



DARRETT SANDERS

**MAKEDA DECLET** stars in Echo Theater's production of "The Wolves," a Pulitzer finalist that goes behind the scenes of "typical" girls' high school experience.

BY F. KATHLEEN FOLEY

## 'The Wolves' at the Echo

**The essentials:** During practices, the girls on the high school soccer team the Wolves engage in desultory, often overlapping chatter on topics ranging from the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge to their menstrual cycles. Whether childlike or sexually precocious, the teens form cliques within cliques; new alliances form and old friendships succumb to peer pressure and competitive jealousy. When tragedy intervenes, the Wolves hurtle painfully toward adulthood.

**Why this?** Fiercely slice-of-life, Sarah DeLappe's play, a Pulitzer finalist in 2017, takes us behind the scenes of "typical" girls' high school experience. Sometimes clueless, frequently funny, often cruel, DeLappe's characters are so specifically delineated that we feel as if we are invisible onlookers in some tribal ceremony — a coming-of-age ritual as wrenching as it is authentic. The Echo Theater has consistently exciting fare, and the director of this production, Alana Dietze, staged "Dry Land," which skillfully dealt with similar subject matter.

**Details:** Echo Theater Company at Atwater Village Theatre, 3269 Casitas Ave., Los Angeles. 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays and Mondays; 4 p.m. Sundays; ends April 22. \$34. (Mondays are \$20 in advance, pay what you want at the door.) (310) 307-3753, [EchoTheaterCompany.com](http://EchoTheaterCompany.com)