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Department of Theatre and Dance presents the
16th annual Black and Latino Playwright Conference



Black and Latino Playwrights Conference

AGENDA

Monday, September 3, 2018

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 4, 2018

6:30 PM - 10:30 PM
WORKSHOP

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

Wednesday, September 6, 2018

6:30 PM - 10:30 PM
WORKSHOP

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

Thursday, September 7, 2018

6:30 PM - 10:30 PM
WORKSHOP

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

Friday, September 8, 2018

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
PRESENTATION

“Brown Bag” gathering in room 209

7:30 PM
PRESENTATION

Tribute to distinguished guest artist,
Richard Wesley in Performing Arts
Center Recital Hall

2018-2019 MAINSTAGE SEASON

References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot

By José Rivera
Directed by Alex Rodriguez
PSH Foundation Studio Theatre
January 31-February 3, 2019

The Tempest

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Bruce Turk
Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre
February 12-17, 2019

What We Scream Underwater When No One Can Hear Us

By C.E. Turnage
Directed by Allison Price
PSH Foundation Studio Theatre
February 21-24, 2019

The Importance of Being Earnest

By Oscar Wilde
Directed by Jerry Ruiz
Theatre Center Mainstage
April 9-13, 2019

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Music by Alan Menken
Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
Book by Peter Parnell
Directed by Kaitlin Hopkins
Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre
April 23-28, 2018

Tickets @ www.txstatepresents.com

2018-2019 MAINSTAGE SEASON

Black & Latino Playwrights Conference

The Real People Play
By Messiah Hagood-Barnes
LeRoach's Lament
By Rubén C. González
September 3-9, 2018

Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play

By Anne Washburn
Score by Michael Friedman
Lyrics by Anne Washburn
Directed by Isaac Byrne
Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre
October 2-October 7, 2018

Imagine That

By Audrey Webb
Directed by Alex Rodriguez
PSH Foundation Studio Theatre
October 11-14, 2018

The Crucible

By Arthur Miller
Directed by Michael Costello
Theatre Center Mainstage
October 30-November 4, 2018

How I Learned to Drive

By Paula Vogel
Directed by Allison Price
PSH Foundation Studio Theatre
November 8-11, 2018

Cabaret

Book by Joe Masteroff
Music by John Kander
Lyrics by Fred Ebb
Directed by Tom Debello
Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre
November 13-18, 2018

AGENDA

Saturday, September 08, 2018

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
WORKSHOP

Play Writing Workshop with Marilyn Torres
in room 201

7:30 PM
READING

New Play Development Reading of
The Real People Play by Messiah
Hagood-Barnes in Performing Arts Center
Recital Hall

Sunday, September 9, 2018

12:00 PM
READING

New Play Development Reading of
LeRoach's LaMent by Ruben C. Gonzalez
in Performing Arts Recital Concert Hall

Funding provided by:

**Center for Diversity and Gender Studies
Humanities Texas
Student Service Fee
Office of Equity and Inclusion
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 2018 Texas State Black and Latino Playwrights Conference. 16 years now! More than thirty playwrights and their plays have taken full advantage of the resources we offer through the New Play Development Workshops, to grow as artists and hone their storytelling skills. Every year, for a week, two playwrights along with a professional actor and director and dramaturgical support join a cast of student actors in the trenches of creative collaboration to help the writers “find” these new plays. This year we are excited to host a couple of different kinds of plays with Messiah Hagood-Barnes’ *The Real People Play* and Ruben Gonzalez’ *LeRoach’s Lament*. Two different perspectives on the human condition that you’ll find insightful and compelling.

We pay tribute this year to playwright Richard Wesley for his artistic excellence and his contributions to American theatre and particularly to Black theatre with plays like, *The Talented Tenth* and *The Mighty Gents* and scripting screenplays like, *Uptown Saturday Night*. He brings authoritative, nuanced insight into the African American experience and is with us to share his inspirations and his journey as a writer.

Our mission is “to study the craft, to nurture the craftsmen and to celebrate the work”. Thank you for coming out to share in this celebration of the work done this week.

