

**Electric Footlights** presents the World Premiere of  
**PLEASE DON'T ASK ABOUT BECKET**

Written by **Wendy Graf**

Directed by **Kiff Scholl**<sup>+</sup>

**STARRING**

Hunter Garner, Rob Nagle\*, Deborah Puette\*, Rachel Seifert\*<sup>\*</sup>

Executive Producer

**Lisa Brenner,  
Electric Footlights**

Producer

**Racquel Lehrman,  
Theatre Planners**

Associate Producer

**Victoria Watson,  
Theatre Planners**

Associate Producer

**Susan K. Coulter,  
Electric Footlights**

Set Designer

**Evan A. Bartoletti**

Lighting Designer

**Kelley Finn**

Sound Designer

**Cricket S. Myers**

Costume Designer

**Wendell C.  
Carmichael**

Graphic Designer

**AFK Design**

Props Designer

**Bonnie Bailey-Reed**

Asst. Graphic  
Designer

**Olivia Weissblum**

Press Photographer

**Ed Krieger**

Stage Manager

**Kevin Tamay**

Production Stage Manager

**Erica Lawrence**

Publicist

**Lucy Pollak**

\*Denotes member, Actors Equity Association

<sup>+</sup> Denotes member, Society of Directors and Choreographers



## PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

*Please Don't Ask About Becket* was inspired in part by a story someone told me. He was at dinner with a group of friends he had known for at least fifteen years when he happened to mention that he was a twin. As he is a great joker and storyteller, at first his friends didn't believe him. "You're lying. That can't be. We've known you for years and never heard about you having a twin. Where is he? Who is he? Why didn't you ever tell us about him? What happened to him?" My friend explained briefly that he had been estranged from his twin for years. That it was just too hard to get into.

In *Please Don't Ask About Becket* I write of themes I return to again and again: family, identity, home. In much of my recent work, these themes have played out against a backdrop of the social, political and religious landscape of our times. In *Becket*, the heart of the story is a young woman's journey to self-awareness as an individual, separate from her twin and from the rest of her family. A family nurtured on hope, trying to do their best. Seen through the lens of upper middle class privilege, it is also the story of a family built around one member - Emily's twin brother, Becket - and how he affects each of them, both uniting and dividing them as they struggle to reconcile their relationships.

In Robert Anderson's beautiful play, *I Never Sang For My Father*, the son, Gene, says at the end of the play, "Death ends a life, but it does not end a relationship, which struggles on in the survivor's mind... towards some resolution, which it never finds." I kept coming back to this quote during the writing and development of *Please Don't Ask About Becket*.

I am always asked "What do you want the audience to take away from your play?" I never presume to offer answers, only questions. I have no agenda for what I want the audience to take away other than to see the truth of human behavior and something of their own humanity. Perhaps you will hear echoes of your own family in the Diamond family. Perhaps you have a sister, a brother, a child like Becket. Perhaps the difficult job of child rearing and the choices the Diamond parents make will resonate with you and bring you greater understanding of the choices your own parents, or you, have made.

I invite you along on the journey. Welcome and enjoy the show.

- Wendy Graf

## CAST

Hunter Garner.....Becket  
Rob Nagle\* .....Rob  
Deborah Puette\* .....Grace  
Rachel Seiferth\* .....Emily

**Setting: Mostly Los Angeles**

**The Time: 1970s through the present.**

This performance will not have an intermission.

There is no recording or photography allowed during the performance.

## CAST BIOS



**HUNTER GARNER (Becket)** "Please Don't Ask About Becket" will be Hunter Garner's LA theater debut. Hunter's tv and film credits include; a recurring role on Alan Ball's Cinemax series "BANSHEE," a supporting role in Lifetime's "GONE MISSING," a supporting role in Lionsgate's thriller "The Final," and a multiple character series regular role on the sketch comedy webseries, "Laura." Hunter has also been making a name for himself in the festival scene. In the biopic

"Chew" Hunter plays Xander Mozejewski, a budding photographer whose life was changed after a motorcycle accident left him paraplegic. Most recently he played Gaz in Claire Fowlers short, "Noodles - a love story in reverse," which premiered at the 2016 Nantucket Film Festival.

