A.C.T. AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATRE

1976-77 SEASON
A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE AUDIENCE

The American Conservatory Theatre will continue the tradition of providing free programs for the 1976-77 season. Because Performing Arts Magazine is being offered for sale only, A.C.T. has discontinued its association with that organization and will produce its own complete, free program.

General director William Ball, citing the company's firm conviction that the experience of going to the theatre should be as effortless and enjoyable as possible, said, "We refuse to allow ourselves to succumb to commercialism of this sort, which would be a disservice to our audience. When they enter the theatre we want to greet them with a gesture of welcome rather than with added costs and the nuisance factor a program charge would represent."

To continue this free service to the public, A.C.T. must sell advertising in the program. Interested advertisers may telephone Cleo Faulkner or Felecia Faulkner at A.C.T. (771-3880) for information.

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Shakespeare's Tragic Moor: Flawed Hero and Thundering Challenge

Samuel Johnson remarked that, "Shakespeare has no heroes, his scenes and occupied only by men." Yet our greatest playwright often wrote about heroic men, and there is no greater evidence of both the heroism and the humanity than the colossal, tragic figure of Othello, the "Moor of Venice."

From its first performance at the Globe Theatre in 1604, with Richard Burbage in the leading role, Othello has had a special, splendid but rather troubling place in the Shakespearean canon. True, it is one of the master's most vivid, efficient, and harrowing dramas. But its motivation is not immediately clear and the portrait it paints of men and women, caught in the turmoil of their passions, is not a simple or sentimental one. For those reasons, among others, it demands prodigious performance.

Before he attempted the role of Othello in 1964, Laurence Olivier said there had been no great Othello on the English stage in this century, and partly he felt, because it was too easy for the villain to dominate the play—"that sinister Iago, who for reasons best known to his own warped mind prods the superb but vain Othello into a murderess fit of jealousy for his deceiver Desdemona. "I don't want a suave, Machiavellian Iago," said Olivier. "Give me a good, honest-to-God N.C.O. In the now legendary production at the Old Vic, Frank Finlay endeavored to provide a suitable non-commissioned officer as Iago, while Olivier's thundering, ebony-black Othello dominated the play with electrifying authority."

The effort he put into it is also legendary. Orson Welles had said, "Larry's a natural tenor, while Othello's a natural baritone." Olivier duly took lessons which lowered his voice almost an octave. Well into his 50s, he exercised with weights and pushed himself "beyond anything I have done as an actor before."

"Usually this play is selected for production and then can't be cast," notes Allen Fletcher, directing A.C.T.'s production of Othello. "That's really why we decided to do it: because we could cast it." Fletcher, who had worked with actor John Hancock at A.C.T., felt that "it was just a matter of time before a major company grabbed him to play Othello." With Daniel Davis as Iago and Deborah May as Desdemona already cast in his mind, there remained the matter of an approach to the play.

Olivier's Othello had been controversial for its very emphatic blackness. "That's really only a problem when a white actor plays the role," says Fletcher, adding however that the racial motif is intrinsic to the drama: "What hit me, reading the play again, is that it is a very compact domestic tragedy and that the emphasis was on the difference between this Venetian Renaissance society and the more exotic, African personality of Othello."

While the first half of the drama tends to focus on the plotting of Iago ("full of hatred, and self-hatred," as Fletcher puts it), Othello comes to the fore in the second half and the tragedy gathers force from his surrender to madness. "That is the real focus of the play to me," comments the director, "this terrible destruction caused by an understudied, unduly violent tragedy."

As for the role, "Othello loves Desdemona desperately but they are such opposites they can never be together. So it is not inconceivable that he is destroyed by his own insecurity as much as Iago's."

Shakespeare wrote the play at the crest of his career, soon after Hamlet, just a year before Macbeth and King Lear. His apparent source for the story was a tale published by the Italian writer Cinthio in 1566, perhaps based on the life of San Pietro di Basetella, an adventurer who returned from Constantinople upon hearing of his wife's infidelity. While the play was often performed, a woman did not appear in the role of Desdemona until the Restoration in 1660.

David Garrick suffered one of his few failures as Othello, but Edmund Kean triumphed in the role—and then died in it, collapsing on his son Charles, who was playing Iago. Later Henry Irving and Edwin Booth alternated as Othello and Iago, and Tommaso Salvini created a sensation with the animal force of his Moor. Ellen Terry called Salvini's performance the greatest Othello she had seen.

In our time, Paul Robeson is well-remembered for his Othello, opposite José Ferrer's Iago, for the New York Theatre Guild in the 1940s (a performance he brought to the Geary). Only Olivier challenged him for power and pathos, and so we turn to Lord Olivier for a final word: "I do not care to play Othello again, nor could I. But not to have played what would have wasted my education as an actor. He is the greatest test our theatre can offer an actor, and to fail with him is to fail at the summit."

—David Elliott
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**Off-Broadway Hit**  
*"Vanities" Set as Next A.C.T. Show for the Marines' Theatre*  
**Nov. 17**

*Vanities*, a current New York hit originally produced by the prestigious Chelsea Theater Center, is scheduled to open a limited engagement at the Marines’ Memorial Theater November 17, after a single public preview performance November 16. Reflecting the odyssey of American women in the 1960s and 1970s, the intimate three-character play traces the growth of three Texas girls toward womanhood and apart from each other, mirroring the recent changes in American life and society. As they grow from high school cheerleaders to college sorority sisters to perplexed young adults of diverging life-styles, their gradual liberation from small-town complacency reflects our culture’s turbulence concerning love and sex, the family and drugs, politics and war.

