

CALENDAR

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XAVI MORENO

Holiday shows and more acts

“Latina Christmas Special,” above, is among yuletide tales at small theaters. **E18**

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THE 99-SEAT BEAT

BY PHILIP BRANDES



XAVI MORENO

MARIA RUSSELL, left, Diana Yanez and Sandra Valls on the set of “Latina Christmas Special.”

LATC’s ‘Latina Christmas’

The essentials: What began as autobiographical monologues by comedians Diana Yanez, Maria Russell and Sandra Valls have been shaped by director Geoffrey Rivas into “The Latina Christmas Special,” a full-fledged theatrical celebration of Christmas and cultural diversity. The performers recount and vividly enact episodes — funny, sad and heartwarming — drawn from their family bonds, squabbles and scandals.

Why this? A Times Critic’s Choice in 2015, the show mines the performers’ very different backgrounds to dispel stereotypes of monolithic Latin culture. Yanez is a Miami-born Cuban American; Valls is a native Texas Mexican American; and Russell is the daughter of “an over-dedicated Mexican mother and compliant Lithuanian father.”

Details: A Latino Theater Company production at Los Angeles Theatre Center, 514 S. Spring St., Los Angeles. 8 p.m. Fridays, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays, through Jan. 7. Also 8 p.m. Dec. 18, Dec. 21 and Jan. 4; dark Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. \$32-\$37. (866) 811-4111, www.thelatc.org