



Gloria

by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

Directed by Chris Fields

the
echo
theater company

The Echo Theater Company

PRESENTS THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF

Gloria

By Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

Directed by Chris Fields

WITH (in alphabetical order)

Alana Dietze Jessica Goldapple Devere Rogers
Jenny Soo Michael Sturgis Steven Strobel

SCENIC DESIGN
Amanda Knehans

COSTUME DESIGN
Dianne K. Graebner

LIGHTING DESIGN
Azra King-Abadi

SOUND DESIGN
Christopher Moscatiello

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
Letitia Chang

FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY
Ahmed Best

SONG BY
Sparrows Lullaby Band

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Alexa Vellanoweth

PUBLICIST
Lucy Pollak

PRODUCED BY
Kevin Johnson and Rachael Zambias

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS
Nick Abrell and Lindsay Graves Fisher

Atwater Village Theater
September 15–October 21, 2018

CAST (in order of appearance)

<i>Ani / Sasha / Callie</i>	Alana Dietze
<i>Miles / Shawn / Rashaad</i>	Devere Rogers
<i>Dean / Devin</i>	Michael Sturgis
<i>Kendra / Jenna</i>	Jenny Soo
<i>Gloria / Nan</i>	Jessica Goldapple
<i>Lorin</i>	Steven Strobel

PLACE and TIME

The midtown offices of an American magazine, circa the 2010s.

UNDERSTUDY FOR *GLORIA/NAN* **Nicole DuPort**

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LITERARY MANAGER

Alana Dietze

BOX OFFICE MANAGER

Kevin Johnson

ASSOCIATE LITERARY MANAGER

Michael Sturgis

ASSOCIATE LITERARY MANAGER

Christian Prentice

AUDIENCE SERVICES MANAGER

Anthony DiGregorio

CONCESSIONS

Nick Abrell

ELECTRICIAN

McLeod Benson

ELECTRICIAN

Stephen Azua

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Christopher Komuro

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Rachael Olsem

HEAD USHER

Will Jorge



Gloria

BIO'S



Alana Dietze



Nicole DuPort



Jessica Goldapple

NICK ABRELL (*Associate Producer*) is a Los Angeles native and member of the Echo Associate Company. He is thrilled to be working on Gloria. Nick has appeared on T.V. and Film and is currently with the Downtown Rep Theatre of Los Angeles. Nick would like to thank: Mom, Dad, his sister Cathy, Saga and his friend and teacher Richard Gilbert-Hill.

AHMED BEST (*Fight Choreography*) Theatre: *Blueberry Toast* (Echo Theater Company) *Women Laughing Alone With Salad* (Center Theatre Group) *Backyard* (Ovation Award, Stage Raw Award, LADCC award winner, Fight choreography, Echo Theatre Company) *Bob: A Life in Five Acts* (Echo Theatre Company) *Buzzy Grosvenor's Ding Dong, Jack, Uncle Toms Cabin* (Sacred Fools Theatre Co.) *Stomp* (NYC, London, International tour) Film: *Star Wars Prequels* (Director: George Lucas) *Mother and Child* (Director: Rodrigo Garcia).

LETITIA CHANG (*Production Stage Manager*) is a CA convert transplanted from NY & VA. She's worked primarily with East West Players till 2017, (after graduating from Pitzer College in 1996 with a BA in theatre) and the odd waiver theatre outside of EWP. She began as an SM, then decided to learn more about backstage doings. She's returned to stage management and glad to be at "the helm" for Echo's *Gloria*. She thanks friends Adrian, Justin and Jon for dropping her name in the SM bucket as well as Chris! Cheers!

ALANA DIETZE (*Ani/Sasha/Callie*) Also with the Echo: *An Undivided Heart*, *Fugue*, *Bob*, *God's Ear*, *Everything Will Be Different* (3 Ovation Nominations including Leading Actress). Recent and favorite work elsewhere: *The Imposter* (New Guard), *The Red Letter Plays* (Illyrian Players), *The Devil's Wife* (Skylight), *Macbeth* (Vagrancy), *Lascivious Something* (Circle X), *The Hillary Game* (Padua Playwrights), *Have You Seen Alice?* (Theatre of NOTE). On screen: *Rose is a Rose*, *Thrashers*, *Ok, Good* (Slamdance), *Dark Space*. She is also a director whose 2016 production of *Dry Land* won the Ovation Award for Best Production and was selected for CTG's prestigious Block Party program.

NICOLE DUPORT (*u/s Gloria/Nan*) recently performed in Echo Theater's *Cry it Out*. She plays musician Amy Grant in Lionsgate's box office hit *I Can Only Imagine*. Television credits include *The Last Tycoon*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *NCIS*, *Rizzoli & Isles*, and more. Nicole has performed on stage at Atwater Village Theater, Greenway Court Theatre, The Elephant Theater, The Egyptian Arena Theatre, Highways Performance Space and more. She studied Theater at UC Berkeley and trained at Circle in the Square in New York. Nicole also writes and produces. More at www.nicoleduport.com

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 directed Yusuf Toropov's *An Undivided Heart* and Erik Patterson's *One of the Nice Ones* for The Echo. He won an LADCC Award for *Firemen* and the LA Weekly Award for *A Family Thing*. As an actor, he has appeared on and off Broadway, regionally, in film and on TV. He was adjunct professor of drama at SUNY Purchase and maintains a private workshop class in Los Angeles. Thanks to all.

