

LEVEL UP!



41 YEARS
AS A COMPANY
FAMILIA
COMMUNITY

20 YEARS
AT THE **LATC**

ONE BOLD
2026
SEASON

LATINOTHEATERCO.ORG

WELCOME!



At Latino Theater Company, we believe theatre is a place where people come together to be seen, to be heard, and to feel part of a community. In times like these, that feels more important than ever.

People need community. They need to feel validated and understood. They need a place where they can laugh, cry, and simply be themselves. A place where they can feel like a full human being. Theatre gives us that space. It allows us to sit together, reflect together, and remember that we are not alone.

In moments like the one we are living through now, art matters. Art is resistance. Theatre is resistance. Through storytelling we confront the realities of our time and challenge audiences to look at the world, and at one another, with honesty and empathy.

These are turbulent times. It can feel easier to look away or simply go along with the flow. But theatre asks something different of us. It asks us to face the world as it is, to listen carefully, and to speak honestly about what we see.

Sometimes that means we have to speak louder.

As we looked at the plays in this spring season, a connection began to emerge. These were all female centered stories and dealt with the pressures they face. Family expectations. Identity. Responsibility. The choices they must make and the strength it takes to carry them.

That idea begins with the first story we share this season.

We begin the season with ***Level Up!***, written by Gabriel Rivas Gómez and commissioned through Latino Theater Company's Circle of Imaginistas. The play follows Desi, a trans woman who feels safest expressing herself inside a virtual gaming world. At its heart, ***Level Up!*** is about identity, family, and the courage it takes to be honest about who you are.

Producing work like this reflects something essential about why this theatre exists. We are committed to creating space for artists to share their voices and tell stories from their communities. One of the most rewarding parts of our work is seeing a new playwright step onto the stage for the first time. These voices challenge us and expand the conversation.

Next in our spring season is ***The Storyteller of East LA***, written by founding Latino Theater Company ensemble member Evelina Fernández and also developed through our Circle of Imaginistas. The play explores memory loss, caregiving, family conflict, and the sustaining power of love. Rooted in the voices and experiences of our community, it reminds us how storytelling itself helps families navigate moments of struggle.

Many members of the Latino Theater Company ensemble come together for this production. When artists who have worked together for years return to the rehearsal

room, something special happens. There is trust. There is openness. There is space to question, explore, and build something meaningful together.

We close the spring season with ***Carlota: Alhajero de Secretos***, written by Rodrigo García and Ugho Badú and performed in Spanish with English subtitles. Set inside a carefully ordered household, the play explores the powerful relationships between mothers and daughters and the consequences of secrets kept too long.

As the year continues, we expand our work beyond our stages with a special presentation of Sophocles' ***Antigone***, adapted by Evelina Fernández and directed by José Luis Valenzuela, presented at the Getty Villa's outdoor classical theater. Reimagined within a pre-conquest Aztec world, the production brings an ancient story into direct conversation with our histories and the present moment, asking enduring questions about justice, power, and moral responsibility.

With that, we move into our fall season.

We present ***Speaking in Tongues***, a new work by MacArthur "Genius Grant" recipient Luis Alfaro, developed through our Circle of Imaginistas. Set within a struggling Pentecostal congregation in California's Central Valley, the play explores faith, community and survival in a rapidly changing social and political landscape.

We continue our ongoing collaboration with Artists at Play with ***The Dance and the Railroad*** by David Henry Hwang, a powerful early work that reflects on the lives of Chinese laborers during the 1867 railroad strike, and the enduring human need for art, dignity and expression.

We also present *Yamel Cucuy* by Glass Half Full Theatre, a visually striking and haunting work that blends puppetry, live performance and folklore to explore borders, fear, and the strength it takes to move forward.

Together, these productions reflect what Latino Theater Company has always tried to do. From the beginning, our focus has been simple. Make theatre for the people of Los Angeles, with the artists who live here, and tell stories that matter to the communities that shape this city.