Featuring Valerie Armstrong, Sarah Harris and Patricia Richardson, *Vanities* begins a national tour in Washington, D.C. which will continue here simultaneously with another production in Los Angeles which opens the end of October. The extremely successful comedy continues in New York with other national and international companies planned.

Jack Heffner’s poignant comedy will be directed by Garland Wright for A.C.T.’s San Francisco presentation.

A.C.T. subscribers will receive priority ticket order information in mid-October and the Geary box office will open for public sale on November 1. Group and student sales information may be obtained by calling Mary Woodward at A.C.T., (415) 771-3880.

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**THE AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATRE**  
**presents**  
**OTHELLO**  
**by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

Directed by **ALLEN FLETCHER**

A.C.T. gratefully dedicates this production to  
Mr. Albert J. Moorman  
in recognition of his wise counsel and generous support

**Associate Director:** DAVID HAMMOND  
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**Costumes by ROBERT FLETCHER**  
**Lighting by F. MITCHELL DANA**  
**Music by LARRY DELINGER**  
**Sound by BARTOLOMEO RAGO**  
**Fight Choreography by J. STEVEN WHITE**

**the cast**

Othello — JOHN HANCOCK  
Iago — DANIEL DAVIS  
Cassio — STEPHEN ST. PAUL  
Roderigo — RAYE BIRK  
Brabantio — SYDNEY WALKER  
Montano — TONY TEAGUE  
Duke of Venice — EARL BOEN  
Lodovico — DANIEL KERN  
Gratiano — JOSEPH BIRD  
A Senator — LAWRENCE HECHT  
A Sailor — J. STEVEN WHITE  
A Messenger Soldier — GREGORY ITZIN  
A Sentry Soldier — WAYNE ALEXANDER  
Montano's Officer — HARRY HAMLIN  
Othello's Officer — AL WHITE  
Desdemona — DEBORAH MAY  
Emilia — ELIZABETH HUDDE  
Bianca — FRANCHELLE STEWART DORN

Soldiers, Servants, Camp Followers:  
Libby Boone, Catherine Brickley, Julie Brown, Marilyn Kay Casky, George Ceres, Richard Christopher, Heidi Davis, Raymond E. Dooley, Nancy Erskine, Mike Gainey, E. Lamont Johnson, Benjamin Louis Jurand, Margaret Kienck, Noel Koran, Anita Maynard, Carol Miller, Thomas R. Oglesby, Priscilla Shanks, Christopher Wong

There will be one thirteen-minute intermission

**understudies**

Othello—Al White; Iago—Tony Teague; Cassio—Harry Hamlín; Roderigo—Wayne Alexander; Brabantio—William Paterson; Montano—Michael Keys-Hall; Duke—Lawrence Hecht; Lodovico—James R. Winker; Gratiano—Gregory Itzin; Senator/Soldiers—Sabin Epstein; Officers—J. Steven White; Desdemona—Francine Tacker; Emilia—Deiores Y. Mitchelli; Bianca—Barbara Dirickson

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**What a performance!**

**DAVID’S/A.C.T.**

**DAVID’S—THEATRE ROW’S CELEBRATED DELI/RESTAURANT ACROSS THE STREET, NEAR TAYLOR**
A NOTE ON THE PLAY

Never one to dismiss a challenge, Bernard Shaw wrote *Man and Superman* in 1903 as an answer to the critic A. B. Walkley's rather cheeky invitation that he should write a play about Don Juan, the damned but insouciant seducer first invented by a 16th century Spanish priest, and later immortalized by Moliere (in his play *Don Juan*) and by Mozart (in the opera *Don Giovanni*). In his typically long preface to the play, Shaw pointed out to Walkley and to posterity that his Don Juan was an entirely fresh creation, a man more seduced than seductive—and addicted to the ideas of Bernard Shaw. And Shaw added, "If you don't like my preaching you must lump it. I really cannot help it."

Though written after such early masterpieces as *The Devil's Disciple* and *Caesar and Cleopatra*, *Man and Superman* is the first fully adequate realization of Shaw's vision, inspired by Ibsen, of a modern intellectual theatre. He had written to Ellen Terry, "Your author, dear Ellen, must be more than a common dramatist," and *Man and Superman* is the result: a witty comedy of sexual manners in which a woman's pursuit of a man in Edwardian England serves as the dramatic scaffold and emotional filling for ringing exchanges about the game of the sexes, history and human destiny. The third act dialogue-drama, "Don Juan in Hell," is often played separately but as director Jack O'Brien notes, it is "the bones of the drama, that's where they really get down to it."

O'Brien says that, "You have this bristling comedy and then underneath it you have this incredible philosophical sub-structure, and underneath that you have an in-depth correlation of the two worlds... and he's writing all this on the brink of the 20th century." Shaw felt that music was the supreme influence on his work, so it is fitting, notes O'Brien, that "This play is a truly symphonic work—the influence of Mozart is felt all the way through it."

*Man and Superman* was first performed at the Court Theatre in London on May 21, 1905, without the hell scene, the entire play not having its debut until eight years later in Edinburgh. Harley Granville-Barker directed the 1905 production and starred as Tanner, the Shavian intellectual hero, whom he in fact played with Shaw's bristling beard and mannerisms. Critics and audiences reacted with enthusiasm, though the length of the work has limited the number of complete productions, the first in New York not coming until 1939. The most famous separate reading of "Don Juan" was done to great acclaim in the 1950's by Agnes Moorehead, Charles Boyer, Charles Laughton and Cedric Hardwicke.

