

In late 2013, Ray Burley Productions asked four writers to each create a 15 minute play with four characters, at least one of whom was a tree. The works are diverse, but a tendril reaches from each through the others. This is our copse of *Four Tree Plays*.

Seeking Still uses trees as a metaphor for the isolation of being single, the feeling of being rooted in one spot by your fears, trauma, neuroses, and the quirks of your personality. It isn't about what it's like to be a tree. It's about what it's like to be human, using trees as a metaphor. Maybe you're just online dating to meet people. But maybe you're online dating because you're looking for someone to come to you, to be your perfection, because you're so fixed in one spot you can't even think about being someone else's perfection.

Tree Counsel arose out of a simple image of a man sitting under a tree, listening to church radio. What's that person like, and what happens when he meets someone very different from himself, but who is also drawn to the tree? This show explores the preconceptions and misconceptions we have about one another and how those can influence our relationships.

Sophistree asks us to examine what motivates us to protect the environment, and more generally, what drives us to do anything about "making the world a better place." It examines how we choose to address personal and global problems given the impossibility of moral certitude. Today, we grapple with the biggest issues our species has ever faced, and at the same time face a torrential bombardment of often contradictory information. Moral certainty has never been more elusive, nor the need for action greater, than it is today.

Does It Make A Sound? reminds us that we are not alone on this planet. We share it with so many other life forms. How do those other life forms feel about humans, each other, themselves... if you consider others' feelings, you can't help but respect them a lot more.

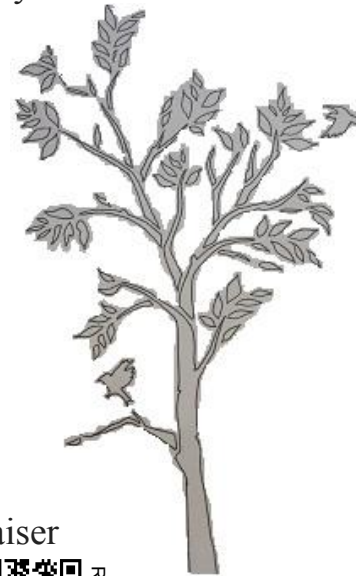
We're so grateful to the donors who believe in us and help us make this possible. Their financial contributions mean that we had a space with walls for many rehearsals and manageable debt!

Old-Growth Forests - \$250+
Bur Oak Farm

Full-Grown Trees - \$100-249
Anthony Curreri
Gary & Ann Pederson

Saplings - \$30-99
Alissa Mortenson Tyka
Jennifer F. Jhaveri
Big Denny K
Charlie Furman
Jesse Bangs
Krista Behi
Soundlikerstin

Seeds - \$15-29
Chad Kukahiko
Terri J. Freedman
Jeff & Ivy
Mark Baker
Aaron Matthew Kaiser
Leilani Smith
Chelsea Collins



And for non-financial help, we'd like to offer a special thanks to the Hollywood Fringe community, Red Dragon Cafe, Schkapf, Son of Semele Ensemble, We Make Movies, Barnsdall Art Park, Julia Strayer, Cory Jacobsen, Amy Pandya, Brett Wiseman, and Tavechai Saelak



Directed by Tim J. Lim

Seeking Still by Nicolas Hoover
Birch - Dawn Alden
Cedar - Whit Spurgeon
Apple - Leilani Marie Smith
Dogwood - Brendan Weinhold

Tree Counsel by Stina Pederson
Ralph - Whit Spurgeon
Candace - Leilani Marie Smith
Dr. Hennessy - Dawn Alden
Radio/Tree - Brendan Weinhold

Sophistree by Brendan Weinhold and
Spencer Seibert
Keith - Brendan Weinhold
Tree - Dawn Alden
Kate - Leilani Marie Smith
Jack - Whit Spurgeon

Does It Make a Sound? by Jennie Fahn
Ro - Leilani Marie Smith
Tim - Whit Spurgeon
Robin - Dawn Alden
Kit - Brendan Weinhold

Costume Design by Sharon Spence

Pre-show music by PLaNETS
(www.planetstheband.com)

Tim J. Lim (Director) is a film director/writer based out of North Hollywood. He is also a dancer for the Stretch Dance Company. He is getting prepared to direct a thriller film this summer and selling a feature screenplay. He would like to thank his friends and (LA) family who have supported him and his career thus far.

