

November 4, -12, 2016  
State Playhouse

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

### MY NEW HOME

In 1979 I was offered the opportunity to move to Los Angeles to spearhead the saving of the Pasadena Playhouse from the wrecking ball. Like most people from the East Coast my knowledge and impressions of Los Angeles were formed by watching many Hollywood films.

Within the first month that I was living here I saw my first professional theatre production in the city, the landmark play *Zoot Suit*. I had never seen anything like it. The story it told of the Mexican-American experiences in 1940's Los Angeles was totally unknown to my life experiences. The horrific prejudices of those days was an eye opening experience for me. And to sit with an audience where I was the minority member as the many Latino patrons yelled at the stage in Spanish during the show was exhilarating and completely new.

I had the good fortune to meet and fall in love with the lead actress of *Zoot Suit* who introduced me to a world that was fresh and new to me as a "gabacho" from the East Coast. While the relationship would end 11 years later the community she brought me into was a life long gift.

In fact tonight you share that gift with me. A year after *Zoot Suit* (thanks to her being cast in the role of Lola) my girlfriend was part of the World Premiere production of *Latina* here in Los Angeles. This was the first play written by Milcha Sanchez-Scott who went on to great fame as a playwright. Her insights into the world of Los Angeles in 1980 like *Zoot Suit* and the 1940's opened my eyes to the discrimination and difficulties of being a Latina in our city. Especially for women who came here from Latin America to seek better opportunities for themselves and their families.

I made one of those heartfelt promises to myself that someday, somewhere I would direct this play.

This past spring I was teaching two different acting classes here at Cal State LA and many of my students came to me saying "where is the material in plays that relate to my life and my culture?" And I realized that *Latina* might be a show we should be doing here at Cal State. In rereading it again after all these years I was sadly struck by the fact that so much of what Milcha wrote about 36 years ago has not changed at all. In fact I was shocked to see how incredibly germane and accurate *Latina* is in 2016.

With Milcha's blessing and support I chose to keep the play as written in 1980. So while many of you in the audience may not know the television references of David and Ricky Nelson or HAZEL that is not important compared with the power of a play that shows you as written 36 years ago that very little has changed for many people here in Los Angeles. Or to quote Sarita from the script written three decades ago, "M.B.'s ( make believe's) should be for big dreams, not for some piddley maid's job to keep your family on this side of starvation."

For so many members of our Los Angeles community the lack of progress from 1980 to 2016 is so clear and truly tragic. But let's let Milcha's powerful play speak for itself....

Stephen Rothman  
Director

# LATINA

by **Milcha Sanchez-Scott**

with

Karen Arana, Lissette Belmontes, Cassandra Britton,  
Diana Cruz, Rocio Diaz, Verena Forster, Tamara Hamming,  
Gloria Hernandez, Maricella Ibarra, Moses Israel  
Luciana La Torre, Elizabeth Martinez, Lilyana Melero,  
Iselle Pena, Marissa Pitts, Khaleana Stell,  
Damaris Vizvett, Nina Walker

Scenic Designer  
*Jeffrey McLaughlin*

Lighting Designer  
*G. Shizuko Herrera*

Sound Designer and  
Original Composition  
*Adam Macias*

Costume Designer  
*E. B. Brooks*

Video Director  
*J.J. Vasquez*

Assistant Stage Managers  
*David Alvarez, Alonzo Bocanegra, Osbaldo Mancia*

Master Carpenter  
*Daniel Czypinski*

Stage Manager  
*Rebecca Bermudez*

<p>Director <i>Stephen Rothman</i></p>
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The artwork used for the Latina poster and program is entitled *La Promesa* and was generously donated by the artist, Judithe Hernández. [www.judithehernandez.com](http://www.judithehernandez.com)

## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

**Milcha Sanchez-Scott** was born on the island of Bali. Her father was Columbian, her mother Indonesian. Her father's work as an agronomist required constant travel, so when the young Sanchez-Scott reached school age she was placed in a convent boarding school near London where she first learned English. Columbia however, remained the family's one permanent home, aside from several years spent in Mexico.

