

# DESTINY OF DESIRE



**2015/16 SEASON**

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# 2015/16 SEASON

## ARENA STAGE GIVES YOU MORE



WORLD-PREMIERE TELENODELA COMEDY

## DESTINY OF DESIRE

By Karen Zacarías  
Directed by José Luis Valenzuela  
September 11–October 18, 2015

Helen Hayes Award-winning playwright Karen Zacarías (*The Book Club Play*) infuses the Latin American telenovela genre with music, high drama and burning passion to make for a fast-paced modern comedy. Part of the Women's Voices Theater Festival.



GOLD-STANDARD MUSICAL

## OLIVER!

Music, Lyrics and Book by Lionel Bart | Directed by Molly Smith  
Choreographed by Parker Esse | Music Direction by Paul Sportelli  
Licensed by arrangement with Oliver Productions, Ltd. and Oliver Promotions, Ltd.  
October 30, 2015–January 3, 2016

Bursting with jubilant songs, including "You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two," "Consider Yourself" and the scrumptious "Food, Glorious Food," director Molly Smith (*Fiddler on the Roof*) serves up a musical feast that will have you calling out for "More!"



WORLD-PREMIERE ADAPTATION

## AKEELAH AND THE BEE

Adapted for the stage by Cheryl L. West  
Based on the Original Screenplay by Doug Atchison  
Directed by Charles Randolph-Wright  
November 13–December 27, 2015

Based on the beloved film, *Akeelah and the Bee* tells the story of an independent 11-year-old from the Chicago projects taking on the Scripps National Spelling Bee.



OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL'S WORLD PREMIERE OF

## SWEAT

By Lynn Nottage  
Directed by Kate Whoriskey  
January 15–February 21, 2016

This gripping world premiere by Pulitzer Prize winner Lynn Nottage (*Ruined*) explores America's industrial decline at the turn of the millennium. "This compassionate but clear-eyed play throbs with heartfelt life ... blazingly well-acted." (*New York Times*)

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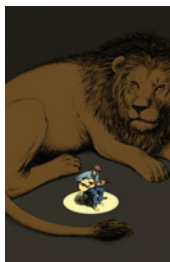
# THE CITY OF CONVERSATION

By Anthony Giardina

Directed by Doug Hughes

January 29 – March 6, 2016

Politics and family make for polarizing bedfellows in this “smart, literate and funny” (*New York Times*) new play where a Georgetown hostess plays king-maker, opening her home for political foes to lay down arms and raise a glass.



A PERSONAL MUSICAL JOURNEY

# THE LION

Written and Performed by Benjamin Scheuer

Directed by Sean Daniels

In Association with Eva Price

February 26 – April 10, 2016

Some stories have to be sung. Writer/performer Benjamin Scheuer has created a wholly original musical experience that tells a coming-of-age story that “lifts the spirit” (*Time Out New York*). Much like its hero, *The Lion* roars.



TONY-WINNING DRAMA

# ALL THE WAY

By Robert Schenkkan

Directed by Kyle Donnelly

April 1 – May 8, 2016

It's not personal, it's politics. Go *All the Way* with LBJ, Martin Luther King Jr., J. Edgar Hoover and more in this “sure-fire, action-packed hit” (*Huffington Post*). Winner of the 2014 Tony Award for Best Play.



PULITZER-WINNING DRAMA

# DISGRACED

By Ayad Akhtar

Directed by Timothy Douglas

April 22 – May 29, 2016

Don't miss this “breathtaking, raw and blistering” (AP) Pulitzer winner about the clash between modern culture and ancient faiths, filled “with fresh currents of dramatic electricity” (*New York Times*).

## SPECIAL ADD-ON EVENT



WORLD-PREMIERE PLAY

# ERMA BOMBECK: AT WIT'S END

By Allison Engel and Margaret Engel

Directed by David Esbjornson

October 9 – November 8, 2015

From the creators of *Red Hot Patriot* comes a delightful look at one of America's most beloved voices, who captured the frustrations of a generation by asking, “If life is a bowl of cherries, what am I doing in the pits?” Part of the Women's Voices Theater Festival.

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# DESTINY OF DESIRE

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### ARENA STAGE

1101 Sixth Street SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2461  
ADMINISTRATION 202-554-9066  
SALES OFFICE 202-488-3300  
TTY 202-484-0247  
[www.arenastage.org](http://www.arenastage.org)

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Program Book  
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Nigel Buchanan.  
Program Book Staff  
Anna Russell, Associate Director  
of Marketing and Publications  
David Sunshine, Graphic Designer



Karen Zacarías is a true Renaissance woman.

