



Echo
Theater
Company
presents
Handjob
by Erik
Patterson
Directed by
Chris Fields
World Premiere
Sept 7–Oct 21

the
echo
theater company

The Echo Theater Company

PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF

Handjob

By Erik Patterson

Directed by Chris Fields

WITH (in alphabetical order)

Steven Culp Tamarra Graham Stephen Guarino
Gloria Ines Ryan Nealy Michael Rishawn Cole Taylor

SCENIC DESIGN COSTUME DESIGN LIGHTING DESIGN
Amanda Knehans Ann Closs-Farley Jared A. Sayeg

SOUND DESIGN PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
Jeff Gardner Rebecca Schoenberg

INTIMACY COACH CASTING DIRECTOR PUBLICIST
Benjamin Toubia, LMFT Meg Fister Lucy Pollak

PRODUCED BY
Chris Fields and Rachael Zambias

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
Ariel Labasan

Atwater Village Theater
Sept 7–Oct 21, 2019

This production is dedicated to the loving memory of
Joseph Mirisciotti and Carol DuPort



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

CAST (in order of appearance)

Keith Steven Culp

Eddie Michael Rishawn

Kevin Stephen Guarino

Bradley Ryan Nealy

Susan Tamarra Graham

Kate Gloria Ines

STANDBY FOR EDDIE Cole Taylor

TIME Now

PLACE A New York City Apartment

Thank you to the artist, John J Mackie for his painting, *First Nations*, featured on the set. His work can be found at: johnjmackie.com

STAFF

LITERARY MANAGER Alana Dietze | AUDIENCE SERVICES MANAGER Rachael Zambias

DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE Jenny Gillett | MARKETING ASSOCIATE Tessa Slovis

BOX OFFICE ASSOCIATE Amanda Horowitz | ASSOCIATE LITERARY MANAGER Michael Sturgis

LITERARY ASSOCIATE Christian Prentice | CONCESSIONS Nick Barnes

VIDEOGRAPHY Shea Vanderpoort and Amber Barnard | MASTER ELECTRICIAN Ryan Dempsey

MASTER CARPENTER Steven Barr | GRAPHIC DESIGN Christopher Komuro

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

Handjob



Steven Culp (Keith)
Some credits: Theater: *The Parisian Woman*, *Dr. Cerberus*, *Art*, *Raised in Captivity* (South Coast Rep); *The City of Conversation* (The Wallis); *Angels*

in America, *Blackbird*, *The Quality of Life* (A.C.T.); *Old Times* (Shakespeare Theatre Co., D.C.); *Slavs!*, *Trip's Cinch* (Actors Theatre of Louisville); *Light Up the Sky* (Ahmanson). TV: Regular and recurring roles on *Desperate Housewives*, *Bosch*, *The Last Ship*, *Revolution*, *Gray's Anatomy*, *The West Wing*, *JAG*, *ER*, *Star Trek: Enterprise*. Film: *Thirteen Days*, *The Emperor's Club*, *Spartan*, *The Last Word*, *James and the Giant Peach*.

Ann Closs-Farley (Costume Design) has been designing in LA for over 25 years. She is currently designing for TWA, Universal Studios, and Carnival Cruise Lines. Some credits include: *Zoot Suit*, Shanghai Disneyland Park, *The Pee-wee Herman Show* (Broadway), *Disney's Toy Story The Musical*, *Eric Idle's What About Dick?*, *Hopscotch: A Mobile Opera*, *Pride and Prejudice: The Musical*, *Billy Elliot*, *Cunning Little Vixens Opera*, *Carnage*, *Around The World in 80 Days* and many more. Closs-Farley is also a long-time member of The Actors' Gang and evidENCE Room LA theater companies. www.annclossfarley.com

Chris Fields (Director/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 *The Wolves* and directed Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' *Gloria*, Daniel Talbott's *What Happened When* and Yusuf Toropov's *An Undivided Heart* 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.

