MUSICAL THEATRE GUILD **AND** Honorary Season Producers: **STEPHANIE AND ALAN WESTON**

PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE GOLDEN APPLE

Music by
JEROME MOROSS

Book and Lyrics by
JOHN LA TOUCHE

Produced on Broadway by Alfred De Liagre, Jr. and Roger L. Stevens
in association with T. Edward Hambleton and Norris Houghton
Originally produced by the Phoenix Theatre

DIRECTOR
MICHAEL VAN DUZER

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
RICHARD BERENT

CHOREOGRAPHERS
TODD NIELSEN AND
MARK C. REIS (PARIS SEQUENCES)

PRODUCTION COORDINATORS
ROBIN DELANO AND DAVID HOLMES

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PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
TARA SITSER

LIGHTING DESIGN
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COSTUME DESIGNER
A. JEFFREY SCHOENBERG
AJS COSTUMES

February 8, 2015

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Notes on
THE GOLDEN APPLE
By Tom Hatten

The Golden Apple is a musical adaptation of parts of each of *The Illiad* and *Odyssey* epics of Homer. It premiered off-Broadway in March of 1954 and was so rapturously greeted by all the critics that after its scheduled 48-day run it was immediately (over a weekend, in fact) transferred to the Alvin Theatre on Broadway. The reviews there were, to everyone's surprise, not quite so unanimously favorable and it ran less than a year. The original production, the first ever at the fondly-remembered Phoenix Theatre, had also been the very first off-Broadway play to win the Best Musical award from the New York Drama Critics' Circle—for its "more than glorious" score, to quote Playbill's critic Steven Suskin. There was of course an original cast album (with a Hirschfeld cover, no less) but as was the custom in those days, complete scores requiring more than two sides of an LP were rarely recorded (whole songs often omitted or some very truncated) so for that reason, many of tonight's audience's fond owners of that album will be hearing some songs for the first time.

The Golden Apple has never had a revival on Broadway and productions across the country over 60 years have been few. There's no easy way to explain why *The Golden Apple* was a box-office failure in the 1953-54 Broadway season. Some say it should have been an opera. After all, it is sung through with no dialog (a testimony to just how fine are John LaTouche's lyrics?) Should the show have stayed off-Broadway for a longer period, even though with a cast of thirty-five, its break even chances must've been slim? Were *The Illiad* and the *Odyssey* too remote for a general audience to make the connection to a show set in the early 1900s in a remote area of Washington state? Or were there a great number of other new musicals opening that season competing for the box-office bucks? (Well, that one I'd like to take a try to answer.) Far from it. Only two opened successfully: *Kismet* and *The Pajama Game*, joining only two blockbuster musical holdovers, *Wonderful Town* and *Can-Can*.

No commentary about *The Golden Apple* is complete without mentioning the show's one genuine standard from the score, the plaintive, haunting "Lazy Afternoon", which was introduced by a very young Kaye Ballard, in her Broadway debut. It's one of Jerome Moross and John LaTouche's toughest songs to sing, though that has not deterred a whole range of pop music artists from giving it a try—from Marlene Dietrich to Barbra Streisand, from June Christy to Eartha Kitt, from Morgana King to Tony Bennett. Ms. Ballard of course over the years has become well-known for her comedic chops, and they are considerable. Still, her version of "Lazy Afternoon" has never been topped. IMHO.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Ulysses	Zachary Ford*
Penelope	Teri Bibb*
Helen	Melissa Fahn*
Lovey Mars/Siren	Jennifer Bennett*
Mrs. Juniper/Madame Calypso	Sasha Weiss*
Miss Minerva Oliver/Scientist	Kelly Lester*
Mother Hare/Circe	Carol Kline*
Menelaus/Scylla	Perry Lambert*
Paris	Mark C. Reis*
Hector/Charybdis	Roy Leake, Jr.*
Mayor Juniper	Chuck Bergman*
Diomede	Matt Kriger
Patroclus	Tim Woods
Doc MacCahan	David Zack*
Nestor	Bryan Vickery
Ajax	Adam Trent
Achilles	William Martinez*
Ensemble	Dayna-Alice Austin, Abby Bolin, Rory Dunn, Mitchell McCollum, Kendra Munger*, Lamont Alexander Pierce, Dana Shaw, Paul Wong*

