



CENTER REPERTORY COMPANY OF WALNUT CREEK

Michael Butler, Artistic Director

Scott Denison, Managing Director

presents



Cast

Michael A. Berg
Darren Bridgett*
Sarah Bush
Lizzie Calogero*
Jeffrey Draper
Lena Gatchalian

Richard Louis James
Kalli Jonsson
Carie Kawa*
Fredrika Keefer
Krissy Keefer
Arthur Jason Keng
Mick Mize

Mark Anderson Phillips*
Joel Roster
Kimberly B. Valmore
Liam Vincent*
Adam Yazbeck*
Elise Youssef

Scenic Designer
Kim A. Tolman
Sound Designer
Will McCandless

Lighting Designer
Kurt Landisman
Choreographer
Krissy Keefer
Composer
Marc Ream

Costume Designer
B. Modern
Stage Manager
Frank Corso*

Directed by Michael Butler

Mar 27 - Apr 26, 2008
Leshar Center for the Arts
Margaret Leshar Theatre

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Season Partner



Season Media Sponsor



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



Cast of Characters

Theseus, Duke of Athens Kalli Jonsson
 Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons Carie Kawa*
 Lysander Adam Yazbeck*
 Hermia Lizzie Calogero*
 Demetrius Darren Bridgett*
 Helena Elise Youssef
 Egeus, Hermia's father Richard Louis James
 Philostrate, Master of the Revels Mick Mize

Peter Quince, a carpenter Liam Vincent*
 Nick Bottom, a weaver Mark Anderson Phillips*
 Francis Flute, a bellows-mender Arthur Jason Keng
 Tom Snout, a tinker Jeff Draper
 Snug, a joiner Joel Roster
 Robin Starveling, a tailor Michael A. Berg
 His dog Ophelia

Oberon, King of Fairies Kalli Jonsson
 Titania, Queen of the Fairies Carie Kawa*
 Puck Mick Mize
 Cobweb Krissy Keefer
 Moth Sarah Bush
 Mustardseed Lena Gatchalian
 Peaseblossom Fredrika Keefer
 Peaseblossom Kimberly B. Valmore

Place

Athens, and the woods outside the City

Time

Between then and now

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Michael A. Berg (Starveling) has been a member of the Bay Area theatre scene for nearly 30 years. He has directed, designed sets and costumes, stage managed and acted for numerous theatre companies in the Greater Bay Area. He first worked at Center REP way back in 1981 when we were still Walnut Creek Civic Arts! He is seen yearly in *A Christmas Carol* and has designed costumes for several productions over the past years for Center REP. He has worked for Mountain Play, Marin Shakespeare, Theatre Rhino, Shakespeare at the Beach, Ross Valley Players and Guerilla Shakespeare. He is very happy to call Center REP his homeand...he loves his job!



Darren Bridgett* (Demetrius) credits include: Center REP (*How the Other Half Loves*, *Summer and Smoke*, *Vikings*), Aurora Theatre (*Satellites*), Marin Theatre Company (*Love Song*, *The Good German*, *Woman in Black*, *Fortune*, *The Last Schwartz*), Marin Shakespeare Festival (*King Lear*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Hamlet*, *Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged*), Magic Theatre (*Drifting Elegant*, *Blue Surge*), TheatreWorks (*Twelfth Night*, *Learned Ladies of Park Avenue*, *Far East*, *Psychopathia Sexualis*, *Once in a Lifetime*, *As You Like It*, *Ab Wilderness!*), Laguna Playhouse (*Far East*), Orlando Shakespeare Festival (*Arms and the Man*), ACT, California Shakespeare, San Jose Stage, TheatreFIRST, and Central Works. Film credits include a co-starring role opposite Gary Dourdan in Warner Brother's *Black August* out now on DVD, *Read You Like a Book*, *Stephanie's Image*, *Coastal*, *Ruby's Tuesday*, *Death and Taxes*. He has received BATCC, Drama-Logue and Dean Goodman Choice awards for outstanding principal and ensemble performance.



Sarah Bush (Moth) Ever since asking for a leotard for her third birthday, Sarah Bush has been dancing. Sarah studied ballet, jazz, modern, contact improv, Afro-Caribbean and hip-hop in the Modern Dance Program at the University of Utah, receiving her BA in Dance from San Francisco State University. She has danced with Hip-Hop companies, in churches and night clubs, on cruise ships, guest performances with Bill T. Jones, as a NBA Golden State Warrior Girl, and (since 2000) as a taiko-drumming warrior woman with Dance Brigade. Along with personal training for private clients, Sarah's passion is teaching and choreography (Sarah Bush Dance Project www.myspace.com/sarahbushdanceproject).

