

I'M NOT OK, CUPID

An Evening of Short Comedic Gay Plays



ALL SHOWS 8 PM

SHELTON THEATRE
533 Sutter San Francisco

TIX \$15-25

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THEATRE
CO.

THURSDAY - SATURDAY
April 12 to May 4

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LEFT COAST THEATRE CO. PRESENTS

I'M NOT OK, CUPID

Produced by Rodney "Rhoda" Taylor
Light & Sound Design by Diana Tordoff
Stage Manager — Ariel Cohen
House Manager — Rodney "Rhoda" Taylor
Production Manager — ShawnJ West
Production Assistants — Aaron Tworek, Andrew "AJ" Amaro, Ty
Dance Choreography — Hayley Saccomano
Fight Choreography — Danielle O'Dea

A SMALL FISHING NATION WEDGED BETWEEN ESTONIA & LATVIA

Andrew Black — Playwright ShawnJ West — Director
Steve #1...Chris Maltby *Steve #2*...Dene Larson
Lacy...Laura Espino *Steve #3*...Richard Sargent

LOLLIPOPS

James A. Martin — Playwright Hayley Saccomano — Director
Sandy...Barbara Ann Cecchetti *Alex*...Debi Durst
Lolita...Hayley Saccomano

GOODBYE, CUPID

Rodney "Rhoda" Taylor — Playwright
John Anderson Hamner — Director
Adam...Chris Maltby *Kris*...Dan O'Reilly
Cupid...Richard Sargent *Brook*...Matthew Thomas Ward

ARLECCHINO'S LAST PRANK

Andrew Black — Playwright John Anderson Hamner — Director
Arlecchino...Paul Dana *Columbo*...Kyle Glasow
Pantaloon...Richard Ryan

THAT BITCH (Inspired by Anton Chekhov's *The Bear*)

Rich Orloff — Playwright Joseph Frank — Director
Mary...Laura Espino *Louise*...Hayley Saccomano
Georgia...Danielle O'Dea

THE PARENTHETICAL TRAP

Joseph Frank — Playwright
Joseph Frank & Hayley Saccomano — Directors
Chuck...Kyle Glasow *Charlie*...Dawson Montoya
Savannah...Gabrielle Motarjemi *Charles*...Joseph Frank

FOUR DRY TONGUES

Alex Dremann — Playwright ShawnJ West — Director
Tristan...Michael Erickson *Ginny*...Angela Chandra
Matt...Robert Rushin *Laura*...Danielle O'Dea

THE CREW

Ariel Cohen (*Stage Manager*) 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.

Andrew "AJ Amaro" Sass (*Production Assistant*) is thrilled to be involved in his second production with Left Coast Theatre Company. He joined LCTC in April 2012 and was House Manager for its Fall production. An avid musical theatre performer as a child, Andrew took some time off from theatre to train as a competitive figure skater for two decades. He graduated from the University of Minnesota's undergraduate program in 2005 and received his Juris Doctor degree from University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 2010. Andrew currently divides his time between writing and editing works of fiction in preparation for the publication of his first novel, skating, theater volunteerism, and working in a legal services firm in Mountain View. You can visit his official website at AJAmaro.com or follow him on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/AmaroAJ>.

Diana Tordoff (*Light & Sound Design*) is thrilled to be making her San Francisco theatre debut with Left Coast Theatre. Born and raised in Santa Cruz and graduated from Vassar College, Diana loves living in San Francisco and is the proud mama to two diva bunnies, Liza and Audrey.

Aaron Tworek (*Production Assistant*) was last seen in *What Would Scott Bakula Do?* (LCTC's Family Programming). Other recent credits include Jesus in *A Match Made in Heaven & Hell* (Eat Our Shorts 4) and Robber #1 in the film, *Newhigners* (Every Penny Counts Productions). He would like to thank his friends and family for all of their support.
www.facebook.com/AaronTworekActor or follow him on Twitter: @AaronTworek

THE WRITERS

Andrew Black (*Arlecchino's Last Prank*, *A Small Fishing Nation Wedged between Estonia & Latvia*)

Andrew's first play *Porn Yesterday* told the story of a porno star who wants to change his life. (Porn was co-written with Patricia Milton.) A screwball comedy, *Strange Bedfellows*, came next, as did a murder mystery—*It's Murder, Mary!* (Patricia Milton was the co-writer for these two plays.) The New Works of Merit contest selected Andrew's *Another Dude's Slingbacks* as its contest winner in 2009. Andrew just completed his MFA in playwriting at Ohio University (Athens, Ohio). His thesis play, *Puppet Man*, is set at the North Central Correctional Institute in Marion, Ohio. *Puppet Man* is inspired by real-life events about a group of inmates who start a puppet theater. He is also the author of *Bitten by a Boonsiang*, which looks at humanitarian efforts in the African country of Sierra Leone. Andrew would like to thank his life partner Dos, and his dear friend Pat for all their love and support.

