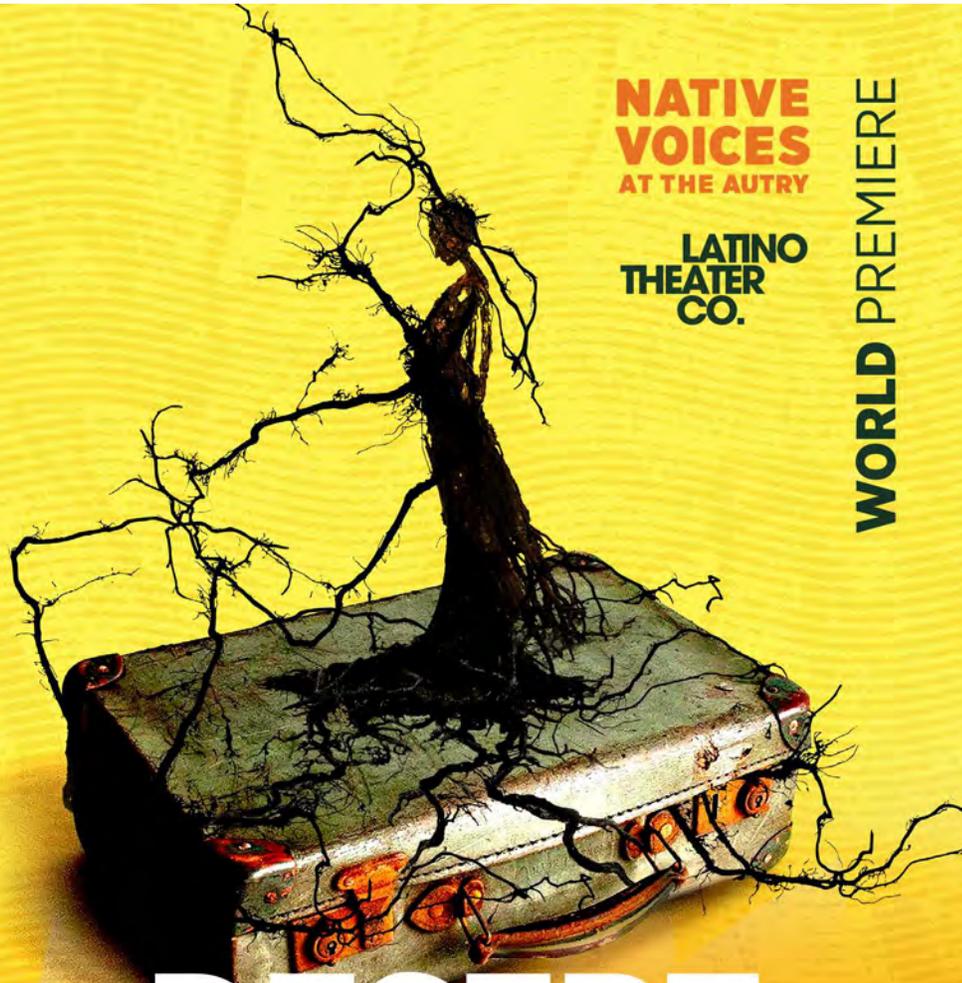


**NATIVE
VOICES**
AT THE AUTRY

**LATINO
THEATER
CO.**

WORLD PREMIERE



DESERT STORIES FOR LOST GIRLS

Written by Lily Rushing (Genízaro)
Directed by Sylvia Cervantes Blush

SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 16, 2022

DRAMATURG'S NOTE:

Roughly 50 miles north of Santa Fe, New Mexico are the ancient mineral springs, known by the Tewa as Posipopi (the Green Springs) and later named Ojo Caliente (Warm Eye) by the Spanish. These hot pools have been known since time immemorial for their healing waters, which ancient Puebloan peoples recognized as a site for communication with their ancestors, spirits, and deities. Bringing shells and turquoise offerings, they submerged into the sacred waters, edged with emerald algae covered rocks, because these pools were the eye to the spirit world.

A theatrically compelling element found in contemporary plays by Indigenous playwrights is the active presence of spirits, whose interactions and mechanizations with characters in the earthly sphere heighten dramatic tension, offer spiritual guidance, and catalyze change within the world of the play. Our story metaphorically takes place inside of, and at the edges beyond the sacred waters of Ojo Caliente. We are in Stockton, California in the 2010s. We are in Ojo Caliente, New Mexico in the 1930s, then the 1950s. We are at once invited into the pools with ancestors, and visited by spirits who follow their progeny over decades and distance in order to be seen, felt, and known.

