

 **The Antaeus Company** *presents*

CHEKHOV X 4

“... between the extremes of the established regional stages and tiny theatrical groups struggling to survive are a number of surprising success stories. The Antaeus Company is one of these.”

*David Mermelstein
The New York Times*



THE PROPOSAL
THE ANNIVERSARY
THE BEAR
SWAN SONG

by Anton Chekhov

World Premiere Translations
by Nicholas Saunders and Frank Dwyer

NewPlace Theatre Center
4900 Vineland Avenue
NoHo Arts District



Alicia Wollerton and
Nike Doukas in *The Liar*

Letter from the Artistic Directors

"Youth, Nikitushka! Freshness! Life! . . . Where you've got art, there's no room for old age, there's no room for loneliness or being ill. Even death's only half itself!"
— Anton Chekhov, *Swan Song*

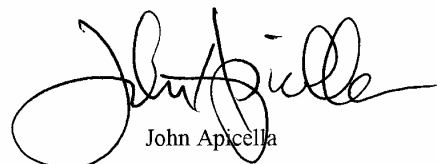
Chekhov's words in the play you'll see tonight so poignantly express why we are here, and why we're happy you are here with us. Art is what sustains us, gives meaning to the mundane, permanence to the passing, and calls us to our highest potential as people.

What you will see tonight is the great wealth of our company -- wealth that won't be immediately obvious when you walk in. You won't see it in the rather modest (but most welcome) studio theater you sit in. You won't see it in our offices, or if you walk a little north, in our shell of a mainstage theatre. You won't see it in our bank account or in our (non-existent) salaries. Our wealth resides in our ensemble itself, in the talent and expertise and standing of our actors, directors, designers and other theater artists we attract; in Founding Artistic Director Dakin Matthews' vision for the company, in the members of our diverse and multi-talented Board of Directors, and in the enthusiasm of our audiences, many of you loyal supporters who have been with us for years. What we already have is priceless: the rest is easy, it only takes cash.

....Well, easy, might not be the best word. Raising the amount of money we need to realize our dream of producing important theater on a regular basis makes for a tough road ahead. Walk around while you are here tonight, envision the cultural enclave that we imagine here at NewPlace Theatre Center. See what we see: a mainstage with a fully scheduled season of plays, a studio theater presenting a variety of workshop productions, a full-fledged acting school training the next generation of classical actors, an outdoor café for patrons and the community; a research library in the classics for students and scholars. See if the work we do excites you and inspires you to get involved. If you do share our vision, we urge you to HELP US MAKE IT REAL. Your support in any capacity — in-kind donations, volunteer help, and, of course, fully deductible financial contributions - will help make our vision a reality.

In 2000 the New York Times said of us "...between the extremes of the established regional stages and tiny theatrical groups struggling to survive are a number of surprising success stories. The Antaeus Company is one of these." The struggle for survival continues on a daily basis. But tonight, thanks to our wonderful artists — John, Emily, Anne Gee, JD, Dawn, Marty, Angela, Harry Arye, Tamara, Jeremy, Lawrence, Philip, Laura, Nick, Michele, Sabin, Michael, Andy, Stephanie, Jay, Vaughan, Tuesday, Leigh, Young, Kaitlin, Amy, Andrew, Dakin — and thanks to you, we celebrate our riches.


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The Antaeus Company presents

CHEKHOV X 4

The World Premiere of 4 new Anton Chekhov translations

THE PROPOSAL—*directed by* Sabin Epstein
THE BEAR—*directed by* Stephanie Shroyer
THE ANNIVERSARY—*directed by* Michael Michetti
SWAN SONG—*directed by* Andy Robinson
Entire production supervised by Jeanie Hackett
Assistant Director — Jay Mower

With Antaeus Company Actors and Guests:
Eugene Alper, Tony Amendola, John Apicella,
Anne Gee Byrd, Nick Cagle, JD Cullum,
Dawn Didawick, Ralph Drischell, Connor Kelly-Eiding,
Martin Ferrero, Angela Goethals, Harry Groener,
Arye Gross, Michael Kirby, Tamara Krinsky,
Dakin Matthews, Lawrence Pressman, Philip Proctor,
Laura Russell, And Michele Trapani

Sets
Vaughan Edwards

Costumes
Tuesday Conner

Lighting
Leigh Allen

Properties
Nick Cagle

Stage Manager
Young Ji

Associate Producer
Kaitlin Harper

Produced by special arrangement with Bruce Ostler,
BRET ADAMS, LTD., 448 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036