A.C.T.'s new production of this modern classic will include "Don Juan" and also, promises O'Brien, maintain the full integrity of the play and its ideas. He adds that the play has remained alive because "It bristles with health, you can feel everyone in it flexing their muscles. Everyone is a contender. Everyone has their own spark of divine fire. So it's really a fireworks match."

MORTIMER FLEISHHACKER JR.
May 3, 1907—March 14, 1976

Mortimer Fleishhacker was instrumental in making possible A.C.T.'s first decade and his belief in our theatre is the reason we are here. We dedicate our second decade to the memory of this rare and inspirational community leader.
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A non-profit organization sponsoring the American Conservatory Theatre

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THE AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATRE

The American Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco’s resident professional theatre as well as the nation’s largest and most active repertory company, has in its ten annual seasons under the leadership of founder and General Director William Ball, presented more than one hundred productions, attracting a total audience of more than three million playgoers to the Geary and Marines’ Memorial Theatres.

American critics, among those from other countries, have praised A.C.T. for its imagination, professionalism and boldly theatrical style.

Employing more than 200 people, including actors, directors, designers, craftsmen, technicians, teachers and administrators, A.C.T. maintains its own shop and storage facilities, building and maintaining all the scenery, costumes and properties used in its productions.

A.C.T. has moved closer each season toward realization of the long-term goals evoked by Ball when he established A.C.T. in 1965. He envisioned A.C.T. from the beginning as a national theatre with a double purpose—to present an annual season of professional repertory performances in conjunction with, and inseparable from, a full-time ongoing theatre training program.

A.C.T. works on the principle that an actor must continue to grow throughout the entirety of his professional life if he is to realize his full creative potential. The actor must discover, and constantly rediscover, his skills, techniques and emotional resources, always seeking to broaden and deepen them through the creativity and discipline of training. He therefore needs a professional environment that awakens, stimulates and supports his creativity; for only then will his search for artistic fulfillment be understood and encouraged.

A.C.T. seeks to provide that environment through its conservatory concept of continuing, comprehensive training for every member of the acting company, a concept basic to all of A.C.T.’s work and equal in importance to public performances.

A.C.T. is one of the few theatres in the nation maintaining a true repertory policy, and the only professional American theatre company which is also a full-time conservatory. Its annual 33-week seasons present a repertory drawn from the classics of world drama, major works of the modern theatre and outstanding new plays from London and New York.

The annual A.C.T. operating budget exceeds four million dollars, of which eighty percent is box office income, tuition and other earned revenue, while the remainder is derived from subsidy. As a result of the inevitable gap between earned income and expenses, A.C.T. must seek continuing support from the individuals who patronize the theatre. Your tax deductible contribution may be mailed to the California Association for A.C.T., 450 Geary Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.
A NOTE ON THE PLAY
by Peter Shaffer

One weekend over several years ago, I was driving with a friend through bleak countryside. We passed a stable. Suddenly he was reminded by it of an alarming crime which he had heard about recently at a dinner party in London. He knew only one horrible detail, and his complete mention of it could barely have lasted a minute—but it was enough to arouse in me an intense fascination.

The act had been committed several years before by a highly disturbed young man. It had deeply shocked a local bench of magistrates. It lacked, finally, any coherent explanation.

A few months later my friend died. I could not verify what he had said, or ask him to expand it. He had given me no name, no place, and no time. I don't think he knew them. All I possessed was his report of a dreadful event, and the feeling it engendered in me. I knew very strongly that I wanted to interpret it in some entirely personal way. I had to create a mental world in which the deed could be made comprehensible.

Every person and incident in Equus is of my own invention, save the crime itself and even that I modified to accord with what I feel to be acceptable theatrical proportion. I am grateful now that I have never received confirmed details of the "real" story, since my concern has been more and more with a different kind of exploration.

I have been lucky, in doing final work on the play, to have enjoyed the advice and expert comment of a distinguished child psychiatrist. Through him I have tried to keep things real in a more naturalistic sense. I have also come to perceive that psychiatrists are an immensely varied breed, professing immensely varied methods and techniques. Martin Dysart is simply one doctor in one hospital. I must take responsibility for him, as I do for his patient.

Peter Shaffer's other works include Five Finger Exercise (1958), The Private Ear and The Public Eye (1962), The Royal Hunt of the Sun (1964), Black Comedy (1965) and The Battle of Shrivings (1970), which opened in London within weeks of his brother Anthony's Sleuth. The British playwright, who now resides in New York, has recently completed the screenplay for Equus, which is still running on Broadway.
Candid glimpses of A.C.T. prior to and during its cultural exchange program tour of the Soviet Union.
WILLIAM BALL (General Director) founded the American Conservatory Theatre in 1965. Beginning in the theatre as a designer, he soon turned to acting and appeared with regional companies and Shakespearean festivals across the country. Ball made his New York directorial debut with Chekhov’s little-known Ivanov in an Off-Broadway production that won the Obie and Vernon Rice Drama Desk Awards for 1985. The next few years found him directing at Houston’s Alley Theatre, San Francisco’s Actor’s Workshop, Washington D.C.’s Arena Stage, San Diego’s American Shakespeare Theatre, as well as staging several operas for the New York City Opera. His 1959 off-Broadway production of Under Milkwood won the Lola D’Annunzio and Outer Circle Critics’ Awards. In 1962, his production of Six Characters in Search of an Author proved another multiple award-winner and enjoyed an extended run in New York. After directing at Canada’s Stratford Festival, he returned to New York to write the libretto for an opera, Le Cendrier, with composer Lee Holby, based on A Month in the Country. In 1964, he directed Tartuffe and Homage to Shakespeare at Lincoln Center, then travelled to London to recreate his staging of Six Characters. A graduate of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, he has been the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship, a Ford Foundation grant, and an NBC-RCA Director’s Fellowship. Among the first plays he directed for A.C.T. were Tartuffe, Six Characters, Under Milkwood, Tiny Alice and King Lear. They were followed by Twelfth Night, The American Dream, Hamlet, Oedipus Rex, Three Sisters, The Tempest, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Caesar and Cleopatra, The Contractor, Cyrano de Bergerac, The Crucible, The Cherry Orchard, King Richard III, Jumpers and Equus. Ball is also an active teacher in A.C.T.’s conservatory programs and frequently works with university students as a guest instructor and seminar leader.