Desert Stories for Lost Girls shares the story of 18-year-old Carrie Black who volunteers to care for her aging grandmother Rosa. As she washes, feeds, and listens to Rosa's seemingly non-sensical "bibble babble," Carrie uncovers the secrets of her family line which includes both conquistadores and Genízaro peoples. During the violent eras of European-colonization in the Southwest, Indigenous peoples were taken as prisoners of war, either by enemy tribal peoples or by European colonizing forces. These Indigenous peoples, referred to as Genízaros, were detribalized, torn from their Indigenous communities and cultures. As prisoners of war, they were allotted pieces of land strategically surrounding colonial cities and land grants, thereby creating barriers from Indigenous raids with their own lives and livestock. Even in times of "peace," Genízaros were forced to work as the lowest caste in a foreign feudal system as indentured servants; or they were born into such a system, never having known the customs of their ancestral peoples.

Unable to escape the spirits of Spanish colonial New Mexico, those Indigenous and those European, Carrie dreams of the trials and trade-offs her ancestors made to escape the horrors of land grant system; and Rosa recognizes with crystalline clarity that her path must wind back to the healing waters and holy dirt of her birthplace.

A reckoning, a return, a re-membling.

CONTENT WARNING: This play explores many aspects of injustice against Indigenous peoples that are emotionally distressing. Indigenous women in our time are disproportionately more likely to experience sexual assault and violence than any other demographic group. This play reckons with the historical reality of sexual violence as a tool of colonization and holds space for the psychological impacts of such abuse through generation.

Desert Stories for Lost Girls

Writer: **Lily Rushing** (Genízaro)
Director: **Sylvia Cervantes Blush**
Dramaturg: **Courtney Elkin Mohler** (Santa Barbara Chumash)

PRODUCTION TEAM

Scenic & Props Design: **Christopher Scott Murillo**[†]
Costume Design: **Lorna Bowen** (Muscogee Creek, Seminole, Cherokee)
Lighting & Projection Design: **Derek Christiansen & Ruby O'Brien**
Sound Design: **Mia Glenn-Schuster**
Production Stage Manager: **Maricela Sahagun**^{*}
Assistant Stage Manager: **Martha Espinoza**
Audio Engineer: **Cobalt McAvinue**
Board Op: **Megan Gonzalez**
Graphic Design: **Tima Lotah Link** (Šmuwič Chumash)
Vocal Coach: **Roshni Shukla**
Fight Choreographer: **Richard Soto**

NATIVE VOICES AT THE AUTRY

Artistic Director: **DeLanna Studi** (Cherokee)
Managing Director: **Elisa Blandford**
Literary Manager: **Katie Rich** (Cherokee, Chickasaw)

LATINO THEATER COMPANY

Artistic Director: **José Luis Valenzuela**
Managing Director: **Diane G. Medina**
Associate Artistic Directors:
Evelina Fernández
Sal Lopez
Geoffrey Rivas
Lucy Rodríguez
Technical/Facilities:
Wayne Nakasone
Ivan Robles
Accounting/Administration:
Lisa Zurita

Education Programs/Grant Management:
Angela Scott
Production Management/Development/Research:
Nate Edelman
Marketing/Box Office:
Xavi Moreno
Publicity:
Lucy Pollak
Front of House/Administrative Support:
Maricela Sahagun
Theater Rentals/Executive Support:
Michelle Garcia-Tapia



^{*}Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



[†]Member of United Scenic Artist Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees

DESERT STORIES FOR LOST GIRLS

ABOUT THE CAST

Do you believe your ancestors walk with you? When 18-year-old Carrie moves in with her grandmother, Rosa, she is thrown into a world of memory and mystery that unearths her family’s identity—shining a light on a dark and bloody period in the history of the American Southwest. Native Voices in collaboration with Latino Theater Company proudly present *Desert Stories for Lost Girls* by Lily Rushing (Genízaro), a haunting and lyrical rumination on family, identity, and colonialism over generations.

