

ECHO THEATER COMPANY PRESENTS

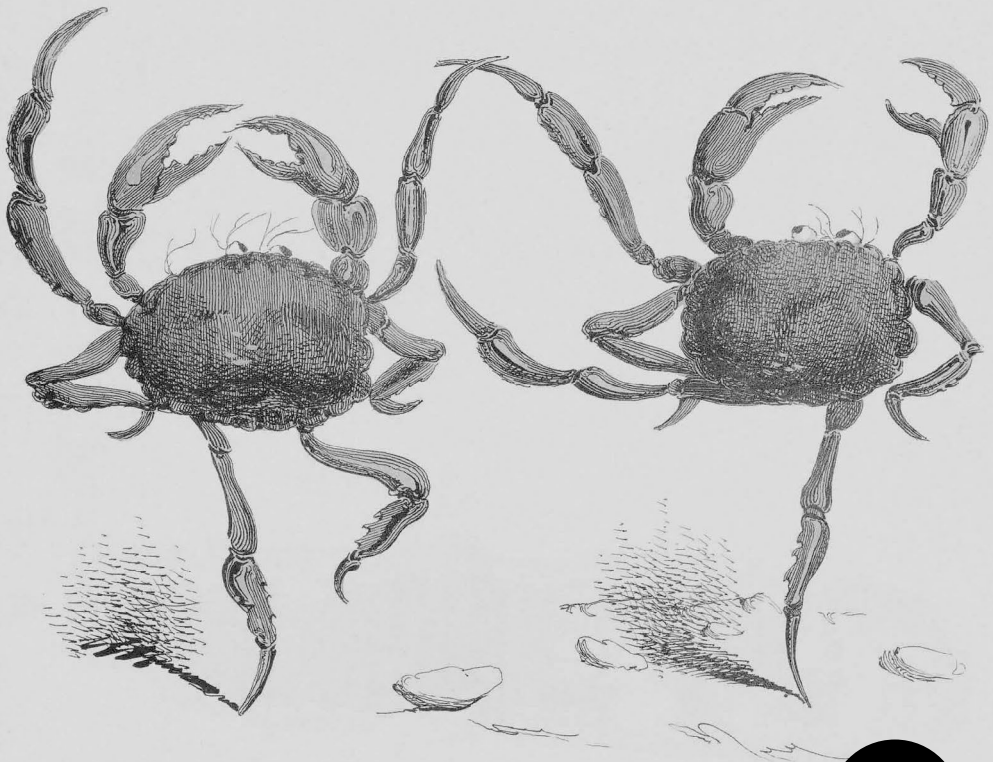
Crabs in a Bucket:

Or how bitterness ruined the fun

by Bernardo Cubria

Directed by Alana Dietze

World Premiere • July 15–August 21, 2023



The Echo Theater Company

PRESENTS

Crabs in a Bucket:

Or how bitterness ruined the fun

By **Bernardo Cubria**

Directed by **Alana Dietze**

WITH (in alphabetical order)

Jordan Hull Anna LaMadrid Xochitl Romero Michael Sturgis

SCENIC DESIGN

Amanda Knehans

COSTUME DESIGN

Lou Cranch

LIGHTING DESIGN

Azra King-Abadi

SOUND DESIGN

Jeff Gardner

COMPOSER

Arian Saleh

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Irene DH Lee

PUBLICIST

Lucy Pollak

PRODUCED BY

Chris Fields, Troy Leigh Ann Johnson

Atwater Village Theater

World Premiere • July 15–August 21, 2023



The Costume Designer and Lighting Designer in this theater is represented by United Scenic Artists Local 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.



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

CAST (in order of appearance)

Amargo **Xochitl Romero**

Pootz **Anna LaMadrid**

Beb **Jordan Hull**

Mamon **Michael Sturgis**

STAFF

LITERARY MANAGER **Michael Sturgis**

AUDIENCE SERVICES MANAGER **Amanda Horowitz**

MARKETING ASSOCIATE **Tessa Slovis**

BOX OFFICE ASSOCIATE **Amanda Horowitz**

DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE **Emily Watez**

VIDEOGRAPHY **Shea William Vanderpoort**

GRAPHIC DESIGN **Christopher Komuro**

MASTER ELECTRICIAN **Juan Pardo**

MASTER ELECTRICIAN **McLeod Benson**

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR **Justin Huen**

MOVEMENT COACH **Tristan Waldron**

CLOWNING CONSULTANT **Julia Davis**

INTERN/REHEARSAL ASSISTANT **Henry Kaplan**

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

Crabs in a Bucket



Jordan Hull (*Beb*) is an actress and the recipient of both lead performance and ensemble awards from the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle for her performance in the title role of *Poor Clare* at the Echo Theater Company. She made her television

debut starring in Showtime's *The L Word: Generation Q*. She is also in the Netflix movie *Hustle* alongside Queen Latifah, Robert Duvall, Ben Foster and Adam Sandler.