* Denotes Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

The Musicians are members of the American Federation of Musicians, AFL-CIO, Local 47

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Musical Theatre Guild dedicates this performance of "The Golden Apple" to the memory of

Dina Bennett

May 15, 1962 - January 11, 2015

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Overture . . . . . Orchestra
Nothing Ever Happens in Angel's Roost . . . . . Helen
Angel's Roost Has Its Situation . . . . . Helen, Lovey Mars, Mrs. Juniper, and Miss Minerva
Good Morning to You One and All . . . . . Helen, Lovey Mars, Mrs. Juniper, Miss Minerva, Mother Hare, Penelope and Menelaus
My Love is On the Way . . . . . Penelope
The Heroes Come Home . . . . . Ensemble
It Was a Glad Adventure . . . . . Ulysses and the Heroes
Come Along Boys . . . . . The Heroes and Ensemble
It's the Coming Home Together . . . . . Ulysses and Penelope
Mother Hare's Prophecy . . . . . Mother Hare, Ulysses and Penelope
Helen is Always Willing . . . . . The Heroes, Helen, Menelaus and Ulysses
Introducing Mr. Paris . . . . . Paris, Ulysses, Penelope and Ensemble
The Judgement of Paris . . . . . Mother Hare, Mrs. Juniper, Miss Minerva, Lovey Mars and Paris
Lazy Afternoon . . . . . Helen and Paris
Departure for Rhododendron . . . . . Ensemble

ACT II

My Picture in the Papers . . . . . Helen, Paris, and Male Ensemble
Taking Rhododendron . . . . . Ulysses, the Heroes and Citizens
Hector's Song . . . . . Hector
Windflowers . . . . . Penelope
Store-Bought Suit . . . . . Ulysses and the Heroes
Madame Calypso's Parlor . . . . . Calypso, Ulysses, Hector and the Heroes
A Brokerage Office . . . . . Hector, Scylla, Ulysses and the Heroes
A Waterfront Dive . . . . . Siren, Ulysses, the Heroes and Ensemble
The Hall of Science . . . . . Scientist, Ulysses, Achilles and Doc MacCahan
The Wrong Side of the Tracks . . . . . Circe, Ulysses, Achilles, Hector and Paris
Ulysses Soliloquy . . . . . Ulysses and Ensemble
Busy Little Sewing Bee . . . . . Penelope and Ensemble
Penelope's Tirade . . . . . Penelope
We've Just Begun . . . . . Ulysses and Penelope



WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

MTG Members



CHUCK BERGMAN (*Mayor Juniper*) Chuck began performing with the UCLA Opera Workshop, then with the LA & SF Civic Light Opera, Mark Taper Forum, as well as productions of *Annie* and *Evita* at the Shubert Theatre and national tours. He is married to screenwriter Linda Bergman and they have two children, Sarah Zenoff & Adam Bergman.



TERI BIBB (*Penelope*) Broadway: Christine - *Phantom*; Amalia - *She Loves Me* (standby). 15+ shows with MTG. Other LA: *Rodgers & Hart & Hammerstein* (Reprise); *Children of the Night* (Katselas Theatre Co., Ovation Award Nom.) Toured last fall as Marian in *The Music Man* w/Shirley Jones & Patrick Cassidy. www.TeriBibb.com.



MELISSA FAHN (*Helen*) Broadway: *Wicked* (U/S Glinda–Original Broadway & Los Angeles). MTG's *Sweet Smell of Success* (Rita) and *City of Angels* (Oolie/Donna). Voiceover: "Betty Boop", "Edward"–*Cowboy Bebop*, "Gaz"–Invader Zim. TV/Film: *Passions*, *Tick Tock Boom Clap*. CD: "Avignon" CD Baby/iTunes. www.melissafahn.com.



