespeare and its previous incarnation Shakespeare Santa Cruz. He was a company member, actor and director for ten years with the former Bear Republic Theatre. As an arts administrator, he enjoyed a career of over 35 years in Santa Cruz, working with Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Tandy Beal & Company, and the Bear Republic Theater. Marcus studied theater at the University of Illinois and the California Institute of the Arts.



Wilma Marcus Chandler (*Director, An Adventure in Forms*) is a playwright, poet and director who has taught theatre arts and dance the University of Iowa and UC Santa Cruz and is Emeritus Chair of Theatre Arts at Cabrillo College. She was Artistic Director of the 8 Tens @ 8 Festival for many years and her books on Directing, Stage Combat, and Scene Study are published by Smith & Kraus. She is the founder and producer of the annual In Celebration of The Muse writers' festival, co-founder of The National Festival of Women's Theatre, and My Kin Talk, a Jewish Readers' Theatre Company. She has directed over 100 shows in the Bay Area including the West Coast premiere of Angels In America and, most recently, John Logan's Red. She's delighted to be part of the renaissance of SC Actors' Theatre.



Rebecca Haley Clark (*Director, Honest "Abe" Mazulu*) was born and raised in Santa Cruz and is so excited to be working with Actors' Theatre for the first time! She recently directed *Just Deserts* (Santa Cruz Shakespeare), a story that combines Greek mythology and an exploration of our modern justice system. She also produced and directed a devised international collaboration entitled *Hindsight 2020* (Those Women Productions, Berkeley, CA) reflecting on the events of the year. Her previous credits include *As You Like It* (Bard in the Botanics, Glasgow, Scotland), *Cycle-Logical* (Tron Theatre/Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow), *Suffering from Scottishness* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival), *Shakespeare é Brasileiro* (Os Ciclomáticos, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), and *Hamlet/Ghosts* (HERE Arts Center/The Brewing Department/Rochester Fringe Festival). She has directed internationally in New York, Brazil, and the UK, including a residency at Shakespeare's Globe in London. Rebecca holds an MA in Classical and Contemporary Text in Directing from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and a BA from Columbia University in Drama and Comparative Ethnic Studies. She also received a Fulbright research grant to study Shakespeare and race studies in Rio de Janeiro and is currently the Education Programs Manager for Santa Cruz Shakespeare. www.rebeccahaleyclark.com



Andrew Davids (*Director, Eddy & Edna*) graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and performed in many off-Broadway productions in New York City. He then joined the avant garde theater troupe Elephant Off Main in Hollywood. Since 2012, Andrew has performed around Santa Cruz in acclaimed Jewel Theatre productions including *Mary Stuart*, *Saint Joan*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Odd Couple*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, and *The Explorers Club*, and in MCT's productions of *The Last Noel*, *The Mystery Plays*, and *Julius Caesar*. Personal highlights include performing in SEetheatre's *The Nether* and directing and performing in several 8 Tens @ 8 Festivals with Santa Cruz Actors' Theatre.



