

TRUE STORY...

Sunday, July 7, 2024:

DON'T STOP BELIEVIN'

LIZZY ROSS is an actor, writer, graphic artist, and sled dog wrangler. She's the founder and producer of the True Story program and also your host for this evening. She's very thank-ful you're here. If you'd like to know anything else please visit lizzyross.com.

RAFEAL CLEMENTS has worked as an actor, teacher, and director since 1985 performing the works of playwrights as varied as William Shakespeare, Tony Kushner, Caryl Churchill, Lynn Nottage, Bertolt Brecht, Tennessee Williams, Anton Chekov, Kia Cothron, Romulus Linney, Timberlake Wertenbaker, and Michael Henry Brown. Rafeal has performed regionally with Houston's Alley Theater, Yale Rep, Hartford Stage Company, Indiana Rep, Portland Stage Company, Berkshire Theater Festival, Playmakers Repertory Company, The Clarence Brown Company, Playhouse on the Green, and the Carpetbag Theater. New York Theater credits include stints with the Public Theater/ New York Shakespeare Festival, New Federal Theater, Target Margin, Circle Rep Company, HERE, Prospect Theater Company, The Hotel Savant, Ensemble Studio Theater East, and The Lark Play Development Center. Los Angeles Theater includes time with Sacred Fools, Company of Angels, City Garage, and Independent Shakespeare Company. Film and TV credits include roles on "Law and Order", "As the World Turns", "Another World", "New York News", "Bandwagon", "Fireflies", and "The Heartland Series." Rafeal has taught acting, scene study, voice, and speech on the high-school level and in acting schools. He currently has spent the past 15 years working with a public charity that provides healthcare to low-income communities in Los Angeles. Rafeal is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and Yale School of Drama.

JACQUELINE CASTAÑEDA is an actor, writer, and filmmaker. Jacqueline recently developed her first one-act play as a cohort member of EST/LA's Ignite Project #4. Jacqueline's scrappy, East LA underdog attitude is present in her vibrant stage directions, colorful dialogue and astonishing female leads. Jacqueline has written, produced, and starred in several shorts with her friends at Venture Works Film, receiving official selections at the Phoenix Short Film Festival, LA Comedy Film Fest and LA Latinx Film Fest. Their latest film Blank Canvas (which Jacqueline co-wrote, co-directed, and starred in) screened at the South-Central Film Festival and won five awards at the Towne Street Theatre Film Festival.

Her work touches on honoring women of color artists past and present, navigating the LA art scene as an artist of color, and finding balance and self acceptance. She affirms art is essential to promote a sense of growth, community, and activism. Keep up with her on Instagram, @post_moderngirl @ventureworks_film

GORDON HENDERSON is a Los Angeles based artist and radio announcer. He makes a yearly art calendar called the Nib Geebles calendar.

NICHOLAS CORMIER III is a United States Air Force Veteran. Spent several years as an Air Traffic Controller. Graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington—studied Art with a concentration in Film and a minor in Theatre. MBA from Texas State University. Actor. Writer. Director. Nicholas advocates for mentally ill veterans, including those with substance abuse issues, living on the streets of Los Angeles. USC Warrior Bard. Nicholas' short story "D-pod" is First and Only Runner Up for Solstice Literary Magazine's 2023 Annual Fiction Prize. Nicholas' story "Tolstoy Soldiers" was officially selected for WORDTheatre's world-wide Veteran's Day event in 2021. He performed work alongside some of the world's greatest actors in 2022 for Cedering Fox's WORDTheatre. Nicholas' short story "Salome" is nominated for 2023 Best of the Net. His short story "Noose" recently won 2nd Place for Creative Writing in the 2022 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

ROBERT CARUSO is an award-winning director and producer of hundreds of advertising and marketing projects. He has been honored by the Clios, The London International Advertising Awards, Anicom Animation, The MTV Awards, Billboard Magazine and the Grammys. He has directed for renown production companies including Industrial Light & Magic as well as helping projects for major ad agencies, Hollywood studios, record companies, fortune 500 marketing teams and A-list celebrities. Robert currently owns and operates the San Francisco commercial production company, Caruso Company acting as Executive Producer.

NEXT UP:

AUGUST 4, 2024

IT'S A BIG COUNTRY

CHRISTOPHER REILING, HEATHER ROBINSON, KEITH ROBINSON
JULIE POP, YAK MANRIQUE, AND TRACEY A. LEIGH