The struggles faced by women, by Latinos, by immigrants, by LGBTQ communities, and by many others are not distant issues. They are part of our daily lives. Theatre allows us to confront those realities honestly while also celebrating the resilience, humor, and humanity that sustain us.

Our invitation to you is simple.

Come with no fear. This theatre is a place to gather, reflect, and embrace one another, even those we may not yet know. We need that right now.

Thank you for being here.



JOSÉ LUIS VALENZUELA

Artistic Director

**BE PART
OF THE
MOVEMENT!**

Follow the Latino Theater Company and stay connected to what's happening on our stages and in our community. Get behind the scenes access, artist highlights, info on upcoming events, and ways to be part of the conversation.

LET'S GET SOCIAL!
@latinotheaterco



SELECT PLAYER



**RICHARD
AZURDIA**



**MATHIAS
BRINDA**



**SOL MARINA
CRESCO**



**XOL
GONZALEZ**



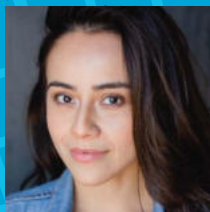
**KHALÍF J.
GILLETT**



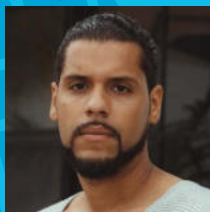
**WILEY NAMAN
STRASSER**



**ANDI RENÉ
CHRISTENSEN**



**CELESTE
LANUZA**



**MAURICIO
MARTE**

LEVEL UP!

BY **GABRIEL RIVAS GÓMEZ**

Richard Azurdia*Papá/Nanas
Mathias BrindaDesi
Sol Marina Crespo*Mami
Xol GonzalezMemo
Khalíf J. Gillett* 8eatles the 8ard
Wiley Naman Strasser* Smallfish

Understudies: **Celeste Lanuza***, **Mauricio Marte**. Understudies never substitute for a listed performance unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance.

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

Scenic Design
FRANÇOIS-PIERRE COUTURE

Costume Design
CATARINA COPELLI

Lighting Design
XINYUAN LI (LEE)

Sound Design
ROBERT J. REVELL

Projection Design
HSUAN-KUANG HSIEH

Fight Choreographer
EDGAR LANDA

Puppet Artist
SOPHIA MARCOS-JERONIMO

Stage Manager
ARIANA MICHEL

Production Manager
MAY FEI

Casting Director
LOLARÍO CASTING

Assistant Stage Manager
CRYSTAL NIETO

Assistant Director
ESPERANZA AMÉRICA

Costume Assistant
SAEM

Costume Assistant
CLAIRE FRASER WALSH

Wardrobe Supervisor
MANEE LEIJA

DIRECTED BY
FIDEL GOMEZ

LEVEL UP! will be performed without an intermission

Please Note: There is no photography or filming of any kind allowed during the performance.
Please turn off all electronic devices, including cell phones.

Level Up! is a multigenerational play co-commissioned by Latino Theater Company and Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis as part of the Mellon Foundation's Generation Now initiative, and developed in Latino Theater Company's Circle of Imaginistas playwrighting group.



This theater operates under an agreement with Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

RICHARD AZURDIA (*Papá/Nanas*) was born and raised in L.A. His theater credits include Latino Theater Co.'s *The Little King of Norwalk* and *La Virgen De Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin*, as well as productions at the Fountain Theatre, Theatricum Botanicum, Denver Center Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Ghost Road Co., Hero Theatre, Company of Angels, Rogue Artist Ensemble, Circle X Theatre, Sacred Fools Theatre, Echo Theatre, Odyssey Theater, and ten seasons with Independent Shakespeare Co.'s Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival. He's a recipient of the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship. He's been nominated for the Ovation Awards, Stage Raw Awards, Colorado Theatre Guild's Henry Awards, and Broadway World Awards. His film, TV and voice-over credits are numerous. For more on Richard visit www.RichardAzurdia.com.

