

#ECHOAT20
#NEVERTHELESS



THE ECHO THEATER COMPANY

Dedicated to nurturing writers and producing new work, the multiple award-winning Echo Theater Company was anointed “Best Bet for Ballsy Original Plays” by the LA Weekly in its 2014 Best of L.A. issue and was a recipient of a 2016 “Kilroy Cake Drop”— one of only 13 theaters in the country to be surprised by cakes to honor the efforts they are making to produce women and trans writers. Under the leadership of founding artistic director Chris Fields, the Echo has introduced Los Angeles to playwrights such as David Lindsay-Abaire, Adam Rapp, Sarah Ruhl, Adam Bock and Miki Johnson among many others. The company is also recognized for its acting ensemble; in the Los Angeles Times, Charles McNulty wrote, “Echo Theater Company, which has cultivated a community of top flight actors, would be my go-to place in Los Angeles for symbiotic ensemble acting.” KCRW’s Anthony Byrnes stated, “It’s time to start paying attention to the Echo Theater Company... What’s made these choices pay off is the acting and casting has been superb. The company has made bold choices and backed them up.”

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The Echo Theater Company Presents the 2017 Associate Company in

NEVERTHELESS, SHE PERSISTED

an evening of world premiere plays

At Dawn by **CALAMITY WEST**, directed by **AHMED BEST**

yajū, written and directed by **MARY LAWS**

Sherry and Vince by **CHARLOTTE MILLER**, directed by **TARA KARSIAN**

Do You See, written and directed by **SHARON YABLON**

Violet by **JACQUELINE WRIGHT**, directed by **TEAGAN ROSE**

SCENIC & LIGHTING DESIGN
AMANDA KNEHANS

SOUND DESIGN
JEFF GARDNER

PRODUCER
CHRIS FIELDS

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
NICK FORAN

The plays presented in NEVERTHELESS, SHE PERSISTED were commissioned by
The Echo Theater Company
Chris Fields, Artistic Director / Jesse Cannady, Producing Director

AT DAWN by Calamity West

Directed by Ahmed Best

Kaiti O'Connor.....Heidi
Joey Stromberg.....Sheriff Foster
Landon Mirisciotti~.....Deputy Hunter
Rachel Zink.....The Girl #1
Lindsay Graves-Fisher.....The Girl #2

TIME: Dawn. January 20th, 2047

PLACE: Heidi's home in Arizona. Once a lucrative brothel.

YAJŪ by Mary Laws

Directed by Mary Laws

Maya Bowman.....Ray
Julie Dretzin*~.....Hope

TIME: Now

PLACE: A family kitchen somewhere in suburbia

SHERRY AND VINCE by Charlotte Miller

Directed by Tara Karsian

Jacqueline Besson.....Sherry
Jose Corea.....Vince

TIME: The present, mid-morning

PLACE: Dallas, Hutchins State Correctional Facility

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OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON



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www.ECHOTHEATERCOMPANY.com

ERIN SCERBAK is a Los Angeles based actor and is excited to be part of *Nevertheless, She Persisted!* Past L.A. credits include *Pericles*, *A Christmas Carol* (A Noise Within) *The Offending Gesture* (Son Of Semele) and *Dry Land* (The Echo Theatre Co.) as a member of the swim team. When not acting you can find Erin obsessing over her dog (Hi Finny!), eating as much pizza as possible, and daydreaming. Erin would like to thank Sharon, her cast mates, and The Echo for this experience. Love to C and F. IG @nirekabrecs | www.erinscerbak.com

JOEY STROMBERG is a Los Angeles based actor originally from Sterling, KS. His theater credits include regional productions of *Marvin's Room* and *House of Blue Leaves*. Upcoming film and TV projects include Amazon's *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* and *Book Club*, starting Diane Keaton and Jane Fonda. He currently studies acting with Chris Fields and improv with the Upright Citizen's Brigade.

AMANDA WAGNER has been involved with The Echo since 2016 when she was their post-grad intern from Occidental College. Her recent stage appearances include the Hollywood Fringe Festival and with the Occidental Children's Theater troupe. In addition to theater, Amanda is a passionate dog-walker and feminist. She is honored to be working with these talented actors in bringing Sharon Yablom's unique play to life! Through this process, she has been reminded of what we are fighting for as feminists and the power of sisterhood.

ALEXANDER WAXLER is pursuing a dual degree in Theater and Economics at Occidental College. He is thrilled to be making his debut with The Echo. Off stage, he has worked as House Manager for the San Diego International Fringe Festival, Guest Instructor for Center Stage Children's Theater, Producer for Occidental's New Play Festival, Assistant Director for Ellipsoid Players' production of *My Mother's in the Audience* at SD Fringe, and Stage Manager for California Rhythm Project.

CALAMITY WEST is a Chicago-based, Kilroys-cited, award-winning playwright represented by The Gersh Agency. Her full-length plays include: *Hinter* (2017-18); *In The Canyon* (2016-18); Tony Kushner *Considers Writing A Gay Fantasia Based on National Themes: A Fantasia by Calamity West* (2015 - 17), *Rolling* (2016); *Give It All Back* (Kilroy-cited 2015); *The Peacock* (2013, Kilroys honorable mention); and *The Gacy Play* (2012.) She teaches playwriting at the University of Chicago.