JAMES B. McKENZIE (Executive Producer) has been associated with A.C.T. throughout its history as a member of the Board of Trustees. In 1969 he became Executive Producer, took the company on its first tour to Broadway, and has remained as producer ever since. McKenzie is an active participant in all phases of the theatre. He has produced three plays on Broadway, and 15 national tours of Broadway plays. He has been the producer of the Westport Country Playhouse in Connecticut since 1959 and of the Peninsula Players in Fish Creek, Wisconsin, since 1960. McKenzie is vice-president of the Council of Stock Theatres, a director of The League of Resident Theatres and of the Council of Resident Summer Theatres, and is an active member of The League of New York Theatres and Producers. He is a working member of the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Actors’ Equity Association. His theatrical career encompasses more than 1,000 productions, and includes work in every state of the union. He was recently appointed to the Theatre Advisory Panel of the National Endowment for the Arts and is a Board member of the First American Congress of Theatre.

EDWARD HASTINGS (Executive Director and Resident Education Director) was a Production Stage Manager for David Merrick before joining the company as a founding member. Off-Broadway, he co-produced The Sainliness of Margery Kempe, Epitaph for George Dillon and he directed the national touring company of Oliver! He has served as a guest director in colleges and regional theatres and for three summers as a resident director of the Eugene O’Neill Playwrights Conference in Connecticut and of the Squaw Valley Community of Writers. Hastings’ productions of Charley’s Aunt and Our Town were seen during A.C.T.’s first two seasons. In New York, he guided the Henry Fonda revival of Our Town with an all-star cast and directed the Australian premiere of The HOT L BALTIMORE. He has directed many other A.C.T. productions, more recently, The House of Blue Leaves, Broadway, Street Scene and General Gor-geous. He heads A.C.T.’s own new play program, Plays in Progress.

ALLEN FLETCHER (Resident Stage Director and Conservatory Director) is former artistic director of the Seattle Repertory Company. Among the many companies he has directed for are the Oregon Shakespearean Festival, the San Diego Shakespeare Festival, the New York City Opera and the APA. He spent four years at the American Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Conn., two of these as resident director and director of the training program and two as artistic director. Fletcher has directed the A.C.T. productions of Uncle Vanya, Death of a Salesman, Arsenic and Old Lace, The Hostage, Antony and Cleopatra and Paradise Lost, as well as co-directed The Crucible, which entered the repertory at the Stanford Summer Festival in 1967. He also directed A.C.T.’s highly successful productions of Hadrian VII, The Latent Heterosexual, That Championship Season, The HOT L BALTIMORE, The Miser, The Ruling Class and Desire Under the Elms, which was one of the two plays selected to tour the Soviet Union last summer as part of the U.S.A.-U.S.S.R. Cultural Exchange Program. Fletcher has also translated and directed numerous Ibsen plays for A.C.T., including An Enemy of the People, A Doll’s House, Pillars of the Community and Peer Gynt.

EDITH MARKSON (Development Director), a founder of A.C.T. in Pittsburgh, 1965, has served as vice president of the Board of Trustees ever since. She has been a leader in the resident theatre movement since its beginning. Mrs. Markson was a founder of the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and was responsible for bringing the APA Repertory Company there for a season. She also brought William Ball to that theatre, where he first directed Charley’s Aunt and Six Characters in Search of an Author, as well as Allen Fletcher, where he first directed The Crucible. Mrs. Markson currently serves on the executive board of directors of The Theatre Communications Group of which she is vice president, and on the Theatre Advisory Panel of the National Endowment for the Arts, for which she is also a consultant. She has also been a theatre consultant to the Ford Foundation in its Program for the Arts and Humanities.

JACK O’BRIEN (Guest Director) graduated from the University of Michigan and began his theatrical career with Ellis Rabb’s APA Repertory Company in New York, directing Cock-a-Doodle Dandy and Beckett’s Play. In past seasons at A.C.T. he has directed The Importance of Being Earnest, You Can’t Take It With You and served as lyricist for The Selling of the President. Associate Artistic Director of John Houseman’s Acting Company for two years, O’Brien’s directing credits include the San Francisco Opera, the National Shakespeare Festival in San Diego, the Loretto-Hilton in St. Louis, the American Opera Center at Juilliard, the Dallas Civic Opera, the Trinity Square Repertory in R.I., The Old Globe in San Diego and the Los Angeles production of The Heiress with Marsha Mason, Paul Shenar and Barry Sullivan. Slated to appear in Neil Simon’s new film, The Goodbye People, next spring, O’Brien has directed the current Broadway hit revivals of Porgy and Bess and will direct Tosca for the Houston Grand Opera.

