



DIRECTED BY JEREMY GUSKIN

MARCH 5TH & 6TH @ 7:30PM

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*Los Angeles County High School for the Arts  
Theatre Department presents*

# Murder at the Chili Cook Off

Written By Patrick McDonald

- Act 1
- Cooking With Celebs
- Act 2
- Kevin's Fun Cornbread Presented By Hormel
- Act 3

## CREW

Director..... Jeremy Guskin  
Stage Manager.....Devon Clark  
Additional Material Written by ..... Reva Pau, Elizabeth Leach,  
Evan Klein and Fintan Swift  
Additional Costume Design & Props ..... Mama J

### **Director's Note:**

So... What should I say here? Do I need to explain the show? If you've read the title, I think you've got it. Where the brilliant script came from? I've been a Patrick McDonald fan since I first saw what he could do at UCB. I can certainly mention what's changed. Everyone likes to talk and write about that, apparently: What we've lost, what will never be the same, concerns, limitations, fears. I'd rather not do that, if that's okay.

I'd rather talk briefly about these amazing, dedicated, and talented students. They are all incredible. Every single one has kept me laughing, going so far as to make me forget that we are on zoom and not face-to-face, and for that I'd like to thank them from the bottom of my very soul.

The mantra I try to use for all the work we do for an audience is stolen from a wonderful book *My Life Inside The Shakespeare Cult* and it's very simple, but perfectly phrased, "We can have the party we came here for". It resonated with me immediately. One last huge thank you to the cast and crew for the amazing party we were able to have every, blessed day. Please enjoy the production and thank you all for joining us.

## CAST

GLEN .....Evan Klein  
GLENDAL .....Jaqueline Pomeroy Tso  
GLENDORA .....Gloria Aung  
BURNETT GROGAN .....Olivia Martinez-Prado  
GUNTHER DEAN.....Andrea Tupas  
LAURA ANN WICKER.....Emily Rodriguez  
MARVIN TEAL III .....Carissa Carlberg  
LULU .....Haley Alvarado  
BUG.....Fintan Swift  
SCOOTER.....Aidan Smith  
FERN.....Jacksyn Toppenberg  
WILEY .....Imani Preyor  
MAYOR TONYA THOMAS.....Gabe DiCenzo  
CHARLIE THE CHILI MAN .....Tommy Jacobs  
LAUREL COLDWATER .....Roxy Ogle  
JEREMY RAJ GUSKIN .....Reva Pau  
JEREMEY JINGER GUSKIN.....Elizabeth Leach

## **Character Description:**

### **The Townsfolk:**

GLEN, GLENDA, GLENDORA - The three-headed busy-bodies who are co-co-presidents of the booster club.

BURNETT GROGAN - An honest-to-goodness old-tyme cowhand cliché.

### **The Contestants:**

GUNTHER DEAN - A firefighter who thinks he's super-sexy, but in reality is... not so sexy.

LAURA ANN WICKER - Essential a southern Stepford wife, in every sense of the term.

MARVIN TEAL III - A brainy scientist with a compaction for perfection. Also he's from the big city: Abeline.

LULU & BUG - Two long-time residents of the town. No one knows what they do or exactly what their relationship is.

SCOOTER, FERN, & WILEY - Three mischievous middle-school trouble-makers.

### **The Judges:**

MAYOR TONYA THOMAS - The long-time mayor of Huggle who has as much spirit as hair height.

CHARLIE THE CHILI MAN - Exactly what you'd think the head of a national chili corporation would be.

LAUREL COLDWATER - A vapid, marginally talented, Los Angeles/Hollywood staple.

### **The Directors:**

JEREMY GUSKIN - A typical director-type.

JEREMY GUSKIN - See above description.

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES

**Haley Alvarado (Lulu) Senior, Theatre Department.** Haley has been involved in previous LACHSA shows such as *Halls of Horror*, where she played Carrie, *The Sweet Science of Bruising* as Cavendish, and played Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*.

**Gloria Aung (Glendora) Senior, Theatre Department.** Recently, you may have heard her in one of LACHSA's amazing Radio plays "Agatha Christie/ Poirot" or have seen her perform Anjelah Johnson's comedic "Nail Salon" monologue in the *4th Year Monologue Showcase*. Additionally, she does television work on a three part sitcom called Mr. Iglesias. As a teaching volunteer for Metropolitan Educational Theatre Network, she developed her passion of teaching children Theatre. Currently, she is a unbelievably grateful to be a semifinalist for Spotlight's Acting category this year. She is absolutely ecstatic and blessed that *Murder at the Chili Cook Off* was her final season play to close out her time at LACHSA.

**Carissa Carlberg (Marvin Teal III) Senior, Theatre Department.** She made her debut at six years old as a Bee in *Pinkalicious* and has been in love with performing ever since. She moved out of her parents home in San Luis Obispo to attend LACHSA in Los Angeles when she was 15 and found a love to write and direct. You can often find her writing, acting, and dancing. She also enjoys working out, taking photo and videos of her friends and constantly re-arranging her room. She has dreams of being able to write and act on her own sitcom.

**Tommy Jacobs (Charlie the Chili Man) Senior, Theatre & Music Department.** This is Tommy's first appearance in a season show. He thanks you for coming to the show tonight and hopes you enjoy the performance.



## CAST BIOGRAPHIES

**Evan Klein (Glen) Senior, Theatre Department.** Evan's awards include Spotlight 2020 Music Center Grand Prize Finalist in Acting, National YoungArts Merit winner in Theatre, 2019 and 2021; Spotlight Semifinalist in Acting 2018 & 2019; National Youth Arts Award (2019). He has been involved in many LACHSA productions including Jason in *Sweat*; Moritz in *Spring Awakening*; Pilate in *Jesus Christ Superstar*; Dev in *Stupid F\*\*king Bird*; and Steve in *Dream of the Burning Boy*. He will be appearing in the new feature film, *Strings* directed by Greg-Santizo this Fall.