CARRIE BLACK Katie Anvil Rich*
 ROSA BLACK Carolyn Dunn*
 UNCLE EDGAR Tom Allard*
 ROSA JACINTO/BLACK Rainbow Dickerson*
 JOE BLACK/NICHOLAS JACINTO Glenn Stanton*
 JOSEFA JACINTO Brenda Banda*
 PLACIDA Samantha Bowling*



Tom Allard (Loyal Shawnee Band of Cherokee Nation) / UNCLE EDGAR was a charter stagehand for the opening shows at LATC and returned a decade later onstage with Will and Company performing for the Sixth World Shakespeare Congress. Now, he is delighted for the opportunity to work with the Latino Theater Company and Native Voices. He also is happily employed as the all-school storyteller for Pasadena Polytechnic School.



Brenda Banda / JOSEFA is an actor, director, playwright, and teaching artist who grew up in South Central, Los Angeles. As a teaching artist, she has worked with Inside Out Community Arts, P.S. ARTS, CNCA Camino Nuevo Burlington, B.R.I.D.G.E. Theatre Project, and ENACT. Banda is also the co-founder of Urban Theatre Movement and has served as the company’s creative director of Urban Legends, a yearly one-act theatre festival. As an actress, you can catch her in the Netflix Original Series *Gentefied* (season 1) as Norma. She’s also been on *Shameless* (season 11) and most recently on *Grey’s Anatomy* (season 18) and *This Fool* on Hulu. She is represented by her management Sixtos Talent and Momentum Talent and Literary Agency. Her publicist is Espada PR.



Samantha Bowling (Cherokee) / PLACIDA is a standup, sketch, improv, and character comedian from Cincinnati, Ohio. She lives, works, plays with her dog, paints, writes music, drives a stick shift, and performs in Los Angeles. She is workshoping her solo show *This Was Never Supposed to Be a One-Woman Show: A One-Woman Show* in April. Theatre credits include *Spirit of the Valley* (Perseverance Theatre), *The Lowell Offering* (Merrimack Repertory Theatre), *Under a Big Sky* (Native Voices at the Autry), and *Informed Consent* (Lantern Theater). TV/Film credits include *Tomb Invaders* (SyFy), *Back to Awesome* (Amazon), and *Blood Brother* (Lifetime). @2ndGuessCorrect



*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



Rainbow Dickerson (Rappahannock/Thai) / ROSITA JACINTO/BLACK can be seen next on screen in Netflix's adaptation of *Avatar: The Last Airbender* and on stage in the world premiere of *Cashed Out* by Claude Jackson, Jr. Other selected credits: *BEANS* (TIFF Rising Star, Vancouver Film Critics Best Supporting Actress, Quebec Cinema Revelation of the Year nomination), *Gone*, *Chicago Fire*, Broadway, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, American Repertory Theatre, *Mixed Blood* and more. She is also an alumna of the ABC Disney Discovers Program. Represented by Liberman Zerman Management and Griffin Talent.



Carolyn Dunn (Cherokee, Mvskoke Creek, French Creole, and Tunica/Choctaw Biloxi descent) / ROSA BLACK is a storyteller who encompasses both poetry and playwriting with works about family, grief, resilience, and the landscape in all genres in-between. In addition to the award-winning *Outfoxing Coyote*, her books include *Through the Eye of the Deer*, *Coyote Speaks*, *Echolocation: Poems, Stories and Songs from Indian Country: L.A.*, *The Stains of Burden and Dumb Luck*, and more. Her plays *The Frybread Queen*, *Ghost Dance*, and *Soledad* have been developed and staged at Native Voices and her current work in progress is the pow wow comedy *Chasing Tailfeathers*. Stage acting credits include *The Bingo Palace*, *Neechie-itas*, *Sliver of a Full Moon*, and the musicals *Distant Thunder* and *Missing Peace*. She lives in Los Angeles and Oklahoma with her family.



