



“Apple Season” Comes Home to LA

🕒 July 11, 2019 📧 Female Artists, Playwright, playwriting 📍 Cece Tio, Darin Anthony, E.M. Lewis, Justin Huen, Liza Fernandez, Moving Arts, Rob Nagle 🧑‍🎤 LAFPI
by [E.M. Lewis](#)

I started writing *Apple Season* [[Moving Arts'](#) production opens July 13] about ten years ago, when I was living in Los Angeles. I was invited to write a ten-minute play on, as I recall, the theme of “backyard fruit.” As sometimes happens with a writing prompt, something unlocked inside of me when I put pen to paper. A story about legacies of violence and how to escape them. A story about family and friends, and memory and monsters. All set in an apple orchard in my home state of Oregon, on a farm much like the one where I grew up.

I think it was a darker ten-minute play than the folks at [Botanicum Seedlings](#) had in mind, but that was the play their prompt inspired. And those characters continued to clamor for more story, well after our readings there in Topanga Canyon.



Liza Fernandez in rehearsal for “Apple Season” – photo by Cece Tio

Funny how things work.

It seems very right to be here now, telling this particular story. For lots of reasons.

This is a play about coming home. And in every possible way, that’s what I’ve done. I live back on my family farm in Oregon, now, just like one of the characters in the play. I’m back in Los Angeles for this production, working with the theater company I first called home.

One of the reasons is that this is a story with a woman at the center of it. From politics to soccer, there is a rising understanding that women belong at the center of stories.



This is a story that grapples with domestic violence and violence against women. And there is also a rising understanding that the truth of those types of violence, so long suppressed, must come out. We are going to bring them out. Because as much as speaking hurts, silence hurts us more.

This is a story about agency. There are so many things happening right now that make us feel powerless. And overwhelmed. And afraid. But even when our actions are small, they can change the world. One small step at a time.

I'm grateful to my friend, director, and long time collaborator Darin Anthony and my friend, producer, and long time collaborator Cece Tio for bringing *Apple Season* to Moving Arts. I absolutely adore my cast — Liza Fernandez as Lissie Fogerty, Justin Huen as her brother, Roger Fogerty, and Rob Nagle as Billy Rizzell. Our designers are working magic, over at the Atwater Village Theater, building us an apple orchard full of memories and ghosts.

I hope that you'll join us for the show!

Moving Arts' "Apple Season" runs July 13 – August 5 at Atwater Village Theatre, part of a National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere. For Tix & Info visit www.MovingArts.org or call (323) 472-5646.



Justin Huen and Rob Nagle in rehearsal for "Apple Season" – photo by Cece Tio

E. M. LEWIS is an award-winning playwright, teacher, and opera librettist. Her work has been produced around the world, and is published by Samuel French. Plays include: *Magellanica*, *Apple Season* (currently having a National New Play Network rolling world premiere at New Jersey Rep, Riverside Theater, and Moving Arts), *How the Light Gets In* (which will have its world premiere at Boston Court Pasadena this fall), *The Gun Show*, *Song of Extinction*, *Heads*, *Infinite Black Suitcase*, *Goodbye Ruby Tuesday*, *Reading to Vegetables*, *True Story*, and *You Can See All the Stars* (a Kennedy Center commission). Awards include: the Steinberg Award and Primus Prize from the American Theater Critics Association, the Ted Schmitt Award from the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle, a Hodder Fellowship from Princeton University, a playwriting fellowship from NJ State Arts Commission, the 2016 Oregon Literary Fellowship in Drama, and the Edgerton Award. *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Fallen Giant*, a new opera that Lewis is creating with composer Evan Meier, commissioned by American Lyric Theater, had a piano vocal workshop in New York City in March. *Town Hall*, an opera Lewis created with composer Theo Popov, was produced at Willamette University in March as well. Lewis is currently working on a big new political play called *The Great Divide*. She is a proud member of LineStorm Playwrights and the Dramatists Guild, and lives on her family's farm in Oregon.