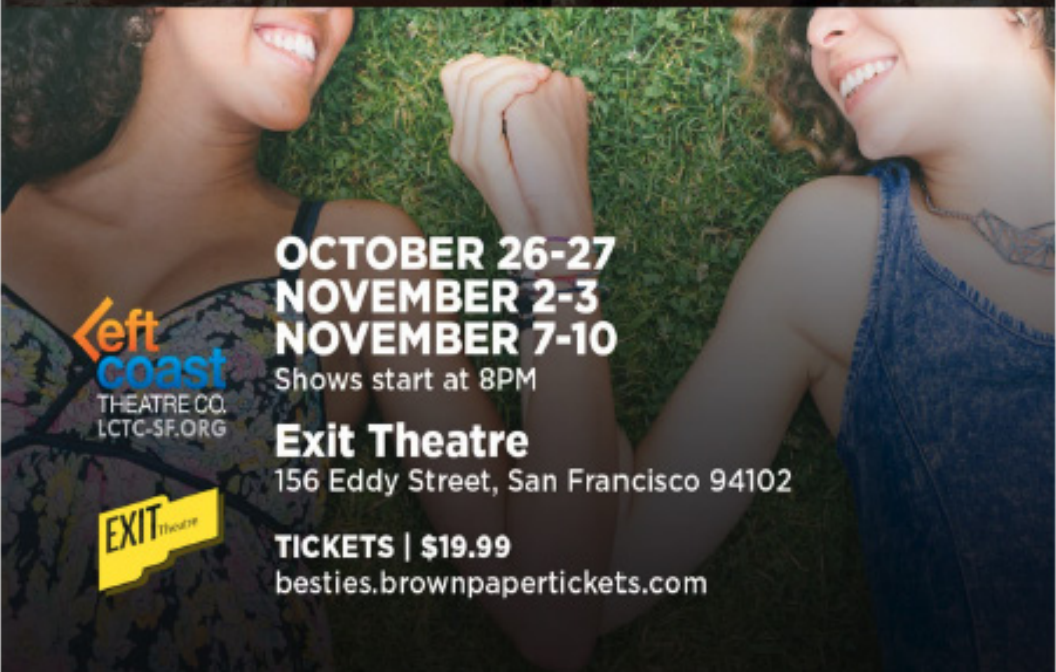


LEFT COAST THEATRE Co. presents

THE LAST SHOW OF LCTC 2018 SEASON

BESTIES

SIX SHORT PLAYS ABOUT THE FAMILY WE CHOOSE



**Left
coast**
THEATRE CO.
LCTC-SF.ORG

OCTOBER 26-27
NOVEMBER 2-3
NOVEMBER 7-10

Shows start at 8PM

Exit Theatre

156 Eddy Street, San Francisco 94102

TICKETS | \$19.99

besties.brownpapertickets.com



Left Coast Theatre Co. presents

Besties

STANDING UP by Barbara Blumenthal-Ehrlich, Directed by David Rice

Justine LeighAnn Cannon *Jenny* Zoe Chien

KINDRED SPIRITS by Jeffrey Neuman, Directed by Christian Heppinstall

Charles Nick Leonard *Robert* Eric Berglund

THE BREAKUP by Erica Andracchio, Directed by Chris Maltby

Deena LeighAnn Cannon *Kyle* Paul Renolis
James James Gregory *Thomas* Michael Conner

BRENDA GETS HERSELF SLAPPED by Alex Dremann, Directed by Chris Maltby

Brenda Gabrielle Motarjemi *Mary* Mel Stefanski

P IN V by Jessica Moss, Directed by Carole Swann

Sam Zoe Chien *Robbie* James Gregory

BIRTHDAY by James A. Martin, Directed by Andrew Calabrese

Benny Stefin Collins *Mitzi* Janice Rumschlag
Lisa Mel Stefanski *Tim* Eric Berglund

There will be one 15-minute intermission

THE CREW

Stage Manager	Michael Bare
Lighting Designer	Alexia Staniotes
Sound Designer/Board Op	Rita Long

LCTC Board

Rodney "Rhoda" Taylor President
Richard S. Sargent Vice President
Neil Higgins Secretary
Erica Andracchio Treasurer
Chris Maltby At Large

LCTC Steering Committee

Erica Andracchio Executive Director
David Rice Artistic Director
Neil Higgins Secretary
Rodney "Rhoda" Taylor Treasurer
Chris Maltby PR Manager
Christian Heppinstall At Large

WHO IS LCTC?

