


ECHO THEATER CO.  
PRESENTS

LOS ANGELES  
PREMIERE



# HOODED or BEING BLACK for DUMMIES

by TEARRANCE  
ARVELLE CHISHOLM

DIRECTED BY AHMED BEST

MARCH 12-APRIL 18



LOS ANGELES PREMIERE • MARCH 12-APRIL 18, 2022

**The Echo Theater Company**  
PRESENTS THE LOS ANGELES PREMIERE OF

# **HOODED or BEING BLACK for DUMMIES**

**by Tarrance Arvelle Chisholm**  
**Directed by Ahmed Best**

WITH (in alphabetical order)

**Tasha Ames Clare Margaret Donovan Vincent Doud**  
**Ezekiel Goodman Brent Grimes Robert Hart**  
**Betsy Stewart Jalen K. Stewart**

SCENIC DESIGN

**Song Yi Park**

COSTUME DESIGN

**Elena Flores**

LIGHTING DESIGN

**Matt Richter**

SOUND DESIGN

**Alysha Grace Bermudez**

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

**Danielle Jaramillo**

ASST. LIGHTING DESIGNER

**Hayden Kirschbaum**

CASTING DIRECTOR

**Tal Fox**

PUBLICIST

**Lucy Pollak**

PRODUCED BY

**Kelly Beech, Chris Fields, Charrell Mack and Rachael Zambias**

**Atwater Village Theater**  
**March 12–April 18, 2022**



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



*Hooded or Being Black for Dummies* 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)

*Officer Borzoi/Apollo*. . . . . Robert Hart  
*Tru*. . . . . Brent Grimes  
*Marquis/New Black Kid*. . . . . Jalen K. Stewart  
*Debra/Prairie*. . . . . Tasha Ames  
*Meadow*. . . . . Clare Margaret Donovan  
*Clementine*. . . . . Betsy Stewart  
*Hunter/Headmaster Burns* . . . Vincent Doud  
*Fielder/Dionysus/*. . . . . Ezekiel Goodman  
*Concerned Citizen*

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TIME Now

PLACE Achievement Heights, Maryland

\*Standbys never substitute for listed players unless a specific announcement for their appearance is made at the time of their performance. For *Debra/Prairie* — Aleisha Force.

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STAFF

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COMPANY MANAGER Mak Vogel | MARKETING ASSOCIATE Tessa Slovis  
BOX OFFICE ASSOCIATE Amanda Horowitz | DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE Emily Watterz  
MASTER CARPENTER/SET BUILDER Efrain Corona, Chachi Medina | SCENIC David Kyle Kim  
VIDEO BY New Vision Films | VIDEOGRAPHY Shea William Vanderpoort, Director,  
Steven A. Soria, Camera & Lights, Amber Barnard, Audio  
GRAPHIC DESIGN Christopher Komuro

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

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# HOODED or BEING BLACK for DUMMIES



**Tasha Ames (Debra/Prairie)**

Theater highlights: *Miss Lilly Gets Boned* and *Honky* (Rogue Machine), *Rabbit Hole* (Malibu Stage—Ovation Winner “Featured Actress”),

*Trevor* (Circle X), *Crimes of the Heart* (Rubicon), *Cat On a Hot Tin Roof* (Edinburgh). Film/TV highlights: *Little Fires Everywhere*, *The Originals*, *2 Broke Girls*, *Shameless*. She also works in music supervision. Special thanks to Aaron LaPlante.

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**Kelly Beech (Producer)** is Producing Director at the Echo. As the child of a Director, Kelly literally grew up in a theater. She started acting as a child and eventually moved west to pursue Film and Television. She has worked on many popular television shows including *911*, *Mistresses*, *NCIS*, *Private Practice*, and *Criminal Minds*. Kelly is thrilled to be a part of the *Hooded* team. Thanks to everyone involved!

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**Alysha Grace Bermudez (Sound Design)** is Los Angeles-based designer and graduate of the USC School of Dramatic Arts with a BFA in Sound Design. In addition to her work in theater, Alysha's design and editorial projects have spanned diverse mediums from short film, to podcasts, to animation and video games. Her most recent design work has been showcased on EA's *Sims 4*. For more information, please visit [alyshabermudez.com](http://alyshabermudez.com).

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**Ahmed Best (Director)** Director: *Ascension*, *Tilikum*, *At Dawn*, *Kill Floor*, *Our Garden* (Echo Theater) *The Tragedy*, *Yoga Play* (Ammunition Theater) Ovation Award, LADCC Award, Stage Raw Award winner. Fight Choreography: *Brain Problems* (Ammunition Theater Company) *Gloria*, *Dry Land*, *Backyard*, *Fugue*, *Blueberry Toast* (Echo Theater Co.) *Unbound* (IAMA Theater Co.) *Good Grief*, *Women Laughing Alone With Salad* (CTG) Adjunct Professor at USC School of Dramatic Arts, Stanford's Hasso Plattner Institute of Design.