MATHIAS BRINDA (*Desi*) Mathias is thrilled to make her debut at the Latino Theater Co. at The LATC. She has performed at the Guthrie, Children's Theatre Company, Lyric Arts, Theater Latte Da, Artistry, and Alliance Theater. Up next is *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* at Penumbra Theater. She is currently an 8th grader at Lake Country Montessori and excited to start high school at Frank Sinatra School for the Arts in NYC for drama. When not on stage or in a rehearsal room, she spends her time baking amazing sourdough, crocheting, and corralling her two dogs, Pablo and Wynton.

SOL MARINA CRESPO (*Mami*) was last seen at The LATC during Encuentro 2014 in *Dancing in My Cockroach Killers* with Pregones Theatre. Other LA credits include: *Accommodation* at The Odyssey, *Radical* at IAMA Theatre, and *The Enablers* at The Echo Theatre Company. She was also the Script Assistant for *Am I Roxie?* at The Geffen. Off Broadway credits include: The Public Theatre, Signature Theater, Classical Stage Company, and John Leguizamo's *Kiss My Aztec*, where she

originated the role of Tolima, the rapping witch. Film credits include Steven Soderbergh's *Unsane*, *Stage V*, and her short film *Villa Encanto*, which she wrote, produced and starred in, and which premiered at Tribeca 2025. TV credits include: HBO, Hulu, ABC, CBS and Showtime, among others. BFA in Drama and BA in Latin American Studies from New York University. Awards: Eben Demarest Fellow (2016), Ford Foundation Fellow, NYSCA Screenwriting Fellow (2019), semi-finalist at the Sundance Episodic Lab (2021). www.solmarina.com IG: @solshine787 @coach_with_sol

XOL GONZALEZ (*Memo*) is a proud Latino actor who was born and raised in Los Angeles and is honored to make his Latino Theater Company debut as Memo in *Level Up!* Having grown up attending shows at The LATC, performing on this stage feels especially serendipitous. Xol is currently a senior in the acting program at the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. Credits include *Teen Carapax* in DC's Blue Beetle, Tom in *Frontières Sans Frontières* (UCLA Spring Department Show), Aaron in *Sacrifice Zone* (Natural History Museum), George in *Stop Kiss* (UCLA Act III Company), and Artemidorus in *Julius Caesar* (UCLA Bruin Bard). Endless gratitude to his parents, friends and family for their love and guidance. @xol_gonzalez

KHALÍF J. GILLET (*Beatles the Bard*) is thrilled to be returning to The LATC where he was last seen as the title character in *The Last Play By Rickérby Hinds*. He was previously seen in *The Stars* at IAMA Theatre Company. Outside of LA, Khalif has been seen in *Cyrano De Bergerac*, *Letters From Freedom Summer* and *A Christmas Carol* at Kansas City Repertory Theatre; *King Lear*, *Dracula* and *Master Harold...and The Boys* at Kansas City Actors Theatre; *Bernhardt/Hamlet* at Unicorn Theatre; and *Much Ado About Nothing* in The Heart of America

PRODUCTION BIOS

Shakespeare Festival. He holds an MFA in Theatre - Acting and Directing from UMKC and an MFA in Screenwriting from UCLA. He is also a Candela Playwriting Fellow and past member of the Labyrinth Theatre Company Intensive Ensemble. Follow him on Instagram @khvlif

