



CENTER REPERTORY COMPANY OF WALNUT CREEK

Michael Butler, Artistic Director Scott Denison, Managing Director

presents

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S

WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL BUTLER

SCENIC DESIGNER
J. B. WILSON

SOUND DESIGNER
WILL McCANDLESS

FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER
RICHARD LANE

LIGHTING DESIGNER
SCOTT DENISON

WIG DESIGNERS
JUDY DISBROW
MICHAEL A. BERG

DIALECT CONSULTANT
LYNNE SOFFER

STAGE MANAGER
CORRIE BENNETT*

COSTUME DESIGNER
VICTORIA LIVINGSTON-HALL

PROPS ARTISANS
SEREN HELDAY
MIA BAXTER

CASTING DIRECTOR
JENNIFER PERRY

CAST

MICHAEL A. BERG
TAMAR COHN
MARK EICHORN
CLAY ENGLAR
MARK FARRELL*
FLOYD HARDEN
JOHN HETZLER

MATTHEW LAI
SAM LEICHTER
PAUL LOOMIS
VERONICA MANNION
ALEX MOGGRIDGE*
CARRIE PAFF*

JASON PEDROZA
MARK ANDERSON PHILLIPS*
KEN RUTA*
KERRI SHAWN
DON SMITH
MARYSSA WANLASS
VALERIE WEAK

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21, 2009
LESHER CENTER FOR THE ARTS
MARGARET LESHAR THEATRE

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THE DIRECTOR IS A MEMBER OF SDC, STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY

CENTER REP IS A MEMBER OF THEATRE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP (TCG), THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE AMERICAN THEATRE AND THEATRE BAY AREA.



Greta, typist to Sir Wilfrid Maryssa Wanlass
Carter, Sir Wilfrid's Chief Clerk.....John Hetzler
Jan Mayhew, a solicitor Valerie Weak
Leonard Vole Alex Moggridge*
Sir Wilfrid Roberts, Q. C.Mark Anderson Phillips*
Inspector Hearne Floyd Harden
Policeman..... Sam Leichter
RomaineCarrie Paff*
Clerk of the Court Paul Loomis
Mr. Justice Wainwright Ken Ruta*
Mr. Myers, Q. C.Mark Farrell*
Court Usher Michael A. Berg
Court Stenographer Kerri Shawn
WarderJason Pedroza
Judges' Clerk Don Smith
Alderman..... Clay Englar
Dr. Brogan-Moore, a Barrister..... Mark Eichorn
Dr. Wyatt, a police surgeonJohn Hetzler
Janet MackenzieTamar Cohn
Thomas Clegg, a laboratory assistant...Matthew Lai
The Other Woman.....Veronica Mannion

TIME and PLACE

London 1952
 The Chambers of Sir Wilfrid Roberts, Q.C.
 and
 The Central Criminal Court - better known as
 the Old Bailey

There will be one 15 minute intermission

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Michael A. Berg (Court Usher/Wig Designer) 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!



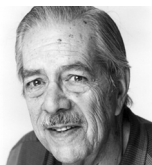
Tamar Cohn (Janet MacKenzie) recently performed in Traveling Jewish Theatre's *2 x Malamud*, 6th St. Playhouse's *The Sweetest Swing in Baseball*, and at Theatre Rhinoceros in John Fisher's newest play. She's acted with Pacific Alliance Stage Co. (*Dancing at Lughnasa*; *A Streetcar Named Desire*), AlterTheater Ensemble (*Catherine's Care*; *Drop*), Woman's Will (*Twelfth Night*), Cutting Ball, Playwrights' Center of S.F., DIVAFest, Ross Valley Players, and others. Tamar got her B.A. in Theatre at Macalester College, lives in Marin, and is delighted to be here at Center REP for the first time.



Mark Eichorn (Mr. Brogan-Moore, a Barrister) has been performing on stage for over 30 years and holds a BA degree in acting and directing from Ohio Wesleyan University. He was an assistant to Mitch Leigh (*Man of LaMancha*) on a new Broadway musical called *Sarava*. Locally, Mark has performed with Contra Costa Musical Theatre and Diablo Theatre Company for the past 10 years. His favorite roles include: The Major in *Titanic*, the Musical, Mr. McQueen in *Urinetown, the Musical*, Ozzie in *The Scarlet Pimpernel* and Lazar Wolf in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Mark is very pleased to be making his debut with Center REPeritory Company.