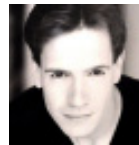


Lizzie Calogero* (Hermia) is thrilled to return to Center REP after a refreshing stint as Tiny Tim in SF Playhouse's *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge*. Recent productions with Center REP include *How the Other Half Loves*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Laughter on the 23rd*



Floor. She has performed at San Jose Rep, the Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, San Francisco Shakespeare Company and in numerous plays with Woman's Will and TheatreFIRST.

Jeff Draper (Snout) has been seen in many Center REP productions, including *How the Other Half Loves*, *Around the World in 80 Days* and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. Jeff loves spending his summers with the students of Young Rep, where he is Co-Education Director with Kerri Shawn. Jeff would like to thank his husband Dalon for supporting his crazy love of acting and theater.



Lena Gatchalian (Mustardseed) was born in Pittsburgh PA and grew up in Manila, Philippines where she began her dance training at the age of 6. She moved to New York City after high school where she received her BFA from Parsons School of Design and continued her dance training and performing with various teachers and choreographers. It was here that she had the pleasure of working with Ms Agnes de Mille in her creation of ABT's *The Other*. In 1994 she moved to San Francisco and has been performing with Dance Brigade since then. Among the other companies and choreographers and directors she has worked with are: Timothy Near and San Jose Repertory Theatre, Pearl Ubungen Dancers and Musicians, STEAMROLLER, Terry Sendgraff, Anne Bluethenthal & Dancers, Arturo Fernandez, Stephen Pelton Dance Theater. She currently studies ballet with Sandra Chinn and yoga with Nina Gold.



Richard Louis James (Egeus) just completed a critically acclaimed run of his one man show *Tea 'N Crisp*, www.quentincrisp.info, based on the life and writings of the notorious Quentin Crisp. He has appeared with Aurora Theater, Center REP, Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble, New Conservatory Theater, SF Playhouse, ShotgunPlayers, and Rising Phoenix Repertory (associate artist), New York. Critically acclaimed roles include: Lear (*King Lear*), Salieri-Shellie nomination (*Amadeus*), Bartholo-Shellie nomination (*The Marriage of Figaro*), Scrooge, (*A Christmas Carol*), Stanislavski- Bay Area Critics Circle Nomination (*The Death of Meyerhold*), Marquis de Sade (*Quills*) & Man in the West Coast premier of Edward Albee's (*The Play About the Baby*). He received the Eugene O'Neill Artistic Merit Award for 2003 and has been a resident actor with the foundation for the past twenty years. His co-adaptation of Charles Dickens *A Christmas Carol* has been a staple for Center REP's holiday season.



Kalli Jonsson (Oberon/Theseus) is pleased to return to Center REP where he was last seen in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. Other appearances at Center REP include: *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Arsenic & Old Lace*, *A Christmas Carol* and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Recently, Kalli has appeared in Charles Mees' *Gone for Crowded Fire*, *Let The Northern Lights Erase Your Name* at Campo Santo, *Twelfth Night* at North Bay Shakespeare Co. and *The Dying Gaul* at The New Conservatory Theater. Other favorite roles are Richard in *Richard III*, Pericles in *Pericles* (Dir. Ken Kelleher), and Matamore in *The Illusion* by Tony Kushner.



Carie Kawa* (Titania/Hippolyta) last appeared at Center REP over ten years ago in her first paid acting job (*The Crucible*). In the time since, she has performed locally with TheatreWorks (*Twelfth Night*, *Charley's Aunt*, *Far East*) and the California Shakespeare Theater (*Merchant of Venice*, *Two Gentleman of Verona*). She recently completed a national tour and off-Broadway run of *Jane Eyre* with The Acting Company. Some of her favorite past roles are Elmire in *Tartuffe* (Great Lakes Theater Festival) and Portia in *Julius Caesar* (Idaho Shakespeare Festival). Television appearances include *All My Children* and *As the World Turns*. Carie is a graduate of Occidental College and earned her MFA from The Academy for Classical Acting at The Shakespeare Theatre Company.



