



# THE IGNITE PROJECT

First Flame Cohort #8

## EXCERPTS OF 8 HOT NEW PLAYS IN DEVELOPMENT

Sunday, June 7 @12pm



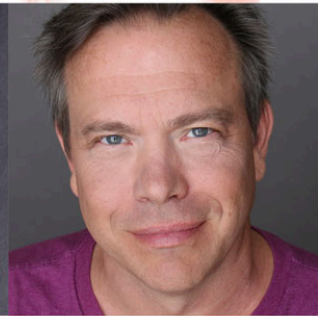
Maha Chehlaoui



Sarah Garic



Casey Fleming



Hutchins Foster



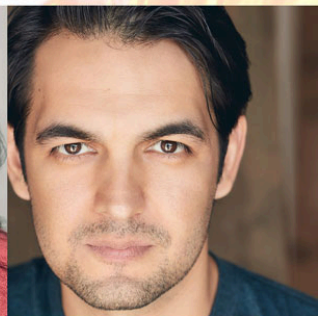
Sapna Kumar



Kat Mills Martin



Priya Mohanty



Joseph D. Valdez

Produced by

Angela Bullock, Makeda Declet, David Johann Kim, Jennie Webb

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.



Tracey A. Leigh, Artistic Director

## **Mission Statement**

Ensemble Studio Theatre Los Angeles is a company of artists who collaborate to create and develop original, bold, risk-taking theatre. Through the telling of diverse stories, we challenge our artists and our audiences to meet the moment; to see the world through a new lens, and explore our shared humanity.

## **Board**

Michael C. Mahon, Chair

Angela Bullock

Board Secretary

Patrick John Hurley

Tracey A. Leigh

Debra Stricklin

Susan Franklin Tanner

Michael Tomlinson

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## *Borderline*

By Priya Mohanty  
Directed by Susan Franklin Tanner\*+

*A South Asian comedy writer mines her relationship with her mother for a hit sitcom until the sitcom itself begins to fracture, exposing the painful truths beneath the laugh track.*

Shyla.....Krishna Smitha+  
Preety.....Kavi Ramachandran  
Shaina.....Genia Michaela\*+  
Prissy .....Eve Sigall\*+  
Carl.....Ben Michaels  
Stage Directions.....Susan Franklin Tanner\*+

## *Jackpot*

By Kat Mills Martin  
Directed by Reena Dutt

*Mikki and Tiger, estranged twins, reunite at their mother Gigi's penthouse to find both her health and her home have severely declined. She is cared for by her younger sister Diane. Gigi's step-daughter Kirsten has dropped in for a visit.*

Gigi.....Jeanne Sakata+  
Diane.....Diana Tanaka+  
Mikki.....Alexandra Ford  
Tiger.....Andrew Grace  
Kirsten.....Lizzie Peet\*+  
Frank.....Mateo Mpinduzi-Mott\*  
Magda.....Ashley Denise Robinson\*+  
Radio Voice.....Joe Luis Cedillo\*  
Stage Directions.....Reena Dutt

## ***Life Moves Pretty Fast***

By Sapna Kumar  
Directed by Chhaya Nene

*In this black comedy, after the death of their Indian immigrant parents, three Indian American siblings navigate their futures and their relationships to one another, treacherously discovering reconciliation along the way.*

Sonia.....Almanya Narula  
Neena.....Tanya Thomas  
Jay.....Rishi Mahesh  
Shirley.....Kate Prendergast\*+  
Tina.....Sharon Freedman (she/her)\*+  
Cara.....Madelyn Levine (she/her)  
Stage Directions.....Chhaya Nene

## ***Kiss Me***

By Sarah Garic  
Directed by Elena Campbell-Martinez (she/her)

*Teens navigate friendship, love, and what it means to be born with HIV amidst an atmosphere of societal misunderstandings of AIDS in the 1990s in Long Beach, California.*

Mayté.....El Belilty (they/them)  
Ernesto.....Adam Leiva (he/him)  
Stage Directions.....Elena Campbell-Martinez (she/her)

***10 MINUTE INTERMISSION***

# *The Architecture of Support*

By Maha Chehlaoui

Directed by Tracey A. Leigh\*

*In the middle of facilitating her workshop, “The Architecture of Support”, Maha, a practiced facilitator, realizes the scaffolding she thought was holding her up is falling apart.*

Maha.....Maha Chehlaoui+  
God Mic/Stage Directions.....Tracey A. Leigh\*+

# *Spin the Baby*

By Hutchins Foster

Directed by Michael Shepperd

*At a mandatory adoption class, a rogue social worker pits three prospective adoptive couples against each other in a game show-style competition, where only one couple wins the baby.*

Vaness.....Lauren Campedelli(she/her)\*  
Kevin.....Don Cummings\*+  
Devin.....Nicholas Anthony Reid  
Loretta.....Yolanda Snowball  
Cy.....Patrick Hurley\*+  
Jax.....Zoe Yale (they/his)  
Birch.....Christopher Reiling\*

## *Out of Picture*

By Casey Fleming (they/them)  
Directed by Laura Stribling\*

*Trapped at an abandoned gas station with a truck full of stop-motion props, a bull-headed animator tries to salvage a bizarre heist – while accompanied by her unwitting ex-girlfriend.*

Hal.....Maria Marsales  
Lauren.....Natalie Friedman (she/her)

## *Into the Stars*

By Joseph D. Valdez  
Directed by Carolina Hoyos

*When a six-year old Navajo girl is rocketed up into space, she awakens the Trickster Coyote from the stars. Together, they embark on a magnificent, swashbuckling adventure through time and space, where they confront their worst fear... being lost forever.*

Dad/Coyote.....Jason Grasl+  
Izzie.....Harmony Imititates Dog  
Stage Directions.....Carolina Hoyos+

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Joe Luis Cedillo, Jude Lutz & Lizzy Ross

\* Member EST/LA  
+ Member of Actors Equity Association