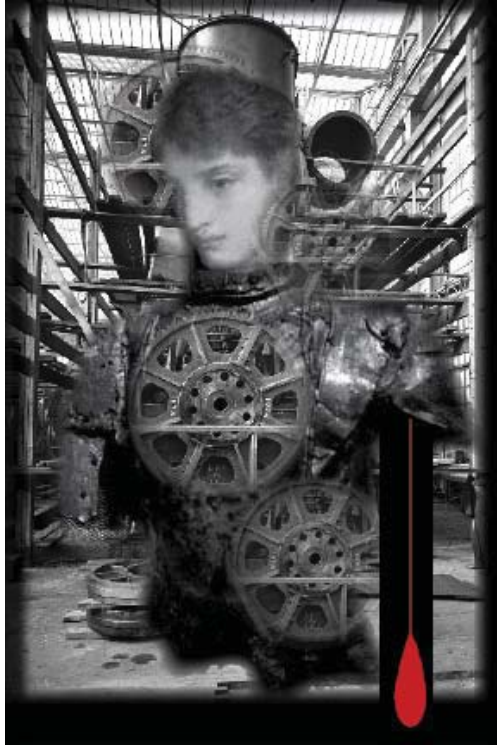


**butterfield**

**8** theatre  
company

presents



# HAMMLET

May 6 through May 29, 2010

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## Downtown Nails

Butterfield 8 Theatre Company presents

# HAMLET

by William Shakespeare  
Adapted for Butterfield 8 Theatre Company  
by Maureen-Theresa Williams

## Featuring

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Nick Jackson

Deborah Doyle

Donald L. Hardy

Becky Potter

John Butterfield  
David Hardie  
Edwin Peabody

Alan Cameron  
Melynda Kiring  
Julia Scharlach

Ray Christensen  
Peter J. McArthur  
Ian Williams

Maureen-Theresa Williams

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### Scenic Design

John Butterfield  
and Jean Butterfield

### Costumes

Liz Martin,  
Pink Depford Design Studio

### Lighting Design

John Butterfield

### Costume Crew, Assistants & Minions

Thayer Lund (Head Minion),  
Suzette Davidson,  
Lynn Downward,  
Kathleen MacKay, Rae Phillips

### Sound Effects

Jim Lively

### Sound & Light Engineer

Eric Johnson

### Gertrude's Costumes

Victoria Ridenour

### Sound & Light Operator

Salem Evans

### Automaton Maquettes and Masks

Jean Butterfield

### Fight Choreography

Christopher Mantione

### Postcard and Poster Design

Jean Butterfield

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Directed by **John Butterfield**

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

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**W**hy Steampunk Hamlet?

**S**teampunk gave us a great jumping off place: in this world we are in the heart of Victoriana – a perfect place for a family drama.

**T**he difference in this world is the industry and the role of women. In this distopia women have an equal footing, this helped a great deal as we have changed the gender of several characters, and a change of gender always makes us look at relationships in a different way. What had always bothered me about this play is Polonius is always painted as a fool or a bastard, so why would his children react as they do? Granted, I am looking at this through 20th century eyes, but this is also how you, the audience, will view the work. In the brief scene of Polonia and her children we have, I hope, established a loving family. This is in contrast to Hamlet's family, and how the act of one brings the rest to ruin.

**H**amlet is a young man's role. The passion of youth is what drives him to distraction, his world is in turmoil. He has returned to a Catholic court from a school deep in the heart of the Lutheran revolution, he is a free thinker and is embarking on the discovery of self. Confronted by the ghost of his father he is frozen, unable to act but when he does his actions start a sequence of events that cannot be stopped.

**T**his is by far the largest work we have taken on. I hope you enjoy the world we have struggled to build for you.

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# THIS PRODUCTION

is dedicated to the memory of

Barbara Joan Baker Peabody

May 14, 1946 – April 19, 2010

# THE ACTORS

(The best Actors in the world, either for tragedy, comedy, history, pastoral...)

