

#ECHOAT20
#THECAKE



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 World Premiere of

THE CAKE

by **BEKAH BRUNSTETTER**

directed by **JENNIFER CHAMBERS**

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PETE HICKOK

COSTUME DESIGN
ELENA FLORES

LIGHTING DESIGN
PABLO SANTIAGO

SOUND DESIGN
JEFF GARDNER

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MEG FISTER

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THE CAKE was developed in the Echo Theater Company's 2015-16 Playwright's LAB.

THE CAKE received a developmental reading at The Alley Theatre
Gregory Boyd, Artistic Director / Dean R. Gladden, Managing Director

THE CAKE was developed at The Ojai Playwrights Conference
Robert Egan, Artistic Director/Producer

CAST

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

DEBRA JO RUPP.....Della
CAROLYN RATTERAY.....Macy
MORRISON KEDDIE.....George
SHANNON LUCIO.....Jen
JOE HART.....Tim

Time/Place: The Present. Winston-Salem, North Carolina

THE CAKE is performed without an intermission

This production is presented under the auspices of the Actors' Equity Los Angeles Membership Company Rule.

Performers appear courtesy of Actor's Equity Association.

The Director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

Skyler Gray (Dramaturg) is the Literary Manager at the Alley Theatre in Houston, TX. He has developed new work with the Williamstown Theatre Festival, South Coast Repertory, Chance Theater, Rogue Artists Ensemble, Columbia University, and Artists at Play. He served as the Artistic Director of Children's Musical Theaterworks and The Underground @ CMT in Fresno, CA from 2010-2012. He has worked in the literary departments at South Coast Repertory, Williamstown Theatre Festival, and William Morris Endeavor in New York City. He holds a BA in Theatre from the University of California, Irvine with Honors in Directing.

Pete Hickok (Scenic Design) is a Scenic Designer, Production Designer, and Sculptor based out of Los Angeles. His most recent scenic design projects include *Farragut North* at the Odyssey Theater, *Die, Mommie Die!* at Celebration Theater, and *Crimes of the Heart* at the International City Theater in Long Beach. He was also recently production designer for "Medicare Mermaids" among his other ventures curating and exhibiting in the contemporary art world. He was nominated for a 2016 Ovation Award for his design of *Rio Hondo* at the Theater of Note.

Tara Karsian (Consulting Producer) For the last three seasons, Tara has played Lucille on the critically acclaimed Comedy Central show, "Review." She has guest starred and recurred on over fifty television shows such as "Doubt," "Brooklyn Nine Nine," "Shut Eye," "Preacher," "Longmire," "Shameless," "In Plain Sight," "Prison Break," "The Mentalist," "Entourage," "ER," "The New Adventures of Old Christine," "Bones," "Without A Trace," "C.S.I.," "Malcolm in the Middle," "Six Feet Under," "N.Y.P.D. Blue," "Everybody Loves Raymond," among countless others. As a longtime member of the Echo, she directed the Los Angeles premiere of *Row After Row*, produced *Bed*, and as an actress she has appeared in numerous Echo shows including last year's *One of the Nice Ones* (Stage Raw nomination).

Nadia Marina (Producer) is happy to produce again with the Echo Theater Company. She would like to thank her mother for bringing her endless amounts of wine from her hometown (Lodi), her husband for sharing his time with her other lover (the theater), and her baby girl for being her production assistant and for being there every step of the way. Last but certainly not least she would like to thank the cast and crew of this production, especially her producing partner, for being such a joy to work with and for being a part of the Echo family.

Erika Miranda (Assistant Stage Manager) is so grateful to be working with the Echo Theater Company for the first time! Being ASM for these talented ladies and gents has been the greatest gift. She would like to thank everyone involved in *The Cake* for welcoming her so warmly. Erika just moved to Los Angeles from Chicago where she performed in some of the city's cherished storefront theatres. She graduated from the Theatre School at DePaul University with a BFA in Acting.

