

THE ECHO THEATER COMPANY PRESENTS

# CLARKSTON

*WRITTEN BY SAMUEL D. HUNTER*

*DIRECTED BY CHRIS FIELDS*



the  
**echo**  
theater company

**The Echo Theater Company**

PRESENTS

# CLARKSTON

**by Samuel D. Hunter**

**Directed by Chris Fields**

WITH

**Tasha Ames   Sean Luc Rogers   Michael Sturgis**

SCENIC DESIGN

**Amanda Knehans**

COSTUME DESIGN

**Dianne K. Graebner**

LIGHTING DESIGN

**Matt Richter**

SOUND DESIGN

**Alysha Bermudez**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

**Kendall McDermott**

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

**Lisa Toudic**

PRODUCED BY

**Kelly Beech, Marie Bland, Chris Fields**

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

**Natalya Nielsen**

PUBLICITY

**Lucy Pollak**

**Atwater Village Theater**

**September 14-October 21, 2024**



The Set and Costume Designers in this theater are represented by United Scenic Artists Local 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.



Clarkston is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture.

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**CAST** (in order of appearance)

*Jake* . . . . . **Michael Sturgis**

*Chris* . . . . . **Sean Luc Rogers**

*Trisha* . . . . . **Tasha Ames**

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**STAFF**

LITERARY MANAGER **Michael Sturgis**

DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE **Amy Crum**

ASSOCIATE LITERARY MANAGER **Zoe Walpole**

LITERARY INTERN **Kendall McDermott**

PHOTOGRAPHY **Cooper Bates**

GRAPHIC DESIGN **Christopher Komuro**

MASTER CARPENTER **Bill Voorhess**

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

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# CLARKSTON



**Tasha Ames**  
(Trisha)  
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), *Hooded, Or Being Black For Dummies* (Echo Theater), *Miss Lilly Gets Boned* and *Honky* (Rogue Machine), *Kimberly Akimbo* and *Rabbit Hole* (Malibu Stage—Ovation Winner "Featured Actress"), *Crimes of the Heart* (Rubicon). USC; BFA Theatre. She also works as a music supervisor in television and film and co-hosts the podcast *Sibling Griefery*. IG: @amesforthebest



**Michael Sturgis**  
(Jake)  
Echo:  
*Mamon* in  
*Crabs in a Bucket*,  
Francis in

*Poor Clare* (LADCC Award), Dean in *Gloria*. Other work with *A Noise Within*, Theatre of NOTE, HERO Theatre, and more. Currently on a house team at UCB called *Hubble*. His short film *Every Other Week* is a Vimeo Staff Pick. TV: *Room 104* (HBO), *Call Me Kat* (Hulu). Education: USC.



**Sean Luc Rogers**  
(Chris)  
A recent college graduate, Sean could not be

more proud to be making his professional theater debut with the Echo Theater Company! Memorable credits from Yale University include *Jerry in The Zoo Story*, *Lee in True West*, and *Jason in Sweat*. He'd like to thank his mom, Lisa, for always supporting him.

**Chris Fields** (Director) 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 *Dido of Idaho*, *How It's Gon' Be*, *Crabs In A Bucket*, *A Thin Place* and directed the world premiere of Jessica Goldberg's LADCC award winning *BABE*, all for The Echo. He has won Ovation, LADCC, Stage Raw and LA Weekly Awards. As an actor, he has appeared on and off Broadway, regionally, in film and on TV. He taught at SUNY Purchase and maintains a private workshop class in Los Angeles. Thanks to all.

**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, and is thrilled to be returning to the Echo.

**Lisa Toudic** (Production Stage Manager) a recent USC Stage Management graduate, specialises in New Play development and Masters-level shows. As she enters her fourth year as a Stage Manager, she is excited to make her professional debut at the Echo and is grateful for this positive, impactful process with the Clarkston team.

**Marie Bland** (Producer) is a native Angeleno and writer. Since graduating from Stanford's film and media program, Marie has worked as a freelance photographer, church security guard, rehearsal assistant, and produces theatre, recently mounting *Lines* in the Hollywood Fringe Festival and *Dido of Idaho* here at the Echo. Keep an eye out for *Lesbian Ditch Day*, her first film, later this year! @blandwiches

**Amanda Knehans** (*Scenic Design*) is a Los Angeles based designer for theatre and film. Theatre credits include *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 Clause* Season 2 (Disney), and *Purple Hearts* (Netflix). Amanda is a member of the Art Directors Guild and USA 829.

**Alysha Grace Bermudez** (*Sound Design*) is a Los Angeles-based designer and Dialogue Editor. Their most recent theatrical sound design was on *Dido of Idaho* at the Atwater Village Theatre. Their design and editorial projects have spanned diverse mediums, including EA's *The Sims 4*. For more information, please visit [alyshabermudez.com](http://alyshabermudez.com)

**Dianne K. Graebner** (*Costume Designer*) has designed costumes (and won awards and nominations) for well over 100 productions internationally and has originated the costumes for many world premieres. She teaches Costume Design at CSUF and is a member of United Scenic Artists Local-829. [www.diannegraebner.com](http://www.diannegraebner.com)

**Kendall McDermott** (*Assistant Director*) is a native Angelo and senior at Wesleyan University. She has directed *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812* ('92 Theater), *Baby* ('92 Theater), *Good and Gaslit* (Asylum Theatre, theSpace at Surgeons Hall) and is slated to direct *The Picture of Dorian Gray* ('92 Theater) this Fall.

**Natalya Nielsen** (*Associate Producer*) is an actor and director based in LA. She graduated from Occidental College with a BA in Theater and Performance Studies. She has performed in the Echo's productions of *Mother Sisters* and *Alternate Endings*. During the summer, Natalya directs and produces youth musicals in her hometown of Solvang, CA.



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

Eva Marie Abat	Sam Catlin	Michah Fitzerman Blue
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Alison Martin	Mo KC Pritzker	Harriet Steele	
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William McFadden		Catherine Stier	
		Joey Stromberg	



Dedicated to nurturing writers and producing new work, the Echo, over its 27 years, has presented 100 Los Angeles premiere productions. Of these, 81 were world premieres and of those, 52 were commissions. Most recently the company produced Abby Rosebrock's *Dido of Idaho, How It's Gon' Be* by JuCoby Johnson, Bernardo Cubria's *Crabs In A Bucket*, LADCC winner for best writing, *The Thin Place* by Lucas Hnath and Jessica Goldberg's *BABE* which also won the LADCC for best writing, *Alternate Endings*, a festival of commissioned short plays, *Hooded* by Tarrance Arvelle Chisholm, and Chiara Atik's *Poor Clare*, which won 8 LADCC Awards. We were also given the Margaret Harford Award for Excellence in Theater by the LADCC. 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." While Charles McNulty wrote: "The Echo Theater Company [production]...confirmed just how indispensable 99-seat theaters still are to a healthy theater ecology."

*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.*

#### ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Chris Fields

#### PRODUCING DIRECTOR

Kelly Beech

#### ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Ahmed Best

#### ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Elana Luo

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