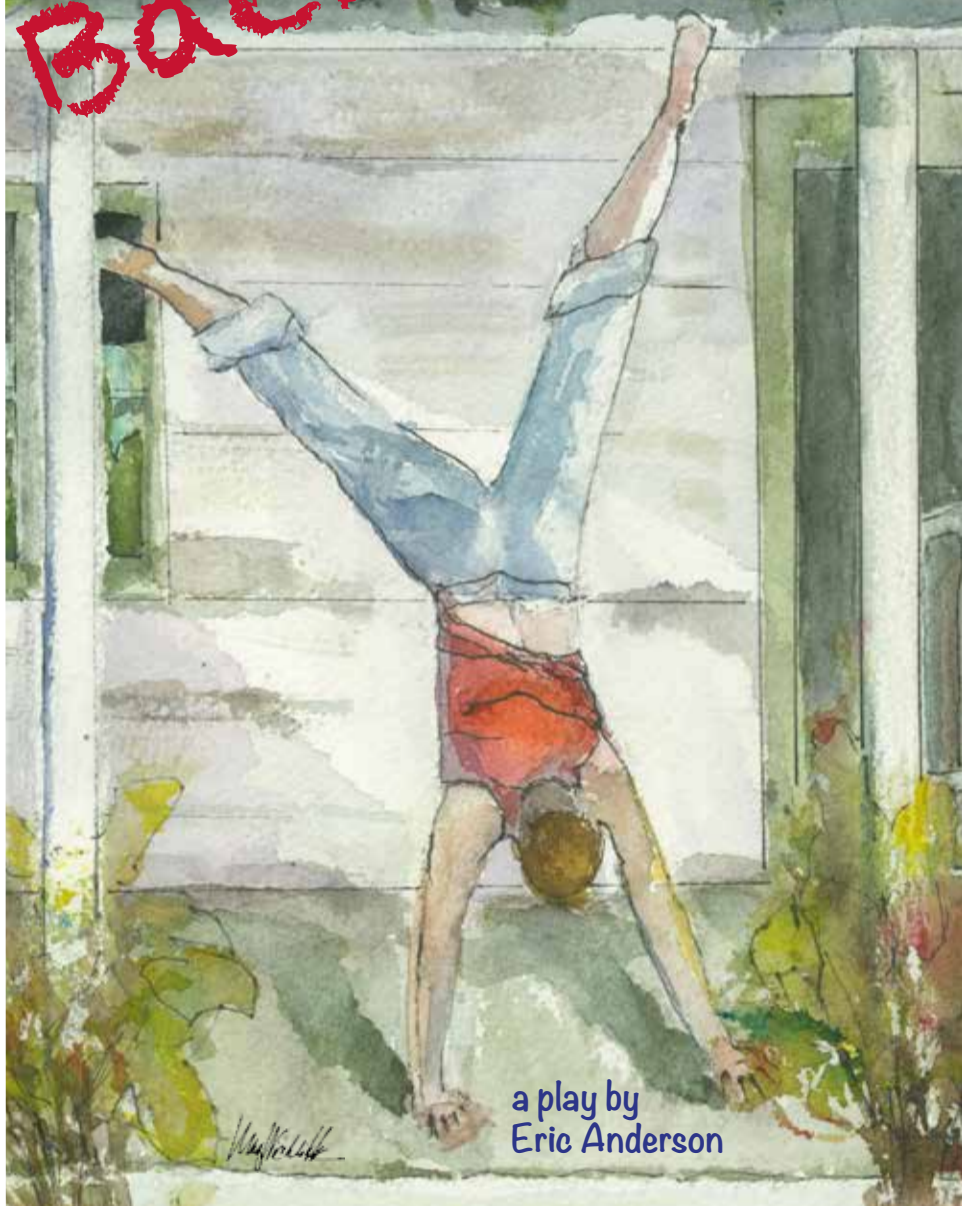


Back Porch



W. K. K.

a play by
Eric Anderson

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Roger Beck
Dianne Burke
Lisa Dyson
Tracy Esposito
Nora Feldman
Jill Gold
Ivy Jones
Jen Kays
Brant LaValla
Joe & Jenn Lemmon
Jude Lucas
Cricket Myers
Nick Toth
Vincent Vazira
Peggy Walker
Ethel Watson
Mary Wickliffe
Tamara Zook
Porticos Art Space
The Victory Theatre Center