- Eugene

Artistic Director: Eugene Lee

Associate Artistic Director/Tribute Director: Nadine Mozon

Co-producer: Joe Luis Cedillo

Conference Coordinators and Stage Managers: Ellen Greetham, Connor Feagin, Hank Kersten, Harmony Austin, 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-Lague 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 Artist Director) Cedillo is a left-handed, Chicano Playwright-Director-Dramaturg and Sound Designer. Graduate of Iowa's Playwright's Workshop and Cal State Northridge's Playwright's workshop. Former Literary Manager and Production Dramaturg fo the Alley Theatre, interned for the Center Theatre Group. He also created and produced work for the Edge of the World Theatre festival, Minneapolis & Hollywood Fringe, LA History Project, Highways performance Space, and venues across the country.

New Play Development Readings

The Real People Play

Written by Messiah Hagood-Barnes

Directed by Shirley Jo Finney

Dramaturg: Sidney Rushing

Auntie Mama.....Johnique Mitchell (Guest Artist)
Mama.....Jonnee Davis
Man.....JaVaun Butler
Girl.....Cayla Primous
Stage Directions.....Hana Curry, Jillian Linton

LeRoach's LaMent

Written by Ruben C. Gonzalez

Directed by Herbert Orlando Siguenza

Dramaturg: Joe Luis Cedillo

Mr. B.....Joel Celestino Settles (Guest Artist)
LeRoach.....Jonathan Acosta
Buggie.....Alana Garcia
Crusty.....Chris Frey
Mosco.....Matthew Kennedy
Slisly.....Daniela Trevino
Sloshy.....Caitlyn Nicole Martinez
Stinky.....Natalie Cantu
Stage Direction.....Marisol Aguilar

Tribute to Richard Wesley

Directed by Nadine Mozon

The Talented Tenth

The Black Terror

The Sirens

The Mighty Gents

Tribute Ensemble

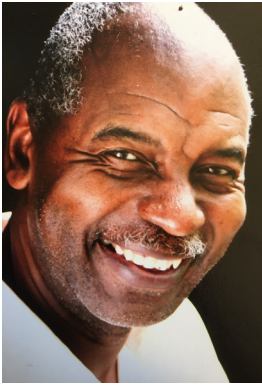
Mo Almabert, JaVaun Butler, Jordan Gregson, Malik James, Jada Owens,
Jeremiah Porter, Calvin Smith, and Rachel Webb

Writers' Workshop

Writing with the Heart

With Marilyn Torres

2018 Black and Latino Playwrights Conference Distinguished Achievement Award



RICHARD WESLEY was born in Newark, New Jersey and graduated from Howard University, where he studied playwriting under the tutelage of Owen Dodson and Ted Shine. He was a member of Harlem's New Lafayette Theater for four exciting years, serving as Managing Editor of Black Theater, the company's in-house publication. Wesley further perfected his writing skill as a member of the New Lafayette's Black Theater Workshop, which was headed by Ed Bullins, at the time the, Playwright-in-Residence at the New Lafayette.

Mr. Wesley is a five time winner of the AUDELCO Award for Outstanding Playwriting (*Strike Heaven on the Face* (1974), *The Sirens* (1976), *The Mighty Gents* (1977) and *The Talented Tenth* (1999.) He was the screenwriter for the films, *Uptown Saturday Night* (1974) and *Let's Do It Again* (1975), both winners of the NAACP Image Award for Best Picture. Two scripts for which he was the co-writer, Showtime Networks' *Mandela and DeKlerk* (1998) and *Deacons for Defense* (2002) were also nominated for Image Awards. *Deacons for Defense* received a Black Reels Best Script/Motion Pictures for Television Award in 2004.

In recent years, Mr. Wesley has begun an affiliation with the Trilogy Opera Company in his hometown and has written for three librettos for TOC: *Papa Doc*, with the composer, Dorothy Rudd Moore; *FIVE*, an opera about the Central Park Five, with composer, Anthony Davis; and *Kenyatta*, an opera based on the first democratically elected president of the new nation of Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta, written with the composer, Trent Johnson. Mr. Wesley's newest play, *Autumn*, recently completed runs at the Crossroads Theater in New Jersey, and previously ran at the Kumble Theater in Brooklyn in 2015 and 2016, produced by the Billie Holiday Theater. *Autumn* received its first public performance via a reading produced by Woodie King, Jr at Harlem's National Black Theater in 2013. Mr. Wesley is currently an Associate Professor in the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. He is a former Vice President of the Writers Guild of America, East, Inc., and currently sits on the National Film Preservation Board of the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, the Selection Committee for the Black Film Festival of the Newark Museum, the Board of Directors, Newark Performing Arts Corporation at Symphony Hall and is an Advisor for the Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers University in Brooklyn, NY.