She is a playwright, director and actor. She is a teacher — through both Georgetown University and her work as founder of Young Playwrights' Theater of D.C. She is a mother of three beautiful children. Karen writes plays for all ages — children and adults. Her work has been featured all around the Washington area and in cities nationwide. She was a natural choice to be one of Arena's participating playwrights in the Women's Voices Theater Festival.

The idea of the Women's Voices Theater Festival was generated by artistic directors, including myself, thinking about how we could all work together to increase the visibility of Washington's thriving theater scene, while at the same time respond to the pressing issue facing the field — that far fewer female writers' plays receive full productions nationally than those of their male counterparts. The idea of a region-wide event grew to include more than 50 theaters producing a world-premiere play, musical or adaptation by a female writer during September and October of 2015. Join us all over the city! Come back to Arena and see *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End* later this fall. Choose a theater you haven't been to before ... there are many wonderful options.

The first playwright we invited to join the Arena team as a resident playwright, Karen immersed herself in Arena's artistic life as well as taking full advantage of the opportunities the residency provided. Ten writers have now worked with us through the residency program, and I am interested in the full range of their work, not only what was worked on during the residency. In Karen, Arena has not only a strong artistic and creative relationship, but we have a true friend. Her enthusiasm is boundless, her talent is remarkable and her drive is inspiring.

When Karen had the idea to write *Destiny of Desire* — a fun and wild story in the style of a telenovela — I was instantly intrigued. I want to produce stories at Arena we haven't seen before and my guess is that none of you have seen a telenovela on stage, and maybe only some of you on the small screen. Karen surprised me again with a delightful and complex story peopled by characters who keep changing shape. Who you think the characters are at first is definitely not who each ends up to be.

The Mead Center was built to hold a broad and rich treasure trove of voices. Tonight you'll experience an all-Latino cast in the making of *Destiny of Desire*. We are pleased to welcome director José Luis Valenzuela to Arena. As a prominent artist in American theater, José Luis is the ideal director. Elegant and charming, he is already taking Arena into his warm embrace.

It's a pleasure to have Karen's voice welcome all of you to Arena's 2015/16 season. May your destiny and desire keep you coming back!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Molly".

Molly Smith, Artistic Director



**You may be wondering why** we are front and center on the Women's Voices Theater Festival.

When Molly got together with several of her fellow hometown artistic directors to discuss ways to work together to strengthen and build visibility for our theater scene, I was thrilled the group decided on women's voices as a region-wide theater festival. Clearly as "produced playwrights," female writers are vastly under-represented. Addressing that situation is a strong idea to rally around, and will build awareness of the breadth and vitality of the Greater Washington theater community — one of the best-kept secrets in the nation.

I am also reminded that beyond important storytellers, many women over my 40-plus year career have been true visionaries. My first job as a managing director was working alongside Pamela Hawthorn, founder and artistic director of the New Play Centre in Vancouver, B.C. The mission she defined led to the establishment of a center where every local playwright who submitted a script was guaranteed a reading, a meeting with a director, dramaturgical support and maybe a full production in a one-act festival, or eventually a production in a purpose-built theater on the waterfront in downtown Vancouver. One of our proudest moments was the world premiere of Betty Lambert's *Jenny's Story*, a powerful play about a shameful period in Canada's history when women who were determined to be of "insufficient intellectual capacity" were sterilized. Betty had a ferocious voice and Pam, a keen ear tuned to important stories that otherwise would not have found an audience.

Of course baked into Arena's history and artistic DNA are the breathtaking ideas of first Zelda Fichandler and now Molly Smith. Zelda saw the obvious need to make a place in our nation's capital where everyone was welcome and where the artists making the work were resident in our community, not only visitors. Then over 17 years ago, Molly arrived with a challenge to focus on American artists' work, with an equal emphasis on well-established and brand-new plays and musicals. Both artistic leaders also consistently remind us of our responsibility to engage our organization in educating the next generations and encouraging and celebrating our diverse voices.

So I love the idea of the Women's Voices Theater Festival. In the age of enlightened self-interest, I welcome the new voices, rejoice in the fact that we live in a region that has the capacity to act successfully on this initiative and happily value the influence that women I have worked with (and will continue to work with) have already had on our art form and my life.