Prairie Cordgrass, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Kansas

Bluestem  Productions

presents
The World Premiere of

Back Porch

by **Eric Anderson**

Directed by
Kelie McIver

Produced by
David Willis and Kelie McIver

Stage Manager
Margaret Magula

Set Designer
Kenneth Klimak

Stunt/Fight Director
Brett Elliott

Lighting Designer
Carol Doehring

Intimacy Director
Amanda Rose Villarreal

Sound Designer
Cinthia Nava

Prop Manager
Tim Molina

Costume Designer
Molly Martin

Publicist
Lucy Pollak

Hair Designer
Judi Lewin

Social Media Coordinator
Austin Highsmith Garces

Cover Artwork
Mary Wickliffe

Production Photographer
Keira Wight

Sound Operator
Belbeth Mendez

CAST

(in order of appearance)

CODY LEMMON Del Wayne*
ISAAC W. JAY Gary Opat
JONATHAN FISHMAN Millard Goff*
KARL MASCHEK..... Barney Opat*
ERIC ZAK Myron Uhrig*
JORDAN MORGAN Bill Holman*

*Appearing through an Agreement between Bluestem Productions and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

TIME

Late May, 1955

PLACE

A small town in Central Kansas

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Restrooms are in the rear of the building. Exit through the front entrance, turn left, and follow the sidewalk back to the restroom entrance off the small parking area at the rear.



...I dreamt that suitors sought my hand,
that knights upon bended knees,
and with vows that no maiden heart could withstand,
they pledged their faith to me...

...and I dreamt that one of that noble host
came forth my hand to claim,
but I also dreamt, which charmed me most,
that you loved me still the same,
that you loved me,
you loved me still the same.

—"I Dreamt I Dwelt in Marble Halls," lyrics by Alfred Bunn,
The Bohemian Girl, 1843 opera

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

JONATHAN FISHMAN (Millard Goff) is an award-winning actor and producer.



TV: HBO's *Crashing*, and co-producer and star of the TV-Pilot *BUDS*, three-time 2021 Telly award-winner, 2021 Austin Film Festival, 2022 Dances with Films. Produced and starred in the "Fringe First" award-winning production *Enterprise* 2017 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, with off-Broadway run at the SoHo Playhouse in NYC. Later this year, Jonathan will be seen in the feature *Et Tu* and in the Apple TV+ series *Lessons in Chemistry*. www.thisisfishman.com

ISAAC W. JAY (Gary Opat) can be seen in the upcoming Apple TV+ show



Lessons in Chemistry and the Dances with Films Festival selection *Glue Trap*. Other TV/Film credits include *The Last Thing He Told Me*, *Intern*, *American Crime Story: Impeachment*, and *Headcount*. Regional theatre credits include *Witch!*, *Copenhagen*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Rope*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *12th Night*, *This is our Youth*, and *Yesterday Again*. Isaac is a member of SAG-AFTRA.

CODY LEMMON (Del Wayne Opat) is proud to join the talented cast of



Back Porch. Cody is 12, lives in Los Angeles and is represented by Philip Marcus at Clear Talent Group and Valerie McCaffrey at McCaffrey Talent Management in Feature films, Voice and Theater. Thank you, Mom, Dad, Beau and Jessie for your love and support! Thank you to my fellow cast members and Director Kelie McIver for helping me grow as an actor and as a person. Neewollah!

KARL MASCHEK (Barney Opat) Thrilled and grateful to be appearing in a



World Premiere play for the 4th time! He's appeared in commercials, film and television productions for NBC, WB, TBS and AppleTV. He's also appeared on stages in cities such as Chicago, Los Angeles, Hartford, CT, and Off-Broadway in New York. For more info, please visit www.karlwithk.com. Karl thanks Anna and Amelia for their love and support. @i_am_karl_witha_k

(cont.)

JORDAN MORGAN (Bill Holman) is an actor from Los Angeles, by way of Trumann, Arkansas. He was last seen as Cisco in Sam Shepard's *The Unseen Hand*, directed by Darrell Larson at the Odyssey Theatre (LA). Recent film and TV credits include *Outer Range* on Amazon Prime; *FBI: Most Wanted* on CBS; *Blood Brothers* on Lifetime; and the upcoming *Obliterated* on Netflix. Jordan is a member of SAG-AFTRA and AEA, and has a B.F.A. in Theater from the University of Arkansas. Follow his artistic endeavors @jordanmitchellmorgan.



