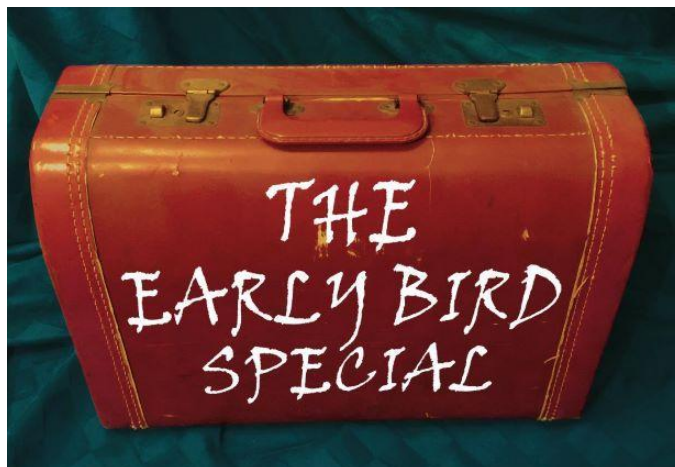


EST/LA, located at Atwater Village Theatre, acknowledges our presence on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded homelands of the Tongva, Chumash, and Kizh people, who resided here and stewarded this land before the city of Los Angeles was formed, and are still living here among us today.



THE EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Second Helping

Conceived and Curated

by

Tony Foster, Tom Lazarus, and Stevie Stern

STAFF & CREW

Indoor lights and sound operator: Troy Loftin

Technical Director: Brad Bentz

VOLUNTEERS

Kay Foster, Kim Fitzgerald, Tom Stringer,
Jennie Webb, Lizzie Peet, Jayne Taini, Eve Sigall, Steve Dierkes

ENSEMBLE STUDIO THEATRE / LOS ANGELES

Artistic Director: Tracey A. Leigh

Producing Director: Troy Loftin

The Board

Angela Bullock

Tracey A. Leigh

Michael A. Mahon, Co-Chair

Jenny O'Hara, Co-Chair

Lizzy Ross

Debra Stricklin

Michael Tomlinson

Advisory Board

Don Cummings

Peter Doms

Paul Downs

Ann C. James

Program

INTRO SKETCH

Tony Foster * (Playwright and Director) – see bio under Co-curator for The Early Bird Special.

Denah Angel Shenkman * is a Los Angeles based actress, comedian, writer and producer whose work has been featured across film, television, digital and stage. Denah studies at The Groundlings and The BGB Studio and is a member of the improv comedy troupe Turbine Arts Collective. Denah is the lead of the 2022 indie dramedy "Hello From Nowhere," available on Apple+ and Prime Video among other major streamers. Denah recently appeared in the short film "Do you have a?" which won the audience award at Dances with Films Festival. Denah is also a classically trained voice performer known for her voice-over work performing in the SAG-AFTRA Radio Play series held at the historic Autry Museum Theatre. Denah has been a proud member of both SAG-AFTRA and Ensemble Studio Theatre where she performs regularly. Originally from Seattle, Washington, Denah holds a degree in theater from Marymount Manhattan College in New York City.

Jacob Surovsky is a playwright, designer, and puppeteer born and raised in sunny San Diego. He is a member of EST/LA's New West Playwrights. As a playwright, his work has been seen at the San Diego International Fringe Festival (The Banza, My Mother's in the Audience), the Hollywood Fringe Festival (Emma and Richie's Big Viking Funeral!), the University of Southern California (Happy Puppet Hour 2), and EST/LA (Mira and the Whale). See more at jacobsurovsky.com.