Anna LaMadrid (*Pootz*) Born in Caracas, Venezuela, is a New York-bred/Los Angeles-based actor, audition coach, and entrepreneur, most likely recognized for her role as "Fake Angela," opposite Nathan Fielder in HBO's groundbreaking, mind-melding first season of *The Rehearsal*.

Recent credits include recurring as Rocio in Hulu's *This Fool* (executive produced by Fred Armisen) and recurring as Lacey Gamble in the upcoming season 2 of *Shining Vale* opposite Courtney Cox. Additional comedic TV appearances include *The Goldbergs*, *Tacoma Fd*, *Love, Victor*, *Call Your Mother* opposite Kiera Sedgwick, and the reboot of *Night Court* with Melissa Rauch.



Xochitl Romero (*Amargo*) Off-Broadway: *To The Bone* (Cherry Lane Theatre); *Chimichangas and Zoloft* (Atlantic Theatre); *Very Pretty Girls* (New World Stages) Regional: *Cost of Living* (Ovation Award Winner, Fountain Theatre);

Hispanic Attack (The Second City); *ROE* (Fountain Theatre); *Queens* (La Jolla Playhouse); *Blackbird* (B. Iden Payne Award Winner, Hyde Park Theatre). Film/Television: *The Conner's*, *Station 19*, *Temple Grandin*, *Friday Night Lights*, *The Mosquito Coast*.



Michael Sturgis (*Mamon*) Echo: Francis in *Poor Clare* (LA Drama Critics Circle Award), Dean/Devin in *Gloria* (Stage Raw Award), Jack in *Blueberry Toast*. Other: A Noise Within, Theatre of Note, HERO Theatre member. TV: *Room 104*

(HBO), *Call Me Kat* (FOX). Education: USC. Check out his short *Every Other Week* on Vimeo.

Bernardo Cubria (*Playwright*) A Mexican-born playwright and screenwriter, Cubria's *The Play You Want* premiered at L.A.'s Road Theatre in 2022, garnering Cubria both a Stage Raw Award and a Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle nomination for Playwriting. It received its regional premiere at Milagro Theatre in Portland in 2023. In 2019, Cubria was nominated for the Ovation, Stage Raw and Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Best Playwright awards for his play *The Giant Void In My Soul*. Other playwriting awards include the Smith Prize for Political Theater and the BETC Generations Award. His play *Neighbors: A Fair Trade Agreement* was a semifinalist for the O'Neil and received a world premiere at INTAR in New York City. For film, he penned the feature screenplay *Like It Used to Be*, which Gina Rodriguez is attached to direct, star in, and he was a 2023 Sundance Screenwriters Lab fellow for the screenplay *Kill Yr Idols* which he cowrote and that Carlos Lopez Estrada is attached to direct. He was also a writer on Season 3 of *Acapulco* on Apple +. He is a proud member of Ammunition Theatre Company. Para Diego y Paloma, mis cangrejitos favoritos.

Alana Dietze (*Director*) is a director, actor and Associate Artistic Director of the Echo Theater Company. Notable productions with Echo: *Poor Clare* (8 LADCC Awards), *The Wolves* (LADCC Award, Ensemble), *Dry Land* (Ovation Award, Production), *The Found Dog Ribbon Dance* and *A Small Fire*. Her production of *Dry Land* was remounted in CTG's 2017 Block Party program. Productions elsewhere include *Ripe Frenzy* (Greenway Court Theater) and many for academic institutions including UCLA, Occidental College, and CSULB.

Lou Cranch (*Costume Designer*) is a Local 705 member specializing in custom-made costumes. She tailors and fabricates for tv, film, fashion and musicians. Her costume design work can most recently be seen in the award-winning short film *Lift*. She was the costume designer for Ammo Theatre's production of *Revenge Porn or The Story of a Body*.

Julia Davis (*Clown Consultant*) (she/her): Clowning has allowed Julia to perform at places like The Getty Villa (*Roman Holidays* and *For the Birds*), South Coast Rep (*Robin Hood*), ICT (*Bestseller*), and Shakespeare Center of LA (*Welcome to Illyria!*). She is thrilled to work with these clown-y crabs on this exceptional show. Training: MFA, USC.

Chris Fields (*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 directed the world premiere of Jessica Goldberg's *BABE*, produced *Hooded* and *Poor Clare* and directed Erik Patterson's *Handjob*, before that he produced *The Wolves* and directed Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' *Gloria*, all for The Echo. He has won 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.

