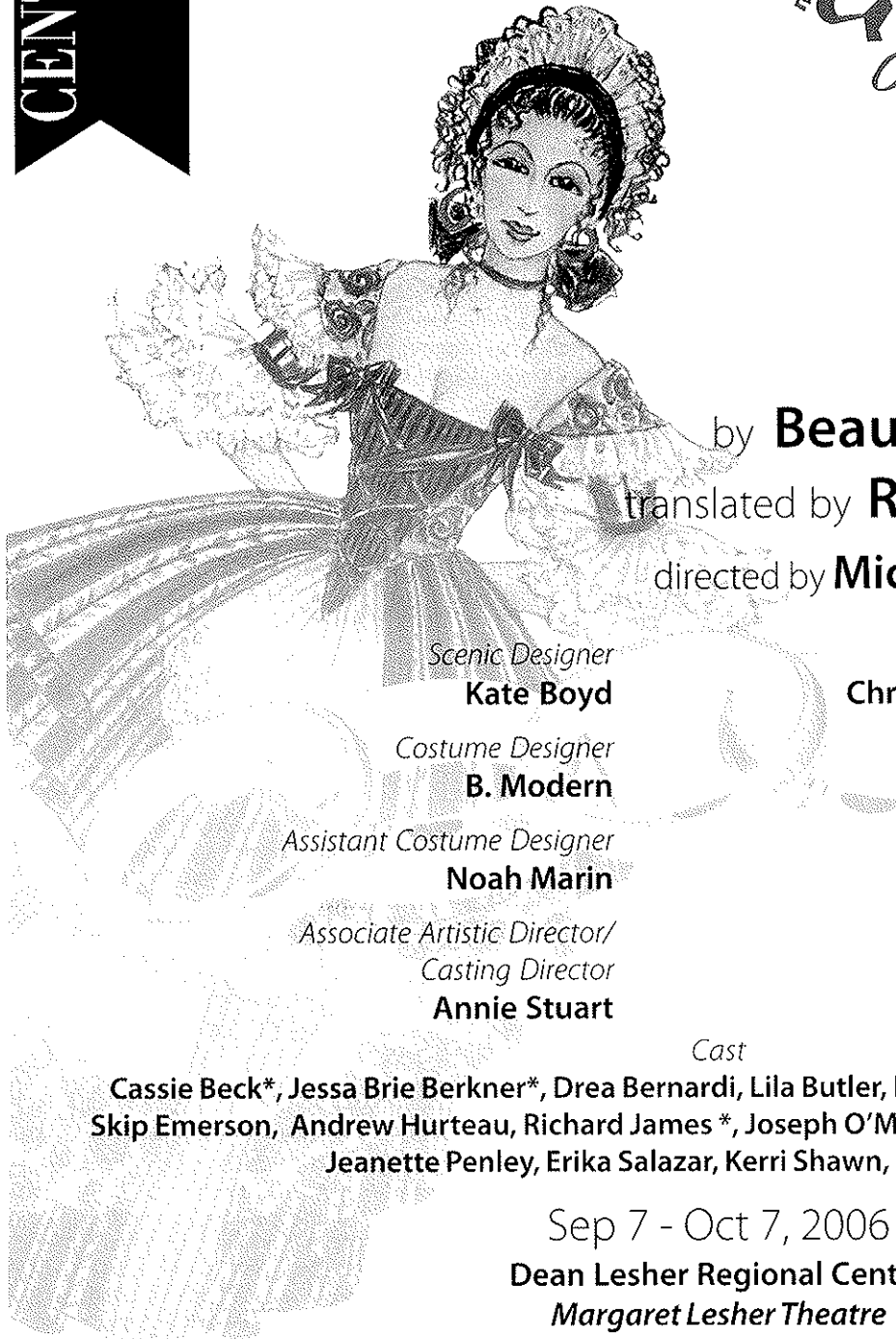




CENTER REPERTORY COMPANY OF WALNUT CREEK

presents

the marriage of Figaro



by **Beaumarchais**
translated by **Ranjit Bolt**
directed by **Michael Butler**

Scenic Designer
Kate Boyd

Costume Designer
B. Modern

Assistant Costume Designer
Noah Marin

*Associate Artistic Director/
Casting Director*
Annie Stuart

Lighting Designer
Christopher Studley

Sound Designer
Jeff Mockus

Choreographer
Cassie Beck

Stage Manager
Laxmi Kumaran*

Cast

Cassie Beck*, Jessa Brie Berkner*, Drea Bernardi, Lila Butler, Lizzie Calogero, Kate Del Castillo, Skip Emerson, Andrew Hurteau, Richard James *, Joseph O'Malley, Craig W. Marker*, Pat Parker, Jeanette Penley, Erika Salazar, Kerri Shawn, Maryssa Wanlass

Sep 7 - Oct 7, 2006

**Dean Leshner Regional Center
Margaret Leshner Theatre**

Center REP wishes to thank:

San Jose Repertory Theatre
Shakespeare Santa Cruz
Opera San Jose
and

Scott's Seafood Restaurant, Massimo Ristorante, Walnut Creek Baking Company

**Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of
Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States*

*The Costume Designer and Sound Designer in this production are members of United Scenic Artists
The Director in this production is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers*

CLASSICAL
102.1 KDFC



the marriage of figaro

by **Beaumarchais**, translated by **Ranjit Bolt**

Cast (in order of appearance)

Figaro, the Count's valet Craig W. Marker*
Suzanne, the Countess' maid, to marry Figaro Jessa Brie Berkner*
Bartholo, a doctor Richard James
Marceline Pat Parker
Cherubin, the Count's page Lizzie Calogero
Count Almaviva Andrew Hurteau*
Countess Almaviva Cassie Beck*
Fanchette, Antoine's daughter Kate Del Castillo
Antoine, the Count's gardener, and Suzanne's uncle Skip Emerson
Pedrille, a servant of the Count's Joseph O'Malley
Brid'oisin, a judge Kerri Shawn
Ensemble Drea Bernardi, Lila Butler, Jeanette Penley,
Erika Salazar, Maryssa Wanlass

Setting

The estate of the Count and Countess Almaviva.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Biographies