ZACHARY FORD (*Ulysses*) Loyal MTGers may know Zachary from *Sweet Smell of Success*, *Titanic*, *High Fidelity*, *Shenandoah*, or *City of Angels*. Other: *Spamalot* (Vegas Company), Musical Theatre West, 3D-Theatricals, Cabrillo, The Colony, Marriott Lincolnshire, Chicago Shakes, etc. AMT Artists & www.ZacharyFord.com.



CAROL KLINE (*Mother Hare/Circe*) Carol last played Madge in MTG's *Sweet Smell of Success*, this season. A Distinguished Artist of the LA Music Center for her work with her parent theatre, the Mark Taper Forum, Carol has over 300 credits in the professional theatre. MTG shows: *A Catered Affair*, *Little Women*, and *Titanic*. Performance dedicated to Marty and Sara.



ROY LEAKE, JR. (*Hector*) Big cast. Actor's bios are 40 words, maximum. I'm just in Act Two, so I only get 20. Please enjoy!



WILLIAM MARTINEZ (*Achilles*) Happy to be back on dry land, William spent all last year cruising the Baltic, Mediterranean, Pacific, and the Caribbean while singing for Silversea Cruises! William thanks his wonderful father for his endless support and love. Proud MTG Member!



MARK C. REIS (*Paris*/Choreographer) Always honored to be surrounded by such amazingly talented peformers and creative teams of MTG. *Fosse* (Broadway), *Chicago* (National Tours/Hollywood Bowl/Sacramento Music Circus), *Wizard of Oz* Scarecrow (Tuacahn), *Elf* (TUTS), *Cabaret* (Reprise!), *Wedding Singer* (MTW). Thanks for coming.

Guest Artists



DAYNA-ALICE AUSTIN (*Ensemble*) Dayna Alice Austin is a recent AMDA graduate and is thrilled to have been involved with regional productions such as *Memphis* at Cabrillo Music Theatre, and now in *Golden Apple* with MTG.



JENNIFER BENNETT (*Lovey Mars/Siren*) Jennifer is thrilled to be in *The Golden Apple*. Favorite credits: Boston Pops soloist, National Tour of *Cats*, *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, *Light in the Piazza*. Her favorite role is Mom. B.M. USC, M.M. Boston Conservatory. www.jennifer-bennett.net.



ABBY BOLIN (*Ensemble*) Abby is honored to make her MTG debut! Highlights include *Jekyll & Hyde* (Emma), *A Man of No Importance* (Adele), *Avenue Q* (Kate), *Parade*, and *Rudolph*...(National Tour - Mrs. Claus). Bachelor of Music from CSULB. Thanks for this wonderful experience!



RORY DUNN (*Ensemble*) Rory is ecstatic to make his debut with MTG this evening. Rory's recent credits include *Les Miserables*, *It Happened in Roswell!*, *The Boondoggles* and *Philly*. Rory would like to thank his beautiful wife Emily for all her love and support.



MATT KRIGER (*Diomede*) Matt is excited to be in his first production with MTG. He just finished a tour of *Les Miserables* (Enjolras) and a tour of *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* (Fireball). He's excited to finally do a show in the LA area!



PERRY LAMBERT (*Menelaus/Scylla*) Perry has appeared in 50 productions; *City of Angels*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Fantasticks*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Sweet Charity*, *Kiss Me Kate*, and *Forbidden Hollywood*. His one-man show blends comedy, music and celebrity impressions. He's headlined for Crystal Cruises, Holland America, and Oceania. Directed and produced *"Come Fly With Me!" – The Sammy Cahn Songbook*. www.perrylambert.com.



KELLY LESTER (*Minerva/Scientist*) Kelly just wrapped a role in *Cook* starring Eddie Murphy. Recently guest-starred on *The Haunted Hathaways* (NICK). Notable Los Angeles theatre includes *Adding Machine: A Musical* (best performance/lead actress - Scenie Award) *Ionescopade*, *Spring Awakening* (Ovation nomination). More at www.KellyLester.com.



MITCHELL MCCOLLUM (*Ensemble*) Mitchell is extremely grateful and excited to join the cast of *The Golden Apple*. He would like to thank his mom, the cast and crew, and the audience for continuing to support the arts. Enjoy the show!



