

TRUE STORY...

Sunday, January 7 2024.

One Giant Leap

LIZZY ROSS is an actor, writer, graphic artist, and sled dog wrangler. She's the founder and producer of the True Story program and also your host for this evening. She's very thank-ful you're here. If you'd like to know anything else please visit lizzyross.com.

ALEX ALPHARAOH is a nationally recognized Guatemalan born actor, writer, poet, solo performer, and teaching artist from Los Angeles. He is a 2022 Disruptors TV Writers Fellow, a 2023 NEXT Commissions fellow for Antaeus Theatre Company, and a 2023 Musical Theatre Factory Writer's fellow. His autobiographical Solo show titled *WET: A DACAdmented Journey*, earned him the 2018 L.A. Drama Critics Circle award for best solo performance, as well as recognition in 2023 by Los Angeles' Stage Raw Awards. *WET* was published as part of the "Seeking Common Ground: Latinx and Latin American Theatre and Performance" anthology. His spoken word ode to his beloved Los Angeles and Shakespeare titled, "O-Dogg: An Angeleno Take on Othello", has been work-shopped at A Noise Within's NOW Festival, Garry Marshall's New Works Festival, REDCAT New Works Festival, EST/LA's Winterfest, and a Virtual Reality experience featuring Tariq "Black Thought" Trotter, was part of Oregon Shakespeare Festival's inaugural festival called Quillfest. O-Dogg was also featured in Carla Della Gatta's "Latinx Shakespeare's, Staging U.S. Intercultural Theater". His latest classic adaptation, *R&J: Rolling Through East L.A.* was produced by Cholavision Productions as a work-shop premiere for his No Fronts Actors Workshop, which he leads as founder and lead instructor. Alpharaoah's first poetry book titled, "Chimeras DREAM On Barren Lands" is slated for release in early 2024 through El Martillo Press..

WILL MCFADDEN is the director, co-writer and star of the award-winning independent film *DOUBTING THOMAS* which CNN's Van Jones says "may just change how you think, and will generate important conversations about race" Released worldwide by Gravititas, it is available now on Amazon and all main streaming platforms. doubtingthomasmovie.com. He is a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre LA and Theatre of NOTE. Film credits include: *Takers*, *The Roommate*, *Repo Men*, and *Hollywood Homicide* TV credits include: *Scorpion*, *Gang Related*, *Castle*, *The Forgotten*, *Rodney*, *Rockville*, and *The Tracy Morgan Show*. Will has a master's degree in clinical psychology and is a practicing therapist. Special thanks to Susan Schuster-Bacon and Mike for their support!

CHRISTOPHER REILING has called EST/LA his theatre home since 2015 where he's had the gift of working and growing as an actor, producer, sound designer, musician, and director. As an actor, Christopher appeared in the award-winning indie film *How to Make Movies at Home*, the web series *Vacationlanders*, EST/LA's own multi-award-winning series *In Search of A.P.I.G.*, and a few shorts along the way. Regional theatre credits include Larry in *Burn This*, Tom in *The Glass Menagerie*, Charlie (and others) in *Stones in His Pockets*, Solomon in *Speech and Debate*, and Chris in *Killer Joe*. LA theatre credits include *Pigs and Chickens* (EST/LA), *Charlotte Stay Close* (EST/LA), and *The Water Tribe* (EST/LA and VS. Theatre Company). His original music was recently featured in EST/LA's *In Search of A.P.I.G.* and in 2022's *Data* by Bil Charlton (part of the EST/LA program, *The Early Bird Special*) which Christopher directed (his directing debut!).

EDDIE GORTON the Principal of Comedy, is a Stand-Up Comedian and Elementary School Principal based out of Los Angeles, CA. He has performed public speaking duties at various social and professional events as an educational expert and community advocate. Eddie courageously stepped on stage at a local open mic in 2019 and is now touring as the featured comedian for Dan Mintz (the voice of Tina: Bob's Burgers on Fox) on his ongoing North American tour in both the U.S. and Canada. Eddie brings his unique cross-cultural life and sharp social commentary to the stage for audiences to enjoy. You have never met a school principal like this.

ELIZABETH LOGUN (member EST/LA and Playwrights Unit): Her plays have been developed and/or produced in New York and Los Angeles by The Lark, L.A. Stage & Film, EST/LA, EST/NY, and The Actors Studio amongst others. She has also written for animation, is a published poet and fledgling novelist. Awards: The Inaugural James Stevenson Award. She has also directed for EST/LA's One Act Festivals and the Ignite Project. As an actor, Logun most recently voiced multiple roles in Kitty Felde's *Fina Mendoza Mysteries* and the Farnsworth Museum/Everyman Rep collaboration *The Painting Speaks*. She is also a potter and loves playing in the mud.

GORDON HENDERSON is a Los Angeles based artist and radio announcer. He makes a yearly art calendar called the Nib Geebles calendar.

NEXT UP:

February 4

WONDERS NEVER CEASE

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

TROY LOFTIN, HEATHER ROBINSON, YAK MANRIQUE, AND TRACEY A. LEIGH