When she was fourteen Sanchez-Scott moved to California. After attending the University of San Diego where she majored in Literature and Philosophy, she worked at the San Diego 300 and later at an employment agency in Los Angeles.

Her play *Latina* premiered in Los Angeles in 1980 and won seven Drama-League Awards, followed by *Dog Lady and the Cuban Swimmer*. Sanchez-Scott went to New York to work with playwright Irene Fornes in whose theater workshop at I.N.T.A.R she developed *Roosters*, which went on to Robert Redford's Sundance workshop, later produced by Joe Papp at New York's Public Theatre, then to T.V's American Playhouse and finally into a featured film with Eddie Olmos directed by Joe Young.

Ms. Sanchez-Scott has received a number of distinctive awards including a first level Rockefeller Foundation award, A Vesta award given each year to a West Coast dramatist and Le Compte de Nouy Prize.

Other plays by Sanchez-Scott include: *Dog Lady and The Cuban Swimmer*, *Evening Star*, *the Old Matador*, *Stone Wedding*, and *Roosters*.



Latina Rehearsal 10/2016

## THE CAST

Karen Arana .....	Maid in Black
Lisette Bellmontes .....	Maria
Cassandra Britton .....	Ms. Harris
Diana Cruz .....	Sarita
Rocio Diaz .....	New Girl
Luciana Di Laura .....	Clara
Verena Forster .....	Mrs. Homes
Tamara Hamming .....	Mrs. Levine
Gloria Hernandez .....	Lola
Maricella Ibarra .....	Eugenia
Moses Israel .....	Don Felix
Elizabeth Martinez .....	Maid in White
Lilyana Melero .....	Alma Gutierrez
Iselle Pena .....	La Chata
Marissa Pitts .....	Mrs. Camden
Khaleana Stell .....	Evita
Damaris Vizvett .....	La Cubana
Nina Walker .....	Sister Agnes

## ACT ONE FILM CAST

Rocio Diaz .....	New Girl
Cynthia Reifler Flores .....	New Girl's Mother
Camila Nevarez .....	New Girl's Sister
Amelia Gonzalez .....	New Girl's Sister
Osbaldo Mancia .....	Peruvian Village Person
Daniel Francisco Burnam .....	Peruvian village person
Joaquin Lopez .....	Border guard and Guatemalan policeman
David Alvarez .....	Attacker
Carla Moreno .....	Shawl Thief
Steve Sotelo .....	Coyote



## PRODUCTION CREDITS

Choreographer .....	Rocio Ponce
Music Consultant .....	Cynthia Reifler-Flores
Stage Combat coordinator .....	Jo Ann Mendelson
Translation .....	Daniel Francisco Burnam
Props Master.....	Cynthia Shuton
Video Crew.....	Will Mill, Kalea Calloway, Nidhin Patel, Michael Flotron, J.J. Vasquez
Film edited by .....	J.J. Vasquez, Michael Flotron
Overture Mixed by .....	Cesar Moreno
Light Board Operator .....	Misa Shimogata
Audio Operator.....	Jose Cortes
Video Operator .....	Leonel Nunez
Wardrobe Running Crew .....	Jasmine Joanis-Hay, Briana Turnbull
Deck Running Crew .....	Cesar Ramirez-Gamino, Giselle Rios, Joseph Caldera, Brannan Wright
Poster and Graphics .....	Sherry Yuen-Ruan
Assistant Production Manager.....	Lilyana Melero
Faculty Production Manager .....	Meredith Greenburg

## ARTS & LETTERS PRODUCTIONS

Elizabeth Pietrzak .....	Technical Director/Shops Supervisor
Bruce Zwinge .....	Costume Shop Supervisor
Tim Jones .....	Electrics Shop Supervisor
Rico Garcia .....	Audio Systems Technician

