



THE DELICATE TEARS OF THE WANING MOON

LATINO THEATER





or four decades, Latino Theater Company has proudly served the Los Angeles community, championing diverse voices and illuminating the rich, complex tapestry of the Latina/o/x experience in the United States. As we celebrate this milestone 40th Anniversary, we present a season that embodies our mission: a vibrant collection of stories reflecting where we've been, who we are, and the futures we dare to imagine — all under the unifying magic of live theatre.

This landmark season features world premieres from our Circle of Imaginistas playwrights' initiative, a powerful revival from our history through our Impact Initiative, and a celebrated encore from our 2024 Encuentro Festival, each illuminating our shared human experience.

We begin our 40th anniversary season with the West Coast Premiere of Karen Zacarías' insightful *Just Like Us*, adapted from Colorado's former First Lady, Helen Thorpe's, best-selling non-fiction book. This timely drama follows four Latina high school seniors, best friends who navigate the rituals of prom and graduation while possessing college dreams, but two are undocumented. The play exposes how a piece of paper dictates opportunity, crafts identity, and challenges friendships, while laying bare the complexities of immigration in the U.S., asking what it truly means to belong in the United States.

Next, we present the wildly inventive World Premiere of *The Last Play by Rickérby Hinds*. A Circle of Imaginistas playwrights' initiative commission, this meta-theatrical journey dives into the creative mind as playwright Rickérby Hinds puts himself on stage, wrestling with writer's block, his Afro-Latino identity, hip hop aesthetics, and artistic legacy. Conjuring characters from his past works, the play poignantly deconstructs the relationship between creator and creation, asking profound questions about voice, representation, and the nature of storytelling itself.

Closing out our spring season is an encore production from 2024's Encuentro Festival—in association with Chicago's innovative Water People Theater, LTC presents Rebeca Alemán's haunting *The Delicate Tears of the Waning Moon*. Based on true events in a turbulent Latin American country, this powerful drama follows Paulina, a human rights journalist recovering from amnesia after an assassination attempt. The play is a powerful meditation on the profound personal cost of reporting truth, the nature of grief, and the fragility of freedom in the face of corruption.

Over the summer we proudly present a revival production of LTC's seminal work, August 29, as part of our Impact Initiative, bringing theatre directly into partnership with our community, in collaboration with Los Angeles Community College students. This play revisits the life, work, and tragic murder of journalist Ruben Salazar during the 1970 Chicano Moratorium against the Vietnam War. Exploring the complexities of Chicano identity, the fight against police brutality, and the power of the press, August 29 remains startlingly relevant, reminding us of the enduring power of community activism in the struggle for justice.

On September 13, prior to the opening of our fall season, Latino Theater Company will celebrate our 40th anniversary Gala unforgettable evening as we raise a glass to the artists, supporters, and community members who have shaped Latino Theater Company over four decades and celebrate our shared journey and the vibrant future ahead with joy and festivity.

Our fall season opens the year's second Circle of Imaginistas World Premiere, *The Little King of Norwalk* by Israel López Reyes. With a satirical eye, López Reyes brings us a razor-sharp contemporary fable set in Southeastern Los Angeles. When Juan Perez, a normal guy grappling with his past and a recent DUI, is mistaken for a powerful political consultant, he's drawn into the corrupt underbelly of local politics. The play hilariously and poignantly explores themes of Chicano identity, the allure of power, family legacy, community belonging, and the difficult path to redemption.

Next is another World Premiere commissioned through our Circle of Imaginistas, Miranda González's exploration of the little-known underground railroad into Mexico, *Mascógos*. A trilingual and non-linear drama, this thematically innovative play follows 18-year-old Jamari in 1864 Mexico and present-day Chicago's West Side, and asks profound questions about the meaning of freedom in the painful past and the imperfect present. Gonzalez's play illuminates the contributions and experience of Afro-Latinos to the rich and complicated tapestry of both the past and contemporary American life.

Next we present our third production with Artists at Play, among the most exciting companies to emerge in Los Angeles, and who are dedicated to illuminating the AAPI experience in the U.S., with the World Premiere of Ankita Raturi's delightfully touching नेहा & Neel. What starts as a meticulously planned college tour for Neha (नेहा) and her seventeen-year-old son Neel (नील) quickly derails into a chaotic and hilarious cross-country road trip across the United States, exploring the intricate relationship of a mother and her son. The play navigates the conflicts and tenderness

between an immigrant mother and her American-born child, the nuances of identity, and the bittersweet but inevitable process of a parent learning to let go while a child emerges into adulthood.

We close our 40th year with our annual production of La Virgen De Guadalupe, **Dios Inantzin.** Adapted for the stage by Evelina Fernández from the mid-16th century text The Nican Mopohua, and featuring over 100 actors, singers and indigenous Aztec dancers as well as children and seniors from the community. La Virgen De Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin is the City of L.A.'s largest theatrical holiday production. 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, and his universal story of perseverance and hope.