LINDSAY GRAVES FISHER (*Associate Producer*) is an LA-based actor/producer. This last year she received a BA in Theater from Occidental College. She was a literary intern at The Echo, and subsequently was welcomed into their Associate Company. Echo: *Violet* by Jacqueline Wright, *At Dawn* by Calamity West, and *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* by Don Nigro.

DIANNE K. GRAEBNER (*Costume Design*) has designed (and won awards and nominations) for over 100 productions nationwide and internationally and has originated the costumes for many new works and world premieres. Including *Church & State-Off-Broadway* 2017, *Fallen Angels* (Indy award-Santa Barbara), *Breath & Imagination* at The Colony (NAACP nomination), *The Brothers Karamazov* (Ovation nomination) and *Battle Hymn* (L.A. Weekly nomination)-for CircleX Theatre Co. just to mention a few. She previously designed



Devere Rogers



Jenny Soo



Michael Sturgis



Steven Strobel

Undivided Heart for the Echo and Circle X Theatre. She is a member of United Scenic Artists Local-829. www.diannegraebner.com

JESSICA GOLDAPPLE (*Gloria/Nan*) Jessica got her start in Canadian TV, before moving to California to get an acting degree from CalArts. She also studied theatre at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. Theatre credits include Maddie in *American Falls* with the Echo, the title role in *The Little Prince* at South Coast Repertory, Katrin in *Mother Courage* at The Theatre at Boston Court, Mayella in *To Kill a Mockingbird* with The Arizona Theatre Company and as Mary Eleanor in *Women Behind Bars* with the Celebration Theater. Jessica is a performer and board member for Lab Twenty6, a professional writers workshop.

BRANDEN JACOBS-JENKINS (*Playwright*) Branden's plays include *Everybody* (Signature Theatre; Pulitzer Prize-finalist), *War* (LCT3/ Lincoln Center Theater), *Gloria* (Vineyard Theatre; Pulitzer Prize-finalist), *Appropriate* (Signature Theatre; Obie Award), *An Octoroon* (Soho Rep; Obie Award) and *Neighbors* (The Public Theater). A Residency Five playwright at Signature Theatre, his most recent honors include the Charles Wintour Award for Most Promising Playwright from the London Evening Standard, a London Critics Circle Award for Most Promising Playwriting, a MacArthur fellowship, the Windham-Campbell Prize for Drama, the Benjamin Danks Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation Theatre Award, the Steinberg Playwriting Award, and the inaugural Tennessee Williams Award. He sits on the board of Soho Rep and, with Annie Baker, he is an associate co-director of the Hunter College MFA program in playwriting.

KEVIN JOHNSON (*Producer*) Kevin hails from Schertz, Texas and has spent the last 2 years at California State University Long Beach pursuing a MBA/MFA in Theatre Management, filling his free time with more theatre. He is interested in using data to improve decision making in non-profit organizations. Some of his favorite credits

include *Waiting for Godot*, *Titanic*, *The Oresteia*, *Tender Napalm*, *Suburbia*, and *Cinderella after the Ball*. Recently, Kevin has acted as facilitator and teaching artist in Shakespeare Center's Will Power to Youth program, and performs in the interACT social justice troupe. He hopes to continue fostering understanding and exploration of the human spirit through theatre.

AZRA KING-ABADI (*Lighting Design*) is a Los Angeles based lighting designer. Azra designed *Ripe Frenzy*, and *House on Mango Street* with Greenway Court Theatre, *The Ridiculous Darkness* with Son of Semele, *Nicky and Emilie: La Marquise du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight* with Courage Theatre, *Lunatics and Actors* with Four Clowns, *Trouble in Tahiti & Gallantry* with Opera Santa Barbara, *Israel in Egypt* and *Alexander's Feast* with LA Master Chorale, *Wonderful Town* and *Turn of the Screw* with LA Opera, *Angels in America* opera with LA Philharmonic; *The Breasts of Tiresias & Tears of a Knife* with Long Beach Opera. azrakingabadi.com

AMANDA KNEHANS (*Scenic Design*) is a Los Angeles based Scenic Designer and Art Director. Recent theatre credits include *Ripe Frenzy* (Greenway Court Theatre), *The Willows* (Bootleg Theatre), *An Undivided Heart* (Circle X/The Echo), *Dry Land* (Kirk Douglas Theatre), *Welcome to the White Room* and *Year of the Rooster* (Theatre of Note), *Blueberry Toast*, *One of the Nice Ones*, and *A Small Fire* (The Echo), *Mice* and *WET: A DACamented Journey* (Ensemble Studio Theatre) and *ICU* (Circle X). Recent film credits include Art Director on "The Wedding Year" (Lakeshore Entertainment), "East Los High" Season 4 and 5 (Hulu).