Fredrika Keefer (Peaseblossom) danced out of the womb. She did her first performance at 6 weeks as the baby in the Dance Brigade's *Revolutionary Nutcracker Sweetie*. She has been studying dance performing since then with Dance Brigade, Kim Epifano, Arlene Newhouse and Pacific Dance Theater and Laurel Near and Space Theater in Ukiah. She is currently a junior in high school at San Francisco School of the Arts where her major is Dance. She is a principal dancer with Allan Frias's Mind over



Matter hip hop Company and a member of Grrrl Brigade, Dance Mission's Performing Company for young women. She has expertise in ballet, modern, hip hop and taiko drumming. This is her first repertory performance.

Krissy Keefer (Cobweb/Choreographer) co-founded the Wallflower Order Dance Collective (1975) that toured internationally for nine years. In 1984 she co-founded Dance Brigade and developed a new kind of modern dance-theater that was stylistically rooted in the martial arts, in female athleticism and in social justice issues. She has created over 200 original works and produced the work of hundreds of artists. For this she has received numerous grants and awards, including three NEA Choreographers' Fellowships, San Francisco Magazine's Arts Achievement Award for Dance, two Individual Artist Commissions from the San Francisco Cultural Equity Grants Program, a "Goldie" Award from the Bay Guardian, Isadora Duncan Awards in and the East Bay Express' "Artists Who Make A Difference." Since 1999, Keefer has been the director of Dance Mission Theater, a dance school and performance center in the Mission. This multicultural center has an adult and a youth program and a 140-seat theater. She has established Grrrl Brigade, a dance program for 100 young girls. Dance Brigade has been featured in Ballet Tanz, Kung Fu Magazine, Deborah Jowitz's "Dancing Image" among others. Keefer has also been the subject of a half-hour documentary for Artist's Eye. Her work around creating a new aesthetic in dance is featured in the book "Warrior Mothers," released in September 2004.



Arthur Jason Keng (Francis Flute) is thrilled to be making his CenterREP debut in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Most recently Arthur was seen playing a Fezziwig daughter, a suicidal Dutchman, a maid, and George Bailey in SF Playhouse's *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge!* Other credits include *King Lear* at Calshakes and *Take Me Out* at NCTC. Arthur is a 2006 graduate of UC Berkeley with a minor in theatre.



Mick Mize (Puck/Philostrate) is thrilled to be performing at CenterREP for the first time. A recent Bay Area transplant, Mick has performed all over California and in upstate New York at the GEVA Theater Center. His first professional role was at Shakespeare Santa Cruz as Paris' Page in *Romeo and Juliet*. This is his third time interpreting Puck; he has also performed as Puck at the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, and understudied the role last summer for the SF Shakespeare Festival. Locally he's performed with TheatreFIRST, Crowded Fire, Just Theater, and understudied at the California Shakespeare Theater. When he's not doing theater, voiceover, and commercial work, Mick loves reading big, heavy books and climbing trees.



Mark Anderson Phillips* (Bottom) is pleased to be back at Center REP, where he was last seen as Giles in *The Mousetrap*. Other Center REP appearances include the role of Frank in *How the Other Half Loves* and Phileas Fogg in *Around the World in 80 Days*. Most recently, Mark appeared in the world premiere of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* at Arizona Theatre Company. The show will also run at San Jose Rep as part of their 2008 season. Other recent appearances include *Theophilus North* (Theophilus) at TheatreWorks, and *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (Jamie Tyrone) at San Jose Rep. Other Bay Area work includes roles with TheatreWorks, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, California Shakespeare Theatre, The Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, Word for Word, and SF Shakespeare Festival.



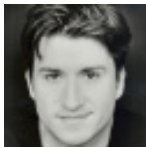
Joel Roster (Snug) has been a participant for four consecutive years in Center REP's *A Christmas Carol*, though this marks his first venture with Mr. Butler. A Shellie award winner, an honored playwright, and a proud member of Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble, Mr. Roster's ecstatic to be part of such a phenomenal group of actors. Favorite roles include Dvornichek in *Rough Crossing*, Guildenstern in *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*, Nathan Detroit in *Guys & Dolls*, Luther Billis in *South Pacific*, and Dominic de Caesar in *Wrong Turn At Lungfish*. He has performed all over California with Center REP, Contra Costa Musical Theatre, Town Hall Theatre, the Shorenstein-Hays Niederlander Group, Role Players Ensemble Theatre and the Murphys Creek Shakespeare Festival. He wishes to dedicate this show to his friends for their constant, undying support.



