

LAST CALL THEATRE

DEBATE NIGHT

AN IMMERSIVE POLITICAL SATIRE

NOVEMBER 3-21, 2026

GEEKY TEAS & GAMES



Director’s Note

Like many people, I've been closely following politics since I was able to vote in my first election. That year just happened to be 2016. From what I was able to surmise, that election was a pretty weird one. However, as I kept paying attention, it seemed to me that each election every two years after that was weirder and weirder than the last. What I observed had led me to the only possible conclusion: politics in America is a complete joke. Not a joke in the sense that I wanted to give up and stop paying attention, politics in America is a joke that I can't stop paying attention to.

From political gaffes, to scandals, to things that should be scandals (but aren't), we have all been completely overwhelmed by absolute insanity being beamed straight into our brains 24/7. Something that would have been a political earthquake 20 years ago is now barely a blip on the radar. It also appears that the very people who have made careers off of telling us what's going on in politics are stuck wish-casting to go back in time 20 years to a more "respectable" era of politics (that may or may not have actually ever existed) as opposed to stepping up to meet the moment we're in now.

That's why I devised *Debate Night*. I've had the pleasure of working with Last Call Theatre in various capacities from actor, to assistant director, to ticket-taker and what I love about this form of immersive-interactive theatre is that it allows the audience to bring their own point-of-view to make an impression on the show. Every show is different because the you, the audience, drives the decisions of the characters from your own perspective and worldview. When a dilemma or quandary comes up, it all comes down to using your values to decide the best course of action. When our leaders make decisions on our behalf, we have a right to wonder how they came to hold the the values that they lead with. My sincere hope for *Debate Night* is that this show makes us stop and think about our own values and the values we should expect from our leaders.

–Alex Borja, Creative Lead & Director

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Adrián Genesius Barrón (Joaquín Hidalgo "The Reporter") (he/him) makes his Last Call debut as Joaquín Hidalgo in *Debate Night*. He has had the honor and privilege to work with Alex, Michael, and the whole of the cast and crew to tell this story magnificently to the audience. He hopes to add his experience, Mexican heritage, and his own truth to the work and do as Shakespeare commands: "Suit the action to the word, the word to the action..." Mil gracias a mí familia. Follow him on IG @adrian_barron6298 and @oberonislsc to keep up to date on his upcoming theatrical acting and directoral projects.



Michu Cure (Victoria Lemaitre "The Policy Director") is a Colombian actress and filmmaker based in Los Angeles and is so happy to be back with Last Call Theater for her third show. This company has become such a special part of her life, and *Debate Night* has given her the chance to play someone very different from herself, which has been both a challenge and so much fun. She can't wait for you to meet this character and see another side of her. Thank you for being here, supporting live theater, and sharing this night with us. We're so excited to share it with you! @michucg



Envy! (Persephone "Sephie" Screeton "The Press Secretary") is an LA-based actor and writer originally from sunny Oceanside, CA. As of 2023, they hold a BFA in acting from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts (AMDA). Represented by Jenny Stricklin Talent Agency for commercial and print, they previously appeared in Last Call Theatre's *Reforged* as the demanding 'Mother Superior'. Most recently, they appeared in CHWProductions' *A Midsummer Night's Dream in 60 Minutes* and voice acted in the mini-series *Anomolium*. Envy's other specialties include fiber arts and clowning. They have also been seen badly ice skating in Burbank, but vow to only get better with time.



Danny Herman (Charlie Goodfellow "The Speechwriter") is a classically trained menace and wanted actor based out of Michael DiNardo's townhouse in Van Nuys California. They are both overwhelmed and overjoyed to be working with Last Call once again to tell a story about a gay person in crisis. Prior works include the narrative team for Last Call's *Love Game* and portraying Mercutio in Everfound Arts' *Romeo and Juliet*. Many thanks to the team for their faith, patience,and collaboration, enjoy the show! You're the protagonist! Follow @dannyboyherman for more of whatever this all is.