CHRISTOPHER MOSCATIELLO (*Sound Design*) is a sound designer, composer and music director. 2018 LADCC and 2015 Stage Raw Awards and multiple Ovation nominations for Sound Design. Theater highlights: The Kennedy Center, Folger Shakespeare Theatre, Antaeus, Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, Rogue Machine, Fountain Theatre, Skylight Theatre, assistant conductor for the national tour of Phantom of the Opera. TV highlights: *The Walking Dead*, *Psych*, *Eureka*, *Human Target*, *The Cape*, *Caprica*,

Trauma. He has scored series, specials and promos for NBC, HBO, BBC, Discovery, National Geographic and others, and he wrote a ballet commissioned by the Kirov Ballet Academy that had its world premier in Washington, DC.

DEVERE ROGERS (*Miles/Shawn/Rashaad*) Echo Theater Company Debut! Devere Rogers is an actor, playwright, screenwriter, and director. Graduate of NYU Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in Theatre. He has performed in plays, musicals, and workshops on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and regionally, as well as having roles on such TV shows like *Grey's Anatomy*, *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, and *Will & Grace*; and also other numerous TV shows, films, and commercials. Most recently, he starred in the NBC pilot *Friends-In-Law*. Thanks to my amazing team at Grandview and Abrams, my mother, and all my family & friends for believing in me and inspiring me to reach for the stars everyday.

JENNY SOO (*Kendra/Jenna*) Jenny is excited to be returning to the Echo, after an amazing experience with *Dry Land*, L.A. Theatre: *Hot Cat*, *Niagara Falls*, *D Deb Debbie Deborah* TV: *Parks & Rec*, *LA to Vegas*, *Reverie*. Her passion project, a feature film *FOR IZZY* is currently doing the festivals: www.forizzy.com. BFA: NYU. MFA: A.R.T./MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard. Thanks to Chris, Letitia, her family, and Toad.

STEVEN STROBEL (*Lorin*) This is Steven's second show with the Echo Theater Company. He was last seen as "Norm" in their production of "*Found Dog Ribbon Dance*". Steven has an MFA from the American Conservatory Theater. He would like to dedicate this performance to his beagle, Dorothy. The only one who cares.

MICHAEL STURGIS (*Dean/Devin*) Echo: Father Keenan in *An Undivided Heart*; Jack in *Blueberry Toast* (Stage Raw Award-Best Comedic Ensemble); associate literary manager. Other: HERO Theatre company member-Festival Irene and writer/performer in the Super Sabado Show; Waiter in *The Madwoman of Chailot* at A Noise Within; weekly show at UCB with improv troupe Crumbs. USC (BA Theatre): Fortinbras in *Fortinbras*; Joshua in *Ring Round the Moon*; Sir Wilfull Witwoud in *The Way of the World*; John Ritter Award for Comedic Performance. Web series: *Dick Hopper* on Amazon; *Janny Jelly*.

ALEXA VELLANOWETH (*Assistant Director*) Regional acting credits: *Pearl in The Door To America* (She LA Arts Festival), *Salome in The First and the Last* (Hollywood Fringe Festival 2018) *Angela in The Car Plays* (Seegerstrom Center for the Arts) and *Margot in Legally Blonde: The Musical* (Cupcake Theatre). Alexa also does improv at The Groundlings. Endless gratitude to Chris Fields, Mark Seldis, and her family for the opportunity to do what she loves. Alexavellanoweth.com

RACHAEL ZAMBIAS (*Producer*) is General Manager of The Echo Theater Company and recently co-produced *Cry It Out* for The Echo. She has helped plan and execute thousands of live arts and cultural events over the past 15 years. Rachael holds a BA in Film Studies from UC Berkeley and has written and directed several short films. In 2017, she became a certified yoga teacher and reiki practitioner. On any given day, you can find her hiking the hills of Northeast LA, where she recently relocated after many years in San Francisco.

THE ECHO WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING DONORS AND BACKERS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY

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Dedicated to nurturing writers and producing new work, the multiple award-winning Echo Theater Company was anointed “Best Bet for Ballsy Original Plays” by the LA Weekly in its 2014 Best of L.A. issue and was a recipient of a 2016 “Kilroy Cake Drop” — one of only 13 theaters in the country to be surprised by cakes to honor the efforts they are making to produce women and trans writers. Most recently, the Echo produced Molly Smith Metzler’s critically acclaimed CRY IT OUT while their world premiere production of Bekah Brunstetter’s THE CAKE, which was developed in the Echo LAB, is currently running at The Geffen. The company is also recognized for its acting ensemble; in the Los Angeles Times, Charles McNulty wrote, “Echo Theater Company, which has cultivated a community of top flight actors, would be my go-to place in Los Angeles for symbiotic ensemble acting.” KCRW’s Anthony Byrnes stated, “It’s time to start paying attention to the Echo Theater Company... What’s made these choices pay off is the acting and casting has been superb. The company has made bold choices and backed them up.”

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