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**Tearrance Arvelle Chisholm (Playwright)** premiered his play *P.Y.G.* at Studio Theater as both playwright and director. He won a Helen Hayes award for *Hooded or Being Black* for

*Dummies* at Mosaic Theater. Br'er Cotton had a critically-acclaimed production by London's Theatre 503 (nominee, *Evening Standard* Charles Wintour Award for Most Promising Playwright), and the play received an NNPN Rolling World Premiere. He was a finalist for the Inaugural Relentless Award, a part of the Pacific Playwrights Festival at South Coast Rep with *Anacostia Street Lions*, developed *Black Lady Authority* at the Sundance Theater Lab and *Black Dick* at the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference. Tearrance holds an MFA in Playwriting from the Catholic University of America and is a graduate of the Juilliard Lila Wallace American Playwrights program. In Hollywood, Tearrance has written for a number of tv series and is currently developing his own show, the sci-fi dramedy *Demascus*, with AMC and Gran Via Productions.

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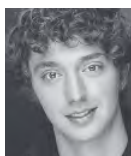


**Clare Margaret Donovan**

(*Meadow*) attends DePaul's Comedy Filmmaking BFA program in partnership with Second City. A highlight for her was playing Maria in *Twelfth*

*Night* directed by Elizabeth Dennehy while attending LACHSA. Credits include *Bunk'd*, *The Gifted*, *Solve* and *The Breakdown*. She also works as a Development Assistant for FGOM Productions! Special thanks to her family, Tal Fox, Haydn Jones, and the incredible team behind *Hooded*!

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**Vincent Doud (Hunter/Headmaster)** would like to thank you for coming out to support live theatre and choosing to support The Echo, and this fantastic production.

Vincent hails from Iowa where he graduated from the University of Iowa with a BA in Theatre Arts before moving to Los Angeles in late 2019.

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**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 *Poor Clare* and directed the world premiere of Erik Patterson's *Handjob*, before

that he produced *The Wolves* and directed Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' *Gloria*, all for The Echo. He won a Stage Raw Award for *Gloria*, 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 taught at SUNY Purchase and maintains a private workshop class in Los Angeles. Thanks to all.

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**Elena Flores (Costume Design)** is a Los Angeles-based Costume Designer & Maker for Theatre, TV, and Film. She is a proud union member of Costume Designer's Guild 892 and Motion Picture Costumers 705, as well as an ensemble member of Echo Theatre Company and Rogue Artists Ensemble. Recent designs include *Righteous Thieves* (feature film) and *#undertheinfluence* (Santa Fe Playhouse) and she recently completed 5 months working as a costumer on the TV series *1883* for Paramount+.

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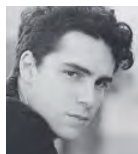


**Aleisha Force (u/s Debra/ Prairie)** hails from the Great State of Texas, and moved to Los Angeles from New York City just in time for the pandemic, y'all. Favorite theatre: *Antony and Cleopatra* (Cleopatra) at Virginia Shakes, *The Odd Couple* (Florence Unger) at Theatre Workshop of Nantucket, *Tigers Be Still* (Grace) at Dallas Theatre Center. She thinks she does more yoga than she really does. [www.aleishaforce.com](http://www.aleishaforce.com)

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**Tal Fox (Casting Director)** Casting with the Echo: *Poor Clare* and *Bed*. Additional credits at 5-Star Theatricals, Center Theatre Group, Theatre @ Boston Court, Pacific Resident Theatre, Knot Free Productions, Greenway Court Theatre, and The Rockwell Table & Stage. Tal is also an actress, singer, and producer. [www.talfox.online](http://www.talfox.online)

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**Ezekiel Goodman (Fielder/ Dionysus/Concerned Citizen)** Born and raised in Los Angeles, Ezekiel Goodman graduated from Johns Hopkins University and trained in the MFA Acting Program at the USC School of Dramatic Arts.

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Most recently, Ezekiel can be seen starring in Amazon Prime's *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, as well as his short-film *Peacocking*, which he also wrote and directed.

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**Brent Grimes (Tru)** is thrilled to make his Echo Theater debut. Born and raised in Indianapolis, he earned his BA from Indiana University, and his MFA in acting from the University of Southern California. Much love to the cast, crew, fam, and friends. RIP Michael K Williams & Sidney Poitier.