THE ANTAEUS COMPANY

L.A.'S CLASSICAL THEATER ENSEMBLE

Dakin Matthews— Founding Artistic Director
 John Apicella & Jeanie Hackett — Artistic Directors
 Bill Frischman— Business Manager

Board of Directors

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Jeanne Cranford	Steve Cranford	Terry Evans
Bill Frischman	Arye Gross	Holly Harter
Marilyn Mandel	Jeffrey Nordling	Abby Gail Palanker
Phil Proctor	Richard Schulenberg	Marcelo Tubert

Ensemble and Associate Members

John Achorn	Rhonda Aldrich	Tony Amendola
John Apicella	Fran Bennett	Emily Bergl
Gigi Bermingham	D. Martyn Bookwalter	Maryedith Burrell
Anne Gee Byrd	Dean Cameron	Kandis Chappell
Emily Chase	John Combs	Tuesday Connor
Robert Cornthwaite	JD Cullum	Dawn Didawick
Francia DiMase	Mark Doerr	Nike Doukas
Ralph Drischell	Paul Eiding	Terry Evans
Martin Ferrero	Dan Fields	Julia Fletcher
Jennifer Gatti	Angela Goethals	Matthew Goldsby
Robert Goldsby	Lillian Groag	Harry Groener
Arye Gross	Jeanie Hackett	Mark Harelik
Richard Herd	Young Ji	Janet Dulin Jones
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Paul Lazarus	Henri Lubatti	Jonathan Lynn
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Richard Miró	John Michael Morgan	Jonathan Nichols
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Larry Pressman	Philip Proctor	John Prosky
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Janellen Steininger	Karen Stone	Marcelo Tubert
Peter Van Norden	Geoffrey Wade	John Walcutt
Laura Wernette	Paul Willson	Alicia Wollerton
	Mary Kay Wulf	

JUNE 2nd thru JULY 3rd			JUNE 2	3	4	5
			COLLABORATORS Open Rehearsal 7:30 PM	COLLABORATORS 7:30 PM	COLLABORATORS 7:30 PM <i>RANTS, RHYMES, & LIES</i> 10:30 PM	BARTLEBY & GHOST 2:00 & 7:00 PM <i>RANTS, RHYMES, & LIES</i> 10:30 PM
6 ACADEMY TWELFTH NIGHT 2:00 PM NORA 7:30 PM	7 AMERICAN BUFFALO Open Rehearsal 7:30 PM	8 AMERICAN BUFFALO 7:30 PM	9 AMERICAN BUFFALO 7:30 PM	10 BOSTON MARRIAGE 7:30 PM	11 BOSTON MARRIAGE 7:30 PM <i>RANTS, RHYMES, & LIES</i> 10:30 PM	12 ACADEMY NORA 2:00 PM TWELFTH NIGHT 7:30 PM
13 BARTLEBY & GHOST 2:00 PM BARTLEBY & GHOST 7:30 PM	14 DON JUAN 7:30 PM	15 DON JUAN 7:30 PM	16 ACADEMY TWELFTH NIGHT 7:30 PM	17 ACADEMY NORA 7:30 PM	18 BOSTON MARRIAGE 7:30 PM <i>RANTS, RHYMES, & LIES</i> 10:30 PM	19 AMERICAN BUFFALO 5:00 PM BOSTON MARRIAGE 8:30 PM
20 ACADEMY TWELFTH NIGHT 2:00 PM NORA 7:30 PM	21	22 <i>In Rehearsal for THE DICKENS PROJECT</i>	23	24 DICKENS Part 1 Open Rehearsal 7:30 PM	25 DICKENS Part 2 Open Rehearsal 7:30 PM	26 DICKENS Parts 1 & 2 (w/ Dinner) 5:00 PM
27 AMERICAN BUFFALO 2:00 PM DICKENS 1 & 2 (w/ Dinner) 5:00 PM	28 DICKENS Part 1 Fundraiser at Boston Court 7:00 PM	29 DICKENS Part 2 Fundraiser Boston Court 7:00 PM	30 COLLABORATORS 7:30 PM	JULY 1 COLLABORATORS 7:30 PM	2 WILD CARD NIGHT special encore to be announced 7:30 PM	3 The 30-Minute SpringFest Our grand finale! 7:30 PM

TEN EXCITING SHOWS!

COLLABORATORS: A new play written and directed by Jonathan Lynn. Petain and DeGaulle, two of France's greatest figures, in a fascinating drama of friendship and rivalry through two world wars.

BARTLEBY, THE SCRIVENER and

A GHOST IN MY OWN GARDEN: Two new American one-act musical plays; Jan Powell and Ken Stone created BARTLEBY, and GHOST is the work of Matthew Goldsby and Scott Guy.

