



TACOS LA BROOKLYN

WRITTEN BY **JOEL ULLOA** DIRECTED BY **FIDEL GOMEZ**



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WELCOME TO THE LOS ANGELES THEATRE CENTER

Welcome to the Latino Theater Company's 2023 fall season of captivating new work at the Los Angeles Theatre Center!

Showcasing three extraordinarily theatrical voices, this season promises to engage our community in cultural discussions surrounding vital issues of cultural appropriation, spiritual understanding, and the complexities of cultural colonization and exoticization within the Western theatrical canon.

In collaboration with Artists at Play, ***This is Not a True Story*** by Preston Choi, provides layers and complexities absent from the stereotypical and sexist exoticized gaze of *Madama Butterfly* and *Miss Saigon* and debunks a history of Western Orientalism with sharp humor and grace. Joel Ulloa's ***Tacos La Brooklyn*** asks his audience to reconsider their biases as he poses questions surrounding complex ideas of cultural appropriation and cultural appreciation. Luis Alfaro's ***The Travelers*** takes us on a journey into a spiritual world showing us what it means to be human in a harsh, unpredictable, and often cruel world. Latino Theater Company closes our season with our annual celebration ***La Virgen de Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin***, a pageant play featuring music and dance that retells the story of Juan Diego and his journey of faith, illuminating the power of perseverance and self-belief in the face of obstacles and humiliation.

These vital contemporary works speak to our times and challenge our collective understanding of colonization, religion, and how we consume entertainment in a multicultural society like Los Angeles. Our history is in danger of being forgotten as we face unprecedented challenges together. These remarkable plays provide a human perspective and provoke discussion about the shared desire of our communities, and illuminate our need for cultural dialogue about who we are and how we relate to one another as both individuals and communities from varying cultural backgrounds. They will make you laugh, cry, and meditate on our shared future as human beings.

Thank you for embarking on these theatrical journeys, pondering these profound questions, and embracing the diversity that enriches our world and the human experience.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "JL Valenzuela".

José Luis Valenzuela

Artistic Director
Latino Theater Co. at The LATC



Thank you



The Sheri and Les
BILLER FAMILY FOUNDATION

Your support makes
our season possible!

LATINO THEATER CO. IN ASSOCIATION WITH
EAST WEST PLAYERS PRESENTS

TACOS LA BROOKLYN

WRITTEN BY
JOEL ULLOA

Yesenia Tapia..... **Esperanza América***
Benjiro/Customer/Commenter..... **Paul Dateh**
Lencha..... **Alejandra Flores***
Whisper/Customer/Commenter..... **Ariel Kayoko Labasan**
Chino..... **Gavin K. Lee***
Don Agapito/Customer/Commenter..... **Sal Lopez***
Mariko a.k.a Little Triste/Customer/Commenter..... **Sayaka Miyatani**
Monse..... **Zilah Mendoza***
Mike..... **Xavi Moreno***
El Músico..... **Jesus "Chuy" Perez**

Understudies **Richard Azurdia***, **Andrea Negrete***

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
Natalie Morales

COSTUME DESIGN
Maria Catarina-Copelli

LIGHTING DESIGN
Pablo Santiago

SOUND DESIGN
John Zalewski

PROJECTION DESIGN
Hsuan-Kuang Hsieh

MOVEMENT DIRECTOR
Urbanie Lucero

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Nicolas Ruano

ASSISTANT SET DESIGN
Jennifer Veronica Rodriguez

ASST. STAGE MANAGER & PROP DESIGN
Valerie Vega

STAGE MANAGER
Alexa Wolfe

CASTING DIRECTOR
Iliana Carter Cervantes

PRODUCTION MANAGER
May Fei

DIRECTED BY

FIDEL GOMEZ

Tacos La Brooklyn will be performed with a 10 intermission.

Tacos La Brooklyn was commissioned by the Latino Theater Company,
Circle of Imaginistas program. Supported by a WarnerMedia grant, funded by the AT&T Foundation.
Tacos La Brooklyn is s

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

SEPT 21 - OCT 29, 2022 **THE LOS ANGELES THEATRE CENTER**

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 Nation. We pay our respect to The Gabrielino-Tongva Nation 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.