KENDRA MUNGER (*Ensemble*) Off-Broadway: *Queen of Hearts* (Princess Diana, original cast); Regional: *My Fair Lady* (Eliza), *The Lion in Winter* (Alais), *Annie Warbucks* (Grace); LA: *The Next Fairy Tale* (Glinda, original cast); New Media: *They Live Among Us* (Peg); Numerous films and soaps.



LAMONT ALEXANDER PIERCE (*Ensemble*) Lamont Alexander Pierce earned a Bachelor of Music from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Originally from Philadelphia, he moved to Anchorage, where he fell in love with musical theatre. Favorite credits include *The 25th...Spelling Bee*, *[title of show]*, and *Les Misérables*.



DANA SHAW (*Ensemble*) Dana Shaw is thrilled to be in this production, especially since it is her first show with Musical Theatre Guild! She has performed in many regional productions and is a demo singer and children's music recording artist.www.danashaw.com.



ADAM TRENT (*Ajax*) Adam is excited to be returning to Musical Theatre Guild. Past productions: Tobias in *Sweeney Todd* (Candlelight Pavilion), Charlie Brown in *You're a Good Man…* (Banshee Theatre), and Stewpot in *South Pacific* (DCLO) just to name a few.



BRIAN VICKERY (*Nestor*) Bryan is making his MTG debut. Regional: *Spamalot* (Galahad), *Forever Plaid* (Smudge), *The Music Man* (Quartet), *Sweeney Todd* (Anthony), *Oklahoma!* (Curly), the world premiere revival of *A5678!* and various others. Many thanks to everyone at MTG for this great opportunity!



SASHA WEISS (*Mrs. Juniper/Calypso*) Sasha is thrilled to be a part of MTG's *The Golden Apple*! After living and performing in NYC for 5 years, she is happy to be back in LA teaching at AMDA. BFA: The Boston Conservatory, MFA: SDSU.



PAUL WONG (*Ensemble*) NAACP Theatre Award – Best Music Direction (*Do Lord Remember Me*); Vee-Cee Award – Memorable Performance (*A Funny Thing Happened… Forum* - Hysterium). Previous MTG – *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Fuentes). Upcoming solo show – *Simply Singing Sondheim (Almost)*. Proud member: Actor's Equity. www.PaulJWong.com.



TIM WOODS (*Patroclus*) Tim is thrilled to be working with the Musical Theatre Guild. New York stage: *The Game Boy* and *Pinnochio of Chelsea*. Currently sings for Disney, Knott's Berry Farm, Walk Like a Man, and his doo wop group "The Moon Rays".



DAVID ZACK (*Doc MacCahan*) MTG: *Sweet Smell of Success*, *Wonderful Town*, *Titanic*, *Shenandoah*. LA: *Rocky Horror* (Rockwell), *Panama Hattie* (Theatre West), *Little Shop* (Orin.) NY/Regional: *Evita*, *Guys and Dolls* (Sky), *Pirates of Penzance* (Frederic), *Fiddler…* (Perchik), *Drood* (Jasper.) Tour: Jimmy Dorsey/Pied Pipers.



PRODUCTION STAFF

MICHAEL VAN DUZER (Director) has directed local productions of: *The Collection*, *What the Butler Saw*, *As You Like It*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *Edward II*, *The Double Dealer* (Best Direction), *Halsted Street: Chicago* (GLAAD nomination), *The Lisbon Traviata* and the local premiere of Daniel MacIvor's *In On It* (Weekly Nomination). He helmed the world premieres of his own plays: *Hopeful Romantic* (Best Playwright), *Recalled to Life*, and the one-act collection, *Tawdry Tales* (Best Comedy for *Posing Strap Pirates*). He also wrote and directed the *The History of Gay Theatre in Something More than 60 Seconds* and *Trattoria of Terror*, both commissioned by Theatre Out in Orange County. He has been resident director for the Opera Buffs since 1991, directing all of their showcases.

