

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2025

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Arena Stage

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Arena Stage
In A Co-Production with Center Theatre Group

Casting Announced
World Premiere of

FAKE IT UNTIL YOU MAKE IT

A door-slamming, mistaken identity farce

By Larissa FastHorse

Directed by Michael John Garcés

Mark Taper Forum at Center Theatre Group Los Angeles
January 29 – March 9, 2025

**Noah Bean, Eric Stanton Betts, Julie Bowen,
Tonantzin Carmelo, Brandon Delsid, Dakota Ray Hebert**

Kreeger Theater at Arena Stage Washington, DC
April 3 – May 4, 2025 (Press Opening April 10)
**Noah Bean, Eric Stanton Betts, Amy Brenneman,
Tonantzin Carmelo, Brandon Delsid, Dakota Ray Hebert**

(Washington, DC) Casting has been announced for the world premiere of the satirical farce ***Fake It Until You Make It*** by Larissa FastHorse and directed by Michael John Garcés. It is a co-production with Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles and Arena Stage in Washington, DC.

“Arena is delighted to collaborate with Center Theatre Group on this hijinks-filled world-premiere comedy, featuring a fierce and funny ensemble that will rollick audiences from coast to coast,” said Arena Stage Artistic Director **Hana S. Sharif**. “Larissa FastHorse’s writing exposes the fragile yet ruthless underbelly of the nonprofit sector, where coworking and culture clash. In a town that runs on identity politics, Larissa dares to unmask us all.”

The production will run January 29 to March 9, 2025, at the Mark Taper Forum, and will then transfer to the Kreeger Theater at Arena Stage, in Washington, DC, where it will run April 3 to May 4, 2025.

“After re-opening the Mark Taper Forum in the fall, we are excited to partner with our friends at Arena Stage and get back to what the Taper has been celebrated for over the course of its history—and that’s by continuing to be the home for bold world premiere productions,” said **Snehal Desai**, CTG’s Artistic Director. “I am particularly thrilled that LA’s own Larissa FastHorse and her new comedy, *Fake It Until You Make It*, will be making its premiere at CTG this season. We are already laughing out loud in the

rehearsal room with this incredible cast as they bring this fantastic and hilarious play to life, and we can't wait to share it with all of you."

In Larissa FastHorse's bold world-premiere comedy, a collision of friends and foes within the nonprofit sector sets the stage for a whirlwind of competition, chaos, and comedic revelation. Meet Wynona, the Native American proprietor of N.O.B.U.S.H., and River, her white counterpart at Indigenous Nations Soaring. Their escalating rivalry ensnares colleagues and bystanders, leading to the unraveling of secrets that highlight the absurdities of ambition and authenticity. Amidst the laughter, genuine connections form, emphasizing the value of unexpected paths to success. *Fake It Until You Make It* takes an absurd look at what defines who we are and the lengths some people will go through to change it.

The cast at the Mark Taper Forum will be **Noah Bean** (David Mamet's *Romance*), **Eric Stanton Betts** (*Holiday Down Under*), **Julie Bowen** (*Modern Family*) **Tonantzin Carmelo** (NBC *La Brea*), **Brandon Delsid** (Amazon Prime *This is Me ... Now*), and **Dakota Ray Hebert** (Marvel's *Echo*).

The cast at Arena Stage in Washington, DC, will be **Noah Bean** (David Mamet's *Romance*), **Eric Stanton Betts** (*Holiday Down Under*), **Amy Brenneman** (*NYPD Blue*, *Judging Amy*, *Private Practice*, *The Leftovers*), **Tonantzin Carmelo** (NBC *La Brea*), **Brandon Delsid** (Amazon Prime *This is Me ... Now*), and **Dakota Ray Hebert** (Marvel's *Echo*).

Fake It Until You Make It is an Edgerton Foundation Commission that was awarded to Center Theatre Group. The play was originally commissioned by Center Theatre Group.

ARENA STAGE PRODUCTION INFORMATION

FAKE IT UNTIL YOU MAKE IT

By Larissa FastHorse

Directed by Michael John Garcés

A Co-Production with Center Theatre Group

In the Kreeger Theater | April 3 – May 4, 2025

In Larissa FastHorse's uproarious comedy, a collision of friends and foes within the non-profit sector sets the stage for a whirlwind of competition, chaos, and comedic revelation. Meet Wynona, the Native American proprietor of N.O.B.U.S.H., and River, her white counterpart at Indigenous Nations Soaring. Their escalating rivalry ensnares colleagues and bystanders, leading to the unraveling of secrets that highlight the absurdities of ambition and authenticity. Amidst the laughter, genuine connections form, emphasizing the value of unexpected paths to success. *Fake It Until You Make It* is a humorous exploration of ambition, demonstrating that laughter often accompanies the pursuit of goals.