Katie Anvil Rich (Cherokee, Chickasaw) / CARRIE BLACK is an actor, improviser, writer, and director. Select acting credits include Nora in *Assistance* (American Repertory Theater), Marianne Dashwood in *Sense and Sensibility* (A.R.T./Bedlam), Margarita in *Incurable: A Fool's Tale* (The Guthrie). She is an alum of the Disney Talent Showcase and holds an MFA in Acting from Harvard University and Moscow Art Theatre. Additionally, she is a proud member of the Native Voices team and has served as Literary Manager for five years. KatieAnvilRich.com



Andrew Roa (Shasta/Azteca) / UNDERSTUDY is an award-winning actor, director, and screenwriter. His film credits include *Yellowrock*, *The Ice Man Chronicles*, *If*, *Picking Up the Pieces*, and *Pocahontas II*. Next spring, he will be seen in the independent feature *Somewhere in Montana*. TV credits include *Adma Ruins Everything*, *Quantum Leap*, *Doctor Doctor*, *Fame*, and *The Ellyn Burstyn Show*. Stage credits include *Black Elk Speaks* (Mark Taper Forum/Denver Center), *Equus* (NRC), and *Kino & Teresa* and *Please Do Not Touch the Indians*, among many others for Native Voices. He created the roles of Major John Ridge and Rodger for Arena Stage's acclaimed production of *Sovereignty*.



Glenn Stanton (Cherokee) / JOE BLACK/NICHOLAS JACINTO began his career in Chicago, working with The Goodman, Chicago Shakespeare, The House Theatre, and many others. He found his way into television, which brought him to LA. Some TV credits include *The Son* (AMC), *9-1-1* (Fox), *4400* (CW), and Frost in the final season of *The Walking Dead*. Entering 2021, Stanton was named by the Casting Society of America as one of the Top 20 Actors from Historically Underrepresented Communities.



Kholan Studi (Cherokee) / UNDERSTUDY was born and raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Ever since he was a child, he has loved entertaining folks and making them laugh and feel. In 2012, Studi moved to Los Angeles to attend the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, where he completed his studies in 2015. Since then, he has worked in many productions with Native Voices, including the title character in *The New Adventures of Super Indian* by Arigon Starr, *They Don't Talk Back* by Frank Henry Kaash Katasse, and *Bingo Hall* by Dillon Chitto. Studi was also honored to play Elias Boudinot in a production of *Sovereignty* by Mary Kathryn Nagle at Marin Theatre Company in 2019. During the pandemic, he took part in Perseverance Theatre's production of *Spirit of the Valley* by Frank Henry Kaash Katasse.



Jehnean Washington (Yuchi, Seminole, Shoshone) / UNDERSTUDY is a multitaled and multicultural artist. A graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City, she has worked for more than 30 years not only as a singer/song writer and musician but also in the entertainment industry in film, television, radio, and voiceovers. Washington is a recognized and archived singer, songwriter, musician, actor, and storyteller with the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., and an ensemble member of Native Voices. She is also the owner of the Los Angeles-based film company Lighthorsewoman Productions and co-wrote the award-winning screenplay for the movie *Rave*.



ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Lily Rushing (Genízaro) is from Sacramento, CA. She graduated from The Theatre School at DePaul University with a BFA in Playwriting. Last year she participated in Indigenous Circles, a collaboration between Native Voices and Philadelphia's PlayPenn where she developed and workshopped *Desert Stories for Lost Girls* during a week-long residency. She is the 2018 recipient of The Playwriting Initiative award at Interrobang Theatre Project, where she wrote *Cowboy Play*, which was part of the Read, Rant, and Relate Series by Relative Theatrics in 2020.



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Sylvia Cervantes Blush is the loudest of five from Bell Gardens; Pops is from Tecolotlán, Jalisco and Mom is from Compton; after a long journey as a dancer, her academic journey took her from Cerritos College to CSULB to UCLA where she earned an MFA in Directing; she has been Bill's bride since 2008; worked with incredible people on *S.H.E.L. Silverstein News*, *This Bitch: Esta Sangre Quireo Electricidad*, *Medea*, *Bill's Shorts*, *Long Road Today*, and 2014 Encuentro.



ABOUT THE DRAMATURG

As a stage director and dramaturge, **Dr. Courtney Elkin Mohler** (Santa Barbara Chumash) concentrates on new works that push aesthetic and political boundaries and is dedicated to supporting new work by Native American playwrights. Some recent dramaturgy credits include *Lying with Badgers* by Jason Grasl (Blackfeet) at Native Voices, *The Thanksgiving Play* by Larissa FastHorse (Sicangu Lakota) at Virginia Stage Company and *Yu-Che-Wah-Kehn (Bitter)* by Vickie Ramirez (Tuscarora), recipient of the National New Play Network's Smith Prize for Political Theatre. In addition to her professional theatre work, Mohler is Associate Professor of Theatre at Boston College. Her co-authored *Critical Companion to Native American and First Nations Theatre and Performance: Indigenous Spaces* was published in 2020 by Bloomsbury-Metheun Press.