RICHARD BERENT (Musical Director) Richard has been on the music faculty of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in Hollywood for 10 years. This is his 2nd stint with MTG, last year's *Girl Crazy* was the first. Other recent m.d. credits include *She Loves Me*, *Putting It Together*, *Secret Garden*, *Into The Woods*, *Musical Of Musicals*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Altar Boys*. He is one of the regular pianists at the Gardenia open mic night. For 15 years he has been m.d. of the REAF celebrity AIDS benefit in San Francisco. He is a songwriter and has composed the scores to numerous shows that have had regional productions, most

recently last year with *Snow White* at Theatre West.

TODD NIELSEN (Choreographer) MTG: *Ruthless!*, *Death Takes a Holiday*. Director/Choreographer: *Our Broadway Scrapbook*, *A New Brain*, *Little Me*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Seesaw*, *Out of This World*, *The Roar of the Greasepaint... The Smell of the Crowd*, *Where's Charley?*, *Plain and Fancy*, and *Rags*. MTW: *Carnival*, *Annie*, *1776* and *The Wizard of Oz*. SBCLO: *She Loves Me*. Norris: *Leading Ladies*. Colony: *Side Show*, *City Of Angels*, *Putting It Together*. XOJA •*MTG Member*

ROBIN DELANO (Production Coordinator) Robin has had the fortunate opportunity to sing and dance all over the world. You can hear her voice on numerous movies, TV shows and commercials. She's a proud member of MTG!

DAVID HOLMES (Production Coordinator) David is an accomplished actor, singer, writer and director who has appeared onstage with such stars as Milton Berle, Placido Domingo, Robert Morse, Bebe Neuwirth, Donna McKechnie and Mary Martin. Currently working on original musicals, he's a proud member of MTG appearing in *A Catered Affair*, *Titanic*, *Wonderful Town* amongst other great productions.

TARA SITSER (Production Stage Manager) MTG credits: *A Catered Affair*, *Aspects of Love*, *Page to Stage*, *Titanic*, *Shenandoah*, *Little Women*, *A New Brain*, *Roberta*. Other credits: *Les Miserables* /Anchorage Concert Assoc. (2014); Pacific Festival Ballet's *Nutcracker* (2012 – 2014); Thalian's Gala /Playboy Mansion (2011) and House of Blues (2014); Jerry Herman Awards /Pantages Theatre (2013-2014).

ART BRICKMAN (Production Manager) Production Stage Manager for MTG for the past ten seasons. Credits include *The Legacy* at the Wallis Annenberg, *Cats* for Lubbock Moonlight Musicals, *Les Miz*, in Anchorage, Alaska, the 2013 & 2014 Jerry Herman Awards (Pantages), 2011 & 2014 Thalians' Galas (Playboy Mansion/House of Blues), Dick Van Dyke & the Vantastix (Smothers Theatre), *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (Pantages), *Les Miz* (Hollywood Bowl) and subbing in on shows such as *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (El Portal), *Menopause the Musical* (Coronet) and *The Lion King*, as well as multiple fundraisers for the Actors' Fund of America, most recently *Disaster!* at LATC last week.

A. JEFFREY SCHOENBERG (Costume Designer) Jeffrey is pleased to be working with MTG for which he has designed *A New Brain*, *Little Women*, *Fanny*, and several other shows. Last year he received the Ovation Award for his design for *The Malcontent* at Anteaus Company, where he has also designed *The Seagull*, *King Lear*, and *Cousin Bette*. For the Colony Theater he has designed over 30 productions, including *Free Man of Color*, *Side Show* (Ovation and Garland Awards), *The Laramie Project*, and *The Immigrant* among many others. Other shows include *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Travesties*, *The Devils* (Ovation Award winner) and *Threepenny Opera* for the Open Fist Theater; *Children of the Night* for the Beverly Hills Playhouse, *Bach at Leipzig* for the Odyssey Theater, *Nighthawks* at the Kirk Douglas Theater, the NoHo Arts Center's *Elizabeth Rex* (Ovation Award winner), *Red, Hot and Blue* for By George Productions, and *Assassins* at West Coast Ensemble. Jeffrey is the owner and designer for AJS Costumes and M. Alan Jeffries Fine Gentlemen's Apparel.

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* *founding members in italics*

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