

TEXAS  STATE<sup>®</sup>  
THEATRE AND DANCE

Department of Theatre & Dance presents the 19th annual

**BLPC**

Black and Latino Playwrights Celebration

*SUPPORTED BY* **HUMANITIES TEXAS**

# WELCOME

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On behalf of Texas State University and the Department of Theatre and Dance, welcome and bienvenidos to the 2021 Texas State Black and Latino Playwrights Celebration! We are glad you're here. Every year for 19 years now during one week in the fall, we bring two playwrights to work alongside guest professional directors, actors, and dramaturgical support and Texas State Theatre students in a week long intense rehearsal process to develop their two new plays. BLPC aids the playwrights to find truth and clarity in their storytelling. The week culminates with public reading presentations of the plays, followed by feedback from the audience for the writers. The week's work has consistently had a positive impact on all who were involved.

This year's workshop plays are:

*Bed of Stone* by Joe Campa is set in El Paso, Texas in El Segundo Barrio 1952 against the backdrop of the Korean War and the struggles of the Mexican-American children of refugees of the Mexican Revolution.

*Power to the Queendom* by ShaWanna Renee Rivon

When freedom and power to determine the destiny of the community and the life of their leader rests in the hands of four female members of the Houston Chapter of the Black Panther Party comes to a head in a stand-off and negotiations with the Houston Police.

And finally, our mission: The Texas State Black and Latino Playwrights Celebration is to be a moment in a place where playwrights, students and veteran professional theatre artists converge "to study the craft, to nurture the craftsmen and to celebrate the work".

-Eugene Lee

Artistic Director: Eugene Lee

Associate Artistic Directors: Nadine Mozon, Joe Luis Cedillo

Celebration Coordinator: Shannon Richey

Stage Managers: Nicole Wilkins, Vanessa Gutierrez, and Lydia Landrum

Assistant Director: Gustavo Leal

## **Funding provided by:**

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# AGENDA

Monday, August 30, 2021

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**6:00 PM-6:30 PM** | Company meeting for all playwrights, cast, crew and guest artists

**6:30 PM-9:30 PM**  
WORKSHOP | Rehearsal for New Play Development Workshop plays

Tuesday, August 31, 2021

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**6:30 PM-9:30 PM**  
WORKSHOP | Rehearsal for New Play Development Workshop plays

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

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**6:30 PM-9:30 PM**  
WORKSHOP | Rehearsal for New Play Development Workshop plays

Thursday, September 2, 2021

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**6:30 PM-9:30 PM**  
WORKSHOP | Rehearsal for New Play Development Workshop plays

Friday, September 3, 2021

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**11:00 AM**  
PRESENTATION | "Brown Bag" gathering

**7:00 PM**  
PRESENTATION | Tribute to distinguished guest, José Rivera

Saturday, September 4, 2021

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**12:00 PM-3:00 PM**  
WORKSHOP | Playwriting Workshop with Virginia Grise

**7:30 PM**  
READING | New Play Development Reading of *Power to the Queendom* by ShaWanna Renee Rivon

Sunday, September 5, 2021

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**12:00 PM**  
READING | New Play Development Reading of *Bed of Stone* by Joe Campa

# New Play Development Readings

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## *Power to the Queendom*

by ShaWanna Renee Rivon

Directed by Malkia Stampley

Dramaturg: comfort ifeoma katchy

Rebbie.....	Nyoka Boswell
Carolyn.....	Lauren Green
Ada.....	Joanee Davis
Dee Jay .....	Aaliyah Ward
Bobby Lewis.....	Konner Sheppard
Officer Howard.....	Whit Flowers
Stage Directions & Other Characters.....	Vivian Noble, Conner Duncan, and Kevin Engel

## *Bed of Stone*

by Joe Campa

Directed Kinan Valdez

Dramaturg: Joe Luis Cedillo

Ignacio de la Paz.....	Ricardo Lopez Montilla
Lucía Sanchez.....	Daniella Trevino
Doña Loreto de la Paz.....	Montserrat Luna
Susana Castañeda.....	Madeline Wong Perez
Juan Tovar.....	Eric Contreras
Pipín Castañeda.....	Allan Lopez
Maria de la Paz.....	Marisa Mendoza
Stage Directions .....	Esther Oh

## *Tribute to José Rivera*

Directed by Jerry Ruiz

ENSEMBLE: Brenda Salas, Devon Khalsa, Ricardo Lozano, Rose Childress, JaVaun Butler, Rachel Arguello Tacho Gutierrez, Daniela Recabarren, Diego Huazano

