

PLAYBILL

*LAKE
GEORGE*

CHAIN THEATRE

MARCH

WEDNESDAY 5

THURSDAY 6

FRIDAY 7

SATURDAY 8

SUNDAY 9

10 SHOWS

WEDNESDAY 12

THURSDAY 13

FRIDAY 14

SATURDAY 15

SUNDAY 16

2025

DIRECTED BY
DAN BLICK

PRODUCED BY
TELOS ENSEMBLE

MISSION STATEMENT

Telos Ensemble was founded by Mitchell Pope and Dan Blick, who met at the William Esper Studio in September 2021. Two years after meeting at the William Esper Studio, in September 2023, and significantly inspired by the direct tutelage of Suzanne Esper, Mitchell and Dan began Telos Ensemble with the first performance of 'Telos', an original play written by Dan Blick and performed at the Chain Theatre. Following a sold-out run, 'Telos' was performed again in May & June 2024 once more at the Chain Theatre, and was followed by Blick's second play 'Lake George', which ran for two weeks in November 2024.

The name for our Ensemble is derived from the Aristotelian concept of 'Telos' often translated as 'end, purpose or goal'. We strongly believe in the role of art, specifically theatre, giving purpose and meaning to mankind, which we strive to achieve through the messages that we advocate in our original works. There is a consistent theme within our work of ethical questions and the moral code that man can choose to live by or ignore, and the consequences of such decisions. We are driven by the aim of leaving our audiences with their own thoughts on how their personal understanding of 'right'

and ‘wrong’ affects their unique everyday lives, through examining content specifically surrounding romantic relationships and family dynamics – two essential and inescapable aspects of humanity. We tend to take on work that examines the ‘darker’ side of human nature, bringing to light truthful aspects of human existence that we may tend to ignore or overlook in our everyday experience: the things that we do not admit to thinking or feeling, even to ourselves. Telos Ensemble does not shy away from taking the intrusive thoughts that we, as humans, experience daily and placing them under the microscope for an audience to see; through examination of the private lives of others, on stage or in film, we hope to inspire audience members to turn an introspective eye onto their own experiences.

WRITER/DIRECTOR STATEMENT

In November's program I wrote in my statement that this was a play revolving around jealousy and approval, or rather a lack of approval. As I returned to the script and began rehearsals with this excellent ensemble of actors, I realised that my understanding of the play as I'd known it was shifting, much like the play itself which transformed - in my eyes - throughout the rehearsal period. The play is undoubtedly a tragedy: one borne of miscommunication and resentment. Jonathan, the aging father, possesses a genuine desire to atone for the errors of his previous ways and subsequently reconnect with his daughters, Alana and Clara. Fuelled by resentment, they have no desire to facilitate such a scenario. The tragedy of 'Lake George' lies not in the individual's inability to see the olive branch before them, but rather their misconception of it as poison ivy. Artistically, I remain fascinated with liminal states and the emotional, physical and spiritual torture that we, as humans, are able to endure over prolonged periods within these states of uncertainty. 'Lake George' allowed me to explore this within different contexts; from a marriage, to sibling dynamics, to the relationship of a child to their parent and vice-versa. In a world fraught with very real dangers, too

often do we find ourselves questioning the true intentions behind every action of others directed towards us; resulting in a paralysis induced by indecision and a fear to truly trust our fellow man, given the evils we have seen them capable of committing in our lifetimes alone.

I hope that you will find moments tonight where you empathize with each and every character; they are all tragic representations of the human condition. As always, I am immensely grateful to Mitchell Pope - the other half of Telos Ensemble - the William Esper Studio, particularly Suzanne Esper, and this excellent cast.

CAST

MITCHELL POPE
AS TOM

TORA HALLSTROM
AS ALANA

SAMANTHA POSITANO
AS CLARA

GIL COLE
AS JONATHAN

SAADIQ VAUGHAN
AS MATTHEW

DIRECTOR/WRITER

DAN
BLICK

@DBLICK7

Dan is a British actor and writer who moved to New York to train under Suzanne Esper, graduating from the William Esper Studio Two Year Programme. Before trading London for NYC, Dan trained under Adrian Noble in Oxford, Philippe Boshier at Drama Lab in London, and was a member of the National Youth Theatre (UK). Dan has a BA from Cambridge University in Theology and Religious Studies and is a published writer. He is the recipient of the prestigious Sheikh Zayed Prize for his research at Cambridge University in Islamic Studies. 'Lake George' is his second play, part of the 'Purgatory' trilogy containing 'Telos', 'Lake George' and 'Paris is Dead'. He co-founded the theatre company 'Telos Ensemble' with Mitchell Pope.