Clay Englar (Alderman) is thrilled to be here! He was last seen performing in CCMT's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Clay has been involved in theatre in this area for almost 40 years, both on and off the stage. He has served as Producer and CCMT's President twice. Clay thanks his wonderful wife, Miriam, for getting him involved in theatre, and regrets that she is now unable to join him on stage.



Mark Farrell* (Mr. Myers, Q. C.) was most recently seen in Diablo Theatre Company's production of *On the Town*. Mr. Farrell's Center REPeritory Company credits include *Musical of Musicals*, *The Musical*, *The Mousetrap*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Noel & Gertie*, & *The Fugitive Kind*. Other credits: *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Haunting of Winchester* (San Jose Repertory); *Around the World in 80 Days* (Laguna Playhouse); The Reduced Shakespeare Company's *Completely Hollywood: Abridged* (Belgium/Holland Tour); *Loaded* (Ars Nova Theatre, NYC); *Old Wicked Songs*, *Splittin' the Raft*, *Wonderful Town* (Marin Theatre Company); *The Fantasticks*, SF Playhouse; *1776*, *Judgment at Nuremberg* (Willows Theatre Company); *A Map of the World* (Theatrefirst); *Travesties* (u.s., American Conservatory Theatre); Two episodes of the History Channel's *Man, Moment, Machine*. Mr. Farrell has three Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards, a Shellie Award, and has been a proud member of Actors' Equity since 2002.



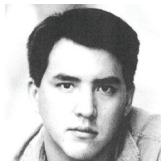
Floyd Harden (Inspector Hearne) is making his debut at Center REP. Recent roles include Bill Ray in *On Golden Pond* with the Hapgood Theatre Company, The Constable in *Fiddler on the Roof* at Sierra Repertory Theatre, and Lord Stanley and First Murderer in *Richard III* at Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival. Other notable work includes Charlie in *The Foreigner* at Main Street Theatre Works (Elly nomination) and George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* at Big Idea Theatre (Elly award, best actor). Floyd trained at Second City in Los Angeles with Richard Kind and Lewis Arquette and has worked professionally in numerous improvisational and sketch comedy groups. Floyd is currently working in a feature film scheduled for theatrical release in the Spring of 2010.



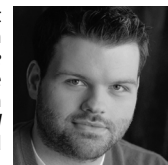
John Hetzler (Carter/Dr. Wyatt) This production marks John's debut with Center REP. A familiar face to local audiences, John's credits include leading musical roles in *Evita*, *My Fair Lady*, *1776*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Most Happy Fella*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Putting It Together*. Leading non-musical roles include productions of *I Hate Hamlet*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Sleuth*, *A Lion In Winter*, *M Butterfly*, *Taking Sides*, *Hayfever* and *Inherit The Wind*. John is delighted to be working with REP (at last!) and especially, director Michael Butler. During the day, he clocks in at Del Monte Foods as a Human Resources director.



Matthew Lai (Thomas Clegg) originally hails from New York and last year returned to the stage after a ten year hiatus. Most recently, Matt understudied the role of Paris in Cal Shakes' production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Other Bay Area credits include *Art* at the Altarena Playhouse and *Brooklyn Boy* with the Ross Valley Players. Off Broadway, he appeared in *Friends* with Pan Asian Repertory. Other New York credits include *Pericles* with Kings County Shakespeare, *Judy Garland Slept Here* with Curan Repertory, *A Final Evening with the Illuminati* with the Irish American Theater, and regionally in *Romeo & Juliet* with the Seaside Music Theater in Florida. In the mid nineties, Matt appeared alongside Gilbert Gottfried in a series of commercial bumpers for USA Networks *Up All Night* movie program. Matt is a graduate of University of Arizona and studied theater at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. He lives in Oakland.



