



CENTER REPERTORY COMPANY OF WALNUT CREEK

Michael Butler, Artistic Director

Scott Denison, Managing Director

presents

The Lady with all the Answers

By David Rambo

drawn from the life and letters of Ann Landers

with the cooperation of Margo Howard

Directed by Scott Denison

Lighting Designer

John Earls

Sound Designer

Jeff Collister

Scenic Designer

Kelly Tighe

Prop Mistresses

Mia Baxter & Seren Helday

Stage Manager

Sofia Dertimanis

Costumer

Michael A. Berg

Casting Director

Jennifer Perry

Starring

Kerri Shawn

Originally produced by The Old Globe, San Diego, California

Jack O'Brien: Artistic Director

Louis G. Spisto: Executive Director

THE LADY WITH ALL THE ANSWERS

is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

Knight Stage 3 Theatre

April 28 - May 15, 2011

Leshner Center for the Arts

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Season Partner



Diablo Regional Arts Association

Season Media Sponsor



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Center REP is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), The National Organization for the American Theatre and Theatre Bay Area



CAST

Kerri Shawn
as
Eppie Lederer ("Ann Landers")

There will be one
15 minute intermission

TIME and PLACE

Night, late June 1975

Chicago
The elegantly furnished study of a
fourteen-room high-rise apartment on
Lake Shore Drive

CAST BIOGRAPHY

Kerri Shawn (Eppie Lederer) has enjoyed many years of performing with Center REPeritory Company. Some of her favorite roles have included Jose Hogan in *A Moon for the Misbegotton*, Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible*, Julia Gibbs in *Our Town*, Hannah Jelkes in *Night of the Iguana*, Sally Talley in *Talley's Folly*, and Shirley in *Shirley Valentine*. Most recently for Center REP, Kerri was seen as Mrs. Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* and last spring she joined the marvelous CCMT cast as Aunt Eller in *Oklahoma*. Kerri has also loved working with Marin Theatre Company, PlayGround and is a resident company member of Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble. She treasures her association with The Eugene O'Neill Foundation and has performed at Tao House for the past twenty years with Richard James for Student Days, celebrating the life and work of Eugene O'Neill. Kerri presently serves as Co-Director of Education for Center REP with Jeffrey Draper, and together they head up Center REP's Young Rep Training Program. After growing up reading Ann Landers column, the chance to play this remarkable woman has been a true gift and Kerri is grateful to Center REP for this very special opportunity. Ann Landers spent her life doing "useful, meaningful and productive work". She was quoted as saying "If I can shed a little light in some darkened corner, plant hope where there is despair, replace anxiety with courage, ignorance with useful information, and open a door to self-understanding.... the time and effort that



went into this enormous undertaking will have been well-spent." Kerri has been very fortunate to have two exceptional women in her own life that have greatly inspired her by living the words of Ann Landers quote above and she would like to dedicate this performance to them both; her mom-in-law, Florence Denison and her mom, Lareen Fender.

CREATIVE TEAM

David Rambo (Author) David Rambo's plays include *God's Man in Texas*, *The Ice-Breaker*, *The Lady with all the Answers*, *The Spin Cycle*, *Babbitt* and an all-new book for the classic Lerner and Loewe musical *Paint Your Wagon*. His plays have been widely produced throughout the country at theatres including Actors Theatre of Louisville, the Geffen Playhouse, the Old Globe, the Huntington Theatre Company, Denver Center Theatre, Alliance Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Northlight Theatre, the Magic Theatre and the Florida Stage. He has adapted several classic screenplays for live performance, including *All About Eve*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Casablanca* and *Adam's Rib*. For television, he has spent several seasons on the writing staff of the hit show *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*.

Scott Denison (Director/Managing Director) has been a leader in the Arts for 37 years for Walnut Creek and the surrounding communities. Under Denison's guidance for the last 21 years as General Manager for the Leshar Center for the Arts, he oversees over 850 public events each year. He coordinates performing arts activities with over 85 producers and producing organizations. He is also the Managing Director of our own Center REPeritory Company producing 8 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. Scott directed CCMT's hits *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* and *Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*, and the recent hit *Hairspray*. For the past 13 seasons directed Center REP's *A Christmas Carol*. Denison has directed over 150 productions. In 1979 he created the Shellie Awards, which annually honors outstanding performing arts achievement in Contra Costa County. In 2007 he created the Chevron Family Theatre Festival bringing adult nationally

acclaimed performances together for one day performing to over 7,000 guests of all ages here at the LCA.