# 2021 Black & Latino Playwrights Celebration Distinguished Achievement Award

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**JOSÉ RIVERA** is a recipient of Obie Awards for *Marisol* and *References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot*, both produced by The Public Theatre, NY, and seen regionally and internationally. Other plays include *Cloud Tectonics* (Playwrights Horizons, Humana Festival, La Jolla Playhouse), *Boleros for the Disenchanted* (Yale Rep, Huntington Playhouse), *Sueño* (Hartford Stage, Manhattan Class Company), *Sonnets for an Old Century* (Barrow Group), *School of the Americas* (Public Theatre), *Massacre (Sing to Your Children)* (Goodman Theatre, Rattlestick), *Brainpeople* (ACT/San Francisco), *Adoration of the Old Woman* (Sundance Theatre Lab, INTAR, La Jolla Playhouse), *The House of Ramon Iglesia* (Ensemble Studio Theatre), *Another Word for Beauty* (Goodman, New York Stage and Film), *The Maids* (INTAR), *The Kiss of the Spiderwom-*

*an* (Menier Chocolate Factory, London), *Each Day Dies with Sleep* (Circle Rep, Berkeley Rep). "The Motorcycle Diaries" was nominated for 2005 Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar – making him the first Puerto Rican writer ever nominated for an Academy Award. It was also nominated for a BAFTA and Writers Guild Award and received top screenwriting awards in Argentina and Spain. "On the Road" premiered at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival. "Trade" was the first film to premiere at the United Nations. Rivera co-created and produced "Eerie, Indiana," (NBC) and was a consultant and writer on "Penny Dreadful: City of Angels" (Showtime) 2019. He will be the sole writer of the Netflix series based on *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. Rivera's short film "The Fall of a Sparrow" has been seen in film festivals around the country. In 2020 he directed the world premiere workshop of his play *Lovesong (Imperfect)* at the 14th Street Y as well as the short film "The Civet." His most recent play *Your Name Means Dream* was part of the Rattlestick Playwrights Jam, 2020, and read at the 2020 Sundance Theatre Lab. His latest screenplay is "A Song for the Recycled Orchestra" about the kids in Paraguay who made their instruments out of landfill. He has served on the boards of Theatre Communication Group and the Sundance Institute and mentored at Sundance Screenwriting Labs in Utah, Jordan, and India.

# 2021 Black & Latino Playwrights Celebration Guest Artists

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**JOE CAMPA** is a new writer of fiction but was greatly impacted by his family's oral tradition. He recalls as a child hearing his parents tell rich stories of family lore, stories of his forebears fighting in the Mexican Revolution, of great uncles' gun battles with Texas Rangers while running liquor across the border during the Prohibition. He would listen intently as his mother would recall the heart wrenching tragedy befalling a young sharecropper family in New Mexico. He would listen quietly as his father sang corridos and rancheras, interspersing the songs with his father's recollections of love, street fights, and guitar serenades in a West Texas barrio.

Joe's greatest aspiration as a writer is to capture at least an echo of the richness of those stories, to capture just a whisper of the lyrical depth and breadth of that oral tradition, to convey a hint of the triumph of the human spirit exemplified by his family.

A short story also titled "Bed of Stone" will be published this fall in an anthology. Before seeing the light and becoming a writer, Joe was a serial entrepreneur, mostly in high technology. He holds a Bachelors and Masters from Stanford University.



**KINAN VALDEZ** is a 25-year ensemble member of El Teatro Campesino (ETC). Reared in the collective milieu of the famed social justice theater company founded by his father Luis Valdez, Kinan served as ETC's producing artistic director until 2017. As a director and theater-maker, Kinan explores the intersections between the mundane and the mythic by combining elements of epic storytelling, popular music and visual pageantry to create participatory theatrical spectacles. Aside from his professional theater work, Kinan is an adjunct professor of theater arts at the University of California Santa Cruz and a national advisor for the Latinx Theatre Commons.

# 2021 Black & Latino Playwrights Celebration Guest Artists

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**DANIELLA TREVINO** is a 2021 graduate from Texas State University. She has performed in the BLPC as a student and is delighted to be back! Some recent stage credits include: *Mother Courage and Her Children* (Mother Courage), *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Rosencrantz), *Men on Boats* (Powell), and *The Tempest* (Caliban). International credits include: *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Bernarda) at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland.