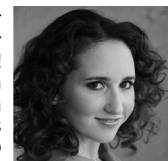
Sam Leichter (Policeman) most recently appeared in *The Frogs* with AtmosTheatre and *Footprints in the Applesauce* with Threshold Theatre Project. He has performed with Hella Fresh Theatre (*The Jericho Road Improvement Association*), Threshold (*Exchange*), Brava! (*Sincerity Forever*), Off Broadway West (*The Taming of the Shrew*) and Marin Shakespeare Company (*Amadeus*), and understudied at Berkeley Repertory Theatre (*The Lieutenant of Inishmore*) and Cutting Ball Theatre (*Thom Pain based on nothing*). Other credits include Delaware Shakespeare Festival (*Much Ado About Nothing*, *Love's Labour's Lost*) and Hedgerow Theatre (*All in the Timing*, *The Angel of History*, *The Royal Family*). Sam can be seen in not one, but TWO Trojan Condom web ads, and will next appear in *The Mark Ten Fantastic Parade* at Boxcar Theatre.



Paul Loomis (Clerk of the Court) is pleased to return to Center REP where he was seen in *A Christmas Carol*. Paul most recently appeared as Sir Wilful Witwoud in *The Way of the World* at The Pear Avenue Theater Company in Mountain View. Paul has also performed with the Hapgood Theater Company, California Conservatory Theater, Word for Word, Napa Valley Shakespeare Festival, Napa Valley Repertory Company, Harbor Theater, Mira Theater, Sonoma County Repertory Theater, and TheaterFirst. Paul is a graduate of the actor training program at UCSB.



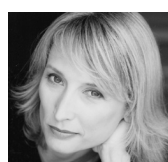
Veronica Mannion (The Other Woman) is so excited to make her Center REP debut with *Witness!* Veronica just finished a run with *Killing My Lobster*, the sketch comedy and film company was recently voted Best Comedy Group 2009 by SF Weekly. Earlier this year Veronica could be seen in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Stella) at Altarena Playhouse, and in the Sondheim musical *Company* (April) at San Francisco's Theatre 39. You may also recognize her as Donna the singing diva from *Tony N' Tina's Wedding*, the longest running dinner show at Fisherman's Wharf. She is also involved in a variety of web TV series, independent films, and sketch comedy/improv groups. A recent graduate of SFSU, favorite roles include *Floyd Collins* (Miss Jane), *A Flea In Her Ear* (Lucienne), and *A Comedy of Errors* (Adriana). Love to the hilarious Mannion Clan, and the mischievous Ally Cat, who makes my cheeks hurt from smiling.



Alex Moggridge* (Leonard Vole) Bay Area credits include *Enchanted April* at Center REP, *Shining City* at SF Playhouse; *Betrayed* and *The Entertainer* at The Aurora; *The Beard of Avon*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Threepenny Opera* at ACT; *Silence* at The Magic Theatre; *Romeo and Juliet*, *Twelfth Night*, and *A Winter's Tale* at SF Shakespeare Festival; and *By the Bog of Cats* at San Jose Rep. Regional credits include *The Pillowman* at Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre; *A Doll's House* at Epiphany Theatre; *The Retreat from Moscow* at Artists Repertory Theatre; *Last Train to Nibroc* on a UK Tour; *Copenhagen* at The B Street Theatre; *The War of the Roses*, *Merchant of Venice*, and *Peter Pan* at Utah Shakespearean Festival; and MCC's Fresh Play Festival. Film and TV credits include *Trauma*, *Tweak City*, *Batman Begins*, and *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*. Also a writer, Alex's play *THE SQUIRREL* appeared Off-Broadway in the 2006 Summer Play Festival.



Carrie Paff* (Romaine) is delighted to be back at Center REP where she has previously been seen in *The Mousetrap*, *How the Other Half Loves* (Shellie Award—Best Actress), *Picasso* at the Lavin Agile and *Becoming Memories* (Shellie Award Nomination—Best Supporting Actress). Regional credits include the world premiere of *After the War* at A.C.T.; Marin Theatre Company's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Critic's Circle Award nomination—Best Actress); *A Picasso* and *The Haunting of Winchester* at San Jose Rep; *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* at Arizona Theatre Company and San Jose Rep; *Small Tragedy* and *Betrayal* (San Francisco Bay Guardian—Best Cast of 2004) at Aurora Theatre Company; and *The Right Kind of People* at Magic Theatre. She played London's West End last season in

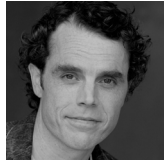


Joan Rivers: A Work In Progress by a Life In Progress. Film credits include *Presque Isle* and *Opal's Diary*. She holds a master's degree in educational theater from New York University and is the cofounder of StageWrite, Building Literacy through Theatre.