## A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE HARDEST WORKING CREWS IN SHOW BUSINESS

Electrics Crew .....	Kevin Vasquez, Chase Hinton, Jenisse Castillo, Cathy Cortez, Matt Tsang, Ameliz Gonzalez, Eric Harris
Carpentry Crew .....	Kari Morales, Paulie Intriago, Stephanie Almeida, Alex Kim, Justin Castellanos, Brian Reyes, Amelia Gonzalez, Jenisse Castillo, Dmitri Bilyk, Karen Arana, Cesar Moreno, Cathy Cortez, Elizabeth Martinez, Lindsey Herrera, Jovanni Gonzalez, Shauna Hodge, Maria Marin, Angelica Duarte, and <b>deepest gratitude to the students in both sections of TA 1310 Stagecraft for all of your time and skills:</b> Daisy Bracamontes, Jose Caiza-Chavez, Jesse Chacon, Jose Cortes, Lorraine Figueroa, Adais Flores, Tiffany Gamez, Jovanni Gonzalez, Stephanie Gutierrez, Bryan Ha, Jasmine Joanis-Hay, Taek Kwon, Luciana Di Laura, Brendan LaGuardia, Maria Marin, Zuliana Mendoza-Figueroa, Destiny Moore, Leonel Nunez, Kate Ovando, Missael Quintero, Cesar Ramirez-Gamino, Joanna Reyes, Celeste Alvarez, Jorge Becerra, Alonzo Bocanegra, Joseph Caldera, Ivan Castro, Nayla Hull, Rafael Medina, Erica Noel, Guadalupe Reyes-Flores, Giselle Rios, Brenda Robles, Aimee Serrano, Misato Shimogata, Cynthia Shuton, Starisha Stewart, Anthony Tran, Brianna Turnbull, Martha Coryne Turner, Damaris Vizvett, Brannen Wright, Gejia Zhang

## SPECIAL THANKS

A very special thank you to the faculty and staff of the College of Arts and Letters and the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance; Lisa Coto at the LA Opera, Melissa Ficociello and Lisa Hashimoto Stone at ELAC, Kirk Graves for all of your Prop help; Karen Arana for stepping in at a moment's notice whenever needed; Leticia Ramirez and Jenny San in the Department office - we could do nothing without your assistance; the Cal State LA Mariachi Ensemble; Dr. David Connors, Associate Dean and Chair of MTD; Dr. Rennie Schoepflin, Dean of the College of Arts & Letters for all of your support.



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Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the

generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college- level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.



Karen Arana



Lisette Bellmontes



Cassandra Britton



Diana Cruz



Rocio Diaz



Luciana Di Laura



Verena Forster



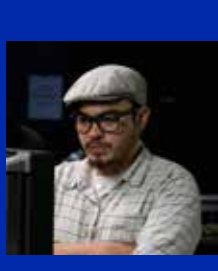
Tamara Hamming



Gloria Hernandez



Maricella Ibarra



Moses Israel



Elizabeth Martinez



Lilyana Melero



Iselle Pena



Marissa Pitts



Khaleana Stell



Damaris Vizvett



Nina Walker



**Karen Arana** (Maid in Black) is a third-year Cal State LA student, majoring in Theatre Performance. This is Karen's second onstage performance after being part of last year's musical *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* as one of the Gemini. She is honored to be part of this production, *Latina*, that will show the survival of socio-political, economic and cultural issues that were seen in the 80's and still seen today. She would love to thank her family, friends, and neighbors for supporting her in the arts.

**Lisette Belmontes** (Maria) is a senior at Cal State LA, having transferred from San Joaquin Delta College where she graduated with an Associate's Degree in Theatre Arts. She has continued pursuing her passion for performing as a Theatre Performance major at Cal State LA. Lisette's favorite roles on stage have included: Celia in *As You Like It* and Betty Paris in *The Crucible*. She has also appreciated opportunities to work with high school students as a guest choreographer for productions of *Beauty and the Beast* and *In the Heights*. She has also begun to hone her improv. skills with Cal State LA's student ran improv. troupe *Bed Bath & Beyonce*. She would like to thank Steve Rothman and the faculty for bringing this story of *Latina* to the main stage. She feels honored to have been a part of this production and the growth she has experienced throughout the rehearsal process. Lisette dedicates her performance to the memory and legacy of her great-grandmother Aurora Belmontes.