Pablo Santiago (Lighting Design) is originally from Chiapas, México and designs for theatre, opera, dance and gallery work. After 15 years in the film industry he obtained an MFA in Lighting Design from UCLA and transitioned into live stage design. He the winner of the Richard Sherwood Award 2017. He was nominated for an Ovation Award in 2014 and he won a Stage Raw Award in 2015. Recent highlights include: *Zoot Suit* at the Mark Taper Forum, *Opera Breaking the Waves* for OperaPhila, *Destiny of Desire* at the Goodman, *Flight* for Opera Omaha, *Good Grief* and *Citizen* at KDT.

Michael Sturgis (Associate Producer) played Jack in *Blueberry Toast* last season. He is a company member and an Associate Literary Manager at the Echo. He has a show on Tuesday nights at UCB with his improv team Crumbs.

ADDITIONAL STAFF

Company Manager.....Alexandra Freeman
 Assistant Stage Manager.....Alexandra Dimaio
 Assistant Stage Manager.....Erika Miranda
 Literary Assistant to the Playwright.....Halley Platz
 Audience Services Manager.....Nadia Marina
 Carpenter/Electrician.....Michael Hanna
 Electrician.....Russell Chow
 Photographer.....Darrett Sanders
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Jesse Cannady (Producer) is the Producing Director for the Echo Theater Company. He has been awarded fellowships at the Kennedy Center, the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, and with the Dekeyser Foundation in Hamburg, Germany. In addition, he has worked on productions with the Red Tape Theatre Company, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, the New Colony, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Horse Trade Company and the Chicago Neo-Futurists. He is also the Associate Director of Development & Alumni Relations at the Second City.

Jennifer Chambers (Director) is a Los Angeles based director. She is the Associate Artistic Director of the Echo Theater Company. She has directed the world premier of Sheila Callaghan's *Bed*, Daryl Watson's *Unbound*, Jessica Goldberg's *Better*, the world premiere of Stephen Belber's *The Muscles in Our Toes*, *The Pain and The Itch* by Bruce Norris, *Playdates* by Sam Wolfson, and the world premiere of *Complete* by Andrea Kuchlewska. She is the Artistic Director of The Echo's Playwright's LAB and has assisted Jonathan Moscone on Shaw's *Man and Superman* at Cal Shakespeare and Liz Diamond on *Crooked* by Catherine Trieschman. She has a BS in Theatre from Northwestern University and an MA in Counseling Psychology/ Drama Therapy from the California Institute of Integral Studies. She is a member of SAG/AFTRA, AEA, and a member of SDC.

Alexandra Dimaio (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be a part of the Echo Theater Company for their production of *The Cake*. She received her BFA in Theatre and Performance from the University of Michigan and started her acting career in Chicago before moving to Los Angeles. She is currently studying at UCB and Lesly Kahn and is signed with Carrie Macy Talent Agency. Most recently, Alexandra appeared in the revival of Hollywood Fringe Festival favorite *Winter is Coming*. Other theatre and film credits include "Meshes of Dusk," *House of Blue Leaves*, "Red Noses," and *Hay Fever*.

Elena Flores (Costume Design) is an MFA graduate of CSU, Long Beach and pleased to be designing her 4th production with Echo Theater Company. Recent design work: *Dry Land* (Center Theatre Group/Echo Theater Company), *The Birthing Pit* (Hollywood Fringe Festival), "Frederick" (Short Film), "Heimlich" (Short film). Upcoming: "On My Block" (Netflix), *Fixed* (Echo Theatre).

Chris Fields (Artistic Director) is the founding Artistic Director of The Echo Theater Company. He also founded and was Artistic Director of The Ojai Playwrights Con-

ference. Most recently, for The Echo, he directed the World Premiere of Erik Patterson's *One of the Nice Ones*, produced Ruby Rae Spiegel's *Dry Land*, and directed Miki Johnson's *American Falls* and "Say You, Say Me" by Lionel Richie, as well as Tommy Smith's *Ghost Light*, *Fugue*, and *Fireman*, for which he won an LADCC Award.

