

THE ECHO THEATER COMPANY PRESENTS A WORLD PREMIERE

# For Want of a Horse

BY OLIVIA DUFAULT

DIRECTED BY ELANA LUO

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**echo**  
theater company

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PRESENTS A WORLD PREMIERE

# For Want of a Horse

**Written by Olivia Dufault**

**Directed by Elana Luo**

WITH

**Steven Culp Griffin Kelly Jenny Soo Joey Stromberg**

PRODUCED BY

**Marie Bland and Chris Fields**

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS

**Eve Gordon and Meghan McEnery**

SCENIC DESIGN

**Alex Mollo**

COSTUME DESIGN

**Leah Morrison**

LIGHTING DESIGN

**Matthew Richter**

SOUND DESIGN

**Alysha Bermudez**

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

**Bianca Rickheim**

PUBLICITY

**Lucy Pollak**

**Atwater Village Theater**

**WORLD PREMIERE April 18–May 25, 2026**



The Echo gratefully acknowledges support for this production from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Department of Arts and Culture, the David Lee Foundation, the Sheep Meadow Foundation and Venturous Theater Fund, a fund of Tides Foundation.

FOR WANT OF A HORSE is presented by special arrangement with United Talent Agency.

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

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**CAST**

(in order of appearance)

*Q-Tip* . . . . **Griffin Kelly**

*Bonnie* . . . . **Jenny Soo**

*Calvin* . . . . **Joey Stromberg**

*PJ* . . . . **Steven Culp**

**PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE  
DON'T TELL ANYONE HOW  
THIS PLAY ENDS PLEASE.**

**STAFF**

Literary Manager **Michael Sturgis** | Audience Services Manager **Tyler Hudson**

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

Photography **Copper Bates, Bianca Rickheim**

Technical Director **Sam Mollo** | Electrician **Salem Mitchell**

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

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# For Want of a Horse



**Steven Culp (PJ):** Stage: South Coast Rep, American Conservatory Theatre, Shakespere Theatre Company (DC), The Wallis, Pasadena Playhouse, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Ahmanson, Old Globe,

Circle in the Square (Broadway), Playwrights Horizons, Williamstown, New York Shakespeare Festival, Pittsburgh Public, etc., including premieres of plays by Tony Kushner, Terrence McNally, Neil Simon, A.R. Gurney, Jr., Beau Willamon, Erik Patterson, Phyllis Nagy, Keith Reddin, and Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, among others. 130-plus TV/film credits—just ask IMDb. At the Echo: *Handjob* and *The Enablers*.



**Griffin Kelly (Q-Tip)** is an actress, writer, and comedian known for HBO's Emmy-winning series, *Book of Queer*. Her solo show *Two Cats on a Date* premiered internationally to 5 star reviews at the

2023 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, before selling out runs in New York, Los Angeles, and Seattle. Griffin has written for Smosh and she has performed with Celebration Theatre, the Elysian, the Lyric Hyperion, and UCB. She used to be afraid of horses.



**Jenny Soo (Bonnie)** holds a BFA from NYU and an MFA from A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard. She has performed in various theaters all over LA, including *Gloria* at the

Echo Theater Company, for which she won a Stage Raw Award for Best Female Comedy Performance. Other favorite LA theater credits include *Hot Cat* (NOTE/TMB), *Dry Land* (Echo), *Charlotte Stay Close* (ESTLA), and *Hungry Ghost* (Skylight). She produced and starred in the multiple award winning feature *For Izzy*. TV credits include: *Parks & Rec*, *LA to Vegas*, *General Hospital* and *Reverie*.



**Joey Stromberg (Calvin)** is an actor and writer from the one-stoplight town of Sterling, Kansas. Screen credits include *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *NCIS*, *American Crime Story*, *Winning Time*, *9-1-1*, and *Book Club*. Stage

credits include The Echo's *What Happened When* and *The Witchery*. Despite growing up cowboy-adjacent, he maintains a fear of horses, which he feels should be considered normal considering their size and strength.

**Olivia Dufault** (Playwright) is a playwright, screenwriter, and comic book writer, whose work includes *Year of the Rooster*, *The Tomb of King Tot*, and *The True Adventures of Wolfboy*. In television, Olivia worked on the shows *Preacher* and *Legion*.

**Elana Luo** (Director) is an associate artistic director of the Echo Theater Company. They directed the public readings of *angel's share* by Dominic Finocchiaro, the first place winner of the 2024 Echo Play Contest, and *Monsters* by Michael Mobley, the second place winner in 2023. Elana commissioned five playwrights for THIS!, the 2024 Echo Associate Company Play Festival, and directed for *Alternate Endings*, the 2023 festival.

