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Lori Smith



Department of Theatre and Dance presents the 17th annual Black and Latino Playwright Celebration



AGENDA

Monday, September 2, 2019

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM MEET AND GREET Company meeting for all playwrights, cast, crew and guest artists in room 201

6:30 PM - 10:30 PM WORKSHOP Rehearsal for New Play Development in rooms 201, 206, 209 (Open to the public)

Tuesday, September 3, 2019

6:30 PM - 10:30 PM WORKSHOP

Rehearsal for New Play Development in rooms 201, 206, 209 (Open to the public)

Wednesday, September 4, 2019

6:30 PM - 10:30 PM WORKSHOP

Rehearsal for New Play Development in rooms 201, 206, 209 (Open to the public)

Thursday, September 5, 2019

6:30 PM - 10:30 PM WORKSHOP Rehearsal for New Play Development in rooms 201, 206, 209 (Open to the public)

Friday, September 6, 2019

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM PRESENTATION "Brown Bag" gathering in room 209

7:30 PM PRESENTATION

Tribute to distinguished guest group, Culture Clash, in Performing Arts Center Recital Hall

2019-2020 MAINSTAGE SEASON

blu

By Virginia Grise Directed by Holly Nañes PSH Foundation Studio Theatre February 6-9, 2020

Measure for Measure

By William Shakespeare Directed by Chuck Ney Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre February 11-16, 2020

Men on Boats

By Jaclyn Backhaus Directed by Aaron Sparks PSH Foundation Studio Theatre March 5-8, 2020

The Other Shore

By Gao Xingjian Directed by Yong Suk Yoo Theatre Center Mainstage March 31-April 5, 2020

Guys and Dolls

Music by Burrows
Lyrics by Swerling
Book by Loesser
Directed by Tom Delbello
Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre
April 23-28, 2020

Tickets @ www.txstatepresents.com

2019-2020 MAINSTAGE SEASON

Black & Latino Playwrights Celebration

As a Mighty Stream

By Melissa Maxwell & Rob Urbinati

Delivery

By Jolins Jay Pobinson

By Jelisa Jay Robinson September 2-8, 2019

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead

By Tom Stoppard Directed by Allison Price Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre October 1-October 6, 2019

The Harvest

By Samuel D. Hunter Directed by Aaron Sparks PSH Foundation Studio Theatre October 10-13, 2019

The Survivors

By Katie Bender Directed by Jerry Ruiz Theatre Center Mainstage October 29-November 3, 2019

Lydia

By Octavio Solis
Directed by Holly Nañes
PSH Foundation Studio Theatre
November 14-17, 2019

Little Women

Book by Allan Knee Music by Jason Howland Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein Directed by Alex Rodriguez Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre November 19-24, 2019

AGENDA

Saturday, September 07, 2019

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM WORKSHOP Devised Performance Workshop with Culture Clash in room 209

7:30 PM READING

New Play Development Reading of As a Mighty Stream by By Melissa Maxwell & Rob Urbinati in Performing Arts Center Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

Excerpt of "Blue Spiral" written and performed by Nadine Mozon

Sunday, September 8, 2019

12:00 PM READING New Play Development Reading of Delivery by Jelisa Jay Robinson in Performing Arts Recital Concert Hall

Funding provided by:

The National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities
Humanities Texas
College of Fine Arts and Communication
Department of Theatre and Dance.

This program is made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, The State Affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities

WELCOME

On behalf of Texas State University and the Department of Theatre and Dance. welcome and bienvenidos to the 2019 Texas State Black and Latino Playwrights Celebration! We are glad you're here. Every year for 17 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 weeklong 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:

Delivery by Jelisa Jay Robinson.

A young Texas teacher takes on, talks to and turns these teens on til they're tellin' their truths and turnin' in their truth to the teacher in poetic terms.

As A Mighty Stream by Melissa Maxwell and Rob Urbinati Inspired by events and characters in Harper Lee's To Kill A Mockingbird, this play explores and gives focus and voice to the Black characters in the narrative.

We pay special tribute this year to a pioneer from the Latino Theatre history, Culture Clash. We have original members, Herbert Siguenza and Ricardo Salinas with us to share some of their work and experiences, with insight into their inspirations and creative process, as we celebrate their contributions of truth to the ever-evolving American Theatre.

