

PLAYBILL

*LAKE
GEORGE*

CHAIN THEATRE

EQUITY APPROVED SHOWCASE

NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY 6

THURSDAY 7

FRIDAY 8

SATURDAY 9

SUNDAY 10

10 SHOWS

WEDNESDAY 13

THURSDAY 14

FRIDAY 15

SATURDAY 16

SUNDAY 17

2024

DIRECTED BY
DAN BLICK

PRODUCED BY
DAN BLICK &
MITCHELL POPE

WRITER / DIRECTOR STATEMENT DAN BLICK

This is a play about attention and jealousy. I feel that today we are surrounded by attention addicts; a lot of which revolves around social media and the growing digital age. It has never been easier to gain recognition and consequently attention, and yet this is something innately human that is within us from the very moment we were born; we crave the attention of a parent or a caregiver, then we crave the attention of classmates, teachers, colleagues, employers, lovers and so on. Far too often we take positive attention to be synonymous with love, and I believe that this can be extremely damaging in our understanding of love. We understand that one's ability to give attention to something or someone is finite, and yet we experience disappointment when they choose to allocate their attention elsewhere, particularly within certain relationships: the parent and child, the lovers, the sibling dynamic - this play explores all three. Artistically, I became fascinated by what happens to relationships if you remove attention and other nurturing qualities, or merely limit them, and I found that whilst certain individuals may cling to stoicism and ultimately flourish in their independence, there is still a bedrock of jealousy or resentments that they cannot escape. No

matter how ‘successful’ they were in surviving without the crucial attention of a partner or caregiver, they still wanted the attention, even if they had learned to live without it. We want approval and we spend lifetimes searching for it; yet it’s only when we free ourselves from external validation that we finally find it within us all along.

Lake George is about this search for approval and the intense jealousy that can accompany this experience. I felt that the family was a perfect microcosm within which to explore this, and I hope that you will find moments tonight where you empathize with each and every character, for I feel that despite their differences 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 wonderful cast.

CAST

MITCHELL POPE
AS TOM

JANELLE YULL*
AS ALANA

OLIVIA HODSON*
AS CLARA

GIL COLE
AS JONATHAN

BARRON LEUNG
AS MATTHEW

*THESE ACTORS' APPEAR COURTESY
OF ACTORS EQUITY ASSOCIATION

DIRECTOR/WRITER

DAN BLICK

@DBLICK7

Dan is a recent graduate of the William Esper Studio where he trained under Suzanne Esper. Before trading London for NYC, Dan trained under Adrian Noble in Oxford, Philippe Boshier at Drama Lab, and was a member of the National Youth Theatre. Dan has a BA (Hons) from Cambridge University in Theology and Religious Studies, and was awarded the Sheikh Zayed prize for his work in Islamic Studies. He co-founded Telos Ensemble in 2023 alongside Mitchell Pope. His short film 'Shades of Vision' is set to make its international debut at film festivals in early 2025.

CAST

MITCHELL POPE

@ POPE.MITCHELL

Mitchell recently graduated from the William Esper Studio Two Year Meisner Training Program where he trained under Suzanne Esper. Before moving to NYC, he studied performing arts at Savannah College Of Art & Design under Craig Anton and Joan McMurtrey. Mitchell was also a member of the 2020 SCAD Performing Arts Showcase. He co-founded Telos Ensemble in 2023 alongside Dan Blick. Lake George is the second production he has produced and acted in with the Telos Ensemble.

CAST

JANELLE
YULL

@JANELLEYULL

Janelle Yull is thrilled to be a part of this new play. Film credits include Greta Gerwig's Little Women, D1C3 & Prophet NYC's Devils, Cement, Villa, These Games We Play, Love Lies (NYC Independent Film Festival winner). Regional: Sunset Boulevard with Tony Winner Alice Ripley (North Shore Music Theater), A Chorus Line (Maggie), Chicago (Liz, u/s Velma), Mamma Mia (Ali), LaChiusa's The Wild Party (Sally). BFA Boston Conservatory. William Esper Studio.

CAST

OLIVIA HODSON

@OLIVIAHODSON

Olivia is a recent graduate of The William Esper Studio Two Year Meisner Program. Before relocating to NYC Olivia worked in regional houses across SoCal including The Old Globe, Cygnet Theatre, The Welk Resorts and Disneyland. Additional training: UCB, The Royal Central School of Speech & Drama (London) and EMAS. She's currently in post-production for her film 'Metamorphosis' premiering 2025 and starring in a developing musical in LA. Grateful for Dan & Mitchell, her family and friends.

CAST

GIL
COLE

@ GILCOLEACTOR

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

BARRON LEUNG

@BARRONLEUNG

Barron Leung is thrilled to be joining this electric ensemble to originate Lake George. An interdisciplinary artist and alumni of the William Esper Studio, his previous theatrical works include: The Seagull (Director; Gaea & Co), Gwangju The Musical (Dimo Theatre) The Glimmer (13th St Repertory). Filming Credits include: Canary (Fortune 8), Blue Bloods (CBS), Meet Me Under The Bleachers.

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.