Cassie Beck* (*Countess Almaviva, Choreographer*) is thrilled to be involved with *The Marriage of Figaro* at Center REP as both a performer and as the choreographer! Ms. Beck is a proud member of Crowded Fire Theatre Company in San Francisco. Past acting credits include *Trojan Woman*, *Top Girls*, *A-A-America*, *One Big Lie*, *Slow Falling Bird*, and most recently she created the role of Belly in *We Are Not These Hands*. Other Bay Area performance credits: *All My Sons*, *Living Out* and *Be Aggressive* at TheatreWorks, *The Haunting of Winchester* at San Jose Rep, *Communicating Doors* at Marin Theatre Company, *3F 4F* at the Magic Theatre, *Thursday* at Encore Theatre Co., and *On the Verge* with the Napa Valley Repertory Theatre. Ms. Beck has served as choreographer for many local companies as well, including her Crowded Fire home. Most notably, she and director Michael Butler collaborated on *The Haunting of Winchester* at San Jose Rep, where she served as choreographer and dance captain. Thanks to K for the love and support!



Jessa Brie Berkner* (*Suzanne*) returns to Center REP after appearing in *Desire Under the Elms* (Abbie) and in *The Countess* (Effie Ruskin), a role for which she received the Shellie Award for Outstanding Actress. Recent work includes Aurora Theatre's *Marius* (Fanny), the world premiere of Trevor Allen's *Tenders in the Fog* (Shanachie/Banshee) at San Jose Stage Co., and *Vincent in Brixton* (Eugenia) at TheatreWorks. Appearances in the Bay Area include work with ACT, Marin Theatre Co., SF Shakes, SJ Stage, Marin Shakes, the B St. Theatre and over six productions with TheatreWorks. Jessa performed and trained with Teatro del Vicolo in Reggio Emilia, Italy, and appeared in the devised piece *Van Gogh* at The Mint in New York. She has received an Emmy for her work as the Virtual Host "Tilde" of TechTV, a Dean Goodman Award for *Tenders in the Fog*, and premiered in Barry Gifford's short film *Ball Lightning*, an official selection of the Locarno Intl. Film Fest., Switzerland. Jessa is on the teaching staff of Center REP's Young REP program, and is co-founder of Columba's Workshop, a physically-based approach to actor training.