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

Artistic Director: Eugene Lee Associate Artistic Directors: Nadine Mozon, Joe Luis Cedillo Celebration Coordinators and Stage Managers: Alana Garcia, Shannon Richey

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PRODUCTION



NADINE MOZON (Associate Artistic Director) Nadine is an actress, writer and teaching artist. Acting credits include: Theatre: Richard III, The Book of Grace, Intimate Apparel, Fences, For Colored Girls..., Home, Crumbs From the Table Of Joy; Television: The Leftovers, American Crime, Friday Night Lights, Law and Order, and Film: Dawn, Dear Sidewalk, Wolf, Katrina's Son, Two Weeks Notice, Shaft. Original Work as writer and actor: Delta Rhapsody, a one-woman, multi-character piece, Confirming The Search: That Girl's Still Here Somewhere which received an AUDELCO Award nomination (NY) and won a Drama-League Award (LA); and I.D. Please, a commissioned ensemble theatre piece. Mozon's collaborations on new work include a diverse community

of actors, writers, singers, choreographers and ASL interpreters. She has been the featured artist at regional and university festivals, which often highlight her book of poetry, *Kiss it Up to God*. She is a guest artist writer at Renaissance House. Mozon earned an MFA in acting from American Conservatory Theatre, and currently teaches acting, movement and a writing-for-performance course at Texas State University.



JOE LUIS CEDILLO (Associate Artistic Director) Left-handed Chicano Playwright-Director-Dramaturg and Actor. 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, and actor/deviser for Playwright's Arena three site-specific pieces for Grand Park's "Our LA Voices." He is currently in the 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 will be portraying Cassius for Santa Clarita Valley Shakespeare's production of Julius Cesar. Other theater credits include: Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Houston's

Alley Theater, Rattlestick Theater (NYC), Playwright's Center (Minneapolis) and MET Theatre. His plays: 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 Playwright's Celebration. Iowa Playwrights' Workshop, Cancer survivor, former Marine Paratrooper, and sometimes teaches 4th grade. Two-time Runner up Kennedy Center's National Latino Playwriting Award. Twitter @JoeLuisCedillo, Instagram joeluiscedillo.

New Play Development Readings

As a Mighty Stream

Written by Melisssa Maxwell and Rob Urbinati
Directed by Jane King Carol
Dramaturg: Sidney Rushing

Content Warning: Use of racial epithets, discussions of racial and sexual violence.

Tom Robinson	Bradley Opara
Helen Robinson	Lauren Green
Sam Robinson	Marcus Brooks
Calpurnia	Anyae Reed
Mayella	Aubrey Clyburn
Zeebo	Malik James
Lula	Ashley Woolridge
Jessie	Hanna Curry
Reverend Sykes	Willie Dirden
	Wallis Brown and Cayla Primus

Delivery

Written by Jelisa Jay Robinson Directed by Ruben Gonzales Dramaturg: Joe Luis Cedillo

Delivery was developed by a Scriptworks Development grant

Preston Perez
Alex Aponte
Vivian Noble
Marisa Varela
Elizabath Belfast
Ali Guiterrez, Erik Giovann Lopez, Lebrina Bedell
Lucia Chavez and Mariah Epps

Tribute to Culture Clash

Directed by Nadine Mozon

Content Warning: Presence of a prop firearm

Tribute Ensemble
William Abete
Anasticao Guiterrez
Jonathan Acosta

Sound Design Phillip Owens

Special thanks to Erin Kehr

2019 Black and Latino Playwrights Celebration Distinguished Achievement Award



CULTURE CLASH was formed in 1984 in San Francisco's historic Mission District. Culture Clash is Richard Montoya, Ric Salinas, and Herbert Siguenza. In their early career, they performed sketch comedy with sharp political views through a Chicano lens. In 1988, the group began writing full length comedic plays including *Bowl of Beings* (PBS Great Performances), *The Mission* (Los Angeles Theater Center) and *The Birds*, an adaptation of Aristophanes' play (South Coast Repertory). In the 1990s, they began writing and performing site-specific work commissioned by cities, including *Bordertown* (San Diego), *Nuyorican Stories*

(New York), *Anthems* (Washington, D. C.), *The Mission Magic Mystery Tour* (San Francisco), *Chavez Ravine* (Los Angeles) and *Culture Clash in AmeriCCa* (Boston). The collective created *Zorro in Hell* for Berkeley Repertory Theatre and La Jolla Playhouse and *PEACE*, directed by Bill Rauch, for the Getty Villa. Montoya is sole author of *Water & Power* and *Palestine, New Mexico*, commissioned by Center Theatre Group.