DRIFTWOOD HOUSE

Nick Ullett * (Playwright) came to America in the 60s as half of a comedy team. They played everywhere, did endless TV including six Ed Sullivan Shows, and had a ball. In the 70s he went into advertising but ended up writing his way back into showbusiness and created the role of Gerald in the musical *Me and My Girl* on Broadway. He was a stunning Lady Bracknell in *Earnest* at the Gulfshore Playhouse in Florida. His one-man show *Dying is Easy. Comedy is Hard* garnered rave reviews at the Matrix Theatre and along with Jenny O'Hara he killed in *Bakersfield Mist*. On TV he has run the gamut from *Golden Girls*, to *The Practice*, *Home Improvement*, *Big Bang Theory*, and *Call Me Kat*. On film you can see him in *Smooch*, *Down and Out in Beverly Hills*, *Hook*, and a new indie, *Geezas*. America, he feels, has been good to him. EST/LA member; AEA.

Elin Hampton * (Director) is an LA based published playwright, lyricist, and screenwriter. Her work has been produced all over the world, including the Samuel French OOB Festival. In her previous life, Elin was a TV writer. Her credits include

"Mad About You," "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Dream On," "Pinky and the Brain," and "Rugrats"... to name a few. Elin is a member of EST-LA, where many of her plays are developed, as well as The Dramatists Guild, WGA, ASCAP, ALAP and LAFPI. She has directed plays for EST/LA and ALAP and is thrilled that Nick trusted her with this little gem.

Barbera Ann Howard + (Isobel) is very excited to be performing in her first show here at the Atwater Village Theatre with the Ensemble Studio Theatre. Barbera has performed in many Off Broadway Productions and TV Commercials. She is a very proud member of the Loft Ensemble Theatre Company where she has performed in approximately 14 productions. She has won a few awards for her portrayal of Cookie Davis-Crabtree in *The Doll* and also Greta in *The Tonapah Five*. Last season, at Loft Ensemble, the play she co wrote and starred in *Alley Of Misfits*, for which she also won an award, received rave reviews. Barbera has also performed improv, with various companies for over 44 years.

Ray Xifo *+ (Morris) Selected film credits: *Oceans 13, The Island, Terminator 3, Crazy as Hell, Fallen, Angie*. TV: Guest starred on *Law & Order LA, Becker, Star Trek: Voyager, Touched by an Angel, Total Security, Star Gate*. Theatre: Broadway, *City of Angels, Three Penny Opera* and *Black Comedy*. Many Off Broadway & Regional Theatre credits.

DIAMOND FIRES

Stephen Dierkes * (Playwright) is a member of the Dramatists' Guild and moderator of the Playwrights Unit. His plays have been produced in New York, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Cleveland, St. Louis, Spokane, Milwaukee, San Miguel de Allende (Mexico) and elsewhere. His *Land Line* and *Apocrypha* were produced at EST/LA. His *Prisoners of the Caucasus* was long-listed for the Neem Prize by Vibrating Body Theatre, St. Petersburg (Russia).

Keith Szarabajka (sarah-bike-ah) (Director) works on stage, in audio books, video games, film, radio and tv. He directed EST-LA's production of David McMillan's much-acclaimed *WATCHING O.J.* in 2015-16, his own dark comedy *NESSUN DORMA* in 2016, and Tony Pasqualini's *LOST IN TIME* in 2018. He conceived, with Tony Pasqualini, EST-LA's 2015 space soap opera spoof, *In Search of doG* and its recent web series sequel *In Search of A-PIG*, which has garnered a number of awards at film festivals this year. His narration of Tom Robbins' *FIERCE INVALIDS HOME FROM HOT CLIMATES* won the 2002 Audie award. FILM(Acting): *THE DARK KNIGHT, ARGO* (2012 SAG AFTRA Best Ensemble award), *A PERFECT WORLD* and *MISSING* among others. TV: Recurring or Regular roles: *ANGEL, SUPERNATURAL, COLD CASE, PROFIT*, and *THE EQUALIZER*. Keith was co-author and in the original cast of *BLEACHER BUMS* with Patrick Williams. He was EST/LA's co-artistic director from January 2015-June 2021.