ESPERANZA AMÉRICA (*Yesenia Tapia*) Esperanza was born and raised in East Los Angeles. Film and TV credits include *This Fool*, *Griselda*, *Kenan*, *31*, *Gino's Wife*, *Kristin's Christmas Past*, *Water*

& *Power*, *Cry Now*, *Watts and Volts*, *Single Ladies*, *Southland*. Her theater credits include Pilar in *Destiny of Desire* (Goodman Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Southcoast Rep & Arena Stage); Juana in *Sleep with the Angels*, La Virgen De Guadalupe in *The Mother of Henry*, Faith/Gina/Valentina in *A Mexican Trilogy: An America Story*, Phaedra in *La Olla*, La Virgen in *La Virgen De Guadalupe Dios Inantzin*, Raine in *Habitat*, Christine/Alexis in *Melancholia*, Tamara in *Dementia* (Latino Theater Company); Carmelita Bryant in *WWJD: What Would Jimi Do?* (The Lex Theater); Ensemble in *The Vault: Unlocked* (Los Angeles Theater Center). She received her BA from UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. She is so excited to be a part of this production and would like to dedicate this performance to the ultimate chicana in her life, her mom.



PAUL DATEH (*Benjiro*) Paul Dateh is thrilled to make his theater debut with *Tacos La Brooklyn* at Latino Theater Co. A musician and voice actor from Los Angeles, he is known for being the English voice of Wakana

Gojo in the popular anime *My Dress-Up Darling*. As a musician, Paul might be most recognized for his video *Hip Hop Violin* which became one of the first-ever viral videos on the Internet. He can also be heard on Miley Cyrus' albums *Younger Now* and *Bangerz*. Paul has collaborated with many artists including Thes One of People Under the Stairs, The Grouch, Eligh, and Scarub of The Living Legends. Paul recently released his third studio album "Healing" which is available now on all major digital music platforms worldwide. Visit pauldateh.com and follow him on Instagram at [@pauldateh](https://www.instagram.com/pauldateh).



ALEJANDRA FLORES (*Lencha*) Alejandra is ecstatic to work with the Latino Theatre Co. at the LATC for the first time. She has worked with the Center Theatre Group at the Mark Taper Forum, Cornerstone Theatre

Company, Bilingual Foundation of the Arts and Cal State University to name a few. Her most important film credits include: *Falling for Christmas*, *A Walk in the Clouds*, *Friends with Money* and *El Salvador*. Her television credits include: *Better Call Saul*, *Station 19*, *American Gigolo*, *Gaslit*, *Sons of Anarchy*, *24*, *ER*. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the Conservatory of Theatre (CUT) at the National University of Mexico, UNAM. Alejandra is proud to be the recipient of the prestigious City of Los Angeles (COLA) Individual Artist Fellowship grant from the Department of Cultural Affairs. She is the Founder and former Artistic Director of The Los Angeles Theatre Academy, a non profit theatrical / educational organization. She received a Drama –Logue Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theater and a Cesar Award for supporting actress. Alejandra dedicates her performance to legendary designers Estela "Piqui" Scarlata and Carlos Brown enjoying Tacos La Brooklyn from first row in heaven. @ [alejandrafloresowens](https://www.instagram.com/alejandrafloresowens)



ARIEL KAYOKO LABASAN (*Whisper*)

Ariel is honored to make her debut with the Latino Theatre Company. Her recent credits include Chizuye in *Tea* with the Hero Theatre and Ayaka in *Kanashimi* which was nominated for Best Short Film at the Pasadena Film Festival and selected at Japan Film Festival Los Angeles. Ariel's next endeavor is to produce her first short film, *Kimono*, a historical thriller set in post war Japan. Special shout out to her amazing cast and all those involved to make this production absolutely magical, her friends who helped her practice in Japanese and of course her amazing family and loved ones for supporting her forever passion, acting.



GAVIN K. LEE (*Chino*)

Gavin grew up on the mean streetz of the OC. He learned the hustle early on, becoming the notorious kingpin of his local jungle gym. The quarters, Skittles, and

Tootsie Roll Pops were rolling in, but something was amiss. He soon grew tired of all the noogies, Indian burns, and overall shot-calling to keep his minions in line. Renouncing his gangsta ways, he sought a better life, putting smiles on faces rather than purging them.