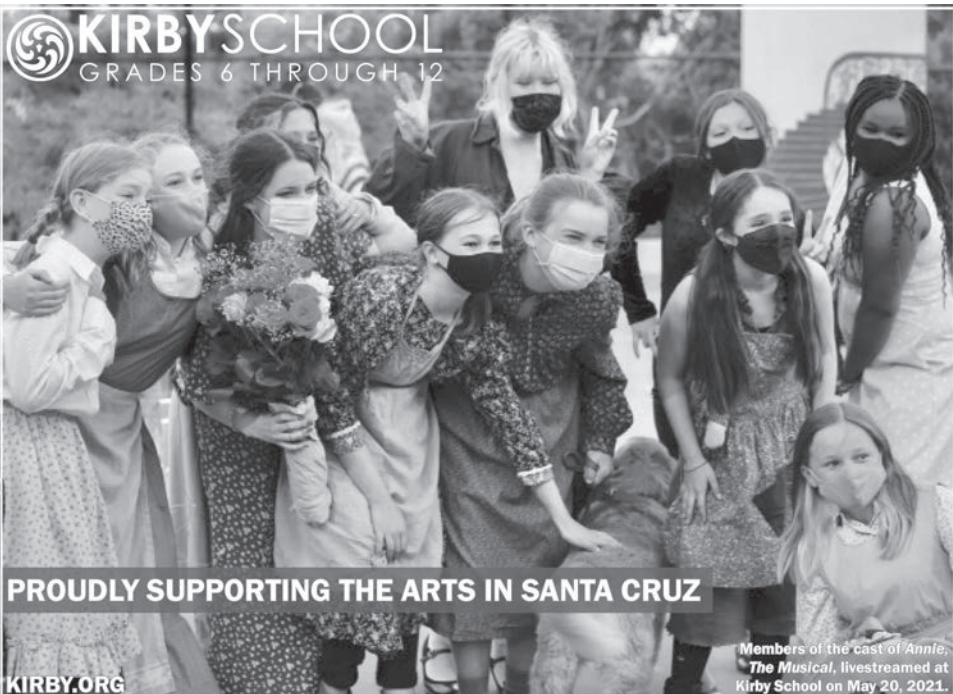
Hannah Eckstein (*Director, Wonder People*) is thrilled to return again, acting and directing for her sixth season of 8 Tens @ 8. She performs locally with Mountain Community Theater, Jewel Theatre, Center Stage, Nextstage, Cabrillo, Monterey History, DNA Comedy, and numerous other playhouses. Hannah recently directed *Calendar Girls* and *Sordid Lives* for MCT. She has performed in film, TV and stage in Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York.



Peter Gelblum (*Director, Death Brings a Casserole*) received his BA in Theater from Wesleyan University. He worked professionally as an actor and director in New York, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia, including playing the killer on a *Kojak* episode. This is his seventh year directing for 8 Tens @ 8. Peter has also directed regularly at Mountain Community Theater in Ben Lomond, including *August: Osage County*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Other Desert Cities*, *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia*, and *Miracle on 34th Street*. He has performed at MCT and Cabrillo College in roles ranging from Kris Kringle in *Miracle* to Brutus in *Julius Caesar*. During the pandemic shutdown, he created and directed *The CZU Fire in Their Own Words*, a 90-minute film that tells the stories of people who lost their homes in, and fought, the 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire in the San Lorenzo Valley.



Gerry Geringer (*Director, Slave Trade; Artistic Coordinator, Part 1*) has been involved in Santa Cruz theater since 1981. He has been a producer, director and actor. He has worked with Santa Cruz Repertory, Bear Republic Theater, Santa Cruz Actors' Theatre and produced and directed independently. In 1991, he oversaw the creation of the Broadway Playhouse at the Santa Cruz Art League. Gerry has directed for 8 Tens @ 8 for many years and has a special place in his heart for this wonderful festival. He dedicates this year's performances to his long-time best friend, the incredible Bonnie Ronzio.



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Evan Hunt (*Director, The Tree*) is delighted to be back at Actors' Theatre, where he's been performing 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.



Helene Simkin Jara (*Director, Confessions à Deux*) received her BA in Theatre Arts from UCLA. in 1969. She has performed in Los Angeles, NYC, and at The Western Stage in Salinas, Carl Cherry Center for the Arts in Carmel, Scotts Valley Performing Arts, Pisces Moon, See Theatre, and Cabrillo College. She is also a frequent collaborator with Actors' Theatre, having directed eight 8 Tens @ 8 shows, as well as acting in five Best of the Rest shows and ten 8 Tens @ 8 shows. In September 2020, Helene was featured in *Side x Side*, a Zoomed play reading of three short plays by Jory Post, presented by 36 North Playwright's Collective. In addition to performing, Helene is an award-winning author. Her poems, stories, and plays have been published over 32 times, and have won various awards. Learn more at helenesimkinjara.com.



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



Buff McKinley (*Director, Man's Best Friend*). This marks Buff's 16th straight year participating in the 8 Tens festival. With a BFA in Theater and Film production, she has worked in a variety of technical roles with some of the best local theater companies, including Actors' Theater, Soaring Dragon Endeavors, Rose Theater, Mountain Community Theater, SEE Theater, VanAntwerp Theater Company, LPRT, Blue Wolf Productions, and Evergreen Theater. During lockdown, she shared "stage crew" duties, with a cohort in Abu Dhabi for ZoomTheater's international production of *Romeo & Juliet*. Currently in production for MCT's *The Humans*, opening in March. With huge appreciation for those who stepped up to keep Actors' Theatre alive!