Director's Notes

The Marriage of Figaro by Caron de Beaumarchais may be one of the first sequels ever written and, just as with today's sequels, it was a blockbuster. Beaumarchais introduced the character of Figaro in his earlier play, *The Barber of Seville* (1775) but it was in the sequel that he became a working class hero - the quintessential quick-witted working guy who battles overwhelming odds with brains and charm. *The Marriage of Figaro* opened in 1784, on the eve of the French Revolution and was an instant sensation. By then, Beaumarchais himself was famous. Born the son of a humble clockmaker, he went into the family business and at age 21, invented a precision escapement mechanism that revolutionized clock making and is still used today. He then embarked on a multi-faceted career as inventor, court musician at Versailles, banker, and weapons supplier to the American Revolution. He was a prodigious ladies man and an international spy. He made and lost several fortunes. He was imprisoned by both Louis XV and the Revolution (nearly losing his head in the latter but for the intervention of a former lover). Somehow, he found time to write plays, and with the creation of *Figaro*, he struck a universal chord that has inspired operatic versions by Mozart and Rossini as well as the Bugs Bunny cartoon, *The Rabbit of Seville*. The character of the wily servant trying to get out from under his master is nearly as old as drama itself. But Figaro was a servant who not only wanted to be free; he openly and brazenly acted like a free man. No wonder Louis XVI banned the play (too late, it seems). "*The Marriage of Figaro*," Napoleon said, "is already the revolution in action." Yet for all its biting satire of class and gender injustices, its political jabs at the rich and powerful, and its mockery of a corrupt judicial system, Beaumarchais' lighthearted genius keeps it at heart a lively romp of romance, sex and intrigue.

- Michael Butler

Artistic Director and Director of *The Marriage of Figaro*



Drea Bernardi (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to make her Center REP debut in *The Marriage of Figaro*. Most recently she performed at Cal Shakes in *Restoration Comedy*. Other Bay Area credits include Golden Thread Theatre's production of *Island of Animals*, the role of Melissa in the Stagebridge Theatre adaptation of Moliere's *The Hypochondriac*, and Ariel in *The Tempest* at Sonoma Valley Shakespeare Festival. Drea is a graduate of Dell' Arte International School of Physical Theatre.



Lila Butler (*Ensemble*) began her dancing career at age nine when she received a long sought-after pair of ballet shoes as a Christmas gift. Since then her passion for dance has only grown - encompassing Jazz, Contemporary, Swing, Tango, Flamenco as well as Taiko Drumming, Violin and Theater. Having just returned from the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance in New York, she has also studied at Centro Cultural Konex in Buenos Aires and Carmen Cuevas Escuela de Flamenco in Granada, Spain. She has danced with Alma Flamenca, PURE Dance Ensemble and the San Francisco City College Repertory Company at an array of performance venues including San Francisco's Carnival, A Taste of Oakland, ODC Theater and Swing! The Movie. She plans to entertain a lifelong affair with the arts and is thrilled to be working with Center REP of Walnut Creek.



Lizzie Calogero (*Cherubin*) returns to Center REP after playing Helen in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. Other recent appearances include *Loveplay* with TheatreFIRST, the world premiere of Terrence McNally's *Crucifixion* at the New Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco and *Hannah and Martin* at San Jose Repertory Theatre. Ms. Calogero has performed with The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, The Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company and many productions with Woman's Will, among others.