Jeff Gardner (*Sound Designer*) is an award-winning sound designer, Foley artist and actor. Echo credits include; *Poor Clare*, *Handjob*, *The Wolves*, *Cry It Out*, *Dry Land*, *The Cake*, *Bed*, *One of The Nice Ones*, *American Falls*. Other credits include work at the Mark Taper Forum, Geffen Playhouse, Kirk Douglas Theatre, A Noise Within, Antaeus Theatre Company, Pasadena Playhouse, Circle X Theatre, IAMA Theatre.

Troy Leigh Ann Johnson (*Producer*) is thrilled to get to associate produce *Crabs in a Bucket* here at The Echo. Troy has appeared in The Echo's production of *The Wolves* and the ABC series *Big Sky*. Her other credits include Greenway Court Theatre's production of *Ripe Frenzy* and ABC's *The Rookie*.

Azra King-Abadi (*Lighting Designer*) recently designed *American Fast* with Constellation Theatre, *RENT* with Coeura Ensemble, *Wet* with Greenway Court Theatre, *Revenge Porn* with Ammunition Theatre, *Tres Mujeres de Jerusalén* with

LA Opera Connects, *Poor Clare* at Echo Theatre, *Tea* with Hero Theatre, *Three Tables* with Padua Playwrights, *The Barber of Seville* with Opera Neo, *La Traviata* with OSB. azrakingabadi.com

Amanda Knehans (*Set Designer*) is a Los Angeles based Scenic Designer, Production Designer and Art Director. Recent theater credits include *BABE*, *Poor Clare*, *Handjob*, and *The Wolves* (The Echo), *Richard III*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *As You Like It* (Off Square Theatre Company), *Bliss* (Moving Arts), *The Willows* (Bootleg Theater), *Year of the Rooster* and *Welcome to the White Room* (Theatre of Note) and *Dry Land* (CTG/Echo). Recent film credits include Art Director on *George and Tammy* (Paramount), *The Santa Clauses* Season 2 (Disney), *Barry* Season 4 (HBO), *Purple Hearts* and *The Woman in the House* (Netflix), *Single Parents* Season 1 (ABC), *The Stranger* (Fox, Quibi), *The Wedding Year* (Lakeshore Entertainment), and *East Los High* Season 4 and 5 (Hulu). Amanda is a member of the Art Directors Guild and USA 829.

Irene DH Lee (*Production Stage Manager*) is an LA based stage manager. Selected stage management credits include *The Thin Place*, *Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground*, *The Aliens*, *Dosan*, *Marabella*, and *The Comedy of Errors*. Before coming to the U.S., she worked as a company manager in South Korea on musicals including *The Bodyguard* (Asia Premiere), *Trace U*, and *Myeong-dong Romance*. MFA, California Institute of the Arts.

Arien Saleh (*Composer*) is an Iranian-American artist. Saleh's unique sound is deeply rooted in a troubadour tradition and has a heavy emphasis on lyrics and melody, with nods to gypsy, tango, and electronic music. As a Composer, Saleh scored the Emmy Award winning *Blackfeet Boxing: Not Invisible* and the three part 30 for 30 film *Dream On*. He founded *The Libretto Project*, and works regularly in television, film and theatre. Currently residing in Brooklyn, he continues to play all over the country, writing music that carves through many genres and influences, asking more questions than it answers.

Tristan Waldron (*Movement Coach*) is a Los Angeles based Movement Coach, Director and Actor. A graduate of Occidental College with degrees in Theater and Marine Biology, he is thrilled to be combining both of his passions in his work on this play. He is also the director for the Occidental Children's Theater current production of *Snow White and the 007 Dwarfs*.

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

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Dedicated to nurturing writers and producing new work, the Echo, over its 27 years, has presented 97 Los Angeles premiere productions. Of these, 80 were world premieres and of those, 52 were commissions. Most recently the company produced *The Thin Place* by Lucas Hnath and Jessica Goldberg's *BABE* which won the LADCC award for best writing, *We've Come Through*, a festival of commissioned ten minute plays, *Hooded* by Tearrance Arvelle Chisholm, Chiara Atik's *Poor Clare*, which won 8 LADCC Awards, Erik Patterson's *Handjob* and Sarah DeLappe's *The Wolves*, which was named one of the "Best Of" by both the LA Times and KCRW. We were given The Polly Warfield award for our 2018 season by the LADCC while winning Ovation, LADCC and Stage Raw awards for Molly Smith-Metzler's *Cry It Out*. 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-/Gabrieliño, and Chumash tribes for generations. We honor and respect these nations, peoples, and their enduring relationship to this land.

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