Alex Dreman (*Four Dry Tongues*) Alex is the producing artistic director of Secret Room Theatre in

Philadelphia. Full-lengths include: *Split Pea Pod* (The Brick Playhouse), *Postcoital Variations* and *The Invisible Play* (Philadelphia Theatre Workshop). Short plays include: *On the Porch One Crisp Spring Morning*, *Spit for Tat* and *The Narcoleptic Pillow Fight*.

Joseph Frank (*The Parenthetical Trap*) is a founding member of Left Coast Theatre Co. Previous work includes: *Cocktails with Maestro* (Family Programming), *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.

James A. Martin (*Lollipops*) enjoys addressing "touchy subjects" with comedy in his short plays: sex addiction and psychotherapy (*Two Wings and a Breast*, 2011); gun possession and alcoholism (*The Gay Man's Disaster Survival Kit*, 2012); and public nudity (*The Buck Naked Church of Truth*, 2012, featured in the *Wall Street Journal*). Martin also writes the blog, *A Southerner in San Francisco*, named to Google's Blogs of Note. He's grateful to Rodney "Rhoda" Taylor and Joe Frank and sends a special shout-out to his partner in crime for nearly 32 years, Nick Parham.

Rich Orloff (*That Bitch*) 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 (*Goodbye, Cupid*) is the Executive 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 four successful shows: *Eat Our Shorts 2: The Secret Lives of San Francisco*, *Eat Our Shorts 3: Large Unit Available*, *Eat Our Shorts 4: Love & Other Disasters*, and *Family Programming*. He was last seen as *Maestro*, in *Cocktails with Maestro*, featured in LCTC's fall show, *Family Programming*. 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 CAST

Barbara Ann Cecchetti (Sandy) holds a degree in Dramatic Art from U.C. , Berkeley and is a frequent Bay Area and Central Valley performer. Favorite roles include Grace from *Bus Stop*, Mama in *I Remember Mama*, Miss Stephanie in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Amy in *Company*, Helene in *Sweet Charity*, and Patches in *Talking With*. She was recently seen as Vanessa in *Follies* at Davis Musical Theatre. Barbara Ann is delighted to be in this production with Left Coast Theatre Company.

Angela Chandra (Ginny) received most of her training at UC Santa Barbara and was most recently seen in LCTC's fall production, *Family Programming*. She hails from Volcano, CA, where she got her start in theatre at the age of fourteen. Some of her favorite roles include Sita in Boxtales Theatre's original work *OM: An Indian Tale of Good and Evil*, and Cecily in *The Importance of Being Earnest* with Blue Mountain Players. Her on-screen performances have granted her the Best Actress awards for 2011 and 2012 in the Santa Barbara Digital Film Festival, and her passion for theatre includes educational and non-profit work. She is very happy to be performing again with LCTC, and would like to thank her friends and family for their unconditional love and support.

Paul Dana (Arlecchino) has performed locally with San Francisco Free Civic Theater, Actors Ensemble of Berkeley, Theater Rhinoceros, and Dr. Emile's Theater Tremendo. He also writes stories "founded on and continuing the famous Oz stories by L. Frank Baum," and blogs about his upcoming Oz book at ozbypaul.blogspot.com.

Debi Durst (Alex) This is Debi's first performance with Left Coast Theatre. Recent favorite roles include: Penny Sycamore in *You Can't Take It With You* and Madame Arcati in *Blithe Spirit* with the Palo Alto Players. Film credits include 3 voices in Tim Burton's *Nightmare Before Christmas*. She is happy to be back on the boards after a 30-year hiatus doing improv comedy anywhere they pay money. She produces both *The Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show* and San Francisco's Comedy Celebration Day. She would like to send a special shout out to her Sweet Baboo Will for making sure she eats. Mama loves you Madeline and Eloise!

