

THE ECHO THEATER COMPANY PRESENTS A WORLD PREMIERE

F**KING STRANGERS

BY ERIK PATTERSON

DIRECTED BY CHRIS FIELDS



the
echo
theater company

The Echo Theater Company presents the world premiere of

F**KING STRANGERS

Written by Erik Patterson

Directed by Chris Fields

PRODUCED BY

Kelly Beech and Chris Fields

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS

Santeon Brown Meghan McEnery

Marti Skoler Melanie Thompson

WITH

Tasha Ames Sean Luc Rogers David Shofner

Michael Sturgis James Tupper

SCENIC DESIGN

Amanda Knehans

COSTUME DESIGN

Dianne K. Graebner

LIGHTING DESIGN

Matt Richter

SOUND DESIGN

M. Glenn Schuster

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Jasmine Leung

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Sam Morelos

PUBLICITY

Lucy Pollak

Atwater Village Theater

WORLD PREMIERE July 18-August 24, 2026



This performance is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Department of Arts and Culture and The Sheep Meadow Foundation.

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited.

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Ru **Michael Sturgis**

Mick **James Tupper**

Dylan **Sean Luc Rogers**

Julianne **Tasha Ames**

Understudies never substitute for listed players unless a specific announcement for their appearance is made at the time of the performance.

For *Mick* – **David Shofner**

STAFF

Literary Manager **Michael Sturgis** | Audience Services Manager **Liyara Senadheera**

Development Associate **Emily Watzet** | Marketing Associate **Hilary Oglesby**

Photography **Copper Bates** | Technical Director **Justin Huen** | Electrician **Maeve Riley**

Graphic Design **Christopher Komuro** | Videography **Shea Vanderpoort**

BIOGRAPHIES



Tasha Ames



Sean Rogers



David Shofner



Michael Sturgis



James Tupper

Tasha Ames (*Julianne*) With *Echo: Clarkston* (TicketHolder “Best Supporting Actress”) and *Hooded, Or Being Black For Dummies*. She also produces the recurring incubator, *The Echo Chamber*. Other theatre highlights: *Do You Feel Anger?* (Circle X–LADCC Award “Featured Performance”, Theatre Bites Award “Featured Actress”, StageSceneLA “Performance of the Year”), *Hungry Ghost* (Skylight), *Miss Lilly Gets Boned* and *Honky* (Rogue Machine), *Kimberly Akimbo* and *Rabbit Hole* (Malibu Stage–Ovation Winner “Featured Actress”), *Crimes of the Heart* (Rubicon). Film/TV: Lots (see IMDB:) Studied at NYU (Tisch) and USC; BFA

Theatre. She teaches acting at Joe Anthony Studios. She also works as a music supervisor in television and film and co-hosts the podcast *Sibling Grievory*. Thanks to Aaron, her favorite stranger. IG: @amesforthebest

Sean Rogers (*Dylan*) is excited to return to the Echo Theater stage! After an award-winning debut in Samuel D. Hunter’s *Clarkston*, Sean has gone on to star in the U.S premiere of *Glory Ride* with the Delaware Theater Company, and the film *Between Us and the River*, earlier this year. The Echo is a special place and remains a core pillar of the LA theater scene and Sean couldn’t be more

(continued on next page)

BIOGRAPHIES

(continued)

thrilled to share its stage once again with such talented performers! He'd like to thank his mother and sister, Lisa and Colette Rogers.

David Shofner (U/S Mick) David is very excited to be performing at The Echo Theatre Company. He is currently a member of the Classical Theatre Lab and the Open Fist Theatre Company. Some of the works he has performed in at Open Fist include Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa*, Caryl Churchill's *This Is A Chair and Here We Go*, and Daniel MacIvor's *The Soldier Dreams*. Some other favorite Los Angeles theatre credits are Tom Jacobson's *Cyberqueer* and Tony Tanner's adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's *Ghosts*. Film credits include *Careless*, *Hindsight*, and *Redemption Trail*.