Cameron Lopez (Jasper Lee Tea Wells "The Surrogate") a Kansas born- LA-based actor, Cameron Lopez is honored to be apart of Debate Night. A graduate of the Savannah College of Art and Design MFA Program. Cameron has performed in repertory theaters all across the United States. Some past performances include, appearing in the world premiere of *A Great Wilderness* by drama desk award winner, Samuel D. Hunter at the William Inge Theater Festival, *Castle in the Sky* for the Under the Rose Production Company, *Hamlet* with the Savannah Shakespeare Company, and most recently in *Storyctomy* at the Crow Comedy Club for the Los Angeles Pride Festival of 2026.

The Cast



Elli Luke (Rochelle Wallace "The Campaign Manager") is an actor, writer, and improviser based in Los Angeles, who is actually nice in real life (she promises)! In addition to theatrical training, she's graduated from Upright Citizen Brigade's core curriculum, and has performed across SoCal at both UCB stages, the Broadwater Theatre, Long Beach Playhouse, etc. You might have seen her at the Joy Who Lived Festival, scaring you every year at *Delusion*, in some bloody short films, or striking a stunning resemblance to the wrestler, The Black Dahlia. She thanks Last Call Theatre and thanks the BJs! You can keep up with her upcoming work: @lil.elli.luke



Rebecca Oca-Nussbaum (Melanie Schubert "The Senator") is a Los Angeles-native performer, teaching artist, and arts administrator who's thrilled to be back at Last Call Theatre! Her past credits include Last Call Theatre's own *Love Game* (2025), Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum's Much Ado About Nothing (2025), and the World Premiere of Bernardo Cubría's *The Hispanic Latino/Latina/Latinx/Latine Vote* (2024). Currently studying Theatre Arts at Cal State Northridge, she could recently be seen as Olivia in *Twelfth Night* (2026). When she's not onstage, Rebecca can be found in the classroom passing on her love for storytelling and live performance. Instagram, anyone? @becnussbaum



Bryan Siu (Lawrence Lim "The Senator's Spouse") is an eccentric multi-faceted creative and storyteller who's passionate about discovering stories that empower voices of the unheard. Past credits include *Escape! The Great Specific Garbage Patch* (Geo), *The Liminary* (Docent, Activist U/S), *Jack and the Beanstalk* (Puck), and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Rocky). They are grateful for the opportunity to return to Last Call with a political comedy satire and hope the audience enjoy the show, have the biggest laugh, and have their mind off the midterm elections.



Grace "West" Lyde (Swing for "The Policy Director" *11/14* / "The Surrogate") is a multi-hyphenate artist convinced that the world is made of magic. An alum of Scripps College and CalArts, this is their debut with Last Call Theatre. When they're not on stage—you can find her hiding under a desk scribbling in a notebook, voice acting, or finding another way to play make believe. Their written work can be found in *Strip Mall Magazine*, *Writer's Hour Magazine*, and several WriteGirl anthologies.



Aleen Vartivarian (Swing for "The Press Secretary" *11/14* / "The Campaign Manager" *11/19*) is a budding actor and botanist from Los Angeles. She started her journey in the world of interactive/immersive theater as a swing and assistant stage manager in Last Call Theatre's 2025 production of *The Butterfly Effect*. She later went on to stage manage for LCT's 2026 production of *The Liminary*. Now she is honored to be a part of the hilariously absurd world of *Debate Night* with talented friends, old and new. Aleen has continued to fuel her passion for storytelling and all the different roles necessary to bring these stories to life. She'd also like to thank her roommates Julia and Miki for all their support.

The Production/Creative Team

Alex Borja (Director/Creative Lead) is grateful to be working with Last Call Theatre in the capacity of director and creative lead for the first time. He is an actor-writer and a graduate of AMDA College. He assistant directed Last Call's *The Liminary* (2026) as well as *Worlds Collide* (2025). Originally from the Bay Area, Alex has performed for the stage and screen for over a decade in roles such as Benny in the upcoming feature film *Unincorporated*, Elliot in Last Call Theatre's *Love Game*, and Michael in the online short *Being Bob Hope* (which he also wrote and directed). He would like to thank his supportive family, his roommate Vivian, and his wonderful boyfriend Jesse. @AxBorja

Michael DiNardo (Assistant Director & Producer) (he/him) is a Bay Area native, but is glad to have Last Call as his theatrical home for the past four years. He is very excited to be helping put together *Debate Night* as an Associate Show, something he did himself a couple years ago with *Love Game* (where the Creative Lead Alex Borja actually first got involved with Last Call!) Big thanks to his girlfriend (and Company Director) Ashley Busenlener, roommate (and cast member) Danny Herman, and all other friends and family in the LA area that make up his home away from home.