This somehow led to an acting career. Theater credits include *Coleman '72* at South Coast Repertory (u/s), *Kim's Convenience* at Laguna Playhouse, *Hannah and the Dread Gazebo* at the Fountain Theatre, *Cock* at the Beverly Hills Playhouse, and *The Basic Training of Pavlo Hummel* at The Wallis. TV credits include a recurring role on *The Orville* and supporting roles on *Timeless*, *The Rookie*, *Shameless*, among others. He is honored to be performing at The LATC with a stellar cast, director, and team at the Latino Theater Co. If you see Gavin on the streetz, please don't fear his intimidating presence. He likes hugs. WORD.



SAL LOPEZ (*Agapito*)

Sal is a founding member of The Latino Theater Company. He wrote and starred in his one man show *This is a Man's World*. *Whittier Boulevard*, *Premeditation*, *Habitat*, *Charity*, *Solitude*,

Faith, *Dementia*, *Hope*, *Luminarias*, *August 29th*, *La Victima*, and the annual *La Virgen de Guadalupe Dios Inantzin*, for LTC. *Blade To The Heat*, *Bandito*, *Zootsuit*, at the Mark Taper Forum. Other theater: *Wild In Wichita*, *You Should Have Stayed Home* *You Morons*, *Selena* (musical), *La Posada Magica*, *A Midsummer Nights Dream*. *Corridos Tales Of Passion And Revolution*, *La Virgen Del Tepeyac*, for El Teatro Campesino, and *Lorca Child Of The Moon*, *Young Lady From Tacna*, *Wanted Experience Operators* for BFA. Sal also produced the

film versions of *Luminarias* and *Moe aka (Dementia)* currently on the festival circuit. Sal is a member of AMPAS: Just finished *Atropia* opposite Alia Shawkat and *7 Cemeteries* opposite Danny Trejo. Now streaming: *Centurion* *The Dancing Stallion*, *Black Panther (Wakanda Forever)*, *The Old Ways*, *Spiked*, *Batman vs Superman: Dawn Of Justice*, *Into The Dark* (Culture Shock), *Velvet Buzzsaw*, *Barry*, *Chance*, *Westworld*, *Too Old To Die Young*, *Queen Of The South*, *The Hyperions*, *El Chicano*, *American Me*, *Stanley Kubrick's Full Metal Jacket*, and the award winning short *Acuitzeramo*. Television: *The Border*, *The Bridge*, *Lopez*, *Code Black*, *Goliath*, *Switched At Birth*, *Major Crimes*, *Last Man Standing*, *Castle*, *CSI Miami*, *ER*, *Life*, *Comanche Moon*, *Entourage*, etc.



SAYAKA MIYATANI

(*Mariko* aka *Little Triste*) Born and raised in Kagoshima, Japan, Sayaka Miyatani is a Los Angeles based actor, comedian, writer and producer. Classically trained, Sayaka has

played roles from Shakespeare to: a modern rock opera off-Broadway, as well as numerous films, web series and stand-up comedy shows. Her recent work includes *Tea* which she played the lead role Himiko, a feature horror film *Death Ph.D* which is coming out later this year, and *Made in Japan*, *Shipped to USA* a half an hour comedy show she performed and received the "Best of the Festival" award at the Crazy Wok Asian Comedy Festival. This will be her debut at the Latino Theater Co. at The LATC, and she is beyond excited. Follow her on Instagram on @theoneandonlysayaka



ZILAH MENDOZA

(Monse) Zilah originated the following roles:

Ana in Lisa Loomer's *Living Out*, LA: Mark Taper Forum (Garland Award) Off Broadway: 2nd Stage, (OBIE

Award), *Electricidad* in

Luis Alfaro's *Electricidad* (cover of American Theatre Magazine), Matilde in Sarah Ruhl's *The Clean House*: Yale Rep, Griselda Blanco/Kathy Rundle in Billy Corbin and Aurin Squire's *Confessions of A Cocaine Cowboy*: The Colony Theatre Miami New Drama, Perla in Juliette Carillo's *Plumas Negras*; Cornerstone, Josefina in Luis Alfaro's *Mojada*: The Getty Villa, Magda in Josefina Lopez's *An Enemy of the Pueblo*: Casa 0101, Noelle/Bobby/Paloma/Maria Sol in Jose Rivera's *The Untranslatable Secrets of Nikki Corona*: The Geffen Playhouse, Alma in *El Borracho*: The Old Globe. This is her 2nd production with director Fidel Gomez and she is so happy to be premiering at LTC this season! Zilah is Associate Artistic Director of Mentor Artists Playwrights Project- MAPP, a community based arts program working with indigenous and diverse communities throughout North America. @zilahmendoza @mentorartistsmapp www.mentorartists.org www.zilahmendoza.com