He is married to the novelist, Valerie Wilson Wesley.

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*, and *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 across 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 one-man 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*, *Lynin' Ass* and the musical, *Twist*.

Lee is Artist in Residence and Artistic Director of the Black and Latino Playwrights Conference at Texas State University where he is also a designated Distinguished Alumnus. The conference will celebrate its 16th year in 2018 and has received national recognition in the form of two 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

(all three commissioned by the Mark Taper Forum), *Peace* (Commissioned by The Getty Villa), *Zorro in Hell!* (Commissioned by the Berkeley Rep), *The Birds* (Commissioned by the Berkeley Rep and South Coast Rep), *Bordertown* (commissioned by the San Diego Rep), *Radio Mambo*, *Nuyorican Stories*, *Anthems*, *S.O.S.*, *A Bowl of Beings*, *The Mission* and others. As a solo writer and performer Siguenza has produced *Cantinflas!* and *A Weekend with Pablo Picasso* currently on national tour. His latest plays *Steal Heaven* and *El Henry* (Best New Play San Diego Critics Circle Award 2014) have been produced at the San Diego Repertory and La Jolla Playhouse. Siguenza is also an accomplished visual artist and has exhibited both nationally and internationally. He has a BFA in printmaking from the California College of Arts, Oakland, California. TV and Film credits: *Ben Ten Alien Swarm* for the Cartoon Network, *Larry Crowne* feature film directed by Tom Hanks. He recently voiced main characters in Pixar's Academy Award winning animation *Coco*.



JOEL CELESTINO SETTLES is a multidisciplinary performing artist who owns and operates Creative Cultura, a cultural arts consulting & management company. He is a founding member of the award-winning performance group Comedia A Go-Go, the co-founder of SALTA the San Antonio Latino Theatre Alliance, and has written, directed and performed in an array of stage productions over the last 15 years. Some of his favorite productions have been *Sex, Drugs, Rock & Roll* by Eric Bogosian (actor/director), *La Reina del Acordeon: Eva Ybarra's Life on Stage* (writer/director) and *El Padre: The Story of Hidalgo's Revolution* (writer/director/actor). He was a member of the 2014 Directors Lab at the Lincoln Center in NYC, holds a BA in Political Science, recently

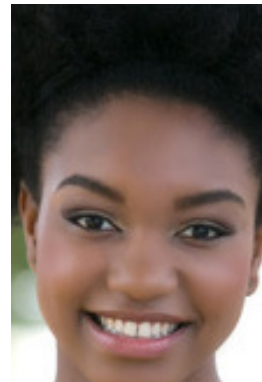
served as the Performing Arts Director for the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center and currently serves on the board of directors for the San Anto Cultural Arts organization.

GUEST ARTISTS



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 received 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 inaugural

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 garnered 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, 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 *Iya* 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 Accomplishments 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*.



MESSIAH HAGOOD-BARNES is a Miami native currently living in New York City. Messiah is a rising senior studying Theatre and Dramatic Writing at Sarah Lawrence College. She is a current recipient of the Kennedy Center's Mark Twain Award for Comic Playwriting, and semi-finalist for the Dr. Gaffney's Competition Playwriting Award.

GUEST ARTISTS



Marilyn Torres hails from Harlem, New York. She's graced the stage in plays such as *Water By The Spoonful* at The Old Globe, *Breath Boom* at Yale Rep, *Agony of the Agony* at The Vineyard, *Bike America* at The Alliance Theater and Ma-Yi Theater. She was also part of The Tribeca Theater Festival in *Late Night, Early Morning*, produced by Robert De Niro. It went on to be produced at The HBO Comedy Festival where it won a Jury Award for Best Theater Piece. Film credits include *Maid in Manhattan*, *Lady in the Water*, *Bella*, *Bernard & Doris*, *The Arrangement*, *Musical Chairs* and *Home*. She's had principle roles on *Law & Order*, *Law & Order SVU*, *The Unusuals*, *Flight of the Concord*, *Third Watch* and *The Chris Rock Show*. Her most recent roles were on Marvel's *Daredevil*, Untitled Louie CK film and *The Big Sick*. Marilyn has written solo shows called *I Have Something to Say* and *Unzipped*. Her monologues have been featured on ShowTime at the Apollo and HBO Latino. Torres is a teaching artist who works in public schools, juvenile centers and Riker Island.