Dhara Shah (Stage Manager) is a director, producer, and multimedia artist, currently based in LA. She graduated from the University of Washington School of Drama with a BA in theatre and digital art and experimental media. Some of her recent theatre and film credits include Reduction, The Glittering Gate, Do Not Disturb, and More of the Same. In her free time, Dhara enjoys going on concerningly long walks and working on her long-term mission of finding the best bagel shop in LA! She would like to thank Last Call and the entire Debate Night team for having her on this wonderful project.

Jadyn Iinuma (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working on her second show with Last Call Theatre! While this is her first stage management position, she has previously assistant directed Last Call Theatre's *The Butterfly Effect* and has written and directed several student plays while studying theatre at Pomona College including her original immersive show, *The Blood of Mages*. Sending a huge thank you to this wonderful cast and crew and her amazing friends and family.

Natalia Rumiantseva (Costume Designer) is a Los Angeles–based costume designer and theatre artist originally from Moscow, Russia. She studied Fashion Design at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York and has worked across theatre, film, television, and live entertainment. Natalia co-created the original musical MILCH, serving as producer, co-writer, co-director, and costume designer for its 2026 Hollywood Fringe Festival premiere. Her costume design credits include Black Coffee and The Wizard’s Workshop at Culver City Public Theater. She has worked on JStage productions including The Sound of Music and Beauty and the Beast, and trained in theatrical costume construction with Eric Winterling.

The Production/Creative Team

Tyler Neufeld (Scenic Designer) (he/him) is a professional scenic artist, playwright, and immersive experience designer. He is a 2025 graduate of the UCLA School of Theater. He is the executive director of the escape room and immersive theater org, Norm Escapes, and seeks to empower players through non-traditional puzzle adventures often involving puppets and live performance. His work revolves around exploration of queer identity, climate justice, and human relationships to technology.

Nikki Carnarius (Props Master) is a visual and performing artist living in Los Angeles, CA. She has performed at the Bombay Beach Biennale, the Lyric Hyperion, and recently created and directed a critically acclaimed immersive experience at Hollywood Fringe Fest called the Mysteries of Persephone. She loves combining immersive theater, rituals, guided meditations, and puzzles to create psychological break throughs for the audience..

Ashley Busenlener (Marketing Director) is the Executive Director & one of the Founders of Last Call Theatre. Ashley is very passionate about creating stories that transport audiences to new and fantastical worlds that help them see our world in a new light. She has led the marketing campaigns for all 13 of Last Call's productions. Ashley is a double Trojan, holding a M.S. in Marketing from USC Marshall and B.A. in Theatre from USC's School of Dramatic Arts. She directed and creative led *The Butterfly Effect* and creative led the award-winning *Pirates Wanted*. Much love to her boyfriend Michael and friends and family for their support!

Veronica Langley (Graphic Designer) (they/them) is an illustrator, fabricator, and multimedia artist born and raised in Los Angeles. This is their second production with Last Call Theatre, having previously served as both Graphic Designer and Prop Designer on *The Liminary* earlier this year. They primarily work in film and television, on productions such as *The Muppet Show* (2026), *SpongeBob SquarePants*, ABC's *High Potential*, and Hulu's *The Bear*, as well as several commercials and independent projects including *GLOP: Glorious Ladies of Puppetry* and *Yamasong: March of the Hollows*. More info at veronicalangley.com.