**ROB NAGLE\* (Rob)** Rob is a proud member of the Antaeus Theatre Company and the Troubadour Theater Company. Recent credits include the world premieres of Meghan Brown's *The Kill-or-Dies* (with Electric Footlights and Moving Arts), Melissa Ross' *Of Good Stock* and Samuel D. Hunter's *Rest* (both at South Coast Repertory), as well as James Still's *Appoggiatura* at Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Also, Samuel D. Hunter's *Pocatello* at Rogue Machine, Itamar Moses' *Completeness* at Vs. Theatre Company, and *James Joyce's The Dead* at



Open Fist Theatre Company. Other theaters include Portland Center Stage, Mark Taper Forum, Old Globe Theatre, Centerstage, San Jose Repertory and Shakespeare Theatre Company. Film: *Mother's Day*, *Boost*, *Fishing Naked*, *New Year's Eve*, *Life As We Know It*, *The Soloist*, *Fun with Dick and Jane*, *Cellular* and *American Wedding*. Television: recurring roles on *Eli Stone*, *Lincoln Heights* and *Dawson's Creek*, as well as guest appearances on *The Librarians*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *CSI*, *Criminal Minds*, *Castle*, *Major Crimes*, *NCIS*, *Mad Men*, *Cold Case*, *Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip*, *Without a Trace*, *Everwood*, *The Guardian* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Training: Northwestern University. Wife: Heather Allyn. Pug: Roosevelt. Geek: www.robnaple.com Twitter: @nagdoggie

**DEBORAH PUETTE\* (Grace)** Selected Los Angeles/ Regional: *Cloud 9*, Antaeus Co.; *American Falls* and *Ghostlight*, Echo Theater; *Rabbit Hole*, La Mirada; *Other Desert Cities*, *The Christians*, Mark Taper Forum; *Facing Our Truth*, Kirk Douglas Theater; *The Fall to Earth* and *A Delicate Balance* (Stage Raw nomination), Odyssey; *Creation*, Theatre @ Boston Court; *The Eccentricities of a Nightingale*, A Noise Within; *Caught*, Zephyr Theatre; *Tryst* (Ovation, LADCC, Garland nominations, LA Weekly Award, Lead Actress), *Black Dahlia*; *Brownstone*, Laguna Playhouse; *Pera Palas*, Theatre @Boston Court/Antaeus Company (LADCC and Garland Awards, Ovation Nomination, Ensemble); *Stop Kiss*, Rogue Machine. Chicago: Originated lead in Pulitzer Prize-nominated *The Glory of Living*, Circle Theatre (debut, Joseph Jefferson Citation). Selected television: recurring on *Revolution*, *Extant*, *Lopez*, *True Blood*, *Rake*, *The Office*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Parks and Recreation*. Selected film: Sam Raimi's *Oz: The Great and Powerful*, Bill Viola's *Mary*. Ms. Puette wrote, produced and stars in the short film *Cash for Gold* which now lives on Hulu thanks to NBCUniversal. www.deborahpuette.blogspot.com



**RACHEL SEIFERTH\* (Emily)** After a brief stint in NYC, Rachel is thrilled to be back onstage in LA and working with such lovely and talented people. Theatre credits include: NY: *Blood Moon*; LA: Kingsmen Shakespeare Company's productions of *Measure for Measure*, *Richard III*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*; Other favorite stage roles have included Helen Keller in *The Miracle Worker*, Amanda in *Moon Over the Brewery*, and Lisa in *David & Lisa*. On film she can be seen opposite Luke Wilson in "Henry Poole is Here." Additional film/ TV credits include: "California Scheming" (with Gia Mantegna and Spencer Daniels), "Shooting April," "Big Game," and "Heartland." In her spare time, Rachel enjoys 19th century cooking & baking, painting, baseball, playing guitar, smelling old books and exploring the many mysteries of life. Thanks to her friends and family for their endless support!

# PRODUCTION TEAM

**WENDY GRAF (Playwright)** Wendy Graf is an award winning playwright whose plays have been produced throughout the country. Recent plays include: ALL AMERICAN GIRL (Stage Raw Recommended Top Ten/2015 nom Playwriting and Solo performance; LA Times Pick of the Week; LA Weekly "GO!" StageSceneLA 2015 Outstanding Solo Performance Production; Bitter Lemons 2015 Ten Best); CLOSELY RELATED KEYS (dir by Shirley Jo Finney; NAACP win/nominations); NO WORD IN GUYANESE FOR ME (2012 GLAAD Award Outstanding L.A. Theater); BEHIND THE GATES; LESSONS (LA production directed by Gordon Davidson); LEIPZIG (LADCC nomination; Garland award/Playwriting; Dorothy Silver finalist); THE BOOK OF ESTHER (San Fernando Valley Artistic Directors nominations including Best Play; ASK Theater Projects Grant Award); BETHANY/BAKOL (Attic Theater One Act Winner, produced September 2009 and her newest, PLEASE DON'T ASK ABOUT BECKET, opening 2016. Recent award winning short plays: SOPHIE/ALEXANDER/LISBOA; ASHES TO ASHES; A HOLLYWOOD FABLE; LESTER AND SCHLOSS; REPORTS OF MY DEATH HAVE BEEN GREATLY EXAGGERATED; A SHONDA; RED AND BLUE.