WILEY NAMAN STRASSER

(*Smallfish*) is an actor, dancer, singer and musician, back at the Latino Theater Company at The LATC for the first time since *The Vault* over a decade ago! Wiley has been seen in Broadway national tours of *The Kite Runner* and Matthew Warchus' *A Christmas Carol*, and regionally with Boise Contemporary Theatre and the Ashland New Plays Festival. NY credits include work with The Civilians, IRT, La MaMa and Stairwell Theater; Bay Area credits with Berkeley Rep, Detour Productions, Golden Thread, SF Playhouse, Magic Theatre, Hope Mohr Dance, Shotgun Players and Crowded Fire, among others. Wiley has trained with Pig Iron, Teatro Yuyachkani, Teatr Zar, and graduated from UCLA's School of Theatre, Film and Television. Visit wileynamanstrasser.com or [ig @wileywhy](https://www.instagram.com/wileywhy)

ANDI RENÉ CHRISTENSEN (*Azlan*)

Making their Los Angeles theater debut here with the Latino Theater Company, Andi is no stranger to the role of otherworldly quest companion, having played planet-hopping musician, Ashe Javi, in *Star Wars Jedi: Survivor*. Andi's onscreen credits include *NCIS* (CBS,) *The Rookie* (ABC,) *Bel-Air* (Peacock,) *The L Word Generation Q* and *Hacks* (HBO.) Andi starred as Sam Sheridan in the queer holiday romantic comedy *Christmas With Love*, becoming the first non-binary lead within the genre. Born and raised in Texas, Andi studied at The American Musical & Dramatic Academy in New York before relocating to the warmer shores of the west coast. They lovingly dedicate this performance, and every performance, to their family, present and passed; in

remembrance of Brad Christensen, Mike Allman, Kathy Payne, Rachel Lasseeter, and Addie Lasseeter.

CELESTE LANUZA (*Female Understudy*)

is ecstatic to be joining the Latino Theater Company at The LATC. She recently completed a production of *Man of La Mancha* at Musical Theater West (MTW) and was previously in Josefina Lopez' *A Woman Named Gloria* at Casa 0101. Other LA appearances include Anita in *West Side Story* at Candlelight Pavilion Theater, where she received Broadway World reviews and a California Inland Theater League award, as well as *West Side Story* and *Evita* at MTW. Regionally, Celeste has played roles at Tony winning theaters such as La Jolla Playhouse, Guthrie Theater, The Old Globe Theater, Radio City Music Hall, Laguna Playhouse, and San Diego Rep, highlighting San Diego Opera and Arizona Opera, where she was the first US American and female to play El Duende. On television, she has appeared in *Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* on Amazon and *Fuego* on PBS Great Performances. Film credits include *Huella* on Hulu, also as choreographer. As an NYC Revolución Latina Doreen Montalvo award winner, she recently completed her low residency PhD, and holds an MFA from UC Irvine and a BFA from the University of the Arts. Her original music is on all music platforms. Visit www.celestelanuza.com and follow her on Instagram @doctoracelestita

MAURICIO MARTE (*Male Understudy*)

is excited to be back at The LATC since 2024's Encuentro Festival where he performed in PitchBlack's *Odd Man Out: The Immersive Experience* in complete darkness, after its Off Broadway run in NYC. Prior credits include Josefina Lopez's premiere of *Queen Of The Rumba* at Casa 0101. Some of his onscreen performances include Netflix's *Griselda*, Disney+/Marvel's *Wonder Man*, and his

PRODUCTION BIOS

episodes in HBO MAX's *Dinner with Racers: The Kidnapping Fangio Series*, which was nominated for 2025's Best Docuseries at the International Motor Film Awards. Along with some lead performances in festival-participating films like *Game Recognizes Game* by Daniel Contreras and Daniel Pineros's upcoming *Strong Batch*, catch him on other media platforms like Spotify on *Batman Unburied* the podcast, and find more on his Instagram @mnmgenerationx

