



THE ECHO THEATER COMPANY PRESENTS

ONE JEWISH BOY

BY STEPHEN LAUGHTON
DIRECTED BY CHRIS FIELDS

the
echo
theater company

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PRESENTS

ONE JEWISH BOY

by **Stephen Laughton**

Directed by **Chris Fields**

WITH

Sharae Foxie Zeke Goodman

SCENIC DESIGN

Justin Huen

COSTUME DESIGN

Dianne K. Graebner

LIGHTING & SOUND DESIGN

Matt Richter

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Natalya Nielsen

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Bianca Rickheim

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY

autodealer

PRODUCED BY

Marie Bland and Chris Fields

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Hilary Oglesby

PUBLICITY

Lucy Pollak

Atwater Village Theater

March 22–April 28, 2025

This production is dedicated to the loving memory of **Erich Knehans**.



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



One Jewish Boy is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture.

CAST

ALEX Sharae Foxie

JESSE Zeke Goodman

FROM THE AUTHOR:

The scene where Jesse and Alex battle over how he's decorated their stroller with yellow Liberal Democrat rosettes needs some context for a US audience: The UK was divided. Labour had shifted left under Jeremy Corbyn but was plagued by antisemitism scandals. Jewish MP Luciana Berger faced death threats and Nazi imagery and Corbyn refused to defend her unless she showed unwavering support. She quit, calling Labour institutionally antisemitic.

Jesse, a left-wing Jew, sees Corbyn as toxic and blames him for Boris Johnson's looming Tory (Conservative) win. Alex is furious at Jesse for refusing to vote Labour and at the Lib Dems for previously backing Conservative austerity. She sees Labour's manifesto as a lifeline. Jesse cannot support a party that let antisemitism fester. Their fight is political and personal, mirroring the fractures on the left.

STAFF

Literary Manager Michael Sturgis | Associate Literary Manager Zoe Walpole

Marketing Associate Makaela Vogel | Development Associate Sydney Lee

Audience Services Manager David Phillip Fishman | Box Office Manager Amanda Horowitz

Photography Cooper Bates | Videography Shea Vanderpoort

Electricians Hayden Kirschbaum and Salem Mitchell

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

ONE JEWISH BOY



Sharae Foxie (Alex) is a Los Angeles-based multi-hyphenate artist whose credits include *I Don't Feel Safe at Home in This World Anymore* (Grand Jury Prize, 2017 Sundance Film Festival) and *Mother*

Sisters at the Echo Theater Company. Sharae is grateful to return to the Echo and hopes the magic of storytelling continues to weave us closer to ourselves and each other.



Zeke Goodman (Jesse) is an actor, writer, and filmmaker. Recent credits include: *Cruel Intentions* and *I Know What You Did Last Summer* (Amazon Prime), *The Hunting Party* (NBC),

Rent Free (2024 Tribeca Film Festival), and the Echo's production of *Hooded, Or Being Black for Dummies*. His award winning short, "Peacocking," is streaming on FilmShortage, and he has a feature currently in development. He trained in the MFA Acting Program at the University of Southern California.



Stephen Laughton (Playwright) is an award-winning, critically acclaimed writer with a rising international profile. He has work in various stages of development across film and theatre

internationally, and has worked with the Royal Court, MTC, Headlong, BBC, TF1 and Film4. Stephen has two major plays coming up in 2025: *Giants*, which explores the controversy that unfolded on the set of James Dean's last film, is set to open in Sydney and *Velocity*—which examines mental health in the LGBTQ+

community through the lens of the birth of the universe, human reaction times, and dark matter—in New York City. His comedy-drama, *The Call*, begins principal photography in Spring 2025.

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 directed *Clarkston* by Samuel D. Hunter, produced *Dido of Idaho*, *How It's Gon' Be*, *Crabs In A Bucket*, *A Thin Place* 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. 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.

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.

Marie Bland (Producer) is a native Angeleno and writer. Since graduating from Stanford's film and media program, Marie works as a freelance theater producer, recently mounting *Lines* at the Hollywood Fringe Festival and producing *Dido of Idaho* and *Clarkston* with the Echo. She is a 2024 Beth Morrison Producer Academy fellow and oversees the fiscal sponsorship program at Fulcrum Arts.

Dianne K. Graebner (*Costume Design*) has designed costumes (and won awards and nominations) for well over 100 productions internationally and has originated the costumes for many world premieres. She teaches Costume Design at CSUF and is a member of United Scenic Artists Local-829. www.diannegraebner.com

Justin Huen (*Scenic Design*) is an award-nominated actor/director/designer who has worked in Film, Television, intimate and regional theaters across the country having recently designed *Death of a Salesman* at the Colonel Theatre, *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* with Travis Van Winkle and Bridget Regan at the Stella Adler, *Love Kills* with Kaley Cuoco and Tom Pelphrey at the Colony Theatre and *A Steady Rain* with Shaun Sipos and Lewis Pullman at the Hudson Theatre. More info at deerdawgs.com.

Natalya Nielsen (*Assistant Director*) is an actor and director based in LA. She graduated from Occidental College with a BA in Theater and Performance Studies. She has performed in the Echo's productions of *Mother Sisters* and *Alternate Endings*. During the summer, Natalya directs and produces youth musicals in her hometown of Solvang, CA.

Hilary Kang Oglesby (*Associate Producer*) is delighted to be working as a producer for the first time on *One Jewish Boy!* She is an actress, model, and singer from the Bay Area. In her free time, you can find Hilary reading a book, taking a yoga class, or continuing her quest to find the best KBBQ in Los Angeles.

Matt Richter (*Lighting/Sound 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, and is thrilled to be returning to the Echo.

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.

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

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**“The Echo Theater Company
[production]...confirmed just how
indispensable 99-seat theaters still
are to a healthy theater ecology.”**

—Charles McNulty

Nicole DuPort, left, and Alana Dietze in *Dido of Idaho*. (Makela Yopez Photography)



Dedicated to nurturing writers and producing new work, the Echo, over its 27 years, has presented 101 Los Angeles premiere productions. Of these, 81 were world premieres and of those, 52 were commissions. Most recently the company produced *Clarkston* by Samuel D. Hunter, which has received two LADCC Award nominations, Abby Rosebrock's *Dido of Idaho*, five LADCC nominations, *How It's Gon' Be* by JuCoby Johnson, Bernardo Cubria's *Crabs In A Bucket*, LADCC winner for Best Writing, *The Thin Place* by Lucas Hnath and Jessica Goldberg's *BABE* which also won the LADCC for Best Writing, *Alternate Endings*, a festival of commissioned short plays, *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.