**LATINO** 





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THE LOS ANGELES THEATRE CENTER THIS IS YOUR HOLD HEAT HEAT HEAT THE CENTER TH



# THE CRUISE

# WRITTEN BY **JONATHAN CENICEROZ** DIRECTED BY **HEATH CILLENS**

CAST OF CHARACTERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Judith Coburn	CAROLYN ALMOS*
James Garcia	KENNETH LOPEZ*
Ramón Garcia	RIC SALINAS*
Howard Thomlinson	
Boyd	BRIAN WALLACE*
* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Prof.	

Scenic Design

Costume Design

Lighting Design

Sound Designer

**Brittany Blouch** 

Manee Leija

Justin Huen

Ivan Robles

Properties Design

Stage Manager

Production Manager

Antonieta Castillo

Jagger Waters

Gabe Figueroa

Carpio

Setting: The Caribbean upon the cruise ship, The Majestic Time: 2017

THE CRUISE IS PERFORMED WITH A 15 INTERMISSION

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited. The Los Angeles Theatre Center is a facility of the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs and is operated by The Latino Theater Company.

### NOTE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Welcome to our 2017 season of world premieres by Los Angeles playwrights and creative exchange within the Latinx/Latin American theater community. This year we celebrate the talent that makes our beautiful and diverse city the creative hub that continues to draw, inspire and mentor the brightest art makers around the world.

When borders, walls and deportation are at the forefront of national rhetoric, we instead welcome artists from across the U.S. and Américas to bridge and collaborate subversive counterpoints. Identity amidst sexual/

social/racial pressures, the folly of blind allegiance and nurturing the fighting spirit that allows us to rise above those who would keep us down, are prevalent themes this season.

You are an integral part to our alt-narrative; a narrative of empathy and heart and compassion. We create as a means to communicate through the senses with the hope that our work spills past the threshold of the stage and meets you as we engage in a metaphysical language of humanity.

Thank you for joining us on our mission to hold space that allows for necessary discovery and dialogue with one another. We hope that your gift of time with us at The LATC leaves you with a sense of optimism, joy and a continued burning desire to advocate for justice and love.

Abrazos,

José Luis Valenzuela,

Artistic Director, The Latino Theater Company and The Los Angeles Theatre Center

#### PLAYWRIGHTS NOT

Matters of culture and identity have not always been a touchy subject. We often politicize what was once a given birthright, and as we progress as a society we have fought to remember the core elements that once made us unique and uniquely strong. THE CRUISE is, at the heart of it, a father and son story – but it is also a story of identity and cultural displacement. How many elements of our ancestral nature can we identify and which elements stand the test of time? In the Latino community, much has been written about the effects of assimilation, the willful blending of cultures, in order to negotiate and thrive in U.S. society. What's long been on my mind is how this progression works as both an attribute toward economic and social advancement and as a deviation from something more integral and necessary to our core existence.

Each character in the play, despite their background, is searching for this definition of fitting in, of acclimating, in a dominant culture that is perceived to be holding all the cards. At times it may look like a mindless folly, what we do to feel comfortable and productive in our own skin. I think upon my own story, forged in East Los Angeles by my grandparents Ramón and Margarita, Pedro and Carmen. I recall with pride their laborious journey through the American experience, a path that paid dividends while nevertheless extracting its cultural toll. In contrast, my life has been starkly different, a child of suburban privilege, a solid public education, and social inclusion, despite a few misplaced suspicions here and there. How much have I gained? And how much have the characters in *THE CRUISE* gained? We are a nation of immigrants — as was Christopher Columbus. I wonder what the Arawaks thought when they saw those Spanish ships in their harbor? Was it a beacon of reflected sunlight they were bathed in, or a darker shadow of things to come?