GABRIEL RIVAS GÓMEZ (*Playwright*) received his MFA in Dramatic Writing from USC in 2007. His plays, including *Chasing Monsters*, *Circus Ugly*, *Swarm Cell* and *Scar Tissue* have been produced at various LA theaters. *Scar Tissue* was subsequently published in *The Best American Short Plays of 2010-2011*. He developed his play *Carnivores* as an inaugural member of the Latino Theatre Alliance Writer's Circle. He is a proud member of the Latino Theater Company's Circle of Imaginistas. His play *Level Up!* was commissioned by Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis and the Latino Theater Company in Los Angeles. His work focuses on justice issues and giving words to the voiceless. His plays have been taught, read and performed at numerous universities across the country and have been called everything from surreal, to abstract to unstageable. He is tenured faculty at Glendale Community College and when he is not busy writing or teaching, he can often be found lego-ing and baseballing with his children who, along with his wife, Elsie, are the source of his drive and strength.

FIDEL GOMEZ (*Director*) Mr. Gomez is an Actor and Director who has been working professionally for over 15 years. He is a proud graduate of LACHSA and the NYU Tisch School of the Arts. While at NYU he was selected by the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art to participate in their study abroad program in London,

where he received specialized training in classical theatre with an emphasis on Shakespeare. Mr. Gomez has performed in many regional theatres throughout the country including: Arena Stage, The Goodman Theatre, South Coast Rep, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, as well as The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, where he was a company member for 2 seasons. He has helped develop three world premieres of plays including *Destiny of Desire*, *Mother Road* by Octavio Solis, and a bilingual adaptation of *Comedy of Errors*. His Film and Television credits include: HBO's *Walkout*, *Sister Cities*, *NCIS*, *Undercovers*, and *Grey's Anatomy*, among others. He was last seen opposite Christoph Waltz in the feature *Dead for a Dollar*, written and directed by Walter Hill, which was an official selection at The Venice Film Festival. Mr. Gomez is also currently on staff at the UCLA School of Theatre, Film and Television, working in the MFA acting program. His directing credits include: *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* (LA Weekly pick of the week), *Anna in the Tropics*, *PLACAS: The Most Dangerous Tattoo* (Written by Doris Duke award recipient Paul Flores), and *Estoy OKate* (Starring international television star Kate Del Castillo). As a writer, Mr. Gomez co-wrote and performed in the stage play *Melancholia*, which toured the Edinburgh Fringe festival and was nominated for Amnesty International's "Freedom of Expression Award."

FRANÇOIS-PIERRE COUTURE (*Scenic Design*) Originally from Montréal, François-Pierre has had the privilege of working in Los Angeles and across the U.S. for the last decade as a scenic, lighting, and projection designer. He has taught at East Los Angeles College, UCLA, LMU and Pepperdine University, and is currently ELAC's Scenic, Lighting and Projection Professor. He has received multiple Ovation, LADCC, and LA Weekly awards and nominations, as well as the Hilton Worldwide Award for Outstanding

PRODUCTION Bites

Scenic Design at KCACTF 2014. A longtime designer at The LATC, he is happy to return for this production of *Level Up!*

CATARINA COPELLI (*Costume Design*) is an award-winning Brazilian costume designer based in Los Angeles. With a career spanning film, theater, opera, commercial campaigns, and music videos, she brings passion, creativity, and meticulous attention to detail to every project. Her distinctive approach emphasizes close collaboration with directors and performers, ensuring that costumes not only enhance visuals but bring characters to life with authenticity. She joined the creative team at the Latino Theater Company in 2022, designing costumes for productions such as *Whittier Boulevard*, *American Mariachi*, *Tacos La Brooklyn*, *Letters from the Black Sea*, *Melancholia*, *Just Like Us*, and most recently *Mascogos*. She has also played a pivotal role in designing and curating costumes, accessories, and the Tilma for *La Virgen de Guadalupe*, *Dios Inantzin*. In addition to her design work with Latino Theater Company, she teaches costume design in the Summer Youth Conservatory, guiding and inspiring young artists. In addition to costume design, her craft includes aging and weathering, millinery, jewelry design, and dyeing. She remains deeply dedicated to exploring new creative challenges and expanding the expressive possibilities of costume.