XAVI MORENO

(Mike) Xavi an Angeleno, born, raised, and staged east of the LA River, in the historic neighborhood of Boyle Heights. He is thrilled to be back on-stage at the Los Angeles Theatre Center

with the Latino Theater Co. Previous work with LTC include *La Virgen de Guadalupe*, *Dios Inantzin*, *The Mother of Henry*, *A Mexican Trilogy: An American Story*, *La Olla*, and *Melancholia*; His regional credits include *Destiny of Desire* (Cincinnati Playhouse); *Into the Beautiful North* (San Diego Repertory Theatre); *Placas: The Most Dangerous Tattoo* (national tour) and 12 seasons with

Independent Shakespeare Company as an Ensemble Member in the Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival, favorite roles include Trinculo in *The Tempest*, Sir Andrew in *Twelfth Night*, Lysander and Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Mistress Overdone in *Measure for Measure* and Speed in *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (BroadwayWorld Nomination); Television and film credits include *Live at the Porpentine - A Comedy of Errors* (directed by David Melville) *The Devil Has a Name* (directed by Edward James Olmos), *Carne y Arena* (directed by Alejandro G. Iñárritu), *Variedades: Olvera Street* (KCET+Artbound), *The Failures* (directed by Tim Hunter) *Comic Conventions* (directed by Iz Gutierrez) and the award winning documentary *East L.A Interchange*. Recognized as a Young Leader of Color by Theatre Communications Group, Xavi serves as the Marketing Director for the Latino Theater Company at the Los Angeles Theatre Center and Board Member for Company of Angels. Xavi is a founding member of Los Poets del Norte, an essential spoken word duo born out of the seabed of rebellion of Boyle Heights rhythmically vocalizing the untold urban corridos for the understanding of the Xican@ reality. Visit iamxavi.com and follow him @xavimoreno.



JESUS "CHUY" PEREZ

(*El Musico*) Jesus is a singer and songwriter who has been passionate about music since childhood. In the early 1980s, he became deeply involved with the International Nueva Cancion Movement,

which focuses on protest songs. Alongside Cesar Torres, he co-founded the band *Mañana es Hoy*, dedicated to raising awareness and advocating for the immigrant community. Following his time with *Mañana es Hoy*, in 1985, he co-founded the music group *Umbral*. With *Umbral*, he traveled to Nicaragua as part of a Chicano delegation representing *Nueva Cancion* in the United States. Throughout his career, Chuy has showcased his vocal talents by performing with renowned groups like *La Sonora Santanera* and various other bands. Notably, he is the songwriter behind the hit song "Como

Ves" for the band Ozomatli. In addition to his musical endeavors, Chuy has also ventured into the world of acting, appearing in several films, including *The Day After Tomorrow* and Ken Loach's *Bread and Roses*.



RICHARD AZURDIA (*Understudy*) Ricahard was born and raised in L.A and is a true taco aficionado! With the Latino Theater Co. he's performed in La Virgen de Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin. Other theater credits include productions

with the Fountain Theatre, Theatricum Botanicum, Denver Center Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Independent Shakespeare Co.'s Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival, Company of Angels, Rogue Artist Ensemble, Circle X Theatre, Sacred Fools Theatre, Echo Theatre, Son of Semele Ensemble, Odyssey Theater & Bootleg Theater. He's been nominated for the Ovation Awards, Stage Raw Awards, Colorado Theatre Guild's Henry Awards & Broadway World Awards. Film/TV: *Southland*, *Grace & Frankie*, *Hulu's East Los High* (recurring), *Weeds* (recurring), *Ladron Que Roba A Ladron*, *America 101*. He's a recipient of the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship and was named one of L.A. Weekly's 54 Fascinating People in 2015. www.RichardAzurdia.com.



ANDREA NEGRETE (*Understudy*) Andrea is an actor, graphic designer, writer, and collaborative creator from the Rio Grande Valley. Andrea is also the Community Manager at Musical Theatre Factory. Recent

credits include: *a home what howls* (Ojai Playwrights Festival), *Three Girls Never Learnt the Way Home* (Cherry Lane and Dorset Theatre Festival), *The Opportunities of Extinction* (Cherry Lane), *Tell Me A Story* (CBS), *Saints Go Marching* (Signature Theatre), and *Let's Get Ready Together* (The Tank). She's a graduate of Vassar College and is represented by Monica Villarreal at Anonymous Content.