Robert Gossett ** (Chet) is best known for his decade-plus run starring as Russell Taylor on TNT's hit programs *The Closer*, netting Robert five SAG nominations, and spinoff *Major Crimes*. Most recently, Robert joined the cast of iconic soap opera *General Hospital* for which he was nominated for an Emmy. Robert is elated to once again appear on the EST stage, collaborating with Keith Szarabajka for a second time.

Mateo Mpinduzi-Mott * (Remy) a Houston born Stage/Film/Voice Actor now hanging his hat in Echo Park. Raised in the theatre, Mateo studied acting at the University of Houston before moving to Los Angeles to further pursue his passion. He has played many parts on stages across the country on all three coasts including *Romeo & Juliet* - Romeo (VSF/SBTS) Tybalt (House of Bards), *Much Ado* - Benedick (AST) Claudio (SBTS), *Merchant of Venice* - Lorenzo (HSF), *Jesus Hopped the A Train* - Angel (4th Wall Theatre), *I Carry My Heart* - Josh (Bootleg Theatre Co), *I and You* - Anthony (Stages Rep. Theatre). He's also provided English dubbing for several anime and live action series including *Haikyuu!*, and Netflix's *Elite* and appeared on Fox's *Pivoting* and FX's *American Horror Story*. While not treading the boards he works with Creating Creators to help pass the powers of filmmaking and storytelling to a younger generation.

Ian Patrick Williams + (Russ) has over 100 professional credits as both actor and writer. As a member of Chicago's Organic Theater Co., he received the Chicago Emmy award for co-authoring and co-starring in the PBS teleplay BLEACHER BUMS. His one act play PROVENANCE was directed by his fellow Organic Theater member Keith Szarabajka for EST's Winter Fest. www.ianpatrickwilliams.com

PACKING IT IN

Lisa Bishop * (Playwright) began her career as an actress and has been a long standing member of Ensemble Studio Theater NY /LA which she considers her first creative home. Her plays have been produced across the country including her work on the musical *Elmer Gantry* at Virginia's Signature Theater. Her screenwriting includes the adaption of Jeffrey Deaver's *Manhattan is My Beat* and her play *Conscious Living* is being adapted as a feature. She co-founded the Circle West Theater Company established from of the esteemed Circle Rep and served as the producing director for many years. She is currently developing a musical based on the pop culture classic *Valley of the Dolls* for the West End.

Robert Burgos * (Director) A graduate of the American Film Institute, Robert's directing credits include premieres of Leonard Melfi's *Eddie and Susanna in Love* at the Manhattan Theatre Club, Martin Duberman's *Elagabalus* at the New Dramatists, the Los Angeles premiers of *Tennessee in the Summer*, *Birds of a Feather (Ovation Nomination)* and *Mr. Paradise by Tennessee Williams*. Film and TV directing credits are the award-winning adaptation of D.H. Lawrence's *The Horse Dealer's Daughter*, multiple episodes of *Angeles* for Sony Television, as well as numerous commercials (MacDonald's, KFC and Jack-In-The-Box). As an actor he has performed at Lincoln Center, The New York Shakespeare Festival, The Circle in the Square, The

Roundabout, The American Place Theater and in major regional theaters across the country. As a writer, Mr. Burgos was the recipient of the Imagen Award for 'Colonel of Truth,' a two-part episode, for CBS's *Chicago Hope*.

Peter Gregory + (Paul) Lifetime Member of the Actors Studio. Studied acting with Sandy Meisner at the Neighborhood Playhouse. Broadway/Off-Broadway credits include *Golden Boy* directed by Joanne Woodward. *The Skirmishers* by John Bishop. *Billy and Dago* with Frank Casaro. Williamstown Theatre Festival: *Oedipus*, *The Three Sisters*, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, *Golden Boy*, *Super Sunday* with George Wendt and Marylou Henner, *The Depot* with Shirley Knight. Won a L.A. Drama Logue Award for *Telegram from Heaven* with Valeri Landsberg and Dinah Manoff. *Flesh and Blood* at Portland Center Stage. Numerous plays with The Naked Angels Theatre company. Film: *Mouse Hunt*, *City of Angels*, *Mad City*, *Twilight* with Paul Newman, *Pancho Villa as Himself*. *Babysitters Club*. *The Desperate Trail*. Netflix: *True Story* with Keven Hart. TV: *Las Vegas*, *24*, *Diagnosis Murder*, *ER*, *The Practice*, *Nash Bridges*. Numerous commercials. Proud father of Sofia Rose Gregory and Jackson Peter Gregory my heart and soul.