AMERICAN BUFFALO and

BOSTON MARRIAGE: Three crooked men, three crooked women, two amazing plays by David Mamet. The classical theatre of the twenty-second century from one of America's greatest playwrights!

DON JUAN: Women enjoyed and destroyed — Tirso de Molina's Golden Age play in a new rhyming verse translation by Dakin Matthews.

THE ACADEMY COMPANY in three terrific projects: **NORA**, Ingmar Bergman's fascinating adaptation of Ibsen's classic drama of a woman's awakening; **TWELFTH NIGHT** by William Shakespeare; **RHYMES, RANTS AND LIES**, an original poetry evening that's part cabaret, part truth-or-dare game.

THE DICKENS PROJECT: Our massively ambitious two-part epic, written by Janet Dulin Jones and director Paul Lazarus, presented in two-night and marathon weekend performances, including a special two-night gala at Pasadena's beautiful new Boston Court on June 28 & 29.

Join us for
SpringFest
2004

A full month of performances, workshops, and staged readings — ten different shows!

Last year's MAYFEST featured such projects as *Mother Courage and Her Children*, *Pera Palas*, *Fashion*, *Trial by Jury*, *The Long Christmas Dinner*, and readings of plays by Antaeus playwright-members. Also featured was the inspiring work of our young Academy Company.

June 2004 will bring even more, all leading up to the first public presentation of an epic new theatre piece:

THE DICKENS PROJECT

by Janet Dulin Jones and Paul Lazarus, in which young journalist Charles Dickens unravels a dark crime in the chaotic and dangerous London of Princess Victoria. An Antaeus Original!

Don't miss this extraordinary festival of classic work by Antaeans, Academy members and Guest Artists.

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CHEKHOV X 4

The Singer

THE PROPOSAL *directed by*

The country estate of Chubukov

Ivan Vassilyevich Lomov

Natalya Styepanovna

Styepan Styepanovitch Chubukov

THE ANNIVERSARY *directed by*

The office of the director of a Russian Mutual Bank

Kuzma Nicolayevich Khirin

Nastasya Fyodorovna Merchutkina

Andrei Andreyevich

Tatyana Alekseyevna

Leader of the Deputation

Clerk

Eugene Alper

Sabin Epstein

Arye Gross*

Angela Goethals*

Jeanie Hackett*

Martin Ferrero*

Michael Michetti

Tony Amendola*

John Apicella*

Anne Gee Byrd*

JD Cullum*

Tamara Krinsky*

Laura Russell

Ralph Drischell*

Philip Proctor*

Nick Cagle*

Michael Kirby

There will be one 10 minute intermission.

THE BEAR *directed by*

The drawing room of Yelena Ivanovna Popova's estate

Grigory Stepanovich Smirnov

Yelena Ivanovna Popova

Luka

Stephanie Shroyer

Harry Groener*

Dawn Didawick*

Ralph Drischell*

Philip Proctor*

SWAN SONG *directed by*

The stage of a provincial theater after that evening's performance

Vasily Vasilyich Svyetlovidov

Nikita Ivanich

Yakov

Sasha

Andy Robinson

Dakin Matthews*

Lawrence Pressman*

Arye Gross*

Nick Cagle*

Michael Kirby

Connor Kelly-Eiding

Michele Trapani

*Member, Actors' Equity Association

Program Notes

"I've managed to write a stupid vaudeville, which, thanks to the fact that it is stupid, is enjoying surprising success."
- Anton Pavlovich Chekhov

Anton Chekhov (1860-1904) was born into a family of emancipated serfs and eventually went on to medical school, where he began writing short stories to help support his family. He wrote daily during his short adult life, publishing over 600 items — yet he only wrote seven plays and ten short one-act "skits". Although he is best known for his full length plays (*The Seagull*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Three Sisters*, *The Cherry Orchard*) which he wrote late in his career, during his lifetime his most popular plays were his one-act comic sketches. In 1887 he wrote his only serious one act, *The Swan Song* about which he wrote: "It will take 15 to 20 minutes to perform, the shortest drama on earth. My play took me an hour and five minutes to write." *The Swan Song* based on his own short story, *Calchas* (1886), received little notice during his lifetime. Early in his writing career he quickly and easily mastered the art of the vaudeville one-act. The first of these was *The Bear* (1888) which quickly became his most popular work with actors, audiences and amateurs. Chekhov wrote: "I live off the labors of my Bear." That same year he wrote *The Proposal*, which he called "a wretched, vulgar, boring little skit...a lousy farce," but served as a respite from his more serious stories. He planned to write a hundred such farces a year, yet he completed only one more vaudeville, *The Anniversary* (1891) based on his own short story, *A Defenseless Creature*.