JOEL ULLOA (*Playwright*) Joel is a writer from Boyle Heights and is part of the Latino Theater Company's Circle of Imaginistas, a commission-oriented writing circle aimed at producing new plays. Joel's new play, *Tacos la Brooklyn*, was developed as part of the Circle of Imaginistas program. Most recently, his play *Re-vitalized* premiered in Boston at Teatro Chelsea, and his 10-minute play, *A Bag of Options*, was produced as part of Teatro Frida Kahlo's 10-minute play festival in Los Angeles. In 2020, he was selected to be part of the Cimientos Program – a play-development program hosted by IATI Theater in New York City. Joel has a professional background in affordable housing, public transportation, and electric vehicles, and studied Urban Planning and Business Administration at USC and UCLA.

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), *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 Internationals "Freedom of Expression Award."

NATALIE MORALES (*Scenic Design*) Natalie Morales explores theatre, film, and design in her journey as a scenic designer. She is also a second-generation Mexican-Guatemalan-American artist, born and raised in the San Fernando Valley. Natalie received her MFA from CSU Long Beach. Her work has been featured in many theaters and educational institutions within the greater Los Angeles area. Some other companies Natalie has worked with include Independent Shakespeare Co. (Shakespeare Festival in Griffith Park), East West Players in Los Angeles, South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa, Walmart Commercials Prop Department, Billboard Music, The Soraya in Northridge, CSU Northridge, Pomona College, Cal Poly Pomona, Chapman University, and CSU Long Beach. Apart from this production, her recent works include *Shrek Jr.* (CSUN TADW), *Julius Caesar* (ISCLA), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (ISCLA), *Chavez Ravine* (CSUN Theatre), and *Nochebuena* (The Soraya).

MARIA CATARINA-COPELLI (*Costume Design*) Maria Catarina Copelli is an award-winning Brazilian costume designer based in Los Angeles. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated her passion and creativity in numerous films, music videos, operas, and theater productions. Maria's distinctive approach involves close collaboration with directors and cast members, fostering a creative process that not only results in striking visuals but also infuses characters with life and authenticity through meticulous attention to detail. Beyond her costume design expertise, Maria excels in a range of skills, including aging and weathering processes, millinery, jewelry design, dyeing, and more. She is a multitasker and proactive professional, deeply dedicated to her craft, and constantly seeks out new challenges to push the boundaries of her creativity.

PABLO SANTIAGO (*Lighting Design*) Pablo is a live performance and digital film lighting designer. Winner of the Richard Sherwood award, Stage Raw Award, and multiple Ovation Award nominations. Pablo's designs aim to find evocative images that embody the emotional moment of the show. Images that can spark the imagination of the audience to worlds beyond the stage. Pablo has worked at Santa Fe Opera, LA Opera, Opera Omaha, Boston Lyric Opera, Detroit Opera, Opera Philadelphia, Long Beach Opera, Prototype Festival, the Industry, Opera Columbus, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Music Academy of the West, Opera Santa Barbara, Kennedy Center, Teatro Municipal São Paulo Brazil, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Goodman Theater, Arena Stage DC, BAM-Harvey Theater, The Geffen Playhouse, Mark Taper Forum, Denver Center, Los Angeles Theater Center, South Coast Repertory Company, Playhouse In The Park Cincinnati, Broad Museum, Kirk Douglas Theater, Ensemble Theater Company Santa Barbara, Hollywood Bowl.

JOHN ZALEWSKI (*Sound Design*) John feels privileged to be back working with Latino Theater Company. His work has been heard at The Goodman, The Guthrie, Portland Center Stage, South Coast Repertory, Humana Festival, Perseverance Theatre, Alliance Theatre, Disney Hall, Geffen, Center Theater Group, Broad Stage, Wallis Annenberg, Rattlestick, Theatre Delicatessen in London and companies in Los Angeles including Evidence Room, Boston Court, Playwright's Arena, Antaeus, Padua Playwrights, Actors' Gang and East West Players. He is resident at Latino Theater Company. Awards include eight LA Stage Alliance Ovation Awards, seven LA Weekly Awards, three Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards, and ten Backstage Garlands. Recent work includes *Destiny of Desire* and *Macbeth* at Oregon Shakespeare Festival 2018 and 2019; *The Father* at Pasadena Playhouse; *And Then They Came for Me* at Lewis Family Playhouse and *Destiny of Desire* at Cincinnati PiP at the beginning of 2020; *Apartment Living* and *Three Tables* in 2022; and in 2023 *Coleman '72* at SCR. John also teaches and designs at Occidental College in California.