## - Jonathan Ceniceroz, Playwright

### DIRECTORS NOT

It's funny watching people try to fit in. In the same way it's funny watching a dog try to walk in those rubber snow boots for the first time. Jonathan has a knack for putting characters in situations like that, and for doing it with intense emotional curiosity and heartfelt compassion. He invites us to explore our own insecurities and shortcomings through characters who don't quite fit into, or aren't quite satisfied with, the position their lives have given them. He shines a light on this world that manages to make all of us — gay or straight, conservative or progressive, old or young — feel, at times, out of place, ill-equipped or otherwise lacking. As the characters of THE CRUISE float through the supposedly carefree crystal blue waters of the Caribbean, the confines of The Majestic prove to be fertile ground for discovering what's required of each of them to feel comfortable in their own skin.

Now please, sit back, sip on a Goombay Smash from the bar, and watch this awkward ballet of people trying to accept each other, their places in society, and perhaps most importantly, themselves.

Thanks for coming to the theater!

- Heath Cullens, Director

#### ARTIST PROFILES



CAROLYN ALMOS (Judith Coburn) is an actress and playwright. Recent and/or favorite theatre roles include Sharon in the world-premiere of Alice Tuan's HIT (Latino Theater Company @ The LATC), Miss April in Ken Roht's 99 CENT CALENDAR GIRL COMPETITION

(Bootleg), Nikki Iznoski in Brody Condon's LVL 5 (Armand Hammer Museum, San Jose Biennial, Liverpool AND Festival), Lady Macbeth in MACBETH (Frantic Redhead Productions/Edinburgh Fringe) and various roles with her own company. Burglars of Hamm, Burglars of Hamm is a Los Angeles theater company that has been writing and performing original satires since 1998, including LAND OF THE TIGERS, EASY TARGETS, PARTY SHOW, RESA FANTASTISKT MYSTIK, and FOCUS TODAY. The Burglars' latest, a Center Theatre Group commission called THE BEHAVIOR OF BROADUS, won the Stage Raw Award for Musical of the Year and the Ovation Awards for Book and Score of an Original Musical, and is being published by Samuel French, Carolyn holds a BA from Whitman College and an MFA from California Institute of the Arts, and is currently on the theater faculty of Loyola Marymount University and El Camino College.



GARY LAMB (Howard Thomlinson) is an actor/director/writer/
producer and most recently played Caldwell B. Cladwell in Coeurage Theater's Ovation Recommended URINETOWN. He co-directed THE PRODUCERS and MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET for the Eldorado

Theater in Reno, NV and directed ROMEO & JULIET for Shakespeare @ The Castle in Ohio. He performed in a touring production of OLD JEWS TELLING JOKES last spring and starred in several short films including I DON'T HAVE A PHONE directed by Raymond Ma and THE INTERVIEW directed by CJ Potter. He's also directed several short films including THE BOX, which has over 5 million hits on voutube. Gary's new play. SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE, is opening soon at Crown City Theater where his musical he adapted with Co-Artistic Director William Reilly, I'M JUST WILD ABOUT HARRY, ran for three months. Garv thanks his wife Joanne McGee and daughter Shannon for allowing him so much time away from home. Garv is honored to be working with The Latino Theater Company and grateful to be a part of this world premiere production.



**KENNETH LOPEZ** (James Garcia) was born in the west side of San Antonio, Texas where he began his journey as an artist at the age of four, taking piano lessons at a Steinway gallery. In grade school he made history becoming the first 2nd grader to ever audition and

join the Sarah King Elementary 3rd-5th grade choir. At age 12, his father handed him a French horn which allowed him to further explore his musical ability. In high school Kenneth would spend hours in a practice room playing the piano, practicing the French horn, singing and even writing songs. Just when he thought he had unlocked his full creative potential, a friend of his encouraged him to audition for the school play. He landed one of the lead roles and the rest is history. Kenneth attended the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in NYC and LA where he earned his BFA in musical theatre and has been consistently working in the industry ever since. Kenneth is a professional storyteller and hopes to change the world through his art.