**SHAWANNA RENEE RIVON** is an award-winning and nationally renowned playwright and producer. ShaWanna's success grew with urban plays such as *Cheaper to Keep Her* and *Marriage Material*, which starred Vivica Fox, Brian McKnight, and Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins (of "TLC"), both of which toured nationally. ShaWanna earned her BFA in Playwriting and Dramaturgy from the University of Houston. As a developing creative, ShaWanna discovered her niche and artist's mission: to create period-piece comedies centered around the lives of Black women. In this, she has begun the development of her 7-play cycle, the first of which is *Old Black and White Hollywood*, about a 1950's Black woman comic who desires to become the first Black female movie star. *Old Black &*

*White Hollywood* was developed with Suzan-Lori Parks and Theresa Rebeck and won the Edward Albee Playwriting Award. The second installment of her 7-Play Cycle, *Power to the Queendom*, was developed with the Rec Room Writers. Set in 1970s Houston, the script about a group of female Black Panthers is loosely based on a true story. The third installment of the 7-play cycle, *You're Cordially Invited to Sit-In* is about the 1960 sit-in demonstration that took place in Houston, will have its world-premiere at Stages Theatre in Spring 2022.

# 2021 Black & Latino Playwrights Celebration Guest Artists

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**MALKIA STAMPLEY** is native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin where she received her training at Marquette University, Skylight Music and Milwaukee Rep. She is the artistic producer and founder of Milwaukee's Black Theater Festival. Malkia is an actor, director and producer and resides in Chicago. Malkia has worked as a performer in Chicago, New York, St. Louis and all over Wisconsin. Favorite productions include *Two Trains Running* (Milwaukee Rep/Cincy Playhouse), *Talent Tenth* (Congo Square), *Good People* (Forward Theater), *Flying West* (Bronzeville Arts Ensemble), *Nine Circles* (Next Act) among many others. Malkia began directing in 2016 for Black Arts MKE and Marcus Center for the Performing Arts' annual production of *Black Nativity*. She most recently

directed a Broadway concert of "*If Not Now, When?*" for the Milwaukee Jewish Community Center and a virtual reading of Katori Hall's *The Mountaintop* for American Players Theatre. She previously directed *Nunsense* at Milwaukee Repertory Theater. This upcoming season she will be a guest lecturer and director of a musical to be announced at Dartmouth College, and directing *The Gift of the Magi* for American Players Theatre, as well as ShaWanna Renee Rivon's world premiere of *You're Cordially Invited to Sit-In* at Houston Stages. As a TV and film actor, Malkia has appeared on Showtime ("*Work in Progress*," "*Shameless*," "*The Chi*"), NBC ("*Chicaco Med*", "*Chicago PD*"), HBO ("*Native Son*"), Fox ("*Empire*"), Netflix ("*Beats*") and is currently in production with a recurring role on an upcoming AMC series. Malkia also enjoys being a voiceover artist, yoga instructor and budding playwright.



**NYOKA BOSWELL** hails from the South and unpacks a wealth of stories and ancestry when developing the myriad of characters she can play. She has played Haitian, Jamaican, Bahamian and a Brooklyn native, as she is talented and adept at dialects and accents. When she isn't auditioning for roles in TV and film, she practices stand-up comedy and has traveled the globe reaching over 50 countries, which she claims gives her a unique point of view of cultures and people and social dynamics. She makes her home in Los Angeles, but also works as a local hire actor near her roots in Alabama, Atlanta and New Orleans. She is signed to CTA for Theatrical rep, and the parent agency, Commercial Talent for on-camera. She is also signed with agencies in the South East.

An abundance of upbeat energy, vitality and a laugh that turns heads, Nyoka Boswell enjoys collaborating on wacky comedy, deep dramas and insightful indies. Nyoka also has a strong track record in live theatre. She honed her acting under the tutelage of Dr. Tonea Stewart at Alabama State University. After receiving her B.A. degree Nyoka furthered her career by obtaining her MFA from the University of Louisville where she also holds a certification in African American Theater. Nyoka trained in View Points and Suzuki with Anne Bogart at The Siti Company of



# 2021 Black & Latino Playwrights Celebration Guest Artists

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New York. She has worked at Center Stages, and Arena Playhouse in Baltimore, MD. Nyoka most recent roles include Netflix's "Dear White People" and "Solve" for Snapchat. Nyoka is a member of the Screen Actors Guild.