LEE (XINYUAN LI) (*Lighting Design*) is a Chinese Scenic and Lighting Designer based in LA, and he is thrilled to work with Latino Theater Co. again. Lee recently won the 2024 & 2025 LA Theatre Bites Best Lighting awards, and is currently a member of George Tsypin Opera Factory and James F. Ingalls Lighting Studio, and Visiting Assistant Professor at Occidental College. His design work includes *Mascogos* (Latino Theater Co.), *Just Like Us* (Latino Theater Co.), *Dido of Idaho*

(Echo Theater Co.), *American Fast* (IN), *A Little Night Music* (NC), Shanghai Jazz Music Festival, and more. As a design assistant, he has been closely involved in productions such as the opera *Beatrice Di Tenda* (Paris Bastille Opera), the ballet *The Art of Fugue* (Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow), the opera *The Gambler* (Salzburg Festival, Austria), the Guinness largest stage record *The Great Chin* (Shaanxi Culture Industry, China), and the music concert *Monochromatic Light* (Afterlife) (Park Avenue Armory, NY), as well as the play *The Seagull* (Druid Theatre Co., UK). xinyuanlidesign.com

ROBERT J. REVELL (*Sound Design*) Originally from Sydney, Australia, Robert has written and performed music for television shows such as *Gotham* (Fox), *Nikita* (CW), *The Tomorrow People* (CW), and *Dark Blue* (TNT), as well as the feature films *The Marine 3* (WWE Studios), and *Shark Night 3D* (Incentive). He graduated with a BA in music from the California Institute of the Arts. He has worked with Latino Theater Company providing sound design, original score and live performance for *The Mother of Henry*, *Sleep With The Angels*, *Whittier Blvd*, *Just Like Us* and *Mascogos*.

HSUAN-KUANG HSIEH (*Projection Design*) is a Taiwanese artist and projection designer based in Los Angeles. Her practice includes experimental film, projection art, and large-scale multimedia installation. She received her MFA from the California Institute of the Arts. Her projection design credits include *Tacos La Brooklyn* (LTC, Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Finalist, 2023), *The Little King of Norwalk*, *Just Like Us* (LTC, 2025), *Whittier Boulevard* (LTC, 2024), *Boney Manilli* (Walker Art Center, 2025), *The Far Country* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre, San Francisco Bay Area Theater Critics Circle Finalist, 2024), *Letters From Home* (Merrimack Repertory Theatre, Elliot Norton Awards Finalist, 2023), and *The*

PRODUCTIONS

Great Jheri Curl Debate (East West Players, Stage Raw Award, 2022), among others. hsuankuang.com

EDGAR LANDA (*Fight Choreographer*) Fight credits include: Arena Stage, Center Theatre Group, Geffen Playhouse, San Diego Rep, South Coast Repertory, The Wallis, The Getty Villa, Shakespeare & Company, and Thin Air Shakespeare. He has choreographed mayhem for many of Los Angeles' intimate theaters. Edgar serves on the faculty of the USC School of Dramatic Arts. Edgar is a proud union member and supporter of the Los Angeles intimate theatre community. www.edgarlanda.com

SOPHIA MARCOS-JERONIMO (*Puppet Artist*) Sophia is delighted to be designing with the Latino Theater Co. for the first time. You can usually find her hidden away in the shop with tools, but sometimes she's onstage too. Credits: *Bunny Bunny*, *900 Years*, *The Promise*. Sophia is delighted to have brought Azlan to exist in physical space for *Level Up!*

ARIANA MICHEL (*Stage Manager*) is a proud Latina from East LA! She enjoys bouncing back and forth between the east and west coasts working on theatre that broadens an audience's perspective. Past credits include: *In honor of Jean-Michel Basquiat* (New York Theatre Workshop); *Torera* (Outside In Theatre); *Tune Up* (Little Island); O.K.! (INTAR); *the beautiful land i seek* (Pregones/PRTT); *Joining Forces: A Benefit Performance* (The Flea); *Open Call Festival* (the Shed); *Mobile Unit - Comedy of Errors* (the Public); *Frybread Queen* (Amerinda); *Hungry Ghost* (Skylight Theater); and *Brooklyn Laundry, Summer 1976, The Best We Could, The Collaboration*, and *Where the Mountain Meets the Sea* (Manhattan Theatre Club). Ariana dedicates this show and every future show she may work on to her best friend and stage management mentor Brian Newman – without him she would

have never known what the theatre world had in store for her!