**Elizabeth Leach (Jeremey Jinger Guskin) Senior, Theatre Department.** This is Lizzie's last season show in the Theatre Department as she is a senior! She has been in other LACHSA productions such as *The Marvel Project*, *The Farnsworth Invention*, and was featured in last year's *3rd Year Project* as Lorin in *Gloria*. She hopes you enjoy the show and her wig!

**Olivia Martinez-Prado (Burnett Grogan) Senior, Theatre Department.** Olivia has been in past season plays at LACHSA, such as the *Marvel Project* and *The Sweet Science of Bruising*, as well as student productions through Fruitcake Theatre Company, such as *The Elephant Man*, *Vital Signs*, and *Stupid F\*\*king Bird*. Olivia has also been camera acting since a young age, with commercial, short film, and feature film credits.

**Roxy Ogle (Laurel Coldwater) Junior, Theatre Department.** Roxy's previous LACHSA shows include *The Farnsworth Invention* (William Crocker), *Speech and Debate* (Diwata), and *The Dining Room* (Peggy). Roxy has had so much fun working on this project and will continue performing until the day she dies. As Laurel Coldwater says, "Live free, die pretty."

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES

**Reva Pau (Jeremy Raj Guskin) Senior, Theatre Department.** This is Reva's third season show! Her work at LACHSA includes the *Marvel One-Acts* and *The Farnsworth Invention*. Reva is very excited for this show and hopes you enjoy it!

**Jackie Pomeroy-Tso (Glenda) Senior, Theatre Department.** Jackie's last season show was *The Farnsworth Invention* where she played Cliff. She can also be heard in LACHSA's Radio Play, *The Adventures of Philip Marlowe: Red Wind*.

**Imani Preyor (Wiley) Senior, Theatre Department.** Recent LACHSA shows include *West Side Story*, 3rd Year Dialect Showcase: *Ruined* (Salima), *The Sweet Science of Bruising* (Anna), *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She has trained at The Theatre School at DePaul University and USC's Summer High School Training Program. When not trying to pursue an acting career in her bedroom she enjoys cloud watching, sudoku, and pretending to know a lot of languages.

**Emily Rodriguez (Laura Ann Wicker) Senior, Theatre Department.** Emily is delighted to be playing Laura Ann in her final season show at LACHSA. She has most recently played Walter Gifford in *The Farnsworth Invention*, Mrs. Van Daan in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Sara in *Stop Kiss*, and is currently assistant directing *Extreme Home Makeover* at Teatro Espejo. Her training includes Yonda Davis Studio and the California State Summer School for the Arts.

**Aidan Smith (Scooter) Junior, Theatre Department.** Aidan's prior LACHSA shows include **The Farnsworth Invention**, *Speech and Debate*, and *The Dining Room*. He has enjoyed every second working on this show and is thrilled to bring Scooter to life.



## CAST BIOGRAPHIES

**Fintan Swift (Bug) Senior, Theatre Department.** Fintan's previous LACHSA shows include Riff in *West Side Story*, *3rd Year Project*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Jesus), *Sweat* (Stan), *Spring Awakening* (Hanschen), *2nd Year Project*, *The Marvel Project* (Peter Parker/Spider-Man), *Once On This Island* (Papa Ge), *1st Year Project: The Grapes of Wrath* (Jim Casy).

**Jacksyn Toppenberg (Fern) Sophomore, Theatre Department.** Jacksyn is excited to be in her first season play at LACHSA! Some past performances include her role as Hannah in *Girl*. She has been acting for 8 years and pursues playwriting, the study of absurdist acting and Meisner technique as well.

**Andrea Tupas (Gunther Dean) Senior, Theatre Department.** Andrea has recently been heard in the Fall Radio Plays. She has also participated in the past LACHSA season shows such as *Sweat* and *Twelfth Night*, plus LACHSA musicals, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *West Side Story*.

**Devon Clark (Stage Manager) Senior, Theatre & Music Department.** Devon is thrilled to be working her eleventh production as a LACHSA technical theatre student. As a technical intern, she has had the pleasure of working on past shows including *Third Year Project* (2020 and 2021), *The Farnsworth Invention*, *West Side Story*, and *Fall Season Radio Plays*.

## **A SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Lois Hunter  
Patrick McDonald  
Grant Gorrell  
Ilana Guskin  
Maura Smith  
Kate Leach  
Lorelei McCollough  
LACHSA Administration  
The LACHSA Foundation  
The Theatre Faculty  
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# MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE UPCOMING THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES

*The Flores Exhibit*

March 20th, 2021 at 10:00 AM

*Second Year Project*

March 26th, 2021 at 7:30 PM

Spring Season Play - *The Bald Soprano*

April 9th, 2021 at 7:30 PM

*First Year Project*

April 30th, 2021 at 7:30 PM

4th Year Company - One Acts

May 7th, 2021 at 7:30 PM

*Paying It Foward* - LACHSA Musical Theatre

May 21st at 7:30 PM



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The non-profit LACHSA Foundation ensures that the most remarkable student artists in LA County are able to engage in a transformative conservatory incubator, regardless of their backgrounds. Each year, LACHSA Foundation works to fund the actual costs of the arts curriculum and programs by cultivating relationships with a broad base of donors who recognize how critical it is to support young artists destined to change the world.

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