

ECHO THEATER COMPANY PRESENTS

How It's Gon' Be

by JuCoby Johnson
Directed by Ahmed Best



The Echo Theater Company

PRESENTS

How It's Gon' Be

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Directed by Ahmed Best

WITH (in alphabetical order)

Donté Ashon Green Yannick Haynes (u/s)

Michael Howard-Dossett Nona Johnson Durran Moreau

Karla Mosley Sedale Threatt Jr

SCENIC DESIGN

Amanda Knehans

COSTUME DESIGN

Ann Closs-Farley, Sophia April Grose

LIGHTING DESIGN

Justin Huen

SOUND DESIGN

Alysha Bermudez

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGERS

Jenny Park, Lexie Secrist

PUBLICIST

Lucy Pollak

PRODUCED BY

Chris Fields, Troy Leigh-Anne Johnson, Sam Morelos

Atwater Village Theater

Sept 16–Oct 23, 2023

This performance is dedicated to the loving memory of Carol Locatell



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



How It's Gon' Be 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)

Jahaan . . . Donté Ashon Green

Angela . . . Karla Mosley

Rashad . . . Michael Howard-Dossett

Terry Durran Moreau

Lady Nona Johnson

Kenny. . . . Sedale Threatt Jr

STAFF

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VIDEOGRAPHY Shea William Vanderpoort

GRAPHIC DESIGN Christopher Komuro

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

How it's Gon' Be



Donté Ashon Green (*Jahann*) is an L.A. based actor/writer/artist and activist. A natural

born creative from Detroit, MI “what up doe?”. Donté produces art that is tender, raw, and honest. Utilizing his charm, heart, and truth as an invitation to encourage and inspire the personification of love and reminds himself to always act from that place. A recent graduate of the California Institute of the Arts with an M.F.A in Acting. Some of his credits while at CalArts include “Elena” *Uncle Vanya*, “Holloway” *Two Trains Running*, “First Witch” *Macbeth*. Additional Credits: “Cassio” *Othello* (Malcolm Field Theatre), “Antonio” *Duchess of Malfi* (FlagShakes), and most recently “Arkadina” *The Seagull* (Hollywood Fringe) Thank you, God. Contact: donteashongreen@gmail.com / Instagram: Don.Ashon



Michael Howard-Dossett (*Rashad*) is a California native who has had the opportunity

to be a part of some amazing projects throughout his journey of being an artist. Michael’s introduction to acting was through his other gift and passion of singing. Education: Norfolk State University BFA in Music Technology, University of Southern California MFA in Acting. Career Highlights: Sgt. Brown in *Carmen Jones the Musical* at the Old Vic in Santa

Barbara, Elegba in *The Brothers Size* directed by Larry Powell Jr., Ralph D. In *MotherFxxxer with the Hat* directed by Andraé Belgrader, and Julius in *Retreat*, a short film. Michael is supremely grateful to be a part of the *How it's Gon' Be* cast, and looks forward to introducing Rashad to the world.



Yannick Haynes (*u/s Terry*), a Philadelphia native now based in Los Angeles, is a fourth-

year BFA Acting student at the University of Southern California School of Dramatic Arts. He’s grateful to friends, professors, family, and The Echo Theater Company for their unwavering support.



Nona Johnson (*Lady*) is making her Echo Theater Company debut in *JuCoby Johnson's How*

It's Gon' Be. She graduated from Georgetown University with her BA in Justice and Peace Studies with a concentration in Social Justice Art & Performance. She received her Masters in Fine Arts Acting from the University of Southern California. There her roles included Penny in *Father Come Home from the Wars Pt 1, 2 & 3* as well as Puck in *A Midsummer Nights Dream*. Since then she has guest starred on *The Handmaids Tale*, recurred on *Mayor of Kingstown* and been a series regular for NBCs *Law & Order: Organized Crime*. As a member of the Echo

Theater Company Nona hopes to platform tons of new works and contribute to this theater community in a meaningful way. Nona is thrilled to be on stage again and with such a beautiful cast and crew. She thanks all her friends and family for their encouragement and support.



