

Left Coast Theatre Co. Presents

# *Family Programming*

*An Evening of Comedic Short Plays*



**Shelton Theatre**

533 Sutter St San Francisco

All Shows 8:00

**THURSDAYS** SEPT 27, OCT 4, 11

**FRIDAYS** SEPT 21, 28, OCT 5, 12

**SATURDAYS** SEPT 22, 29, OCT 6, 13

LEFT COAST THEATRE CO. PRESENTS  
**FAMILY PROGRAMMING**

Produced by Rodney "Rhoda" Taylor  
Light & Sound Design by Nic Candito  
Stage Manager — Lauren "L.J" Lee  
House Manager — Andrew "AJ" Amaro  
Production Assistant — Oliver Austria

**BEST MAN**

Cheryl Simas Valenzuela — Director Steven Korbar — Playwright  
*Ben...*George Duryea *Ayre...*Daniel O'Reilly

**BABY CHRISTINA**

John Anderson Hamner — Director  
Rodney "Rhoda" Taylor — Playwright  
*Patrick...*Michael Erickson *Dennis...*ShawnJ West  
*Shakya...*Luis Quiroz

**VOWED & WOWED (Inspired by A.A. Milne's *The Camberley Triangle*)**

Joseph Frank — Director Rich Orloff — Playwright  
*Betty...*Laura Espino *Charlotte...*Sarah Doherty  
*Francine...*Angela Chandra

**WHAT WOULD SCOTT BAKULA DO?**

Rooben Morgan — Director  
Joseph Frank & Aaron Tworek — Playwrights  
*Aaron...*Aaron Tworek

**THE BUCK NAKED CHURCH OF TRUTH**

John Anderson Hamner — Director James A. Martin — Playwright  
*Jeff...*Chris Maltby *Tony...*Michael LeRoy *Evan...*Luis Quiroz  
*Joy...*Ariel Cohen *Homeless Guy...*Michael Erickson

**TOUGH COOKIE**

Chauncey Wales — Director Rich Orloff — Playwright  
*Dad...*Francisco Oliva *Mom...*Deidre Martin  
*James...*Dawson Montoya *Lawyer...*Sharmin Sehat  
*Guard...*Evan Sokol

**COCKTAILS WITH MAESTRO**

Scott Boswell — Director Joseph Frank — Playwright  
*Sophie...*Laura Espino *Felix...*George Duryea  
*Maestr...*Rodney "Rhoda" Taylor *Terry...*Gabrielle Motarjemi



**James A. Martin** (*The Buck Naked Church of Truth*) believes the truth will set you free. So will going buck naked in public — in San Francisco, at least. (In other places, it will result in incarceration.) Martin has had two previous short plays produced, *Two Wings and a Braast* (Eat Our Shorts 3, 2011) and *The Gay Man's Disaster Survival Kit* (Eat Our Shorts 4, 2012). *Disaster Kit* is also being presented as part of Pegasus Theater Company's Tapas Festival at the Rio Nido Lodge near Guerneville, Calif., running Sept. 21 through Oct. 21. Martin wishes to thank his lifelong partner-in-crime, Nick Parham, for his endless love, support, and chapstick supply.

**Rich Orloff** (*Tough Cookie, Vowed & Wowed*) is one of the most popular unknown playwrights in the country. His plays have received over 800 productions, numerous awards, and oodles of laughter. Author of over a dozen one-acts and over 70 short plays, Rich's short comedies have been published five times in the annual *Best American Short Plays* series, three times in *The Best Ten-Minute Plays* series, in *The Bedford Guide to Literature*, in the bilingual collection, *An Anthology of Contemporary American Plays* (published in China), and in anthologies published by Random House and Western Michigan University Press. Before becoming a playwright, Rich wrote for newspapers, magazines, radio, TV, industrial films and educational videos. Rich lives in New York City, but he likes to get out of town frequently to remind himself what the rest of the world is like.