Dey Young + (Diane) starred in the off Broadway production of *I Carry Your Heart* (2019). In LA, her theater credits include *Oedipus Machina*, *Good In Bed*, *Strindberg in Love*, *Infidelity In Pieces*, *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*, and *Sweet Bird of Youth* with Ed Harris. Some of her memorable roles in TV and film are the snobby shopkeeper in *Pretty Woman*, *Rock'n'Roll High School*, *Spaceballs*, *Star Trek series*, *This is Us*, *X-Files*, *CSI*, *Melrose Place* and most recently the film *Amsterdam*. She can be seen in the upcoming Christmas movie, *The Case of the Missing Gem* on ION TV. In addition to being a versatile actress, Dey is a professional stone and bronze sculptor (www.deyyoungart.com). You can follow her on instagram at: Dey Young_official.

COFFEE POT TREE

Jacqueline Wright * (Playwright and Director) a graduate of CalArts, works as a writer/actor in LA and NY. The recipient and nominee of *LA Weekly*, *Stage Raw*, Ovation, Drama Critic's awards. She originated the roles of Molly Carlson in *The Patron Saint of Sea Monsters* by **Marlane Meyer**, dir **Lisa Peterson**, JonBenét Ramsey in *House of Gold*, dir Gates McFadden, The Dope Elf in *The Dope Elf*, written & directed by Asher Hartman. As a playwright Wright has been commissioned, produced by Theatre of NOTE, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Occidental, CalArts, The Echo, Open Fist, Northridge State and received LA Weekly and Ovation nominations for *Bing*, *Eat Me*, *Buddy Buddette*, *Spider Bites* and a Jerome Fellowship for *Love Water*. Jacqueline's feature film adaptation of *Eat Me* was a Sundance lab finalist and won screenwriting, actor and best independent film award at The Cult Film Festival, Peephole Festival and BIMIFF Festival. <http://geni.us/EatMeMovie>

Peggy Dobreer (Susie) is an award-winning performance poet, teaching artist and the curator of Slow Lightning Lit. An improvisational performance artist, dancer and choreographer, she was a member of the Padua Hills Playwright's Festival at Cal Arts appearing as Josie, in "Conduct of Life" by Maria Irene Forness, Magician's Assistant in "The Man Whose Brother Was Eaten by Wolves" by Kathleen Cramer and O-Lan Shepard. She played Tiffany in Kenny Ortega's "Nuclear Rock Gospel" at The Intersection Theatre in San Francisco and danced with "Mostly Women Moving" and Claudia Chaplain's "I.D.E.A. Company." Dobreer wrote and played Lily Langtry, the muse of Oscar Wilde, in the Immersive Poetry Brothel at The El Cid Theatre. Her poetry books include, "In The Lake of Your Bones" and "Drop and Dazzle" from Moon Tide Press, "Forbidden Plums: Poems in Quarantine" just released by Glass Lyre Press, Chicago. www.peggydobreer.com

Tina Preston + (Jane) was a member of Padua Festival from the beginning. She appeared in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York and London in plays by: John Stepling, Jean Van Itallie, John O'Keefe, Kelly Stuart, Murray Mednick, Marlene Mayer, Julie HHebert, Michael Sargent and Irene Forness to name a few. She received LAweekly awards for John O'Keefe's "Ghosts", Michael Sargent's "Knockouts", Kelly Stuart's "Taxi Dance". Nominated for best solo performance in LA and the Valley for O'keefe's "Don't You Call Me Anything But Mother". She has appeared in over 12 independent films. Appeared at The Red Cat with The Gob Squad.