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Jim Schultz (*Director, Father Michael's Doing Mass*). It all began in 2008 when Helene Simkin Jara cast a reluctant newly-retired carpenter as a very large cricket. And, so, the journey began. Five semesters of acting classes at Cabrillo, topped off with a class in directing taught by Wilma Chandler, and a new light was cast on Jim's previously humdrum retirement. Though later cast as a dodo bird, Jim eventually worked his way up to human roles. But when he was given the opportunity to direct, he felt like he had found his niche. *Father Michael* is the seventh short play Jim has directed. He's proud to have worked with this playwright and these actors.



Brian Spencer (*Artistic Coordinator, Part 2*) is a well-known local actor, director, producer and playwright. He has worked with the 8 Tens @ 8 Festival as a playwright and as a director. Brian received his BA from SFSU and his MA in Drama with an emphasis in playwriting from SJSU.



Cathy Warner (*Director, Everything Happens for a Reason... Right?*) is a theatre artist, choreographer, and educator, who ran the Theatre and Dance programs at Harbor High for 37 years, where she had the great pleasure of working with thousands 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. Favorite directing experiences include directing for the 8 Tens @ 8 and Lampshade Production's presentation of *Going to St. Ives*. She is a retired teacher who is absolutely delighted to be directing for the 8 Tens Festival for her fourth time.



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www.santacruzactorstheatre.org/rent-the-theater

Could the next great short play be from you?

Since 1995, playwrights from around the world have submitted their scripts to Actors' Theatre in the hopes that their piece might be one of the sixteen selected to become a full-fledged production. Each play must be 10 minutes or less and, to continue our mission of producing new work, must not have had a previous full production (readings and workshops are OK).

Submissions are accepted year-round but must meet the summer deadline of June 30 to be considered for the 8 Tens @ 8 Festival the following January.



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THE WINNING PLAYWRIGHTS - 2023

Barbara Anderson – *The Tree*

When Barbara retired, she began writing and long-distance walking. Her book on walking, *Letters from the Way*, was published in 2015. Her many short plays and monologues have been produced throughout the U.S., Britain, on-line podcasts and streamed productions. Her full-length play *Fugitive Colors* was a finalist in Ashland, selected for Play4Keeps, and produced in NYC January 2022. Her Zoom play *Life Under the Prairie* won best play, script, director and Zoom-set in NYC. *The Tree* was written as an emotional response to a choral concert focused on nature. During the pandemic, she developed a YouTube channel of short zoom plays at barbaraanderson.org. She is thrilled to be produced by Actors' Theater.

John Bavoso – *An Awkward Conversation in the Shadow of Mt. Moriah*

John is a Washington, DC-based playwright, marketer, and aspiring wrangler of unicorns. He mostly writes plays about women and queer people who are awkwardly attempting (and generally failing) to engage with serious subject matter using only dry wit and impeccably timed combative taunts. John is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America, a Pinky Swear Productions company member, a 2019 Lambda Literary Fellow, and the recipient of District of Columbia FY18 and FY19 Arts and Humanities Fellowships. His plays have been produced and/or developed in DC, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin; Canada; Japan; South Korea; United Arab Emirates; Australia; and the UK. For more information, please visit John-Bavoso.com.

Dan Borengasser – *Death Brings a Casserole*

Many of Dan's plays have been produced or have received staged readings. Four plays – *A.R@Uni.Gov*, *The Kindness of Strangers*, *The Canterbury Tales Revisited*, and *Sense & Insensibility* – have been published. His plays have been produced in theaters across the country, from New York to Los Angeles, as well as in Canada, Mexico, India, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Several short screenplays have been produced, as well as a feature-length film he helped write, titled *The Donor Conspiracy*. A number of radio plays have been produced and broadcast nationally. www.danborengasser.com

Kevin Broccoli – *Father Michael's Doing Mass*

Kevin is a New England playwright who has won numerous New Work awards. His play *Thrifty's for the Fun and Fabulous* was recently published in the sixth volume of the Stage It plays collection, and his play *Falling Rocks* was voted Audience Favorite at Theatre Southwest. He can be found on Instagram @KBJR0719