**Cassandra Britton** (Ms. Harris) is thrilled to be a part of *Latina* and would like to thank God and Rothman for this fun opportunity. This is Cassandra's third year as a Communications major and her third production at Cal State LA. She played Bev, Kathy, Betsy, and Lindsey in *Clybourne Park* as well as Marie, Kate, and Angel Wing in *Circle of Death*. For her roles in *Clybourne Park*, Cassandra received an Irene Ryan Nomination and participated in the KCACTF competition in Hawaii. She wants to act forever.

**Diana Cruz** (Sarita) is a Senior at Cal State LA, majoring in Theatre Arts Performance. She is ecstatic to be part of this amazing production and to represent her Latino community.

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She has been part of productions in the past, including *Orphée et Eurydice* as well as numerous dance shows. She graduated High School with honors where she performed in several plays, including *Les Miserables* and *The Phantom of the Opera*. Acting has always been one of her passions and she will continue to peruse it as a career after graduation in the spring. She would like to thank her lovely mother and sister for always being there and supporting her in every decision she makes.

**Rocio Diaz** (New Girl) is a senior at Cal State LA, majoring in Theatre Arts and Dance with an option in theatre. Rocio is a Chicana, poet, playwright, actress, dancer, co-producer, and activist/artist. She made her first debut as an actress in the play, *12-1-A* at Cal State LA playing the lead role of Koko Tanaka. She then made her debut as a playwright and co-producer at Casa 0101 in the production called *Chicanas, Cholas, y Chisme 2015 & 2016*. Previous works from CCC include *Pink Scars*, and *Tired*. *Pink Scars* was then produced by Josefina Lopez in her production called *Drunk Girl*. She is blessed and honored to always be representing the voice of the Latino community. Rocio would like to take the time to thank her, family, friends, and community for always believing and supporting her dreams.

**Luciana Di Laura** (Clara) is a sophomore at Cal State LA, majoring in Theatre Arts and Dance, with an option in Performance. This is Luciana's first production with Cal State LA, having recently transferred from Lamar University. Luciana is a student-athlete from Peru, who has played tennis since she was 6 years old, representing her country and competing in many international tournaments with excellent results in her sport. She started acting with her mother company, Fantasilandia, where she played different characters for children's parties and shows. Luciana would like to thank tennis for opening opportunities such giving her the chance to study in the United States, and thank her family for always supporting her.

**Verena Forster** (Mrs. Holmes) is a graduate international exchange student at Cal State LA. This is Verena's first production with Cal State LA, having recently transferred from Technical University Munich, in Germany where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance & Accounting and Mechanical Engineering. She recently performed the leading role in *Das Fell* (The Fur) as Sobarica and as Tina in *Schmerzhaftes Geheimnisse* (Painful Secrets) at the Gasteig, a large Munich-based theatre. Her dream of reaching people emotionally and raising awareness of important topics within our society by performing as an actress was one of her main reason why Verena has chosen to become an actress. Having taken several acting courses in Germany she came to Los Angeles to pursue her love of acting and concentrating fully in the craft.

**Tamara Kay Hamming** (Mrs. Levine) is a junior at Cal State LA, majoring in Theater Arts and Dance, with an option in Performance. Prior to attending Cal State LA, she studied acting and filmmaking at Los Angeles City College. Tamara also earned an Associate of Arts degree in Anthropology from Los Angeles Valley College. She is beyond excited to be a part of this production.