Jay Mower, Assistant Director

A word about the translators by Nicholas Saunders

Frank Dwyer and I began collaborating together on Chekhov translations in New York City about 18 years ago, when he was directing a staged reading of Chekhov's, *The Wood Demon* and I was playing the role of Prof. Serebryakov. I brought my Russian original of *The Wood Demon* to the first rehearsal and almost immediately Frank spotted a strange sounding speech. Checking in my Russian book, I agreed with him wholeheartedly and we both realized that little of the translation we were using had much similarity to the original of the wonderful early work of Anton Chekhov. Encouraged by Frank who has an amazing rapport with Russian Dramaturgy, being a fellow actor as well as director, playwright and poet, we started writing a new translation of *The Wood Demon* from scratch— word by word from the Russian text — with the sole aim of making every spoken line come out of every American actor's lips as if Chekhov had written the original dialogue in the English language. We've had a successful production of our *Wood Demon* with the Antaeus Company at the Mark Taper Forum in 1994 directed by my esteemed collaborator. We've had a production of our translation of *The Sea Gull* commissioned by the San Jose Repertory Company, a Broadway production of Bulgakov's *Zoya's Apartment* at the Circle In The Square Theatre in New York City and have translated *The Cherry Orchard* (performed for radio by L.A. Theatre Works) as well as Maxim Gorky "Dachniki" *The Summer People*. Finally we got around to translating the other two Chekhov masterpieces, *Uncle Vanya* and *The Three Sisters*. And now you are watching the World Premiere of four of his one-acts. There is another one-act translation, *On The Harmfulness Of Tobacco*, waiting in the wings. The Fifth, and, we hope, the final draft of Nikolai Gogol's *The Government Inspector* has just been completed by us. We have great hopes for it.

Special Thanks to:

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Trader Joe's — Toluca Lake Store

Village Gourmet, Studio City

Francia DiMase, Ralph Drischell,

Jeffrey Nordling, and Nicholas Saunders

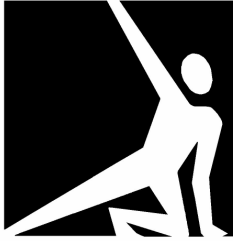
And all the Antaeans, Academy artists, and friends of Antaeus whose help and support made this production possible.

William Frischman, E.A.

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Staff for The Antaeus Company

Founding Artistic Director	Dakin Matthews
Artistic Director	John Apicella
Artistic Director	Jeanie Hackett
Business Manager	Bill Frischman
Office Manager	Nancy Jeris
Special Event Coordinators	Rhonda Aldrich Marcelo Tubert
Interns:	Kaitlin Harper Young Ji Amy Nichols

For more information please visit us online:

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mail@antaeus.org

**The Antaeus Company
4916 Vineland Avenue
North Hollywood, CA 91601**

818-506-5436

818-506-8479 fax

Eugene Alper *The Singer*

Eugene Alper holds a Master's Degree from St. Petersburg Theater Academy, Russia. His Los Angeles experience includes theater and musical roles as well as guest appearances on TV and in the movies. Maintaining a large repertoire of songs in different languages, Eugene is delighted to showcase a few Russian favorites at Antaeus.

Tony Amendola *Kuzma Nicolayevich Khirin, The Anniversary*

A Founding Member of Antaeus, Tony has appeared on stages across the country: at A.C.T. in *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Othello*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Learned Ladies*, and *The Doctor's Dilemma*, in the off-Broadway productions of Eduardo de Filippo's *Filumena* and *The Lion in Winter*, at Berkeley Rep in *American Buffalo*, *A View From the Bridge*, and *Twelfth Night*, at La Jolla in *Life During Wartime* and *Triumph of Love*; at the Old Globe in *Cymbeline* and *Timon of Athens*, and at Seattle Rep, Center Stage, and Williamstown. Tony has also appeared frequently in film and tv, including *West Wing*, *Judging Amy*, *The Practice*, and his recurring role on *Stargate S-G1*.

John Apicella *Kuzma Nicolayevich Khirin, The Anniversary*

A founding member and Co-Artistic Director of Antaeus, John has appeared in *Mercadet*, *The Man Who Had All The Luck*, *The Liar* and *The Proof of the Promise*, Gilbert & Sullivan's *Patience* and *Trial By Jury*, and in the Antaeus / Mark Taper Forum production of Chekhov's *The Wood Demon*. Also for the Taper: Vaclav Havel's *Temptation* and *Largo Desolato*. At A.C.T. (San Francisco): *The First Picture Show* and *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *A Christmas Carol* at the Dallas Theatre Center, and *Molly's Delicious* and *The Big Knife* for other L.A. theaters. John is also co-creator and Majordomo of the L.A.-based absurdist comedy troupe The Bubalaires.