Jason Pedroza (Warder) is overjoyed to be making his debut with Center REP! He is currently completing his BA in Theater at San Francisco State University. Highlights and favorite roles include: *Tony N' Tina's Wedding* (Tony/Vinnie/Sal), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Steve), *Napoli Millionaria* (Errico), *EMO! The Musical* (Jay), and *Watercolor Girl* (Joseph), an original piece that debuted at SFSU's 2008 Fringe Festival. Jason also just finished teaching with Little Broadway, a program of Lareen Fender's The Ballet School. Love and thanks to Mom & Dad for their infinite support and love, Tony & Jen for his niece Bugs, C.B. & Laura for his godson Drew and niece Lexi, Amanda for all the days in paradise, and a special thank you to one of his biggest fans and best friends, his brother Danny.



Mark Anderson Phillips* (Sir Wilfrid Roberts, Q. C.) is super happy to be back at Center REP, where he was last seen as Nick Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other Center REP credits include *The Mousetrap*, *How the Other Half Loves*, and *Around the World in 80 Days*. Recent credits include: *Abraham Lincoln's Big Gay Dance Party* at SF Playhouse and The New York Fringe Festival, *Miss Julie* at Aurora Theatre Company and *A Work in Progress* by a Life in Progress, with Joan Rivers, at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. His work at other theaters includes roles with TheatreWorks, Marin Theatre Company, The Magic Theatre, Berkeley Rep., San Jose Rep, Arizona Theatre Company, Word for Word, and California Shakespeare Theatre. He is the recipient of three Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle awards.



Ken Ruta* (Mr. Justice Wainwright) was last seen at Center REP in *Anna Christie* and he is the voice of the narrator in REP's production of *A Christmas Carol*. Recent Bay Area credits include *The Unexpected Man* for Spare Stages at the Exit Theatre and *Jekyll and Hyde* at San Jose Rep. He recently received the Bay Area Critics Circle Award for his 2007 performance in TheatreWorks' *Trying* and American Conservatory Theatre's *The Circle*. Ruta was an original company member of San Francisco's ACT (close to 60 productions as actor/director/teacher), Cincinnati's Playhouse in the Park and Minneapolis' Guthrie Theatre (over 40 productions). He is an Associate Artist of San Diego's Old Globe Theatre and has enjoyed a quarter century relationship with the Arizona Theatre Company. He has appeared in all of the media, including grand opera, and has appeared in the Broadway productions of *Inherit the Wind*, *Separate Tables*, *Duel of Angels*, *Ross*, *Three Sisters* and *The Elephant Man*.



Kerri Shawn (Court Stenographer) serves as Co- Education Director for Center REP with Jeffrey Draper. Most recently she has performed with Center REP in *Enchanted April* (Costanza), *The Mousetrap* (Mrs. Boyle), *Shirley Valentine* (Shirley) and looks forward to returning to *A Christmas Carol* as Mrs. Cratchit. Kerri has also performed locally with Marin Theatre Company, CCMT, DAE, and is a company member of both Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble and PlayGround.



Don Smith (Judge's Clerk) has a long history in community theater, having done dozens of comedies, dramas, and musicals at that level. He was fifteen years as artistic director of his theater group alternately performing and directing productions. Before going into business for himself, as a remodeling contractor, Don was twenty-one years a teacher of Spanish, Language Arts, and Theater, even writing and teaching a course in technical theater. This is Don's first time back on the boards in many years and claims to be honored to be part of such an, "august company of real professionals!"



Maryssa Wanlass (Greta) is super excited to return to Center REP - she was last seen here as Lady Caroline Bramble in *Enchanted April*. She has also graced the Center REP stage as a dancing Dryad in *Marriage of Figaro*. Other Bay Area roles include Yang Sun in *Womans Will's Good Person of Szechuan*, Li'l Bit in Hapgood Theatre Company's *How I Learned to Drive* and Eve Harrington in Theatre Rhinoceros' *All About Eve*. She is also active in independent film, and you can see her in the forthcoming science fiction film *Trash and Progress*.