Left Coast Theatre Co. was formed in the spring of 2012 to focus on producing original queer-themed plays written by local and national playwrights. We aim to foster the works of all writers interested in producing the best queer-themed works possible. So far, we have been recognized by Theatre Bay Area with three nominations for BEST ANTHOLOGY (*Twisted Fairy Tales*, *Screaming Queens* & *San Francisco, Here I Come!*) and a win in 2015 for #WTFamily. We have also broadened our scope to include full-length plays, while also continuing to develop new and creative original works from Bay Area, national and international queer and allied writers.

THE BESTIES

**Denotes current LCTC Company Member*

ERIC BERGLUND (*Tim* in *"Birthday," Robert* in *"Kindred Spirits"*) Eric got his BA in Theatre at Michigan State and then amused himself for decades by doing technical writing and managing technical trainers in Silicon Valley. He's recently returned to the stage on the very West Coast, appearing with Pacifica Spindrift Players as Bottom in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Arthur Kipps in *The Woman Black*, with Coast Repertory Theatre as Mr. Abramowitz in *Coney Island Christmas* and David in *The Rivals*, and with HMB Shakespeare Company as Capuleto in *Romeo y Julieta* and as five bit parts in *Macbeth*.

LEIGHANN CANNON (*Deena* in *"The Breakup," Jessica* in *"Standing Up"*) LeighAnn is so excited to be making her LCTC debut! Most recently she was seen playing Ilse in Left-Hand Theatre's *Spring Awakening* (a dream role of hers.) Other recent credits include Varuca Salt in *Willy Wonka* (BACT) and the all-female *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Ray of Light).

ZOE CHIEN (*Jenny* in *"Standing up," Sam* in *"P in V"*) Zoe Chien is a recent graduate with a BFA in Acting from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She is thrilled to make her LCTC debut in *Besties*. Thanks to Jessica Moss, Barbara Blumenthal-Ehrlich, Carole Swann, David Rice, LeighAnn Cannon, James Gregory, the incredible LCTC team, Vasili Tabakis, Nonno, and Mom. MDT Agency, zoechien.com.

STEFIN COLLINS* (*Benny* in *"Birthday"*) was recently seen on the LCTC stage, in August, as Ralph, the creepy but charismatic male lesbian, in *Come Here Often?* He's a member of LCTC, CMT, TBA, & is ASL fluent. Stefin is happy to be in his second Jim Martin play on the LCTC stage. One favorite past role is Otto in Nicky Silver's *Food Chain*. AJ-ILYE. Visit Stefin at www.stefincollins.com

MICHAEL CONNER* (*Thomas* in *"The Breakup"*) Michael is elated to be back on stage with LCTC as a company member. He was last seen playing CB in *Dog Sees God* last year.

JAMES GREGORY (*James* in *"The Breakup," Robbie* in *"P in V"*) is very excited to be making his LCTC debut! Notable roles include *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Mortimer Brewster), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bottom), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Motel), and *The Miracle Worker* (James Keller). Mr. Gregory is a recent graduate of San Francisco State

University's School of Theatre and Dance and hopes to keep flexing his creative muscles!

NICK LEONARD (*Charles in "Kindred Spirits"*) Nick Leonard is a San Francisco actor, writer and comedian. This is his second show with LCTC. He sometimes performs as his drag persona Ginorma Desmond. But not tonight.

GABRIELLE MOTARJEMI* (*Brenda in "Brenda Gets Herself Slapped"*) Last seen at LCTC as Judy in *The Morning After*, Gabrielle is happy to be back here! From Shakespeare, Arthur Miller, Noel Coward, crazy old ladies to foul mouth Grannies, she enjoys doing it all.