Anne Gee Byrd *Merchutkina, The Anniversary*

With Antaeus: Mayfest 2003, *Mother Courage*. She last appeared as Kate in *All My Sons* at the La Mirada Playhouse. She has performed in regional theatres across the country including the La Jolla Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, the Old Globe in San Diego, ACT in San Francisco, Seattle Rep, the American Shakespeare Festival in Connecticut, the McCarter in Princeton. Her Los Angeles credits include *Uncle Vayna* at the Geffen Playhouse, *The Good Doctor* at the Pasadena Playhouse and *First Picture Show* at the Mark Taper Forum. A long list of television credits includes: *Everybody Loves Raymond*, *Philly*, *ER*, *The Practice*, *JAG*, and *Gideon's Crossing*. She has just finished doing a role on the new series *Century City*.

Nick Cagle *Yakov*

Nick is excited to be a new member of the Antaeus Academy. He attended the Boston Conservatory of Music and is a graduate of LAMDA. He has been seen in *A Month In The Country* at the McOwen Theater in London, *The Nerd* at The Laguna Playhouse, and most recently *The Three Musketeers* at the Sierra Repertory Theater. On film he was the voice of young Peekay in *The Power of One* and has worked off and on with CBS and MTV. Love to Mom, Dad and Moana.

Ensemble

JD Cullum *Andrei Andreyevich Schipuchin, The Anniversary*

JD is delighted to perform again with Antaeus where he was last seen in Mayfest 2003 in *Pera Palas*, and in *The Liar* at the Secret Rose Theatre. Most recently he appeared at South Coast Repertory in *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow*. Other notable productions include *Major Barbara* (SCR), *The Dazzle* (SCR), *Murdering Marlowe*, (Malibu Stage) *Side Man* (Pasadena Playhouse), *Waiting for Godot* (Matrix Theatre), *Affliction of Glory* (Getty Center), and *The Cripple of Innishman* (Geffen Playhouse). Recent on-camera work includes *24*, *Frasier*, *Judging Amy*, *NYPD Blue*, *Dead Last* and **61*.

Dawn Didawick *Yelena Ivanova Popova, The Bear*

Antaeus credits include the award winning *The Man Who Had All The Luck*. Her varied credits include: Broadway, *ALL MY SONS*; Film and TV: Erin Brockovich, Breakfast of Champions, Almost a Woman, Regional, Stock, and Touring credits encompass over sixty roles in both the classics and new works. Theatres include Old Globe in San Diego, Longwharf Theatre, Hartford Stage Co. Seattle and Saint Louis Repertory Theatres and Actors Theatre of Louisville where she met her husband Harry Groener whom she has confronted as Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, laughed with as Zerbietta in *Scapino*, and endured as one of his two wives in the British farce *Caught in the Net* at the Coconut Grove Playhouse. Other recent productions include the world premiere of *Shiloh Rules* at the Alabama Shakespeare and *On Golden Pond* for the Broadway in the Rockies series.

Ralph Drischell *Luka The Bear; Deputation Leader, The Anniversary*

A longtime Antaeus, this role marks the 268th character Mr. Drischell has performed on American stage, screen and TV. In a career spanning 51 years, he has appeared in a wide variety of productions, including all but three of the Shakespeare canon, and roles as diverse as 'Bottom,' *Antigone's* 'Creon' and 'Luther Billis' in *South Pacific*. Among his many Broadway credits are *Three Penny Opera*, *Camino Real* and *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead*. Favorite roles off-Broadway and in regional theaters include: 'Dr. Stockam' in *An Enemy of the People*, 'Davies' in *The Caretaker* and the priggish 'Charles Bisley' with Geraldine Fitzgerald in *Forget-Me-Not-Lane*. He recently played 'Constable Warren' in *Our Town* at the Interact Theater Company.

Martin Ferrero *Chubukov, The Proposal*

Martin is an original Antaeus who has appeared in *Mercadet* and *Of Mice and Men*. Film credits include: *Tailor of Panama*, *Jurassic Park*, *Get Shorty*, *Oscar*, *Planes Trains and Automobiles*. Television credits include: *Miami Vice*, *Hill St. Blues*, *Cheers*, *Kangaroos in the Kitchen*, and *The Practice*. He has studied with Milton Katsellas, Gordon Hunt, Harvey Lembeck, Bob Corf and Stu Bernet.

