

THEATRES in Hollywood on Theatre Row. To learn more about Racquel and Theatre Planners, go to www.theatreplanners.com.

KEN WERTHER (Publicity)

Publicity in Los Angeles since 1982. Embassy and Lorimar Television; Solters/Roskin/Friedman, Boneau/Bryan-Brown, Miramontez/Werther; Center Theatre Group (Mark Taper Forum, Ahmanson and Kirk Douglas Theatres), Elephant Theatre, Brimmer Street Theatre Company, Blank Theatre; Celebration, Black Dahlia, Falcon, Stella Adler, Zephyr, Lyric, Greenway Court, among others; Ford Amphitheatre, Catalina Jazz Club. C.S.A. Artios Awards. Co-producer, 2008 Ovation Awards Ceremony; *The Good Boy*, (2011); producer, *All Your Hard Work* (2012). Assistant director, *Stop The World, I Want To Get Off* (Musical Theatre Guild), *The Women of Brewster Place* (Celebration Theatre). Personalities: Erich Bergen, Nicholas Downs, Brian Beacock, Mark Shunock, Mack & Poppy. Web series: *McCracken Live!* Currently: *LoveSick* (LOFT Ensemble), *Sixty Miles to Silver Lake* (IAMA), *Jane Austen Unscripted* (Impro Theatre), *Love Bites* (Elephant), *The Trouble With Words* (Coourage), *Byron's Theme* (short film by Bennett Barbakow and Michael Grant Terry). Various benefit events. www.KenWerther.com

ASHLEY L KOENIG (Production Stage Manager)

Ashley is excited to be joining the cast and crew of this production. A transplant from New York City, she has lived in Los Angeles for the past four years pursuing a BFA in Technical Direction at the University of Southern California. Her current projects include Interning with Culver City Cultural Affair and acting as Set Designer for *Getting Married* at USC, this semester. Recent credits include: Set Design for *The Country Club* (USC), Stage Manager *Antigone Unearthed* (NYC FRINGE), *This Round's On Us* (Gene Frankle Theatre) and *CYCLOPS: A Rock Opera* (Son of Semele, Carrie Hamilton Theatre, NYC NYMF).



LuluBelle Productions presents the World Premiere of
ALABAMA BAGGAGE

Written By **Buddy Farmer**
Directed By **Paul Messinger**

Starring:

Will Blagrove, John Combs*, Jody Fasanella*, William Jones, Ashley McGee

Produced By
Victoria Watson & Racquel Lehrman,
Theatre Planners

Set Designer
Bill Cole

Lighting Designer
Leigh Allen

Costume Designer
Shannon Kennedy

Sound Designer
Matthew Richter

Publicist
Ken Werther

Graphic Designer
Bob Thomas

Press Photographer
Doug Dobransky & Nick Weber

Production Stage Manager
Ashley L Koenig

*Denotes member, Actors Equity Association

Setting:

A Kentucky cemetery...present day

Running time is approximately 80 minutes, with no intermission.

adaptation of his one act play, "THE VIAGRA MONOLOGUES." Buddy only writes about things he is familiar with, hence, being from the south and getting up there in age his penmanship has focused on football, barbecue and Viagra. The only deviations from this have been "ALABAMA BAGGAGE," which deals with the more sobering subject of child abuse and the screenplay, ALL-STAR, about racism and football in the south. Buddy resides in Los Angeles with his wonderful wife Pamela and their two dogs, Rusty and Savannah.

PAUL MESSINGER (Director)

Paul has worked as a director in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and various places in between. He has worked on children's shows, THE CHRISTMAS PRINCESS, high dramas, GENTLE PASSAGE, and comedies, LEDGE, among others. He also has an active career as an actor in episodics and commercials. He is proud and humbled to serve as the director's unit head for Fierce Backbone. Hi Carly.

VICTORIA WATSON, THEATRE PLANNERS (Producer)

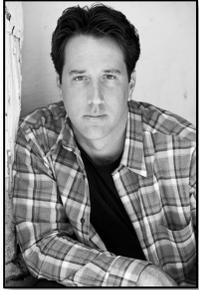
Victoria began her work in the theater as a performer, then found her love of Production in school at Tulane University. She has produced, stage managed, and swept stages all over the country at this point, and is thrilled to now be a part of Theatre Planners. Victoria was previously Operations Manager and Associate Producer at Pasadena Playhouse, and is also currently Managing Director for Fierce Backbone, www.fiercebackbone.com.

RACQUEL LEHRMAN, THEATRE PLANNERS (Producer)

Racquel is the founder and managing director of Theatre Planners, her own theatre production/PR 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, publicity, 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



ASHLEY MCGEE (Lucas)



Ashley McGee grew up in Los Angeles in a family of musically and artistically creative parents and siblings. He is a member of the Fierce Backbone Theatre Group and last year performed in two Fringe Festival plays. Ashley recently finished the lead role in an independent film, and was also featured with his brothers in a documentary about their father, Gerry McGee—a world-renowned guitarist. Ashley likes being active and spending time outdoors, especially at the beach where he loves to ride waves.

He is also a singer/songwriter and some of his songs have been placed in films and television shows.