LAIRD WILLIAMSON (Resident Stage Director) last season staged The Matchmaker, which also toured to Russia and Hawaii. For the Oregon Shakespearean Festival he directed Two Gentlemen of Verona, Titus Andronicus, Henry V, Love’s Labours Lost, The Alchemist and Rocky Horror and at the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts, Cabaret, Hotel Paradise and A Midsummer Night’s Dream. He has also acted with three companies and has been seen at A.C.T. in such productions as Cyrano de Bergerac, King Richard II and The Ruling Class. He also staged The Healers as part of A.C.T.’s Plays in Progress program.
Welcome to A.C.T.! The company is delighted to be back home after a busy summer. Immediately after last season—while Equus continued playing here—The Matchmaker and Desire Under the Elms traveled to the Soviet Union for a three-city tour under the auspices of the U.S. State Department and Soviet government. Both plays sold out weeks in advance in Moscow, Leningrad and Riga, and the company returned happy and grateful for the unique experience. In the true spirit of cultural exchange, they also brought back the popular Soviet play, Valentin and Valentina, which will be given its English-language premiere by A.C.T. in March. During July, Hawaiian audiences filled the Leeward Community College Theatre near Honolulu to see A.C.T.'s The Matchmaker and Equus, on the company's fourth annual tour to the Islands. August found the company at UC Berkeley Zellerbach Auditorium taping The Taming of the Shrew for the Public Broadcasting Service. At the September deadline for season ticket sales, A.C.T. recorded 21,332, the largest total in our history—thank you for joining us for our 11th San Francisco season!

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW
Set to Air Nov. 10 on KQED

The American Conservatory Theatre's commedia dell'arte production of The Taming of the Shrew, under the direction of William Ball, is scheduled to air Nov. 10 on nationwide public television stations as part of their "Great Performances" series. Winner of the Los Angeles Drama Critics' Circle Award and included in A.C.T.'s repertoire for three seasons, the popular Shakespearean comedy can be seen locally on KQED Channel 9.

London Theatre Tour for Association Members

A special theatre tour of London, scheduled for April 24 - May 9, 1977, is being sponsored by the Friends of A.C.T. Only members of the California Association for A.C.T. are eligible for the tour, which will be led by Professor Charles R. Lyons, chairman of the Drama Department at Stanford University. Pre-trip orientation will be included as well as the opportunity to meet British theatre personalities, tour backstage and enjoy London theatre at its finest. Non-members interested in the London Theatre Tour may call or write the California Association for A.C.T., 450 Geary St., S.F. 94102, (415) 771-3880. Descriptive brochures are also available at A.C.T.'s box office.

Young Conservatory Shows Set to Tour

Performance dates are now available for touring productions of A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory. The youthful performers will be seen in Hansel and Gretel, Steep on a Crack and Androcles and the Lion during the upcoming months. Schools and organizations are invited to call or write Candace Barrett, director of the Young Conservatory, for dates and booking information.

Student Jobs Needed

As you know, A.C.T. serves not only as the Bay Area's resident professional performing company but also as the nation's leading theatre training institute. The majority of our students have to work in order to sustain themselves. If you are interested in hiring an A.C.T. Conservatory student, please contact the Student Job Resources Committee of the Friends of A.C.T.

Black Actors Workshop
Set to Resume in November

The newest addition to A.C.T.'s conservatory programs, the Black Actors Workshop, will resume its second year of specialized training Nov. 2, continuing through May 28. Classes meet 10 hours weekly on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Auditions are now being scheduled by Sandra Richards, coordinator of the Workshop, with an application deadline of Oct. 22.
THE ACTING COMPANY

WAYNE ALEXANDER joins the company this season after two years in the Advanced Training Program. He also studied at Los Angeles City College, appeared with the Old Globe Theatre in Odesa, Tex., and this summer acted for the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts in The Ballad of the Sad Cafe, Romeo and Juliet, and Much Ado About Nothing (as Claudio). With A.C.T. he was seen in The Matchmaker, Desire Under the Elms and Peer Gynt, and was in the Plays in Progress stagings of The Girl With a Sense of Fair Play.

CANDACE BARRETT directs the Young Conservatory in addition to performing with the company. At A.C.T. she appeared in Pillars of the Community, Horatio, Street Scene, This Is (An Entertainment) and Peer Gynt. She has studied at Northwestern University and taught children's theatre at the University of Texas. She has been seen in The Shrew, Buckingham in King Richard III and the French doctor in The Merry Wives of Windsor, among others.

JOSEPH BIRD, now in his 7th season with A.C.T., made his Broadway debut in You Can't Take It With You and appeared in 10 off-Broadway productions. A featured actor in 17 APA-Phoenix Repertory productions in New York, he also toured Canada and the U.S. with this company. Bird toured in The Show Off with George Grizzard and Jesse Royce Landis and the Eastern University tour of The Misanthrope and Exit the King. He appeared three summers with San Diego's Old Globe Shakespeare Festival and was seen as Dr. Cushman on the CBS serial Love is a Many Splendored Thing.

RAYE BIRK came to A.C.T. three seasons ago from the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. He studied at Northwestern and the University of Minnesota, and taught acting at Southern Methodist. In four seasons at the Oregon Shakespearean Festival he directed The Imaginary Invalid and Midsummer Night’s Dream, and played the title roles in Hamlet and Macbeth, Shaylock in The Merchant of Venice and Thomas More in A Man for All Seasons. For A.C.T. he played Gremio in The Taming of the Shrew, Buckingham in King Richard III and the French doctor in The Merry Wives of Windsor, among others.