SOMETHING BORROWED

Anne Flanagan * is a playwright, teacher, and woman's health advocate based in Los Angeles, CA. Flanagan's full length plays include *Lineage*, *Artifice*, *First Chill*, and *Death, Sex & Elves*. Her work has been produced throughout the US and internationally. Anne is the recipient of several writing awards and zero sports trophies. Publications include her comedy *Artifice* (Dramatic) as well as many short play, essay, and monologue anthologies. Anne has taught public school in the inner city, worked as a private investigator, and done time as a pelvic model - none of which were as exciting as one would think. WEB: www.anneflanagan.net

Kazu Takeda * (Director) is an EST Associate Member and has directed several short plays and play readings at EST: "Heyday" by Mary Portser; "The New You" and "I Want to Be Her" by Jude Lutz; Best Friend by Christopher Sullivan; Katherine's Play by Leilani Squire; Fear in Black and White by Tony Blake; "A Bit of Cheer" by Stephen Dierkes; Space Soap Episode 5 (prod. Keith Szarabajka & Tony Pasquilini); and Kiss My Astral Projection by Tom Miscuraca. He received an MFA in Film Production from USC's School of Cinematic Arts and has directed numerous short films. He works as an Assistant Editor in television.

Poonam Basu * (she/her) (Casey) is a bi-coastal actor, screenwriter, and filmmaker. She is delighted to play CASEY in Something Borrowed! She loves to love and is

currently developing three feature length romantic comedies and plans to take her rightful place among Rom Com Royalty very soon. She's best known as the voice of Klee in the mega-hit video game, Genshin Impact. She loves to play with her EST/LA family and is thrilled to be back inside a theater! Catch her on the big screen in Four Samosas, out in theaters this December. She wants to thank Danial for always being there for her. Follow Poonam on IG and TikTok @iampoonambasu

Sarah Brooke *+ (Ellen) has appeared at many theatres across the country including SEATTLE REPERTORY THEATRE, where she originated the role of Nurse Edna in The Cider House Rules, INTIMAN, ACT, McCARTER, THE OLD GLOBE in San Diego, ODYSSEY THEATRE, ENSEMBLE STUDIO THEATRE WEST, SOUTH COAST REPERTORY, THE LION THEATRE, CIRCLE IN THE SQUARE DOWNTOWN and most recently in PACIFIC RESIDENT THEATRE'S production of Rhinoceros as the Logician and Mme. Boeuf.

William Charlton *+ (Hal) – see bio under SO ODD TO HEAR A LARK (Director)

Goran Ivanovski (Brice) is originally from Macedonia, he learned to speak English watching Tom Cruise action movies, and has wanted to be an actor ever since. New York credits include shows at Living Theatre, The Flea Theatre, the Michael Chekhov Theatre Co and was nominated for a New York Independent Theatre award for his portrayal of Coleman in LONESOME WEST directed by Anne Bowen. Goran received his MFA from USC's School of Dramatic Arts, where his favorite roles included John Dodge in Middletown and Horace Vandergelder in The Matchmaker. At USC, Goran produced and starred in productions of The Aliens and Dead Hands. TV/Film credits include: "Law & Order: SVU," "The Blacklist," "Lucifer," "Dead to Me," and "American Auto." He is currently recurring on this season of CSI:Vegas and Seasons 2-4 of Apple TV's "For All Mankind." Goran is married to Molly Gray and just welcomed his first daughter, Zelda.