ABOUT THE PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

This is **Maricela Sahagun's** first production with Native Voices! Previous Los Angeles credits include stage managing: *Estoy Okate* with Cholawood Productions; *Desert Rats*, *La Victima*, *Revoluciones*, and *Sleep with The Angels* with the Latino Theater Company; *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* with Invisible Girl Creative; *As You Like It* with Eastside Theater Works. Previous Los Angeles assistant stage managing credits include: *Viral: The Musical* with *Homeland Projects Inc.*; *The Mother of Henry* and *Virgen de Guadalupe Dios Inanztin* with the Latino Theater Company; *Anna In the Tropics* with A Noise Within.



ABOUT THE SCENIC AND PROPS DESIGNER

Christopher Scott Murillo is a scenic designer, artist, and educator based in Los Angeles. Most recently, his work has been seen at Sierra Rep, New Village Arts Theatre, and the Getty Villa. Murillo is a member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 and is an Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts at Loyola Marymount University. He is a 2016 recipient of the Princess Grace Foundation Theater Fellowship- Pierre Cardin Award.



ABOUT THE COSTUME DESIGNER

Lorna Bowen (Muscogee Creek, Seminole, Cherokee) is a freelance costumer, a figure-finishing artist for Animal Makers, and has had the great privilege to supervise wardrobe for *Bingo Hall*, *Pure Native*, and *Lying with Badgers* at Native Voices. She was given the great honor of reading and singing Aunt Iris for *Missing Peace* in 2019 as her first on stage performance for Native Voices. She is so grateful to Randy Reinholz, Jean Bruce Scott, DeLanna Studi, and Elisa Blandford for their faith and trust and for the lovely E.B. Brooks. Her mentorship has been a blessed gift. MVTO!



ABOUT THE PROJECTION & LIGHTING DESIGNERS

Derek Christiansen and **Ruby O'Brien** are d.purpurea studio, a theatrical and interactive entertainment design partnership based out of Los Angeles. They utilize their theatrical experience in projections, lighting, and scenic design to enhance an audience's

interaction with the narrative of theater and live performance, filmed and broadcast media, and interactive entertainment experiences. d.purpurea studio has designed for companies including: Ahmanson Theatre, Whitney Museum of American Art, Museum of Tolerance, Emerson Stage, Stars on Ice, Atwater Village Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Andy's Summer Playhouse, the University of Southern California, Broadwater Mainstage, and the Grammy Museum. <https://dpurpurea.studio>



ABOUT THE SOUND DESIGNER

Mia Glenn-Schuster is a sound designer from San Francisco who loves making magic out of minutia. They work both in theater and in video games with previous credits including *For the Love of a Glove* with Bazalaam Productions, *The Soldier Dreams* with Open Fist, *Rock 'em Sock 'em Robots* and *Foodimals* for the Amazon Alexa, and *The Sims 4* for EA. In-between shows they can be found roaming the streets of Los Angeles on their roller skates or working in their vegetable garden.

ABOUT US

NATIVE VOICES AT THE AUTRY

NATIVE VOICES AT THE AUTRY

Native Voices at the Autry places Native narratives at the center of the American story in order to facilitate a more inclusive dialogue on what it means to be American. Founded in 1994 by Randy Reinholz (Choctaw) and Jean Bruce Scott, Native Voices is dedicated to the development and production of new works for the stage written by American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and First Nations playwrights. The organization remains committed to emerging and established Native playwrights and theatre artists, to telling Native stories by and about Native people, and to providing the public access to these plays and playwrights—all with the goals of fostering greater understanding and respect of showcasing artistic voices that might otherwise not be heard.

AUTRY MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN WEST

THE AUTRY MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN WEST

The Autry is a museum dedicated to exploring and sharing the stories, experiences, and perceptions of the diverse peoples of the American West, connecting the past to the present to inspire our shared future. The museum presents a wide range of exhibitions and public programs—including lectures, film, theatre, festivals, family events, and music—and performs scholarship, research, and educational outreach. The Autry's collection of more than 500,000 pieces of art and artifacts includes the Southwest Museum of the American Indian Collection, one of the largest and most significant collections of Native American materials in the United States.

LATINO THEATER CO.