STAGE MANAGER

JEREMY
LYNCH

@JALYNCH412

Originally from Greencastle, Pa, Jeremy is an Emmy nominated morning newscast director for his work at Pittsburgh's NBC affiliate. While there he also co-created the 2023 revival of the station's beloved show, Chiller Theater (1963-1984). Jeremy is a member of the Rising Sun Performance Company's Spring 2025 Ensemble. Film/TV: After Drive (2025), World's Worst Christmas (2024), Danny Will Die Alone (2024)

CAST

MITCHELL POPE

@POPE.MITCHELL

Mitchell is the co-founder of the Telos Ensemble and a graduate of the William Esper Studio Two Year Meisner Program where he trained under Suzanne Esper. He made his theatrical debut as Teddy in “Telos” in 2023. Mitchell reprised the role and produced ‘Telos’ in 2024. He has produced and performed in ‘Lake George’ (2024) and ‘Concupiscence’ in the Chain Theatre One-Act Festival. Before moving to NYC, Mitchell received his BFA in Performing Arts from the Savannah College of Art and Design training under Craig Anton, Joan McMurtrey and Victoria Mack among others. You can learn more at mitchellpope.com

CAST

TORA HALLSTROM

@TORAHALLSTROM

Tora Hallström is a New York-based actress and screenwriter. She made her feature film debut as the young Hilma af Klint in *HILMA* (2022) and will next appear as Elena in CBS Studios' upcoming Icelandic detective drama *The Darkness* (2024). Before transitioning to a creative career, she worked in finance—a world that now serves as inspiration for the comedy series she is currently developing. She trained at the William Esper Studio in NYC.

CAST

SAMANTHA POSITANO

@SAMANTHAPOSITANO

Samantha Positano is a New York Citybased artist and recent graduate of the William Esper Acting Studio under the tutelage of Bruce McCarty. Samantha trained in classical ballet at the Next Generation Ballet in Tampa, Florida and holds a BFA in Dance from Point Park University. Samantha's theater credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* (Beatrice), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Egeus/Flute), *Maricela de la Luz Lights the World*, and *Twelfth Night* (Sebastian). Film/T.V credits include *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *Bad Education*, *No Joke*, and *Jolie Beauty*.

CAST

GIL COLE

Gil Cole: trained at The Juilliard School 1973-1977. Appeared on- and off- Broadway, regional theater. When AIDS hit he changed careers: graduate school in Social Work, psychoanalytic training, community mental health, private practice for 30 years. Retired in 2021 to return to his first love: acting.

CAST

SAADIQ VAUGHAN

@ SAADIQWAZIR

Saad iq is a Brooklyn-based actor, writer, and filmmaker. His most recent stage credits include “Embodied” at New Ohio Theater and “Irregulars” at the Cherry Lane Theater. When he isn’t fueling his creativity, he can be seen teaching Pilates all over New York City. Special thanks to the Telos Ensemble and the entire cast and crew of Lake George!

SPECIAL THANKS TO
SKYLER ADAMS
& JOY CHEN

LIGHTING DESIGNER
DARIEL GARCIA

SET DESIGNER
DAN BLICK &
MITCHELL POPE

SOUND DESIGNER
MITCHELL POPE

STAGE MANAGER
JEREMY LYNCH

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
BRIAN RODRIGUEZ

SYNOPSIS

Lake George provides the backdrop for an untimely family reunion for Jonathan and his two daughters, Alana and Clara. Jonathan's decision to invite his new, and much younger, boyfriend sparks considerable debate, whilst Alana's ongoing marital issues with Tom and Clara's recent release from a rehabilitation center for narcotics serves to heighten the inevitable tension. A story centered around love, class dynamics and conflicting perspectives on life philosophies, Lake George provides a brutal and darkly comedic insight into the world of an upper-class family and their treatment of those around them.