



Ensemble Mercury

Presents:

# Pool (No Water)

By: Mark Ravenhill

Director.....	Diane Irwin
Assistant Director.....	Jennifer Lum
Stage Manager.....	Katherine Beamer
Costume Designer.....	Natalie Nergaard
Lighting Designer.....	Amy Lewis
Choreographer.....	Regan Goins

Pool (No Water) is presented by special arrangement with  
Samuel French Inc.

## CAST

**Ashley Thurow** is a Texas State Acting BFA alumni currently living in Austin, TX. While studying at Texas State, her favorite roles included Stella Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and her first experience being directed by the lovely Diane Irwin, playing W in *Lungs*. She is honored and SERIOUSLY STOKED for this opportunity to collaborate with these fantastic human beings. She wants to thank all of the pets who put up with us invading their homes for rehearsals.

**Brittany Flurry** teaches classes for The Actor's School and is an actor, writer, director, and producer. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BFA in Acting from Texas State University, and studied abroad with the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon. Brittany completed a two-year Meisner intensive with Richard Robichaux. She is currently working on several projects as one of the co-founders of Team Teamwork Productions. In addition to film and stage, Flurry also performs improv, stand up comedy, original songs and has experience as an emcee.

**Eric Meo** is an actor, singer, writer, and puppeteer with a BFA in theatre from Texas State University and has studied abroad with the Royal Shakespeare Company. He has been seen in performances throughout Austin since he was in 5th grade. He has most recently performed in Ensemble Mercury's last production, *Love/Sick* and Austin Theatre Project's *Avenue Q* as Nicky/Trekkie Monster. He would like to thank his family and fiancée for their constant support.

**Marci Blackwell** graduated with a BFA in Acting from Texas State University. She appeared in Ensemble Mercury's debut production of *Love/Sick* and is excited to return in *Pool*, (No Water). Marci has performed with Theatre Synesthesia since 2013, appearing as Diane in *Marfa Lights* and Clare in *PONTIAC FIREBIRD VARIATIONS*. Her last credit was in the immersive installation & performance piece titled *The Party*, co-written with director & artist Kellen Stanley for San Antonio's Blue Star Contemporary. Marci's wish is to thank these talented artists for lighting up her life, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

**Samuel Owens** is an actor and writer with a BFA degree in Theatre Performance and Production from Texas State University. Samuel played Dickie in Theatre Synesthesia's 2015 production of *PONTIAC FIREBIRD VARIATIONS* at The Museum of Human Achievement, he played Walter in *Raw Clay/Rough Diamond* at The Ground Floor Theatre for Frontera's 2015 Long-Fringe Festival, and he played Cannonball in Theatre Synesthesia's 2014 production of *Kill Devil Hills* at The FORT. Samuel is a featured actor for Theatre Synesthesia and a founding member of the San Marcos based improv group *Harsh Mellow*.

Thank you so much for supporting local theatre!

Dedicated to Jeremy O. Torres.

“Fail forward.”

## **ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT**

Mark Ravenhill (born 7 June 1966) is an English playwright, actor and journalist. He studied English and Drama at Bristol University from 1984–1987, and held down jobs as a freelance director, workshop leader and drama teacher. In 1997, Ravenhill became the literary director of a new writing company, Paines Plough. In 2003, when Nicholas Hytner took over as artistic director of the National Theatre, Ravenhill was brought in as part of his advisory team. In the mid-nineties, Ravenhill was diagnosed as HIV+, his partner of the early 1990s having died from AIDS. Ravenhill's work has transformed and developed in the 2000s. While his work in the 1990s – *Shopping and Fucking*, *Handbag*, and *Some Explicit Polaroids* for example – may be characterised as trying to represent contemporary British society, his later work has become more formally experimental and abstract. His one-man show *Product*, which toured internationally after its premiere at the 2005 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, is both a satire on the post-9/11 attitudes toward terrorism, and a minutely observed reflection on the limits of language and form to capture contemporary reality. His play, *The Cut*, opened in 2006 at the Donmar Warehouse starring Sir Ian McKellen; it divided critics with its portrait of a world dominated by the administering of a surgical procedure: the country, the year and the procedure are all unspecified.

Pool (no Water) was commissioned by Frantic Assembly, the Drum Theatre Plymouth and Lyric Hammersmith, and was first performed at the Drum Theatre Plymouth on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006.