Lindsey Brown – *Unreasonable Situations*

Lindsey is a New Zealand writer whose passion for the performing arts started at a young age. Initially a keen musical theatre and improv performer, she then moved into the world of writing. She obtained a Masters of Scriptwriting from Auckland University of Technology, and since then hasn't looked back. Lindsey has had pieces performed around the world, including London, New York, Hollywood, Florida, Chicago, Houston, Atlanta, Sydney, Dubai, Queenstown and Auckland. Successes to date include being the 2020 recipient of the PANZ Outstanding Achievement Award, winner of the Chicago Galaxy Theater Company One Act Competition, winner of the 2021 New Works Festival Long Beach Playhouse in California, and winner of Show Off 2022 for Camino Real Playhouse in California. Lindsey often favours comedy in her writing, believing that when we laugh, we are most open to learn. It's also more fun to write! Her plays contain strong roles for women that like to challenge those themes that are universal to us all.

Stephen Cooper – *Honest “Abe” Mazulu & Confessions à Deux*

Stephen was a University Professor (University of Michigan Medical School) before turning to playwriting upon retirement. His short play *Confessions à Deux* was the First Prize winner in the Theatre Odyssey 2012 Short Play Festival and was produced in London to excellent reviews. He had a one-week residency at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival's Southern Writers' Project to work on his full-length play, *Spiritual Bliss*. *Spiritual Bliss* was one of five finalists (out of 1500 submissions) in the Julie Harris New Play Competition. He has had many plays produced all over the world, and is a member of the Dramatists Guild and the Sarasota Area Playwrights Society

Amy Dellagiarino – *The Most Precious Thing*

Amy is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter whose work has been produced across the country. Her play *From the Perspective of a Canoe* won the Playwriting Script Competition at the 2021 Austin Film Festival. Her play *The Value of Moscow* was nominated for a 2019 Stage Raw Award for Best Playwriting and was published through Stage Rights. Her comedy feature film *Freelancers Anonymous* won the 2018 NCGLFF Audience Award for Best Women's Feature, was a recipient of the Frameline Completion Fund Award, and earned the Reframe Stamp for gender-balanced media along with such films as *The Favourite*, *Can You Ever Forgive Me*, and *Crazy Rich Asians*. Her short plays have garnered the Best Comedy award in various festivals. She has participated in developmental readings of several of her plays with noted LA theatre companies such as Sacred Fools, Theatre of Note, Rogue Machine, and The Blank Theatre Company, and was a 2020 participant of Moving Arts Theatre's MADLab Play Development Series. She was a participant of the 2021 Kennedy Center Summer Playwrights Intensive as well as the resident playwright with Dark Horse Theatre Company in Virginia, and a founding member of Walking Shadow Readers Theatre, which focuses on new playwrights and new play development. She earned her BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Steven Haworth – *Something Holy in Croatia*

Steven was Writer-in-Residence at the 2018 Seven Devils Playwrights Conference working on his play *Monkey in the Shade*, which was also included in the PlayLab Series at The Great Plains Theatre Conference 2019. He wrote *Fernando* which opened the Obie Award-winning Ice Factory Festival 2017 at the New Ohio Theatre (New York), was also a winner of the Ashland New Play Festival, the First Look Festival in Los Angeles, and is published by Next Stage Press. *Four New Years in Japan* won the Jury Prize in the Think Fast Festival in March 2019 and is published in Applause Publications Best Ten-Minute Plays of 2020. He was commissioned to write *[home]* or *The Quest for the Lost Tablet of Ur* for Zoo District in Los Angeles that received five LA Weekly, a Garland, and Ovation award nominations. Steven was also commissioned to freely adapt Mikail Bulgakov's *Flight* for the Open Fist Theatre. In New York, *Little Fishes* was produced off-Broadway by Abingdon Theatre, *Dark Age* by Project III Ensemble Theatre, and *The White Cave* by Jesco Productions. *Time and Tony Oliva*, commissioned for the Seventh Inning Stretch at Mile Square Theatre, appears in the Best Ten-Minute Plays of 2017/18 published by Smith & Kraus. In New Zealand he was one of four playwrights contributing to The Big Kahuna Project directed by Christine Sang. *Blue/Whitney* was a winner of Stage Left Theatre's 10th Leapfest New Play Festival in Chicago. Steven was a founding member and Associate Artistic Director of the Project III Ensemble Theatre in residence at the Ohio Theatre, Soho, NYC, where he wrote *Dark Age*, directed *The Grand Ceremonial*, and performed in many productions. As an actor he has performed in New York, Los Angeles, and regional theatre, and did voice work on two documentaries, *The Millionaires Unit*, and *The Lafayette Escadrille*. He holds an MFA in playwriting from Carnegie Mellon University.