THE LATINO THEATER COMPANY

The Latino Theater Company celebrates 37 years of commitment to creating exciting, thought-provoking theater for the LA community. Founded at the LATC in 1985 with Artistic Director José 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, which was extended in 2021 for another 25 years to 2056. 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. Our festivals, programs and initiatives in education, outreach, and fostering new stories boost underserved voices, create opportunities for the county's youth, and strive to build sustainable networking platforms with the other Latino theaters throughout the nation.



ABOUT THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

DeLanna Studi (Cherokee) has more than 25 years of experience as a performer, storyteller, educator, facilitator, advocate, and activist. Her theatre credits include the first national Broadway tour of the Tony Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winning play *August: Osage County*; off-Broadway's *Gloria: A Life* (Daryl Roth Theatre); *Informed Consent* (the Duke on 42nd Street); and regional theatres (Oregon Shakespeare Festival,

Portland Center Stage, Cornerstone, and Indiana Repertory Theatre). Studi originated roles in more than 18 world premieres, including 14 Native productions. A pivotal moment in her career was writing and performing *And So We Walked: An Artist's Journey Along the Trail of Tears*, based on retracing her family's footsteps along the Trail of Tears with her father. *And So We Walked* has been produced throughout the country and was the first American play chosen for the Journées Théâtrales de Carthage in Tunisia, Africa. Recently, it made its Off-Broadway debut at Minetta Lane where it was recorded for Audible. In film and television, Studi stars in the Peabody Award-winning *Edge of America*; *Hallmark's Dreamkeeper*; *Goliath*; *Shameless*; and *Reservation Dogs*. She is a 2022 USA Fellow, a recipient of the Butcher Scholar Award, a MAP Fund Grant, Cherokee Preservation Grant, and the Doris Duke Performing Artist Fund. Since 2007 she has served as chair of the SAG-AFTRA National Native Americans Committee.



ABOUT THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Elisa Blandford has been producing for Native Voices at the Autry since 2014, from world premieres and touring productions to Short Play Festivals, Playwrights Retreats, and Festivals of New Plays. She co-founded Vanguard Repertory Company and the Windmill Arts Center, a black box theatre and dance studio dedicated to fostering performance and visual arts. She holds a Bachelor's in Theatre and a Master's in Business.



ABOUT THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

José Luis Valenzuela is the Artistic Director of the Latino Theater Company (LTC), and The Los Angeles Theatre Center (LATC) and is also an Emeritus Distinguished Professor at UCLA's School of Theater, Film & Television. Valenzuela is an award-winning theater director and has been a visionary and an advocate for Chicana/Latinx 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 has directed *The Mother of Henry*, *La Olla*, *Solitude*, *Premeditation*, *Dementia*, and *A Mexican Trilogy* for the Latino Theatre Company. Most recently he also directed *Macbeth* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Karen Zacarias' *Destiny of Desire* at Arena Stage, South Coast Rep, The Goodman Theatre, and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. His international directing credits include Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* at the Norland Theatre in Norway and Manuel Puig's *Kiss of the Spider Woman* at the National Theatre of Norway. He produced the national Encuentro Festival in 2014, the international Encuentro de las Americas in 2017, and the national Re-Encuentro in 2021.

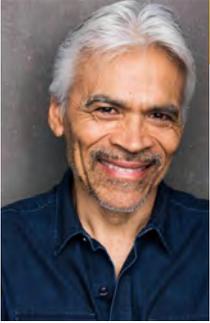


ABOUT THE ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Evelina Fernández was born and raised in East LA. The Resident Playwright for the Latino Theater Company, she is an award-winning playwright, screenwriter, actor, and activist who writes about the Chicana experience. Her Latino Theater Company plays include *The Mother Of Henry* (L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Award, L.A Times Critic's Choice); *A Mexican Trilogy* (L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Writing of a World Premiere Play) published by Samuel French; *Solitude*

(LA Times Critic's Choice); *Dementia* (LA Times Critic's Choice); *La Virgen De Guadalupe*, *Dios Inantzin*, featured in both the LA Times and the NY Times; *Hope: Part II of A Mexican Trilogy* (Ovation Nomination Best Playwright); *Dementia* (GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Theater Production in Los Angeles and four Ovation Award nominations, including Best World Premiere); *Charity: Part III of A Mexican Trilogy* (Back Stage's Critic's Pick); *Premeditation* (3 Ovation Award Nominations); and the *Premeditation Podcast* (2021). Other plays include *Luminarias*, *La Olla*, *Liz Estrada In The City of Angels*, *Macario & Departera* (for Teatro Vision) and more. She is currently commissioned by South Coast Rep and the Latino Theater Company's Circle of Imaginistas and is developing a series for Amazon Studios with her producing partners Wise Entertainment and Blue Monday Productions.