At thirty-plus years, Culture Clash remains a prominent Chicano/Latino performance troupe in the country, with work ranging from sharp sketch comedy to drama to adaptations of Aristophanes to co-writing Frank Loesser's long lost musical *Señor Discretion Himself* based on a story by the late Budd Schulberg.

This prolific group most recent plays include: *American Night: The Ballad of Juan Jose* for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, in Ashland, Oregon. This play was selected to launch American Revolutions. *Peace at the Getty Villa*; *Palestine, New Mexico* at the Mark Taper Forum; *Culture Clash in AmeriCCa* at venues throughout the U.S. *Revival* was performed in Spring 2015 at the Kirk Douglas Theatre in LA for Center Theater Group.

New Works and commissions include collaborations with Campo Santo, Centre Theatre Group, and solo performer Roger Guenveur Smith. Their videos, short films, and art exhibits have been shown at The Smithsonian, The Whitney Museum of American Art, Sundance Film Festival, The San Juan, Puerto Rico Film and Video Festival, The Art Institute of Boston, The Palm Springs Film Festival, and The Los Angeles Film Festival, among others.

PRODUCTION



EUGENE LEE (Artistic Director) Eugene Lee's career offers a singular combination of on- and off-screen expertise. He began working as an actor in the early 1970s and continues to appear on stage, in movies and on television. In 1972, Lee was a cast member in a command performance of *A Raisin in the Sun* for President Lyndon B. Johnson by the Ebony Players, a college theatrical group formed with his college roommate. He went on to appear and work in over 200 television movies and series, including *The Women of Brewster Place* with Oprah Winfrey, *Dallas, Good Times, The White Shadow, The District, NYPD Blue, The Guiding Light, Quantum Leap, American Crime*, The *Lying Game, MacGyver* and the title character in *Wolf*, an award winning independent film.

On stage, Lee's credits are even more extensive. He has appeared on stage aross the country and across the globe. He traveled with the 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 five of Wilson's 10 plays at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and recently in August Wilson's final autobiographical oneman piece, How I Learned What I Learned. His credits include works at stages such as The Negro Ensemble Company of New York, True Colors in Atlanta, the Huntington Theater in Boston, Pittsburgh Playwrights' Theatre, Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, Chicago's Goodman Theatre, Pittsburgh Public Theatre and Crossroads Theatre in New Jersey.

His television writing credits include episodes of *Homicide: Life on the Streets*, (Emmy nominated), *Walker, Texas Ranger, Michael Hayes*, *The Journey of Allen Strange*, *The Turks* and the Morgan Freeman produced television movie, *Port Chicago*.

His own characters come to life through his plays, including, *East Texas Hot Links*, which has been produced on stages from Los Angeles to New York and London's Royal Court Theatre and is published by Samuel French play publishers. His other plays include *Fear Itself*, *Somebody Called: A Tale of Two Preachers*, *Killingsworth*, *Lyin' Ass* and the musical, *Twist*.

Lee is Artist in Residence and Artistic Director of the Black and Latino Playwrights Celebration at TXST where he is also a designated Distinguished Alumnus. The conference will celebrate its 17th year in 2019 and has received national recognition in the form of three National Endowment for the Arts Grants. Through this venue, Lee has worked with hundreds of young playwrights and students, coupling veteran professional directors and performers with those aspiring to develop and have their voices heard.

GUEST ARTISTS



WILLIE DIRDEN is happy to be participating in this project. He is a veteran of regional theatre. His stage credits include A Raisin In The Sun, Cementville, Lilies of the Field, Waiting for Godot, Of Mice and Men, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Jitney, Two Trains Running, The Boys Next Door, The Fantastics, Twelve Angry Men, A Hatful of Rain, Finnian's Rainbow, and The Manchurian Candidate. Willie's film credits include, Rough Riders, Arlington Road, The Rookie, and The M. C. Hammer Story.