Kate Del Castillo (*Fanchette*) is delighted to be making her Center REP debut in *The Marriage of Figaro*. Most recently Kate was seen in SF Playhouse's summer musical *Putting it Together*. Other Bay Area credits include *The Ives Have It*, *All my Sons*, *A Little Night Music* and *Oh Kay* with Pacific Alliance Stage Company. Kate trained with the Arizona Repertory Theatre at The University of Arizona, receiving her BA in Theatre and Music. Endless gratitude and love to Joshua.



Skip Emerson (*Antonio*) holds an MFA in Acting from the University of Connecticut. He has done it all from *Henry IV* in a park in Buffalo, NY to Neil Simon's *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* in a tent on an island in Portland Harbor--Maine, that is. High-brow to low-brow in one easy step. He even co-founded his own theatre company (easier to be cast that way) in Portland, ME, the much beloved Vintage Repertory Company. For six years he and two other fools presented

eight quality theatrical productions a year for a pittance. Everything from Tennessee Williams to Henrik Ibsen, from Euripides to Genet. Skip's West Coast appearances have included; *Waiting for Godot*, *The Demon Pope*, and *Woyzeck* with Pang's Theater Ensemble. He can also be seen in *Metal Tears*, a short film shown at Sci-fi conventions nationwide and in soon to be released feature films *Life Noir* and *Silent Alarm*.



Andrew Hurteau* (*Count Almaviva*) has appeared at Center REP in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* (Max Prince) and *I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking it on the Road* (Joe). Other Bay Area credits include: Richard Seyd's production of *Noises Off* (Garry Lejeune) at the Marines Memorial Theatre; The Magic Theatre: *Nero* (Boccaccio), *The Rules of Charity* (LH), *Shrodinger's Girlfriend* (Heisenberg), Charles Mee's *Summertime* (Francois), *Bronte* (Branwell Bronte);

Berkeley Repertory Theatre: *Rhinoceros* (Dudard), *A Moon For The Misbegotten* (Mike Hogan); California Shakespeare Theatre: *Nicholas Nickleby, Parts I & II* (Charles Cheeryble, Pluck and many others); Marin Theatre Company: *Misalliance* (Gunner); Napa Valley Repertory Theatre: *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare—Abridged, 1776* (John Hancock), *On The Verge* (all of the men), *The Real Thing* (Max); San Francisco Fringe Festival: *The Zoo Story* (Jerry); The Fifth Floor: *Orestes* (Orestes), *Bake Sale* (Hack and Proctor); Unconditional Theatre: *The Baltimore Waltz* (The Third Man).



Richard James (*Bartholo*) is well remembered for his many roles with Center REP and for his co-adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*. He is an associate artist with Shotgun Players, Berkeley, and a resident artist with both Rising Phoenix Rep, N.Y., and the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Danville (recipient of the 2003 Artistic Award). Mr. James has received two Shellie Awards for acting, is a member of Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble and on the teaching staff for Young Rep

Summer Training Program. He most recently performed the critically acclaimed title role in *King Lear* for ShotgunPlayers.



Craig W. Marker* (*Figaro*) makes his Center REP debut in *Figaro*. Other Bay Area Credits: *Brooklyn Boy*, *Dolly West's Kitchen*, and *Shakespeare In Hollywood* for TheatreWorks; *Iphigenia At Aulis* for San Jose Repertory Theatre; *Bus Stop* for Marin Theatre Company; *Love's Labour's Lost* for San Francisco Shakespeare Festival; *The Shape of Things* and *The Persians* for Aurora Theatre Company, each earning him a Dean Goodman Choice Award. Other credits: *The*

Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow for Portland Center Stage and San Jose Repertory Theatre; *Continental Divide* for Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Birmingham Repertory Theatre and Barbican Theatre (UK), and La Jolla Playhouse. Mr. Marker is a proud member of Equity.



Joseph O'Malley (*Pedrilite*) is pleased to join the cast and crew in this, his first show at Center REP. He recently played Hamlet in *Hamlet* with Shakespeare at Stinson; before which he was a member of the ensemble cast of *Nicholas Nickleby* at Cal Shakes. Joseph is a graduate of Santa Clara University. He lives in San Francisco.