## In order of appearance

FRANCISCO, <i>a soldier</i> .....	Alan Cameron
BERNARDO, <i>a soldier</i> .....	Ray Christensen
HORATIO, <i>friend to Hamlet</i> .....	Peter J. McArthur
MARCELLA, <i>an officer</i> .....	Julia Scharlach
GHOST of <i>King Hamlet, once King of Denmark</i> .....	Donald L. Hardy
CLAUDIUS, <i>King of Denmark,</i> <i>brother to the deceased King Hamlet</i> .....	Donald L. Hardy
LAERTES, <i>son to Polonia</i> .....	Edwin Peabody
POLONIA, <i>Chamberlain</i> .....	Maureen-Theresa Williams
HAMLET, <i>son to the former,</i> <i>and nephew to the present King</i> .....	Nick Jackson
GERTRUDE, <i>Queen of Denmark</i> .....	Deborah Doyle
OPHELIA, <i>daughter to Polonia</i> .....	Becky Potter
A PAGE, <i>attending on the King and Queen</i> .....	Ian Williams
ROSENCRANTZ, <i>courtier and friend to Hamlet</i> .....	Melynda Kiring
GUILDENSTERN, <i>courtier and friend to Hamlet</i> .....	David Hardie
Leading PLAYER, <i>performing the role of King</i> .....	Alan Cameron
Another PLAYER, <i>performing the role of Queen</i> .....	Julia Scharlach
Another PLAYER, <i>performing the role of Lucianus</i> .....	Ray Christensen
Another PLAYER .....	John Butterfield
A COURTIER, <i>attending on Gertrude</i> .....	Julia Scharlach
A GRAVEDIGGER .....	David Hardie
The Gravedigger's ASSISTANT .....	Melynda Kiring
A PRIEST.....	Alan Cameron
OSRIC, <i>a courtier</i> .....	Ray Christensen
Another COURTIER .....	John Butterfield



The play takes place in and around the Palace at Elsinore



There will be one 15-minute intermission

# WHAT IS STEAMPUNK

**S**teampunk Hamlet? For every person I meet that can instantly picture the punked-out Victorian dress with the copper-and-brass-toned gears that make it all click like clockwork, there are another five people who look blankly at me and say “steam-what?” Steampunk, as I’ve discovered, has no definition, no simple explanation, but rather is an amalgamation of images and ingenuity that has reached beyond a simple genre and now lives precariously in the world of sub-culture.

**S**teampunk takes its cue from the writings of H.G. Wells, Jules Verne, and Arthur Conan Doyle. Victorian sensibilities with fantastical ingenuity. Dirigibles and time machines powered by clockwork gears and steam power. While these classic authors inspire the genre, the word “Steampunk” was coined by K.W. Jeter in 1987 as a way of distinguishing the writing he and others were doing: Victorian Science-Fiction, set in the age of steam.

**T**he combination of high Victorian sensibilities coupled with technology run by copper gears and steam has inspired artists and inventors alike to reveal the artistry of the mundane (say a computer keyboard fashioned with typewriter keys). The detail and nakedness of the machinery allows an openness and honesty in a world where secrets are hidden behind a mask of civility. In Steampunk Elsinore the secrets kept by Claudius are revealed to Hamlet through the transparent technology and artistry that guides the Dane through his fantastical journey.

**A**nd it looks cool too.



Becky Rotter  
Dramaturg

# THE ACTORS

**John Butterfield** (Director; Player/Courtier) is the founder and Artistic Director of Butterfield 8 Theatre Company, now in its fourth season at Cue Productions Live, and has been directing and choreographing productions in the Bay area for many years. He studied directing at Toi Whakaari/Victoria University in New Zealand, and while there performed in *Shifting*; a devised work at BATS theatre in Wellington. Late last year he returned to New Zealand where he staged *Mates and Lovers* to critical acclaim at BATS. He has taught theatre and dance locally at CTA and San Ramon Dance Academy and is currently teaching at Berkeley Ballet. As a dancer he has toured the US with Dance Through Time and ODC, and was a member of Company Chaddick for 8 years. He is a LEAP graduate from St. Mary's College, and in addition to directing and choreographing continues to perform both locally and in New Zealand. To his whanau in NZ "Kaore i taea e au te huna taku manako te koe."