RIC SALINAS (Ramón Garcia) is an original member of the critically acclaimed performance troupe Culture Clash who have forged a unique role on the American stage. As a theater artist, writer, social commentator and activist, he and his co-creators, Richard

Montova and Herbert Sigüenza, have written over a dozen plays and performed over 5.000 shows nationwide. The trio made television history twice: being the first Latino comedy troupe to have a nationally broadcast sketch TV show (Fox TV) and to have their serio-comedy historical anthology. BOWL OF BEINGS, presented on PBS's Great Performances series. Ricardo continues to tour his solo show, 57 CHEVY, written by Cris Franco and recently played the lead in the Salvadorean specific play, PLACAS: THE MOST DANGEROUS TATTOO which toured over a dozen cities across the U.S. His film & TV credits include: ENCINO MAN. HERO. MI VIDA LOCA. LARRY CROWNE and NICKELODEON, IN LIVING COLOR. He also directs for Teatro Zinzanni. a Cirque du Soleil-type show, and is proud to have three published plays: LIFE, DEATH, AND REVOLUTIONARY COMEDY: CULTURE CLASH IN AMERICCA and OH. WILD WEST: THE CALIFORNIA PLAYS. Mr. Salinas graduated with two BAs from San Francisco State University in Broadcasting Communications and Speech Communication and is very proud to have taught a course at UCLA: "Theater as Pedagogy in Education". Ric is happy to be back at LATC with all these talented artists in THE CRUISE.



BRIAN WALLACE (Boyd
Mathiesson) is a NYC transplant
who built a steady LORT career
working on new plays. He's
been an original cast member
in dramas by acclaimed writers
Tracey Scott Wilson, Quiara
Alegria Hudes. William Gibson.

Jonathan Leaf and Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder. Brian has appeared in multiple productions at The Public Theater, Capital Rep, Trinity Rep, and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Since coming West, he's been seen in the hit comedy CASH ON DELIVERY (El Portal), THE GENTRIFICATION CYCLE (Hollywood Fringe), and has been a regular face at the Westside Comedy Theater in Santa Monica. He plans to produce something experimentally hifalutin at the Fringe this summer. www.actorbrianwallace.com

#### CREATIVE TEAM PROFILES

JONATHAN CENICEROZ (Playwright) stands out as a unique voice in the field of Latino writers as many of his themes investigate the point of view of the "pocho," or assimilated, Latino in U.S. culture. Born and raised in a comfortable and Anglo-dominant suburb of Los Angeles, Jonathan's worldview is one of "otherness" within exclusivity. Notable plays include LUPE, NOW!. a radical re-imagining of the Virgin of Guadalupe story, THE BLIND WOMAN FROM VERACRUZ, STRANGE BREW and THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS. Jonathan's work also expresses an unapologetic view of contemporary gay life and sensibility explored in the plays THE DROWNING OF NATALIE WOOD. BIG BRO/LIL BRO, BURNING PALMS and HOLE IN THE BOY. Collectively, his theater work has been produced and developed by the Mark Taper Forum. New York Theatre Workshop, the Drama League. Company of Angels, the Provincetown Players and Chalk Repertory, among others. He is a former Van Lier Fellow at New Dramatists, a MacDowell Colony Fellow and a participant in the CTG Writers Group. Jonathan is an alumnus of Playwrights Union, a Los Angeles playwrights and television writers collective in addition to the National Hispanic Media Coalition TV Writers Program. He holds writing degrees from UCLA and Brown University.

HEATH CULLENS (Director) is a television and theater director. Recent TV credits include IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN PHILADELPHIA, IDIOTSITTER, DEADBEAT, and the pilot for the upcoming series THE JOEY MAC PROJECT. He has also directed branded content for Pepsi, Lenovo and the NFL. Before moving to Los Angeles, Cullens spent several

years in the New York theater scene where he worked with many notable theatres including New York Theatre Workshop, Playwrights Horizons, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Urban Stages and the Keen Company. He is a recipient of a Drama League Directing Fellowship and a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. Cullens received his MFA from Brown University.