ERIC ZAK (Myron Uhrig) is from Phoenix, Arizona, where he was a regular player for years on some of the area's top stages, including plays such as *Hand To God* (Jason/Tyrone), *Jersey Boys* (Joe Pesci), *The Antipodes*, (Danny M2), and *Sh!t-faced Shakespeare*. He also featured in many locally-produced horror films including 2023's *Condition of Return*. He resides in Los Angeles, where he also plays keyboards and lends vocals to Pink Floyd tribute tour *Continuous Signal*.



MILLARD Gary Delwayne BILL Barney



Photo by Keira Wight

ARTISTIC STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

ERIC ANDERSON (Playwright) graduated from the University of Kansas with an M.A. in theater, then moved to Minneapolis, where his plays were produced at the Illusion Theatre, Park Square Theatre, Lagniappe Theatre, Theatre in the Round and Children's Theatre. He has written plays for National Public Radio, and was a founding member of the Playwrights Center. He and his husband now live in Hawaii, where his plays have been produced at Kumu Kahua Theatre and The Actors Group in Honolulu, as well as at the University of Hawaii in Hilo. Currently he is collaborating with composer Kim Sherman on an opera based on the Willa Cather stories "Song of the Lark" and "The Sculptor's Funeral." Eric's play, *Olive's Lover*, will be produced at The Actors Group in Honolulu next season.

KELIE MCIVER (they, she) (Director) has primarily been working with playwrights and new plays as an actress—and then they read *Back Porch*. Born and raised in Topeka, Kansas, Anderson's play really stuck with them and since all the roles are male...here we are! Credits include *Kingsmen Shakespeare*, Arroyo Repertory Theatre, Nevada Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare@Play, among others. For Dwight W. Dickey, love you, miss you.

MARGARET MAGULA (she/her) (Stage Manager) is a stage manager and theatre professional in the Greater LA area. A graduate of Cal Poly Pomona in Design Technology and Management, Margot's most recent credits include *Cat's Paw*, *The Tangibles*, *Cradle Will Rock*, *Stop Kiss*, *Macbeth*, *The Stranger Things Experience*, Jon Braver's *Valley of Hallows* and more. Her goals are to create accessible spaces to help bring theatre to the neurodiverse community of which she is a part.

KENNY KLIMAK (Set Designer) did numerous sets for the Company of Angels between 1990 and 2001. Some notable sets were *Summer Brave*, *The Crucible*, and *The Crackwalker*, which was the last set that Kenny did at the Company of Angels. He also did a set for *Dancing at Lughnasa* for the William Alderson Theatre. Kenny took a huge break from theatre to do sound design for Film and TV. Doing *Back Porch* has been a joy; once again working with some of his old friends from the Company of Angels.

CINTHIA NAVA (Sound Designer) is a local sound designer, composer, and audio engineer. They did their B.A. in Drama at UC Irvine. Recent theatrical sound designs include *Almost, Maine* with Rubicon Theatre and the youth conservatory production of *After Juliet* with South Coast Repertory. Cinthia has done design work for the Arabian Shakespeare Festival, Cerritos College, Little Fish Theatre, Rogue Artists Ensemble, Puttin' On Productions, and Shakespeare by the Sea.

MOLLY MARTIN (Costume Designer and Maker) studied design in London, before moving home to pursue her career in LA. She specializes in designing costumes for period, sci-fi, and fantasy productions and is a skilled leatherworker. Her latest feature film, *Tummyache*, has won awards internationally, including Best Feature Film at Hollywood Verge Film Festival. She is a proud member of the queer community, and is thrilled to be a part of the Back Porch family.

(cont.)

JUDI LEWIN (Hair Designer) is a seasoned Designer of Makeup/Hair/Wigs in the Los Angeles area. She moved here with her family from Toronto, Canada in 1990 where she worked in theatre and for the Canadian Opera Company. Judi has Designed 2 National Tours and 1 European Tour. Theatre credit include: Pasadena Playhouse, The Fremont, Intereact, The Blank, The Fountain, McCoy Rigby Entertainment, Sacramento Music Circus, West Coast Music Theatre, Group Rep, Theatre 40 and The Hollywood Bowl.

AMANDA ROSE VILLARREAL (Intimacy Director) is an intimacy choreographer and immersive artist. They earned their MA with an emphasis in Directing from Central Washington University and their PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies from the University of Colorado Boulder. Amanda Rose is co-founder of *The Journal of Consent-Based Performance* and associate faculty with Theatrical Intimacy Education. They have recently choreographed intimacy for Pasadena Playhouse (*Uncle Vanya*; *Sanctuary City*; *A Little Night Music*) and Geffen Playhouse (*The Inheritance*).