**Alan Cameron** (Francisco/Lead Player/Priest) has been active in local theatre for over 30 years. For his last stage appearance with Butterfield 8, as Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*, he was nominated for a Shellie Award. He has appeared previously in B8's productions of *Romeo & Julian* (Friar Lawrence) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Dogberry), and his Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, was a great popular and critical success. In 2005, he played Cole Porter in Danville Role Players' *Red, Hot and Cole* and received the 1995 Shellie Award as Outstanding Actor in a Musical for his portrayal of Buddy in Stephen Sondheim's *Follies* (CCMT). Other notable roles include Henry Etches in CCMT's award-winning production of *Titanic* and Malvolio in Town Hall/Butterfield 8's *Twelfth Night* in 2004. He has twice collaborated to create original productions for Town Hall Theatre Company: *Gershwin: Of Thee We Sing!* in 1999 and *Purely Porter: The World According to Cole* in 2000. In April of 2003 he made his local directorial debut with THTC's production of the *The Women* for which he received a Shellie nomination as Outstanding Director, and last season directed the same show for Butterfield 8. Alan is a native of Tacoma, WA and holds a BA in Music from Willamette University. An Oakland resident, he has worked for the Kaiser Permanente organization since 1987.

# THE ACTORS

continued

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**Ray Christensen** (Bernardo/Player Lucianus/Osric) makes his debut with Butterfield 8, although he composed original music for B8's *Much Ado About Nothing*. Other Shakespearean roles include Sebastian in *The Tempest*, and both Anitpholuses in *Comedy of Errors*. Primarily a musical theater performer, Ray's favorite roles include Carrasco in *Man of La Mancha*, Jigger in *Carousel*, and Hancock in *1776*. Most recently, he appeared as Paddy in the Willows Theatre Company production of *Brimstone*. Ray is currently developing a musical, *Legend of the Werewolf*, for which he wrote book, music and lyrics.



**Deborah Doyle** (Gertrude) made her Butterfield 8 debut last year in *Cymbeline* and was recently seen as Lady Croom in *Arcadia*. She plays Queen Elizabeth I at various California renaissance faires and is dedicated to bringing history to life through performance. As a member of several women's vocal troupes, Deborah's repertoire includes songs of the sea, Old California and the British music hall, but she confesses to being a closet traditional jazz fan. She is an advocate and fundraiser for public libraries and lives in San Francisco's Excelsior District with her husband.



**David Hardie** (Guildenstern/Gravedigger) is honored to be back with Butterfield 8, having performed in the past in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 2002, *Twelfth Night* in 2004, *Blithe Spirit* in 2006, *Romeo and Julian* and *Much Ado About Nothing* in 2007, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The Merchant of Venice* in 2008, *As You Like It* in 2009, and most recently as Ezra Chater in *Arcadia*. This, and every performance he gives, is dedicated to the memory of his BEST friend Terri "Buster" Bischel who passed away from cancer in 2006. Love you, miss you! Giddy Up!



# THE ACTORS

continued

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**D**onald L. Hardy (King Hamlet's Ghost/Claudius) has appeared in theatrical productions on both the East and West coasts, performing *The Normal Heart*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *The Tempest*, *The Secret Garden*, and *Falsettos*. In October of 2006 he first appeared with Butterfield 8 as Charles Condomine in Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit*, and then as Prince Escalus in *Romeo and Julian*. He performed as Benedick in B8's *Much Ado About Nothing* (a part he's wanted to play since Eisenhower was in the White House), and followed that with creating the role of Mr. Kale in the B8 workshop production of *The Bird House*. He then took an unexpected turn as Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and performed the dual roles of Lane and Merriman in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Last season he portrayed Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice* and the title role in *Cymbeline*, and began this season with the dual roles of Duke Senior and Duke Frederick in *As You Like It* before jumping into the role of Bernard Nightingale in *Arcadia*. When he isn't onstage or in rehearsal, he's an avid Renaissance (Faire) Man—proving that even when he's offstage, he's onstage—or working on one of several novels/ novellas/short stories that are percolating in his feverish little brain. His current project is a stage adaptation of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, which will be workshopped in this season's New Works Series.