Michael Erickson (Tristan) joined Left Coast Theatre Company as an actor in *Eat Our Shorts 4: Love and Other Disasters*. Since then, he performed with the company in *Family Programming*, playing Patrick in Rodney Taylor's, *Baby Christina*, and the Homeless Person in Jim Martin's, *Buck Naked Church of Truth*. Michael currently takes classes at American Conservatory Theater in the Studio A.C.T program.

Laura Espino (Lacy, Mary) Laura is delighted to be a part of the Left Coast Theatre family. She was most recently seen in LCTC's *Family Programming*. Recent credits include: American Conservatory Theatre (A.C.T.) studio production of *City of Angels*, and *Spring Awakening* with Spotlight Theater Company. Favorite credits include *Steel Magnolias* (as Shelby), *Vagina Monologues*, and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (as Rosemary). In 2006, she made her film debut in *Devotion* (as Melanie Carille), 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, Evita, for allowing her to practice her love of theatre.

Kyle Glasow (*Columbo, Chuck*) graduated from San Francisco State University in 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Cinema with an emphasis in production. Currently, he is developing screenplays of his own with which he plans to direct and perform. He is a student of the Bay Area Acting Studio and is represented by Tonry Talent in San Francisco. This is his first production with Left Coast Theatre Company and he is most ecstatic!

Dene Larson (*Steve #2*) Dene is thrilled to be working with Left Coast Theatre for a fourth time in *I'm Not OK, Cupid*. And if there's anything Dene knows about more, it's about love and why it's not OK—!! He fine-tuned his craft at SFSU. Dene was most recently seen in *The Fifth Element Live!* at The Dark Room Theatre and *3Girls Squared Holiday Showcase* at The Phoenix Theatre. His first role — in elementary school — will always be his favourite: the lead in *Rumpelstiltskin*. Dene wishes to thank his family and friends — specifically Bird and The Cattan Club — for all of their support.

Chris Maltby (*Steve #1, Adam*) is a writer, actor, singer, comedian and recent Bay Area transplant. A native of Seattle, Chris has appeared there 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 Dvornichuk in *Rough Crossing*, as well as one of the guys in three versions of the very popular *Three Girls, Two Guys and a Cabaret*. Chris was also a founding member of *Queer as a Three Dollar Bill*, Seattle's first weekly LGBT comedy show. Since making the move to San Francisco, Chris has appeared with LCTC in both *Eat Our Shorts 4* and *Family Programming*, the latter in our send up of public nudity, *The Buck Naked Church of Truth*. Chris is also LCTC's PR Manager and writes a popular blog, *Up, with a Twist*, at www.cjmaltby.com.

Dawson Montoya (*Charlie*) 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 (*Savannah*) Last seen as Terry in *Cocktails With Maestro*, Gabrielle is so happy to be back with her Left Coast family. Previous roles include such gems as Minna Murray in *Bet Soup*, Mrs. Snow in *Cinderella Waltz*, and The Countess in *All's Well That Ends Well*. Thank you to Joe for writing roles for women of a "certain age" and allowing me to play some of them. Thanks to her family which is growing by leaps and bounds. And thank you to each and every one of you for supporting this company.

Danielle O'Dea (*Georgia*) is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, with a BFA in Drama from the Experimental Theatre Wing. Besides being an actor, Danielle is a fight director and stunt performer, director, and playwright. She is also the artistic director of her theatre company, Theatre of Misery. She's excited to be making her west coast acting debut, and with such a fun and welcoming community as the Left Coast Theatre Company!

Daniel O'Reilly (*Kris*) Originally from the right coast, this is Dan's sophomore performance with Left Coast Theatre Co. Past favorite roles include Gavroche in *Les Misérables* and Puck in *A Midsummers Night's Dream*. Please take the time now to open your smart phone, hit your Facebook app, search "left coast theatre company" and thumb the LIKE button. Dan would greatly appreciate it. Also, Dan learned just enough English to memorize this play.

Robert Rushin (Matt) recently relocated to the bay area from Los Angeles after receiving his BA in Acting from UCLA. This show marks his San Francisco stage debut! He is very grateful to be a part of this project and hopes to continue his work as an actor in this vibrant community of artists. He would like to thank his partner in crime Derek, his director ShawnJ, and his family for all of their love and support.