Meg Fister (Casting Director) Previous casting credits include *Cry It Out* by Molly Smith-Metzler, *The Cake* by Bekah Brunstetter, *Blueberry Toast* by Mary Laws, and *One of the Nice Ones* by Erik Patterson at Echo Theater Company; *Vicuna* by Jon Robin Baitz, at the Kirk Douglas Theatre; *Father Comes Home From The Wars* (Parts 1, 2, and 3) by Suzan-Lori Parks, *The Mystery of Love & Sex* by Bathsheba Doran, and *Appropriate* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins at the Mark Taper Forum; *Collective Rage* at Boston Court Theater.

Jeff Gardner (Sound Design) Designs at Echo Theater include (*The Wolves*, *Cry It Out*, *Dry Land*, *The Cake*, *Bed*, *One Of The Nice Ones*, *American Falls*); A Noise Within (*Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*, *The Madwoman of Chailot*, *A Raisin In The Sun*); The Antaeus Company (*Native Son*, *The Little Foxes*, *The Hothouse*, *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*, *Picnic*); Circle X Theatre (*Trevor*, *ICU*); Rogue Machine (*Gunshot Medley*, *Les Blancs*, *Honky*); and IAMA Theatre Company (*Mama Metal*, *Canyon*, *The Recommendation*, *A Dog's House*). www.jeffthomasgardner.net



Tamarra Graham (Susan) is a Detroit native, licensed clinical psychologist, and U.S. Navy veteran. She is a StageSceneLA Scenic Award winner for Breakout Actress

of the Year in *Bee-luther-hatchee* (Sierra Madre Playhouse) and *Pure Confidence* (Lower Depth Theatre Ensemble). She has also made the rounds showcasing her comedy chops at the Second City, Upright Citizens Brigade, iO, The Pack Theater, and Comedy Central Stage. When not on stage, she enjoys twisting her hair into bantu knots while watching *The Real Housewives*.



Stephen Guarino (*Kevin*) recently played Sully Patterson on Showtime's *I'm Dying Up Here* and currently Quincy on Netflix's *EastSiders* (Emmy Nom) but most known as the outrageous Derrick on ABC's *Happy Endings*. TV Highlights: *The Comeback*, *Goldbergs*, *Dr. Ken*, *2 Broke Girls*, *Superior Donuts*, *The Big Gay Sketch Show*, *Law & Order SVU*. Film: *Confessions of a Shopaholic*, *I Hate Valentine's Day*, *Bearcity*. Off-Broadway: *Around the...80 Days*, *Awesome 80s Prom*, and proud creator of cult-hit musical *The Nuclear Family*. Regional: [title of show], *Titanique the Musical*. Grad of FSU and The Public Theatre Shakespeare Program. CAA & 3 Arts.



Gloria Ines (*Kate*) is a recent graduate of the University of California, Riverside, where she earned her BA in Acting and Directing. She is currently a member of the Echo's Associate Company. This is her

first main stage show with the company.

Amanda Knehans (*Scenic Design*) is a Los Angeles based Scenic Designer and Art Director. Recent theatre credits include *The Wolves*, *Gloria*, and *Blueberry Toast* (The Echo), *As You Like It* (Off Square Theatre Company), *Bliss* (Moving Arts), *The Willows* (Bootleg Theater), *Dry Land* (CTG/Echo), *Year of the Rooster* and *Welcome to the White Room* (Theatre of Note) and *Tuesdays with Morrie* (Sierra Madre Playhouse). Recent film credits include Art Director on "Single Parents" Season 1 (ABC), "The Wedding Year" (Lakeshore Entertainment), and "East Los High" Season 4 and 5 (Hulu).

Ariel Labasan (*Associate Producer*) This summer, Ariel worked with Bob Krakower, Wendy Makkena and Tony Spiridakis at the Manhattan Film Institute. She will be in Echo's Fall show of commissioned one acts, P.C this November. Credits include: *Sons of Fox*, *Daughters of CNN*, *Bits of Paradise: Kochiyama's Crusaders*.