PRODUCTION BIOS

BUDDY FARMER (Playwright)

Born in Florida and raised in Alabama, Buddy is obviously a native of the deep south. He has the distinction of being the only playwright to ever play football for Bear Bryant at the University of Alabama. After receiving A BS degree in Business from Alabama, he did the perfectly logical thing. He left the south to pursuit an acting career in California. For twenty years he made a living as an actor in theatre, television and film. Ten years ago he started writing and directing plays. His first play, "COACHES"(Off the Bench with Knute, Vince and The Bear) received critical acclaim in Los Angeles and toured to the University of Notre Dame, San Francisco, Milwaukee, The Super Bowl in Phoenix and The Academy of Television of Arts and Sciences (the only play ever performed there). He rewrote the "Knute" section of this play into a TV mini-series which was the basis for the book he wrote for the musical, "KNUTE ROCKNE, ALL AMERICAN," which premiered in 2009 just outside Chicago and received rave reviews from the Chicago theatre critics along with several Jefferson Award nominations. His latest play, "THE BARBECUE," received the runner up award in the 2010 New Works of Merit Playwriting Contest. He is currently working on a musical

**CAST
(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)**

Jody Fasanella* **Miss Helen**
Ashley McGee **Lucas**
Will Blagrove **Ben**
William Jones..... **Judge Bailey**
John Combs* **Hal**

AUTHORS NOTE

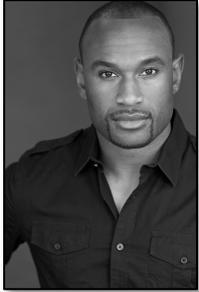
I would like to thank the artist (actors, writers & directors) of "Fierce Backbone" for their continuous support of "Alabama Baggage." I have always felt the first draft of a script comes from your heart and that all the rewrites come from your head. Fierce Backbone's feedback and input has been very instrumental to this process. I would also like to thank Sharon Tobin of Safe Harbors and Larry and Anne Taylor of the Tucson Medical Group, all of whom helped me through a tough time in my life. But most of all, I dedicate this play, to my precious wife, Pamela. Her unyielding, love and belief in me got me through a very dark tunnel and on with my life. She is truly the best woman to ever come down the pike and I am not only blessed to be with her but a better man for it. Love ya babe.

Acknowledgement

The cast and crew would like to keep close to heart all who came before...

CAST BIOS
(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

WILL BLAGROVE (Ben)



Will Blagrove (Pronounced Blay-grove), hails from the city of Queens, New York. Raised in a Jamaican household, discipline was a big deal. Therefore it's fitting for Will to land himself in the role of Sheriff Ben in Alabama Baggage. After having workshopped the play for almost a year now, Blagrove is very grateful for the opportunity to bring Ben to life and hopes to develop a strong conversation regarding the topic which is so prevalent in today's society. Will would like to thank his family & friends for their continued support in his career. Shoutouts to the amazing cast & crew of Alabama Baggage and the talented artists of Fierce Backbone. Catch him in an upcoming music video for Josh Groban, feature film 'The Gauntlet' w/Bai Ling & Warren Kole (USA's Common Law), and you might hear his voice on Nickelodeon's new animated series WINX CLUB, as the role of Nabu. *Other credits include: How Do You Know (Sony Pictures), Cost of a Soul (Relativity Media), Gossip Girl (CW), Law & Order SVU, All My Children, Young & The Restless. Stage credits include: To Kill A Mockingbird, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Banana Intervention.*

JOHN COMBS (Hal)*



Recently as "Peter Rutherford" in the comedy, Ledge, Ledger, and the Legend (Fierce Backbone) and "Mr. Grainger" in Antaeus Company's Peace In Our Time. John was also "Marvin Scott" in I Never Sang for My Father (New American); "Barney" in Last of the Red Hot Lovers (West Coast Jewish Theatre); "Jellaby" in Arcadia (Sierra Madre Playhouse); "Baylor" in A Lie of the Mind (Studio Five); "Bernie" in Octomom the Musical (Cabaret Voltaire). Also, American Tales, The Man Who Had All the Luck, The Will, Trial By Jury, (Antaeus); Liberty Inn, The Bay at Nice (ANDAK); Louis Slotin Sonata, The Brothers Karamazov (Circle X). Television: Eagleheart, Weeds, Judging Amy, Crossing Jordan, Family

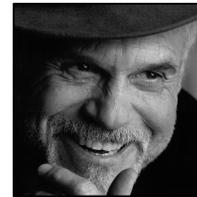
Law, LA Dragnet, The Guardian, The District, and Law & Order. Film: Rejects, Desperate Acts of Magic, Part Time Fabulous, Past God, How to Get to Candy Bar, Public Access, Get Me Johnny!, Never Say Macbeth.

JODY FASANELLA (Miss Helen)*



Jody began her career in her native New York in "Play It Again Sam" at The Gallery Theatre. She has appeared regularly in numerous productions on both the East and West Coasts, including "Lie With Me", "Daughters", "The Importance of Being Earnest", "I Couldn't Tell You If I Knew" and the award-winning "Napoli Millionaria" at The Road Theatre, LA. She can currently be seen in "Good Grief", an independent short film, as well as the soon-to-be released "A Drug Called XO". She also appeared in "Steel" with Judd Nelson and "Vartan, LLP (Tribeca Film Festival). Her various television appearances include "General Hospital", "The Others" and "L.A. Law".

WILLIAM JONES (Judge Bailey)



"The theater is a sort of home, a place where the proof of one's passion is either fulfilled, frustrated or forfeit; or all three." There was a 'pin drop' silence immediately following the first reading of 'AB', and we all realized then and there that this was a remarkable story that has to be told. And I thank Buddy, Paul, and this incredibly talented cast for asking me to play with them. I am particularly honored to have "Alabama Baggage" sit atop a long list of stage, film, T.V., and commercial credits. Thank you for joining us this evening.