Tonya Cornelisse * (Trina - Saturday) currently in a recurring role on Showtime's YELLOWJACKETS and the comedy series HITMEN, NBC's Peacock. Tonya recently wrapped the feature film SLUMBERLAND (2022) for Netflix along with Nick Cassavetes' latest GOD IS NOT A BULLET. The Sundance FF feature MOPE and LOVE IS NOT LOVE are streaming on all VOD platforms. On Amazon Prime, Tonya stars in the short-form series SISTERS. On TUBI TV, THE HOMEMADE SKETCH SHOW, Tonya is a series regular and writer. Tonya's the recipient of the Best Supporting Actress award from the Outer Theatre Critics Circle Association. Broadway: revival "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf." Off Broadway: The Public Theatre, the Cherry Lane Theatre, Darryl Roth Theatre, Atlantic Theatre Company, Ensemble Studio Theatre, The WhiteFire Theatre and more. In LA, she's a member of Academy Award Winner Bobby Moresco's Actors Gym and Ensemble Studio Theatre. In addition, Tonya's an accomplished voice-over artist and writes too.

Jesse Holcomb (Trina – Sunday) Just released this week—you can hear Jesse in the new Spanish language Netflix show, *If Only*, voicing the lead in the English dubbed version. She produced and starred in the world premiere of *Jennifer Aniston Stole My Life* at the Hollywood Fringe Festival where it received a Best of Fringe extension run. She recently wrapped filming on a comedic fantasy pilot called *Tavern Brawl* where she plays the harried bar owner. Jesse is a graduate of Vassar College. When she's not performing, she moonlights as the PR visits coordinator for the Hollywood Sign Trust. Thank you EST/LA for letting me jump into this delightful role and be a part of a collaborative evening of theater making. [IMDb.me/jesseholcomb](https://www.imdb.me/jesseholcomb)

CHRISTMAS ON EUROPA

Kenny Hargrove * (Playwright) has written several short plays and one full length play. CHRISTMAS ON EUROPA is his second produced play and he is thrilled to have the world premiere at Ensemble Studio Theatre/Los Angeles, where he is a member. He has been a member of the Dramatists Guild of America, the Coronet Writers Lab, and the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights. His short play, CEREMONY, won the audience award when it was produced in New York in 2013. It is now a full-length screenplay called Brighter Than The Sun. His newest short plays, THE GRETA THUNBERG THANKSGIVING PLAY and THE SAD CAT, will be read online late this year through the Paris, France-based Moving Parts Theatre Company. Among other works, DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT, developed through EST/LA, was read and recorded for YouTube in 2020. It is now being adapted into a feature film screenplay. He is also a filmmaker.

Tom Lazarus * (Director) – see bio under Co-curator for The Early Bird Special.

Caitlin Gallogly ** (Athena) is absolutely thrilled to be joining the cast on this trip to Europa! Best known for her work on television in *Masters of Sex*, *Silicon Valley*, and as Princess Kenny on Comedy Central *South Park*, Caitlin made her off-Broadway debut in the Irish Rep's production of *On A Clear Day*, and starred in Kathleen Johnson's *Fiercely Independent* at the SoHo Playhouse, and as Jovie in *Elf* at the Engeman theatre. She worked w/ Alan Cumming & Sara Bareilles singing for Club Cumming on the Coast, and is stoked to be back at EST/LA.

Stephanie T. Keefer (Captain Patel), a classically trained actor and filmmaker, is based in Los Angeles. She graduated from U. C., Irvine with a Theater B.A., an M.A. in English and had the privilege to study with legendary Polish theatre director Jerzy Grotowski. Badami Productions broadcast her award-winning short film ONE DANCE nationally on CBS and FOX. Stephanie's other short films have also garnered nominations and awards, screening in festivals nationwide. She works in film, television, theater and voice over and has been seen on Netflix, Amazon Prime, CBS, NBC, and FX. To find out more about Stephanie's work visit [imdb.me/stephanietkeefer](https://www.imdb.me/stephanietkeefer)

Michelle McGregor + (Marlena Christiansen) is an LA based actress, comedian, and singer with an MFA in acting from the Yale School of Drama. She has performed stand-up at The Comedy Store, The New York Comedy Club, The Federal Bar, and clubs nationwide. As a singer, Michelle has fronted several bands including the The AC/BG's, OzzyTrain, and is currently the frontwoman for the Dark Pop Indie Band Solitary Friends. She has a passion for Horror films and a not so secret obsession with the music of Tom Waits and Kathleen Brennan. Much love to her new hubby Nick Liberatore. www.kmichellemcgregor.com

Stevie Stern * (Amelia Christiansen) – see bio under Co-curator for The Early Bird Special.