EARL BOEN returns for a fourth season after a summer of TV and film, appearing in Streets of San Francisco, a cameo role in the feature film Windfall, and the P.B.S. version of A.C.T.’s The Taming of the Shrew. Besides these and other TV/film credits, Boen has done extensive recording work in commercials and narrations, including multiple dialects and character voices. A veteran of other top regional theatres, he has been seen at A.C.T. in Pillars of the Community, Tiny Alice, Merry Wives of Windsor, Jumpers, Cherry Orchard, Cyrano, Ruling Class, and You Can’t Take It With You.
JOY CARLIN graduated from the University of Chicago and has studied at Yale Drama School and with Lee Stasberg. An original member of Chicago’s Playwright Theatre, she has appeared on Broadway with The Second City, in off-Broadway productions, with resident and summer theatres and in television and films. For A.C.T. she directed The House of Bernarda Alba and has performed in 17 productions.

DANIEL DAVIS has numerous stage credits in addition to two N.E.T. productions and a film. Appearing in many productions on and off Broadway, he played opposite Katherine Hepburn in the national touring company of Coco. He has played leading roles with the Stratford National Theatre of Canada, The American Shakespeare Festival, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Actors’ Theatre of Louisville, Cincinnati’s Playhouse in the Park, and the Oregon Shakespearean Festival. His roles at A.C.T. include Clarence in Richard III, Horatio Alger Jr. in Horatio, Dr. Herder in The Ruling Class, and the title role in Peer Gynt.

BARBARA DIRICKSON joined A.C.T. as a member of the training program five years ago and has appeared in Cyrano de Bergerac, The HOT L BALTI-MORE, The House of Bernarda Alba, The Cherry Orchard, Pillars of the Community, Jumpers, Street Scene, The Matchmaker, General Gorgeous, This Is (An Entertainment), Peer Gynt, Equus and The Taming of the Shrew. She has also worked in television and was seen as Rosalind in As You Like It with the Marin Shakespeare Festival. She performed with Sada Thompson at the Westport Country Playhouse in Shay, originally presented as part of the A.C.T. Plays in Progress program.

PETER DONAT has appeared at A.C.T. for eight seasons and on Broadway in several plays including The Chinese Prime Minister, The Entertainer and The First Gentleman (for which he won the Theatre World Award as best featured actor). He spent six seasons with the Stratford Canada Shakespeare Festival and has made many guest appearances on American TV networks. He has been seen here in Hadrian VII, The Merchant of Venice, An Enemy of the People, Cyrano de Bergerac and Equus, among others. Donat’s films include Godfather II, The Hindenburg, Billy Jack Goes to Washington and The Turning Point.

FRANCHELLE STEWART DORN came to A.C.T. last season after a tenure with the Yale Repertory Company in New Haven. She received a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Finch College in New York and earned her M.F.A. from Yale where she was a founding member of the Yale Summer Cabaret and Children’s Theatre Company. She performed for two years in Europe at the Frankfurt Playhouse. Dorn has trained in voice and has also studied dance with Carmen De Lavalade. Last season at A.C.T. she was seen in The Matchmaker, General Gorgeous, This Is (An Entertainment) and Peer Gynt.

SABIN EPSTEIN, an Associate Director with the company, also teaches Activation and directs student projects in the Conservatory. He played Dale Harding in Cuckoo’s Nest in San Francisco and was a member of the acting company at the 1976 Squaw Valley Writer’s Conference. He has been a guest director at the Utah Shakespearean Festival, and directed an experimental theatre workshop in Holland. Before joining A.C.T. in 1973 he toured Europe with the Cafe La Mama troupe and Traverse Workshop, and taught acting at the California Institute of the Arts.

JANICE GARCIA, in her second season with A.C.T., has completed a Master of Arts degree in Theatre Arts from San Jose State University, where she appeared in productions of Tango, Arsenic and Old Lace and Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris. Her roles also include Juliet in Romeo and Juliet, Hedvig in The Wild Duck and Nina in The Seagull. She was a member of the Creative Associates Repertory Company in San Jose and was awarded a fellowship by the Children’s Peninsula Theatre Association. Last season Miss Garcia was seen in Desire Under the Elms, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Peer Gynt and Equus.

CHARLES HALLAHAN returns for a fifth season at A.C.T. He has appeared in 27 A.C.T. productions. He also played R. P. McMurphy in the San Francisco production of One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.

HARRY HAMLIN, who received his B.A. in Drama from Yale University, joins the company this season after two years in the Advanced Training Program and appearing as Alan Strang in last season’s extension of Equus. He was also seen in Desire Under the Elms and The Taming of the Shrew. At the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts he appeared as Jud in Oklahoma, Demetrius in A Midsummer Night’s Dream and the Ship’s Captain in Peer Gynt.

JOHN HANCOCK, returning to A.C.T. after several seasons absence, was seen here as the Architect in The Architect and the Emperor of Assyria, Caliban in The Tempest, God in The Mystery Circle and in In White America. He has performed often with the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, the Actors Theatre of Louisville and the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts, has worked in T.V. and radio and on the concert stage. At A.C.T., he has also appeared in The Merchant of Venice, The Time of Your Life, The Hostage, The Relapse, Cyrano de Bergerac and The House of Blue Leaves.

LAWRENCE HECHT, beginning his third A.C.T. season after two years as a student in the Advanced Training Program, has a B.A. from the University of San Francisco, where he worked on the original Story Theatre. He was seen in Macbeth for the Xeregos Performing Company and also performed with the Marin Shakespeare Festival, the Company Theatre of Berkeley and the Grand Comedy Festival in Eureka. He teaches voice at A.C.T. and the University of San Francisco, where he is also a guest director. Last season he was seen in Desire Under the Elms, The Taming of the Shrew, Peer Gynt, and Equus.