Natalie Figaredo (Production Stage Manager) is very excited to be working with The Echo Theater Company for the first time! She is a freelance stage manager based in the OC/LA area. Theatre credits include productions at South Coast Repertory, The Long Beach Playhouse, The Macha Theatre, The Old Globe, The Garage Theatre, and The Royal Albert Hall. She has a BA in theatre from CSULB and trained as a stage manager at The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

Meg Fister's (Casting Director) Previous Echo Theater casting credits include *Blueberry Toast* by Mary Laws, *One of the Nice Ones* by Erik Patterson, *Dry Land* by Ruby Rae Spiegel, and *Bed* by Sheila Callaghan. Other credits include Center Theatre Group's 50th Anniversary Celebration at The Ahmanson Theatre; *Father Comes Home From The Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)* by Suzan-Lori Parks, *The Mystery of Love & Sex* by Bathsheba Doran, *Disgraced* by Ayad Akhtar, *Appropriate* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, and *The Price* by Arthur Miller at the Mark Taper Forum; *Vicuña* by Jon Robin Baitz and *Women Laughing Alone With Salad* by Sheila Callaghan at the Kirk Douglas Theatre; *The Christians* by Lucas Hnath, *brownsville song (b side for tray)* by Kimber Lee, *The Grown Ups* by Jordan Harrison, and *Partners* by Dorothy Fortenberry at the Humana Festival of New American Plays; and *The Mountain-top* by Katori Hall at Actors Theatre of Louisville.

Jeff Gardner (Sound Design) For the Echo: *American Falls*, *Bed*, *One of the Nice Ones*, *Blueberry Toast*, and *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), and *Picnic* for Antaeus Theatre (Ovation Nomination- Sound Design). He has designed and performed throughout the country including The Shakespeare Theatre, DC, The Studio Theatre, DC, A Noise Within, Rogue Machine Theatre, Sacred Fools, The Colony Theatre, Odyssey Theatre, The Kirk Douglas, The Kennedy Center and Williamstown Theatre Festival. Jeff can be seen at L.A. Theatre Works where he regularly performs live sound effects.

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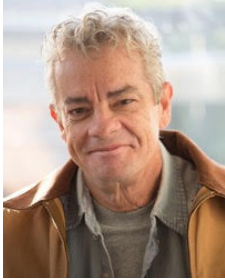
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Jeff Alan Lee, Andrew Shafer, and the Young Actors Studio; Tim Wright and Circle X Theater Co.; Jennifer Skinner and Kinetic Lighting; LA Stage Alliance; The Alley Theater; Derek Zasky and William Morris Endeavor; Jonathan Ward and the Center Theatre Group; Momed Atwater; Kerry Karsian; Amy Hill-Reiss; Kari Lee Cartwright; the 2015-16 Echo Playwright's LAB; Michael Hanna; Butter Cake Shop; New Vizion Films

WHO'S WHO



Joe Hart (Tim) is grateful to ETC for inviting him to work on Bekah Brunstetter's *The Cake*. Recently appeared in Lily Tomlin /Jane Wagners' *Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe Revisited* at the LGBT Center, directed by Ken Sawyer. It was under Ken's direction that Joe won an Ovation Award for *Angels of Lemnos* and received a nomination for *Woman in Black*. Most recently appeared in *West Side Story* and *Empire* at La Mirada Performing Arts. Broadway and National Tours include *Bonnie & Clyde*, *Best Little Whorehouse Goes Public*, *Priscilla*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. LA Theater: Ron Link's *Bouncers*, Richard Israel's *Floyd Collins*, Ken Sawyer's *Dracula*, Scott Smith's *Melissa Artic*. Film: "Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," "Last Call at Murray's," "Life Inside Out," "Lawnmowerman," "Kuffs," "Presidio." TV: "I Love Dick," "Criminal Minds," "Desperate Housewives," and "NUMB3RS." Thankful to Carol Kline, MTG and dedicated to Benji.



Morrison Keddie (George) is thrilled to be making his debut with the Echo Theater Company. Other theatrical works include *Hamlet* (Rubicon Theatre Co.); *Ubu Roi*, *Othello*, *School For Wives*, *Julius Caesar*, *Midsummer Nights Dream* (A Noise Within); and sketch at iO West. His voice has been featured in video games, international promotions, and most recently in the VR animation series "Water Bear" (Waffle). TV/Film Credits: "Again" (Tribeca 2017), "Rocketjump: The Show" (Hulu), "Sass Class" (DreamworksTV), and "Hart of Dixie" (CW). Many thanks to the cast, crew, Jen, the Echo, and his lovely wife for making this possible.