Pat Parker (*Marceline*) is thrilled to be back at Center REP, working with Michael and this amazing cast and crew. Last season she played Countess de Lage in *The Women* and previous to that was Mrs. Bassett in *Summer and Smoke*, for which she received a Dean Goodman Choice Award. Other REP shows include *Anna Christie*, *Fugitive Kind*, *On Borrowed Time*, and *Other People's Money*. Most recently she played Daisy in *Driving Miss Daisy* at California

Conservatory Theatre. A member of Theatre Bay Area and a former member of Actors'

Equity Association, Pat has been in ten shows at Marin Theatre Company and has also worked at Aurora Theatre Company, Magic Theatre, TheatreWorks, Contra Costa Civic Theatre, Altarena Playhouse, and Actors Ensemble, plus New York and Chicago theatres. As always, thanks, Annie.



Jeanette Penley (*Ensemble*) recent credits include understudying in *The Sisters Rosensweig* and *Brooklyn Boy* at TheatreWorks, performing in *The Shape of Things* at Capital Stage and *As You Like It* at Valley Shakespeare Festival. Ms. Penley worked as an Artistic Ensemble Member of Shady Shakespeare Theatre Company from 2004-2005 where her credits include *Hamlet* (Ophelia) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Titania). Other credits include *Taming of the Shrew* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival), *Medea* (International Greek Festival in Cyprus, Greece), *Out* (Second Wind Productions), *Breast Entanglements* (City Lights Spotlight Series), *Romeo and Juliet* (Teatra Bella), and *The Last Virgin* in Jubilee County and *High Spirits* (Playwright's Center of San Francisco). Her film credits include *Night of Henna*.



Erika Salazar (*Ensemble*) is a recent transplant to the Bay Area and is having a blast here at Center REP. San Francisco audiences most recently saw her as the King of the Jinn in *Island of Animals* (Golden Thread Productions). Erika hails from all over the East Coast where some of her favorite rolls include the Moon/Muerte in a bilingual production of *Blood Wedding/Bodas de Sangre*, Kat in the *17th of June*, Terry in *Extremities*, Mother in *Machinal* and her one-woman show, *Silenced*. She earned her BFA from the NewWorld School of the Arts in Miami, FL.



Kerri Shawn (*Judge Brid'oisin*) has just completed co-directing the 2006 Young REPertory Summer Acting Training Program and playing Shirley Valentine for Center REP's award winning production of *Shirley Valentine*. She is a company member of Fantasy Forum Actor's Ensemble and a resident artist at Tao House for the Eugene O'Neill Foundation. She feels very fortunate to be a part of this marvelous cast and Center REP's 40th Anniversary Celebration!



Maryssa Wanlass (*Ensemble*) Maryssa Wanlass recently completed the Moscow Art Theatre Summer Intensive at Harvard University. She has performed in the Bay Area at Theatre Rhinoceros in such roles as Eve Harrington in *Awe About Eve*, Eros in *Medea: The Musical!* and most recently as Jane in *Schonberg*. She received her BA in Dramatic Arts from Mills College. In her scant free time, you might catch her sipping a dirty martini or teaching herself how to knit.

Production Staff

Michael Butler (*Director/Artistic Director*) is in his first season as Artistic Director of Center REP, where he directed *Around the World in 80 Days* and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. His directing work has also been seen at San Jose Rep, Marin Theatre Company, Aurora Theatre Company, San Jose Stage, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Seattle Rep, ACT in Seattle, Cleveland Playhouse and The Juilliard School, of which he is a graduate. As an actor, Michael appeared on Broadway in *Two Shakespearean Actors* and *Macbeth*, off-Broadway at the Public Theatre, the Roundabout, and many regional theatres around the country. He is the co-writer and composer of many music-theatre pieces, which he has directed and performed in NY, LA, and at festivals in India and Morocco. He co-composed music and lyrics with Bay Area blues artist Chris Cain for *Thunder Knocking on the Door*, which opened San Jose Rep's new theatre in 1997, and has written songs and underscoring for productions at the Guthrie Theatre, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, as well as the Merchant Ivory film, *Slaves of New York*. In his career as a performer he has also danced with the Erick Hawkins Dance Company and played guitar and harmonica in many rock, blues, and country western bands at all the notable dives in NYC.