ELIZABETH HUDDLE made her professional debut at New York’s Lincoln Center Repertory in the title role of The Country Wife and Grusha in The Caucasian Chalk Circle. This is her fifth season at A.C.T., where her roles have included the Duenna in Cyrano de Bergerac, Suzie in HOT L BALTIMORE, Mrs. Maurant in Street Scene, Dolly in The Matchmaker and the Countess in This Is (An Entertainment). This coming summer she will be guest artist with the Oregon Shakespearean Festival playing Cleopatra in Antony and Cleopatra and directing A Streetcar Named Desire.
AMY INGERSOLL, joining the company this season after two years with A.C.T.’s Advanced Training Program, also studied at the Herbert Berghof Studios and has a B.A. in theatre arts from Rollins College. She appeared in The Young Vic production of Scapino at the Geary, was in the original touring company of Jesus Christ Superstar and was seen in A.C.T.’s The Taming of the Shrew and Cyrano de Bergerac, along with two plays in Progress productions. She is an instructor in acting for the Conservatory.

GREGORY ITZIN, joining the company this season after two years in the Advanced Training Program, also studied at the University of Wisconsin. His frequent work for the Chateau Louise Players in Dundee, Ill., includes the role of Algernon in The Importance of Being Earnest. For the past two summers he has worked at the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts in such roles as The Stranger in Peer Gynt and Merly Ryan in The Battle of the Sad Cafe. At A.C.T. he has appeared in The Elms, The Matchmaker, Peer Gynt and several Plays in Progress productions.

DANIEL KERN joined the company after study in the Advanced Training Program, where this year he received an M.F.A. in Acting. He also holds a B.S. in psychology from the University of Oregon. Kern was First Narrator in Berloz’ Beatrice and Benedict, directed by Seiji Ozawa for the San Francisco Symphony. His A.C.T. credits include Desire Under the Elms, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Peer Gynt, The Taming of the Shrew, The Cherry Orchard, Cyrano de Bergerac, Street Scene and Jumpers. He has performed at the Colorado, Oregon and Marin Shakespeare Festivals.

MICHAEL KEYS-HALL returns to the company for a second season after completing two years in the A.C.T. Advanced Training Program. He has been seen in King Richard III, Cyrano de Bergerac, The Taming of the Shrew, Pillars of the Community and last season in Tiny Alice, Desire Under the Elms, The Merry Wives of Windsor, This Is (An Entertainment), Equus and Peer Gynt. Keys-Hall performed two seasons with the Alley Theatre in Houston, and spent two seasons with the Oregon Shakespearean Festival, where he appeared in Titus Andronicus, All’s Well That Ends Well, Romeo and Juliet and Henry VI, Part I.

ANNE LAWDER was an original member of the Actor’s Workshop. In New York she studied movement with Katya Delakova and phonetics with Alice Hermes (which Lawder teaches in the Conservatory), and has sung with the N.Y.C. Opera chorus. Most recently she has appeared in the Seattle Repertory Theatre productions of Three-Penny Opera, Lysistrata, Mourning Becomes Electra and Our Town. At A.C.T. she has been seen in The Tavern, A Doll’s House, The House of Bernarda Alba, Tonight at 8:30, You Can’t Take It With You, Pillars of the Community, Desire Under the Elms, This Is (An Entertainment), Peer Gynt and Equus.

DEBORAH MAY, now in her fifth season with A.C.T., studied at A.C.T.’s Conservatory. May has been Artist-in-Residence at Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts, where she was seen in The Music Man, Brigadoon, The Mikado and Most Happy Fella as well as Helena in Midsummer Night’s Dream, Lucy in Dracula and Consuelo in He Who Gets Slapped. At A.C.T. she was seen as Roxane in Cyrano de Bergerac, Alice in You Can’t Take It With You, and Irene Malloy in The Matchmaker and appeared in Tonight at 8:30, The Crucible, Broadway, The Miser, The Threepenny Opera, The Mystery Circle, The House of Blue Leaves, The Taming of the Shrew and General Gorgeous.

DELORES Y. MITCHELL, who joins the company this season after two years in the Advanced Training Program, played Mama Rosie in Black Girl for the West Coast Black Repertory Theatre, Maryte in Adam King for the Everyman Theatre, and Theresa in Hurricane Season for the Free Southern Theatre. She has a B.A. from Florida A. & M. University. This summer she was seen in The Little Foxes and Henry VI, Part II at the Oregon Shakespearean Festival, and with A.C.T. she has appeared in The Taming of the Shrew, Peer Gynt and Desire Under the Elms.

WILLIAM PATTERSON begins his tenth season with A.C.T. this fall. 1976 also marks his 30th year as a professional actor. He has played almost 300 roles in stock and repertory, many of them at the Cleveland Playhouse. He has appeared frequently on TV and made five national tours with his original one-man shows, one on Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes and the other on Benjamin Franklin. At A.C.T. he has been seen in The Matchmaker, The Ruling Class, Jumpers, The Taming of the Shrew, Caesar and Cleopatra, The Time of Your Life, Three Sisters, Dandy Dick and as Grandpa Vanderhof in You Can’t Take It With You.

SUSAN E. PELLEGRINO, who joins the company this season in the Advanced Training Program, was seen in A.C.T.’s Desire Under the Elms and The Taming of the Shrew and the Plays in Progress production of Growing Pains. This summer she acted with the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts as Louise in Gypsy, in The Ballad of the Sad Cafe and The Uther Glory of Morrissey Hall, creating the role of Miss Teresa Winkle. She also studied at California State University (San Francisco), City College of San Francisco and with the Pacific Ballet.

