

World
Premiere

ACT ONE

The play takes place in the
living room of a small apartment.
Couch, bar, coffee table, piano.

On lights up, the phone rings.

DOUGLAS
(offstage)

one and
d loose.
stantly

ond -
let
. Then
drying his
abs up the

s on the

calling.
No. I'm
he's not
" into the
explain

hard. I
it's
saying it
's - TIME!
I say:
and then
d. Okay? -

*I've been trying to think
of a song for Father's
day, and it's tough —*



Pot Mom
By Justin Tanner

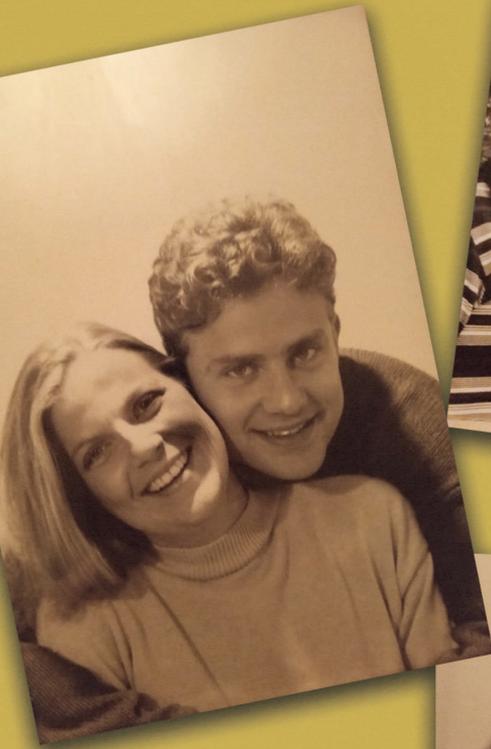
My Son the Playwright

Written and Performed by
Justin Tanner

Directed by Lisa James



ROGUE MACHINE THEATRE



ROGUE
MACHINE
THEATRE



ROGUE
MACHINE
THEATRE

PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF

My Son The Playwright

Written and performed by
Justin Tanner

SET & LIGHTING DESIGN
MARK MENDELSON

SOUND DESIGN
CHRISTOPHER MOSCATIELLO**

PROP DESIGN
MEGAN TRAPANI-DIVEN

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
GRANT GERRARD

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
IVAN RIVAS

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
RACHEL ANN MANHEIMER

MASTER ELECTRICIAN
LEO HALL

PRODUCED BY
BYRON COOLIE

DIRECTED BY
LISA JAMES

*This performance will run for
90 minutes with one intermission*

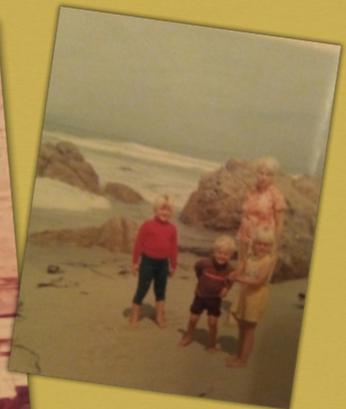
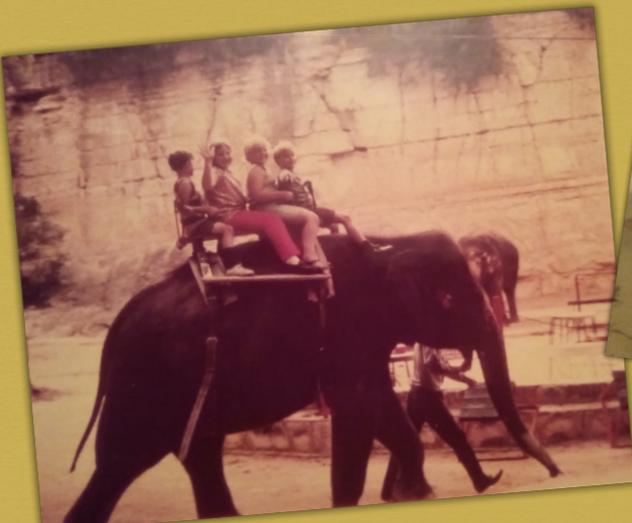
**Member of United Scenic Artists Local USA 829 IATSE