Ranjit Bolt (*Translator*) was born in Manchester, England, in 1959. He is one of Britain's leading translators for the stage. His translations (most of them in rhyming verse) have been produced by the National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company and Sir Peter Hall, and by leading repertory theatres in the US. He also reviews regularly for the Observer, and has published a verse novel, *Losing It*, 2001. He was awarded an OBE in the 2003 New Year honours list for services to literature.

Kate Boyd (*Scenic Designer*) designs scenery and lighting around the Bay Area. For Center REP Kate designed the scenery for *Becoming Memories*. Recent productions include *Spittin' The Raft* at Marin Theatre Company and *Blue Orange* at Aurora Theatre Company. Other design projects include: Harbor Theatre: *Wonder of the World*, *Sonnets for a New Century* and *Three Sisters*. Theatreworks and BRAVA!: *Nickel & Dimed*; The Magic Theatre: *Sex Habits of American Women*, *First Love*, *Schrodinger's Girlfriend*, and *Summertime*; Marin Theatre Company: *Sockdology* and *Sacco and Vanzetti*; BRAVA!: *Culture Clash - Mission Magic Mystical Tour* and *Stop Kiss*. Kate teaches design and was a recipient of the Gerbode Design Fellowship with the Working Women Festival.

B. Modern (*Costume Designer*) is pleased to join artistic Director Michael Butler for his premiere season at Center Rep. She is an Associate Artistic Director and resident designer at Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and an Associate Artist at Geva Theatre, Rochester, New York. Other regional theater credits include numerous productions for San Jose Repertory Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Globe Theatres (San Diego), The Magic Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Georgia Shakespeare Festival, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Syracuse State, The Great Lakes theatre Festival, Sacramento Theatre Company and American Musical Theatre of San Jose. Opera credits include productions at Opera Theatre of St. Louis and Opera San Jose. B. shares a home and studio in Santa Cruz with four cantankerous cats.

Jeff Mockus (*Sound Design*) is delighted to return to Center REP after designing last season's *Around The World in 80 Days*. Now in his thirteenth season as Resident Sound Designer for San Jose Repertory Theatre, with over 60 production credits including *Rounding Third*, *Noises Off*, *Enter the Guardsman*, *Las Meninas*, and *The Haunting of Winchester*. His work for both *Old Wicked Songs* and *Mary's Wedding* earned Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards, while he was awarded Dean Goodman Choice Awards for *By The Bog of Cats*, *ART*, and *Major Barbara*. He served three years as Director of Sound for PCPA Theaterfest, teaching for their technical conservatory while designing over 40 productions. Currently a lecturer for UC Santa Cruz's Theatre Arts Department, Jeff has credits with Shakespeare Santa Cruz, The Western Stage, Berkeley Rep, A Contemporary Theatre, The Huntington Theatre, Missouri Rep, San Diego Rep, Sledgehammer Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, and most recently: Utah Shakespearean Festival's *HMS Pinafore*, *Room Service*, *On Golden Pond*, and CCMT's *Beauty & The Beast* and *Urinetown*.

Christopher Studley (*Lighting Design*) is excited to be designing with Center REP for the first time. His design work has been seen with The Aurora, The Magic, Campo Santo/ Intersection, Encore Theatre, A.C.T. MFA, foolsFURY, SF Playhouse, Pacific Alliance, and Killing My Lobster. Christopher is honored to have his work on Sean San Jose's *Dominio* selected to represent the USA at the Prague Quadrennial Theatre Conference in June 2007.