**Gloria Hernandez** (Lola) is a senior at Cal State LA earning a B.A. in Theatre Arts with the option in Performance. Gloria appeared in last year's musical, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Gloria also worked as the sound operator for the Spring Dance Concert and ran projections for last year's opera, *Hydrogen Jukebox*. Having changed majors from Biology to Theatre, Gloria is excited to live her dreams. She was born in Los Angeles to a Salvadorian mother and a Mexican father. Born into a dislocated identity, between cultured worlds, the struggle remains to succeed in order to one day give back and give retirement and show gratitude to her parents. She would like to thank God and thank her church family and everyone else she loves in her life, her mother and father. She thanks them for their encouragement in returning

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to school after 6 years having gone off to be a single mother to raise her son. And a special thanks to Monica Moreland for her support and Michael Palma for his enduring patience and heart. My love goes out to Kevin Caleb, my wonderful son.

**Maricella Ibarra** (Eugenia) is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in theatre at Cal State LA. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Drama from U.C. Irvine. Born in Hollywood, Maricella is an actress and playwright. Theatre companies she has performed with include, Cornerstone Theatre, Circle X, Frida Kahlo Theater, Fugitive Kind Theatre Ensemble, CASA0101 and toured Our Town in China. Plays she has written include The Town I Live In, El Juarez Que Se Nos Fue, and Broker. She would like to thank Steve Rothman for casting her in first play at Cal State LA.

**Moses Israel** (Don Felix) is a Graduate Student at Cal State LA in the MFA TVFT Department, under the Production option. He is a Mexican-American filmmaker, based out of Los Angeles, California. Flourishing as a producer and director, at AplusFilmz and CreateTV. Coming from the small city of Santa Maria, California, Moses is the living example of a filmmaker who takes advantage of opportunities that most take for granted.

**Elizabeth Martinez** (Maid in White) is a junior at Cal State LA, majoring in Theatre Arts and Dance, with an option in Performance. This is Elizabeth's first production with Cal State LA. In high school, unsure of what she wanted to do as a career, she auditioned for the spring musical at her high school, Rialto High School. Being a part of the ensemble in *Hairspray*, she knew she had found her calling. Elizabeth would like to thank her dad, for always supporting her and for making the two-hour drive to pick her up and drive her home after rehearsal.

**Lilyana Melero** (Alma Gutierrez) is a senior at Cal State LA, majoring in Theatre Arts and Dance with an option in Theatre. Last seen as Gymnasia in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* other Cal State LA credits include *Bus Stop*, *Orphee et Eurydice*, *The John Lion New Plays Festival*,

and *Hot Nights*. Roles outside of Cal State LA include: Blanche in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, Mae Peterson in *Bye Bye Birdie*, and Lulu in *Cabaret*. Many thanks to her family, friends, and DZ sisters for accepting her favorite phrase, “I can’t, I have rehearsal” and always being so supportive.

**Iselle Peña** (La Chata) is a transfer student majoring in theatre and she is very excited to be working on her first production at Cal State LA. She recently transferred into Cal State LA from NYU, which is in her hometown NYC. She has performed in productions such as *In The Heights*, *Peter and Wendy*, *Finding Denzel* and *AliceN* among others. As a Latina from the Dominican Republic, she is honored to be working on this production and is grateful for the opportunity to represent!

**Marissa Pitts** (Mrs. Camden) is a proud member of AEA, and SAG-AFTRA. Ms. Pitts is currently working on her M.A. and M.F.A. at Cal State LA. She is very excited to be working with such a wonderful cast, crew, and director. For her resume of credits and training visit her imdb page or her website [www.marissapitts.com](http://www.marissapitts.com). Ms. Pitts would like to thank her husband, family, and friends for their continued support and love.

**Khaleana Stell** (Evita) is a 23-year-old Theatre Arts and Dance major at Cal State LA, with an option in Performance. She is a transfer student from Los Angeles Harbor College where her love for performing began. She was recently seen as Beverly in *The Shadow Box* at LAHC. Some of her favorite roles include: Diana Morales in *A Chorus Line*, Reggie Fluty in *The Laramie Project*, and Keely in *Keely and Du*. She has been involved in sports her entire life including basketball, cross country, swimming, and cheerleading. After being a competitive cheerleader for 11 years, she became a coach and was doing that part time while going to school. She gave up coaching to pursue her craft in acting and chase her dreams. Khaleana would like to thank Juan, Michael, Debbie and her family for all of the support, love and motivation.

**Damaris Vizvett** (La Cubana), is a freshman at Cal State LA, majoring in Theatre arts and Dance with an emphasis in Performance. This is her first show here at Cal State LA.



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Damaris attended Henry J. Kaiser High School in Fontana, CA and was very active in her school's theatre program. Some of her favorite roles include, Mabel Washington in *Fame: The Musical*, The Witch in *Into the Woods*, and Eponine in *Les Miserables*. Her most recent accolades include, being named a 2016 Spotlight Grand Prize Finalist in the Acting Category, and being awarded 2nd place in the National August Wilson Monologue Competition, where she represented Los Angeles and Center Theatre Group in New York City. Damaris sends all of her love to her friends and family. She would like to thank Wendi and Matthew Johnson for giving her the courage to shine, even in the darkest moments.

**Nina Walker** (Sister Agnes/Sister) is in her second year at Cal State LA majoring in Theatre and Dance with an option in Theatre Performance. This is Nina's third production at Cal State LA. Last year she was in *A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum*, as well as The John Lion New Plays Festival. Nina attended high school in Maryland where she took part in her school's performing arts program, some of her favorite roles include Beneatha younger in *A Raisin in the Sun*, Prospera in *The Tempest* and Erzulie in *Once on this Island*. Nina would like to thank her family for always supporting her.

## PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

**Stephen Rothman** (Director) is a Tenured Full Professor of Theatre in the Department of Music/Theatre/Dance at California State University, Los Angeles having joined the faculty in 2001. He is best known by West Coast Theatre audiences for his work as founder and artistic leader of the revitalized Pasadena Playhouse. He also served as artistic director of the Sacramento Theatre Company. His directing career has taken him across the country and around the world, including a 2008 production of Harold Pinter's BETRAYAL in Florence, Italy for the Florence International Theatre Company. His American Resident/Regional Theatre credits include more than 100 plays in 16 different States for 40 different theatre companies. He is especially proud of his work on numerous world premieres including SPARKY AND THE FITZ starring Academy Award winner Eli Wallach at the George Street Playhouse in New Jersey, LEARN TO FALL starring France's award winning clown/artist Buffo at The Attic Theatre in Detroit, GILLIGAN'S ISLAND, THE MUSICAL for Chicago's Organic Theatre and FATHER, SON, AND HOLY COACH for the Santa Monica Playhouse to name just a few. His most recent directorial work includes his March 2015 production of American Buffalo for Deaf West Theatre. Mr. Rothman has been collaborating with Deaf West Theatre since 1994 and his other American Sign Language (ASL) productions with the company include: Of Mice and Men, Orphans, What Are You...Deaf? And Pinocchio. Other recent work includes his March 2015 production of American Buffalo for Deaf West Theatre. Mr. Rothman has been collaborating with Deaf West Theatre since 1994 and his other American Sign Language (ASL) productions with the company include: Of Mice and Men, Orphans, What Are You...Deaf? And Pinocchio. Other recent work includes his residency in the summer of 2013 at Shakespeare and Company in Lenox, Massachusetts where he directed both the World Professional Premiere of LEAP YEAR in addition to the play ACCOMPLICE. His theatre awards include winning Florida's Carbonell Award for "Best Director" for GOD'S MAN IN TEXAS at Florida Stage as well as a Los Angeles Dramalogue win for his direction of an American Sign Language production of ORPHANS for Deaf West Theatre. For American television, he spent two seasons directing episodes

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of THE NEW WKRP IN CINCINNATI. At California State University, Los Angeles he served as the two term Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance and he received the 2012/2013 Award as “The Outstanding Professor of the Year.” In spring 2015 he was granted a sabbatical award and both taught classes and created an original 8 episode sitcom at The Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts in Sweden. Mr. Rothman is a proud 35 year member of The Society of Director’s and Choreographers (SDC). Steve’s most fun production continues to be his son Will “Banno” Rothman who provides him with the best living theatre possible.

**Judithe Hernández** (poster and cover art) is a visual artist and native of Los Angeles whose work has had a profound influence on Chicano art and contemporary Los Angeles visual aesthetics through her public art and as a member of the celebrated East L.A. artist collective Los Four. She has been the recipient of the City of Los Angeles Individual Artist Fellowship and her significant record of exhibition is complemented by a robust repository of her work in private and public collections, including the Smithsonian American Art Museum; the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, Philadelphia; the Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach; the Bank of America Collection, New York; the Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento; the National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago; the Vincent Price Art Museum; and the two major public repositories of Chicano art, the Universities of California at Los Angeles and Santa Barbara.

**G. Shizuko Herrera** (Lighting Designer) has been involved in technical theatre for over 40 years. She has taught stagecraft and design at ELAC and LACC. Now an Emeriti Professor at Cal State LA, she has served as an Associate Chair, Undergraduate Theatre and Dance Advisor, and as the Faculty Technical Director. Shiz has taught courses in General Education and all the technical classes – lower division stagecraft and upper division design. She has designed scenery, lighting, costumes, makeup, properties, and has also dabbled in directing. Shiz has costumed a few feature films, a TV pilot, and has been nominated for a Lester Horton Award for Excellence in Dance Lighting. With the East West Players, she

received a Back Stage West Garland Award for Lighting on *PACIFIC OVERTURES* at the David Henry Hwang Theatre and an LA Theatre Alliance Ovation Award and a LA Weekly award for Lighting on *SWEENEY TODD* at their Silver Lake theatre. Shiz has also been very involved with the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival since 1990 as a Design Respondent for student designers, Circuit Design Respondent Coordinator, and a National Stage Management Fellowship Opportunities Coordinator.

In 2009, she received an Excellence in Education award from the Design, Technology, & Management area and upon her retirement from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region 8 honored her with the prestigious Golden Medallion of Excellence Award for her dedication and commitment to the values and goals of KCACTF and to excellence in educational theatre.

**Adam Macias** (Sound Design and Original Composition) is a sound designer and composer with a Bachelors of Music degree in Music Technology from Cal. State University, Los Angeles. His experience in live sound has varied from being front house and monitor mixer, as well as system technician, touring with concert acts, and of course sound design for theatre in the greater Los Angeles area. As a composer he has written music for film, television, commercials, as well as commissioned dance pieces, and theatre. He is very honored to be working on a show at the very place that he discovered his love for theatre and have spent soooo much time in. He would like to thank Meredith and Steve for bringing him in on such an amazing project as well as the cast and crew for making the Yu-Yu happen.

**Jo Ann Mendelson** (Stage Combat Coordinator) has been certified through Dueling Arts International as an Associate Instructor of Stage Combat since 2012 and a certified Actor Combatant since 2008. She is currently pursuing her Masters in Fine Arts in Television, Film and Theatre Performance at Cal State LA. Previous Fight Direction credits include *Pillow Man* (The Back Gate Theatre Ensemble), *Moon Over Buffalo* (Crespi Carmelite Players), *Kahoots MacBeth* (Loyola Marymount

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University), as well as Loft Ensemble Theatre Company's recent productions of *Hamlet*, *Will You Save Them?*, *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, and the currently running *Dracula: Blood Before Dawn*. Jo Ann's work may also be seen in numerous independent films and new media projects.