Michael Sturgis (Ru) returns to the Echo after his performance in *Clarkston*, which earned him a Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle nomination. Also with Echo: *Crabs in a Bucket*, *Poor Clare* (LADCC Award), *Gloria*, and *Blueberry Toast*. Other stages include Theatre of NOTE, Classical Theatre Lab, A Noise Within, IAMA, and Harold Night at Upright Citizens Brigade. On TV he starred opposite Mark Duplass on *Room 104* (HBO), and with Mayim Bialik on *Call Me Kat* (Hulu). His short film *Every Other Week* is a Vimeo Staff Pick.

James Tupper (Mick) trained under Maggie Flanagan and William Esper in New York City. He has starred in such shows as *Big Little Lies* as Nathan on HBO, on *Revenge* as David Clarke, on *Men in Trees* as Jack Slattery on ABC, as Dr. Perkins on *Grey's Anatomy* among many more films and tv shows. James has done about fifty plays in his life and considers every one of those a joy. The proudest full time job he has ever had however is being a Dad to Atlas and Homer.

Erik Patterson (Playwright) Erik's plays have been produced/developed by such theaters as Playwrights' Arena, the LATC, The Actors' Gang, Naked Angels, Mark Taper Forum, and New Group. Nominations: Ovation Award, Stage Raw Award, LA Weekly Award, GLAAD Media Award. With Echo Theater Company: *One of the Nice Ones* (LADCC Award) and *Handjob*. Film credits include *Radio Rebel* (Humanitas Prize), *Another Cinderella Story* (WGA Award), *Abandoned*, *R.L. Stine's The*

Haunting Hour (two Emmy Award nominations), and several Hallmark movies. Erik is the author of several writing craft books for Simon & Schuster, including *Write a Romantasy*, *Write a Dystopian Novel*, and *Write a Horror Novel*. His play *Faggots in Love* premieres at Theatre of NOTE this summer.

Chris Fields (Director/Producer) is founding Artistic Director of The Echo Theater Company. He also founded and was Artistic Director of the Ojai Playwrights Conference. Most recently, he produced *For Want of a Horse* and *Berta Berta*, and directed *One Jewish Boy* and *Clarkston* by Samuel D. Hunter, produced *Dido of Idaho*, *Crabs In A Bucket*, and directed Jessica Goldberg's LADCC award winning *BABE*, all for The Echo. He has won Ovation, LADCC, Stage Raw, and LA Weekly Awards.

Dianne K. Graebner (Costume Design) has originated the costumes for many new works/ world premieres and designed costumes for hundreds of productions/a few films regionally and internationally. Favorites include: *Church & State* (Off-Broadway, New World Stages), *Honky Tonk Angels* (Laguna Playhouse), *Fallen Angels* (Indy award) & *Sleuth* (Ensemble Theatre Co. Santa Barbara), *Breath & Imagination* (The Colony Theatre-NAACP nomination). Ovation nominations: *The Judas Kiss* (Boston Court) & *The Brothers Karamazov* (Circle X) and *Battle Hymn* (L.A. Weekly nomination- Circle X Theatre Co.) and *Poor Clare* (Echo Theatre Co.). She spent many years at Center Theatre Group, where she designed the opening and closing weeks of Suzan-Lori Parks' *365 days/ 365 Plays* (Music Center/California Plaza, DTLA), *Dogeaters* and *Clay* (Kirk Douglas Theatre) and created hundreds of hats as their Milliner, Crafts Supervisor, Draper, and more. Dianne teaches and mentors Costume Design at CSU Fullerton. She is a member of United Scenic Artists, IATSE Local: USA 829. www.diannegraebner.com

Amanda Knehans (Scenic Design) is a Los Angeles based designer who works in film and theatre. Over the past 20 years, they have collaborated on over 150 film, theatre, and television productions. Theatre credits include *Performance of Self* (REDCAT), *Berta Berta*, *Crabs in a Bucket*, *Poor Clare*, and *The Wolves*

(The Echo), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *As You Like It* (Off Square Theatre), and *Year of the Rooster* and *Welcome to the White Room* (Theatre of Note). Film credits include Art Director on *George and Tammy* (Showtime), *Barry* Season 4 (HBO), *The Santa Clauses* Season 2 (Disney), *Paradise* (Hulu), and *Purple Hearts* (Netflix). Amanda is a member of the Art Directors Guild and USA 829.