Angela Goethals *Natalya Stepanovna, The Proposal*

Angela Goethals' Antaeus credits include *Pera Pelas* in Mayfest 2003 and the epic process that is *The Dickens Project*. Favorite past roles include

Jeanie Hackett Artistic Supervision, *Chekhov X 4*, Co-Artistic Director
Jeanie joined the company in 2000; in 2001 she founded and became the director of the Antaeus Academy, a training program for young professional actors in classical theater. Last May, with John Apicella, she produced *Mayfest 2003*, a month long series of 11 different workshop presentations of both classics and new classics. As an Antaeus actress she's appeared in various workshops and readings, especially *Pera Palas* and *A Long Christmas Dinner*. The former Artistic Director of the Classical Theater Lab, Jeanie teaches acting in NYC and LA, and is the author of two books on acting, *The Actor's Chekhov* and *Toward Mastery*. She's played lead roles on Broadway, including Stella to Blythe Danner's Blanche in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and has worked extensively off-Broadway and at major regional theaters across the country, especially, The Williamstown Theatre Festival. Los Angeles theater includes South Coast Rep. (*Old Times*); The Pasadena Playhouse (*Arms and the Man*, *How the Other Half Loves*); the Odyssey Theater (*The Greeks*, *Black Box*, with Arye Gross); the Canon Theater (*The Vagina Monologues*); the Matrix Theater (*The Seagull*, Ovation Award); and recently, *Kate Crackernuts* at the 24th St. Theater. Television and film : *The West Wing*, *NYPD Blue*, *Judging Amy*, *Boston Public*, *Charmed*, *The L Word*, *Jane Street*, and the upcoming Henry Jaglom film, *Going Shopping*.

Kaitlin Harper Associate Producer

This is Kaitlin's first production with the Antaeus Company and she is proud to be a part of such a wonderful and talented cast and crew. She has recently graduated from UC-Irvine and is looking forward to a career in production management with theatre and the arts. Kaitlin would like to graciously thank her parents and Adam for their continual support throughout this production.

Young Ji Stage Manager

Young has the distinct privilege of managing the stage with such a talented company of actors and directors, from whom he has gained valuable experience, knowledge, and insights. Through a fortuitous turn of events, he finds himself inexplicably bound to a variety of projects at Antaeus. He would like to thank all involved for their good will, sense of humor, and, most importantly patience!

Jay Mower Assistant Director

Jay is honored to be a part of each of the amazing "one acts" which compose *Chekhov X 4*. Jay is an experienced non-profit theatre director having directed almost 30 productions in the San Diego area. He has temporarily moved up here to gain experience under the expert tutelage of some of L.A.'s finest directors. He is planning to pursue a career as a professional stage director and, to that end, has applied to the M.F.A. Program in directing at UCSD.

Dakin Matthews Founding Artistic Director *Vasily Vasilyich, Swan Song* Mr. Matthews was previously the Artistic Director of the Berkeley Shakespeare Festival and the California Actors Theatre. He taught under John Houseman in the Juilliard Drama Division and was a founding member of The Acting Company. He is the resident dramaturge and an Associate Artist of the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego. He has enjoyed a forty year career onstage, appearing with most California professional theatres. Most recently he appeared on Broadway in his own adaptation of Shakespeare's *Henry IV*. He has had a busy career on screen, appearing in over twenty feature films and as a recurring or regular character in twelve different series, and is a member of both the Motion Picture and Television Academies. He is also a playwright, director, translator, Shakespeare scholar, and Emeritus Professor of English from Cal State.

Leigh Allen Lighting Designer

Leigh has designed the lighting for various groups around LA and Orange counties. Some of her recent work includes *Les Miserable; The Threepenny Opera; Johnny Got His Gun; The Boyfriend; Elizabeth, Almost by Chance a Woman*; and lighting for dance and special events. She has recently been involved with the Children's Conservatory Program at South Coast Repertory Theatre, The California Youth Theatre program in LA, as well as Musical Theatre West's Summer Youth Conservatory.

Tuesday Conner Costume Designer

Tuesday Conner has worked with Antaeus in the Academy Company production of *Orpheus Descending*. She is dedicated to enhancing the quality of an actor's performance, providing both costume and believability to actor and audience for the most enjoyable entertaining experience. Costuming shows from New York's Lincoln Center's productions of *Four Seasons - Mozart Amadeus* and *Babes In Toyland* to Los Angeles' Mark Taper's New Works Festival's *Black White Man* to Hollywood theatre performances of *Joe Louis Blues*, and *Oblong Man*.