PAUL RENOLIS* (Kyle in "the Breakup") Paul is a versatile performer who has been engaged in the performing arts for 16 years, appearing with such companies as Boston Stage Company and Theatre Rhinoceros in addition to LCTC. He is also a skilled dancer/choreographer, drag performer and photographer. Paul is dedicated to professionally merging his artistic disciplines in order to provide his community an experience that is entertaining, culturally-informed, and socially daring.

JANICE RUMSCHLAG (*Mitzi in "Birthday"*) Janice is excited to be playing Mitzi in "Birthday" and for her first opportunity to work with LCTC! She most recently appeared as Matt Lauer in "*Predator Block Tango*" in *Shortlived VII Finals* at PianoFight (2nd place overall winner!). She's also performed locally at PianoFight (ShortLived, Music/Scene, Pint Sized Plays, Shotz), the SF Olympians, the Exit, the PlayGround, and PCSF's *Play Offs*. Special thanks to her husband Ryan for the endless love and support!

MEL STEFANSKI (*Mary in "Brenda Gets Herself Slapped," and Lisa in "Birthday"*) Mel is excited to be doing their first show with Left Coast Theatre company. Mel would like to thank Bree for her seemingly never-ending love and support.

THE PLAYWRIGHTS

ERIVA ANDRACCHIO (*"The Breakup"*) Recognize the name? She's our Executive Director.

BARBARA BLUMENTHAL ERLICH (*"Standing Up"*) Productions: NY International Fringe Festival, off-Broadway Theatre Row, *Northern Light* (Edmonton, Canada), *Forward Flux* (Seattle), *Overtime* (San Antonio), *Trustus* (Columbia, S.C.), Trinity Rep (Providence). Winner: Beverly Hills Theatre Guild Julie Harris Award and the Israel Baran Award. Nominated for Edmonton's Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Award, the Susan Smith Blackburn Award and honorable mention, The Kilroy list.

ALEX DREMANN (*"Brenda Gets Herself Slapped"*) Alex studied playwriting at USC and has had over 300 productions of his short plays. Full lengths include: *Split Pea Pod* (The Brick Playhouse), *Postcoital Variations* (Philadelphia Theatre Workshop) and *The :nv:s:ble Play* (Madlab Theatre, Theatre of NOTE and Cone Man Running Productions) www.alexdreman.com

JAMES A. MARTIN* James is grateful to the "Birthday" cast and director Andrew Calabrese for bringing his play to life with such talent, heart and commitment. *Birthday*

is Jim's 10th short play production. He dedicates the play to his best friend of 36 years, the late Edward Norman.

JESSICA MOSS ("*P in V*") Jessica writes emotional feminist comedy. She has developed work with Roundabout Theatre, Rattlestick Theatre, Great Plains Theatre Conference, The Juilliard School, and more. She also acts, produces with her company, Theatre Mischief, and writes lyrics.

JEFFREY NEUMAN ("*Kindred Spirits*") Jeffrey is an award-winning playwright whose work has been performed at theaters and festivals across the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom. He is a Heideman Award Finalist, cofounder of Rough Draught Playwrights, Director of Literary Development for Benchmark Theatre, and a member of the Dramatists Guild of America. www.theaterbyjeff.com.

THE DIRECTORS

ANDREW CALABRESE (*Director "Birthday"*) Andrew returns to LCTC after performing in *The Laramie Project* earlier this spring. His short play *A Tale* was a finalist in this year's Shortlived play competition. As an actor, he's worked with Theatre Rhino, Second Wind Productions, New Conservatory, Impact Theatre, Shotgun Players, Custom Made, the Breadbox and No Nude Men.

CHRISTIAN HEPPINSTALL* (*Steering Committee; Director, "Kindred Spirits"*) Stage director, dramatist, scenic designer and actor, Christian was last seen in *Come Here Often?* as "Dido"; starred as "Patsy Stone" in 16-episodes of *Absolutely Fabulous* in SF; has also acted/worked with Thrillpeddlers, the Cockettes, New Conservatory and Mojo. Creator of live soap opera about a San Francisco porn empire—Midnight Soapscum. Quite gay and a BYU theater graduate.