**Rodney "Rhoda" Taylor** (*Baby Christina, Maestro*) is the Artistic Director of Left Coast Theatre Co. Producer, actor and playwright, graduated with a Bachelors degree in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing from SFSU in 2009. During the next year, he experimented with his writing and eventually joined the playwright's workshop series with GuyWriters. Under his guidance, he has produced three successful shows: *Eat Our Shorts 2: The Secret Lives of San Francisco*, which won two awards during the 2010 Fringe Festival, *Eat Our Shorts 3: Large Unit Available*, and *Eat Our Shorts 4: Love & Other Disasters*. He is also expanding his acting skills by acting in *EOS3*, *EOS4*, and *Family Programming*. He was recently seen in *Twilight Zone Live* (Dark Room Theater) as Tina, a 7 year-old girl lost in the 4th Dimension. In his spare time, he is writing a book and is the Director of the Endeavor Foundation for the Arts, a foundation that provides scholarships for LGBT individuals and grants to LGBT artists.

## THE CREW

**Andrew "AJ" Amaro** (*House Manager*) is a board member for Left Coast Theatre Company and House Manager for *Family Programming*. He's been involved in acting and the theatre community since he was young but is now specifically focusing his efforts on LGBTQ causes and organizations like LCTC. Andrew holds a Bachelors degree from University of Minnesota and a Juris Doctor degree from University of the Pacific. He is a competitive figure skater of over 20 years, regularly advocates for civil and legal equality for the LGBTQ community, and works full-time as a writer. You can learn more about Andrew's fiction writing at his official website, [AJAmaro.com](http://AJAmaro.com).

**Nic Candito** (*Light & Sound Design*) is an award-winning lighting designer from the Sacramento area. Credits include *Eat Our Shorts 4: Love & Other Disasters* (GuyWriters Productions), *Almost, Maine* (big idea theatre, Sacramento) and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (New Helvetia Theatre, Sacramento). Nic would like to thank everyone involved in this show, his extended Bay Area family, his partner Josh, and you for supporting local theatre..

**Lauren "LJ" Lee** (*Stage Manger*) Once upon a time there was a little girl named Lauren Lee. She was brought into the world of theatre early on in her life performing on stage from ages 7 to 14. Unexpectedly, her entire view of theatre changed in high school when she discovered the magical world of technical theatre and her life's passion. Hence, LJ was created. After high school, LJ has been a resident stage manager for the spring productions at City College of San Francisco from *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (2009) to their latest show, *Sweet Charity* (2012) and slowly but surely branching out to theatre companies such as the African American Shakespeare Company and Boxcar theatre. LJ is proud to add Left Coast Theatre as her 13th production in the bay area and looks forward to a wonderful and successful run.

## THE DIRECTORS

**Scott Boswell** (*Cocktails with Maestro*) is a filmmaker by trade and passion but maintains that theatre is his first love. A newcomer to Left Coast, this production marks a joyous return to stage work. His award-winning feature film, *The Stranger in Us* (2010), is currently in distribution internationally. At the moment, he is developing a new feature script set to begin development later this year. He also co-facilitates a feature screenwriting group in San Francisco that meets twice monthly. When he is not busy thinking about the next play he will direct, Scott spends his time teaching filmmaking at San Francisco State University.

**John Anderson Hamner** (*Baby Christina*, *The Buck Naked Church of Truth*) has directed and performed in full-length plays and musicals in the Bay Area for over 25 years. He also directs staged readings for the Ross Valley Players and the San Francisco Playwrights Center. For Theater Artist's Conspiracy, he sent new work to the *Bay Area One-Acts* and *San Francisco Fringe Festivals*.

**Rooben Morgan** (*What Would Scott Bakula Do?*) is the founding Artistic Director of IndiStage, a theatre company that explores the intersections of diaspora and gender. He recently directed *Blowing Whistles* by Mathew Todd, and will be staging *10 Acrobats In An Amazing Leap of Faith* at the CounterPULSE in September. He was recently seen as Raj in *Blowing Whistles* (IndiStage), Ravan in *Janaki* (Preview by Siren Theatre), and Shankar in *Dancing On Glass* (RasaNova Theatre) at the 3rd National Asia American Theatre Conference/Festival.

**Cheryl Simas Valenzuela** (*Best Man*) has experience in both the artistic and business side of theatre and the performing arts. Her production credits include Assoc. Stage Mgr., *Les Miserables* (national company); Lighting Designer for numerous productions including performances by Zakros InterArts, and Laurie Anderson; and Sales Mgr., Steve Silver's, *Beach Blanket Babylon*. She recently produced the indie feature, *The Stranger in Us* (2010, Paperback Films), streaming on Netflix. Cheryl is the owner of Wild Dog Art & Media, providing creative development, communications and promotion services for writers, artists and arts organizations. This is her first production with Left Coast Theatre Company and she's happy to be onboard!

**Chauncey Wales** (*Tough Cookie*) At an early age, Chauncey developed a fascination with theatre. At 12 years-old, she wrote and directed her first play. During her college years, Chauncey directed 2 student theatre productions. One of Chauncey's other passions is filmmaking. In 2011, she wrote, directed, and co-produced *Recipe For Love*, a sexy, foodie film with a Brazilian flair. The film has been screened at numerous film festivals including San Francisco, Montreal, Rio De Janeiro, Paris, Palm Springs, and more to come. Chauncey shares a strange parallel with the title of the play, in that she is born on the day of the "tough cookie", according to *The Secret Language of Birthdays*. She is thrilled to be making her San Francisco directorial debut with *Tough Cookie*.

## THE WRITERS

**Joseph Frank** (*Cocktails with Maestro*, *What Would Scott Bakula Do?*) is a founding member of Left Coast Theatre Co. and is pleased as punch with the inaugural production. Previous work includes: *A Match Made in Heaven & Hell*, *The Lamentation of Straight Girls Who Love the Sissy Boys* (Eat Our Shorts 4) and *The Night Owl* (Eat Our Shorts 3). His short film noir, *P.S., You're Dead!*, has been shown in film festivals all over North America and Europe.

**Steven Korbar** (*Best Man*) Steven's full-length and one-act plays have been produced in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and throughout the United States and Canada. His drama, *Table for Four*, was published in Smith and Kraus' *Best Short Plays of 2010*, as was his comedy, *Mrs. Jansen Isn't Here Now*. Other productions include: *I Understand Your Frustration* at the Turtleshell Theatre NYC, *Let Go* at Future Ten in Pittsburgh, *Hard* at Elephant Stageworks in L.A., *Circles* at Shelterbelt Theatre in Omaha and *What are You Going to Be*, which won the Merce Award at the 2011 10-minute play festival at the Secret Rose theatre in L.A.

## THE CAST

**Angela Chandra** (*Francine*) is thrilled to be making her San Francisco debut with the Left Coast Theatre Co! Originally from Volcano, CA, she received her BA in Communication, but not without spending a couple years in the acting conservatory at UC Santa Barbara, where she also broke into playwriting, directing, and film. Among her favorite roles are: Sita in *Om: An Indian Tale of Good and Evil*, Gayle in *Almost, Maine*, and Cecily in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Her performances in the short films *Keepsake* and *Post* have awarded her "Best Actress" in the Santa Barbara Digital Film Festival for the past two years. Her work with *The Vagina Monologues*, contributed to the fundraising for V-Day and local women's shelters in Santa Barbara. Angela would like to thank her friends who have consistently stuck by her side, and of course her parents and sister, for their unconditional love, support, and encouragement.