Richard Ryan (Pentagoon) has been acting and directing in the Bay Area for longer than he cares to remember. A native of San Francisco, Richard has performed throughout the Bay Area, most notably at New Conservatory Theatre Center in *The History Boys*, *Southern Baptist Sissies* (Dean Goodman Award), *Mambo Italiano* and *The Ritz*. He was in *Greater Tuna* at both Benicia Old Town Theatre (Arty Award) and NCTC. For two seasons, Richard was a member of the Tony award winning South Coast Repertory Theatre in Costa Mesa, CA, and was in the hit revival of *Beyond The Fringe*, which ran for a year in SF at the Boarding House and the Plush Room.

Richard S. Sargent (Steve #3, Cupid) is excited to make his SF stage debut with LCTC! After receiving rave reviews for his work in *Biloxi Blues* and *The Laramie Project*, Rich decided to focus primarily on a film and commercial career in NYC. He has starred in such films as *Skinned Alive* and *Pink Eye* (LGF) and has been featured in *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist* (SONY) and *Graduation* (MAGNOLIA). Amongst his favorite roles: Eugene in *Biloxi Blues*, C.B. in *Defying Gravity*, Jonathan in *PINK!*, Jeffrey in *Godspell*, and Altar Boy in *Durang, Durang!* Rich would like to thank his wonderful friends and family, the awesome cast and crew, and his amazing partner for being so supportive.

Matthew Thomas Ward (Brook) is originally from Quebec, but has called the Bay Area home for 14 years. He has appeared in several short films, and has a featured role in an independent film currently shooting in Oakland. Matthew trains at the Actor's Center of San Francisco with renowned actress and teacher Shelley Mitchell. Outside of acting and his day job, he enjoys spending time with his four year old daughter, watching movies, and generally just goofing off.

THE DIRECTORS

John Anderson Hamner (Arlecchino's Last Frank, Goodbye, Cupid) has directed dozens of popular full-length plays and musicals in the Bay Area for over 20 years. Even so, his interest has always been in working with new plays and playwrights as a director, teacher and medic. He's proud to be back at LCTC working on another Rhoda Taylor original and a unique clown piece. 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.

Hayley Saccomano (Lollipop, The Parenthetical Trap) is truly enjoying this very fortunate opportunity to work and play with the ever fresh and witty Left Coast Theatre Company. This is her first official theatrical dip into the SF scene. She has spent more than a couple of years studying, producing, performing, directing, and publicizing theatre in the Twin Cities, Western Minnesota, and Chicago. Recently, you may have seen her playing a stripper on the television show, *I (Almost) Got Away With It*, or doing various other background work in local and national film projects. But to be honest, theatre is so much better.

ShawnJ West (A Small Fishing Nation Wedged between Estonia & Latvia, Four Dry Tongues) ShawnJ West (one word pronounced Sean Jay, fresh from his role of Gooper in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, is ecstatic to be directing again. Favorite forays in directing include: *Well*, *The Seven Year Itch*, *Nonsense*, *Sex in Seattle* and the West Coast premiere of *Illyria*. Onstage he's enjoyed roles as Belize in *Angels in America*; *Perestroika*, Gidger in *The Violet Hour*, and as Raul in *Extremities*.

WHO WE ARE

Left Coast Theater Company was formed in the Spring of 2012 from the successful gay men's writing group, GuyWriters Playwrights. After several successful productions of the *Eat Our Shorts* series of short plays, the main writers/producers decided to create our own company to focus on producing original queer-themed plays written by local and national playwrights.

In September of 2012, we debuted with *Family Programming* at the Shelton Theatre in San Francisco. *Family Programming* featured seven short plays from Bay Area playwrights as well as our first national submissions. These quirky, absurd, and over-the-top comedic shorts took audiences on a journey to discover the characters and characteristics of queer family life — both the chosen family and the family we were given. The 4-week run was a success with both audiences and critics alike.

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 | **Facebook:** facebook.com/LeftCoastTheatreCompany | **Twitter:** @LCTCSF

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**

THANK YOU

Randy Rollison at Intersection for the Arts, The Edge, the Northern and Mission Stations of the San Francisco Police Department, Johnston Tax Service, The Mint, Sweet Inspirations, Matt Shelton and the crew at Shelton Theatre, David Ortmann—LCSW, Psychotherapy & Sex Therapy, Monica Tilley, JB King, Karyn King, Sharmin Sehat, George Duryea, May May Oskan, Scott Boswell, Nic Candito, Cheryl Valenzuela, Bentley Lim, and our many awesome supporters whose contributions helped us put on this production.

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.

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