Valerie Weak (Jean Mayhew) previously appeared at Center REP as Nurse Preen in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Valerie has a ten year history of working in the Bay Area as an actor and teaching artist with many local companies such as Word for Word, Cal Shakes and Marin Shakespeare Company. Recent roles include Aemilia in *Comedy of Errors* for San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Macbeth in *Macbeth* for Woman's Will, Viola in *Twelfth Night* for North Bay Shakes and Lisa in the indie film *The Snake*, which was a festival selection at SXSW this past spring. Valerie works extensively in print, industrial and voiceover as well. Additionally, she is honored to be a 2009 Theatre Bay Area TITAN award winner. Find out more about her at www.valerieweak.com!



CREATIVE TEAM

Agatha Christie (Playwright) is the world's best-known mystery writer. The Guinness Book of Records listed her as the best-selling fiction author of all time with an estimated two billion copies of her works sold. It is often said that she is outsold only by the Bible and Shakespeare. Agatha Miller was born in Torquay, England on September 15, 1890. In 1914 she married Colonel Archibald Christie, an aviator in the Royal Flying Corps. The couple had one daughter, Rosalind, before their divorce in 1928. In a writing career that spanned more than half a century, Agatha Christie wrote 80 novels and short story collections. She also wrote over a dozen plays, including *The Mousetrap*, which opened in London on November 25, 1952, and is now the longest continuously running play in theatrical history. Christie's first novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* (1920), was also the first to feature her eccentric Belgian detective Hercule Poirot. Surely one of the most famous fictional creations of all time, Poirot's 'little grey cells' triumphed over devious criminals in 33 novels and 54 short stories. Christie's last published novel, *Sleeping Murder* (1976), featured her other world-famous sleuth, the shrewdly inquisitive Miss Jane Marple, who appeared in twelve novels, and 20 short stories, since her debut in *The Murder at the Vicarage* in 1930. *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *And Then There Were None*, and *Death on the Nile* are a few of the successful films based on her works. In 1971, she achieved her country's highest honor when she received the Order of Dame Commander of the British Empire. Agatha Christie died peacefully at home on January 12, 1976 after a short cold.



Michael Butler (Director/Artistic Director) is in his fourth 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*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Enchanted April*, 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, Laguna Playhouse, 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.

J.B. Wilson (Scenic Designer) marks his first design for Center REP with *Witness for the Prosecution*. Previously, his set for the Marin Theatre Company/Center REP co-production of *Fugitive Kind* played the Leshner Theatre, and his Theatreworks set for *Ragtime* was adapted for the Hoffman Theatre. During the past thirty years, Wilson has designed more than 200 stage productions, which have appeared on the stages of national venues as well as many small and large stages in the Bay Area, and he is grateful to have been honored with numerous awards for his work. Wilson is a graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University School of Drama, a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829, and was Assistant Professor for nine years at Stanford before joining the faculty of San Francisco State's Department of Theatre Arts.

Scott Denison (Lighting Designer/Managing Director) has been the General Manager for the Leshner Center for the Arts since it opened 19 years ago and has worked for the Arts in this area for 36 years. Scott has directed over 150 productions, including *The Wizard of Oz*, the musical hit *Cinderella* and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* and for the past 13 seasons Center REP's *A Christmas Carol* as well as all Fantasy Forum productions since 1972. He created and produces the annual *Shellie Awards* now celebrating 31 years. Scott has also designed lights for over 250 productions, including the national touring production of *Sylvia*. In 1979 he created the *Shellie Awards*, which annually honors outstanding performing arts achievement in Contra Costa County. Under Denison's guidance the Leshner Center for the Arts presents over 900 public events each year. He coordinates performing arts activities with over 85 producers and producing organizations. Scott created the *Chevron Family Theatre Festival* which hosted over 7,000 guests this year. He is also the Managing Director of the Center REPeritory Company producing professional productions each season; and is the director and co-founder of Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble, an adult family performing arts company which presents programs for the young and Young at Heart.

Victoria Livingston-Hall (Costume Designer) received her B.A. in Industrial Design from California College of the Arts and her M.F.A. in Costume Design from the University of California at Davis. She is now returning to the bay area after residing in West London for the past two years. Her work in London includes, *The Long Hard Goodbye*- film, *Olympia* at the Baron's Court Theatre, *S.N.U.B.*- feature film-Angry Badger Pictures, *Striklem*, The National Film and Television School, British Society of Cinematographers BSC Test Shoot, Viv Skillset Screen Academy, *Midsummer Murders* for Virgin Media and she assisted at the Holland Park Opera productions of *Lakme* and *La Traviata*. Recent and past work in the Bay area includes, *Sweeney Todd*, St. Mary's College, *How to Succeed in Business*, CSUS, *BOT*, The Magic Theatre, *The Weight of Memory*, Mondavi Center Studio, *Richard III* at Theatre Artaud, *The Faith Project*, Mondavi Center Studio, UCD Main Stage Theatre, *Death of a Salesman*, UCD Main Stage *Fractured Lives*.