MAY FEI (CONGXIAO FEI)

(*Production Manager*) is the production manager at the Latino Theater Company. Her work with the company includes *Encuentro 2024*, a *National Theatre Festival*; *La Virgen de Guadalupe*, *Dios Inantzin*; *Whittier Boulevard*; *Tacos La Brooklyn*; *Ghost Waltz*; and the entire *2025 Season*. In addition to her role as production manager, she is also a director and actor. Her selected directing credits include the musical *Utopia Parkway* (The Little Theater, UCLA), *BFE* (online stream), and *Entomb* (Shanghai, China). Her selected acting credits include *I Come to Say Goodbye* (25th International Theater Festival, Mexico), *Oedipus Rex* (Moscow, Russia), *Macbeth* (National Centre for the Performing Arts, China), and *The Postman* (Tianjin, China). May holds MFAs from both the University of California, Los Angeles, and the Shanghai Theatre Academy.

ESPERANZA AMÉRICA (*Assistant Director*) earned her Bachelor's degree from the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. After appearing on stage in numerous productions with the Latino Theater Company, she is excited to step into a new role behind the scenes as Assistant Director. Esperanza is grateful to be part of the Latino Theater Company's artistic family and honored to collaborate on this production.

SAEM (*Costume Assistant*) is excited to be returning to Latino Theater Co., where they previously worked as part of the costume and wardrobe crew for *Melancholia* while a student at LACC. They hold a BA in Theater from Hope College and certificates in Costume Design and Theater Technology from LACC. Saem has worked in a variety of production roles, including scenic carpenter, painter, and designer; costume assistant and designer;

PRODUCTION BIOS

and props master. They look forward to continuing their journey in theater. Follow them on Instagram @tal_ssemjjo.

CRYSTAL NIETO (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is excited to be back with Latino Theater Co. as part of the Stage Management team for *Level Up!* by Gabriel Rivas Gómez. She has stage managed in various productions: *A Mexican Trilogy: Hope, Part II* by Evelina Fernandez in collaboration with Latino Theater Company and LAVC; *Queen of Califas* by Israel López Reyes with Latino Theater Company; *Not So Silent Auction* and *Who Dun It?* at CSULA; *Sister Act* by Glenn Slater at Morgan-Wixson Theatre; *Rent* by Johnathan Larson with Pious; *Hateful and Devout* in collaboration with LAVC; and most recently *August 29* by Latino Theater Company. Aside from stage managing, she has performed in various productions, most recently in *Mojada* by Luis Alfaro as 'Josefina,' and *Panza Monologues* by Virginia Grise and Irma Mayorga at CSULA. She recently received her B.A. in Theatre at CSULA in May of 2025. Crystal hopes you enjoy the show as much as she has enjoyed being able to experience it.

LOLÁRIO CASTING (*Casting Director*) is committed to diverse representation on stage and screen, with a focus on uplifting voices from communities that have historically gone unheard. *Level Up!* marks the company's fourth production with the Latino Theater Company. Recent casting credits with the company include *Just Like Us* by Karen Zacarías, *Mascogog* by Miranda González, and *The Storyteller of East LA* by Evelina Fernández.