PRODUCTION TEAM

Artistic Director.....	Guillermo Cienfuegos
Executive Director.....	Justin Okin
Founding Artistic Director.....	John Perrin Flynn
Resident Casting Director.....	Victoria Hoffman
Director of Artistic Community Impact.....	Elina de Santos
Marketing Director.....	Michelle Hanzelova-Bierbauer
Technical Director.....	Grant Gerrard
General Manager.....	Ramón Valdez
Production Manager.....	Rachel Ann Manheimer
Company Manager.....	Scott Sheldon
Box Office Manager.....	Isabella Schwartz
House Manager.....	Athena Saxon
Publicity.....	Judith Borne
Videographer.....	Keith Stevenson
Photographer.....	Jeff Lorch
Intern.....	Tennyson Perkins

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President/Chair: Neely Swanson, Lex Conboy (Vice President) Rachel Avery (Secretary), Kyle Henderson (Treasurer), Ginna Carter, Guillermo Cienfuegos, John Perrin Flynn, Eliane Gans, Paula Holt, Justin Okin, Perla Karney, John Pollono, Elina de Santos, Judy White **Emeritus:** Jean Craig, Lesley Brander-Epps, Bob Pinzler, Lewin Wertheimer



Among the most important things in life is to be able to place oneself in the shoes of another person, and locate compassion and empathy for them and their struggles. However, sometimes it's hard to do that with someone that we have difficult experiences with and complicated feelings about. Especially if they're extremely close to us.

Like a parent.

I mean, it's risky; what if we end up seeing and understanding where they're coming from? We might lose our familiar and comfortable anger - and stumble, against our will, into something that looks like forgiveness...

In *My Son the Playwright*, L.A. Cult Icon and Rogue Machine Resident playwright, Justin Tanner takes on that challenge with courage, honesty and his characteristic wild humor. As both writer and performer, Justin explores his relationship with his father by stepping into his shoes - as well as the shoes of his younger self.

How do father and son see each other? And how do they see themselves? It's an intimate play that in part inspired our Season 18 theme of Perception, and we're proud to be presenting it on our hyper-intimate Henry Murray stage.

Besides being entertaining, maybe it'll inspire us to undertake a similar journey into understanding and forgiveness in our own lives.

We're so grateful to have another Justin Tanner play at Rogue Machine, grateful to Lisa James for directing it and most of all, grateful to you for being here.

Guillermo Cienfuegos, Artistic Director

THEATRE'S MISSION STATEMENT

We believe live theatre is a vital part of a community's cultural fabric. Rogue Machine Theatre was founded to serve the greater Los Angeles community by introducing new plays, and plays new to Los Angeles, which we consider important contemporary works that examine the pressing ideas of our time, by developing and nurturing emerging playwrights, and by engaging diverse artists and audiences to inspire and empower the next generation of theatregoers and theatre makers.



JUSTIN TANNER (*Playwright & Performer*)

Justin Tanner is an LA-based playwright with more than twenty produced plays to his credit, including *Little Theatre*, *El Niño*, *Voice Lessons*, *Day Drinkers*, and *Pot Mom* which received the PEN-West Award for best play. He was a story editor on the TV shows *Gilmore Girls*, *My So-Called Life* and the short-lived *Love Monkey*.

He wrote, directed and edited 88 episodes of the web series *Ave 43* (available on YouTube) and is currently a resident playwright for Rogue Machine Theatre. His creative consulting business “Justin’s Notes” just celebrated five years.