**Rocio Ponce** (Choreographer) is a graduate from Television, Film & Theatre from Cal State LA. Rocio is firstly a dancer with a B.A. in Dance & Choreography from one of the top ten dance programs in the nation, CSULB. Rocio is also an Actor Equity Association affiliate as well as a SAG affiliate (aka SAGAFTRA) since she started with the Ricardo Montalban "Nosotros" acting company at age 10. Rocio has been a cast member of Cirque Du Soleil as an acrobat, dancer & actor & will travel with Cirque Du Soleil in the Spring for coaching assistance for the future performing generation to coach & choreograph the dancing aerial work part of their repertoire. Rocio has also been a back up vocalist as well as lead vocalist for session music groups since 1993. Rocio also has a certificate from CSB School Of Broadcasting in Television & Radio. Rocio is happy to be part of Steve Rothman's team as choreographer & is excited to sit in the audience with her friends dressed in 70's attire to see the play *Latina* & enjoy the performers do their thing as they have worked so hard.

**Cynthia Reifler Flores** (Music Consultant) Classically trained since the age of eight, Ms. Flores began her teaching career as an apprentice to Howard Weiss, the concertmaster of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, at the age of 16 and has continued along that path since then. Although originally an orchestral and chamber violinist, the majority of her musical focus has been on Mariachi Performance and Education. She holds a Master's Degree in Latin American Studies from Cal State LA. Cynthia has played with various groups of different mariachi performance aesthetics throughout her career. She started her mariachi training the traditional way, through apprenticeship with older, experienced male mariachis from Mexico. Cynthia performed with the Grammy award-winning Mariachi Divas de Cindy Shea from 2004-2005, but she is best known for her work as Acting Director and first violinist



## PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

in Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles, the first all-female show mariachi in the United States of international importance, where she performed from its inception in 1994 through 2003. Currently Cynthia performs with an all-female, all string, four-piece mariachi ensemble based out of the Los Angeles California area, Mariachi Corazón de México. Cynthia directs the mariachi programs at Cal State LA and at UC, Riverside. She has performed as musical director, arranger and performer on theatrical productions of *Mariachi Quixote*, *Mariachi Tales*, *Zig Zag*, *Hot Nights: History of Mariachi*, *Hot Nights: The Soundtrack of A Life* and *Hot Nights: El Callejón del Beso*, UCR 's *Mexican Music Night*, *Hot Nights: El Nuevo Callejon del Beso*, and *American Mariachi*.

**Cynthia R. Shuton** (Props Master) is a transfer student from East Los Angeles College and first year at Cal State LA. *Latina* is the first play in which she is involved with props, and she has performed in *Picasso* at the Lapin Agile as The Fan, and had been on the costume crew for *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, both at East Los Angeles College. She is very excited to be Props Master for *Latina* and has found the experience new and challenging, but very fun and interesting as well.

## STAGE MANAGER BIOS

**Rebecca Bermudez** (Stage Manager) is a junior at Cal State LA majoring in Communications with a minor in Theatre. This is her first production as a stage manager in college. She previously worked backstage as wardrobe crew on *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*. She would like to thank her mother and grandmother for always supporting her, and Meredith Greenburg for offering this amazing opportunity and helping her through the process.

**Osbaldo R. Mancia** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior earning his B.A degree in Theater arts and Dance with an option in Performance. This is his second production at Cal State LA as an assistant stage manager after assistant stage-managing the opera *Hydrogen Jukebox* last spring. He is grateful to be a part of this show.

**David Alvarez** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior at Cal State LA majoring in Theatre Arts & Dance with an option in Theatre. This is his first production at Cal State LA and first-time assistant stage managing. He would like to thank Meredith and Steve for giving him this opportunity.

**Alonzo Bocanegra** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman at Cal State LA, majoring in Theatre Arts and Dance with an emphasis in Performance. *Latina* is his first show he is working on at the university and its his first time Assistant Stage Managing a show ever. He is excited to be in a production at Cal State LA no matter if it's on stage or behind the scenes. Alonzo would love to give a shout out to his mom who is supporting him, all the way in San Jose; and friends who help better him.