



CENTER REPERTORY COMPANY OF WALNUT CREEK

Michael Butler, Artistic Director

Scott Denison, Managing Director

presents



status update

World Premiere of a New Play with Music

By **Dorothy Fortenberry**
Music by **Colin Wambsgans**

Scenic Designer
Michael Locher
Sound Designer
Matt Stines

Costume Designer
Michael A. Berg
Stage Manager
Sofia Dertimanis
Music Director
Colin Wambsgans

Lighting Designer
Ray Oppenheimer
Animator
Kerstin Larissa Hovland

Cast

Darren Bridgett*
Lynda DiVito

Ben Euphrat

Rosie Hallett
Joel Roster

Directed by **Becca Wolff**

STATUS UPDATE received a developmental workshop in December 2010 supported by Tilted Field Productions (Jacob Padron & Becca Wolff, Producers) presented by Odyssey Theatre in Los Angeles.

Knight Stage 3 Theatre
November 1 - 17, 2012
Leshler Center for the Arts

Season Sponsor



Season Partner



Season Media Sponsor



Foundation Sponsor



*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States
Center REP is a member of Theatre Bay Area and Theatre Communications Group (TCG), The National Organization for the American Theatre



CAST (in order of appearance)

Annabel.....Rosie Hallett
Keyboard Cat.....Joel Roster
Brian, and others.....Ben Euphrat
Zar, Annabel's Mother, Lorraine,
CelebrityLynda DiVito
Niko, Steve, Protest Leader,
Annabel's FatherDarren Bridgett*

TIME and PLACE

Place: Phoenix, Arizona
and the Internet
Time: Now

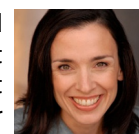
CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Darren Bridgett* (Niko)

credits include: Center REP (*A Midsummer Night's Dream, How the Other Half Loves, Summer and Smoke, Vikings*), Marin Theatre Company (*Love Song, The Good German, Woman in Black, Fortune, The Last Schwartz, Turn of the Screw*), Marin Shakespeare Festival (*The Liar, Macbeth, Taming of the Shrew, Travesties, The Importance of Being Earnest, Much Ado About Nothing, King Lear, Romeo and Juliet, She Stoops to Conquer, Merry Wives of Windsor, Hamlet, Don Juan, Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged, Complete History of America Abridged*), MagicTheatre (*Evie's Waltz, Drifting Elegant, Blue Surge*), TheatreWorks (*Twelfth Night, Learned Ladies of Park Avenue, Far East, Psychopathia Sexualis, Book of Days, Nickel and Dimed, Once in a Lifetime, As You Like It, Ah Wilderness!*), Laguna Playhouse (*Far East*), Orlando Shakespeare Festival (*Merchant of Venice, Much Ado About Nothing, Arms and the Man*), ACT, Cal Shakes, San Jose Stage, TheatreFIRST, and Central Works.

Lynda DiVito (Zar)

is so excited to make her "Off Center" debut in *Status Update*. Lynda was just seen as Rita LaPorta in Center REP's *Lucky Stiff*. Other Center REP credits include; Claire in *Rumors*, Bertha in *Boeing Boeing*, *She Loves Me* and Mayor Mathilda in *All Shook Up*. Other Bay Area credits include; Paulette in *Legally Blonde* at DTC, Velma in *Hairspray* at CCMT, *The Full Monty* at AMTSJ, *In this House* at Playhouse West. NYC Off Broadway/ International/ regional credits include; *Cats/Jellylorum*. Off Broadway *Sheba/Leah*. *Oliver* at Papermill Playhouse. *Fiddler on the Roof* at Riverside Theatre. Lynda toured throughout Europe in various different shows and was the lead singer for JamSquare, one of Holland's premiere dance bands. Lynda is a recipient of the BATCC award and Shellie Award. Many thanks to Michael Butler and the Center REP gang! For L&H&N.