Vaughan Edwards Set Designer

FILM: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* directed by Tom Stoppard, starring Richard Dreyfuss and Gary Oldman; *Stealing Home* starring Jodie Foster; *Seven Minutes in Heaven* starring Jennifer Conley. TELEVISION SERIES: *The District; Profiler; Seaquest DSV; Tribeca*. TELEVISION MOVIES: Arthur Miller's *The American Clock*; *Last Stand at Sabre River* starring Tom Selleck; *Payback* starring Mary Tyler Moore; Horton Foote's *Alone, Courtship*, and *Habitation of Dragons*, and many others too numerous to mention.

Laura in *Be Aggressive* at the La Jolla Playhouse, Dot DiPrima in *Blur* at the Manhattan Theater Club, Rosalind in *As You Like It* (Liars Club-NYC Fringe Festival). She is proud to be among such talented artists. Thanks to Emily, Arye, Marty, and Sabin for welcoming her into the fold.

Harry Groener *Svyetlovidov, The Bear*

Mr. Groener is a founding member of the Antaeus Company and is very happy to be working with his wife of 25 years, Dawn Didawick, in Chekhov's *The Bear*. He was last seen in *Like Jazz* at the Mark Taper Forum. Credits include: Nine Broadway shows, three Tony nominations, a Drama Desk nomination, and a Theatre World Award, plus appearances in over fifty television programs and nine films including *About Schmidt, Road to Perdition* and *Patch Adams*. He is an associate Artist at the Globe Theatre in San Diego and has worked at many major regional theatres playing such roles as Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Bluntschli in *Arms and the Man*, Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Arye Gross *Lomov, The Proposal; Nikita, Swan Song*

Arye Gross is a new member of the Antaeus Company. His local theatre credits include *Black Box* and *Chicago Conspiracy Trial* (Odyssey Theatre), *Let's Play Two* and *Wild Oats* (South Coast Repertory), *Three Sisters* (LATC), *The Square* (Taper, Too @ The Actor's Gang) and *La Bete* for Stages Theatre Center, where he served as Managing Artistic Director from 2000 to 2003. He has appeared in over twenty productions for the radio with L.A. Theatre Works. Film credits include *Minority Report, Big Eden, Gone in Sixty Seconds, Seven Girlfriends, A Midnight Clear*, among others. Television credits include *The Guardian, Judging Amy, CSI, Friends, ER, The West Wing, Just Shoot Me, Millennium, The Practice, Ellen* (as Adam Greene) and *Six Feet Under*, on which he plays the recurring role of Frank Mueller, MFCC. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Lisa, and their two dogs; one good, one 'nervous'.

Connor Kelly-Eiding *Sasha*

Connor attends the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, in the Theatre Department. She has done numerous plays, including *Tom Sawyer*, and *Song of America*. Her last stage appearance was as Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She is thrilled to be working with the amazing, distinguished actors in the Antaeus Company. Connor would like to thank her family for their love and support, and the Antaeus Company for this opportunity.

Michael Kirby *Yakov*

Michael has studied theatre at LAMDA, USC, and Cal State Fullerton, where he received his B.A. Favorite roles include: Horatio in *Hamlet* (Curtis Theatre), Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (McOwen Theatre, London), and Jerry in *Zoo Story* (Cal State). He is a member of the Antaeus Academy. Television: *Boston Public, Unsolved Mysteries*, and MTV. He is grateful to be working with such a talented and dedicated group of actors. Thanks, Mom and Dad, for your endless and loving support.

Tamara Krinsky *Tatyana Alekseyevna, The Anniversary*

Tamara Krinsky: Appearances with Antaeus include *Mercadet* (Garland: Ensemble Performance) and the acclaimed revival of Arthur Miller's *The Man Who Had All The Luck* (LA Weekly Revival Production of the Year). Other favorites: *Othello* (RADA), *Six Degrees of Consequences* (Powerhouse Theater), *Three Sisters* (Theatre X), *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* (Theater BAM - Chicago) and *Ready for the River* (Impulse Theater Co. - Chicago). Film/Television: *Seventh Heaven* (multiple episodes), *Charmed*, *100 Girls*, indie film *Rites of Winter*; *Star Trek: First Contact*. Radio: *The Indolent Boys*. Training: B.S., Theatre, Northwestern University, Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Lawrence Pressman *Vasily Vasilyich Swan Song*

Lawrence Pressman has performed in the Antaeus productions of *The Wood Demon*, *Legal Briefs: The Will*, and *Mayfest*. His film credits include: *A Brief Moment in the Life of Angus Bethune*, *Waterdance*, and *9 to 5*. His Television credits include: *N.Y.P.D. Blue*, *Gilmore Girls*, *Without A Trace*, *Guardian*, and *Judging Amy*. In the Theatre he has performed in *Bodies* with South Coast Repertory Company, *Betrayal* and *Birthday Party* at the Matrix Theatre, *A Month in the Country* at the Mark Taper Forum, among many more. He studies with Milton Katsellias.