JACQUELINE WRIGHT is a Cal Arts grad. In September *Beautiful* opens at Treasure Valley Children's Theater, and Circle X presents a reading of *Driving Wilde*. CityLit's adaptation festival: *Redwood*. Theatre of Note: *Have You Seen Alice*, *Spider Bites*, *Bing*, *Eat Me*. EST LA : *Love Water*, *Buddy Buddette*. Other prod: Cal Arts, Northridge State, Cypress College, Occidental. Nominated for LA Weekly, Ovation awards, Jerome Fellowship alternate, Sundance Screenwriter's Lab finalist, Sherwood Award semifinalist. More: dogear.org

SHARON YABLON writes and often directs her plays. She co-edited an anthology of LA's underground theater scene, including plays from Sharon's Farm - site specific theater she occasionally puts on in dirty old hotels, yards, and other places. She writes short stories, two of which were published last year. Her play "Hello Stranger" opens at Theater of NOTE in October. She has short plays every few months at 3 Clubs bar with LA True Crime.

RACHEL ZINK is thrilled to be making her debut with the Echo Associate Company Gen. 1! She received her Bachelors of Arts in Theatre Arts Performance at California State University, Long Beach (GO BEACH!) Upon graduating she has performed with the 68 Cent Crew Theatre company in numerous productions including *Dracula* and *Dancing at Lughnasa*, snagging leading roles in both. She is excited to continue her journey in theatre with The Echo and appreciates your support.

DO YOU SEE by Sharon Yablom

Directed by Sharon Yablom

Erin Scerbak.....Wendy
Ellen Neary.....Dana
Alex Waxler.....Dave
Amanda Wagner.....Angela
Susan Louise O'Connor*Violet

TIME: The early 80's

PLACE: San Francisco

VIOLET by Jacqueline Wright

Directed by Teagan Rose

Lindsay Graves-Fisher.....Violet
Rachael Olsem.....Lea

TIME: The present

PLACE: An apartment

Tonight's performance features the 2017 Echo Associate Company
 Andrew Shafer, Associate Company Director

with Guests Julie Dretzin, Susan Louise O'Connor, and Landon Mirisciotti

*Denotes actors performing courtesy of the Actor's Equity Association
 ~ Denotes Member of the Echo Theater Company

WHO'S WHO

AHMED BEST. MFA: American Film Institute. Ovation Award, LACC Award, Stage Raw Award winner. Fight Choreography: Dry Land (Echo Theater Co.), Unbound (IAMA Theater Co.), Good Grief (Center Theater Group), Women Laughing Alone With Salad (Center Theater Group), Blueberry Toast (Echo Theater Co.) Backyard (Ovation Award, Echo Theater Co.), and Fugue (Echo Theater Co.) Actor: Theater: Bob a life in Five Acts (Echo Theater Co.), Stomp. Film: Star Wars Episode I, II, and III.

JACQUELINE BESSON hails from the San Francisco Bay Area. She studied musical theatre and acting at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. Recent theater credits include: Willy Wonka & the Weed Factory- A Musical Satire (Welland Productions), Dry Land (The Echo/ Kirk Douglas), and The Found Dog Ribbon Dance (The Echo). She has also been involved with various readings at The Echo and Rattlestick West.

MAYA BOWMAN is delighted to make her Echo Theater Company debut! She is a recent BFA Acting graduate from The California Institute of The Arts, and is now spending time appearing in short films and other indie projects. Originally from Maryland, she would like to thank her family for all of the love and support throughout the years of distance!

JOSE COREA's favorite theatrical credits include Jimmy, Chad, and Dave in Almost Maine, Bill in Sure Thing, and Dr. Benjamin in Waiting for Lefty. He has studied with Steppenwolf Classes West and iO West Improv. Currently, he teaches English at two community colleges. He would like to thank Chris, Nadia, Tara, and the entire Echo Theater family for allowing him this wonderful opportunity to grow as an actor.

JULIE DRETZIN Broadway: The Sisters Rosensweig. Off-Broadway: The Atlantic, The Roundabout, Second Stage and Soho Rep. Julie has also worked at The Intiman Theatre, Dallas Theatre Center, Portland Stage, Williamstown, and Hartford Stage. At The Echo: The Found Dog Ribbon Dance. Television credits include

recurring parts on "Preacher", "How To Get Away with Murder", "Breaking Bad", and "Six Feet Under." Julie is proud to be a member of the Echo Theater Company ; thank you Mary Laws!

NICK FORAN is originally from Australia, Nick has stage managed hundreds of shows in America and abroad. He is currently busy running comedy and theater productions all around Los Angeles in various theaters as well as a being technical supervisor at three theaters, including at the Stella Adler School of Acting. He's thrilled to be working with the Echo Theater Company for the first time.