Ben Euphrat (Brian) recent credits include OpenTab Production's *Enron*, (director), 42nd Street Moon's *Zorba!* (Pavli), Berkeley Playhouse's *Pirates of Penzance* (Kuato), *Becoming Julia Morgan* (Jerry, Avery) with the Julia Morgan Project, Shotgun Players' *Road to Hades* (Pegasus), TheatreWorks' *Fly by Night* (Harold, us) and CalShakes *Titus Andronicus* (Lucius, us). He has appeared in a variety of films, web-series and commercials and has performed as an improviser for many years, studying with The Groundlings and IO West in Los Angeles. A man of many hats, Ben also works behind the scenes as a director, producer, video/graphic/sound designer, writer for film and stage, and is the Producing Artistic Director of his own company, OpenTab Productions. He composes music, plays the drums, guitar and piano and even has studied to be a corporeal mime.



Rosie Hallett (Annabel) is ever so pleased to be making her Center REP debut! Recent credits include *The 16th Annual Best of Playground Festival* (Playground), *Imaginary Love* (Hapgood Theatre Company), *Killer Joe* (Renegade Theatre Experiment), *The Tempest* and *Macbeth* (SF Shakes), *Doubt* (New Conservatory Theatre), *Bellwether* (u/s, Marin Theatre Company), *All's Well That Ends Well* (NY Public Theater at Stanford), *The Glass Menagerie* (Pear Avenue/California Conservatory), and *Mrs. Warren's Profession* (u/s, CalShakes). Upcoming in February, 2013: the premiere of Word for Word Performing Arts Company's *You Know When the Men Are Gone*. Rosie is a Stanford University graduate and a company member of Playground.



Joel Roster (Keyboard Cat) is deeply honored to take part in this production. Over the last eight years, REP audiences have seen him as several characters in *A Christmas Carol*, as well as The Dead Body of Anthony Hendon in *Lucky Stiff* and as Snug in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. A recipient of two Shellie Awards (Best Supporting Actor In A Musical, *South Pacific*, CCMT; Best Actor in a Play, *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, DAE) and several more nominations, Mr. Roster has appeared with Ray of Light Theatre, Town Hall Theatre, Diablo Actors Ensemble, SHN, and many others over his last twelve years as an actor and director in the Bay Area. He currently serves as the Director of Education for Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette, where he will be directing the Bay Area premiere of Aaron Sorkin's *The Farnsworth Invention*, opening in February 2013. He resides in Lafayette with his fiance Virginia.



CREATIVE TEAM

Dorothy Fortenberry (Playwright) is a playwright originally from Washington, DC. Her plays include *Mommune, Species Native to California, Caitlin and the Swan*, and *Good Egg*. Her work has been developed at Arena Stage, Ars Nova, Geva Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Page 73, among others, and produced by Chalk Rep, Red Fern Theatre, and The Management. She won the 2011 Helen Merrill Award for Emerging Playwrights and was a two-time Finalist for the O'Neill Conference. Residencies and fellowships include the MacDowell Colony, the Djerassi Program, and the Sewanee Writers' Conference. She received her MFA in Playwriting from the Yale School of Drama and is currently working on a commission for Yale Rep. Dorothy is an alumna of Youngblood, a member of the Playwrights Union, and a founding company member of Tilted Field. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband Colin Wambsgans and their daughter.

Colin Wambsgans (Composer) composes music for electronics and assorted ensembles. His work has been presented at the Darmstadt Ferienkurse, Getty Center, and Hammer Museum. For the theater, Wambsgans has written music for Red Fern Productions (*Good Egg*, October 2010, New York) and The Management (*Caitlin and the Swan*, New York, April 2009), as well as soundscapes and songs for *Maria Kizito* and *Drunk, Still Drinking* in Erik Ehn's *Soulagraphie* cycle (La MaMa, New York, November 2012). Recently, he created theme music for the recurring "Poetry Olympics" segment on the NPR program *Morning Edition*, as well as original music and sound design for iPad apps. Currently, he is working on a sample-based audio collage based off of interviews, field recordings, and the music of the band Modest Mouse. Wambsgans was born in New Orleans and lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Dorothy Fortenberry, and their daughter.