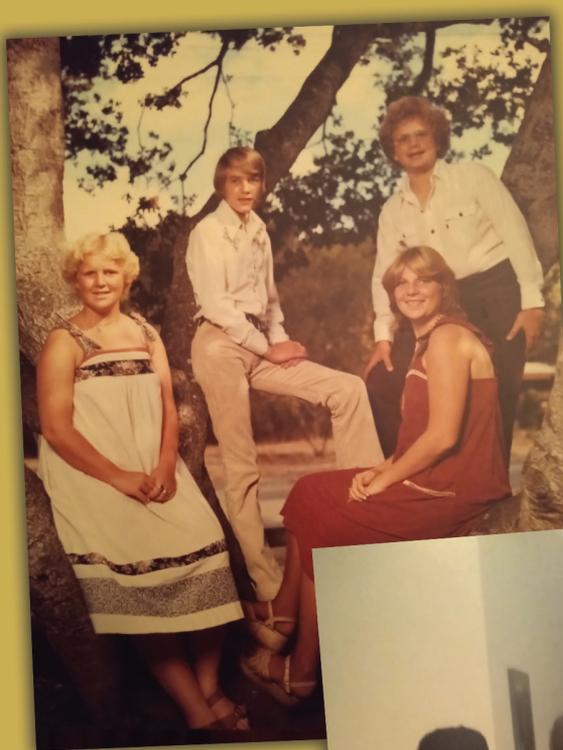


LISA JAMES (*Director*)

Lisa James is a multi-award winning director. *Heartstopper* (LA Weekly Award); *Palladium is Moving*, (LADCC Award); Lynn Siefert's *Little Egypt*, Wendy Macleod's *The Water Children*, Matrix Theater Company (4 LADCC Awards); Richard Dresser's *Better Days*; (LADCC nomination) Justin Tanner's *Bitter Women*, (LADCC Award); *Bold Girls*, Matrix Theater Company. *The Visible Horse*, (LADCC Award). Beth Henley's *Tight Pants*, Met Theater-- Billy Aaronson's *The News*, EST LA; ASCAP/Disney presentation *Scream* (music by David Foster), Justin Tanner's *Oklahoma!*, *Little Egypt*; *The Musical*, Matrix Theater in LA; also Acorn Theater in NYC. Nick Ullett's *Dying is Easy Comedy is Hard*, EST LA and NYC; *End Days*, Odyssey Theater; Kim Davies' *Smoke*, Rogue Machine (Stage Raw nomination). West Coast Premiere of *Punk Rock*, Odyssey Theater (Ovation Recommended). Justin Tanner's *El Niño*, Rogue Machine, (Stage Raw Award); *Issei He Say*, New Jersey Repertory - Chosen by critics as one of Top 10 productions of 2019. Ms James directed a filmed version of *Minnesota* – written and acted by Justin Tanner. Also Justin Tanner's *Little Theater*, Rogue Machine (Stage Raw award, Robbie award). James is also a guest director/adjunct professor at USC School of Dramatic Arts. Nick Ullett's *The Birthday Party: A Theatrical Catastrophe*, chosen by Charles McNulty, the Los Angeles Times, as one of the Ten Best of 2024. Most recently James directed the sold out World Premiere of Gregg Henry's *Can't Run Can't Dance* at New Jersey Repertory.



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CREATIVE TEAM

JUSTIN TANNER (*Playwright & Performer*)

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BYRON COOLIE (*Producer*)

Byron is a Los Angeles–based actor, writer, producer, and director originally from New Orleans. He holds an MFA in Performance from the University of Louisville and creates work that reflects authentic Black experiences. Byron wrote, produced, directed, and starred in his one-man show *TYT 5*, which won the Best of Broadwater Award,

and produced, wrote, and directed the one-woman show *Ms. Edwards*. Both shows were nominated for Best Solo Show. In 2023, he wrote and directed two short films, *Do Not Disturb* and *TOBI*, exploring themes of healing, social media, and generational trauma. His stage work includes productions with Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, and Haven Theatre. On screen, he has appeared in *Chicago PD*, *Chicago Fire*, and *Smoketown*. His first feature film, *Wages of Sin* (starring Danny Trejo), premieres in 2024. Byron is passionate about telling honest, culturally grounded stories that resonate with diverse audiences.

MARK MENDELSON (*Set and Lighting Design*)

Mark is an award-winning Los Angeles based Set Designer. Some of Mark's recent designs including premier productions of *Corktown '39*, *Evanston Salt Costs Climbing*, and *can i touch it?* (all for Rogue Machine Theatre); *Kid Gloves* (Village Green Productions); *Sukkot* (The 6th Act); *A Beautiful Lie* (directed and choreographed by Jamal Sims); *Tasty Little Rabbit* (Moving Arts); *I'll Give You My Heart* and *The Civility of Albert Cashier* (Colony); and *Lines In The Dust* (Collaborative Artists' Bloc/ Support Black Theatre). Other designs include *Outside Mullingar* (at The Matrix and The Skylight), *The Wedding Singer* (Colony), as well as projects for Mattel, Disney Imagineering, Seattle Rep, La Mirada Theater, Rubicon Theatre Co, A Noise Within, Pacific Symphony, Bay Area Children's Theatre, Broadway by the Bay, Berkeley Playhouse, Diablo Theatre Co, 42nd Street Moon, and so many more. See more at www.markmdesigns.com