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTORS



Sal Lopez started his acting career after landing a key role in the hit play *Zoot Suit*. In the eighties Stanley Kubrick put out an open call around the world to cast his picture *Full Metal Jacket*; after seeing hundreds of tapes Sal was picked to play the role of T.H.E. Rock. Sal was cast as Edward James Olmos's Dad in the landmark film *American Me*. Sal produced and starred in the independent film *Luminarias*, John Sayles saw that movie and cast Sal in his film *Silver City*. Sal also co-produced the new film *Cruising Moe*. Most recent films: *Spiked*, *The Old Ways*, *Centurion X11*, *El Chicano*, *The Hyperions*, and *The Devil Has A Name*. Other films include *Batman vs Superman*, *The Astronaut Farmer* by The Polish Brothers, *The End Of Violence* directed by Wim Venders, *Cold Heaven* directed by Nicholas Roeg, *Mr. Jones* by Mike Figgis, *Beverly Hills Chihuahua*, *American Son*, *The Banger Sisters*, *Fly Paper*, *Paparazzi*, *Selena*, *Price Of Glory*, *Born In East L.A.*, *Return Of The Dead*, *El Padrino*, *Zoot Suit*, *Sueño* etc. Recent independents; *Velvet Buzzsaw*, *Culture Shock*, *The Green Ghost*, *Monday Nights At 7*, *Time In Between*, *Water and Power*, *Cry Now*, *Road To Juarez*, *Evergreen Christmas*, *Go For Sisters*. With the Latino Theater Company, his one man show: *This Is A Man's World*, *Premeditation*, *August 29th*, *La Victima*, *Luminarias*, *Dementia*, *Solitude*, *Habitat*, *Wild In Wichita*, *Mexican Trilogy-Faith*, *Hope*, *Charity*, and the lead in *La Virgen de Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin*, performed every year at The Cathedral Of Our Lady Of The Angels.



Geoffrey Rivas, a native Californian, graduated from UCLA with a Master of Fine Arts Degree with a concentration on acting. He has received numerous nominations for his stage work and is a founding member of The Latino Theater Company. The company, under the Artistic Direction of Jose Luis Valenzuela, has been producing award winning Latino theater nationally for 30 years. Film credits include *Under the Tuscan Sun*, *Dragonfly*, *Luminarias*, *La Bamba*, *Born In East L.A.*, *Pow Wow Highway*, *Bound By Honor*, *Above Suspicion*, and *Foto Novelas* for PBS, for which he won an ALMA award in 1998. A highlight of Geoff's prolific career on television was 9 years as Detective Vega on the original series, *CSI* (CBS). His directorial debut, Jozanne Marie's solo show,

Beautiful - for which Jozanne won a NAACP award for best actress - drew much praise and favorable reviews as did his latest show, *Home* starring Nancy MA. *Latina Christmas Special* was further developed under his direction and is widely considered to be the longest running and most successful show ever presented by the Latino Theater Company.



Lucy Rodriguez is an active member of the Latino Theater Company (LTC) with which she has been affiliated since 1988. As an LTC member she co-produces the pageant play *La Virgen de Guadalupe: Dios Inantzin* that is presented annually at the Cathedral Our Lady of the Angels in downtown L.A. LTC Theatre credits include: *A Mexican Trilogy*, *Solitude*, *Faith*, *Melancholia*, *La Victima*, *Dementia* (2002) (2010) (2017), August 29, *La Virgen de Guadalupe: Dios Inantzin*; *Real Women Have Curves* at San Diego Rep (World Premiere), *A Christmas Carol*, *Man of the Flesh* at South Coast Rep. Film credits include *Species* and *Deception*. Television credits include recurring roles on *ER* and *Sunset Beach*.