15 DEAD SOULS

Leilani Squire * (Playwright and Director) is an award winning playwright, published writer and poet, certified creativity coach, and screenwriting analyst. She is a member of EST/LA, the Playwrights Unit, The Dramatist Guild, and is an alumna of The Ignite Project and The Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive. She is founder and CEO of the non-profit Returning Soldiers Speak whose mission is to empower veterans, active duty, frontline workers, and their families to tell their stories through the written and spoken word to the community. *15 Dead Souls* was the first place winner of Veterans Repertory Theater's inaugural 10-minute playwriting contest. This is the first time directing one of her plays for EST/LA. Leilani wishes to thank TEBS Team, EST/LA's staff, and especially her wonderful and talented actors. She is most grateful for her family's continual support.

Patrick John Hurley * (James) appeared on Broadway and the National Tour of "Aren't We All" with Rex Harrison, Claudette Colbert and Lynn Redgrave. Off-Broadway: The Manhattan Theatre Club, Circle Repertory, La Mama E.T.C., and Tom Eyan's "Theatre of Big Dreams". Off-Off Broadway and Equity Waiver: scores of productions including "House of the Rising Son", "Mammoth Gorge", "The Shore", and "Data" at EST/LA. "Mad Forrest" at The Open Fist Theatre Company, the award winning "Limonade Tous Les Jours" at the Hudson Mainstage Theatre", and "The Voysey Inheritance" and "The Misanthrope" at Theatre 40. He is featured in the films "Desperately Seeking Susan", "Rude Awakening", "Speed", and "True Romance", "Killing Tarrantino", and "Dogs of War". He has guest starred frequently on TV, including "Criminal Minds", "Boston Legal", "The Practice", "The Comeback", and recurred on "Mad Men". His favorite is "Geography of a Horse Dreamer" at EST 6th Floor.

Hannah Marie Lloyd * (Doris) is an actress, singer, dancer, producer and an Associate Company Member at the Ensemble Studio Theatre Los Angeles. A 2022 Graduate of the University of Southern California School of Dramatic Arts with a B.A. in Theatre, Acting Emphasis and a minor in Dance in Entertainment, her recent theatrical work includes William Shakespeare's *As You Like It* directed by Kate Burton, *Heyday* by Mary Portser, voice over in *Burger Day* by Audrey Ortiz, and several independent films. This

is Hannah Marie's second performance with ESTLA, and she would like to thank the 15 *Dead Souls* cast, production team, and her family for their support!

SO ODD TO HEAR A LARK THIS TIME OF YEAR

Michael B. Kaplan * (Playwright) had his first play produced in the One-Act Marathon at the Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York. Since then he has worked primarily as a TV writer and producer on a dozen different prime time shows for ABC, NBC, FOX and the CW, including stints on such seminal shows as "Roseanne" and "Frasier." He created "I'm in the Band" on Disney XD and "Dog with a Blog" on Disney Channel, serving as showrunner for both. He has been nominated for four Emmy Awards, winning one, and received a BET Comedy Award for his work as a writer on "Girlfriends." He is the author of the "Betty Bunny" series of children's books.