LUCY POLLAK (Publicist) has represented hundreds of theater, music and dance productions in Los Angeles, as well as large events like the annual, Emmy Award-winning LA County Holiday Celebration at the Music Center. Credits include the premiere of Deaf West Theatre's *Spring Awakening*, which went on to a Tony-nominated Broadway run, and, in NYC, off-Broadway premieres at the Cherry Lane, Soho Playhouse, and AMT Theatre.

TIM MOLINA (Prop Manager) was raised in the UK and trained at the University of the Arts London, Tim is an emerging and energetic Filipino-British Production Designer—whose work has been featured in many colorful and vibrant narrative films, music videos, commercials. Tim was drawn to Production Design as it combines her love for narrative and design.



Neewollah!

A Little Background from...

Playwright Eric Anderson & Director Kelie McIver...

“When I was four years old, portions of the film *Picnic* were filmed one county away from my home,” says the Kansas born-and-bred Anderson. “My family drove to the location one evening to take part in the “Nee-wollah” scene on the river. I’ve been crazy about movies — and theater — ever since. With *Back Porch*, I wanted to pay tribute to a significant American playwright, William Inge, who was also significantly closeted. I hoped to write the kind of play that he himself might have written had he lived in another time and place.”

“*Back Porch* is a love letter to William Inge, and it’s also a terrific ensemble piece where each character has an interesting and beautiful arc,” says McIver, who also hails from Kansas. “I love ’em all and wanted to hang out with them!”

And from Co-Producer David Willis...

“As yet another Kansan associated with this production, I go back 50 years with Eric to the playwriting program at the University of Kansas under the direction of Ronald Willis (no relation). I think Eric would agree that the artistic ideals we acquired in that program continue to inform our work in the theatre today.

“When Eric told me seven years ago that he’d written a play that was getting nothing but crickets from Kansas theatres, where he understandably hoped to launch it, I encouraged him to consider L.A. as a venue for the premiere. In view of the strong Hollywood element in the play, it actually made a lot of sense. Kelie was on board immediately when she read the play and wanted to direct a reading.

“The motto of the State of Kansas is *Ad astra per aspera*, ‘to the stars through difficulties,’ and in spite of a three-year delay due to Covid and other obstacles, we are finally bringing Eric’s vision to life, and I think that our determination to do so is in no small part due to Ron Willis’ vision for us as artists, that we would go out into the world and create theatre that is engaging, compelling, and capable of making a difference in people’s lives.”



BUTTERMILK BABY CHEWIES

Prep Time: 1hr 20min
Cook Time: 10min
Servings: 50 mini cookies



Ingredients:

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
1 cup brown sugar
3 egg yolks
1 tsp vanilla
1/2 cup buttermilk
2 cups flour
1 tbsp molasses
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp salt
2 bags Sugar Babies or similar caramel candies

Glaze:

1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 tbsp buttermilk
1/2 cup and 2tbsp confectioners sugar

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Cream the butter and sugar until fluffy.
3. Add egg yolks and mix.
4. Add buttermilk, molasses and vanilla. Mix till smooth.
5. In a separate bowl, mix the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt.
6. Combine wet and dry ingredients and mix till everything is incorporated.
7. Cut sugar babies in two or smaller depending on candy choice.
8. Fold cut sugar babies into dough mix.
9. Cover dough with cling film and place in fridge. Let the dough rest in the fridge for 1 hour.
10. Line two to three cookie sheets with parchment paper.
11. Once the cookies are ready, use a melon baller or similar size spoon to plop the dough onto the cookie sheets.
12. Bake the cookies for 10/11 minutes.
13. For the glaze, start by melting butter and brown sugar on low
14. Whisk the mixture as it heats, bringing the sugar and butter to a rolling boil.
15. Remove from heat, and milk and whisk.
16. Add powdered sugar and whisk until glaze is smooth and creamy.
17. Once the cookies have cooled completely, spoon a helping of glaze onto the cookie.

-Recipe created by Molly Martin



Fragment, *Back Porch Backdrop*, Kenneth Klimak

Congratulations, *cast & crew of* *Back Porch!*



We're excited that we could share in the
process of your bringing this show to life!

-Porticos Art Space



Porticos Art Space @PorticosArtSpace
2033 E. Washington Blvd., Pasadena 91104
For information, email PorticosArtSpace@gmail.com