**KIFF SCHOLL\* (Director)** Kiff is delighted and honored to have been given the chance to direct this beautiful script. Recent productions include *Dinner at Home Between Deaths*, *Weapons* and *Moon Over Buffalo*, for which he was nominated for a 2014 BroadwayWorld award. Other critically acclaimed productions include *La Bête* and the world premieres of *A Mulholland Christmas Carol*; *Middle Savage*; *Act a Lady*; and *Don Giovanni Tonight*, *Don Carlo Tomorrow* at Sacred Fools, about which the LA Times wrote "Director Kiff Scholl has few peers at keeping us intrigued." His shows have also won 7 *Back Stage* Garland awards, 5 *LA Weekly* awards, a GLAAD nomination and an Ovation award. Scholl was listed as "one of LA's emerging and accomplished stage directors" by the *LA Weekly*. Some other favorites include Theatre Planners' *The Something-Nothing*, *Sona Tera Roman Hess*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Our House*, & *All My Sons*, as well as *The Poseidon Adventure-The Musical!* and *Kill Me, Deadly*, *The Fan Maroo* and *Shake* at Theatre of NOTE. An award-winning filmmaker, his feature *Scream of the Bikini* won numerous awards, including a Maverick Movie Award for Best Director, and is now available on Amazon (and in Japan, where it's known as *Spy Mission*). Also, look for his film, *11/11/11* on Netflix. As an actor, Kiff has been in lots of commercials, as well as appearing on *Criminal Minds*, *Reno 911!*, *Untold Stories of the ER*, *Girls Will Be Girls 2012* and last year starred on the hilarious, new CN series, *Be Cool, Scooby Doo*. Kiff's latest film, *Surprise*, will premiere at RAFF in DC in Oct, and the election-centric, political satire web-series he co-wrote and directed *Medicare Mermaids* can be found at [www.MedicareMermaids.com](http://www.MedicareMermaids.com). Proud member of SAG/AFTRA & SDC.

**LISA BRENNER (Executive Producer)** Lisa created Electric Footlights, theatrical division of Electric Entertainment, to find new work that inspires, enlightens and sometimes, if she's lucky, make us laugh. Previous productions include *Trigger* by Obie award winning playwright Kyle Jarrow at the Blank Theatre and *The Kill-or-Dies* by Ovation award winning playwright Meghan Brown at the McCadden Place Theatre. Best known for her roles as a film and television actress, such as Anne Howard in *The Patriot*, Lisa's greatest role is being mother to two amazing girls, Hannah and Penny. She dedicates this production to her husband, best friend and soulmate Dean Devlin.

**RACQUEL LEHRMAN, THEATRE PLANNERS (Producer)** Racquel is the founder and managing director of Theatre Planners, her own theatre production firm which has been serving the Los Angeles theatre scene for almost ten years. She graduated from NYU-Tisch School of the Arts and lived in NY for many years producing theatre. Theatre Planners has since developed into a very busy and successful outlet for actors, writers, producers and theatre companies. Doing everything from producing, consulting, marketing and more. Racquel loves to make productions a reality and help to keep the theatre scene in LA alive and strong. Racquel is also the owner of the LOUNGE THEATRES in Hollywood on Theatre Row. To learn more about Racquel and Theatre Planners, go to [www.theatreplanners.com](http://www.theatreplanners.com)

**VICTORIA WATSON, THEATRE PLANNERS (Associate Producer)** Victoria joined Theatre Planners after a successful career in large theater and tours. She was previously Operations Manager and Associate Producer at Pasadena Playhouse and has worked with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Pasadena Symphony & Pops among others. A performer from an early age, Victoria turned to production at Tulane University, and brings that merger of artist and business to all of her producing work. To learn more about Victoria and Theatre Planners, please go to [www.theatreplanners.com](http://www.theatreplanners.com).

**SUSAN K. COULTER, ELECTRIC FOOTLIGHTS (Associate Producer)** Some credits include *Stand-Off @ HWY #37*, *The Frybread Queen*, *Walking on Turtle Island*, and *Ghostlands of an Urban NDN* at Native Voices; *The Fix* at ICT; and *Titus Redux* with Circus Theatricals/Not Man Apart, amongst others at Theatre @ Boston Court, A Noise Within, Electric Footlights, Red Dog Squadron, the Black Dahlia, and most recently with The Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre and Red Compass Productions. As a production manager, she has worked with Furious Theater Company with *No Good Deed*, *Gidion's Knot*, and *Foxfinder*. This is Susan's third foray with Lisa and Electric Footlights, including Kyle Jarrow's *Trigger* and Meghan Brown's *The Kill-Or-Dies*, with hopefully more to come! BA, UMKC. MFA, UC-Irvine.