Next up at Center REP OffCenter:



By
Yussef El Guindi

Directed by
Michael Butler

Winner of 2012 Steinberg Award for
Best New American Play

Musa, an Egyptian immigrant and Sheri, a very quirky Caucasian waitress must negotiate the twists and turns of not only love, but cultural expectations in this charming romantic comedy with a delightful twist.

Becca Wolff (Director) is artistic director of IAMA Theatre Company in Los Angeles and co-founder of Tilted Field Productions: a geographically diversified collective of artists. Her upcoming directing projects include the West Coast Premiere of Dan LeFranc's *Sixty Miles to Silverlake* (IAMA, February 2013) and *The Last Days of Mary Stuart* – a rock opera composed by the band TONY (Son of Semele Ensemble, Summer 2013). *Status Update* marks Wolff's third world-premiere collaboration with Dorothy Fortenberry, and their second with Colin Wambsgans as composer. Wolff directed Fortenberry's *We're Celebrities* (2006) and *Bicycling for Ladies* (2007), both at the Yale Cabaret in New Haven, CT. Wolff began directing as an assistant to Center REP's own Michael Butler, who continues to provide mentorship and inspiration. She is a graduate of The New School, NYC, and holds an MFA in Directing from Yale School of Drama.

Michael Locher (Scenic Designer) has designed scenery for theater and opera across the country. His recent and upcoming regional credits include productions for the Guthrie Theater, Cal Shakes, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Yale Repertory Theater, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Great Lakes Theater, and Playmakers Repertory Theater. Michael's designs have been seen Off-Broadway and at venues throughout New York and the northeast. His local credits include numerous productions with the Magic Theatre and the Cutting Ball Theater, where he is a longtime artistic associate. Michael is a founding member of Hollywood-based Tilted Field Productions, and a graduate of the University of California San Diego and the Yale School of Drama.

Michael A. Berg (Costume 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!

Ray Oppenheimer (Lighting Designer) moved back home to the Bay Area after some time in Austin, Texas. His lighting design was nominated for an Austin Critics Circle Award, Ray is excited to return to Center REPeritory Company. Locally his designs have been seen at The Magic Theatre, Intersection for the Arts, and The Shotgun Players.

Matt Stines (Sound Designer) is quite excited to return to Center REP for *Status Update*. He was most recently heard in *Salomania* with Aurora Theatre. He has also made noises for Shotgun Players, Cutting Ball Theatre, SF Playhouse, ACT's MFA program, AlterTheatre and some more. He teaches theater sound at his alma mater, SF State, and apparently writes sketch comedy and makes short video films. More stuff at mattstines.wordpress.com.

Kerstin Larissa Hovland (Animator) is an experimental animator and new media artist. Her work explores the experience of human connection in the age of ubiquitous communication and connectivity using moving image, music, and performance. She recently received her MFA in Experimental Animation and Integrated Media from California Institute of the Arts and holds a BFA in Visual Communication from Iowa State University. Kerstin's animation and projection design credits include original performances at the Ruhrtrienalle in Essen, Germany, Blue Man Group in Las Vegas, and Luminosity in Cedar Point, Ohio.

Sofia Dertimanis (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be back at Center REP for her fourth Off Center show. Her most recent projects include *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* (Berkeley Playhouse), *Spring Awakening* (Center REP- Off Center), and *Sunset Boulevard* (Contra Costa Musical Theatre). She is very excited for her upcoming role as Assistant Stage Manager at Ballet San Jose for the 2012-2013 season.