Philip Proctor *Deputation Leader The Anniversary; Luka, The Bear*
With Antaeus, Phil has acted, directed, sung, written, fiddled, and serves on the Board of Directors. He's performed in *Patience*, *The Liar*, *Trail by Jury*, and the award-winning *The Man Who Had All The Luck*. He's played on Broadway, at the Mark Taper Forum, South Coast Repertory and the Theatre at Boston Court, and starred in films and TV. As a voice-over artist, he's done leads in Pixar and Disney's animated features, including the Oscar-winning *Spirited Away*, Howard on the 3-time Emmy-winning *Rugrats* and the announcer on the *Big Brother* reality show. He's a member of the four-man thrice-Grammy-nominated Firesign Theatre comedy group. (www.planetproctor.com)

Laura Russell *Tatyana Alekseyevna, The Anniversary*

Laura is an Antaeus Academy member and very honored to be working with such a talented company. She has acted her way around the L.A. theatre scene over the years. Favorite stage roles include: the title role in *Gypsy* at the Apex Theatre, Teresa in *The Hostage* at Pasadena Shakespeare, and the Widow Quin in *The Playboy of the Western World* with Furious Theatre. She received her training from Indiana University, various Los Angeles programs, and the school of hard-knocks. Thank you for coming to see the show!

Michele Trapani *Sasha*

Michele is a graduate of Santa Clara University where she began her theatrical training. Since graduation, she has been studying with Joel Asher. She has appeared in a number of independent films and theatrical productions, most recently seen in *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* at the Gardner Stages. Michele would like to thank The Antaeus Company for

the opportunity to be a part of *Chekhov X 4*. It has been a great learning experience for her.

Sabin Epstein Director, *The Proposal*

Sabin Epstein is the Resident Director/Artistic Advisor, A Noise Within; Associate Artist, Georgia Shakespeare Festival; Guest Director, Oregon, Utah, Alabama and Santa Fe Shakespeare Festivals; former Conservatory Director/Resident Director, American Conservatory Theater, San Francisco. Recent Guest Instructor residencies include the University of Virginia, Trinity University, Stanford University, Old Globe/University of San Diego; Adjunct faculty, University of Southern California. Co-Author; "Acting with Style and Basic Acting."

Michael Michetti Director, *The Anniversary*

Michael Michetti (Director) is the Co-Artistic Director of the new Theatre@Boston Court in Pasadena where he recently directed their inaugural production of *Romeo and Juliet*. For Antaeus: *Pera Palas*, *Mayfest* 2003. His diverse credits include David Mamet's *A Life in the Theatre* starring Hal Holbrook at the Pasadena Playhouse, acclaimed productions of Brecht's rarely staged *Edward II* and Aphra Behn's restoration comedy *The Rover*, both for Circle X at the Actor's Gang Theatre, and an Ovation Award nominated *Sweeney Todd*. Michetti is a double Ovation Award winner (as director and co-producer) for his production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* set in British colonized India.

Andy Robinson Director, *The Swan Song*

For Antaeus, Andy directed Anne Gee Byrd in the title role of *Mother Courage* for *Mayfest* 2003. Also in 2003, he directed the American premiere of Billy Roche's *Cavalcaders* at the Florida Stage Company and *Romantique* at the American Repertory Theatre. Matrix Theatre Company (founding member): *The Birthday Party*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Yield of the Long Bond* (Ovation Award), *Dangerous Corner*, *THE Homecoming* (L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award), *Endgame* (LADCC Award). Pasadena Playhouse: *Side Man*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and *Visiting Mr. Green*. South Coast Repertory Theatre: *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*. The Falcon Theatre: *Death of a Salesman*.

Stephanie Shroyer Director, *The Bear*

Stephanie Shroyer has directed and/or choreographed at the American Conservatory Theatre, the Denver Center, the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts, the Berkeley Shakespeare Festival, and locally at the Pasadena Playhouse, Odyssey Theatre, 24th Street Theatre, Stages, University of Southern California and Cal Arts. She is a two-time recipient of the LADCC award for direction. Other recognition includes Ovation and LA Weekly nominations, six Drama-Logue awards and a Garland Award. She is an adjunct faculty member of USC's School of Theatre. Productions of note include *The Hostage*, *Mad Forest*, *The Visit*, *The Beggars Opera*, *The Cave Dwellers*, *Blood Wedding*, and *The Good Doctor*.