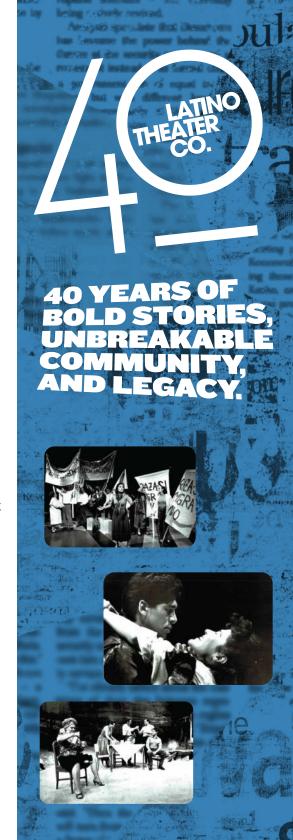
From the pressures of youth to the weight of history, from the corridors of power to the intimate spaces of memory, our 40th anniversary season seeks to illuminate the complexities of the human experience.

These are stories of pain and injustice, but also of profound resilience, unwavering hope, fierce love, and the unbreakable bonds of community. Thank you for joining us for this landmark 40th Anniversary season as we experience the vital power of theatre to connect us, challenge us, educate as, and celebrate the multifaceted human spirit.

Enjoy the show!

JOSÉ LUIS VALENZUELA

Artistic Director





REBECA ALEMÁN

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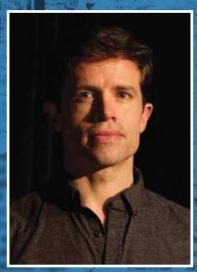
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THE DELICATE TEARS OF THE WANING MOON

BY REBECA ALEMÁN

Paulina	Rebeca Alemán
Rodrigo	
Voice of Antonia	
Voice of Anabel	Sofía Ybarra
Voice of Announcer	

Scenic & Prop Design
MARISABEL MUÑOZ

Costume Design JOSÉ MANUEL DÍAZ Lighting Design

W. ALEJANDRO MELENDEZ

Projection Design

STEPHANIE RODRIGUES

Projection Design

MARISABEL MUÑOZ

Projection Animator CARLOS MARCANO

Projection Animator

JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ

Original Music
LESTER & LUDWIG PAREDES

Sound Design IRAIDA TAPIAS

Sound Design
MAYDI DÍAZ

Assistant Director **ESTEFANÍA MENA**

Stage Manager ESTEFANÍA MENA

Production Assistant **CLAUDIA VARGAS**

Production Manager **MAY FEI**

DIRECTED BY

IRAIDA TAPIAS

THE DELICATE TEARS OF THE WANING MOON 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.

REBECA ALEMÁN (Paulina/Playwright) Rebeca was born in Venezuela. At age 17, she was selected to join the first National Youth Theater Ensemble of Venezuela. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism/Media Communication and Music, then continued her training in acting and directing in London and New York City. Rebeca has played leading roles in over 39 theatrical productions, soap operas, and films, portraying iconic figures such as Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Frida Kahlo, Camila O'Gorman, and Yerma. She was also an ensemble member at Repertorio Español in NYC. As a writer, she has authored six plays, four short films, and a children's book. She has produced 23 plays and directed and produced four short films focused on exposing violence. Her short film Gone with the Sea was an official selection at FIACINE 2019 – Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Madrid, Spain. Rebeca has received an ACE Award and a nomination in NYC, as well as multiple awards in her home country. She is the Founder and Executive Artistic Director of Water People Theater.

ERIC K. ROBERTS (*Rodrigo*) is honored to work again with the Latino Theater Co. He was last seen as Rodrigo in Water People Theater's The Delicate Tears of the Waning Moon as part of the national theater festival Encuentro 2024 at The LATC. Roberts is based in Chicago. Recent hometown credits include Sam Phillips in Million Dollar Quartet and Edgar Allan Poe in North & Sur. He was nominated for his first Jeff Award (Best Ensemble, We Are Proud to Present...) last year. Roberts is a founding ensemble member of the experimental theater company and social iustice mission Theatre Y. He would like to thank LTC and Water People Theater for the invitation to reprise the challenging role of Rodrigo. Check him out at eric-k-roberts.com or on Instagram @ekrtachrome.

IRAIDA TAPIAS (Director) "Making theater is a constant and challenging exercise in pursuing freedom. I've stated once again that a portion of humanity seeks to transcend mortality by making an impact on others. In contrast, others achieve this through the creation of poetry, theater, music, culinary recipes, or chemical formulas. We do theater as an act of love in favor of life." Venezuelan playwright, director, producer and scriptwriter Iraida Tapias is a Jeff Award Nominee for Best Director for two consecutive years (2025 & 2024). With over 52 years of experience in theater, she has specialized in producing and directing plays by Spanish American authors. Mrs. Tapias has authored seven plays and produced over 32 theatrical performances. She has directed 12 theatrical pieces and 6 musicals, including The House of Bernarda Alba by F.G. Lorca: MUSES by Néstor Caballero; Orchids in the Moonlight by Carlos Fuentes; Orinoco by Emilio Carballido; The Delicate Tears of the Waning Moon by Rebeca Alemán; Lorca -Living the Experience with texts and lyrics by Federico García Lorca; It never was you, texts and lyrics by Kurt Weill; Man of La Mancha, the musical written by Dale Wasserman, with music by Mitch Leigh and Joe Darion. Her awards include the National Artist Award, Venezuela – Best Director; Municipal Film Award for Best Screenwriter for the movie Macho y Hembra, Venezuela: and La Habana Film Festival Award – Best Producer.