Kimberley B. Valmore (Peaseblossom) has had the opportunity to study and perform with Beth Hoge, Mills College, San Francisco Dance Center, Berkeley Ballet Theatre, Brady Street and Mission Dance Theater. She was accepted into the Alvin Ailey Dance Center summer program and is a participant in the Checchetti Council of America Teachers Program and the YogaFit Teachers certification program. She received her MFA in Dance at Mills College. She is on staff at Danspace, and is Professor of Dance at Diablo Valley College. She has been blessed to work with some amazing choreographers and dance companies including Robert Henry Johnson Dance Company, Kim Epifano, Ann Bluethenthal & Dancers, Shakiri/Rootworkers, danceNaganuma, and Mary Carbonara/dances. Since 1992, Ms. Valmore has been a company member of Dance Brigade. She is currently a guest Artist-in-Residence at College Preparatory School and directs her contemporary dance company "Coterie DAnce."



Liam Vincent* (Peter Quince) is very happy to be making his Center REP debut. In the past year he has appeared in *Dead Mother at A Traveling Jewish Theater*, *King Lear* and *Richard III* at the California Shakespeare Theatre, and *Lovers and Executioners* at the Marin Theater Company. Liam has also worked at San Jose Rep, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, The Magic, The Alliance, The Huntington, Portland Center Stage, Arizona Theater Company, Pasadena Playhouse, Soho Rep, The Civilians, Word for Word, The Encore, Campo Santo and Thick description. He is a graduate of Boston University.



Adam Yazbeck* (Lysander) has performed at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in *As You Like It*, *Cherry Orchard*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Winter's Tale* and *Cyranos De Bergerac*, at the Guthrie Theater in *Amadeus*, and at Shakespeare on the Cape in *Twelfth Night* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other theatre work: *Dracula* at Minnesota Centennial Showboat and *Sun and Moon* at Southern Theater. He has a BFA in Acting from University of Minnesota where he was in the Guthrie Actor Training Program. He also studied under Pierre Byland in the Master Clowing Workshop at the Burlesk Center.



Elise Youssef (Helena) is a recent graduate of UCSC with a B.A. in Theater Arts. Her latest credit was Rose in *One Touch of Venus* with 42nd Street Moon theater this past fall. Before that she appeared in her third summer season with Shakespeare Santa Cruz, playing the roles of Margaret in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Sara Tansey in *Playboy of the Western World*. In the spring of 2006 she completed her 1st show with 42nd Street Moon, in the *Gay Divorcee* playing the role of Joyce. She recently played the Peek-a-boo Tree at the Geffen Playhouse in *The Little Witch of Witchita*. She is thrilled to make her debut with Center REPeritory.



CREATIVE TEAM

Michael Butler* (Artistic Director/Director) is in his second season as Artistic Director of Center REP, where he directed *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, *Nixon's Nixon*, as well as playing Paravicini in REP's production of *The Mousetrap*. His directing work has also been seen at San Jose Rep, Cleveland Playhouse, Seattle Rep, Marin Theatre Company, Aurora Theatre Company, San Jose Stage, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and The Juilliard School, of which he is a graduate. As an actor, Michael has worked on Broadway and off, in regional theatres, film and television. He is a published songwriter and the co-writer and composer of numerous music-theatre pieces, which he has directed and performed in NY, LA, and at festivals in India and Morocco. In his career as a performer he has also danced with the Erick Hawkins Dance Company, portrayed the villainous Pierre LeChance on *The Guiding Light*, and played guitar and harmonica in many rock, blues, and country western bands at all the notable dives in NYC.



Kim A. Tolman (Scenic Designer) is pleased to be designing her first show for CenterREP and collaborating with director Michael Butler. Since moving to the Bay Area from Cologne, Germany in 2001, where she did scenic design for opera and theatre, Kim has worked on over 120 productions in California. Her designs include *La Bohème* for Opera San José, *The Women and Kindertransport* for the Douglas Morrisson Theatre, San Francisco Lyric Opera's *Tales of Hoffman* at the Legion of Honor and *La Bohème* at the Cowell Theatre in San Francisco, Shakespeare's *Richard III* for LupineEvent at San Francisco's Project Artaud Theater, and *Moon For The Misbegotten* at Hapgood Theatre Company. She also designed the permanent

stage set for San Francisco's own Cobb's Comedy Club. Upcoming projects include *Cabaret* for SF Playhouse and *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* for the Douglas Morrisson Theatre. www.kimtolmandesign.com