Will McCandless (Sound Designer) is a sound designer and engineer based in San Francisco. Recent sound design credits include *Song for Coretta* (Brava Theater), *Enchanted April* (Center REP), *2 Pianos 4 Hands* (Center REP), *Doubt* (Center REP), *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* (Marin Theatre Co.), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Center REP), *Territories* (Magic Theatre), *Intimate Apparel* (Solano College Theatre), *How the Other Half Loves* (Center REP), *David Copperfield* (A.C.T. Conservatory), and *Assassins* (Custom Made Theatre). Will is also a collective member of the San Francisco Mime Troupe and engineered the sound for *Red State*, *Making a Killing*, and *Godfellas*. Will would like to give a special thank you to the Landisman family for making this program possible.

Judy Disbrow (Wig Designer) and her company Theatrical Hairgoods have provided wigs for theatrical productions for over 30 years. She has worked with companies throughout the United States including Diablo Theatre Company, CCMT, La Jolla Playhouse, Arkansas Repertory Theatre, San Francisco Opera, Portland Opera, Florida Grand Opera, as well as many others.

Corrie Bennett* (Stage Manager) is enjoying a warm welcome back for her second season with Center REP, previously stage managing *Enchanted April* and *2 Pianos, 4 Hands*. She has recently worked with SF Playhouse on *Shining City* and *Dead Mother* with Traveling Jewish Theatre. Corrie fostered her Bay Area career working on many productions at the Magic Theatre, including some

favorites: *God of Hell*, and *A Long Christmas Ride Home*, as well as *Frozen* at Marin Theatre Company, and ACT's *The Tosca Project*. Corrie studied Feminist Theatre at Antioch College and is also the Production Manager for *Homo A Go Go*, a music/film/arts/and activism festival that began in 2002 in Olympia, WA, and this August completed its successful inaugural festival locally in San Francisco.

Richard Lane (Fight Choreographer) recently choreographed *What the Butler Saw* for Marin Theatre Company. For Center REP, Richard choreographed *Beauty & The Beast*, and has spent several summers teaching Stage Combat with Young Rep. As the resident fight director for TheatreWorks in Mountain View, he has choreographed numerous productions including *20th Century*, *Charley's Aunt*, *Pacific Overtures* (2001), *Equus*, *As You Like It*, and *Romeo and Juliet* (1998), for which he received a Bay Area Theater Critics Circle Award. He has directed fights for Berkeley Repertory Theatre, American Conservatory Theater, San Francisco Opera, Smuin Ballet, and Marin Shakespeare Festival (Dean Goodman Choice Award, 2005) among others. He is a Certified Fight Director with the Society of American Fight Directors and author of *Swashbuckling: The Art of Stage Combat and Theatrical Swordplay*, Limelight Editions, 1999 and *In Search of The Woman Warrior*, Element Books, 1998.

Lynne Soffer (Dialect Consultant) has been the dialect/text coach on over 180 productions for theatres including A.C.T., Berkeley Rep, Seattle Rep, San Jose Rep, Cal Shakes, The Old Globe (San Diego), Dallas Theatre Center, Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, Aurora Theatre, Word for Word, PCPA Theaterfest, and the World Premiere of Moisés Kaufman's *The Laramie Project* at the Denver Center, New York and Berkeley, and for several films. As an instructor of acting, text and speech, Ms. Soffer has taught for many schools and theatre companies throughout the country in addition to working as an actor in theaters from Maine to Alaska. For Center REP she has appeared as Mrs. Higgins in *Pygmalion* and has been dialect coach for several productions.