MARISABEL MUÑOZ (Scenic, Prop and Projection Design) Design Producer and Art Director with a passion for all things design. Her work has been recognized at creative festivals. Outside of being an art director, she enjoys photography, illustration, and painting. However, her true love is telling stories through film and theater.

W. ALEJANDRO MELENDEZ (Lighting Designer) is a first-generation Latiné designer working in theatre and opera. This is Aleiandro's first production with the Latino Theater Co. at The LATC. Recent design credits include a disability-affirmative production of A Midsummer Night's Dream for Phamaly Theatre Company at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, and the world premiere of Andrew Rosendorf's Stockade for Local Theatre Company. Alejandro has been recognized as a USITT Emerging Creative, an ETC Fred Foster Mentee, and trained as a Wally Russell lighting design intern at LA Opera. He currently serves on the Steering Committee for the Latinx Theatre Commons and as adjunct faculty at CalArts. Alejandro holds an MFA in Experience Design from CalArts and a BA in Theatre from MSU Denver. To connect with Alejandro and see more of his work, connect with him on Instagram @wamelendez.

MAYDI DÍAZ (Sound Design) is a Chicago based tour and stage manager. Since completing her BA in Arts Management from Columbia College Chicago and a MA in Theatre Production from the University of Galway, Maydi has worked on multiple areas of technical theater. Her recent stage management credits include Leonardo! and No Blue Memories (Manual Cinema), Memorabilia (La Vuelta Ensemble), Kiev (Aguijón Theater Co), and The Delicate Tears of the Waning Moon and La Peor de Todas (Water People Theater), as well as various shows with PlayMaker's Laboratory, Underbelly LTD, and Chicago Shakespeare Theater.

STEPHANIE RODRIGUES (Projection

Design) is an Emmy Award-winning journalist, producer, and multimedia storyteller from Venezuela. She won the 2019 Emmy Award for Best Documentary and was also nominated for Best Writer and Editor. She holds a B.A. in Journalism from Santa María University. Additionally, she

earned a Diploma in Management and Supervision XI from Universidad Simón Bolívar. In addition to her Emmy, she received an ALTA Award in Chicago for Outstanding Projections/Visual Design for *The Delicate Tears of the Waning Moon* (Water People Theater), where she also served as assistant director.

CLAUDIA VARGAS (Production

Assistant) has over a decade of experience in broadcast, film, and digital media within the scenic arts. With a solid foundation in production logistics, wardrobe, and backstage coordination, she thrives on keeping the creative process flowing seamlessly. Known for her calm under pressure and keen eye for detail, she specializes in supporting artists and crews with heart, precision and purpose. She's honored to bring her behind-the-scenes magic to this production.

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; and Ghost Waltz. 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.



WATER PEOPLE **THEATER**

WE BELIEVE IN THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THEATER

Water People Theater is a Latina and immigrant-led nonprofit organization that believes in the transformative power of theater. We have produced socially engaged bilingual and inclusive programming for over two decades.

Our mission is to leverage the power of high-quality performances and educational offerings to advance social values and defend human rights. We aim to inspire diverse audiences to become changemakers contributing to more equitable, just, and inclusive communities.

OUR NAME

Our name, "WATER PEOPLE" is born from our Venezuelan roots and is inspired by the term that names one of our indigenous ethnicities: Yekuana, people on the wood that opens paths in the water.

The very essence of our organization is rooted in our Venezuelan heritage, where we draw inspiration, passion, and a deep reverence for the stage. We are driven by an unwavering commitment to upholding Human Rights and embracing the principles of social and environmental responsibility.

Rebeca Alemán, Founder & Executive Artistic Director Iraida Tapias, Founding Artistic Director Constanza Mendoza, Resident Advisor & Development Support Marisabel Muñoz, Art Director Oscar Perdomo Marín, Resident Playwright Carlos Trujillo, IT Coordinator

waterpeopletheater.org











CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

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

Our Circle of Friends donors play an active role in bringing theater to Los Angeles that reflects the U.S. Latina/o/x experience and the demographics of the city. We gratefully acknowledge their generous support. (Donors from March 1, 2024 – March 26, 2025.)

Company Circle | \$10,000+

Entravision Foundation Hispanic Scholarship Fund JP Morgan Chase David & Linda Valdes

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"The Latino Theater Company is among America's great ensembles."

American Theatre Magazine

The Latino Theater Company celebrates 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 inside this theater, without the written permission of the management, is prohibited by law. Violators may be punished by ejection. Any 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.



LET'S GET SOCIAL!