MEGAN TRAPANI (*Prop Design*)

Megan Trapani Diven is over the moon to join this all-star team! Her previous credits include *Adolescent Salvation* (2025) and *Corktown '39* (2025) with Rogue Machine, *The Pillowman* (2024), *California Suite* (2024), *Hedwig & the Angry Inch* (2024) and *It's a Wonderful Life* (2024) with S10 Stage, and *Outside Mullingar* (x2!) with The 6th Act. When she's not wrangling props, she can be found making wreaths, coordinating weddings, and planning elaborately themed dinner parties. Thank you in advance to Robyn and Joey.

CHRISTOPHER MOSCATELLO (*Sound Design*)

Chris is an award-winning sound designer, composer, music editor and music director for theater, TV and film, and he is the Resident Sound Designer at Rogue Machine. TV highlights include *The Walking Dead* (HBO), *Eureka* (SyFy), *Psych* (USA), *Human Target* (Fox), *Caprica* (SyFy), *The Cape* (NBC) and *Trauma* (NBC). He has scored series and specials for National Geographic and The Discovery Channel, as

well as specials and promos for HBO, BBC, Animal Planet, MSNBC, ZDF Germany and The History Channel. Theater highlights include The Kennedy Center, The Smithsonian Institution, The Shakespeare Theatre, Signature Theatre, Roundhouse Theatre, Ensemble Theatre Company, Antaeus, A Noise Within, Skylight Theatre, The Fountain Theatre, Odyssey Theater, The Road Theatre, Pacific Resident Theater, and he served as assistant conductor for the national tour of *The Phantom of the Opera*. An East Coast native, Chris was Associate Artistic Director and Conductor of the Boston Chamber Ensemble and wrote a ballet commissioned by the Kirov Ballet Academy that had its world premiere in Washington, D.C.

RACHEL ANN MANHEIMER (*Production Stage Manager*)

Rachel is a Los Angeles native who has worked as a stage and production manager across the city for more than 20 years. After graduating from CalArts, she's gone on to manage artists and performances in New York City, Paris, Berlin, and Seoul. Her work encompasses world premieres, devised work, contemporary opera, ballet, new musicals, and the classical canon. Some of Rachel's favorite credits include Tim Crouch's *An Oak Tree*, the American Opera Project's *HAGOROMO*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the talented seniors at the Professional Performing Arts High School in NYC. Rachel is proud to be in her 4th season with Rogue Machine in the historic Matrix theatre. Ask them about the ephemeral power of the sense of wonder!

IVAN RIVAS (*Assistant Director*)

Ivan Rivas started his career as an actor at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival where he appeared in *Richard II* and Lorca's *Blood Wedding*. He has worked as an assistant director & teaching artist at Center Theatre Group, The Old Globe, and Pasadena Playhouse. As a director, his work has been seen in NYC and at theaters across L.A. including The Zephyr, The Matrix, The Broadwater, 24th Street Theatre, P.R.T. and the historic Pico House. Favorite past productions include *The Merchant of Venice*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Love's Labours Lost* for Downtown Repertory/Sierra Madre Shakespeare Festival. He is an Ambassador/Director at the new play incubator, PlayGround- L.A., and has been working with them since their inaugural season. He has worked in film & television casting, and as a talent manager at Elkins Entertainment in Beverly Hills. He was previously the Outside Business Representative & Western Auditions Director at Actors' Equity Association, the labor union that represents professional actors and stage managers. He is a proud alum of the USC School of Dramatic Arts and Director's Lab West. Most recently

for Rogue Machine Theatre, he was Associate Producer of the award winning co-production of *Reel to Reel* with HorseChart Theatre. Big thanks to GMo, Ramón and Michelle for all of their continued support.