Support for *Fake It Until You Make It* at Arena Stage is provided by **Prof. Daniel W. Hamilton**.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

TICKETS: Tickets start at \$59 plus applicable fees. Ticket prices and availability are subject to change.

Tickets are available at arenastage.org. Tickets may also be purchased through the Sales Office by phone at 202-488-3300, Tuesday-Sunday, 12-8 p.m., or in person at 1101 Sixth Street, SW, D.C., Tuesday-Sunday, 2 hours prior to a performance.

Groups of 10+ may purchase tickets by phone at 202-488-4380.

Arena Stage's many savings programs include "pay your age" tickets for those aged 35 and under; military, first responder, and educator discounts; student discounts; and "Southwest Nights" for those living and working in the District's Southwest neighborhood. To learn more, visit arenastage.org/savings-programs.

PERFORMANCE DATES:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Weekday matinees at 12 p.m. on April 16, 17, and 30

No performance on April 20

Early Curtain: Sunday, May 4 at 6 p.m.

Southwest Nights: Wednesday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 19 at 2 p.m.

Audio-Described Performance: Saturday, April 12 at 2 p.m.

ASL-Interpreted Performance: Saturday, April 26 at 8 p.m.

Mask-Required Performances: Saturday, April 5 at 2 p.m. and Tuesday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Closed Captioning: GalaPro begins Friday, April 11

Post-Show Conversations

Connect with the show beyond the performance at a post-show conversation on April 16, 17, and 30 following the 12 p.m. matinees, April 22 following the 7:30 p.m. performance, and April 24 following the 8 p.m. performance.

For all upcoming Arena Stage programming, visit arenastage.org/season.

BIOGRAPHIES

LARISSA FASTHORSE (Sicangu Lakota Nation) (*Playwright*) is a MacArthur Fellow for theatre and co-founder of Indigenous Direction, the leading consulting company for Indigenous art. Larissa is currently represented across the country with a revised book of the musical *Peter Pan*. She was the first known female Native American playwright on Broadway with *The Thanksgiving Play*, one of the most produced plays in the country. Additional plays include *The Native Nation Trilogy*, *For The People*, and *Fancy Dancer*. Larissa is a professor of practice at Arizona State University.

MICHAEL JOHN GARCÉS (*Director, he/him/his*) is an LA-based director and playwright and a professor of practice at Arizona State University. Recently: productions at The Guthrie Theater, Arizona Theatre Company, Pioneer Theatre Company, and the Geffen Playhouse. Former artistic director of Cornerstone Theater Company, where he directed new plays by many writers including Mark Valdez, Juliette Carrillo, Alison Carey, Lisa Loomer, and three by Larissa FastHorse: *Wicoun*, *Native Nation*, and *Urban Rez*. Recipient of the Doris Duke Artist Award, Princess Grace Statue and SDC President's Award.

NOAH BEAN (*Theo, he/him*) is thrilled to be back at The Taper after performing here in David Mamet's *Romance*. He has performed in many New York and regional theatres; most notably, originating roles in David Henry Hwang's Pulitzer Prize-nominated *Yellowface* at The Public Theater, as well as Jordan Harrison's Pulitzer finalist *Marjorie Prime* at Playwrights Horizons. He has starred in such television

series as the Emmy-nominated *Damages*, *Nikita*, *12 Monkeys*, *The Endgame*, and Amazon's upcoming series *Ballard*.

ERIC STANTON BETTS (*Mark, he/him*) is a mixed BIPOC performer based in Los Angeles. His work expands across commercial, fashion, theatre, and film. He is also a writer having finished his first full length feature film just last summer, a rom-com titled *Holiday Down Under*. Credits: Film; Tyler Perry's *Joy Ridge*; *Birthright: Outlaw*; *Martinez, Margaritas and Murder*, and *Deadly Scholars*. Theatre: *Kinky Boots* at the Hollywood Bowl, *A Family Business*, *Three Tables*, *Kinky Boots International Tour*. Eric is grateful to delve deeper into his indigenous heritage through working with this company. Follow him [@StandsTooTall21](#).

JULIE BOWEN (*River at Center Theatre Group Mark Taper Forum*). A two-time Emmy Award winner for portraying "Claire Dunphy" on *Modern Family*, Julie is thrilled to be making her LA theatre debut. Television includes *Boston Legal* and *Lost*. Julie will soon be seen reviving her role as "Virginia Venet" in *Happy Gilmore 2* with Adam Sandler. Other film roles include starring opposite Melissa McCarthy in *Life of the Party*, and *Horrible Bosses* with Jason Bateman. Julie was most recently seen in *Hysteria!* (Peacock) and continues to produce and develop projects.