**Ariel Cohen** (*Joy*) hails from the East Coast. She is a graduate of the University of Maine at Farmington, where she became heavily involved in theater. Her previous roles include: the granddaughter in *Table Settings*, Ada in *Nobody Sleeps*, Norma Hubley in *Neil's Simon's Plaza Suite*, and Jackie Walker in *Postponing the Heat Death of the Universe*. In San Francisco, she has had the privilege of working on Look At Me Theater's original play, *Expecting*, in the role of Alice and Starving Artist's Shakespeare Company's Production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Cobweb. Ariel is currently an MFA Writing student at California College of the Arts. As always, she would like to thank her amazing Parents, fabulous Sister, and her wonderful Gentleman, for their love and support.

**Sarah Doherty** (*Charlotte*) is an actor based out of San Francisco. She holds a BA in Drama from San Francisco State University, where she was a member of The Brown Bag Theatre Company and appeared in student directed productions of *Jules and Jim*, *The Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*, *The Tempest* (abridged), and *Faust: A Shadow Pact*. Since graduating in 2008, Sarah has appeared locally in productions such as *Reckless*, and *The Skin of Our Teeth* (both with San Francisco Free Civic Theatre) as well as *The Vagina Monologues*. Sarah recently participated in Theatre Bay Area's fourth round of the *ATLAS Program*, and most recently performed in PCSF's first 24 Hour Playfest. This is Sarah's first production with Left Coast Theatre Company.

**George Duryea** (*Ben, Felix*) is thrilled to be working with this wonderful group of people again. He graduated from Georgetown University, majoring in Theater, where he played various roles, including Dick Cheney in *Stuff Happens*, Adam in *The Shape of Things*, and John Hinckley in *Assassins*. Locally, he attended ACT's Summer Training Congress and played Jake the Bartender in Ruth Stotter's *Four of a Kind*. He was most recently in *Eat Our Shorts 4*, typecast as the only straight man, Gregory, in *What Good Friends are For*.

**Laura Espino** (*Betty, Sophie*) is delighted to be a part of the inaugural production of the Left Coast Theater Company. She was last seen this summer at the American Conservatory Theater's studio production of *City of Angels* and in Spotlight Theater Marin's production of *Spring Awakening*. Favorite credits include *Steel Magnolias* (Shelby), *Vagina Monologues*, and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Rosemary). In 2006, she made her film debut in *Devotion* (Melanie Carllie), which went on to win Best Narrative Independent Feature at the New England Film Festival. She would like to thank her 2-year old daughter, Eva, for allowing her to practice her love of theater.



**Michael Erickson** (*Patrick, Homeless Guy*) is ecstatic to be a part of Left Coast Theatre Company's premiere show, *Family Programming*. Michael's most recent work was with GuyWriters' spring production *Eat Our Shorts 4: Love and Other Disasters*, where he played Alan, in *What Good Friends are For*. Some of Michael's previous work includes: *Incredible Sex*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Anything Goes*, and *Clue: The Musical*. Michael would like to acknowledge the extraordinary talents of all those involved with LCTC.

**Michael LeRoy** (*Tony*) studied film and acting at San Francisco State University and City College of San Francisco, as well as The Actors Workshop of Sacramento. He appeared in two plays for EOS 4: *Love and Other Disasters*. Television credits include: *World's Most Astonishing News* and Discovery Channel's, *I (Almost) Got Away With It*.

**Chris Maltby** (*Jeff*) is making his second appearance with folks of LCTC in *Family Programming*. A native of Seattle, Chris has appeared as: Uncle Willie in *High Society*, Cole Porter in *Red, Hot and Cole*, Saint Peter in *Corpus Christi*, Chip in *On the Town*, Manuel in *Gigi*, and Dvornichak in *Rough Crossing*, as well as one of the guys in three versions of the very popular, *Three Girls, Two Guys and a Cabaret*. In addition to being an accomplished actor, singer, and writer, Chris has performed as a standup comedian in venues across the country both on his own and with his standup show, *Queer as a Three Dollar Bill*. You can keep up with Chris by following his recently-launched blog, *Up, with a Twist*, at [www.cjmaltby.com](http://www.cjmaltby.com).