CHRIS MALTBY* (*PR Manager; Director, "The Breakup" and "Brenda"*) Chris is thrilled to be back in the director's chair for LCTC. Chris has been acting, writing and directing for the company since 2012. In 2017, he directed the company's first full-length production, *Dog Sees God*. His short play, *Who Are These People?*, was included in *#WTFamily*, which won LCTC the Theatre Bay Area Award for Best Anthology in 2015. In addition to his work with LCTC, Chris has appeared as Mr. Collins in *Pride and Prejudice, the Musical* with IAM and Florence Wexler in *Devil Boys from Beyond* at NCTC.

DAVID RICE (*Artistic Director; Director, "Standing Up"*) David has worked as an actor, singer, dancer and director across the country from New York to San Francisco. David spent several years as Production Company Manager for Broadway and National Tour productions of *Grease* with Rosie O'Donnell, Megan Mullaly, Sheena Easton, Joe Piscopo and a young chorus girl named Sutton Foster (You may have heard of her.), Hal Prince's *Show Boat*, *The Full Monty* and *Ragtime*.

tba
AWARDS

2014 - THEATRICAL TALE, Best
2013 - JEFFREY NEUMAN
2014 - STEERING COMMITTEE, Best
2014 - NEW CONSERVATORY, Best
2014 - THEATRICAL TALE, Best

VERY SPECIAL THANKS to The LCTC Company, Christina Aguello, Amanda Ortmayer and the entire Exit Theatre team, the Playwrights Foundation, Kathy Li, Ashley Tateo, Gaereth Gooch, Matthew Denckla, Jessie Amoroso and our many awesome supporters whose contributions helped us bring *Besties* to you.

CAROLE SWANN (*Director, "P in V"*) Carole Swann's first full-production directing credit is of her own devised piece: *The Splendor is Not One that Dazzles*, performed at The Living Room, Soho, London. In San Francisco she has enjoyed directing new work by local playwrights: *Silence Interrupted* by Patricia Moran ("On the Spot", SF Theatre Pub) and *Hamster Wheel* by Donna Mae Foronda ("MusicScene", PianoFight). She is pleased to be directing Jessica Moss's *P in V* for LCTC.

BEHIND THE SCENES

ERICA ANDRACCHIO* (*Executive Director; playwright, "The Breakup"*) Erica is thrilled for her introductory show as Executive Director to be "BESTIES"! It is only fitting, as her besties are the ones who got her into this situation in the first place. As a member of Left Coast Theatre Co., she has had many different roles that included actor (*SF, Here I Come!*, *Left Coast News*, *Twisted Hitchcock*, *The Laramie Project*), writer (*Left Coast News*, *Come Here Often?*, and one you are about to see with *Besties*), director (*The Morning After*), stage manager and production manager for numerous others. She has trained at ACT and been a student of Rachael Adler's, studying the Meisner Technique. She would like to thank her family, both biological and the one she's chosen, for always being the most supportive humans a crazy overachiever could ask for. www.ericandracchio.com

MICHAEL BARE (*Stage Manager*) Michael is excited to be stage managing with LCTC for the first time. Prior stage managing included work in Chicago at Bailiwick Repertory, and more recently, *Puff!* a monthly marijuana themed drag and cabaret show at The Stud.

NEIL HIGGINS* (*Secretary*) Neil is a member of the Board of LCTC, and has acted, written, and directed with them. He has worked with several other companies in SF for the past decade and is thrilled to be part of this production.

RITA LONG* (*Sound Design/Board Ops*) Tucked in my booth, I have the honor of watching every minute of every performance; every night is a fresh unfolding. LCTC has produced several of my short plays, and I'm excited to be part of *Besties*.

ALEXIA STANIOTES* (*Light Design*) Alexia is the light designer. Do you see the faces up on that stage there? Yup! That's her, making sure you can see them. You can thank her later.

RODNEY RHODA TAYLOR* (*Producer*) founded LCTC to provide LGBT theatrical artists with a means to bring their work to broader audience and for their voices to be heard. He has written the short plays, "Baby Christina," "P.S., I Love You," "Motherly Advice" and "My Fairy Godmothers." He is also co-founder of Endeavor Foundation for The Arts

www.lctc-sf.org

Facebook.com/LeftCoastTheatreCompany

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