MARISA VARELA was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she studied at The National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts. Her solid and vast career spans 40 years of experience between Argentina, Puerto Rico and Texas in numerous television shows, soap operas, commercials, plays and a dozen films. She has also written and produced theater for children and adults. Her latest work in theater includes: Bless me Ultima (Ultima), Burning Patience (Rosa), The House of Bernarda Alba (Poncia) for which she received an ATAC Globe Award for excellence as Leading actress in a drama. Dead Man Cellphone, for which she received an ATAC Globe Award Nomination in Comedy category. She was also in The Shoes, industria Argentina at Matari Theater, Into The Pines at the Black

& Latino Conference (2010) at TXST, *Electricidad* (grandmother), *Among the Sand and Smog* (the mother). *Las Nuevas Tamaleras* (Dona Mercedes), *Lydia* (Lydia), *Black Out Day* (Lilian), *The Clean House* (Anna), for which she received an ATAC globe award for Excellence as Supporting Actress In A Comedy. *Los Locos Bajitos* (Enriqueta Mary), *Next* (Loli), *Today I Am Happy* (Zulema), *The Shoes* are a series of one-woman shows that she performs on tour. She was also in *Mission Park*, directed by Bryan Ramirez, and *Manglehorn*, directed by David Gordon Green (sharing scenes with Al Pacino). She is so proud to be back at the Black and Latino Celebration once again.

GUEST ARTISTS



MELISSA MAXWELL is a director, writer, actor and motivational speaker. As a writer, she is a Julie Harris Playwright Competition finalist, has received five Black Theater Alliance Award nominations, an Audelco Award nomination and a New Professional Theatre's Our Words Award. She has directed at Repertory Theatre of Saint Louis, Soho Playhouse, The Pearl Theatre Company, The Kitchen Theatre, Off the WALL Theatre, Vital Theatre and various universities across the country. She is a company member of the Great River Shakespeare Festival. She has also performed at George Street Playhouse, The Public Theatre in Lewiston Maine, Alabama Shakespeare

Festival, Pearl Theatre Company, Capital Rep, Helen Hayes Performing Arts, Cincinnati Playhouse, Crossroads Theatre. Television and film credits include: Mrs. Fletcher, HOSTAGES, The Thomas Crown Affair, Law & Order, The Sopranos, Third Watch, Oz, Special Victims Unit, Never Again, Petty Crimes, 13 Conversations About One Thing. Her plays include, Salt in a Wound, Unrequited Love and Fetus Envy. She has presented two TEDx Talks. Taking Ownership: Melissa Maxwell at TEDxMosesBrownSchool and On Courage: Melissa Maxwell at TEDxBarnardCollegeWomen. She is a member of AEA, SAG-AFTRA, SDC and the Dramatists Guild, www.melissamaxwell.com.



ROB URBINATI is a freelance director and writer based in New York City. He has directed at The Public Theater, Culture Project, Abingdon Theatre, Classic Stage Company, Pearl Theatre, New York University and theatres and universities across the country. He is Director of New Play Development at Queens Theatre. Rob's plays include Mama's Boy, Hazelwood Jr. High, Murder On West Moon Street and Death by Design, published by Samuel French. UMW: University of Mostly Whites, The Queen Bees and Cole Porter's Nymph Errant are published by Steel Springs Stage Rights. His book, Play Readings: A Complete Guide for Theatre Practitioners is published by Focal Press/

Routledge. His plays have received over 200 productions worldwide. Rob is a member of the Dramatists Guild and the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers.



Jelisa Jay Robinson is a playwright and writer from Houston, Texas. Her plays include The Stories of Us. Fae and Paciencia, and Delivery. Her work has been developed and/or presented at the Teatrx's Reflexion: The New Works Project (Houston), Austin Latino New Play Festival, Teatro Vivo (Austin), Now Africa Festival (New York), The Black and Brown Theatre (Detroit), The Rec Room (Houston) and Vision Latino (Chicago). Jelisa's short works include Minutes and Digits and Fight Til the Death (14/48: The World's Quickest Theatre Festival), Payment, Freedom, and Dreamer's Cry (Austin One Minute Play Festival), Mi, Myself and Ay, Papi, The Third Wheel, Pop-Buelo (Fornes Playwriting Workshop Presentation 2016), and Ice Cold Milk and an Oreo Cookie (UT Lab Theatre

2010). Jelisa was commissioned by Echame Un Ojo Latinx Arts festival in Austin to write Fae and Paciencia and was one of 14 playwrights nationwide chosen to participate in the inaugural Maria Irene Fornes Playwriting Workshop taught by Playwright Migdalia Cruz. She was also one of five playwrights nationally selected as a finalist for the inaugural Seattle Public Theatre Emerald New Play Prize. Jelisa has held residencies with Vision Latino Theatre Company (Chicago) and the National Playwrights Retreat (Colorado). Jelisa has hosted writing workshops at Texas State University, University of Texas - RGV and other spaces in Texas. She was an alternate for the national Fulbright Fellowship in 2018 and 2019. She is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild and ScriptWorks.



