

**DEC 1, 2017 to JAN 7, 2018**

Presented by  
**The Latino Theater Company**

# THE LATINA CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Created by **Diana Yanez**

Written and performed by  
**Maria Russell, Sandra Valls  
and Diana Yanez**

Directed by **Geoffrey Rivas**

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## Spreading holiday joy, laughs... and a queer take on Christmas

Bursting with laughs, more laughs, music and *escandalo* (scandal!), “The Latina Christmas Special,” written and performed by acclaimed lesbian comedians Sandra Valls and Diana Yanez together with Maria Russell, is back for a third year of holiday joy at The Los Angeles Theatre in downtown L.A..

You thought your holidays with the family were dramatic? Wait until you hear these touching and hilarious Christmas stories of holidays past from three first-generation Latinas: Texas native, Mexican-American Valls (Showtime’s *Latin Divas of Comedy*); Miami-born, Cuban-American Yanez (Margaret Cho’s *The Sensuous Woman*); and, the daughter of “an



over-dedicated Mexican mother and compliant Lithuanian father,” Russell (MTV’s *Teen Wolf*, Warner Brothers/New Line Cinema’s *Lights Out*).

When these three sassy friends get together, they drink plenty of tequila, dish about everything from moms to cucarachas to Farrah Fawcett, and share their funny and surprisingly personal stories of childhood Christmas “dramas.”

According to director Geoffrey Rivas, “These stories touch each and every audience member, no matter their background, on many different levels. They are also a window into some of the beautiful traditions we have within the Latino community.”

“The ‘special’ in the title is homage to the TV shows we all watched growing up,” laughs Yanez. “All those ‘Christmas Specials’ that we so

closely identified with during the holidays, but that had no Latinos in them — or maybe just Jose Feliciano. And there is definitely a queer take on Christmas in our play.”

Four years ago Rivas, who had seen an earlier version, offered to direct and bring the show to The LATC where it was a huge success. In its “Critic’s Choice” review, the *Los Angeles Times* called Rivas’ production “hilarious and heart wrenching... [a] very special ‘Special,’” and *Stage Raw* hailed its “universal humor, gumption, sass and hearts brimming with dynamic stories.”

Performances of “The Latina Christmas Special” take place from December 1, 2017 through January 7, 2018.

For more information and to purchase tickets, call (866) 811-4111 or go to [www.TheLATC.org](http://www.TheLATC.org)