GRANT GERRARD (*Technical Director*)

Grant is the Technical Director at Rogue Machine Theatre, where he has worked on their production of *Evanston Salt Costs Climbing*, *Bacon*, *Corktown '39*, *Nice Girl*, *Reel to Reel* (co-production with Horsechart Theatre), and *Adolescent Salvation*. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California, where he earned a BA in Theatre Design. Other Technical Director credits include: *Outside Mullingar* (The 6th Act), and *The Antipodes* (Lobby Theatre). Some Master Carpenter credits include *Kill Shelter*, *AllStore*, and *Electric I* (Theatre of NOTE) and *Last Night at Mikell's* (The Robey Theatre Company). In addition, he has worked with various theater groups throughout L.A., such as The Latino Theatre Company, Center Theatre Group, and The Industry. While he primarily works as a scenic carpenter, he sometimes takes up roles as a lighting tech, production manager, and production assistant. He is looking forward to continuing in the role of Technical Director for future productions with Rogue Machine.

GUILLERMO CIENFUEGOS (*Artistic Director*)

Guillermo Cienfuegos serves as Artistic Director at Rogue Machine. Among others, he directed the RMT productions of Will Arbery's *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* and *Evanston Salt Costs Climbing*, Tim Venable's *The Beautiful People* and *Adolescent Salvation*, Neil McGowan's *Disposable Necessities* and Greg Keller's *Dutch Masters*. Other recent credits include: Martyna Majok's *Ironbound*, with Marin Ireland and Jon Bernthal, as the inaugural production of the Ojai Theatre Festival and Shaw's *Misalliance* and Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, as well as the upcoming *Richard III*, at A Noise Within. He won both the Ovation and Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards for Best Director for his production of Shakespeare's *Henry V* at Pacific Resident Theatre. He directed numerous productions at PRT, including Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*, Pinter's *The Homecoming* and *Safe at Home: An Evening with Orson Bean*. Other theatre directing credits include Stephen Adly Guirgis' *Between Riverside and Crazy* at the Fountain Theatre, Juan Alfonso's *Middle of the World* at Boise Contemporary Theatre and RMT, Carlos Zenen-Trujillo's *Christmas Contigo* at Oregon Cabaret Theatre, and Vince Melocchi's *Julia*, both at PRT and at New York's 59E59 theatre, Off-Broadway. Cienfuegos was featured in the 'People to Watch' issue of American Theatre magazine and is a graduate of the American Conservatory Theatre.

JUSTIN OKIN (*Executive Director*)

Justin serves as the Executive Director of Rogue Machine, where he has produced *anthropology*, *Evanston Salt Costs Climbing*, *Bacon*, *On the Other Hand, We're Happy* (LADCC award for Outstanding Production) and *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* (LA Times' "Best theater of 2023"). As an actor, Justin appeared in *Stop Kiss*, *Milk Milk Lemonade*, *Monkey Adored* and *Pocatello*. He served on the Board of Directors at Theatre of NOTE, where he performed in *Entropy* and *Eat the Runt*. With The Road Theater, he co-produced four seasons of the Summer Playwrights Festival and performed in *At the Table*. Additionally, he associate-produced *Tiny Little Town* and performed in *Hot Cat* with Theatre Movement Bazaar. Other acting credits include appearances at Center Theatre Group, Lincoln Center's Directors Lab, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and The Public. He is the founder of Rogue Machine's Playwright's Roundtable.

ATHENA SAXON (*House Manager*)

Athena (she/her) is an actor and producer from the SF Bay Area. After graduating from Chapman University, she worked as a freelance production assistant and coordinator on several network TV shows. In addition to Rogue Machine, Athena has collaborated with numerous L.A. theater companies including CTG, IAMA Theatre, Pacific Resident Theatre, The Vagrancy, Support Black Theatre, Lobby Theatre, The Kirk Douglas and is also a founding producer of her company, Season 10 Stage Productions. Athena is on staff at Rogue Machine and loves her cozy home theatre The Matrix. *anthropology* is her 6th show with RMT and counting!

RAMÓN VALDEZ (*General Manager*)

Ramón is a graduate of USC where he received a BA in Theatre and an MS in Project Management. At Rogue Machine, Ramón has stage managed nearly 30 productions including *Three Views of the Same Object*, *The New Electric Ballroom*, *A Bright New Boise*, *Lost Girls*, *Monkey Adored*, *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, *Penelope*, *A Permanent Image*, *Dutch Masters*, *Les Blancs*, *The Beautiful People* and *Heroes of the Fourth Turning*. Ramón is also on the board of the Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Company.