**EVAN A. BARTOLETTI (Set Designer)** Designer Evan A. Bartoletti's award-winning scenic designs are created for the stage, screen, opera, and dance. He offers up a unique style that enhances visual storytelling and enriches the audience's imaginings. His background in fine art, as well as experience as a founding member and production designer for theatre fofo, established his skill set based in creative concepts and collaboration. Bartoletti's projects range from world premieres of *Dinner at Home Between Deaths* (Odyssey Theatre) and *The Engine of Our Ruin* (Victory Theatre) to the West Coast premiere of *Enter Laughing* at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. He also designed productions of musicals *Dreamgirls* and *Chicago* at North Shore Music Theatre in Boston. As a guest designer, he worked on productions of *Amadeus*, *South Pacific*, *Les Misérables*, and *Rent* for the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Hollywood Bowl. He is currently working with Voices Carry, Inc. on the innovative multidisciplinary dance performance *Strings Attached*. Bartoletti has received design awards from LA Weekly, Drama-Logue, Backstage West, and the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle. He has a BFA in Fine Art from UCLA. He and partner Lisa D. Lechuga comprise Lechetti Art & Design.

**KELLEY FINN (Lighting Designer)** MFA, SUNY Purchase. Design credits include La Tragedie de Carmen, HMS Pinafore (Janiec Opera Company), West Side Story (Taylor Performing Arts Center), A Chorus Line (Music Theatre Riverside), and The Diary of Anne Frank (Calabasas Performing Arts Center). Assistant design credits include the NYC Marathon Opening Ceremonies, the Dramatist's Guild Fund Gala, NHL All Star Weekend 2015, and Macy's XLVIII Superbowl Kickoff Concert.

**CRICKET S. MYERS (Sound Design)** On Broadway, Cricket earned a Tony Nomination and a Drama Desk Award for her design of *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*. Off Broadway designs include *The Marvelous Wonderettes*. She has also designed regionally at The Geffen Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, The Ahmanson, The Mark Taper Forum, Berkley Rep, Arena Stage, South Coast Rep, The Kirk Douglas Theater, and the Pasadena Playhouse. Other selected L.A. designs include NoHo Arts Center, Ghost Road Theater Company, The Celebration Theater, Anteaos Theater Company and Circle X. She has earned 18 Ovation Nominations, as well as winning The Kinetic Award for Outstanding Achievements in Theatrical Design, an LADCC and a Garland Award. [www.cricketsmyers.com](http://www.cricketsmyers.com)

**WENDELL C. CARMICHAEL (Costume Designer)** Mr. Carmichael has worked in the Theatre for over three decades most recently for Actors Co-Op, Azusa Pacific University, The Complex Theatre, The Grove Theatre Center, Zephyr Theatre and TheGarage. Currently the production of Recorded in Hollywood at the Kirk Douglas Theatre. Carmichael is the In House Designer and Wardrobe Supervisor for the Ebony Repertory Theater

and wardrobe staff at LA Opera. Carmichael is a 2015 NAACP Theatre Award Winner and a 2014 Ovation nominee for his work. In addition Wendell has several Television and Film credits. Special thanks too Adleane Hunter and Mylette Nora, who have embraced my love and passion for the theatre. I am excited to be apart of the World Premiere of "Please Don't Ask About Becket."

**BONNIE BAILEY-REED (Props Designer):** Bonnie has been a professional actress for over 40 years, but in her spare time her hobby has always been Thrift Store shopping! So, becoming a Property Mistress as her 'survival job' was a natural transition! Bonnie's avocation of Property Mistress has included productions of: *BLUEPRINT FOR PARADISE* - now running at The Hudson Theatre, Hollywood; *WEAPONS* - The Lounge Theatre, Hollywood; *THE ANDERSONVILLE TRIAL* - The Grove Theatre, Burbank. *DRIVING MISS DAISY*-- Innovation Theatre in Bend, OR; *INHERIT THE WIND* - The Grove Theatre, Burbank; *LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT* - Actors Co-op, Hollywood; *THE DYING GAUL* - The Elephant Space, Hollywood. She and her husband, Gary Lee Reed who is also an Actor, Director and Set Designer have had the pleasure of working as a team on several projects. Bonnie is excited about this project and grateful to Theatre Planners, Racquel Lehrman and Victoria Watson for another opportunity to work along side them!

## SPECIAL THANKS

Pacific Resident Theater and the PRT Writers Group and Marilyn Fox, EST-LA Playwrights Unit, David Gautreaux, Fred Sanders, and all the wonderful actors who have participated in developmental readings of *Please Don't Ask About Becket*, Ken Levine, Richard Martin Hirsch, Jerry Kaplan

*Please Don't Ask About Becket* was first written and developed in the Pacific Resident Theater's Writers Group and was part of 2015 Fall Fruit Playwrights Reading Festival. Developmental readings have also taken place in the EST-LA Playwrights Unit.