Kelly Tighe (Scenic Designer) Off Broadway: *The Fantasticks*, *Almost Heaven*. National tours: *Movin' Out*, *Mooseltoe*. Regional: *Dreamgirls*, *My Way*, *Aida*, *Cats*, *The Full Monty*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Gateway Playhouse); *Beauty/Beast*, *Grease*, *Titanic*, *The Who's Tommy*, (Contra Costa Musical Theatre); *Annie*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Joseph/Dreamcoat* (Ohio's Carousel Dinner Theater); *West Side Story*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (DLOC); *All Shook Up*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *The Pavilion*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *A Christmas Carol* (Center REP); *The Laramie Project*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (PPAS/ NYC). Mr. Tighe served as the resident Scenic Designer for Western Michigan's Cherry County Playhouse (*The Music Man* starring William Katt and Josie DeGuzman, and the world premiere of *Will's Women* starring Amanda McBroom), and Center REP in the San Francisco Bay Area. Television: *Sunday Night Woah!* (starring Mo Rocca) for Animal Planet as well as several spots for Verizon, Kit Kat, Disney, and the Oxygen network. Awards and recognitions: Northern California's "Shellie", Drama-Logue, and the S.F. Bay Area's Outer Critic's Circle. Kelly resides in New York City.

Jeff Collister (Production Manager/Sound Designer) has been Production Manager for Center REP since 1995. He has stage-managed 40 productions since starting with the company in 1989. Favorites include *Almost Heaven - John Denver's America*, *Becoming Memories*, *Suds: The Rockin' 60's Musical Soap Opera*, *Godspell*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and numerous productions of *A Christmas Carol*. Jeff has been nominated for Shellie Awards for his direction of *Urinetown*, *the Musical* and *Grease* for Contra Costa Musical Theatre. He worked as Production Stage Manager for *Dame Edna - The Royal Tour* in San Francisco. Jeff is a Shellie Award winning actor and a member of Actors Equity Association.

John Earls (Lighting Designer) Since joining the production staff at the Leshar Center for the Arts, John has designed or directed lighting for numerous productions including: *LCA 20th Anniversary*; *42nd Street*, *Cinderella* (Shellie Awards), *Oklahoma* (CCMT); *A Christmas Carol* (Center Rep); *Chevron Family Theatre Festival*; *Animal Rescue Foundation's Stars*

to the Rescue; The Shellie Awards; Leshar Speaker Series: Newsmakers; Rocky Horror Show (Town Hall Theatre). Thanks to the ACME Theatre Co.

Michael A. Berg (Costumer) is very happy to be working on *The Lady with all the Answers* as the costumer. He manages the costume shop for Center REP and designed the costumes for our recent production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. In his spare time he is the full time costumer for Ross Valley Players in Ross in Marin and this summer will be costuming the *Complete History of America (abridged)* for Marin Shakes. Michael has been working in the Center REP costume shop for the better part of ten years and is most pleased to be doing so!

Mia Baxter (Prop Mistress) is happy to be a part of Center REP's 44th season! She has designed props and costumes for various theatres in the Bay Area. Most recently, she has had the pleasure of working on productions at Aurora Theatre, CalShakes, Marin Theatre Company, ACT Conservatory and SF Playhouse. She has also worked with The Jewish Theatre, Sacramento Opera, Music Circus, Word for Word, Teatro Esperanza, and Intersection for the Arts. She is an alumni of San Francisco State University.

Seren Heday (Prop Mistress) has provided props for multiple shows around the Bay Area. She is resident Props Artisan for Marin Theatre Company and has worked for Townhall, Cal Shakes, S.F. Playhouse and A.C.T. She worked previously as the Master Carpenter at New Conservatory Theatre Center in San Francis co. She was also Technical Director of the Live Theatre Workshop in Tucson, Arizona, in addition to working as a designer, performer, and manager. Her past work with Center REP includes *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Noises Off*, *Dracula* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Sofia Dertimanis (Stage Manager) is excited to make her stage management debut with Center REP. She most recently stage managed for CCMT's *Hairspray*, and DTC's *White Christmas*. While a student at San Francisco State University, she Stage Managed some of her most memorable shows, including the Czech opera *The Bartered Bride*, and the original play *Don Juan*. Since graduating from SFSU she has worked with several other companies including Ballet San Jose.