Shannon Lucio (Jen) received her BA in Theater from the University of Southern California. Shortly thereafter, she landed her breakout role on "The O.C." Recently, she recurred on "American Horror Story" and the mini-series "Roots." Her other past notable television credits include "Prison Break," "True Blood," "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.," and "Grey's Anatomy." Some of her noteworthy films are "Grounded," opposite Aaron Paul and Lena Olin, "Fireflies in the Garden," with Julia Roberts and Ryan Reynolds, and "Feast of Love," directed by Robert Benton. A founding member of production company Filament Features, Shannon is involved in all aspects of production, simultaneously acting in, writing, and producing many of Filament's projects. She is also a member of Hero Theatre. Her recent theater credits include Alma in *The Eccentricities of a Nightingale* (Pasadena Playhouse), *Mae in Mud* (Rosenthal Theater), and Florrie in *Waiting for Lefty* (Rosenthal Theater).



Carolyn Ratteray (Macy) is excited to make her debut with the Echo Theater company. Previous credits include *Father Comes Home From The Wars* (U/S, Mark Taper Forum), *Pygmalion* (Pasadena Playhouse) *The Imaginary Invalid*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Tartuffe* (A Noise Within), *Measure for Measure* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (The Old Globe), *How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found* (The Theatre @ Boston Court). Film/TV: "Castle," "NCIS," "All My Children," "Chemistry," "The Young and the Restless," and "Law & Order: Criminal Intent." Training: M.F.A., The Old Globe/University of San Diego; Clown with Phillipe Gaulier, Angela De Castro, David Bridel.



Debra Jo Rupp (Della) appeared on Broadway as 'Mae' in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* opposite Kathleen Turner. Off Broadway she performed as 'Dr. Ruth Westheimer' in *Becoming Dr. Ruth* (Westside Arts), nominated: Drama Desk; Outer Critics Awards, after developing the one woman show at Barrington Stage Co. where she is an artistic fellow. She starred in Cynthia Heimel's smash hit *A Girl's Guide to Chaos* (American Place NY; Tiffany Theatre LA). Other notable New York appearances include *Frankie and Johnny in the Claire De Lune* (Westside Arts), and *The Butcher of Baraboo* (Second Stage). Regional: *The Laramie Project*, *Kimberly Akimbo* (Berkshire Theater Award), both at Barrington Stage. *True West*, *A Flea in Her Ear* (Williamstown); *Annapurna*, *Becoming Dr. Ruth* (nom: Connecticut Critics Circle) at Theaterworks Hartford. She made a memorable film debut as Tom Hanks' assistant in "Big" and went on to do over 300 film and television roles. She is probably best known for her 8 seasons as 'Kitty Forman' on "That 70's Show." Other memorable roles include 'Katie,' Jerry Seinfeld's booking agent on "Seinfeld" and Lisa Kudrow's sister-in-law 'Alice' on "Friends." Other film and television appearances include "Clockwatchers," "The Ranch," "Better With You," "Air Buddies," "She's Out Of My League," "The Office," "From Earth To The Moon."

Bekah Brunstetter's (Playwright) plays include *The Cake* (Ojai Playwrights Conference), *Going to a Place where you already are* (South Coast Repertory), *The Oregon Trail* (Portland Center Stage, O'Neill Playwrights Conference; Flying V), *Cutie and Bear* (Roundabout commission) *A Long and Happy life* (Naked Angels Commission), *Be A Good Little Widow* (Ars Nova, Collaboration, The Old Globe), *Oohrah!* (The Atlantic Theater, Steppenwolf Garage, the Finborough Theater / London), *Nothing is the end of the World (except for the end of the world)* (Waterwell productions), *House of Home* (Williamstown Theater festival), and *Miss Lilly Gets Boned* (Ice Factory Festival.) She is an alumni of the CTG Writers Group, Primary Stages writer's group, Ars Nova Play Group, The Playwright's Realm, and the Women's Project Lab. She is currently a member of the Echo Theater's Playwright's LAB. She has previously written for MTV ("Underemployed"), ABC Family's "Switched at Birth," and Starz's "American Gods." She is currently a Producer on NBC's "This is Us." BA UNC Chapel Hill; MFA in Dramatic Writing from the New School for Drama.