Matt Betti (Narrative Team & Videographer) is a Los Angeles-based writer/director originally from the San Francisco Bay Area. While living in Los Angeles he's studied and performed improv, stand-up & sketch comedy at the UCB Theatre. In 2026, Matt directed and co-wrote his first independent feature film *Unincorporated.* Since then, he has continued producing independent short films and writing and directing comedy sketches with friends for the web and live shows. He is enormously grateful to be a part of the making of Last Call Theatre's production of *Debate Night*, and is even more excited for you all to experience it!

Sofia Braid (Narrative Team) is a writer born and raised in LA with a degree from UC Berkeley. Focusing on comedy and history, she is very proud to be a part of the Debate Night Team.

The Production/Creative Team

Michel Lichand (Narrative Team) is a writer and performer originally hailing from Brazil and currently residing in Los Angeles. He has written for video games (*Fallout: London*), stage (*Rabble Rabble, Bewilder Club*), actual play podcasts (*What Happened in the Malachite Wastes*) and immersive theater (*Debate Night, The Butterfly Effect*).

Elijah Marie (Narrative Team) is a writer who grew up in Florida and attended University of Central Florida where they received a degree in Theatre and Creative Writing. With Last Call, they wrote, produced, and performed in *The Harvest*, *Beyond Help*, and *The Butterfly Effect*. They've performed in *The Collective* as Maria, and in *Abandoned* as Jude u/s. Outside of Last Call, they've written a variety of short films, pilots, and short stories. They are currently working on a full length novel.

Additional Production

Nick Alexander.....Narrative Team
Riley Cole.....Producer
Cutter Ray Palacios.....Intimacy Director
Keegan DeVitis.....Production Photographer

Additional Cast

Jay Iinuma.....James Tanaka "The Moderator"
Liviera Lim.....Min "Minnie" Chang "The Governor"
Ashley Busenlener.....UBS News Broadcaster

The Last Call Core Team

Ashley Busenlener- *Executive Director*

Riley Cole- *Literary Chair*

Michael DiNardo- *Financial Chair*

Liviera Lim - *Outreach Chair*

Alex Whitover- *Special Events Chair*

LAST CALL THEATRE

Learn more about Last Call Theatre at www.lastcalltheatre.com

Special Thanks

Brielle Biscocho
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Benjamin Mora
Emilynne Newsom
Rebecca Oca-Nussbaum
Chris Portillo
Ashley Primer
Rusty Santangelo
Wailea Siler
Lisa & Will Zakas
Oberonis Latino Shakespeare Company
Applied Engineering Concepts
All of our playtesters

Spotlighting The League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters

LEARN MORE

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. They empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation, at the local, state, and national levels.

A percentage of the show's profits will be donated to the League of Women Voters.

Follow us!

@lastcalltheatre

Love Game Returns February 2027!



Photo by Charly Charney Cohen

Love Game was a wild roller coaster of an experiment the first time around, and after hearing the feedback and enjoyment of audiences, I wanted to bring it back in a way that felt fresh. Since the initial production, bots and A.I. have taken over so much of social media, research, and even things like dating apps, to the point where people have to test the person they're texting to make sure they aren't just a program trying to scam them. Love Game was made to showcase that no matter who we are, and whatever baggage we might carry, we are all worthy of finding love, and I hope this remount provides that same satisfaction to audiences a second time around.

-Michael DiNardo, *Creative Lead & Director of Love Game*

We are casting for 4 roles for our remount!

Audition submissions are NOW OPEN and will close on Wednesday, November 11th at 11:59 p.m.

CLICK HERE FOR THE CASTING BREAKDOWN



Join us for Last Call's 1st Gala!



Friday, December 4, 2026
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
5628 Vineland Ave, North Hollywood, CA 91601

Step back in time to 1920s Los Angeles to the gathering of a powerful crime sydicate... except this time it's the holiday season and the goal is to raise funds for Last Call! Join us for a 1920s themed evening of entertainment and fundraising inspired by our 2023 production *The Collective*. Your entry provides access to card and betting games (and the chips needed to play), a rotating slate of Last Call performers on the mainstage, and access to our silent auction!

Dress in your holiday or 1920s best and come down on the 4th! We hope you'll be able to join us for a delightful night and support Last Call this giving season.

CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS