

Congratulations to About... Productions, its groundbreaking Chicano Legacy Project and the student writers, as well as

BROOKLYN & BOYLE

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FREE!

March 2017
¡GRATIS!

In this issue...
Mujeres Poderosas
Su Frida at Casa 0101
MdM Turns 20 in DTLA
Noisemaker Héctor Tobar

**visionary artists Gloria E. Álvarez, Yreina Cervántez,
Marisela Norte and Jesús Treviño who inspired I: WITNESS**

about productions
presents



I: WITNESS
A Chicano Legacy Project Play

April 7-8, 2017
Plaza de la Raza
3540 North Mission Road
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DON'T THEY?** MAY 18* 8PM MAY 19 8PM *PREVIEW
MAY 20 3PM 8PM MAY 21 3PM 7PM

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About...Productions is currently celebrating 28 years of creating original interdisciplinary theaterworks and educational programs that provoke new perspectives on history, humanity, and culture. The company is dedicated to creating artistic and community dialogue through collaborative practices and believes in the power of theater to enlighten audiences, transform youth, and celebrate the lives of seniors.

Young Theaterworks offers innovative educational programming which introduces youth to the importance of writing and the power of communication through artistic expression, honest dialogue, and live performance.

Theresa CHAVEZ, Producing Artistic Director
Heather SHELTON, Administrative Director
Susan BRAIG, Development Associate
Angelita MORAGA, Marketing Manager
Leah JUNG, Marketing Assistant
Ilka Erren PARDIÑAS, (Fly PR), Public Relations
Soap STUDIO INC., Graphic Design

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Theresa CHAVEZ

Pueblo High School

Mike OLIVO, Principal
Noemi SALAZAR, Office Manager

Special Thanks

Maria Jimenez Torres and the entire staff of Plaza de la Raza, Chon Noriega and Rebecca Epstein of the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center, Daniel Hernandez of the East L.A. Library's Chicano Resource Center, Emily Hopkins and Staff of Side Street Projects, Casa 0101, Principals Doug Franklin and Janine Antoine of Monterey High School, Rose Portillo, Sayda Trujillo, Melinna Bobadilla, Andrea Klotzsche, Mylene Moreno, Mario Hernandez, and Jesus Reyes.

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About Productions... collaboration...innovation...education
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presents



Premiere at Plaza de la Raza

PRODUCED BY

Pueblo de Los Angeles High School students and About...Productions

WRITTEN BY

Students at Monterey High School and Pueblo High School
in the Young Theaterworks Program

DRAMATURGY BY

Gabriel Rivas Gomez and Sayda Trujillo

DIRECTED BY

Juan Parada

CAST (in order of appearance)

Estela GARCIA.....Jaguar
Marlene Beltran CUAHTIN.....Marisela Norte
Kimberly BARRITA.....Gloria Enedina Alvarez
Adrian BRIZUELA.....Jesús Treviño, Tree
Cynthia CALLEJAS.....Yreina Cervantez

ENSEMBLE: Kiara BARAJAS, Danielle CAMARILLO, Athena GOMEZ,
Eileen LOPEZ, Eddie RUIZ, Desily SAURIN, Jean SOZA, Maria STRONG

PRODUCTION STAFF

Jessica HEMINGWAY, Stage Manager Jacquie ADORNI, Master Electrician
Gabriel GARZA, Audio/Visual Support

DESIGNERS

Gerardo DAVALOS, Production Set Designer Ning JI, Lighting Designer
Abel ALVARADO, Costume Designer and Mentor

Costume Design Team: Danielle CAMARILLO, Wendy FLORES, Amanda GALLEGOS,
Emily JIMENEZ, Brenda PADILLA, Cynthia RODRIGUEZ, Desily SAURIN,

Maria STRONG, and Esmeralda VELASCO Noah HARMON, Composer/Musician and Mentor

Sound Design Team: Joseph ALVAREZ, Melissa CHAVEZ, Hewan GIAMINARDI,
Rudy MARTINEZ, Christian RAMIREZ, Jean SOZA, and Efren VASQUEZ

Director's MESSAGE

What value does art bring to our lives? When have you stood up for someone else and what did you feel? What do you want your legacy to be?

These are questions posed in *I: WITNESS*, a play that combines the experiences and artistic journeys of Marisela Norte, Yreina Cervantes, Gloria Alvarez, and Jesús Treviño. These Chicano artists helped pave the way for other Latinos, such as myself and the cast before you, to dream of success in whatever endeavor they choose.

Building on our work in 2016, the students of Pueblo de Los Angeles High School chose for the past 11 weeks to do a most unexpected and very difficult thing: stand up in front of a group of people and share their artistic voice, through acting, costume and sound design. We asked these students to listen, to act, to step into someone else's shoes, to trust, to not judge, and to convey their ideas. At a time when most communication happens in front of a screen, theatre breaks that paradigm making it more and more valuable in the lives of our youth.

It is no doubt that these are strange times we are living. Our communities are being torn apart. Fear and uncertainty is lingering in the atmosphere and funding for the arts is, once again, at risk. Do we stand in the outskirts and watch this happen? Or, do we, as Olinda tells her brother, a young Jesús Treviño "[Grow a pair.... and] think bigger than just ourselves."

—**Juan PARADA**,
Director and Lead Teaching Artist

Chicano Legacy Project ELDERS

Gloria Enedina Alvarez, Vibiana Aparicio-Chamberlin, David Botello, Barbara Carrasco, Fernando D. Castro, Yreina Cervantez, Paula Crisostomo, Ofelia Esparza, Consuelo Flores, Sesshu Foster, Wayne Healy, Rosalio Muñoz, Marisela Norte, Luis Torres, and Jesús Treviño.

BIOS continued

RESIDENCY AND PRODUCTION PARTNERS



Plaza de la Raza Cultural Center for the Arts & Education is the only multidisciplinary community arts venue dedicated to serving the Eastside

neighborhoods of Los Angeles. Founded in 1970 by prominent labor, business and civic leaders as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, it offers affordable after-school, intergenerational arts education programs to nearly 3,800 children, teens and adults each year. Its mission is to foster enrichment of all cultures bridging the geographic, social, artistic, and cultural boundaries of Los Angeles, and beyond.



Pueblo High School is a continuation school open to students, 16-18 years old, who want to continue their high school education in an alternative environment. Smaller classes, opportunities to work individually with teachers, computer based learning and shorter school days are just some of the advantages for students enrolled at Pueblo High School.

All Chicano Legacy Project events are co-sponsored by the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center.



Community Partners



All Chicano Legacy Project programs are supported, in part, by the California Arts Council, City of Los Angeles' Department of Cultural Affairs, Eastside Arts Initiative, Los Angeles County Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

ABOUT PRODUCTIONS

Theresa CHAVEZ (Producing Artistic Director) Under Theresa Chavez's direction, About...Productions has engaged with numerous communities, and cultural and educational institutions, locally and nationally, in the production of innovative theaterworks and educational programs. Honors include La Opinion's Mujeres Destacadas 2013 Award in the category of Arts and Culture; Playwrights' Arena Lee Melville Award (2012) for outstanding contributions to the LA Theater Community; and a City of LA Certificate of Recognition for her work on Evangeline, the Queen of Make-Believe. In addition to her training as a dancer and musician, she earned an interdisciplinary B.A. in the social sciences from UCLA, and her B.F.A. and M.F.A. in photography from California Institute of the Arts.

Heather SHELTON

(About...Productions' Administrative Director) provides management and organizational support for all company operations. She holds a MPA from the University of Illinois and a BS in Arts Management from Northern Arizona University. She has previously founded and collaborated with programs, theaters, museums, opera, arts and entertainment organizations.

PUBLICITY & MARKETING

Angelita MORAGA (Marketing Manager for Chicano Legacy Project) has more than 15 years of experience as a reporter, public relations professional, part-time producer, and educator in both the Los Angeles and Chicago markets.

She holds a degree in Communications from Cal State University, Fullerton and spent five years as a newspaper reporter in Orange County, California and Chicago. Angelita promotes the performing and visual arts as a public relations/marketing consultant.

Leah JUNG (Marketing Assistant) provides support to About Production's marketing department. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BA in Visual Communication from California State University Los Angeles, and holds a certificate of completion in Spiritual Psychology from the University of Santa Monica.

Ilka Erren PARDIÑAS (Fly PR) — a California native born to German and Mexican immigrant parents, is a publicity professional based in Los Angeles who designs and implements campaigns for clients in music, art, film, literature, visual arts and business, architecture and design. The firm has run a robust internship program since 2005, helping women, LGBTQ and minorities gain access to music and entertainment industry career opportunities. Ilka founded the independent publicity firm Fly PR in 1994.

Producing Artistic Director's MESSAGE

We began our **Chicano Legacy Project** journey at Monterey High School in 2011 with our first Chicano elder interviewees—all veterans of the historic 1968 East L.A. student walkouts; the largest student walkout in the history of the United States.

It was clear from the beginning that this intergenerational program inspired our students with its powerful history as well its transformative artistic and academic process. Under the inspired guidance of then Young Theaterworks Director, Rose Portillo, we decided to continue the work for the next four years with interviews with Chicano Moratorium activists, Chicano muralists, and Chicano poets. The program even produced an original on-campus mural created by Monterey students with acclaimed visual artist Barbara Carrasco.

We are deeply indebted to our continuation high school partners — Monterey and Pueblo High Schools; and to all our elders for their generous involvement, their past accomplishments, and inspiring us with their current work in our community and around the world.

The stories you will hear in **I: WITNESS** represent four of the fifteen stories written by Monterey students; with additional original writing by Pueblo High School students who have also been engaged for two years in the process of developing, designing and producing **I: WITNESS** under the strong and steady guidance of our Lead Teaching Artists Sayda Trujillo and Juan Parada. All these students have inspired us with their willingness to engage in a new experience that challenges them to express themselves and represent their community's history in a unique way.

The **Chicano Legacy Project** brings our students and audiences a deeper understanding of what is possible when a community is inspired to speak for itself for both the collective good and individual empowerment. It is an honor to bring **I: WITNESS** to fruition, and we look forward to the next phase of our Chicano Legacy Project work.

—**Theresa CHAVEZ**,
About...Productions' Producing Artistic Director

CAST AND MENTORS

Adrian BRIZUELA is a classically trained actor that has played roles from authors such as Shakespeare, Chekov, and Williams. Roles such as Tevye in "Fiddler on the Roof", John Proctor in "The Crucible", Captain Hook in "Peter Pan" have allowed him to establish his imaginative process as a creative performer. In May 2015, he received his BFA in acting from the prestigious California Institute of the Arts. At CalArts he worked on projects such as the original play "Los Angeles Founding Families" where he acted alongside Roger Guenveur Smith. He has been featured in nationwide commercials with companies such as Panera Bread. Aside from acting Adrian is a recording artist. He is currently on his Los Angeles tour performing his Debut Album "Me Vale Mas". Adrian dedicates his craft to spreading Latino awareness.

Marlene Beltran CUAUHTIN is a professional actor, vocalist, director and teaching artist. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Acting from the California Institute of the Arts, and is also an alumna of the LACC Theatre Academy. Marlene is bilingual, Spanish/English, and has been a teaching artist in the greater Los Angeles area for over 10 years, working with such organizations as The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles, Cal Arts Community Arts Partnership, About Productions, Plaza De La Raza and The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company.

Cynthia CALLEJAS studied acting at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Ensamble Actoral in Bucaramanga, Colombia and graduated with her Theater BFA as part of the California Institute of the

Arts class of 2013. Favorite credits include Alicia in Shelter with the CalArts Center for New Performance, Rosalind in As You Like It at the Bali Arts Festival in Denpasar, Indonesia, and Miranda in The Tempest at the Walt Disney Modular Theater. She is also a professional dancer specializing in Polynesian and Brazilian dance.

Estela GARCIA is a multi-disciplinary artist. She received her B.A. from UCLA in Chicana/o Studies and her MFA for ensemble based devised physical theatre from Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre. She has collaborated on many community based projects like SCR's The Long Road Today by Jose Cruz Gonzalez and CTG's Popol Vuh by El Teatro Campesino. Follow on IG: @estelag6

DESIGNERS

Abel ALVARADO (Costume Designer/ Mentor) Work includes the award winning "Untitled: Warhol Project" and the West Coast regional premiere of "In The Heights." Recent design work also includes "Teatro MOZ," "Mariela In The Desert" Disney's "Aladdin The Musical DLE," and "Real Women Have Curves" at the Pasadena Playhouse. He designed for the original works "It Happened in Roswell," "A Force To Be Reckoned With," "An L.A. Journey," "Little Red," "Drunk Girl," "Boyle Heights," and "Bad for the Community." He would like to thank About Productions for this opportunity.

Gerardo DAVALOS (Production Set Designer) Born in San Juan de los Lagos, Jalisco. Mexico. Gerardo began his career with Grupo de Teatro Apolo in Los Angeles. He has worked as an actor and set designer for local theatre groups such

as: Off The Tracks Theatre, Ta'Yer, Teatro Frida Kahlo, Crezca Teatro and Teatro Jornalero Sin Fronteras. He is currently a founding member of Off The Tracks Theatre. He is happy to be part in this new adventure of About Productions.

Ning JI (Lighting Designer) received her MFA in lighting design from UCLA, School of Theater, Film and Television. She is a lighting and projection designer for theater, dance, opera and musical based in Los Angeles, California. Her varied body of work includes "Mother. Father". Choreographed by Christine Suarez, "Opera Cosi fan tutte" directed by Peter Kazaras, "Hidden Choreographies" choreographed by Lea Anderson from London, "Bat Boy: The Musical" directed by Jeremy Mann, and "Cloud 9" directed by April Shawhan. Ning received a Cirque du Soleil Fellowship Award in 2014 and worked in 'O' show and Zarkana as a creative/technical fellow in Las Vegas. She also was a recipient of Army Archerd and Rosalee Sass Awards. ningjidesign.com

Noah HARMON (Composer/Musician/ Mentor) is multi-instrumentalist, songwriter/ composer, performer and educator in Los Angeles. He is founding member of Indie rock band, "The Airborne Toxic Event" (2007-2014) whose 2008 song "Sometime Around Midnight" is an RIAA certified gold single. Currently he can be seen performing with Summer Moon (Nikolai Fraiture of The Strokes) and Dhani Harrison's thenewno2 among others. Harmon is a BFA 2005 graduate from the California Institute of the Arts and has participated in the schools C.A.P. program since 2004. He is a Fender® endorsed artist, motorcycle enthusiast and father.

PRODUCTION

Jessica HEMINGWAY (Production Stage Manager) has worked with About Productions for the last two years as both stage manager and Acting mentor. She is excited to be involved in this production.

DIRECTOR

Juan PARADA (Director and Lead Teaching Artist), is an L.A. based actor, director, producer and educator, born in El Salvador, raised in Los Angeles, CA. He has worked as a Teaching Artist for several organizations including Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Theatricum Botanicum, Center Theatre Group, Ta'Yer, Teatro Jornalero Sin Fronteras, City Hearts, and Off The Tracks Theatre Company. Juan holds a BA in Acting and Directing from California State University at Long Beach (CSULB), and an MFA in Acting from California Institute of the Arts (CalArts). Juan is also the Founding Artistic Director of Off The Tracks Theatre, whose mission is to produce cutting edge contemporary Spanish language theatrical productions.

TEACHING ARTIST

Jose A. GARCIA is an actor, musician and activist. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California, the Drama Studio London at Berkeley, and a member of SAG/AFTRA and the Interact Theater Company. He has appeared in numerous stage productions with many L.A. companies including Frida Kahlo Theater, Company of Angels, CASA 0101, Cornerstone Theater, Knightsbridge Theater, 24th Street Theater, Stages Theater, Fountain Theater, and the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts. Jose was the recipient of a Cornerstone Theater Company Bridge Award for his work in the arts and social justice.