MANEE LEIJA (*Wardrobe Supervisor*) has been involved in many roles within the Costume world since 2010: designing backstories, tailoring characters, and maintaining wardrobe looks, to name a few. They learned to appreciate garments and stylish statements translating

traditional ideas into fresh new perspectives for the stage by attending fashion programs at Pasadena City College and Technical Theater programs at East Los Angeles College. Their favorite part of the creative process would have to be the many opportunities to collaborate with amazing and talented individuals.



This theater operates under an agreement with Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

WARNING: The photographing or sound recording of any performance or the possession of any device for such photographing or sound recording inside this theater, without the written permission of the management, is prohibited by law. Violators may be punished by ejection and violations may render the offender liable for money damages.

WHEN WE COME TOGETHER GREAT THINGS HAPPEN!

Our donors play an active role in bringing theater to Los Angeles that reflects the U.S. Latino experience and the demographics of the city. We gratefully acknowledge their generous support.

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Latino Theater Company is committed to connecting teatristas with comunidad. Your support makes sure that there's a space where our communities are heard and seen. It is what keeps our stages alive, our youth programs free, and our home at the Los Angeles Theatre Center a vibrant hub of cultural experiences. When our community is going through challenging times, we continue to ask urgent questions, offer hope, togetherness, and solidarity, expanding the narrative of what American theater can be.

Please consider making a contribution to Latino Theater Company and help us move our artistic mission forward. By making a one-time or sustaining donation, you'll enjoy benefits that enhance your theater-going experience throughout the year..

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“The Latino Theater Company is among America’s great ensembles.”

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The Latino Theater Company celebrates over 40 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. As operators of The Los Angeles Theatre Center, the Latino Theater Company’s mission is 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. We are dedicated to contributing new stories to the American theater repertoire and increasing opportunities in theater for underserved communities. As the nation's largest theater company serving Latinx audiences, we produce work by local playwrights and highlight new voices within the Latinx, First Nation, Black, Asian American, Jewish American and LGBTQ+ communities. Located in Downtown Los Angeles, our world-class arts complex has 80,000 square feet of performance, office and gallery space.

As an organization dedicated to providing space for artists from many cultural backgrounds, we want to acknowledge that the building where The LATC is located, in which we gather to share stories, is on the unceded lands of the Gabrielino-Tongva and Kizh people. We pay our respect to the Gabrielino-Tongva, Kizh, and other Indigenous caretakers of these lands and waters; and to their elders who have lived here, who live here now, and who will live here in the future. We extend that respect to all Indigenous people who join us for programming at The Los Angeles Theatre Center.

CONTACT

Latino Theater Company at
The Los Angeles Theatre Center
514 S. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

213-489-0994

Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Please visit latinotheaterco.org for hours, parking and more information.

BOX OFFICE

The Box Office window is open one hour before curtain time for same day sales and closes 30 minutes after. Tickets may be purchased 24/7 online via latinotheaterco.org/tickets

WARNING: The photographing or sound recording of any performance or the possession of any device for such photographing or sound recording inside this theater, without the written permission of the management, is prohibited by law. Violators may be punished by ejection and violations may render the offender liable for money damages.

ENHANCING YOUR EXPERIENCE:

As a courtesy to the artists and fellow patrons, we kindly request that you turn off cell phones, all electronic devices, and anything that may emit light before the performance begins. Please refrain from talking or making disruptive noises during the performance. Photography and the use of electronic recording devices are not permitted during the performances.

The Latino Theater Company is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

The Los Angeles Theatre Center is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department and is operated by the Latino Theater Company.



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The Los Angeles Theatre Center is a historic eight-story facility located in the Historic Core of Downtown Los Angeles. The complex includes five theatre venues, a cinema, two dance studios, a large rehearsal space, dressing room facilities, and a beautiful historic atrium grand lobby. The LATC is a full production facility equipped to support live stage productions, screenings, film shoots, festivals, presentations, small and large conferences, seminars, and private events.

Since opening in 1985, The LATC has appeared in dozens of motion pictures, television shows, commercials, and music videos.

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