William Charlton * (Director) Actor. Director. Member EST/LA. Has directed *Mammoth Gorge*, *Landline*, *Apocrypha*, *Toby 24-7 Gets Lucky*, *Wonderfully Made*, *Possibly Deranged Lunatic* and *The Case* for EST/LA as well as several readings and Launchpad staged readings, in addition to directing in various venues both in Los Angeles and in NYC. Recent TV(actor): *Ratched*, *Winning Time*, *NCIS*, *S.W.A.T.*, *Get Shorty*, *Rosewood*, *Criminal Minds*, *How to Get Away with Murder*, *Parks & Recreation*, Film: *The Rum Diary*; *The Changeling*, *Flags of Our Fathers*, *Money Train*, *Get Smart*. Training: London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art(LAMDA); Director's Lab West; Filmmaking at NYU, the New School, School for Visual Arts.

Stephanie Brait (Amy) hailing from Boston, Mass - Stephanie studied at Walnut Hill Arts, the College Conservatory of Music and at the Beckett Center at Trinity College in Ireland through NYU Tisch. She's performed everywhere from NYC's Lincoln Center, to the Boston Common for Commonwealth Shakespeare, right down to dusty, medieval basements in Edinburgh, Scotland. Stephanie has appeared on large and small screens as guest and recurring characters on shows like Law & Order SVU, CBS' *Golden Boy*, ABC's *Georgetown*, MTV's/ Doug Liman's *I Just Want My Pants Back* and Disney's *Best Friends Whenever* (where she was lucky to meet EST/LA writer, Michael Kaplan!). It's a genuine joy working with this group and watching everyone do their thing so beautifully. Thank you so much to the EST/LA company for inviting me to come play and to Michael, Bill and Duffy for making this such a fun ride.

Willam Duffy *+ (Jeffers) - With over 20 years' experience in the entertainment business, Duffy's credits include: TV (partial): "The West Wing" (seven seasons), "Scandal", "NCIS", "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia", "Criminal Minds", and "The Big C". Film (partial): *Sniper 3*, *Karla*, and *Waist Deep*. Theatrical (partial)(NY/LA): The National Tour of "A Few Good Men", performances at The John Houseman Theatre, The Lamb's Theatre, The Writer's Theatre, Courtyard Playhouse, Greenway Theatre, ATA, and for EST/LA productions: "The Mediator", "Mammoth Gorge", "We Used To Be Fun", "Doesn't Anyone Know What A Pancreas Is?", Nick Kazan's "Mlle. God" – as well as countless readings. On the personal side, Duffy was a CPA and also earned a

Masters degree in Psychology. So while he hasn't made the millions of dollars from acting he's trained to manage...he also knows how that makes him feel!

* **EST/LA member**

+ **proud member of Actors Equity Association**

THE EARLY BIRD SPECIAL CONCEIVED AND CO-CURATED BY:

Tony Foster (Co-curator, Playwright, Director) was a founding member of the Elephant Theatre in Los Angeles and has written several works that have been performed across the country. He is a proud member of EST/LA and the Dramatists Guild. Find out more about Tony at: www.tonyplaywright.com.

Tom Lazarus (Co-curator, Director) has written seven Movies of the Week, worked as a writer/producer for nine network series and has had nine feature films made from his original screenplays including the #1 film in America upon its release STIGMATA. He has directed five feature films; wrote, directed and executive produced five seasons of a cable TV hit and has published three books on screenwriting. Tom wrote and directed the sold-out theatre pieces at the Hudson Theater, The Morgan/Wixon Theatre and The Broad Theater in Santa Monica. Mr. Lazarus had the sold-out world premiere of THE PRINCES OF KINGS ROAD at the Neutra Museum, in September 2015 and most recently three performances at the Annenberg Theater as part of Modernism Week in Palm Springs. Tom is excited to be working with a talented cast and the unique designs of Costume Designer Chuck Marso.

Stevie Stern (Co-curator, Actor) Producing credits: The Princes of Kings Road at the Neutra Museum, with performances also at Modernism Week in Palm Springs and at the Lovell Health House in Los Angeles. Writing credits include television (Melrose Place) and theatre. Acting credits include Off Broadway, commercials, TV (General Hospital).