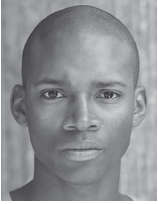
Durran Moreau (*Terry*) (he/him) is grateful to make his Los Angeles debut here

at Atwater Village Theater! Regional: Howard University: Joli Garçon, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre: world premiere of *Lost Girl, The Wind and the Breeze* (staged reading). Training: Howard University Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts: BFA in Acting. Website: durranmoreau.space



Karla Mosley (*Angela*) is thrilled to be onstage with these humans, telling this story, right now. Favorite

roles include Lenelle Moise’s *Expatriate* (Culture Project off-Broadway), *Dreamgirls* with Jennifer Holliday (MUNY), *Sophisticated Ladies* with Maurice Hines (Arena Stage), Maya on *The Bold and The Beautiful*. Locally, Mosley was nominated for Ovations with her home theater companies for *The Giant Void In My Soul* (Ammo Theater, founding member) and *Found: The Musical* (IAMA Theater, member). Follow on IG @ [karlamose](https://www.instagram.com/karlamose).



Sedale Threatt Jr (Kenny)
Theatre:
Animal Farm,
A Noise Within; *A Midsummer Night's*

Dream, Irreverent Shakespeare Project; *As You Like It*, Antaeus Theater Company; *Little Children Dream of God*, The Road Theater Company; *The Gospel at Colonus*, Ebony Repertory Theatre; *Pulse*, Guthrie Theater (Experience).
Film/Television: *Marvel's Agents of Shield*, ABC; *Siren*, ABC; *Hap & Leonard*, Sundance TV; *Roots*, History Channel; *Velvet Buzzsaw*, Netflix; *Roman J. Israel, Esq.*, Columbia Pictures. Education: BS-Marketing, Lehigh University; MFA-Theater, University of Southern California.

JuCoby Johnson (Playwright)
JuCoby Johnson has been seen onstage at The Guthrie Theater, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, The Jungle Theater, Theater Latté Da, Theater Mu, Ten Thousand Things Theatre Company, and many more. His plays include *How It's Gon' Be* (Underdog Theater, 2019), *...but you could've held my hand* (2020 O'Neill NPC Summer Season), *5* (2022 O'Neill NPC Summer Season, 2021 O'Neill NPC Finalist, Seven Devils Finalist), *I'll Be Seeing You Again* (Jungle Serial Audio Series, 2021) and *Revelations* (Playing On Air, 2021). He was a 2021-2022 McKnight Fellow in Playwriting and is currently an Artistic Associate at The Jungle Theater.

Ahmed Best (Director) Director: *Hooded or Being Black for Dummies*, *Ascension*, *Tilikum*, *At Dawn*, *Kill Floor*, *Our Garden* (Echo Theater) *The Tragedy*,

Yoga Play (Ammunition Theater) Ovation Award, LACC 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) Ahmed plays Jedi Master Kelloran Beq in *The Mandalorian* (Disney +) and Jar Jar Binks in the *Star Wars* Prequels (Lucasfilm Ltd.) He's a Professor at USC School of Dramatic Arts and Stanford's Hasso Plattner Institute of Design.

Alysha Grace Bermudez (Sound Designer) is a Los Angeles-based Sound Designer and Dialogue Editor. Their most recent theatre credits include: *Sea of Terror* (The Husdon), *The Thin Place* (Echo), *BABE* (Echo), and *Remembering the Future* (Odyssey). Their design and editorial projects have spanned diverse mediums, which recently includes EA's *The Sims 4*. For more information, please visit alyshabermudez.com