BRITTANY BLOUCH (Scenic Designer) was born and raised in Anchorage, AK. During the day she works as a Master Planner for themed entertainment. Her scenic design work includes VONNEGUT, USA (The Next Arena), AND THE DRUM (Capital W), LA VIEWS: CRIMINAL EYES (Company of Angels), LA VIEWS: AT YOUR SERVICE (Company of Angels), MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG (University Players), BY THE BOG OF CATS (University Players), BLACKBIRD (California Repertory). Brittany loves making theater around the world. She has traveled to Russia to work on a rendition of SUMMERFOLK and performed at the Prague Quadrennial in 2015. She received her MFA from California State University, Long Beach. This is her first time designing at The LATC and she couldn't be more excited! Want to know more about Brittany? Visit brittanyblouch.com

IVAN ROBLES (Sound Design) is a teaching artist, musician, sound designer, and audio engineer. He graduated from the Los Angeles Recording School in 2007 and has since been working as a designer and an independent recording and mix engineer for artists, entertainers, and local bands throughout the Los Angeles area, including Louie Perez of Los Lobos, Kate Voegele, Jay Leno, and Bob Saget. For theater, he has designed or engineered for The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles, About Productions, East West Players, The Rogue Artists Ensemble, Cornerstone Theater Company, Company of Angels and is happy to collaborate again with the Latino Theater Company.

ANTONIETA CASTILLO CARPIO (Properties Designer) is a fresh out of academia L.A. native who has worked both on and off stage. Her most recent credits from the University of California, Davis, include B MORE (Stage Manager) and REAL WOMEN HAVE CURVES (Estela Garcia). THE CRUISE is her first show with the Latino Theater Company and she is excited to root herself back home with a company that is committed to producing theater with impact.

GABE FIGUEROA (Production Manager) is an LAbased director and producer working in the creative mediums of theatre, film and television. He is thrilled to be returning to the LATC after working with the Latino Theatre Company on A MEXICAN TRILOGY: AN AMERICAN STORY. Gabe recently made his

#### ARTIST PROFILES

directorial debut in theatre with the one-woman show REVELATION (Son of Semele) after working as Assistant Director on LEND ME A TENOR (La Mirada Theatre), COLONY COLLAPSE (The Theatre @ Boston Court) and FESTIVAL IRENE (Hero Theatre). His short film. COLD WINTER'S NIGHT, is the recipient of a 2016 Best Children's Programming College Television Award from the Television Academy. Gabe is an Associate Member of SDC and an Associate Producer at Hero Theatre. In the past he has worked alongside indelible artists at Cirque du Soleil (THE BEATLES LOVE), the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (2015 FALL SEASON), and South Coast Repertory (PACIFIC PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL). During this divisive time in America, Gabe wishes to thank José Luis Valenzuela, Elisa Bocanegra, Diane Rodriguez, Evelina Fernández and all the leaders of the Latinx theatrical community for their resilient leadership and devotion to telling diverse and truthful stories that defy government narratives. Discover more at gabefigueroa.com.

JUSTIN HUEN (Lighting Designer) is an award-nominated actor/director/designer who has worked in intimate and regional theaters across the country. His light and set design were featured in 2015's Ovation-nominated production of PROOF at Moth. Most recently, he designed the lights and set for the premiere of MINE (Moth), a show he also directed, and the Echo Theatre co. production of DRY LAND which will also be featured at Kirk Douglas' Block Party. In addition, as a director, his work has been seen in critically acclaimed productions, including, THEIR EYES SAW RAIN, MONEY SHOT, and DAWGS. Last year, as an actor, he portrayed 'Hason' in MOJADA at Getty Villa, which received an LADCC award for 'Production of the Year.'

MANEE LEIJA (Costume Designer) is a designer, stylist and fabricator with a natural acumen for color texture and construction. He enjoys clothing in every facet of the idea; from theatrical and film to unique fashions within subculture groups who express their individual take on life through clothing. Manee is very excited to be part of such an amazing range of talent involved in LATC's production of THE CRUISE. Thank you so much for the opportunity and for sharing this collaborative experience of art and storytelling with him.