Audio drama work can be heard in Michael Shutt's *A Lesson in Swimming* and LTC's *Premeditation*. His photography can be seen in Hatje Cantz/MOMA/PS1's publication *Reza Abdo*. IG: zalooski and auaural.

HSUAN-KUANG HSIEH (*Projection Design*) Hsuan-Kuang Hsieh is a Taiwanese multimedia artist and filmmaker currently based in Los Angeles. Her practices cover projection art, experimental film and video installation. She has designed video projection for critical acclaimed companies and venues, such as The Ford Foundation, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, LA Contemporary Dance Company, East West Players, REDCAT, Kirk Douglas Theater, NY Performa Biennial, Shanghai Oriental Art Center and more. She received her MFA in Interactive Media for Performance from CalArts. hsuankuang.com

VALERIE VEGA (*Assistant Stage Manager & Prop Master*) Valerie was last seen on stage at the LATC as Skittles in the Latino Theater Company's fall 2022 production of *Melancholia*, which won numerous national awards at the 2023 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, including her Distinguished Performance by an Actor award. She is excited to rejoin the company for a second time in *La Virgen de Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin* this winter. In spring 2022, she directed her first production, *July 7, 1994* by Donald Margulies at LA City College, with aspirations to continue directing and writing original works. Along with performance in commercial and new media, she has starred in short films such as *The Role* and *Brothers from Another Mother*, as well as *OBSESSED* and *Pinot Roux* in collaboration with the LACC Cinema Department. She has also appeared in LACC's theatrical productions of *A Thousand Words*, *Alice in Hollywoodland*, and *Virtual Greenroom*. Additional projects include HBO's *Euphoria*, ABC's *How to Get Away with Murder*, and FX's *Mayans*. Ms. Vega is a recent graduate of The Theater Academy's 3-year conservatory program at LA City College, with a concentration on musical performance. Valerie is a Chicana born and raised in Laredo, Texas, with a passion for the arts and social and environmental justice.

URBANIE LUCERO (*Movement Director*) Her many works with the Latino Theater company include: *Whittier Boulevard*, *Mother Of Henry*, *La Olla*, *Premeditation*, *Solitude*, *Dementia*, *La Victima*, *Faith*, *Hope*, *Charity*, and *La Virgen de Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin* in which she also portrays La Muerte. She was a member of the dance troupe Mexicapan and has been featured on stage, television, and film. She performed on Broadway and off-Broadway in Linda Ronstadt's *Canciones De Mi Padre* as a featured dancer. She's performed at The Grammys, and Great Performances for PBS. Urbanie has done numerous commercials and danced under the direction of Kenny Ortega. Urbanie choreographed the restaged production of *Eastside Heartbeats* at Casa 0101 in Boyle Heights.

NICOLAS RUANO (*Assistant Director*) Nicolas is ecstatic to be part of his first production with the Latino Theater Co. at the LATC. He recently graduated from UCLA, where he had the opportunity to assistant direct various productions, including *Into the Woods* and *Utopia Parkway*. Nicolas feels immensely grateful to be involved in this production. Furthermore, as part of the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture Internship, he serves as a programming intern and contributes to the production. Nicolas would like to express his sincere gratitude to the company for this opportunity to be a part of such an exciting show!