**Deidre Martin** (*Mom*) is thrilled to be performing for Bay Area Theatre-goers! She is back after a brief hiatus from theatre while pursuing independent films. Her last film, *The Boyfriend Store*, received much praise from the Hollywood community. She has trained at The San Francisco Acting Academy/Beau Bonneau Casting Studio and Jean Shelton Actors Lab in San Francisco, as well as TVI Studios in Los Angeles. Her greatest ambition is to work with Steven Spielberg. To those theatre-goers in the Bay Area, it is an honor and a privilege to entertain you and I thank you!

**Dawson Montoya** (*James*) Besides keeping the streets of Gotham at bay, this young, lithe superhero enjoys taking it to the stage as well as film and television. Dawson most recently completed his second feature film as well as snagged a few roles in a series of short films entitled, *The Hybrid Series*. Based out of Campbell, CA he hopes to not only expand his range of roles but to also one day make it to the Ironman World Championships!

**Gabrielle Motarjemi** (*Terry*) is having a great time and thankful for the gift of Terry. A native San Franciscan, she has been acting in the Bay Area for a number of years. Favorite roles include: Mrs. Snow in *Cinderella Waltz*, Frau Bertoldt in *Judgement At Nuremberg*, and Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible*. She is fond of camels, gargoyles and oh yes, her family. Thanks for coming out for the shows!

**Daniel O'Reilly** (*Ayre*) is making his debut appearance with LCTC in *Best Man*. A native of Connecticut, Dan's favorite roles include: Gavroche in *Les Miserables*, Puck in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Trinculo in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Dan received his bachelor of science in Biology from Providence College and has since moved to San Francisco to discover the meaning of life. Dan would love to thank family and friends for supporting and joining him on this quest.

**Francisco Oliva (Dad)** has been acting for approximately 3 years and has been involved in a number of short scene productions, including: *Days of wine and Roses*, *Tiger Wears a Necktie*, and *Angels in America*. Film Credits include: *The Abstraction*, *Dam California*, *Amalfi*, *The Package*, *Lombardi*, and *Face Down*. Francisco can leap tall buildings in a single bound and is a known skirt chaser, much like his character in the piece.

**Luis Quiroz (Evan, Shakyra)** Originally from San Diego, Luis chose San Francisco to pursue his higher education and discover himself. His passion for modern dance led him to SFSU's Dance Department, where he performed several student productions. His love for the stage (a.k.a. attention), motivated him to seek performance time out of the classroom and into the real world. His stage credits include *Eat Our Shorts 2 and 3*. Film credits include Scott Boswell's, *The Stranger In Us*. And he also pursues work as a commercial model, having worked for Sony, Nintendo, Cisco Technologies, and other companies. The costumes for this show are the most — and least — he has ever worn for an audience! He has previously worked with several members of the cast and crew of *Family Programming* and is very excited to return to work with them!

**Sharmin Sehat (Lawyer)** was born in Tehran, Iran, grew up and went to school in London, UK, and has been living in South Bay, CA for the past 10 years. At age 4, she was taken to see the play, *Oldooz and the Crows*, written by Samad Behrangi, the famed late Iranian-Azari, teacher, social critic and folklorist, and got stuck in a permanent state of fantasy ever since. It took Sharmin many years, and an aging crisis, to finally come out of the artistic closet and openly admit her love of performing arts. For the past 2 years, she has trained in the Meisner technique as well as with various top acting coaches in the bay Area. She has been in a number of short films and classroom-size live performances and is ecstatic to play the role of Lawyer in *Tough Cookie*, to a keen and appreciative audience.

**Evan Sokol (Guard)** is a Massachusetts native who has lived in San Francisco for twenty years. Only recently has he started to pursue acting, but he's already been cast in a few film productions, including the upcoming short film, *Black Out*, by Allee Chance, in the role of the snooty maitre d'. Evan currently studies acting under Matthew Shelton at Shelton Studios, and he regularly participates in improv at Leela, SF's premier long-form improvisational theater company.