**autodealer** (Original Music) is the instrumental project of Matt Richter, who has written and performed under the moniker since 2002. He has toured all over the US since 2020, and is signed to the Somewherecold Record label. He also creates music with Jason Lamoreaux under the name *Transverse*. autodealer has written a number of scores for Los Angeles theatre productions and is thrilled to be working with the Echo.

**Alysha Grace Bermudez** (Sound Design) is a Los Angeles-based Sound Designer and Dialogue Editor. Their most recent theatrical sound design was on *Clarkston* 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).

**Marie Bland** (Producer) is a native Angeleno, writer, and producer. Since graduating from Stanford's film and media program, Marie works as a freelance theater producer (*Lines*, *The Dangerous Book for Boys*, *One Jewish Boy*, *Dido of Idaho*, *Clarkston*, *Clara vs. Infinity*) and film producer (*Fill*, *Big Room*, *Lesbian Ditch Day*). She is a 2024 Beth Morrison Producer Academy fellow, a 2025 Lambda Literary Fellow, and currently works in music supervision at MAJOR MAJOR.

**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 produced *Berta Berta*, directed *One Jewish Boy* by Stephen Laughton and *Clarkston* by Samuel D. Hunter, produced *Dido of Idaho*, *Crabs In A Bucket*, 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.

**Eve Gordon** (Associate Producer) Locally: *Cymbeline*, *Diana of Dobson's*, *As You Like It*, *Picnic*, *The Curse of Oedipus*, *The Autumn Garden*, and *Peace in our Time* (Antaeus); *The Ugly One* (EST), *Open House*, *Influence* (Skylight). She worked extensively with Peter Sellars, Richard Foreman, John Madden, David Chase, Norman Lear, and Andrei Belgrader. She has 100 credits on IMDB, and Rolling Stone named her one of the 40 most interesting characters on "Mad Men".

**Meghan McEnery** (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 playwriting from the University of Arkansas.

**Alex Mollo** (Scenic Design) is a theatre and film designer from Los Angeles. After graduating from Emerson College in 2023 with a BFA in Theatre Design and Technology. They have been back in LA working as a designer, art director, set decorator, and fabricator. In the summer of 2025, Alex designed the set for DECKHAND in the Hollywood Fringe Festival. This August, the small team and their set are traveling to Scotland for the Edinburgh Fringe! alexmollodesign.com

**Leah Morrison** (Costume Design) is a Los Angeles based Costume Designer. She works for Walt Disney Imagineering as a Costume Designer for new character development. She recently designed *She's The He*, a Trans coming of age story that premiered at SXSW. The Costume Designer's Guild (892) has featured her as a panelist for "Trans and Non-Binary Inclusivity in Costume Design". At Film Festivals: "THAW" (TRIBECA Film Festival '23) & "Give It To Me." (Atlanta Film Festival '23). On TV: *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *Search Party*, and on Broadway: *Hamilton*, *Beetlejuice*, *Hadestown*, *Mean Girls*, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

**Bianca Martucci Rickheim** (Production Stage Manager) has been Pacific Resident Theatre's production manager for 3 years and has stage managed over 15 productions at theatre during that time. Some of her favorite credits include *A Permanent Image*, *Shakespeare Inc*, *Nightingale* and *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Bianca can be seen stage managing regularly at The Broadwater and other productions around LA.

**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.

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

Linda Adams	Steven Culp	Valli Herman	Michael Oppenheim	Marisela Velez
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DIRECTOR  
Chris Fields

PRODUCING  
DIRECTOR  
Kelly Beech

ASSOCIATE  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
Elana Luo

DIRECTOR OF  
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#### COMPANY

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Dear Friends and Patrons,

Welcome to The Echo's production of *For Want of a Horse!*

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are thrilled to have you join us for our first show of the season. It is with great pride that I can say that we are in our 30th year and we are still going strong! For those of you who are returning to Echo, thank you for your continued support. If this is your first time visiting us, I hope you will understand what makes this company special and why patrons continue to come back and support us.

We have put together a fantastic season and I hope you will feel the same way. So please enjoy the show, and we look forward to seeing you back at the theater for our upcoming shows in the season: *F\*\*king Strangers* and *The Peterson Show*.

Warmly,

David Hanna

*Chairman of the Board, The Echo Theater Company*

Dedicated to nurturing writers and producing new work, the Echo, over its 27 years, has presented 102 Los Angeles premiere productions. Of these, 81 were world premieres and of those, 52 were commissions. Most recently the Echo produced *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*, the LADCC award Best Writing, *Hooded* by Terrance 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."

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*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.*