VICTORIA HOFFMAN (*Resident Casting Director*)

Resident CD at Rogue Machine Theatre. Recent additional credits include *Hungry Ghost* & Roger Q Mason's *Hide and Hide* at the Skylight Theatre; *For the Love of a Glove* at The Carl Sagan & Ann Druyan Theater; *Curious Incident* for Greenway Court; *Judas Kiss* & *A Streetcar Named Desire* for Boston Court; *Kiss of the Spider Woman*

and *Othello* at A Noise Within. Film projects include the AFI Thesis films *Zenaida* and *Fishmonger* (College Television Awards Nominee, CAA Moebius and Slamdance 2025.) Currently Manager of Casting at the AFI Conservatory. Acting credits include *Julius Weezer & Troubies Home Alone-ly* Hearts Club Band for the Troubies, and TV pop ups in *Abbot Elementary* and *The Shrink Next Door*.

www.victoriahoffman.com @VicHoffmanLA

MICHELLE HANZELOVA-BIERBAUER (*Marketing Director*)

Michelle is a visual creative designer. She's found success as a theatre poster designer, having designed hundreds of posters in mostly Los Angeles and New York City. In the last ten years she has stage managed shows, designed projections for multiple theaters (Ovation Best Projections Design 2020 Nominee for *Earthquakes in London*), produced plays, and spent many nights discussing art on the sidewalks of Los Angeles. Among other things she is also an Art Department Coordinator for the prolific designer Arae Webner which has allowed her to work with artists such as Usher, Lizzo, SZA, Olivia Rodrigo, Imagine Dragons and others. The fun never ends in Hollywood. She likes dark dusty theaters, her wife, their boyfriend, one of their two dogs, most of their seven cats and corn. www.michellehanzelova.com

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We never sell or provide your information to any third party and we try to keep it to one newsletter a week during our season. Our newsletter includes updates about our programming, special discounts and also special discounts from our Art Partners such as CTG, The Geffen, and more!



Rant & Rave

Be a part of something true.

This isn't your typical
storytelling night.

It's a rapid-fire series of six gut punches all centered around one subject to form a prismatic look at the human condition that will leave you squirming, laughing, and cheering. Each writer takes the stage with their own personal and societal commentary, protest, or confession often heard for the very first time.

Next Shows:

Monday, Feb 09 2026 at 8PM
Monday, Apr 13 2026 at 8PM

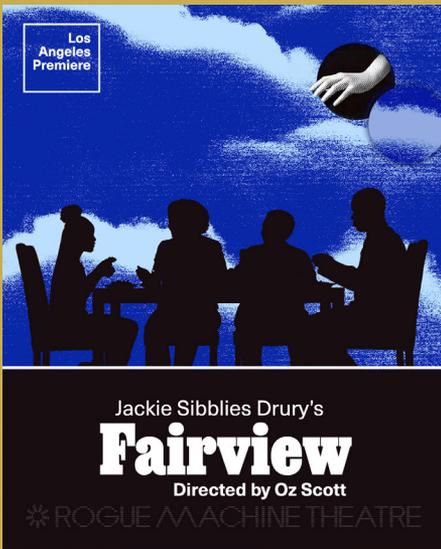


Want to be one of our next writers?

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Under 30? DM us on Instagram
@RantAndRaveMondays for free tickets!



Rogue Machine Presents
Fairview
by Jackie Sibblies Drury
March 14 — April 19, 2026

Winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, *Fairview* will make its Los Angeles Premiere on Rogue Machine's MainStage.

At the Frasier household, preparations for Grandma's birthday party are underway. Beverly is holding on to her sanity

by a thread to make sure this party is perfect, but her sister can't be bothered to help, her husband doesn't seem to listen, her brother is MIA, her daughter is a teenager, and maybe nothing is what it seems in the first place.

"A vehement, searching, fourth-wall-demolishing [play] under a playful surface." — New York Magazine

"Outstanding, frustrating, hilarious, and sui generis play."
—The New Yorker