**N**ick Jackson (Hamlet) is deeply honored to be playing Hamlet with Butterfield 8. After playing Tubal in B8's *Merchant of Venice*, Nick went on to play Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Impact Theatre and toured with The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's *Romeo and Juliet*. Nick recently finished up SF Shakes' latest tour where he played Hamlet. The past four summers he has played with Antioch Classical Theatre Company in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Hamlet*, *As You Like It*, and most recently *Twelfth Night* in which he played Malvolio. Nick has also played with Antioch's Hapgood Theatre. After Hamlet, Nick will be taking an indefinite break from the theatre to follow God on some unknown journey.

# THE ACTORS

continued

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**M**elynda Kiring (Rosencrantz/Gravedigger's Assistant) was last seen at Butterfield 8 as Olga the chatty manicurist in *The Women* and is very happy to be back. A four-time Shellie Award recipient, she has had the great pleasure to be many other people around the bay area: Muzzy Van Hossmere (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*), Agnes (*I Do! I Do!*), Mrs. Lovett – twice! (*Sweeney Todd*), Mabel (*Mack & Mabel*), The Witch (*Into the Woods*), Myrna (*Quadrille*), Hippolyta (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Illona (*She Loves Me*), Miss Hannigan (*Annie*), Princess Puffer (*The Mystery of Edwin Drood*), Ida (*Honk!*), Gertrude McFuzz (*Seussical*), A Front Incisor (her epic fourth grade school play for Dental Health Week, *The Revolt of the Foolish Molar*), Agnes Gooch (*Mame*), Berthe (*Pippin*), Meg Brockie (*Brigadoon*), Mad Margaret (*Ruddygore*), Ms. Darbus – twice! (*High School Musical*), Nancy - three times! (*Oliver!*), Emma Goldman (*Ragtime*), Mrs. Candour (*A School for Scandal*), and a 25-year host of others.



**P**eter J. McArthur (Horatio) has been acting on stage and on camera for over 20 years. He is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City where he was also a member of the Academy Company. He has done independent and regional theater on the west coast since then and has worked with such local companies as CalShakes, Brookside Rep, DAE, and Onstage. Most recently he has been seen as Max Brod in *Franz Kafka's Love Life, Letters and Hallucinations* at the Berkeley City Club, Pisanio in B8's *Cymbeline* (Shellie Award nomination), Christian in *Cyrano de Bergerac* with Orinda Starlight Village Players, Orlando in B8's *As You Like It*, and Valentine in B8's *Arcadia*. Special thanks to his family, for all their love and support.



# THE ACTORS

continued

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**Edwin Peabody** (Laertes) is thrilled to be involved in his second season with Butterfield 8 Theatre Company. He was most recently seen as the title role in *Mister Roberts* with Galatean Players, as the title role in *Cyrano de Bergerac* with Orinda Starlight Village Players, as the melancholy Jaques in B8's *As You Like It*, and as Septimus Hodge in B8's *Arcadia*. He trained at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Hollywood, where he graduated with the Voice & Speech award and was invited to attend the coveted Third Year Academy Company. This role, like all others, is dedicated to his wife's unwavering love and support for his theatrical endeavors. I hope you enjoy the show!