Matt Richter (Lighting Design) is an award-winning designer based in Los Angeles. He serves as the full time technical director and designer in residence for the LA LGBT Center. He has designed for numerous companies around the Los Angeles area, including Rogue Machine, The Echo, Open Fist, Theatre of NOTE, Sacred Fools and Son of Semele. Matt also scores music as autodealer (autodealermusic.net) and as a duo with Jason Lamoreaux under the name *Transverse*. He lives in the Valley with his wife and two cats. More info at mattrichter.net.

M. Glenn Schuster (Sound Design) is a Los Angeles based sound designer. Recent productions: *Dungeons and Dragons: The Twenty Sided Tavern* (Off-Broadway, The Sydney Opera House, North American Tour), *A Raisin in the Sun* (South Coast Rep), *A New Brain* (Celebration Theatre). Glenn sits on the board of The Quinan Street Project, a theater education program for underfunded communities in The Contra Costa County of California, and also teaches courses in Sound Design at Cal Poly Pomona and Pepperdine University. Glenn is a proud member of USA 829! Ask them about how their tomatoes are growing in their vegetable garden.

Jasmine Leung (Production Stage Manager) is a Canadian stage manager based in LA. Selected credits: *The Night of the Iguana*, *A Going Away Party Play*, *The Body's Midnight*, *Measure STILL for Measure*, *Unrivaled* (Boston Court Pasadena); *Antigone*, *The Glass Menagerie* (Antaeus); *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile* and *Grumpy Monkey: The Musical* (Pasadena Playhouse); Ojai Playwrights Conference; *Delusion: Valley of Hollows*; *Safehouse '77* (Spy Brunch). She's excited to be working with the Echo for the first time!

Santeon Brown (Associate Producer) Born and raised in Los Angeles, Santeon began acting at the age of 10. She is thrilled to step into the associate producer role with *Fucking Strangers*, to expand her creative participation in another way. After finishing her work in FLEX (SF Playhouse), Santeon is grateful to be apart of another production in a meaningful capacity. [ig: @swaggyon]

Meghan McEnergy (Associate Producer) is a playwright and actor. Her writing has been performed at Theatre 4the People, Actors Studio West, Actor's Homeroom, The Theater Upstairs, Trike Children's Theatre, Back Space, Franklin College, Alvin College, and the University of Arkansas, and she has worked as a dramaturg at TheatreSquared and Arkansas Staged. She is an associate company member at The Echo and has an MFA in playwrighting from the University of Arkansas.

Marti Skoler (Associate Producer) is dipping her toes into the producing world for the first time with *F**king Strangers* and couldn't be happier about it. She received her acting degree from Columbia College Chicago and has continued her training in both New York and Los Angeles. She has performed on stages throughout Los Angeles and is a proud member of Echo Theater Company!

Melanie Thompson (Associate Producer) is excited to associate produce her first Echo Theater production with this talented team. She is an actor, writer, and director.

Sam Morelos (Assistant Director) is a proud first generation Filipino-American theater maker and is excited to be making their assistant directing debut! With Echo Theater Company: *Poor Clare* (U/S Clare), *How It's Gon' Be* (Associate Producer). Prior credits also include projects with Netflix, Hulu, Disney, and various independently produced projects. They are currently studying in NYU Tisch's BFA Drama program at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting. A huge thank you to their family, especially Oyo, who are always in the audience for every show they do.

The Echo would like to thank the following for their generosity in supporting the company:

