

ensemble theatre
EST/LA presents

Tracey A. Leigh, Artistic Director

WINTERFEST 2026

estlosangeles.org

SHORTS PROGRAM #2

The Battle at 6th and San Pedro

Written and initiated by Nicholas Cormier III

Taylor's Backpack

Written and initiated by Elin Hampton

Front of House

Written by Aida Mashaka Croal

Initiated by Tracey A. Leigh

Jesus, Maury and Joseph

Written and initiated by Keith Szarabajka

OUR NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

**NEW WEST
PLAYWRITERS**

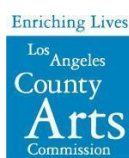
**THE IGNITE
PROJECT**

**Playwrights
Unit**

EST/LA
DEVELOPMENT LAB

Sunday
BEST

OUR SPONSORS





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Supporters and Volunteers

A tremendous "Thank you!" to ALL of our supporters and volunteers, without whom this festival would not be possible.

EST/LA, located at Atwater Village Theatre, acknowledges our presence on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded homelands of the Tongva, Chumash, and Kizh people, who resided here and stewarded this land before the city of Los Angeles was formed, and are still living here today.



The Battle at 6th and San Pedro

Written, Directed and Initiated by Nicholas Cormier III*

CAST

Phil	George Cantero
Nea	Anja Akstin
O.D.	Nicholas Cormier III ⁺
Reporter	Cheryl Collins
Stage Directions	Stephan Collins-Stepney

SETTING

Los Angeles

SETTING

2017-2018

- * EST/LA Member or Associate Member EST/LA
- + Proud member of Actors Equity Association
- NW NewWest Member
- IP Ignite Project Member
- PU Playwrights Unit Member



About the Playwright

Nicholas Cormier III served as an Air Traffic Controller in the United States Air Force. He graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington. Bachelor of Arts with a concentration in Film and a minor in Theatre. Holds an MBA from Texas State University. Actor. Writer. Director. Nicholas is the Homelessness Liaison on the Community Veterans Engagement Board for the Los Angeles VA. USC Warrior Bard. Nicholas' flash fiction and short stories were accepted for publication by MAYDAY Magazine, Lolwe Magazine , LEON Literary Review, As You Were, the Good Life Review, OneBlackBoyLikeThat Review. Nicholas' short story "Salome" was nominated for 2023 Best of the Net, and his story D-Pod was awarded First Runner Up in the 2023 Annual Fiction Prize by Solstice Literary Magazine. Nicholas' work was performed at WORDTheatre, Ensemble Studio Theater/LA and presented by A Noise Within (Noise Now)Theatre.

Special Thanks

My thanks to Lizzy Ross, Jim Lunsford and Susie Tanner for their support.



Taylor's Backpack

Written and initiated by Elin Hampton*^{PU}
Directed by Keith Szarabajka*

CAST

Paul Lieberman

Paula Lieberman

Dr. Eleanor Chapman

Dr. Cox

Stage Directions

Christopher Reiling⁺

Mara Klein⁺⁺

Genia Michaela⁺

Robert Gosset⁺⁺

Keith Szarabajka^{*PU}

SETTING

A private progressive elementary school. The principal's office. There is a desk and two chairs.

TIME

The present

- * EST/LA Member or Associate Member EST/LA
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About the Playwright

Elin Hampton is a Playwright, Lyricist and Screenwriter. Regional: The Bells of West 87th (w/Carol Locatell & James Marsters) at The Greenway Arts Theatre in Hollywood. Mommy! Mommy! The musical musical! (co-written w/composer Gerald Sternbach, & dir. by Kay Cole) at the Hudson Guild Theatre, then optioned for development, dir. by Lynne-Taylor Corbett for The York Theatre, featuring Allie Mauzy, Mary Gordon Murray, & Alison Cimmet. F4: Hollywood Fringe Festival, then City Theatre in Miami, was a finalist for the National Playwright Award, & was included in Samuel French's OOB Festival. Casey 229 was produced by The Collective NY and published by Smith & Kraus in the anthology: "The Best Ten-Minute Plays of 2015." The Collective produced it as a short film. It played the indie film circuit & garnered nominations for "Best Comedy." The Candidate was performed at Open Eye Theatre and Red Eye's 10 International Play Festival. "Faux Pas" is published in "Best Contemporary Monologues for Kids Age 7-15."

TV credits include: "Mad About You," "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Dream On," "Pinky and the Brain," "Rugrats," "The Wild Thornberries," "Baby Bob," "Life's Work," "The Gregory Hines Show," "The Jackie Thomas Show," and John Leguizamo's "House of Buggin."



Front of House

Written by Aida Mashaka Croal
Initiated and Directed by Tracey A. Leigh**

CAST

Christian

Lola

Usher

Sheila/Stage Directions

Gary Patent**

Camila Rozo

Theo Perkins

Tracey A. Leigh**

SETTING

The lobby of a major theatre

TIME

Opening night

- * EST/LA Member or Associate Member EST/LA
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About the Playwright

Aïda Mashaka Croal was born in Vancouver, B.C., and raised in Surrey, and Georgetown, Guyana. A playwright and screenwriter, she received her BA from Stanford University and her MFA in Playwriting from Columbia University's School of the Arts. As a playwright, her work has been staged at La Mama ETC and other venues in New York and around the country.

Aïda began her TV career writing for ABC's ONE LIFE TO LIVE for which she won a Daytime Emmy. She has since written for Syfy (SANCTUARY), Cartoon Network (STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS), AMC ("TURN: WASHINGTON'S SPIES"), Netflix (Marvel's LUKE CAGE and JESSICA JONES), and Amazon Prime ("OUTER RANGE"). She was a co-showrunner for Y: THE LAST MAN at FX. In addition, she has won a Saturn Award and been nominated for a Peabody Award.

Aïda is currently developing a feature film for Universal Studios.

Special Thanks

Aïda would like to thank everyone at EST LA whose hard work makes Winterfest possible, her wonderful cast (Gary Patent, Theo Perkins, and Camila Roza) and director (Tracey Leigh) for giving their time and talent to breathe life into "Front of House," and Bill and Helen Leigh for the writing prompt that became the catalyst for this piece.



Jesus, Maury and Joseph

Written, Directed and Initiated by Keith Szarabajka*

CAST

Maury Povice

Tony Blake^{PU}

Mary

Isabella de Souza Moore

Joseph

Andy Shephard*

God

Ian Patrick Williams^{PU}

The Angel Gabriel

Joey Stromberg

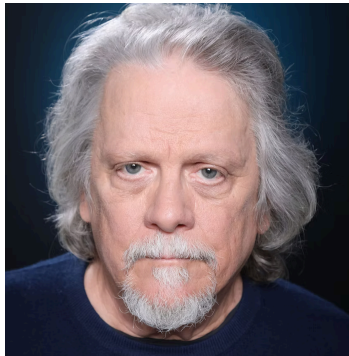
Stage Directions

Keith Szarabajka^{*PU}

SETTING

The Maury Povich Show

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About the Playwright

Keith Szarabajka (sarah-bike-ah) was co-artistic director at EST-LA from January 2015 to July 2021. Keith directed David McMillan's WATCHING O.J. in 2015 -16. He was a co-author and original cast member of BLEACHER BUMS. Keith works extensively in stage , film, tv, audio books and video games. Keith produced with Tony Pasqualini the award-winning web/tv series IN SEARCH OF A P-I-G. He is currently raising funds to start a new theater company, AFT (a Few Thoughts) Theater Co.