RUBEN C. GONZALEZ One of five children of Mexican immigrants, Ruben C. Gonzalez is a critically acclaimed solo performer, actor, writer and director who hails from Los Angeles via Colima, Mexico. He is a 27-year veteran actor of the prestigious El Teatro Campesino. He recieved his training at The London Academy for the Performing Arts, Circle in the Square Theatre School (NYC), El Teatro Campesino and holds an MFA in Dramatic Arts from the University of California, Davis. La Esquinita, USA has toured off-Broadway at the Puerto Rican Traveling Theater, Aurora Theatre, Su Teatro Denver, CaraMia Dallas, The Guadalupe Cultural Center San Antonio, Teatro Bilingue de Houston, La Pena Cultural Center and at The Los Angeles Theatre Center as part of the inaugral ENCUENTRO 2014.

the largest Latino Theatre Festival in the U.S. It will go into print in 2019 as part of an anthology coming out of Northwestern University Press. His previous solo works, Diary of a Mad Mexican and The Messiah Complex have garned him much critical and audience praise and have toured all over the U.S. and Poland. He has graced the stages in various productions at The Mark Taper Forum, South Coast Rep, Pasadena Playhouse, The Kennedy Center, The Lincoln Center Institute, Intar, HB Studios, New Dramatist (NYC) and Primary Stages among others. He has performed his solo works at countless Universities; Brown, Stanford, Oregon, Oregon St., Washington, UC Riverside, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, UCLA, Vassar,

GUEST ARTISTS GUEST ARTISTS

Cornell, Northern Illinois, St. Mary's and Loyola Chicago to name a few. For the stage, Ruben has directed; Conjunto Blues by Nicolas Valdez, Pilgrimage by Joe Quintero, Monica Sanchez's The Chronicals of Odisia, Aliso in WorkerLand, Mi Abuleo Fue un Bracero and Iva by Luis Juarez and The Throwdown by Theatre Troupe Headrush. This winter he will be directing La Virgen del Tepeyac by Luis Valdez. His television credits include; Veronica Mars, Medium, Air America and The Minor Accomplisments of Jackie Woodman. Some of his silver screen credits include, Selena, The Master starring Jet Li, 2009 Sundance darling La Mission, Barrio Murders, Foodstamps, Suckers and The Perfect Game.



JADE KING CARROLL is a a NYC based director. Selected credits include: Proof of Love (Audible/New York Theatre Workshop); Hello, From the Children of Planet Earth (Playwrights Realm); Detroit '67, Intimate Apparel, The Piano Lesson (McCarter Theatre): Having Our Sav. The Piano Lesson (Hartford Stage); From the Author of (The Rep); Having Our Say (Long Wharf Theatre); The Revolutionists, Sunset Baby (City Theatre); Autumn's Harvest (Lincoln Center Institute); Skeleton Crew (Dorset Theater Festival, Marin Theater/Theatreworks - Palo Alto); Mr. Chickee's Funny Money (Atlantic Theater); alondra was here (Wild Project); The Etymology of Bird (CitiParks Summer Stages); A Trouble in Mind (Two River Theater & Playmaker's Rep); Ma Rainey's Black Bottom,

The Whipping Man (Portland Stage). Associate Director for A Streetcar Named Desire and The Gin Game (Broadway); The Children's Monologues (Carnegie Hall). Jade received the Paul Green Award for Outstanding Emerging Theatre Professional. Past Fellowships & Awards: New York Theatre Workshop, Van Lier, Second Stage Theatre, Women's Project, McCarter Theatre, SUNY 40 under 40, TCG New Generations Future Leader, and Gates Millennium Scholar.



MARTINE KEI-GREEN is an Assistant Professor at SUNY: New Paltz, a freelance dramaturg, and the President of the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas. Her dramaturgical credits include: The Greatest with the Louisville Orchestra, Fences and One Man, Two Guvnors at Pioneer Theatre Company; Clearing Bombs and Nothing Personal at Plan-B Theatre; Sweat at the Goodman; productions of Radio Golf, Five Guys Named Moe, Blues for An Alabama Sky, Gem of the Ocean, Waiting for Godot, Iphigenia at Aulis, Seven Guitars, The Mountaintop, Home, and Porgy and Bess at the Court Theatre; The Clean House at CATCO; Hairspray, The Book of Will, Shakespeare in Love, UniSon, Hannah and the Dread Gazebo, Comedy of Errors, To Kill A Mockingbird,

The African Company Presents Richard III, A Midsummer Night's Dream; and Fences at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.