JAGGER WATERS (Stage Manager) is a recent graduate of UCLA's School of Theater, Film & Television. THE CRUISE is her first production with The LATC. She is a writer, actor, educator, model, dancer and theater chameleon who enjoys working every aspect of a production. Last year, Jagger performed with the Savage Players in the world

premiere of Jeffrey Baker's TEMPLES, workshopped Nate Rufus Edelman's DESERT RATS, and performed at Universal Studios Hollywood's Horror Nights. She stage manages at the Rockwell Table & Stage. Jagger is the head writer of an original musical, JUST LOVE, which premieres in Sacramento this March. Her original satire, DRINKS WITH HORRIBLE PEOPLE, premieres this March. For more information, please visit www. jaggerwaters.com

JOSÉ LUIS VALENZUELA (Artistic Director, The Latino Theater Company/The LATC) is a Distinguished Professor and Head of the MFA Directing program at UCLA's School of Theater, Film & Television. Valenzuela is an award-winning theater director and advocate for Chicano/Latino Theater for over 30 years. He has directed critically acclaimed productions at major theaters both internationally and nationally including The LATC where he created the Latino Theatre Lab in 1985 and the Mark Taper Forum where he established the Latino Theater Initiative in 1991. He most recently directed Karen Zacarias' DESTINY OF DESIRE (South Coast Repertory), and Evelina Fernandez's A MEXICAN TRILOGY: AN AMERICAN STORY and LA OLLA - PLAUTUS' THE POT OF GOLD (Latino Theater Company at the LATC). Other selected LATC credits include: MELANCHOLIA (The Latino Theater Lab). LA VICTIMA (El Teatro de la Esperanza), and LA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE, DIOS INANTZIN, an annual holiday pageant at the Cathedral of our Lady of the Angels, Mr. Valenzuela is the recipient of the Ann C. Rosenfield Distinguished community Partnership Prize and the Hispanic Heritage Month Local Hero of the Year Award. He is currently directing DESTINY OF DESIRE at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago.

**ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION** (*Equity*), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 50,000 actors and stage managers. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions.

#### T---IANK YOU

Dr. Raymond Ceniceroz

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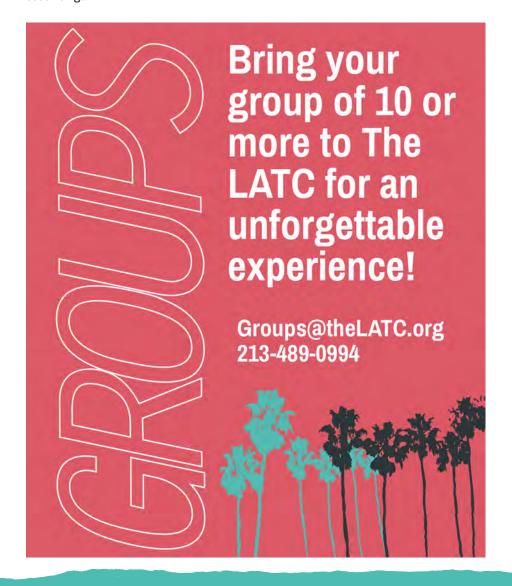
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#### ABOUT THE LATINO THEAT EER COMPANY

#### "Having been together for almost 30 years, the Latino Theater Company is among America's great ensembles"

- American Theater Magazine, January 2015

The Latino Theater Company celebrates over 30 years of commitment to creating exciting, thought-provoking theater in Los Angeles. Founded at the LATC in 1985 with Artistic Director Jose Luis Valenzuela, the company has significantly contributed to the advancement of U.S. Latino Theater. In 2006 the City of Los Angeles awarded LTC with a 20-year lease to operate the Los Angeles Theatre Center. For the past decade we have made it our mission to provide a world-class arts center for those pursuing artistic excellence; a laboratory where both tradition and innovation are honored and honed; and a place where the convergence of people, cultures and ideas contribute to the future. In 2014 we produced Encuentro, the largest Latina/o Theater Festival in Los Angeles in over 25 years. Every holiday season we gift the City with our free pageant play, "La Virgen de Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin," at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. The members of the company include Jose Luis Valenzuela, Evelina Fernandez, Sal Lopez, Geoffrey Rivas, Lucy Rodriguez, and Lupe Ontiveros†.

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WRITTEN BY JONATHAN CENICEROZ DIRECTED BY HEATH CULLENS MARCH10 - APRIL9







WRITTEN 6 DIRECTED BY DIANE RODRIGUEZ MAY4 - JUNE4











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