Ann Closs-Farley (Costume Designer) *The Pee-wee Herman Show* (Broadway), *Toy Story The Musical* (Disney), *What About Dick?* (Netflix), *The Bourne Stuntacular* (Universal Studios), *A Christmas Karen* (Renaissance Entertainment), *St. Valentine Massacre* (National Geographic), *Pirates of the Caribbean: Eye of The Storm* (Shanghai Disneyland), *Sail Away* (Carnival Cruise Lines), *TWA @JFK* (Connie Cocktail Bar), *Twelfth Night* (Guthrie Theater), *Zoot Suit* (Mark Taper Forum) *Hopscotch: A Mobile Opera* (The Industry), *Cunning Little Vixen Opera* (Industry and Cleveland Orchestra), *Around The World in*

80 Days (Cleveland Playhouse) and many more. Closs-Farley is also a long-time member of The Actors' Gang and evidENCE Room theater companies. In addition to winning the Sherwood Award for Emerging Artists, Ann has received Ovation Awards, L.A. Weekly Awards, Backstage Garlands, and L.A. Drama Critics Circle Awards. Ann currently is an Assistant Professor of Costume Design at USC, Produces the Live From The Lounge Podcast, and is an amateur photographer at Crockpot Photography. Visit AnnClossFarley.com for updates

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 *Crabs in a Bucket*, directed the world premiere of Jessica Goldberg's *BABE*, produced *Poor Clare*, directed Erik Patterson's *Handjob*, 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.

Sophia April Grose (Assistant Costume Designer) is a recent BFA design graduate from the USC. Her recent costume design credits include *Into the Woods* and *The Belles Stratagem* with USC, and *Valley of Light* at the Hollywood Fringe Festival. She thanks her codesigner and mentor, Ann, for being on this

Biographies (continued)

journey with her. She also thanks her partner and her cat for their support. Find more on Sophia at sgrose9.wixsite.com/portfolio or @sophiaismemes on Instagram.

Justin Huen (*Lighting Designer*) is an award-nominated actor/director/designer who has worked in Film, Television, intimate and regional theaters across the country. Recent set and light design credits include *A Steady Rain* with Shaun Sipos and Lewis Pullman at the Hudson Theatre and *Cloud Tectonics* with Bobby Soto, Clayton Cardenas and Andrea Londo at the Rosenthal Theatre.

Troy Leigh Anne Johnson (*Assistant Producer*) is honored to have the opportunity to associate produce *How It's Gon' Be*. Troy has appeared in The Echo's production of *The Wolves* and associate produced the theater's previous play, *Crabs in a Bucket*. Her other credits include Theatre of NOTE's current show, *Kill Shelter*, and ABC's *Big Sky*.

Amanda Knehans (*Set Designer*) is a Los Angeles based Scenic Designer, Production Designer and Art Director. Recent theatre credits include *Crabs in a Bucket*, *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.

Sam Morelos (*Assistant Producer*) is so excited to be associate producing their first play at The Echo! Morelos is a company member and has participated in various Echo productions such as *U/S Clare in Poor Clare* and a staged reading of Ann Noble's original play *Waited*. Other credits include the Netflix series *That '90s Show*.

Jenny Park (*Production Stage Manager*) is a Korean American Stage Manager based in Los Angeles. She is very excited to be on this journey of *How It's Gon' Be* with amazing artists. Select stage management credits include *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992* (CTG), Independent Shakespeare Company's Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival, *Anita Berber is Dead!*, *Letters from Home*, *Happy Days*, *King Lear*, *Gunshot Medley, Part 1*; *Revenge Porn* or *The Story of a Body*, *The Giant Void in My Soul* (Ammunition).

A Community of Young Artists



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

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echo



Dedicated to nurturing writers and producing new work, the Echo, over its 27 years, has presented 98 Los Angeles premiere productions. Of these, 81 were world premieres and of those, 52 were commissions.

Most recently the company produced *Crabs in a Bucket* by Bernardo Cubria, *The Thin Place* by Lucas Hnath, Jessica Goldberg's *BABE* which won the LADCC award for best writing, 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 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 theater 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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