

**Ensemble Studio Theatre/LA** presents the

## World Premiere of **“Mice”**

Written by Schaeffer Nelson and Directed by Roderick Menzies

Opening at 8pm on Friday, October 6, 2017 with reception to follow

8pm Thursdays - Saturdays, and 4pm Sundays through November 5, 2017

EST/LA is in the Atwater Village Theatre Complex at 3269 Casitas Ave. LA, CA 90039

**Los Angeles, CA** (September 15, 2017) – Ayushi and Grace have just met. Both are pastor’s wives from the Midwest. Both are being held captive, locked in the basement pantry of a serial cannibal. But today, food isn’t the only thing on his mind. If Ayushi and Grace are to survive, they must win a series of mind games with their captor - a man with a peculiar, and frightening, dogma all his own.

*“When I’ve seen women in ministry portrayed —and it’s not often — the portrayals are boring and simple. They’re framed as either stiff-necked killjoys or vessels of grace existing primarily to serve others. I had never, ever seen a theatrical narrative with this type of protagonist who tries to outmaneuver a very violent antagonist. I wondered what it looked like for a woman with that kind of ideologue-grit and buried self-doubt to face off against someone who is confidently, and authentically evil? So, I wrote Mice” - Schaeffer Nelson; Playwright*

Playwright Schaeffer Nelson’s *Kings of Israel* received the **Editor’s Pick, Best Productions** of 2013-14 season, *KC Metropolis* - KC Fringe Festival); *Outspoken KC: Love and Marriage* (GLAMA), and *Box 7* (EST/LA Launchpad Series). His prose has appeared in *Camp Magazine* and *Palaver*, and received readings at *True Story LA*, *Homo-Centric*, *The Writer’s Place* (Kansas City), and the West Hollywood Book Fair. He is a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre LA’s New West Playwrights Unit. He has a BA in Creative Writing from the University of Southern California. He has soft spots for horror and theology; give him a Bible and a copy of *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre* and he’s set for the weekend.

Director Roderick Menzies has helmed more than 60 stage productions including *The Many Mistresses of Martin Luther King*, by Andrew Dolan (**Ovation Nomination for Best New Play**), and three additional world premieres for EST/LA. Menzies is a guest director with The Shakespeare Theatre’s Academy for Classical Acting, in Washington DC, where he has directed *The Duchess of Malfi*, *The Maid’s Tragedy* and *Pericles*. Additional directing credits include **Tom Jacobson’s *Walking To Buchenwald*** for Open Fist Theatre (LA), *Nora*, for Pico Playhouse (LA), *Twelfth Night*, for the Bing Theatre, USC (LA), and more than a dozen solo shows in NY and LA, including the comedy hit *Bitch Trouble*, written and performed by Alice Johnson (LA/NYC). A coach and educator, he currently teaches at AMDA and UCLA.

**CAST:** Kevin Comartin (Mouseman), Sharmila Devar\* (Ayushi), and Heather Robinson (Grace)

**EST/LA** is dedicated to developing and producing new work by established and emerging American playwrights, providing a lifelong artistic home to our membership of theatre professionals and sustaining live theatre – the vital and unique interaction of artist and audience.

**MICE** opens at 8pm on Friday, October 6th and runs at 8pm Thursdays - Saturdays, and at 4pm Sundays through November 5, 2017. Ensemble Studio Theatre/LA is located in the Atwater Village Theatre Complex, 3269 Casitas Ave. LA, CA 90039. Tickets: \$20 online at <https://dime.io/events/mice/10/2017/> (Senior \$17, Student \$15) or at the door: \$25 (Senior \$22, Student \$20). For more information: 818-839-1197.

**Liz Ross** (Producer) is a Co-Artistic Director at Ensemble Studio Theatre/Los Angeles where she is responsible for the launch of the **Ovation Recommended** world premiere of *WET: A DACAmended Journey*, by Alex Alpharoah, developed and produced at EST/LA through the “True Story” program which Liz produces and hosts. Additional producing credits include *LA Fest*; a festival of play readings celebrating the diverse voices of Los Angeles playwriting, *Winterfest*; a 4-week long play reading festival, and EST/LA’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual *Playwrights One Act Festival*, of newly developed plays by EST/LA. As a long-time company member Liz has produced, written and performed in numerous venues in NY and LA including The Blank, New Georges, Circle Repertory.

**CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION:** Run time: approximately 85 minutes

**What:** MICE

**Written by:** Schaeffer Nelson

**Directed by:** Roderick Menzies

**Produced by:** Liz Ross

**Presented by:** Ensemble Studio Theatre/LA

**Where:**

Ensemble Studio Theatre/LA (in Atwater Village Theatre Complex)

3269 Casitas Ave.

Los Angeles, CA 90039

**MAP:**

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Atwater+Village+Theatre/@34.1163388,-118.2519866,15z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0x884dd50594d326e>

**PARKING INFO:**

Free Parking ½ block from theatre on Casitas Avenue next to Momed’s Restaurant

**Website:** <http://www.estlosangeles.org>

**Twitter:** @est\_la

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/estlosangeles/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/EnsembleStudioTheatreLA/>

**When:**

Opening (press reception) at 8pm on Friday, October 6 2017

Schedule: 8pm Thursdays - Saturdays, and at 4pm Sundays

**Closing:** November 5, 2017

**How:** More Information: 818-839-1197 and reservations <https://dime.io/events/mice/10/2017/>

**How Much:** \$20 online at <https://dime.io/events/mice/10/2017/>

(Senior \$17, Student \$15)

At the door: \$25 (Senior \$22, Student \$20)

**Description:** Ayushi and Grace have just met. Both are pastor’s wives from the Midwest. Both are being held captive, locked in the basement pantry of a serial cannibal. But today, food isn’t the only thing on his mind. If Ayushi and Grace are to survive, they must win a series of mind games with their captor - a man with a peculiar, and frightening, dogma all his own.