B. Modern (Costume Designer) is pleased to return to Center REP for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other productions at Center REP include *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Nixon's Nixon*, both directed by Artistic Director Michael Butler. B. is an Associate Artistic Director at Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and an Associate Artist at Geva Theatre Center, New York. She has received several awards for her costume designs, including four DramaLogue Awards, three Dean Goodman Choice Awards and a Bay Area Theatre Critics' Circle Award. Regional theater credits include numerous productions for San Jose Repertory Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Globe Theatres (San Diego), Indiana Repertory Theatre, TheatreWorks, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Georgia Shakespeare Festival, The Magic Theatre, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Syracuse Stage, Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Sacramento Theatre Company and American Musical Theatre of St. Louis and Opera San Jose. B. shares a home and studio in Santa Cruz with two cantankerous cats.

Kurt Landisman (Lighting Designer) Local audiences will be familiar with his work through past productions designed for Center REP including *The Mousetrap*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, and *Fugitive Kind*. His designs have been seen throughout the Bay Area at many theaters including San Francisco Opera, ACT, Berkeley Rep, San Jose Rep, Theatreworks, California Shakespeare Festival, The Magic Theatre, and Marin Theatre Company. Locally his work has garnered 15 Bay Area Critics Circle Awards and 5 LA Dramalogue Awards. Nationally, his work has been seen at many regional opera & ballet companies, including the Los Angeles Opera, Minnesota Opera, Virginia Opera, Tulsa Opera, and Ballet Arizona. His designs have also been presented off-Broadway, represented at Circle Rep, and the Douglas Fairbanks Theatres. Other designs internationally include world premieres of plays by Sam Shepard in Japan, and Singapore, as well as the San Francisco Opera in Shanghai, China, and the Moscow Circus in Tokyo, Japan.

Will McCandless (Sound Designer) is a sound designer and engineer based in San Francisco. Will returns to Center REP after designing the sound for *How the Other Half Loves* last season. Recent sound design credits include *Intimate Apparel* (Solano College Theatre), *Territories* (Magic Theatre), *David Copperfield* (A.C.T. Conservatory), and *Assassins* (Custom Made Theatre Company). Will is also the sound engineer for the notoriously wonderful San Francisco Mime Troupe as well as the sound designer for the troupe's Youth Theatre Project. Will is excited to be collaborating again with the creative team at Center REP.

Frank Corso* (Stage Manager) is excited to be working with Center REP for the first time. He has recently Stage Managed for the Reduced Shakespeare Company and Summer Rep Theatre. He is also the Touring Production Manager and Lighting Designer for The Suicide Kings. He has worked in many other aspects of theatre with Bay Area theatre's such as American Conservatory Theatre, Berkeley Rep, Marin Shakespeare and California Shakespeare. Frank would like to thank Cesar for all his love and support.

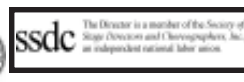
Amanda Denison (Assistant Stage Manager) For the past six years Amanda has worked as a production assistant, follow spot operator and an assistant stage manager for Center REP and has been apart of Center REP's acting training program, Young REP. She most recently assistant stage managed *Bingo- The Musical* and *Reduced Shakespeare CO. All the Great Books (Abridged) and History of America (Abridged)* for Center REP. She has been taking classes at Lareen Fender's The Ballet School and Performing Arts Conservatory for the past 15 years. Amanda is a proud member of Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble and has served as a Youth Board member for Contra Costa Musical Theatre for the past three years. Amanda feels so lucky have have

grown up in such an enriching environment like the Leshner Center. Thank you for supporting the Arts. Enjoy the show!

Scott Denison (Managing Director) has directed over 150 productions, including Center REP's highly successful production *The Wizard of Oz* and CCMT's *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *Cinderella* and the last ten productions of *A Christmas Carol*. Mr. Denison is the director and co-founder of Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble, and the creator of the Contra Costa County Shellie Awards. He has also designed lights for over 250 productions, including Center REP's production of *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Cowgirls*, *Suds*, *Shirley Valentine* and *Dear Liar*, and CCMT's *Titanic* and *Guys and Dolls*. As General Manager of the Leshner Center for the Arts, he coordinates over 900 events annually.

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James M. Taylor
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Ralph Uppman
Sid Wallace
Beverly J. Walsh
Margo Williamson
Ralph Wolff
Cecily Wood
Suzy Ziegler