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**Robert Hart (Officer Borzoi/ Apollo)** is a MFA graduate of Yale School of Drama, where his credits include *The Seagull* and *Marty* and *the Hands That Could*. Other credits include *The Duchess of Malfi*, *Macbeth* (California State University, Long Beach); *The Laramie Project*, *Flowers for Algernon*, and *Electric Roses* (El Camino College).

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**Danielle Jaramillo (Production Stage Manager)** is a recent USC graduate where she double majored in Theatre with an emphasis in Stage Management and Non-Governmentals and Social Change with a minor in Music Industry. She has previously worked with the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa and Inner City Arts in Downtown Los Angeles.

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**Hayden Kirschbaum (Assistant Lighting Designer)** is a lighting designer and programmer based in Los Angeles. A recent UC Berkeley grad, he recently assisted Matt Richter on *Salvage* at the Hudson and *A Hit Dog Will Holler* at the Skylight. As a technician, he's worked at Six Flags Magic Mountain, South Coast Repertory, and Bally Sports West.

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**Charrell Mack (Producer)**, a recent MFA graduate of The School of Dramatic Arts at The University of Southern California, is no stranger to the stage. She was Desdemona in the production *Othello*, directed by Kate Burton and Rebel, in the world premiere of *Ascension*



directed by Ahmed Best, which debuted at the Echo Theater last year, 2021. Along with starring in short films, *Retreat* and *Clones*, Charrell's journey is just beginning.

**Song Yi Park** (*Scenic Design*) has experience in theatrical scenic and production design in theatre and film. Her scenic designs include a virtual production *The Latrell Show* (2021, presented by IAMA Theatre Company) by Brandon Kyle Goodman and co-directed by Stefanie Black and Devere Rogers, *The Unseen Hand/Killer's Head* (2020, nominated for the 31st Ovation Awards) by Sam Shepard and directed by Darrell Larson at Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, and *Driving Wilde* (2019) by Jacqueline Wright and directed by Bart DeLorenzo at Theatre of Note.

**Matt Richter** (*Lighting Design*) is an award-winning designer based in Los Angeles. He is the resident designer for the LA LGBT Center, where he also works full time. Designs for the Center include *Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*; *Revisited* (Ovation nomination), and *Hit The Wall* (Ovation Nomination, LADCC Award). He has designed for numerous companies around the Los Angeles area. Matt also scores music under the name autodealer (autodealermusic.com). For more information, please visit [mattrichter.net](http://mattrichter.net).



**Betsy Stewart** (*Clementine*) is thrilled to be making her LA theatre debut! Previous stage credits include: *Cruel Intentions* (1st National Tour), *October Sky* (The Old Globe), *Spring Awakening* (Marriott Theatre). She's a proud Northwestern graduate and AEA member. Love and thanks to her team at KMR and PAG. @beetstew"



**Jalen K. Stewart** (*Marquis*) Born and raised in Toledo, OH., Jalen K. Stewart is excited to be making his debut with the Echo Theater Company. Graduating with an MFA in Acting from USC in 2021, his credits include *Pipeline* and *The Brothers Size*. He's also starred in short films *Retreat* and *Peacocking*.

**Rachael Zambias** (*Producer*) is an award-winning theater producer. Credits with The Echo include: *Cry It Out* by Molly Smith Metzler (LADCC, Stage Raw, and Ovation award, best production), *Poor Clare* by Chiara Atik, *The Wolves* by Sarah DeLappe, *Handjob* by Erik Patterson, and *Gloria* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins. Rachael holds a BA in Film Studies from UC Berkeley and is part of the production team on *Young Sheldon*, Season 5. She is thrilled to share the theater space with you all again.

## A Community of Young Artists



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

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## Special Thanks:

Gretchen Ariate	Meagen Brooks	Justin Huen	Kay Morris	Richard C. Walker
Gregory Beech	Alana Dietze	Will Jorge	Esme Ramirez	Timothy Wright
Beth Bickers	Frank Galvan	Kevin Matsumoto	Kat Tpyaldos	

Dedicated to nurturing writers and producing new work, the Echo, over its 25 years, has presented 87 Los Angeles premiere productions. Of these, 73 were world premieres and of those, 45 were commissions.

Most recently the company produced Chiara Atik's *Poor Clare*, which was named to the LA Times' "Ten Reasons To Be Grateful" list for 2021. Erik Patterson's *Handjob*, and Sarah DeLappe's *The Wolves*, which was named one of the "Best of 2019" 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-/Gabrieleño, and Chumash tribes for generations. We honor and respect these nations, peoples, and their enduring relationship to this land.*

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Chris Fields

#### PRODUCING DIRECTOR

Kelly Beech

#### ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Alana Dietze

#### ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Ahmed Best

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