

*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 among us today.*



## 3 SHORT PLAYS

### **Black Hole**

**Written by**  
Halle Charlton

**Directed by**  
Jenny O'Hara

**Initiated by**  
William Charlton

### **A Reflection**

**Written by**  
Denah Angel &  
Sandy Shenkman

**Directed by**  
Sydney Walsh

**Initiated by**  
Denah Angel

### **No Ordinary Mother**

**Written by**  
Leilani Squire

**Directed by**  
Leilani Squire

**Initiated by**  
Leilani Squire

#### OUR SPONSORS





Tracey A. Leigh, Artistic Director • Troy Loftin, Producing Director

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

# ***Black Hole***

Written by Halle Charlton, Directed by Jenny O'Hara \*

## **CAST**

VIOLET  
CHARLOTTE  
BRIAN  
STAGE DIRECTIONS

Halle Charlton  
Kate Spare  
Troy Loftin \*  
Nick Ullett \* +

## **SETTING**

Afternoon/evening

An Apartment

## **Playwright's Biography**



Halle Charlton is a midsize queer actor/writer living in Brooklyn, New York. Her parents met in a clown class and decided to have a child, and that's all the context you need about her. She's played varying degrees of precocious teenagers and/or pregnant women on screen and stage. Writing has always been her outlet to deal with life—very original, first person to ever say that—and plays have become an exorcism for her. You can follow her on instagram @halchar, or contact her on her website hallecharlton.com, or send a carrier pigeon, but you'll have to DM her for her address.

***INTERMISSION. THE PROGRAM WILL RESUME AT 4:30pm***

\* 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

# ***A Reflection***

Written by Denah Angel \* and Sandy Shenkman, Directed by Sydney Walsh

## **CAST**

WOMAN

Denah Angel \*

MAN

Keston John

STAGE DIRECTIONS

Shaina Rosenthal \*

## **SETTING**

Present Day

A Home

## **COMPANY BIOS**



Denah Angel (Actress/Initiator/Writer) is a Los Angeles based actress, comedian, writer and producer whose work has been featured across film, television, digital and stage. Denah studies at LA's premiere improv and sketch writing comedy school, The Groundlings. Denah is a classically trained voice performer and has sung the National Anthem at high profile events including Seattle Mariners baseball games and The LA Sephardic Film Festival at Paramount Studios. She is also known for her voice-over work performing regularly in the SAG-AFTRA Radio Play series held at the historic Autry Museum Theatre. Originally from Seattle, Washington, Denah holds a degree in theater from Marymount Manhattan College in New York City. Denah is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA and Ensemble Studio Theatre/LA.

Sandy Shenkman (Writer) is a Los Angeles based producer and writer, working in the film, television and theater spaces. A 15 year veteran in the entertainment industry, Sandy has held several development executive positions at studio based production companies where he spearheaded a development slate aimed at streaming and linear platforms and is responsible for selling over 25 projects to networks such as HBO, HISTORY, FOX, ABC, NBC, TNT, USA, FX, WGN, LIFETIME, AMAZON, CBC and The BBC. Sandy holds a BA in Theater Studies from the University of Central Florida. He currently lives in Encino with his wife, EST company member Denah Angel, his young son and two dogs.





Keston John (Actor) is a first generation American television, stage, Voiceover and feature film actor born of Caribbean parentage. He trained at the University of Central Florida Conservatory Theatre, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in acting. Most recently, John completed roles in “Avatar: The Way of Water” and “Avatar 3,” directed by James Cameron. He was a series regular of the CW/Netflix hit “In The Dark” and had a recurring arc in Patty Jenkins’ “I Am The Night” with Chris Pine. John’s television credits include guest starring roles on “The Good Place,” alongside Ted Danson and Kristen Bell, “Obliterated” “Chicago Fire,” “Shameless,” “NCIS,” “Bones,” “Southland,” “Army Wives” and “Switched at Birth,” as well as recurring roles on HBO’s “Vinyl,” from Martin Scorsese, “24,” the Emmy award-winning series “Bosch,” “Star Wars Resistance,” “She-rah and the Princesses of Power,” “Lie To Me” and “Blood & Oil.” He currently resides in Los Angeles.



Shaina Rosenthal (Stage Directions) is a proud member of Ensemble Studio Theatre LA, and her work has been featured there, as well as at the Kirk Douglas Theatre, Skylight Theatre Company, The Blank Theatre, Antaeus, Playwrights’ Arena, Unbound Productions, A Noise Within, The Colony, The Echo Theater Company, Moving Arts, Bootleg, Open Fist, and the Hollywood Fringe Festival. Most recently, Shaina directed the World Premiere of Ashley Rose Wellman’s Kill Shelter at Theatre of Note. In addition to directing theater, Shaina has fifteen years of experience producing nonfiction television, and her work has been seen on networks ranging from HGTV to MTV.



Sydney Walsh (Director) is a mother, actress, director, teacher, and private coach who has lived and worked in Los Angeles since 1985. She is a founding member of Plymouth, a small devising theater company that has morphed into many collaborative experiences since its inception in 1998. From 2006-2018 Sydney was a member of the faculty at The Acting Corps, a small conservatory in NOHO. Since 2019 she has continued her professional teaching work at THE BGB STUDIO in North Hollywood. Since 2016 Sydney has worked as the Drama Instructor at The Waverly School, an independent, progressive K-12 school in Pasadena. Recent directing projects include The Seagull at South Pasadena Theatre Workshop, California Calling (Largo LA/Electric Ballroom NYC) Voices in My Head (LA Fringe) Third and Esprit de Corps at SPTW. Sydney is very grateful to be working on A Reflection at EST Winterfest. Special thanks to Clay and Harry for everything, always. A full list of her acting credits can be seen on IMDB.

# ***No Ordinary Mother***

Written and Directed by Leilani Squire \*

## **CAST**

ROSE  
HEATHER  
STAGE DIRECTIONS

Jayne Taini \* +  
Poonam Basu \* +  
Kay Foster \* +

## **SETTING**

Present Day

A living room overlooking the ocean

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

I wish to thank EST/LA and Tracey A. Leigh for the continual support and the opportunity to present this play ... my wonderful actors, Jayne, Poonam and Kay ... Ina Chadwick and Elizabeth Coplan for believing in my voice and my story ... and always, to my family and husband, Chuck, and my best little friend, Gordon.

## **Playwright's Biography**



Leilani Squire is an award-winning playwright, published writer, certified creativity coach, and member of EST/LA, Playwrights Unit, The Dramatist Guild, alumna of Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive and EST/LA's The Ignite Project. She has been published in Smith & Krauss' 2023 Best 10-minute Plays and WE/US: Monologues for The Gender Minority. She is CEO of Returning Soldiers Speak, 501(c)(3), whose mission is to empower veterans and their families to tell their stories to the community.