**COMFORT KATCHY** is a playwright, actor and producer based in Houston, TX. Her most recent produced works include *The Moon is Upside Down* (The Quarantine Series) and *You Can Tell a Tree by Its Fruit* (Rec Room Arts). Comfort is currently pursuing her BFA in Playwriting and Dramaturgy at the University of Houston School of Theatre and Dance (c/o 2022).



**VIRGINIA GRISE** is a recipient of the Yale Drama Award, Whiting Writers' Award, the Princess Grace Award in Theatre Directing, and the Playwrights' Center's Jerome Fellowship. Her published works include *Your Healing is Killing Me* (Plays Inverse Press), *blu* (Yale University Press), *The Panza Monologues* co-written with Irma Mayorga (University of Texas Press) and an edited volume of Zapatista communiqués titled *Conversations with Don Durito* (Autonomedia Press). She holds an MFA in Writing for Performance from the California Institute of the Arts and is The Mellon Foundation Playwright in Residence at Cara Mía Theatre.

# 2021 Black & Latino Playwrights Celebration Production



**EUGENE LEE (Artistic Director)** In 1972, while in college at Southwest Texas State (now Texas State), Lee acted in a command performance of *A Raisin in the Sun* for President Lyndon B. Johnson at his Texas ranch. Nearly fifty years, he has gone on to appear on camera and extensive voice over (ADR) work in over 200 television movies, films and series and long since lost count of the number of plays he's been involved with.

He went on to appear in a lot of episodic television shows and movies, including: "The Women of Brewster Place" with Oprah Winfrey, "Dallas," "Good Times," "The White Shadow," and "The District," and the title character in "Wolf," an award winning independent film, and recently after performing in the Broadway production of "American Son" he recreated his role in the Emmy nominated Netflix film adaptation, to name a few.

He has appeared on stage across the country and across the globe. He has worked and traveled with New York's renowned Negro Theatre Ensemble, performing in the Pulitzer Prize winning *A Soldier's Play* and numerous other works. He is considered a "Wilsonian Warrior" for his many appearances in the works of August Wilson, including the Broadway production of *Gem of the Ocean*. He performed in six of Wilson's 10 plays at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and in the taped PBS recordings of all ten plays in the Century Cycle as well as in August Wilson's final autobiographical one-man piece, *How I Learned What I Learned*.

His writing credits include "Homicide: Life on the Streets," (Episode: "Every Mother's Son") which is among a Writer's Guild designation as one of the top 100 television series, "Walker, Texas Ranger," "Michael Hayes," "The Journey of Allen Strange", "The Turks" and the TV movie "Port Chicago".

His own characters come to life through his plays, one of which is *East Texas Hot Links*, which has been produced on stages from Los Angeles to New York and London's Royal Court, and is published by Samuel French play publishers. His other plays include *Fear Itself*, *Somebody Called: A Tale of Two Preachers*, *Ode to Juneteenth*, *Killingsworth*, the book to the musical, *Twist* and, *Lynin' Ass* about a fictional first Black female Texas Ranger.

Lee is artist in residence and artistic director of the Black and Latino Playwright's Celebration at Texas State University which celebrating its 19th year in 2021. Through this venue, Lee has brought playwrights and students, together with professional directors and performers to work on developing new plays with those aspiring to have their voices heard.

Lee was inducted into the prestigious Texas Institute of Letters in 2018.

[www.eugeneleeonline.com](http://www.eugeneleeonline.com)



**NADINE MOZON (Co-Artistic Director)** is an actor, writer, theatre artist/educator. Mozon's actor/writer work includes *Blue Spiral*, *Delta Rhapsody*, *I.D. Please*, *Confirming the Search...*, and *Ms. Middle*, a new work in development featured via Joining the Dots Theatre in Sydney, Australia in Spring 2020; and playwright for Harlem 9's 48 Hours in Harlem Play Festival in Summer 2020. Theatre roles include: *hang*, *Mother's Day*, *The Book of Grace*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Fences*, *For Colored Girls...*, *Home*, *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*; TV/Film: "The Leftovers", "American Crime", "Friday Night Lights", "Law & Order", "Katrina's Son", "Wolf", "Dawn", "Two Weeks Notice", "Shaft". Mozon is an associate professor teaching acting, movement and writing at Texas State University. She is a co-artistic director of the Black & Latino Playwrights Celebration.