**Becky Potter** (Ophelia) is always thrilled to be returning to Butterfield 8 where she has appeared as Nerissa in *The Merchant of Venice*, Nancy in the staged reading of *Abigail Dreary*, Cecily in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Imogen in *Cymbeline* (for which she was nominated for a Shellie Award), Leona in *Zelda's Mama's Cookin'*, and Thomasina in *Arcadia*. Becky graduated from UC Irvine where some of her favorite roles included Claire in *Fuddy Meers*, Silvius in *As You Like It*, Dunyazade in *Arabian Nights*, and Ruthie in *Bat Boy*. In the Bay Area she has been seen in such shows as *In the Beginning*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Brimstone*, and every performance of *John Muir's Mountain Days* (all for the Willows Theatre Company) and in *Peter Pan* (DLOC). Becky is finishing her Masters of Drama at San Francisco State University.

**Julia Scharlach** (Marcella/Player Queen/Courtier) is excited to be making her third appearance with Butterfield 8. You previously saw her as Touchstone in this season's *As You Like It* and as Chloe in *Arcadia*. Julia is a professional acting student, having studied at the American Conservatory Theatre, the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, and the British American Drama Academy's summer program in Oxford, England. Thank you to mom and dad for believing in me, my sister for marrying and buying a house (the pressure is off), Peter for being you, and a special thank you to Tallest Silver for the donations of my costume pieces - No one does it like you lil sis.

# THE ACTORS

continued

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**I**an Williams (Page) makes his fourth appearance with Butterfield 8, seen previously as the Changeling Boy in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as Thurmond in *Zelda's Mama's Cookin'*, and as Gus/Lord Augustus (for one performance) in *Arcadia*. He made his theatrical debut at the age of seven, appearing in the Willows Theatre Company production of *Children of Eden* as a Young Storyteller, and later that year in the ensemble of *John Muir's Mountain Days*. Ian studied with the Willows Conservatory, where he appeared as the duckling Squat in *Honk Jr.*, and as Franklin in *Snoopy!* He is in the eighth grade at Walnut Creek Intermediate School.



**M**aureen-Theresa Williams (Polonia), a founding member and Co-Artistic Director of Butterfield 8, has performed with the company in *Last Letters* (Madame Un), *Dracula* (Mina Murray Harker), *Medea* (First Woman of Corinth), *Twelfth Night* (Maria), *Blithe Spirit* (Ruth), *Romeo and Julian* (Nurse), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Beatrice), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hippolyta), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Miss Prism), *The Merchant of Venice* (Duchess of Venice), *Zelda's Mama's Cookin'* (Zelda), and *The Women* (Edith, for which she was nominated for a Shellie Award), and was last seen as Hannah Jarvis in *Arcadia*. Over the past thirty-some-odd years, Maureen has been privileged to perform with Act Now!, Angry Reynolds Productions, Antioch Rivertown Theatre, Arclight Repertory Theatre, Chanticleers, Civic Arts Rep, Contra Costa Civic Theatre, Odyssey Players, Onstage, Subterranean Shakespeare, Theatrefest, Dramateurs/Town Hall Theatre Company, and the Willows Theatre Company, as well as for Diablo Valley College and Cal State Hayward.



# THE ARTISTIC STAFF

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**Jean Butterfield** (Automaton Maquettes and Player Masks) has performed with, designed and constructed props and masks for both New Urban Dance and Butterfield 8. She is also a playwright whose work has received public and staged readings from Central Works' Workshop in Berkeley, RAW (Ross Alternative Works) in Marin, Reverie Productions in NYC, and Butterfield 8 at Cue live. She is grateful to B8 and her little brother, John, for allowing her to help build the marvelous altered universe of Steampunk Hamlet, and his unending generosity in giving space to artists of various backgrounds to expand their abilities and their belief in what is possible.