LINDSAY GRAVES-FISHER is an actor based in Los Angeles. She received a B.A. in Theater from Occidental College. She recently produced and performed in the one-woman show Grounded as 'The Pilot' (Keck Theater). Other roles include Provost in Measure for Measure, Amy in Jessica Goldberg's Refuge, Mrs. Martin in The Bald Soprano, and Chantal in Adam Bock's The Thugs. She is thrilled to make her debut with the Echo Theater Company.

JEFF GARDNER Echo: The Cake, American Falls, Bed, One of the Nice Ones, Blueberry Toast, Dry Land (Ovation Award- Best Production, 2016), Other design credits include Trevor for Circle X Theatre (Ovation Award- Best Production, 2015), The Recommendation for IAMA Theatre (Ovation Award- Best Production, 2014), Les Blancs for Rogue Machine Theatre and Picnic for Antaeus Theatre (Ovation Nomination- Sound Design). Jeff can also be seen at L.A. Theatre Works where he regularly performs live sound effects.

TARA KARSIAN For the last three years, Tara has played Lucille on the critically acclaimed Comedy Central show, REVIEW and has guest starred and recurred on over forty television shows. As a longtime member of the Echo, she has directed numerous one acts over the years and the L.A. premiere of Row After Row. Also for the Echo, she has produced Everything Will Be Different, Bed, and The Cake and as an

actress, she has appeared in numerous shows with the company including last year's One of the Nice Ones (Stage Raw nomination).

AMANDA KNEHANS is a Los Angeles based scenic designer and art director. Recent theatre credits include Dry Land (Kirk Douglas Theatre), Welcome to the White Room (Theatre of Note), Blueberry Toast, One of the Nice Ones, and A Small Fire (The Echo Theater), ICU and Goonie (Circle X), and Mutual Philanthropy (Ensemble Studio Theatre). Recent film credits include Assistant Art Director on "East Los High" Season 4 and 5 (Hulu) and "Sing It!" Season 1 (YouTube Red).

MARY LAWS is a native of Texas. Her plays include Bird Fire Fly, Blueberry Toast, Wonderful, The Drive, What A Very Pretty Pageant!, Stand (an autumn play), The Trapeze Artist, and This. Mary co-wrote the screenplay for Nicolas Winding Refn's film The Neon Demon which was released in June, 2016. She currently writes for the television series Preacher on AMC. MFA, Yale School of Drama. BFA, Baylor University.

CHARLOTTE MILLER's plays include Thieves (Rising Phoenix Rep/Weathervane/Rattlestick Playwrights Theater), Ugly Little Sister (NYU/Strasburg Odets Commission), Barn (Rising Phoenix Rep), Favorites (Rising Phoenix Rep), Joan's Boutique (The Spectrum), Worst Year Ever (NY International Fringe Festival), and Rocks (The Tank) among others. Her plays have been workshoped at IAMA, Laybyrith, The Flea, Playpenn, Rattlestick, Rising Phoenix Rep, Hudson Stages, and the People's Light theater. She is a proud member of Rising Phoenix Rep and the PD Unit at the Actors Studio. Big thanks to Tara, Chris, Jose, and Jacqueline.

LANDON MIRISCIOTTI is a native Texan hailing from a little ole town called Burlleson. He moved to L.A. to attend AMDA (American Musical and Dramatic Academy) and pursue his passion for acting and Korean Barbecue. Landon is extremely grateful to be a part of this wonderful cast and theater company. He wants to thank his momma and friends for all their support.

ELLEN NEARY Is thrilled to be making her Echo Theater Company stage debut! She's excited to be working so closely with Sharon Yablon, an amazing writer and director. Along with her stage work, Ellen has most recently worked on the films 'Anomaly' & 'At the End of the Day'. As always, Ellen's delighted to be working!

KAITI O'CONNOR This fifth generation Lincolnite knew she'd be an actor from age three. After padding her resume in San Francisco, Kaiti made the move to L.A. with her lawn gnomes and her boyfriend. She has taken many classes, joined a theater company, and accumulated a handful of parking tickets. Kaiti would like to thank her pillar of strength and sanity, Cory Greeson; her supportive and charmingly foul mouthed family, Dennis, Paula, and Casey O'Connor; and her L.A faerie godmother Nadia Marina.

SUSAN LOUISE O'CONNOR has appeared on Broadway & the National Tour of Blithe Spirit with Angela Lansbury. She's done over 25 world premiere productions Off Broadway & in theaters across the country. TV credits include "Law & Order: SVU & CI," "Orange is the New Black," "Boardwalk Empire" & "Tight." Susan studies improv at The Groundlings & has a web series called "Infinity and Betsy" about a wannabe life coach & her probably high neighbor. www.susanlouiseoconnor.com

RACHAEL OLSEM. One nice fall day Rachael's parents left the front door open and she got out. Since then she's been involved with some independent film projects and community theater in Los Angeles. A graduate from the University of Northern Iowa she is proud to be on stage with the Echo Theater for the first time!

TEAGAN ROSE is a Los Angeles based actor, creator, and lover of the arts. She is honored to be making her directorial debut with the Echo! Her recent acting credits include Dry Land (Echo Theater Company), White Guy On The Bus (Road Theater Company), The Great Gatsby (Indiana Repertory Theater), Scandal (ABC), and The Middle (ABC). www.teaganroseactress.com