Michael Butler (Artistic Director) is in his fifth 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*, *Enchanted April*, *Witness For The Prosecution*, *A Number*, *Boeing-Boeing* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* as well as acted in REP's productions of *The Mousetrap* and *Noises Off*. 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.

OUR SPONSORS

Chevron (Season Sponsor) has been the leading corporate sponsor of Center REP and the Leshar 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. Chevrongenerouslysupportsevery 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 Leshar 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.

ABOUT CENTER REPERTORY COMPANY

Center REP is the resident, professional theatre company of the Leshar Center for the Arts. Our season consists of eight 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 who work with Center REP 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 theatres here at the Lesher Center for the Arts. Thank you for your support!

<p>CITY COUNCIL Cindy Silva, Mayor Kristina Lawson Kish Rajan Robert Simmons Gary Skrel</p> <p>CITY MANAGER Ken Nordhoff</p> <p>DIRECTOR Arts, Recreation and Community Services Barry Gordon</p>	 <p>CITY OF WALNUT CREEK</p> <p>ARTS COMMISSION Chair Reginald Marshall Fritz Brunner Carol Fowler Suzanne Masella Jacquelyn Smith</p>
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 <p>Center REPeritory Company</p> <p>Managing Director - Scott Denison Artistic Director - Michael Butler</p> <p><i>Production Services</i> Production Svcs Coordinator Toni Kilcoyne Technical Staff Steve Pino John Earls Nicole Iannaccone Mitch Kell Iain McKay Garrick Schuster Josh Stouffer <i>Audience Services</i> Audience Svcs Coordinator Courtney Egg Ticket Office Staff Jeremiah Vierling Caitlin Downing Hillary Pearsall Beth Ellis-Dickson Elizabeth Fazzino Kiersten Jones Karla Kopfhammer Britt Lauer Sarah Leahy Alexia Marquis Benjamin Potter Aaron Prather Sade Robinson Usher Coordinator Carolyn Orlik</p>	<p><i>Costumes</i> Costume Manager Michael A. Berg Assistant Costumers Joe Coe Jenine Hillaire <i>Education</i> Education Directors Jeff Draper Kerri Shawn <i>Marketing</i> Marketing Director Gabe Marin Marketing Assistant Casi Maggio <i>Production</i> Production Manager Jeff Collister <i>Technical</i> Technical Director Joshua Lipps Carpenters Daniel Casini Jordan Scott Cameron Swartzell Chris Swartzell Production Assistant Kyle Valentine <i>Administration</i> Asst. to Managing Director Gail Pfeifer Program Linda Nomura</p>
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Every New Year's Day, Ann Landers ran the same column. But she felt it applied to every day of the year. I'd like to share it with you now, as a kind of "Eppie-Logue."

Make this coming year better than all the others. Vow to do some things you've always wanted to do but "couldn't find the time." Call up a neglected friend. Drop an old grudge. Share a funny story. A good laugh can be better than any medicine.

Vow not to make a promise you don't think you can keep. Pay a debt. Give a soft answer.

Encourage some youth to do his or her best. Share your experience and offer support. Young people need role models more than they need critics.

Apologize when you realize you are wrong. An apology never diminishes a person. It elevates.

Try to understand a point of view different from your own.

When your temperature reaches the boiling point, ask yourself, "Will it matter a week from today?" Laugh the loudest when the joke is on you.

The way to have a friend is to be one. We are all connected by our humanity and we need each other.

Return those books you borrowed. Reschedule that missed appointment. Clean out your closet.

Take better care of yourself. Pass up the second helping. Walk tall and smile more. You'll look ten years younger.

Don't be afraid to say, "I love you." Say it again. They are the sweetest words in the world.

If you have love in your life, this new year can be the best one ever.

Ann Landers

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Shown at left: An antique Lavar Kerman, 16.5'x24'; over 100 years old, in excellent condition, this magnificent and rare large carpet features stylized writings by some of the great Persian poets, about life and living, beautifully woven into the border design. A breathtaking piece.

Adib's Persian Rug Co.
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Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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