AMY BRENNEMAN (*River at Arena Stage Kreeger Theater*) can most recently be seen in *The Old Man* opposite Jeff Bridges and John Lithgow and in *Shining Girls* with Elisabeth Moss. Her large body of film work includes *Casper*, *Fear*, *Daylight*, *Heat*, *Friends and Neighbors*, *The Jane Austen Book Club*, *Peel*, *The Face of Love*, *Words and Pictures*, *Nine Lives*, *Things You Can Tell Just by Looking at Her*, and *Mother and Child*. Amy created, executive produced, and starred in *Judging Amy*, earning two *TV Guide Awards*, three Golden Globe nominations, a Producers Guild nomination, three Emmy nominations, a People's Choice nomination, and a SAG nomination. Amy starred in *The Sound Inside* at Pasadena Playhouse, as well as in the world premiere of the Pulitzer Prize-nominated *Rapture, Blister, Burn* (Playwrights Horizons, Geffen Playhouse) and in the world premiere of *Rules of Seconds* directed by Jo Bonney. Amy was a founding member of the award-winning Cornerstone Theater Company, which specializes in site-specific community-based theater on themes of social justice. Favorite Cornerstone roles include Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Natasha in *Three Sisters*, Clytemnestra in *The Oresteia*, and Solveig in *Peer Gynt*. Other Theater: CSC Rep, Lincoln Center Theater, L.A. Theatre Works, LATC, Williamstown Theatre Festival, En Garde Arts, American Repertory Theater, and Yale Rep.

TONANTZIN CARMELO (*Wynona, she/her*) is a SAG award nominated actress most recently seen as a series regular on *La Brea* (NBC) and recurring roles on *NCIS Origins* (CBS), *The English* (BBC), and the upcoming *Dark Winds* (AMC). She honed her craft in the theatre playing lead roles with Native Voices, Teatro Sinergia, and the DCPA. Her choreography work was featured in the Amazon TV series, *Undone*, and in The Industry opera, *Sweetland*. She's honored to perform on her Tongva ancestral homelands in the great Tovaangar the central village of Yaanga (Downtown Los Angeles). Instagram: [@tonantzincarmelo](#)

BRANDON DELSID (*Krys*) is an actor originally from Fresno, CA. He can be seen starring in Amazon Prime's *This is Me...Now* musical alongside Jennifer Lopez. This spring he'll be guest starring on HBO's *The Rehearsal*. Last year he completed *June and John* with director, Luc Besson (The Fifth Element) and shot Peacock's *The Date Whisperer*. He can be seen in campaigns for Amazon, Cerave, White Claw, HBO, Redfin, and Netflix. Follow [@brandondelsid](#) for more fun.

DAKOTA RAY HEBERT (*Grace, she/her/they/them*) is from Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada, and a proud member of English River First Nation. Dakota does comedy: *Trailer Treasure*, *I'll Give You An Indian Act*, *Just For Laughs*. Dakota does television: *Shelved*, *Marvel's Echo*, *Run the Burbs*. Dakota does movies: *#Vanlife* (post-production), *Run Woman Run*. Dakota has a skin baby (Frankie), two fur babies (Lieutenant Dan & Mr. Bean), countless plant babies, and the world's greatest and funniest sweetheart

(Dylan). Follow this 2S Dene busybody on Facebook and Insta; they're up to their beaded earrings in work they love to share. [@dakota_raymond](#)

Center Theatre Group, one of the nation's preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles' leading not-for-profit theatre company, which, under the leadership of Artistic Director Snehal Desai, Managing Director / CEO Meghan Pressman, and Producing Director Douglas C. Baker, programs the Mark Taper Forum and the Ahmanson Theatre at The Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles, and the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City. Center Theatre Group is one of the country's leading producers of ambitious new works through commissions and world premiere productions and a leader in interactive community engagement and education programs that reach across generations, demographics, and circumstances to serve Los Angeles. Founded in 1967, Center Theatre Group has produced more than 700 productions across its three stages, including such iconic shows as *Zoot Suit*; *Angels in America*; *The Kentucky Cycle*; *Biloxi Blues*; *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*; *Children of a Lesser God*; *Curtains*; *The Drowsy Chaperone*; *9 to 5: The Musical*; and *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*. CenterTheatreGroup.org

Arena Stage. The first racially integrated theater in our nation's capital and a pioneer of the regional theater movement, Arena Stage was founded in 1950 in Washington, D.C. Today under the leadership of Artistic Director Hana S. Sharif and Executive Producer Edgar Dobie, Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theatre is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. Arena Stage produces plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep and dangerous in the American spirit, and present diverse and groundbreaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Consistently contributing to the American theatrical lexicon by commissioning and developing new plays, Arena Stage impacts the lives of over 10,000 students annually through its work in community engagement and serves a diverse annual audience more than 300,000. arenastage.org

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