# 2021 Black & Latino Playwrights Celebration Production

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**JOE LUIS CEDILLO (Co-Artistic Director & Dramaturg)** Left-handed Chicano playwright-director-dramaturg and actor specializing in New Works, Devised, Community Based, Docu-Drama, Site Specific, and Intersectional. Recent credits: El Teatro Campesino & Center Theater Group's *Valley of the Heart* (Original Sound Design); Casa 0101's *Remembering Boyle Heights* (Actor/Deviser); *Awakening* (Actor) at Frida Kahlo Theater, actor/deviser for Playwright's Arena three site-specific pieces for Grand Park's "Our LA Voices" and the 2019 Hollywood Fringe production *Ya Basta: Time's Been Up*, a devised work created by janitors from the SEIU union devised, written, and performed by janitors and custodial staff. His 10-minute play, *The Boneteller's Truth*, was part of the Short and Sweet Festival in 2019 at the Lee Strasberg Theater. He was also involved in Queen's Theater 2020 Zoom reading of *Delivery* by Jelissa Jay Robinson Benson (a previous BLPC playwright) directed by Ruben C. Gonzalez. He will next be appearing in 2021's Theater unleashed production of *(It's Been 76 Years and We're) Still Waiting for Left* for the 2021 Hollywood Fringe Festival. Other theater credits include: Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Houston's Alley Theater, Rattlestick Theater (NYC), Playwright's Center (Minneapolis) and MET Theatre. His plays include: *69 Portraits of Che*; *On Painted Skin*; *7, 8ight, 9...* and *Noche y Mourning* to name a few. Former literary manager/production dramaturg for the Alley Theatre's 50th anniversary, former associate artistic director for El Teatro Campesino and current associate artistic director at Texas State's Black and Latino Playwrights' Celebration. Iowa Playwrights' Workshop, cancer survivor, former Marine paratrooper, and sometimes teaches the 4th grade. Two-time Runner up Kennedy Center's National Latino Playwriting Award. Twitter @JoeLuisCedillo, Instagram joeluiscedillo.



**JERRY RUIZ (Director for the Tribute)** Jerry Ruiz's directing credits include: the world premiere of *Fade* by Tanya Saracho (Denver Center for the Performing Arts Theatre Company and subsequently Primary Stages), *Twelfth Night* (Old Globe, PlayMakers Repertory Company, and Chalk Rep), *Mala Hierba* (Second Stage Theatre), *Basilica* by Mando Alvarado (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater), *Philip Goes Forth and Love Goes to Press* (Mint Theater Company), *Enfrascada* (Clubbed Thumb), *Mariela in the Desert* by Karen Zacarias (Repertorio Español), *The King is Dead* by Caroline V. McGraw and *Waiting for the Hearse* (Mixed Blood Theatre).

M.F.A: UC-San Diego. B.A.: Harvard University. Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

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## 2021-2022 MAINSTAGE SEASON

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### **Black & Latino Playwrights Celebration**

*Power to the Queendom*

By ShaWanna Renee Rivon

*Bed of Stone*

By Joe Campa

August 29-September 5, 2021

### **El Nogalar**

by Tanya Saracho

Directed by Anna Skidis Vargas

Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre

September 28-October 3, 2021

### **Yellow Inn**

by Kang-Baek Lee

Directed by Yong Suk Yoo

Theatre Center Mainstage

October 26-31, 2021

### **New Works Festival**

Directed by Jess Fiene and Stacey Hawking

Theatre Center Studio

November 9 -14, 2021

### **Hair**

Book and lyrics by Gerome Ragni and James Rado

Music by Galt MacDermot

Directed by Neil Patrick Stewart

Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre

November 16-21, 2021

# 2021-2022 MAINSTAGE SEASON

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## **Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1 & 2)**

by Susan-Lori Parks

Directed by 1st year MFA Directing Students

Theatre Center Studio

February 3-6, 2022

## **Macbeth**

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Martin Asprey

Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre

February 8-13, 2022

## **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime**

Based on the novel by Mark Haddon

Adapted by Simon Stephens

Directed by Stacey Hawking

Theatre Center Studio

March 3-6, 2022

## **Gloria**

by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

Directed by Jess Fiene

Theatre Center Mainstage

April 5-10, 2022

## **Seussical**

Book and lyrics by Gerome Ragni and James Rado

Book by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty

Music by Stephen Flaherty

Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Directed by Ryan Scarlata

Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre

April 19-24, 2022

## **THEATRE & DANCE FACULTY**

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