Anonymous	Jeffrey Davis	Emilia Jones	Marc Perman	John Westby
Linda Adams	Julia Davis	Aditi Kapil	Sean Perrone	Leigh Whannell
Linda Pace Alexander	Lisa Davis	Angela Kang	Fred Porter	Mark Whicker
Tahira Aiana	Frederick Dear	Lally Katz	John Paul Porter	Lee Wilkof
Lindsay Allbaugh	Lorrie DeCoursey-	Diane Katz	Oscar Ponce	Tim Willard
Dan & Cindy Angel	Thomas	Olivia Keegan	Mo Pritzker	Willow Productions
Sherry Angel-Shiffman	Sunita Deshmukh	Keya Khayatian	Jean Pral	Kent Wilson
Tasha Ames	Alana Dietze	David Kim	Steve Radcliffe	Michael Wilson
Jon Ames	Claudia Dimond	Dani Klein	Tim Ransom	PaSean Wilson-Ashley
Andrew Amster	Kelly DiMeo	Johann Hugh King	Robert Roberts	Ryan Wilson
Eva Anderson	Ron Dodge	Matt Kinsey	Kate Robin	Jeffrey Wolman
Jamie Angell	Crystal Doan Stephens	Michael Knapp	David Roman	Neal Wrightson
Deborah Aquila	Gary Donahue	Leann Knapp	Suzanne Rosenblatt	Mihele Yamamoto
Clara Aranovich	John Dragonetti	Ben Knox	Piper Rooney	Rachel Yassky
Jake Arky	Julie Dretzin	Amy Landecker	Tim Rosso	Sharon Yablou
Chiara Atik	Richard Elbaum	Peter Lang	Erica Rothschild	Betsy Zajko
Penni Auster	Matthew DuBois	Mildred Langford	Keith Szarabajka	John Zalewski
Gaston Baacquet	Miller Duvall	Ken Larson	Dana Schwartz	Guy Zimmerman
George Basil	Paul Eiding	Aaron LaPlante	Charles & Barbara	
Marjorie Beale	Katie Facada	John LeGrand	Schufreider	
Jessica Beck	Melanie Fairchild	Jay Lederman	Chris Schmidt	SPECIAL THANKS
Jay Bevan	Randy Finch	Dae Levine	Wrenn Schmidt	Tim Wright, Kathleen
Amber Benson	Dayana & Cassidey	Heidi Levitt	Kyra Sedgwick	Dunn, Hannah Cooper,
Joel Bidwell	Fralin	Jane Levey	Cynthia Sherman	Ashley Williams,
Mollie Binkley	David Gale	Simon Levy	Lindsay Sharmen	Sherry Angel,
Peter Binkow	Andres Garza	Jane L.	Jessica Sharzer	Michael Shiffman,
Andrea Bland	Mark Gay	Los Angeles County	Grant Shaud	Paul Adelstein, Lisa
Donald Bohlinger	Alicia Gerken	Department of Arts	Sheep Meadow	Edelstein, Justin
RJ Bonds	John Getz	and Culture	Foundation	Parrish, Kimberly
Heather Bowen	Karly Gilbert	Todd Louiso	Brad Simpson	Alexander, Blair
Guy Boyd	Jessalyn Gilsig	Hector Luna	David Singer	Chandler, Paul
Ian Brennan	Gilbert Girion	Jeanie Lytle	Lori Singleton	Witten, Adam Peltier,
Christopher Breyer	Barry Glassner	Scott MacArthur	Finn Slingerland	Andre Barron, Josh
Rod Britt	Jessica Goldberg	Annie Macomber	Lauren Smerkanich	Stamberg, Stacey