**Chris Mantione** (Fight Choreography) is proud to be working on his second production with Butterfield 8, having staged the memorable cat fight in last season's production of *The Women*. Chris is a Theatre major at U.C. Davis, and has studied Stage Combat and Fight Choreography with Brian Herndon of Solano Community College's Actor Training Program and with Dave Maer of Berkeley Rep. and Dueling Arts International. Chris has choreographed many staged fights both on stage and for scene studies, and as an actor, recently appeared as Scotty in the Willows Theatre Company production of *Evil Dead, The Musical*. Chris would like to thank John Butterfield for the opportunity to work with the company, his parents Pam and Rich for their continued support, and his wonderful girlfriend Sarah for sticking by him from the start. Oh, and one more thing...I love PopTarts!!!!



# THE ARTISTIC STAFF

continued

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**Liz Martin** (Costumes) has been costuming for over 25 years. Her custom costuming business, Pink Depford Design Studio ([www.pinkdepford.com](http://www.pinkdepford.com)) has built costumes for actors, re-enactors, wineries, and a squirrel. Prior to her current work with Butterfield 8 she has worked with several theater companies in the Bay Area: Ross Valley Players (*The Miracle Worker*), Vagabond Players (*Sound of Music*) & Martinez Opera (*Madame Butterfly*). She has been the costume director for the Great Dickens Christmas Fair since 2007. She gives thanks everyday that she has the opportunity to make her living doing two the things she enjoys the most: costuming and nails. She currently lives in Pinole with her two cats, one of which is planning on taking over the world!

**Victoria Ridenour** (Gertrude's Costumes) has been designing and creating costumes and historical clothing for over thirty years. She received her degree in theatrical design and built her own business thereafter. Visit and view her work at [VictoriaRidenour.com](http://VictoriaRidenour.com).

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## NEXT FROM BUTTERFIELD 8

Join us for our third **New Works Series**,  
presenting a staged reading of  
*Pride & Prejudice*,  
by local author and B8 company member Donald L. Hardy.

This two-part production will be staged across two consecutive weeks. As always, we invite our audience to meet with the cast and playwright after the performance to provide feedback and help shape this new work, scheduled for production as part of B8's 2010-2011 season.

July 16-18 and July 23-25, 2010

[www.b8company.com/events.htm](http://www.b8company.com/events.htm)

# THANK YOU

from the Director

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It is hard to begin this list – so many people have helped us!

Rat Church – as always our rock in a storm

The Company for pressure under fire. So much happened to us during this work. You all pulled together and had each others' back. You are why I don't hang it up tomorrow; you give me hope

Jean for the automatons (so glad they are out of the house and in the theatre) and the masks, for remaining calm when I am not, and all the little things you do for the Company

Eric Johnson for the sound and for all the help on the set and window, the phone, and everything

Jim Lively for our sound effects

Costumer Liz Martin who did it on a shoestring

Judy and Jerry Rotter for all their support – photographic, financial and otherwise

Gerry Blalock for following us around with his camera

Fly Me Pretties for the music

Mo for the cuts, the support, the work and the friendship

Rossmoor Shakespeare Society

Deborah for her guidance and for taking things off my plate

Peter for a season of lovely work. We will miss you.

Dear Audience Member,

You may not be a millionaire, yet when you purchased your ticket for this show you became a philanthropist and a supporter of the arts in your community. Every ticket that you buy for local theatre, every drink or snack you purchase in the lobby, supports the hidden organization of people behind the scenes who supply space for rehearsal and performance, costumes, sets, props, programs, publicity, and all the hidden structure that supports the work that the actors do. Please, continue to be our philanthropist, and our partner, in shaping and keeping the theatre alive.



Artistic Director  
Butterfield 8



Butterfield 8 productions are made possible in part by contributions from the lucky stores S.H.A.R.E.S program, and the Bank of America Matching Gifts Program, and the generous donations of patrons like you.

**THANK YOU**



We are always looking for people to be active members of our Board of Directors. The job requires people who have experience living and working in the world, with an interest in helping us grow as a theatre company. Please contact John Butterfield at (510) 282-6174 or [8butterfield@gmail.com](mailto:8butterfield@gmail.com).



[www.theatrebayarea.org](http://www.theatrebayarea.org)