**Aaron Tworek (What Would Scott Bakula Do?)** was last seen as Mack the Dog in *Twilight Zone Live* (Dark Room Theatre). Other recent credits include Jesus in *A Match Made in Heaven & Hell* (Eat Our Shorts 4) and Robber #1 in the film, *Newhighers* (Every Penny Counts Productions). Aaron is extremely excited to be a part of *Family Programming*, as it is his debut as a playwright (and an autobiographical piece, to boot!). He would like to thank everybody that encouraged him in writing and performing, as this is a culmination of many different ideas and experiences. He would also like to thank his friends and family for all of their support.  
[www.facebook.com/AaronTworekActor](http://www.facebook.com/AaronTworekActor) or follow him on Twitter: @AaronTworek

**ShawnJ West (Dennis)** (that's one word pronounced Sean Jay) fresh from Seattle happy to be joining the players of Left Coast Theatre. Favorite roles include: Belize in *Angels in America: Perestroika*, Gidger in *The Violet Hour*, and as Raul in *Extremities*. He has also enjoyed fun roles on the musical side of theatre in such shows as *Grease*, *Guys and Dolls*, *West Side Story*, and *A Chorus Line*. He is thrilled to be rocking a baby with you!

## WHO WE ARE

Left Coast Theatre Company was formed from the successful writing group, GuyWriters Playwrights. After successfully producing several shows under the name GuyWriters, the lead members of the writing group decided to split from the organization and form their own theater company to focus on producing plays by local gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender playwrights.

As members of GuyWriters Playwright, they successfully produced three shows under the *Eat Our Shorts* collection of short plays. Their first production was in the fall of 2010 during the Annual *Fringe Festival*. *Eat Our Shorts 2: The Secret Lives of San Francisco*, took place in September 2010 at Exit on Taylor Theater and showcased five local playwrights. This production went on to win the "Best of Box Office" award for its record ticket sales. The following year, they produced *Eat Our Shorts 3: Large Unit Available*, in May of 2011 at StageWerx. This show included the works of six playwrights with a cast of fourteen. Over the course of the run, they had six sell-out performances — the total run of the show — before the show even opened.

Their third production, *Eat Our Shorts 4: Love and Other Disasters*, premiered in February of 2012. This show featured the works of six bay area writers. With the theme of the show dealing with love and its disasters, it was a comedic farce that left the audience laughing for over three weeks of sell-out shows.

No longer concentrating on the works of just gay men, Left Coast aims to foster the works of all writers interested in producing the best queer-themed works possible. The company has also expanded their productions from one show a year to two, and has plans to increase their productions in the upcoming years.

Check us out at:

[www.leftcoasttheatreco.org](http://www.leftcoasttheatreco.org)

If you are able to help us stage future productions, donations are gratefully accepted at:

<https://npo.networkforgood.org/Donate/Donate.aspx?npoSubscriptionId=1036> and specify **Left Coast Theatre**

*We are a Member of the Intersection Incubator, a program of Intersection for the Arts providing fiscal sponsorship, incubation and consulting services to artists. Intersection is San Francisco's oldest alternative arts space, presenting groundbreaking works in the literary, performing, visual and interdisciplinary arts. Visit [www.theintersection.org](http://www.theintersection.org).*



## THANK YOU

Randy Rollison at Intersection for the Arts, Terry Penn of the Edge, the Northern and Mission Stations of the San Francisco Police Department, Poster Beef — Adam Musgrave, Michael LeRoy & Daniel O'Reilly, Bo Hoshaw, Terry Keller, David Ortman, Karyn King, Peter Bruce Photography, Ingrid Echeverry, James A. Martin for handling the press, Oliver Austria and our many awesome supporters whose contributions helped us put on this production.