Tim Lehnert – *Man's Best Friend*

Tim lives in Cranston, RI, with his family. His short plays have twice been performed in the Boston Theater Marathon, and by theaters in Rhode Island, Florida and California. Providence's Wilbury Theatre produced his four-part Zoom mob comedy *The Debt* in 2020. He is author of the book *Rhode Island 101*, and has published short fiction in various literary journals. His bread-and-butter work includes writing immigration petitions for scientists of extraordinary ability, and occasionally serving as a patient actor for the RI Nursing Education Center.

Donald J. Loftus – *Eddy & Edna*

Donald is an American playwright, librettist and lyricist whose work has been presented on stages across America and in the U.K. including Barrington Stage (Pittsfield, MA), Performing Fusion (Boston) and American Renegade (Los Angeles). While Donald has been writing plays for years, prior to 2018 he also had a very successful career in the cosmetic industry where he held the position of U.S. President of a number of companies including Proctor & Gamble's Prestige, Wella's Cosmopolitan Cosmetics and Yves Saint Laurent Beaute and Gianni Versace Profumi. He left the cosmetics industry in 2018 in order to devote his time to playwriting and he presently serves on the Board of Directors for The Dramatist Guild Foundation.

Christian Neuhaus – *An Adventure in Forms*

Christian is a Wisconsin writer of comic short plays and co-creator of *You've Ruined a Perfectly Good Mystery!*, an interactive comedy-adventure. He has been an actor-writer in ensembles for *Are We Delicious?*, which developed short plays and performed them within a single week. As the host of LittlePodcast.com's MadStage Podcast, he conducted more than two years of interviews with Madison theatre artists. Christian holds a bachelor's degree in English with a Creative Writing emphasis from UW-Madison and is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America.

Madeline Daly Puccioni – *Wonder People*

Madeline is a "re-entry playwright," happy to be back to writing after 30 years of grading English 1A papers. Since retiring, she has had many of her plays produced nationally and abroad including work with Playground Theatre Company SF, Towne Street Theatre, M.T. Pockets Theatre (West Virginia) and many others. She lives in Oakland, CA.

William J. Royce – *Everything Happens for a Reason...Right?*

Bill is an award-winning author who has written for stage and screen. His television credits include the Emmy Award-winning series *Murder, She Wrote*, *Diagnosis: Murder*, and *In the Heat of the Night*. In 2020, *The Road to Villa Page—A He Said/She Said Memoir: Buying Our Dream Home in France*, co-written with his wife Cynthia, was published by Sunbury Press. An invitation to perform an impromptu soft-shoe on the shores of Malibu with Dick Van Dyke is the highlight of his career.

Keith Whalen – *Youth for Dark*

Keith's plays have won awards and been produced across the country, and more recently, around the globe. His play *White Angel* won Best Play in Theatre Odyssey's Ten-Minute Play Festival, and his play *Youth for Dark* won Best Play in the Tales from the Brookside Festival and was a semifinalist in the 46th Annual Samuel French Off Off Broadway Short Play Festival. Keith is a proud member of The Dramatists Guild.

Ian Patrick Williams – *Slave Trade*

Ian shares the Chicago Emmy award for co-authoring the PBS teleplay *Bleacher Bums*, which was later adapted and produced as a M.O.W. by SHOWTIME. After moving to L.A., he worked for the not-for-profit organization Enrichment Works, writing and directing seven one act plays that toured the LAUSD school systems. His play *Provenance* was produced at Ensemble Studio Theater's One Act Play Festival in L.A.; it later won the Best One Act at Florida's TNP Readers Theatre. His short play *Normal Shnormal* won the first place Gold Quill award at the Tehachapi One Act Festival.



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