Noah Marin (*Assistant Costume Designer*) originally a native Californian, just graduated from Brandies University in Boston with a masters degree in Costume Design this May. He currently resides Brooklyn and is starting his post graduate career designing costumes in the Big Apple. This is his seventh show assisting B. Modern, and is currently working on *King Lear* and *As You Like It* at Shakespeare Santa Cruz. He is very excited to be working with Center REP and with B. on another wonderful production.

Laxmi Kumaran* (*Stage Manager*) is happy to be working on her first show with Center REP. She is the Production Stage Manager at San Jose Repertory Theatre. Before moving to the Bay Area last year, Laxmi stage managed for nine years in Chicago at a variety of theatres including The Goodman Theatre and The Court Theatre. Some of the directors she has had the pleasure of working with are Timothy Near, John McCluggage, Robert Falls, Mary Zimmerman, JoAnne Akalaitis, Robert Woodruff, Karin Coonrod, Gary Griffin, and David Cromer. Laxmi teaches stage management classes at UC Santa Cruz and San Jose State University.

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Gary Skrel
Gary Pokorny
City Manager
Barry Gordon
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Scott Denison

Artistic Director
Michael Butler



❖ **PRODUCTION**

Production Manager
Jeff Collister
Associate Artistic Director
Annie Stuart
Assistant Stage Manager
Justin Cesarin
Production Assistants
Parker Nevin
Sonia Paauwe
Wesley Quinlan

❖ **TECHNICAL**

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Jeffrey Palmer
Assistant Technical Director
Mike Spinelli
Scenic Artist
Garrett Lowe
Properties Artisan
Lori Scheper

❖ **COSTUMES**

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Melissa Paterson
Assistant Costumer
Michael A. Berg
Assistant Costumer/Wigs
Amy Nielson

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Development Director
Gwen Loeb

❖ **MARKETING**
Marketing/PR Director
Gabriel Marin

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Luke Design Associates
Evren Odcikin
Photographers
Toni Kilcoyne
Ann Luke
Brad Rovanpera

❖ **EDUCATION**

Directors
Jeffrey Draper
Kerri Shawn

❖ **PRODUCTION SVCS.**

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Toni Kilcoyne
Technical Staff
John Earls
Nicole Iannacone
Sid Lucas
Iain McKay
Steve Pino
Garrick Schuster
Stephen Spleiss
Josh Stouffer

❖ **ADMINISTRATION**

Assistant to the Managing
Director
Gail Pfeifer



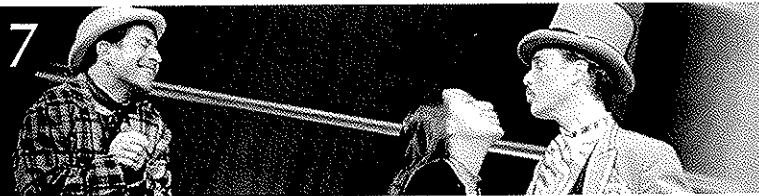
ssdc The Director is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union.



Center REP 2006-07

40th Anniversary Season

Michael Butler, Artistic Director
Scott Denison, Managing Director



THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

by Beaumarchais
translation by Ranjit Bolt
directed by Michael Butler
SEPT 7 - OCT 7, 2006

MITCH ALBOM'S TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE

by Jeffrey Hatcher and Mitch Albom
directed by Robin Stanton
OCT 19 - NOV 18, 2006

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

by Charles Dickens,
adapted by Cynthia Caywood and Richard L. James
directed by Scott Denison
DEC 7 - 17, 2006

THE REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

Two Shows in Rep:
ALL THE GREAT BOOKS (abridged)
by Reed Martin & Austin Tichenor

THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged)

by Adam Long, Reed Martin & Austin Tichenor
FEB 1 - MAR 3, 2007

BINGO!

book by Michael Heitzman and Ilene Reid
music and lyrics by Michael Heitzman, Ilene Reid
and David Holcenberg
directed by Glenn Casale
MAR 22 - APR 21, 2007

HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES

by Alan Ayckbourn
directed by Michael Butler
MAY 17 - JUN 16, 2007