Jackson Brivic	Diana Gogina	Macomber Family	Shannon Smith	Swift, Tony Rodriguez,
Gilbert Brown	Eleanor Godfrey	Foundation	Eloria Smith	Sharon Lawrence,
John Buchan	Cynthia Gold M.	Etan Marciano	Jennifer Soo	James Eckhouse, Kate
John Paul Bullock	Ellen Goldsmith-Vein	Krys Marshall	Jeffrey Soros	Morgan Chadwick,
Adaee Cadet	Karina Gondagszyan	Alison Martin	Francesca Sostar	Chris Gardner,
Kyle Cameron	Eve Gordon	Cindi Martsten	Joe Spano	Stephanie Black,
Annie Cardillo	Lorena Gonzalez	Esther Maya	John Srednicki	Jennifer Chambers,
Amanda Carlin	Marjorie Goetz	Laural Meade	Janet Staples-Edwards	Corey Michael Smith,
Bridget Carpenter	Sara Goodman	Julia McNeal	Pamela Starkey	Reed Birney, Polly
Jim & Michelle	Susan Gosden	Rob McEntegart	Marc Stevens	Draper, Frederick
Cashman	Jessica Graham	Pablo Mejlszenkier	Laryssa Stevens	Weller, Beth Ruscio,
Julie Casey	Leslie Graham	Myron Meisel	Joel Swetow	Mandy Freund, Hugo
Shawna Casey	Joy Gregory	Steve Messinger	Benjamin Sweetwood	Armstrong, Jacqueline
Sam Catlin	Nadia Grundgeiger	Lucas Meyers	Jeanne Taylor	Wright, Zach Quinto,
Sami Cavestani	Joanne Gunsberg	Elissa Middleton	Cecile Tio	Tonatiuh, Sian Heder,
Winnie Chen	David Hanna	Thomas Mitchell	Tx Tario	Angela Kang, Eleanor
Roisin Ching	Noah Harpster	Diana Mogellon	Julien Thuan	Godfrey, The Splinters:
Steve Chivers	Josh Hartwell	Erin Moore	Nikki Toscano	Bridget Carpenter,
Jean Christensen	Harrison Harvey	Doug Morris	Kriss Towner	Jessica Goldberg,
Tim Christenson	Sian Heder	John Moschitta	Vitaly Tsoyrev	Hilly Hicks Jr., Nancy
Matthew Clark	Youree Henley	Seamus Mulcahy	Corbett Tuck	Hower, Laural Meade,
Shannon Clark	Elizabeth Henleu	Janet Nabers	James Tupper	Michael Sargent,
Elizabeth Cole	Valli Herman	Ester Na	Marisela Velez	Annie Weisman.
Deborah Cincotta	Hilly Hicks	Ann Noble	Reeb Venners	
Deborah Corday	Gerald Hill	Ari Nicholas	Peri Vincent	
Matilda Shulman	Daniel Hoskins	Janice Ohta	Tracy Virchow	
Corley	Jane Hufnagel	& Fred Weiss	Vito Viscomi	
Katrina Coulourides	Judith Hyman	Michael Oppenheim	Arline E. Vogel	
Star Cravens	Eric Isken	Jim Ortlieb	Brenda Vogel	
Earl Crittenden	Alexis Jacknow	Melissa Jane Osborne	Michele Warner	
Christopher Cronyn	Caroline Janda	Liz Pappademas	Todd Ware	
Steven Culp	Glouchevitch	Lina Patel	Kat Weaver	
Amy Czettisch	Brent Jennings	Tim Payne	Jack Weinbaum	
David Dassey	Jacob Skytte Jensen	Rhoda Pell	April Webster	

ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR
Chris Fields

PRODUCING
DIRECTOR
Kelly Beech

ASSOCIATE
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Elana Luo

DIRECTOR OF
NEW PROGRAMMING
Andrew Shafer

COMPANY

Josh Adams, Chris Aguila, Jeff Alan-Lee, Boni Alvarez, Tasha Ames, Bradley Bazile, Blake Berris, Ahmed Best, Troy Blendell, Nadia Borelli, Tyler Bremer, Renee-Marie Brewster, Campbell, Carter Callahan, Carey Cannata, Meg Cashel, Vincent Castellanos, Samantha Cavastani, Winnie Chen, Enrico Colantoni, DeJuan Christopher, Katherine Cronyn, Steven Culp, Drew Dalzell, Samantha Dammeyer, Elliot Davis, Tony DeCarlo, Makeda Decllet, Joy DeMichelle, Vincent Doud, Julie Dretzin, Nicole DuPort, Cecily Elliot, Tonatiuh Elizarraraz, Ruby Farley, Randy Finch, David Phillip Fishman, Elena Flores, Sharae Foxie, Jeff Gardner, Adrian Gonzalez, Lorena Gonzalez, Ezekial Goodman, Eve Gordon, Stephan Guarino, Eric Neil Gutierrez, Daniel Hagen, Amy Harmon, Hutchi Hancock, Robert Hart, Karl Herlinger, Marin Hinkle, Ben Holtzmuller, Maria Hoyas, Ben Horowitz, Holleye Hudson, Justin Huen, Jordan Hull, Rhys Hyatt, Gloria Ines, Dylan Jones, Nona Johnson, Connor Kelly-Eiding, Amanda Knehans, Lily Knight, Jennifer LaFleur, Zoe Lam, Stephen Laughton, Molly Leach, Michael Lyons, Sam Morellos, Anna LaMadrid, West Liang, Hamish Linklater, Carol Locatell, Alaji Marie, Arman Marzvaan, Jeremy Maxwell, Hannah McDowell, Sigute Miller, Ann Noble, Landon Mirisciotti, Sarah Jane Morris, Ellen Neary, Natalya Nielsen, Hilary Oglesby, Bokula Ogunmola, Spencer Paez, Riel Paley, Deborah Puette, Zach Ring, Kacie Rogers, Sean Rogers, James Leo Ryan, Christopher Shaw, Mandy Siegfried, Sara Silva, Marti Skoler, Tessa Slovis, Jenny Soo, Chelsea Spirito, Steven Strobel, Joe Stromberg, Michael Sturgis, Daniel Talbott, Cole Taylor, Clarissa Thibeaux, Rodney To, Corbett Tuck, James Tupper, Antonio Vaghi, Joseph Valdez, Makaela Vogel, Allen Lucky Weaver, Libby Woodbridge, Jacqueline Wright, Timothy Wright, Noelle Urbano, Zoe Walpole, Seth Weaver, Alexa Yeames, Donna Zadeh, Rachael Zambias, Caitlin Zambito, Stan Zhu, Rachel Zink, Marie Zolezzi

ASSOCIATE COMPANY MEMBERS

Brandon Bales, Willa Caspole, Allison Earle, Jennilee Flowers, Alyssa Frey, Mikki Hernandez, Tyler Hudson, Dakota Jans, George Kingston, Shreyes Khurana, Morgan Lindholm, Allegra Leguizamo, Bree McCormick, Meghan McEnery, Jason Owsley, Justin Parrish, Sivan Propper, Paula Rebelo, Caroline Renee, Jackie Rhoads, Mac Rogers, Moira Rogers, Liyara Senadheera, Natasha Schlaffer, Martha Shaw, Sharan Singh, Melanie Thompson, Gabby Weltman, Kseniya Yumasheva, Rachel Zapata

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deborah Aquila, Chris Fields, Randy Finch, Jessica Goldberg, David Hanna, Noah Harpster, Marc Perman, Jessica Sharzer

ADVISORY BOARD

Lindsay Allbaugh, Sam Catlin, Tim Christenson, Shannon Clark, Charles S. Dutton, David Gale, Patti Giggans, David Guc, Zeljko Ivanek, Heidi Levitt, Joe Mantello, Luis Patiño, Jeff Perry, Tim Sanford, Russ Smith, Joe Spano, Daniel Talbott



DEDICATED TO NURTURING WRITERS AND PRODUCING NEW WORK, the Echo, over its 30 years, has presented 103 Los Angeles premiere productions.

Of these, 82 were world premieres and of those, 52 were commissions.

Most recently the Echo produced *For Want of a Horse* by Olivia Dufault and *Berta Berta* by Angelica Cherie, *One Jewish Boy* by Stephen Laughton, *Clarkston* by Samuel D. Hunter, Abby Rosebrock's *Dido of Idaho*, —two LADCC awards,—Bernardo Cubria's *Crabs In A Bucket*, —LADCC award Best Writing, *The Thin Place* by Lucas Hnath and Jessica Goldberg's *BABE*, —LADCC award Best Writing.

Anthony Brynes of KCRW said: "Echo theatre company is on a fierce journey. They are choosing plays that are consistently challenging and all have a deep conscience...If you wanted to pick one small theatre to add to your cultural roster—Echo is the consistent favorite."

echotheatercompany.com [@echotheater](https://twitter.com/echotheater) [Facebook.com/echotheater](https://www.facebook.com/echotheater)

The Echo gratefully acknowledges that our theater sits on land stewarded and cared for by the Kizh, Tongva-/Gabrieleño, and Chumash tribes for generations. We honor and respect these nations, peoples, and their enduring relationship to this land.