RAY REINHARDT, who celebrated A.C.T.’s memorable tour of Russia as Ephraim in Desire Under the Elms, is known to San Franciscans as the lead in Cyrano, The Miser, Stanley in A Streetcar Named Desire, Andrew Wyke in Sleuth and Astrov in Uncle Vanya. He has appeared on Broadway as the Lawyer in Tiny Alice, which he recreated with A.C.T. The past two summers he has appeared with Megan Cole at Souverain winery in their highly praised An Evening of Comedy. His television credits include Hawaii 5-0, Nichols, Arnir, Gunsmoke and several award-winning N.E.T. dramas.

STEPHEN ST. PAUL (formerly Schnetzer) came to A.C.T. after a year’s study at the Julliard School in New York. His off-Broadway credits include Cymbeline and Timon of Athens for Joseph Papp’s New York Shakespeare Festival. He performed in Julius Caesar and Antony and Cleopatra for the American Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford, Conn., and at P.C.P.A. as Oberon in Midsummer Night’s Dream. His roles at A.C.T. include Christian in Cyrano, Lucentio in both the stage and television versions of The Taming of the Shrew and the Blue Mutant in General Gorgeous.

FRANCINE TACKER, now in her second season at A.C.T., completed the Advanced Training Program in 1973. For the San Diego Shakespeare Festival she performed in The Merchant of Venice and Two Gentlemen of Verona, and at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art performed in A Winter’s Tale and The Beaux Stratagem. She holds a B.S. degree from Emerson College and has done post-graduate work in the classics. For the P.C.P.A. she played Titania in A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Solanig in Peer Gynt. Last season with A.C.T. she was seen in Equus, Peer Gynt, This Is (An Entertainment) and General Gorgeous.
TO THE AUDIENCE

curtain time: in response to numerous requests, LATECOMERS WILL NOT BE SEATED—after the opening or intermission curtain—until a suitable break in the performance.

please—while in the auditorium: Observe the "NO SMOKING" regulations; do not use cameras or tape recorders; do not carry in refreshments. Please note the NEAREST EXIT. In emergency, WALK, do not run, to the exit. (By order of mayor and city's board of supervisors.)

for your convenience: DOCTORS may leave the number 771-9903 with their call services and give name and seat number to house manager.

credits

■ WILLIAM GANSLER and DENNIS ANDERSON for photography.

■ SPECIAL DISCOUNT RATES are available to clubs and organizations attending A.C.T. in groups of 25 or more at both the Geary and Marines' Memorial Theatres. Special student matinees (not listed on regular schedules) are also offered to school groups. Information on all group discounts and student performances may be obtained by calling or writing Mary C. Woodward at A.C.T.

■ TICKET INFORMATION: The A.C.T. Box Office at the Geary Theatre is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday but closes at 6 p.m. on days when there is no performance. When attractions are playing at the Marines Memorial Theatre, the Geary Box Office is also open 12 to 8 p.m. for Sunday performances. Tickets to Marines' Theatre shows are ALSO available 90 minutes prior to curtain at the Marines' Theatre Box Office. For further information regarding attractions at the Marines', telephone (415) 771-4858; for information regarding the A.C.T. Repertory, call (415) 673-6440.

■ TO RECEIVE ADVANCE NOTICE OF SPECIAL A.C.T. EVENTS, PLEASE SIGN REGISTER IN GEARY THEATRE LOBBY, OR SEND YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS TO: A.C.T. MAILING LIST, A.C.T., 450 GEARY ST., S.F. 94102.

The American Conservatory Theatre is supported by the California Association for A.C.T., as well as by grants from the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the California Arts Commission, the City and County of San Francisco and the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C., a federal agency.

Understudies never substitute for listed players unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance.

Tony Teague
J. Steven White
Sydney Walker
Marrian Walters

AL WHITE is from San Francisco and graduated from George Washington High School and City College. He came to A.C.T. after having been seen as George in The Ballad of Dangerous George and has appeared at A.C.T. in King Richard III, Cyrano, Street Scene, The Ruling Class, Tiny Alice, Desire Under the Elms, The Merry Wives of Windsor, This Is (An Entertainment), Peer Gynt, Equis and The Taming of the Shrew. Bay Area audiences have also seen him in Plays for Living, The Man Nobody Saw, For Sale, All the Caterpillars You Want and Time Bomb. His TV credits include The Streets of San Francisco and he appeared in the film Harold and Maude.

J. STEVEN WHITE, a specialist in sword and combat choreography who teaches those skills at A.C.T., came here from the American Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Conn., four seasons ago. A veteran of three seasons with the Oregon Shakespearean Festival, at A.C.T. he has been seen in seven P.I.P. productions and 16 at the Geary, including the roles of Ronnie in House of Blue Leaves, Paul Granger in THE HOT L BALTIMORE and Valvert in Cyrano de Bergerac. He staged the sword fights in Romeo and Juliet for the San Francisco Ballet, and also for P.C.P.A. and the San Francisco Opera.

JAMES R. WINKER, who spent a year in A.C.T.’s Training Program prior to joining the acting company, holds a master’s degree in graphics from the University of Wisconsin. He spent three years with On Stage Tonight, touring musical revues, and three USA tours. His A.C.T. credits include The Taming of the Shrew, The Miser, Tonight at 8:30, Pillars of the Community, Horatio, The Ruling Class, Broadway, The Matchmaker (as Cornelius Hackl), The Merry Wives of Windsor, This Is (An Entertainment), Peer Gynt and the title role in the P.I.P. production of David Dances.