Johnique Mitchell Born and raised in Dallas, Texas. She received her BFA in acting from Texas State University's theatre program, class of 2015 and is a graduate of the Penn State University's MFA Acting program (December 2017). She has played roles such as the Jack Daniel's-toting Marie from Robert O'Hara's *Barbeque*, the ambitious hopeless romantic Olivia from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and the powerhouse care-taker Athena from Mary Zimmerman's *Argonautika*. She originated the role of Randy in Hansol Jung's *Double Think* at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, South Africa and the revised Janeece in the world premiere of Ruben Santiago Hudson's *Your Blues Ain't Sweet Like Mine*. The Black and Latino Playwrights Conference was a pivotal experience for her and she is ecstatic to be back as a guest artist! "Bobcat Pride for Life!!"



SIDNEY RUSHING As a playwright, Sid has penned various stage productions in both Chicago and Los Angeles. Sid also wrote and performed his one man show *Brother's Tellin'* which opened for Lily Tomlin's one woman show, *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* in Los Angeles. Sid was selected to participate in the Mark Taper Forum Blacksmith's Development Playwright program and as a resident playwright for the Queensbury Theatre in Houston. Lastly, he enjoyed serving as a dramaturg for Eugene Lee's recent play, *Emancipation Jones*.

GUEST ARTISTS



SHIRLEY JO FINNEY is an award-winning international director of theatre, television, and film, as well as an accomplished actress. She has worn her director's hat in some of the most respected regional theater houses across the country including The McCarter Theatre, The Pasadena Playhouse, The Goodman Theater, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, the Cleveland Playhouse, the Fountain Theater, LA Theater Works, the Crossroads Theater Company, Actors Theater of Louisville Humana Festival, the Sundance Theater Workshop, The Mark Taper Forum Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the State Theater in Pretoria, South Africa. Most recently, Miss Finney directed and developed the critically acclaimed world premiere of *Citizen: An American Lyric*, by the award-winning PEN poet Claudia Rankin. Other recent works include *Facing Our Truth: The Trayvon Martin Project* at the Kirk Douglas Theatre. The Lark Foundations rolling premier of *The Road Weeps* by Marcus Gardley at the Los Angeles Theatre Center, Tarell Alvin McCraney's *Brother/Sisters Plays*, Lisa B Thompson's *Single Black Female* at the Crossroads Theatre Company, and Dominique Morisseau's *Detroit 67* at the Penumbra Theatre. She also helmed the international all South African Opera *Winnie* based on the life of political icon Winnie Mandela. Miss Finney is the recipient of prestigious awards such a SDCF's 2017 Denham Fellowship for her production of *Runaway Home* by Jeremy Kamps, the LA Drama Critics Milton Katsleas Distinguished Career Award, the LA Stage Alliance Ovation Award, The Los Angeles Drama Critics Award, LA Weekly Award, The NAACP and the Santa Barbara Independent Award for her directing work. She was honored with the UCLA Department of Stage Film and Television Distinguished Alumni Award, The Black Alumni Association's Dr. Beverly Robinson Award for Excellence in the Arts, She is an alumnus of the American Film Institute's Director Workshop for Women and holds an MFA degree from UCLA. She is also a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, the Director's Guild, and the Screen Actor's Guild.



HERBERT ORLANDO SIGUENZA is a founding member of the performance group Culture Clash, along with Richard Montoya and Ric Salinas. Culture Clash is the most produced Latino theatre troupe in the United States. Founded in San Francisco in 1984, Culture Clash has performed on the stages of America's top regional theatres including the Mark Taper Forum, The Kennedy Center, The Arena Stage, The Alley Theatre, The Berkeley Repertory, Yale Repertory, South Coast Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego Rep, Syracuse Stage, The Huntington Stage and countless universities and colleges. Siguenza has co-written, and/or performed in the following Culture Clash plays: *American Night* (Commissioned by Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *Palestine New Mexico*, *Water and Power*, *Chavez Ravine*