



THE EGG

by Noah Masterson

World Premiere October 29, 2026 at The Rosette in Austin, TX

MEDIA INQUIRIES

L.B. Deyo lb@the-zahir.org (512) 689-2410

“THE EGG is a wildly inventive, structurally daring comedy that earns every absurdist flourish. Masterson's writing is precise where it counts and delightfully unhinged everywhere else. This play is a defense of the sacred weirdness and messiness of being human and hides a genuinely tender question inside the joke: what do we protect when the world wants to process everything into data? Incredibly smart writing perfectly blended with heart and absurdity. I can't wait to see this one on stage.”

—Ava Love Hanna, Award-Winning Playwright and Producer of the Stories Found Podcast

“Asked what he wanted out of going to the theater, Edward Albee said, "To see something I've never seen before." THE EGG achieves this seemingly impossible goal through its imaginative, philosophical and literary power. The language is magnificent, the characters are brilliantly vivid. You'll laugh through your tears.”

—L.B. Deyo, Artistic Director, The Zahir

Logline

A deranged CEO who's hellbent on immortality releases a technology that upends the lives of a hacker whose face sprouts feathers, a professor who lays eggs, and the mute street artist caught in the middle.

Synopsis

In THE EGG, three social misfits, each carrying bizarre, intimate secrets, must navigate love and friendship under a rigid techno-surveillance state. There is Mavis, an egg-laying art historian; Raymond, a feather-faced hacker; and Chuy, a mute street artist. And, backed by her army of “Dollums,” there is Agnes, whose own fear of death leads to the unleashing of a highly destructive new technology.

Themes

Mortality

To what extremes will we go to live forever?

Secrecy

What masks do we wear to hide our true selves?

Love

What if the object of our most burning desire is our worst possible match?

Art

Is creativity the last bastion of humanity?

Technocracy

What is the endgame of our rapidly accelerating surveillance state?

Playwright's Note

The unhinged joy I felt while writing THE EGG is a good descriptor for the play itself. It's unhinged and joyful—but also, at times, sad, dark, angry, and even a little bit scary.

As I wrote THE EGG, the characters floating around in my head gradually cemented into real people. There's Mavis, the Cassandra of the play, asking why no one else is talking about the oppressive technocracy that immiserates nearly everyone around her. Raymond, a narcissist and a misanthrope, is in some ways my younger self, before I shed many layers of insecurity. And then there's our villain, Agnes, whose desperate fear of death overrides all rational thought or behavior: as I age, that fear cuts close to the bone.

October 2026 World Premiere of THE EGG

THE EGG premieres October 29th and runs Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays through November 21st. All shows begin at 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION AND PARKING

The Rosette
3908 Avenue B
Austin, TX 78751

The Rosette entrance can be found on the northwest corner of the Baker Center, facing 40th St. Enter under the large neon ROSETTE sign. FREE PARKING is available in Baker Center lots, as well as street parking along Ave B, 39th, and 40th Streets. There are approximately 150 free spots around the perimeter.

APPROXIMATE RUNTIME

100 minutes with one 10-minute intermission.

ASL INTERPRETED PERFORMANCE (TO BE CONFIRMED)

Thursday, November 5.



Rehearsal, 2026 production

TICKETS

<https://tickets.atxtheatre.org/events/the-egg>

MEDIA COMPS

Contact lb@the-zahir.org

Team Bios

Noah Masterson (Playwright, Co-Producer) is a playwright, musician, and juggler. He was once part of Inverse Theater Company in New York City. Noah holds a degree in screenwriting from the University of Miami.

David Ritch (Director, 2026 production) received his BFA in Theatre in 2022 from Texas State University, where he directed Ionesco's *The Bald Soprano*. He directed in *The Yolk* by Noah Masterson, a condensed version of THE EGG, for Frontera Fest. He also had his ten-minute play *The Willow Tree* produced and published by ScriptWorks in their annual Out of Ink showcase.

L.B. Deyo (Artistic Director, Co-Producer) is a playwright whose play *Apprehension* premiered at Hyde Park Theatre in 2025 and won the Austin Theatre Critics Award for best original script. He is the author of several books, including, with David "Lefty" Leibowitz, *Invisible Frontier: Exploring the tunnels, ruins & rooftops of hidden New York*. He's acted in such Austin plays as *The Intergalactic Nemesis* and *Dance, Cupcake, Dance*.

About The Zahir Productions

The Zahir Productions is an Austin-based nonprofit theater company dedicated to creating bold, intellectually ambitious, obsession-worthy theater.

The company's mission is: to create obsession-worthy theater that draws people out of isolation and back into conversation.

The Zahir seeks to produce work that is theatrically daring, emotionally immediate, philosophically serious, and deeply engaged with the anxieties and contradictions of contemporary life.

Website: <https://the-zahir.org>



Rehearsal, 2026 production

Cast of 2026 Production

(headshots available at the-egg-play.com/cast)

N A M E	R O L E
Justin Smith	RAYMOND
Jessica Brynn Cohen	MAVIS
Frank Rivera	CHUY
Laura D'Eramo	SORAYA
Danu Mara	AGNES
Meg Hobgood	HORTENSIA

N A M E	R O L E
Devon Ragsdale	DOOT
Delan Crawford	AH
Sam Plumb	BOOTAY + PATIENT
Beau Paul	FALCO
Bryan Headrick	SKETCH + WULFGAR
Michael Morse	HECTOR + THERAPIST
Denis Harrigan	PETE

Crew

N A M E	R O L E
David Ritch	Director
Sarah Brookshire	Stage Manager
Scarlett Lynn	Costume Designer
Lowell Bartholomee	Projection Designer

N A M E	R O L E
Sam McCarthy	Sound Designer
Jaimie Pitts	Prop Master
Natalie George	Lighting Designer
Tobie Minor	Combat & Intimacy Coordinator

Photos

For additional high-res logos or photos, contact lb@the-zahir.org.



Key art (top); rehearsal photos, 2026 production