Claire McMahon (Assistant Stage Manager) is so excited to be a part of such a wonderful show! This is her fourth production with Center REP. Previous credits include *Rumors*, *Xanadu* and *Lucky Stiff*. Claire is very grateful for all of the talented people she has met while working for this company. She would like to thank her family and friends for all of their support, and she hopes you enjoy the show!



Michael Butler (Artistic Director) This is Michael's seventh season as Artistic Director of Center REP, where his directing credits include *The Underpants*, *A Number*, *Dracula*, *Boeing-Boeing* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, as well as the Shellie and BATCC Award-winning productions of *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Enchanted April*, and *Witness For The Prosecution*. His directing work has also been seen at San Jose Rep, Cleveland Playhouse, Seattle Rep, Laguna Playhouse, ACT in Seattle, 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, as well as REP's productions of *The Mousetrap*, *Noises Off* and *Rumors*. 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.

Scott Denison (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 Leshner 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 the 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*, *Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*, and *Hairspray*, and for the past 13 seasons Center REP's *A Christmas Carol*. Denison has directed over 150 productions including most recently REP's *The Lady with all the Answers* starring Kerri Shawn. 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.

OUR SPONSORS

Chevron (Season Sponsor) has been the leading corporate sponsor of Center REP and the Leshner Center for the Arts for the past nine 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.

Leshner Foundation (Foundation Sponsor) Since 1994, the Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation has awarded grants totaling more than \$40 million and reaching citizens in all parts of Contra Costa County. True to the original wishes of Dean and Margaret Leshner, the Foundation continues to build on the strengths of the community by supporting organizations and programs that provide help and support to people in need; enhance and enrich the lives of all citizens; and promote a healthy and exciting future for the community. Established in 1989, the Foundation received its principal assets from Dean Leshner's estate in 1993 and 1995. In 1997, an additional endowment from Dean Leshner's estate followed the death of Margaret Leshner. A significant and final bequest from Mr. Leshner's estate was received in 2003. As a family foundation, support for the Contra Costa community will be carried on by the next generation of family members. Grant-making decisions are based on the vision of Dean and Margaret Leshner who felt quality education, diverse art programs, and healthy children and families are the building blocks of a strong and vibrant community. The Leshners defined the "spirit of giving" as "investing in the community and its people." By providing financial support and direction in these critical areas, the Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation is investing every day, every week and every year in the health and well-being of this county that Dean and Margaret so loved.

ABOUT CENTER REPERTORY COMPANY

Center REP is the resident, professional theatre company of the Leshner 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 in our productions 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 Leshner Center for the Arts. Thank you for your support!



Center REPeritory Company

Managing Director - Scott Denison
Artistic Director - Michael Butler

Production Services

Production Svcs
Coordinator
Toni Kilcoyne
Technical Staff
Steve Pino
John Earls
Michael Arlen
Chris Currie
Scott Dare

Garrick Schuster
Stephen Spleiss
Josh Stouffer
Audience Services
Audience Svcs
Coordinator

Courtney Egg
Ticket Office Staff
Jeremiah Vierling
Caitlin Downing
Hillary Pearsall
Kiersten Jones

Karla Kophammer
Britt Lauer
Sadé Robinson
Andrea Toney
Usher Coordinator
Jason Pedroza
Costumes

Costume Manager
Michael A. Berg
Assistant Costumers
Max Hilsabeck
Matthew O'Connor

Marketing

Marketing Director
Gabe Marin
Marketing Assistant
Ariel Ford
Education
Education Directors
Jeff Draper
Kerri Shawn

Casting Director
Jennifer Perry
Production
Production Manager
Jeff Collister
Technical

Technical Director
Joshua Lipps
Master Electrician
Ray Oppenheimer
Carpenters
Daniel Casini
Jordan Scott

Cameron Swartzell
Chris Swartzell
Administration
Asst. to Managing
Director
Gail Pfeifer
Program

Linda Nomura

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