Seren Helay (Props Artisan) is excited to be working on her first show with Center REP. She is the resident props artisan for Marin Theatre Company. Last season she provided props for *What the Butler Saw*, *Magic Forest Farm*, *Lydia*, *My Children! My Africa!*, *The Seafarer*, and *Frankie & Johnny in the Clair de Lune*. She has also done props for California Shakespeare Festival and San Francisco Playhouse. She spent one year as Master Carpenter at New Conservatory Theatre Center in San Francisco, building some 30 shows for their season. She was also Technical Director of the Live Theatre Workshop in Tucson, Arizona in addition to working as a designer, performer, and manager.

Mia Baxter (Props Artisan) has been happily working in theatre, creatively designing costumes and props for the past ten years. She has had the pleasure to work on prior productions at California Shakespeare Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, Traveling Jewish Theatre, Sacramento Opera, Music Circus, Aurora Theatre, Word 4 Word, Teatro Esperanza and Intersection for the Arts. She in a San Francisco State alumni and cannot thank Mohammad Kowsar and Roy Conboy enough.

Joe Coe (Assistant Stage Manager) This is Joe's seventh production with Center REP and he couldn't be happier to be a part of such an amazing team of professionals and friends! Joe has had the pleasure of working with such companies as Berkeley Repertory Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, Summer Repertory Theatre, Suicide Kings touring production of *In Spite of Everything*, Boston Conservatory, SpeakEasy Stage Company, and Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre. Joe would like to thank all of his colleagues here at the LCA for a great season and for making it such a joy to work here!

THANK YOU TO OUR OPENING NIGHT DINNER SPONSORS:

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar
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Scott's Seafood Restaurant



SDC The Director is a member of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

OUR SPONSORS

Chevron (Season Sponsor) has been the leading corporate sponsor of Center REP and the Leshner Center for the Arts for the past eight years. In fact, Chevron has been a partner of the LCA since the beginning, providing funding for capital improvements, event sponsorships and more. Chevron generously supports every Center REP show throughout the season, and is the primary sponsor for events including the Chevron Family Theatre Festival in July. Chevron has proven itself not just as a generous supporter, but also a valued friend of the arts.

Diablo Regional Arts Association (DRAA) (Season Partner) is both the primary fundraising organization of the Leshner Center for the Arts (LCA) and the City of Walnut Creek's appointed curator for the LCA's audience outreach. DRAA's role in the community is all about building partnerships with the focused goal of enhancing artistic quality at the LCA and providing opportunities for everyone to enjoy the arts. Through partnerships with the LCA and its producers, individual donors, corporate and foundation sponsors and the City of Walnut Creek, DRAA plays a vital role in advancing the arts for the betterment of the community. Please visit us online at www.draa.org.

Contra Costa Times (Season Media Sponsor) In the East Bay, the largest newspaper of the Bay Area News Group is the Contra Costa Times and its sister editions, the West County Times, Valley Times, San Ramon Valley Times and East County Times. The Times, was judged the best newspaper in its circulation category in the state five times in a six-year period by the California Newspaper Publishers Association. In 2005, it won the prestigious national Freedom of Information Award from Associated Press Managing Editors. And, in 2007, it was honored by the California Newspaper Publishers Association for its leadership on public records.

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ABOUT CENTER REPERTORY COMPANY

Center REP is the resident, professional theatre company of the Leshner Center for the Arts. Our season consists of six productions a year – a variety of musicals, dramas and comedies, both classic and contemporary, that continually strive to reach new levels of artistic excellence and professional standards.

Our **mission** is to celebrate the power of the human imagination by producing emotionally engaging, intellectually involving, and visually astonishing live theatre, and through Outreach and Education programs, to enrich and advance the cultural life of the communities we serve.

What does it mean to be a producing theatre? We hire the finest professional directors, actors and designers to create our productions at Center REP. These are not touring productions – they're conceived and developed here, the sets and costumes are built in our shops, and the actors rehearse in our rehearsal hall. Whether the production is a Bay Area premiere or a Shakespearean classic, each is devised to be a one of a kind, artistic creation that will be a unique theatre experience for our audience.

What does it mean to be a professional theatre? It means that all our artists and artisans are career theatre-practitioners. Many of the actors in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association; many of our directors and designers are members of professional unions. All do theatre because it is their profession and their passion.

We are very proud to have the opportunity to produce professional theatre for our community in the beautiful Margaret Leshner Theatre here at the Leshner Center for the Arts. Thank you for your support!

ADDITIONAL THANKS TO:
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Center REPERTORY COMPANY
Managing Director - Scott Denison
Artistic Director - Michael Butler

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