Whit Spurgeon (Cedar, Ralph, Jack, Tim) spent nearly 20 years in Chicago appearing in dozens of plays and TV commercials. He moved to LA in 2009 to pursue TV & film roles. He would like to thank Brendan & Stina for asking him to be in these plays; the talented cast & crew; and the friends who have stuck by him longest.

Dawn Alden (Birch, Dr. Hennessy, Tree, Robin) is a mover and a shaker. She holds an MFA in Acting, and has over 20 years of experience in that, stage combat, and new play development. She founded and ran an all-female theatre company in Chicago, and now acts and runs a film production company here in LA. dawnalden.com, vicariousfilms.com

Leilani Smith (Apple, Candace, Kate, Ro) was born in Osan City, Korea. She received her black belt in 2007, studies and teaches under Allen Levin at Lifebook. Just off stage at ICT in "Flyin' West" as Fannie Mae Dove, she shot 6 episodes of "Love Handles" as Charlie and is shooting the extended trailer of "JANE" as the lead.

Brendan Weinhold (*Sophistree*; Producer; Dogwood, Radio Evangelist/Tree, Keith, Kit) makes his L.A. stage debut. Favorite roles in Seattle and Milwaukee include D in *Polaroid Stories*, Clayboy in *The Homecoming*, and God in *General of Hot Desire*. His webseries, *Gentle Werewolf*, is due in 2015. He has a B.A. in drama from the University of Washington. BrendanWeinhold.com

Nicolas Hoover (*Seeking Still*) has been published in *Breadcrumbs Scabs*, *Fringe Magazine*, and *[untitled]*, and his children's play, *The Red Merit Badge of Courage*, is available from Samuel French. Nicolas was a 2012 Lambda Literary Fellow. He lives in Seattle, where he is writing a short story collection and a science fiction series. Visit him at www.NicolasHoover.com.

Stina Pederson (*Tree Counsel*; Producer) is thrilled to present the world premiere of her first play with Ray Burley Productions, a company she co-founded in Seattle in 2006. Stina studied creative writing at the University of Washington and is currently seeking publication for her first novel. Thank you for coming!

Spencer Seibert (*Sophistree*) is a writer, editor, and VFX artist living in San Francisco. He received a BFA in film production from Chapman University and has worked on numerous short films, documentaries, music videos, and commercials. He currently works at Beast Editorial as a motion graphic artist.

Jennie Fahn (*Does It Make a Sound?*) Writer: *Broads! The Musical* (book), writer/performer of *You Mutha! A One-Mother Show* (2-year run in LA; New York Fringe Fest), short film *Tea With Grandma* (co-starred opposite Tippi Hedren; winner - Best Writer LA International Film Fest), *The Jersey Girls* (3-woman comedy team).

Sharon Spence (Costume Designer) loves fabrics, colors, characters, stories and actors. She started designing at 13 years old and still has a blast meeting challenges. Costume designer for: *Secret Sacrifice*, *Shrinking Violet* (pilot), *Pulling Rank* and *Sleep Across America*, among others.

*Feel free to keep this as a memento, but if it will end up in the trash, please return it for re-use. The trees thank you.

Robyn Guillory (Stage Manager) is quite the theater guru. Her love for stage managing continues to grow with each production. Her past plays include *Mad-forest*, *Lady Liberty* and *The Existents*. Enjoy the show, and thanks to all her family and friends who support her each and every day.

Jennifer Hinteriano (Stage Manager) moved from California to North Carolina and back. After a year and a half working in retail, a friend invited her to join *Four Tree Plays* as a stage manager. Still growing and experiencing new things, new ideas and new adventures come along to clear up her view of the future.

Anne Mesa (Associate Producer) produced over a dozen world premieres in LA since 2008. She served as Senior Staff at Write Act Rep. and currently serves as Chairperson for Asian American Media Professionals (AMP) at Paramount Pictures. She thanks Brendan and Stina for creating *Four Tree Plays*. For more info, please visit anne-producer.weebly.com.

Ray Burley Productions (Producing Company) strives to provide equal access for all audiences, regardless of finances. All projects are owned wholly by the artists who work on them. Theater can make the world a better place. Previous shows include *The Tempest* and *Under Milkwood*. This is RBP's Los Angeles debut. www.goo.gl/liaQRx

*Whatever you thought of the show, we want to know, and so does the community! Leave us a review at www.goo.gl/IAQXix