Ryan Nealy (*Bradley*) Big thanks to Chris Fields, Erik Patterson, and everyone at Echo for this opportunity! L.A. Theatre: *The Woodpecker* (world premiere, Mutineer Theatre Co), *Blood Brothers*

(Whitefire Theatre). East Coast credits include productions at; The Kennedy Center, Signature Theatre, Round House Theatre, Studio Theatre, Imagination Stage, Rorschach Theatre Co, and Papermill Playhouse. This past winter, Ryan starred in the independent feature, *Singularities*. His original short, *SQUARE* is currently hitting film festivals. IG@rhyna_wyatt

Erik Patterson (*Playwright*) recently won the LADCC Award for *One of the Nice Ones*. His plays have been produced and developed all over the world, including Playwrights' Arena, Theatre of NOTE, the Echo Theater Company, Naked Angels, the Taper, and New Group. His plays have been nominated for Ovation Awards, Stage Raw Awards, the LA Weekly Award, and the GLAAD Media Award. Erik has received the Humanitas Prize and the Writer's Guild Award, as well as two Emmy nominations.



Michael Rishawn (*Eddie*) is an actor and playwright. New York Credits: *Old Masters* (The Flea), *24-hour plays* (The New School), *History Boys* (Gallery Players), workshops at Roundabout Theatre

Company. Regional: *Wig Out* (Studio Theatre), *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Two Gentleman of Verona*, *All's Well* (Shakespeare Theatre Company), *A Christmas Carol*, *Antony & Cleopatra* (Hartford Stage), *Henry V* (Philadelphia Shakespeare). Sundance Screenwriters' Lab Finalist (*Mama's Boy*), Bay Area Playwrights Festival Finalist (*Not Another Sidney Poitier*). MFA, UCSD. BFA, The Hartt School.

Jared A. Sayeg (*Lighting Designer*) is the recipient of Ovation and LADCC Kinetic Lighting Awards. Broadway/National Tour: *The Illusionists*. Regional: Center Theatre Group, South Coast Repertory, McCoy Rigby Entertainment, 5th Avenue Theatre, Pasadena Playhouse, Reprise, Ensemble Theatre Company, Laguna Playhouse, Virginia Stage Company, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey. Notable projects: four seasons at LA Opera and four USA International Ballet Competitions. Member of United Scenic Artists Local 829 and serves as a trustee on its executive board. www.jaslighting.com

Rebecca Schoenberg (*Production Stage Manager*) couldn't be happier to be working on this production with The Echo Theater Company. She previously stage managed *Hit the Wall* and *Search for Signs* for the LA LGBT Center. Other recent productions include *A Gulag Mouse*, *Behavior of Broadus*, *Too Heavy for your Pocket* all for Sacred Fools theatre, of which she is also a member. She thanks you for your attendance, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Cole Taylor (*Eddie/standby*) is a graduate of Pace University's BFA Acting program. He is excited to make his LA Theater debut. Recent stage credits include *Pipeline* by Dominique Morriseau at the Indiana Repertory Theatre,



and The Workshop Production of *The First Deep Breath* by Lee Edward Colston III at the National Black Theatre in Harlem. You can catch him on screen as well, playing Terrance, in a feature film called "Strive". Shoutout to family and friends!

Benjamin Toubia (*Intimacy Coach*) is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist working in Los Angeles. Benjamin is a sex-positive LGBT affirming clinician helping his clients and their families navigate sensitive issues as they develop deeper relationships through mutual growth. As an intimacy coach, Benjamin helps create a safe space to explore intimacy and sexuality on stage.

Rachael Zambias (*Producer*) is Producing Director of The Echo. She recently produced *The Wolves* by Sarah DeLappe, *Cry It Out* by Molly Smith Metzler (Ovation and LADCC award winner) and *Gloria*, by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins for The Echo. Rachael holds a BA in Film Studies from UC Berkeley. In 2017, she became a certified yoga teacher and reiki healer. Rachael is grateful and excited to be a part of the LA theater community. Thanks to all!

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DEDICATED TO NURTURING WRITERS AND PRODUCING NEW WORK, the multiple award-winning Echo Theater Company was anointed “Best Bet for Ballys Original Plays” by the LA Weekly 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 company was nominated for 13 Stage Raw Awards. Additionally, they were awarded the Polly Warfield Award for “Excellent Season” by the LADCC while also winning two Ovation Awards for its production of Molly Smith Metzler’s CRY IT OUT, which was also chosen by both the L.A. Times and KCRW for their “Best of 2018” lists. Anthony Byrnes (KCRW) said: “Echo Theater 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... [of GLORIA]...confirmed just how indispensable 99-seat theaters still are to a healthy theater ecology.”

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