SPECIAL THANKS

Nancy Boykin, Carolyn Dunn, Gary Farmer, Willy Holtzman, Griffin Horn, Dawn Jamieson, Larry Jaramillo, Princess Daazhrai Johnson, Emmitt Keele, Courtney Elkin Mohler, Ryffin Phoenix, Emily Preis, Sabrina Proffitt, Katie Rich, Rocky Rushing, Jennie Russianoff, Jean Bruce Scott & Randy Reinholz, Tom Shotkin, Benny Wayne Sully, Henu Josephine Tarrant, Evelina Fernandez & José Luis Valenzuela

Support for this production was provided by Venturous Theater Fund, a fund of the Tides Foundation.



**NATIVE
VOICES**
AT THE AUTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Don't Mess with Auntie!

13th Annual Native Voices Short Play Festival | MARCH 26, 2022

Join Native Voices as we celebrate the matriarchs in our lives. No one shapes us more in our communities than our women—our identities, our values, our tastes in food have all been cultivated by their strong hands and minds. And, in our Native communities, the list of those who rear us extends far beyond that westernized “nuclear family.” Next year, Native Voices invites you to short plays inspired by the warrior women we affectionately call “Auntie”!

29th Festival of New Plays | JUNE 10-11, 2022

As the only Actors Equity theatre company in the country devoted to developing new works by Indigenous playwrights, Native Voices has become the cornerstone of American Theatre in cultivating opportunities for Native playwrights, which we have proudly done for 29 years. Our Festival of New Plays is a ten-day residency where playwrights are partnered with an artistic team, a dramaturg, and professional actors to explore their scripts in front of an audience. We are thrilled to invite you to our 29th Festival of New Plays as we celebrate these inspiring and talented Indigenous Playwrights as they regale us with their stories of being Native today.

**LATINO
THEATER
CO.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

MELANCHOLIA

by **Latino Theater Lab**

Directed by **José Luis Valenzuela**

OCTOBER 6 - OCTOBER 16, 2022

Devised and collectively written by members of the Latino Theater Lab in 2007, this highly theatrical, Iraq war-themed work featuring music, dance and stylized choreography premiered at The Los Angeles Theatre Center in 2007 under the direction of José Luis Valenzuela before traveling to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, then was revived in 2013 by the Latino Theater Company.

Now, with Valenzuela again at the helm, LACC drama students take on this unique exploration of the life of a young marine who, upon his return from the Iraq War, finds himself struggling to reconnect in a world that no longer makes sense.

(Un)documents

Written & Performed by **Jesús I. Valles**

Directed by **Rudy Ramirez**

October 12 - November 20

With a single phrase, you can give up your country. With a single signature, you can tear a family apart. With a single word, you can learn to transform.

In their first full-length solo show, (Un)Documents, award-winning actor and poet Jesús I. Valles journeys across both sides of a river with two names, moving between languages to find their place as a child, a lover, a teacher, and a sibling in a nation that demands sacrifice at the altar of citizenship. In doing so, they create a new kind of documentation written with anger, fierce love, and the knowledge that what makes us human can never be captured on a government questionnaire. Directed by Rudy Ramirez, the show received its initial workshop at The VORTEX in 2018 as part of FuturX: A New Festival of Latinx Performance. (Un)Documents won three 2018 B. Iden Payne awards for Outstanding Original Script, Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama, and Outstanding Direction of a Drama, and was nominated for Outstanding Production of a Drama. (Un)Documents was also presented as part of the 2019 OutsiderFest artist's showcase and featured at the Latinx Theatre Common's Sin Fronteras Festival. (Un)Documents returned to The VORTEX in May of 2019 for a two week encore and received five nominations from the Austin Critics Table Association, including the Mark David Cohen Award for Best New Play, and was a featured performance at the 2021 ATHE conference.

La Virgen de Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin

Written by **Evelina Fernández**

Directed by **José Luis Valenzuela**

December 2 & 3, 2022

We return to Downtown L.A.'s Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels with La Virgen de Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin, the company's signature holiday pageant that has taken place annually since 2002. Featuring over 100 actors, singers and indigenous Aztec dancers as well as children and seniors from the community, La Virgen is the City of L.A.'s largest theatrical holiday production. Join the tens of thousands who have become transfixed by the story of Juan Diego, a simple peasant to whom the Virgin Mary appeared on four occasions in the mountains of Tepeyac near Mexico City in 1531. Adapted for the stage by Evelina Fernández from the mid-16th century text The Nican Mopohua and performed in Spanish with English subtitles,

IN GRATITUDE

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