ALEXA WOLFE (*Stage Manager*) Alexa is ecstatic to make her return to the Latino Theater Company at the LATC! Alexa's recent works include Latino Theater Company's *Whittier Boulevard*, California State University, Fullerton's *Women of Zalongo* and The Electric Company Theatre's *The Leo Fender Project*. Alexa has also worked extensively with Little Fish Theatre stage managing *Mandy Picks a Husband*, *Henry VII Pt. 2*, *Eurydice*, and Shakespeare by the Sea's 2022 and 2023 touring productions. For the past five years, Alexa has stage and production managed for multiple companies throughout Southern California including California Repertory Company, Woodcraft Rangers, the Stagehouse Theatre, Theatre Threshold, Lime Arts Productions, and Lower Depth Theatre. Alexa

would like to thank her loved ones for their endless love and support. @alexawolfstage alexawolfstage.com

JESSICA VERONICA RODRIGUEZ (*Assistant Set Designer*) Jessica is excited to be assisting in her first production with the Latino Theater Co., and LATC. She has taken on many roles in several off-Broadway productions, field shows, and award winning short films. These include: *Street Scene*, *West Side Story*, *El Mozote*, *Mano de Obra*, *Sunshine:Skin*. Jessica received her BA in Film, Television, and Theatre from the California State University, of Northridge.

ILIANA CARTER CERVANTES (*Casting Director*) Iliana Carter Cervantes was raised by her mother and grandmother. Political and economic refugees of the civil war in El Salvador, they demonstrated the beauty, grace and joy that are at the heart of so many migrant families. Iliana learned of the pain and deep injustices behind these stories that her family experienced firsthand, while also learning that there is no singular experience for any group: not for any one ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, class, neighborhood, or any other form of identity. Her father, a white labor organizer, taught her to look beyond the superficial to find a deeper commonality with others. He instilled in her the habit of always being critically minded, to value people for their hearts rather than their exteriors, and to be guided by love in all that we do. There is vastness of character not only in each facet of our identities, but within each individual spirit. Portraying any group as a monolith negates their nuance and depth. Iliana's work as a Casting Director is purposeful in illuminating the diversity of stories that unite us in our immense and beautiful human experience. ilianacasting.com

MAY FEI (CONGXIAO FEI) (*Production Manager*) is a director, actor and writer. Her works at Latino Theater Co. & The LATC include *Circle of Imaginistas Reading Series*, *La Virgen Guadalupe Dios Inantzin*, *Whittier Boulevard*, *Melancholia(Tour)*, *(un)documents*, *Desert Stories For the Lost Girls*, *Letters From The Black Sea* (co-produced and performed

at the Getty Villa). Her directing credits include the *Musical Utopia Parkway* (The Little Theater, UCLA), *BFE* (online Stream), *Entomb* (Shanghai, China), *YE-ZI* (Shanghai China). Her acting credits include *I Come To Say Goodbye* (25th International Theater Festival in Mexico), *Oedipus Rex* (Moscow, Russia), *Macbeth* (National Centre for the Performing Arts, China), *The Postman* (Tianjin, China). Her writing credits include *Parallel Love* (24-episode TV series), *Entomb* (Published on Chinese Writer). She received her MFA degrees from University of California, Los Angeles, and Shanghai Theatre Academy, She received her Bachelor's Degree of Literature from Shanghai Theatre Academy.



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

SPECIAL THANKS!

Camille Villanueva
Alexandre Tavora
Richard Moreno



Thank you



**Your support makes
our season possible!**

The Eastside Arts Initiative (EAI) is a grant-making program of LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes (LA Plaza) supporting arts initiatives and fostering collaborations for furthering the arts in eastern Los Angeles County.

eastsideartsinitiative.org

ABOUT THE LATINO THEATER COMPANY

“The Latino Theater Company is among America’s great ensembles.” American Theater Magazine, 2015

The Latino Theater Company celebrates 38 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. At the Latino Theater Co. our 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; 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.

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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

LATE SEATING

We strongly encourage you to arrive at least an hour prior to curtain. This will provide you with plenty of time to park your vehicle and pick up your tickets without feeling rushed. If you find yourself with more time, you may visit our concessions for a drink, a small snack or stop by one of our neighboring restaurants and bars.

We try our best to begin all performances on time. Unfortunately, some performances have no late seating. If you have to leave a show before its end, please do so between program pauses or intermission.

NO PHOTOGRAPHY

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

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 operated by the Latino Theater Company.



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

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Thank You!

Circles often symbolize harmony, inclusion, and unity. The circle was at the basis of the invention of the wheel, which brought about movement.

Our Circle of Friends donors play an active role in bringing theater to Los Angeles that reflects the US Latina/o/x experience and the demographics of the city. We gratefully acknowledge their generous support (2018-present).

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Did you know that nearly 40% of Latino Theater Company's operating budget comes from the generous support of individuals like you? **Please consider entering our Circle of Friends and help us move forward in furthering our artistic mission.**

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