Thanks for listening!

All best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Edgar".

Edgar Dobie, Executive Producer



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Francesca Zambello, Artistic Director



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# CARMEN

Photo by Matthew Karas

September 19–October 3, 2015 | Opera House



2015–2016 SEASON

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Tickets are also available at the Box Office. Groups call (202) 416-8400.

The Kennedy Center





By Linda Lombardi, Literary Manager



Karen Zacarias' *Destiny of Desire* takes the stage this September as Arena Stage's first production in the Women's Voices Theater Festival. One of Arena's inaugural Resident Playwrights, Karen is also a core founder of the Latino Theatre Commons and the founder of D.C.'s

Young Playwrights' Theater. During rehearsals, we discussed her inspiration behind the play, her love of telenovelas and what destiny means to her. For the full interview, scan the QR code at the bottom of this page.

## What was your inspiration for writing *Destiny of Desire*?

I wrote *Destiny of Desire* exactly a year ago. It is a play that has lived in my mind for a while. I am fascinated by telenovelas and their effect on their audience. I really wanted to write a very engaging and evocative play about the power of the telenovela that would test the genre and employ a large Latino cast while being a love letter to the theater. The result is a Brechtian telenovela with original songs and wild plot twists.

Under José Luis Valenzuela's brilliant direction, we bring the populist telenovela and celebrate it as high theatrical art. We use comedy to examine serious issues of gender, class and race. We celebrate our culture and the universality of our stories.

*Destiny of Desire* is an aesthetic, artistic and political endeavor.

I am so grateful to Molly Smith for her vision and support, and to my Arena Stage family. I am honored to be part of the Women's Voices Theater Festival and bring these stories and vivid characters into the narrative of American Theater. Because no matter what Mr. Trump says, we are Americans.

*Destiny of Desire* is a play where characters fight for their future, defy their assigned role and take their destiny into their own hands. Nothing is impossible in *Destiny of Desire* ... and hopefully, one day, in our everyday lives.

## CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

### Post-Show Discussions

September 30 at 12:00 pm  
October 6 at 12:00 pm  
October 6 at 7:30 pm  
October 8 at 8:00 pm  
October 14 at 12:00 pm

### Women's Voices Theater Festival Special Event

Subverting Expectations:  
Women's Work in Theater

Sunday, October 11, 2015  
at 3:30 pm

Join playwrights Karen Zacarias, Allison Engel and Margaret Engel to discuss how women are seen and received in theater by audiences and artists, how they're subverting those expectations and what's next. Now that women have the world's attention, what will they do with it?



Scan the QR code to read the full interview on Arena Stage's blog, Stage Banter.



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Arena Stage  
Molly Smith, Artistic Director | Edgar Dobie, Executive Producer

PRESENTS

# DESTINY OF DESIRE

BY  
KAREN ZACARÍAS

DIRECTED BY  
JOSÉ LUIS VALENZUELA

ORIGINAL MUSIC / MUSIC COORDINATOR  
ROSINO SERRANO

CHOREOGRAPHER  
ROBERT BARRY FLEMING

SET DESIGNER  
FRANÇOIS-PIERRE COUTURE

COSTUME DESIGNER  
JULIE WEISS

LIGHTING DESIGNER  
PABLO SANTIAGO

SOUND DESIGNER  
JOHN ZALEWSKI

WIG DESIGNER  
ANNE NESMITH

FIGHT DIRECTOR  
MONALISA ARIAS

VOCAL COACH  
MARY COY

STAGE MANAGER  
KURT HALL

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER  
TREVOR A. RILEY

DRAMATURG  
JOCELYN CLARKE

LOS ANGELES CASTING  
PAULINE O'CON  
ROSALINDA MORALES

*Destiny of Desire* is generously sponsored by Beth Newburger Schwartz and John W. Layman, and is the recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. The commission of *Destiny of Desire* was supported by The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation's Women Playwrights Commissioning Program.

*Destiny of Desire* is part of the Women's Voices Theater Festival.



## TIME & PLACE

Bellarica, Mexico. A prosperous desert town with casinos, hotels, parks, restaurants and a great disparity of wealth. The Rich live near the Zócalo (the center of town); the Poor live far in the outskirts.

## SCENES

### ACT I

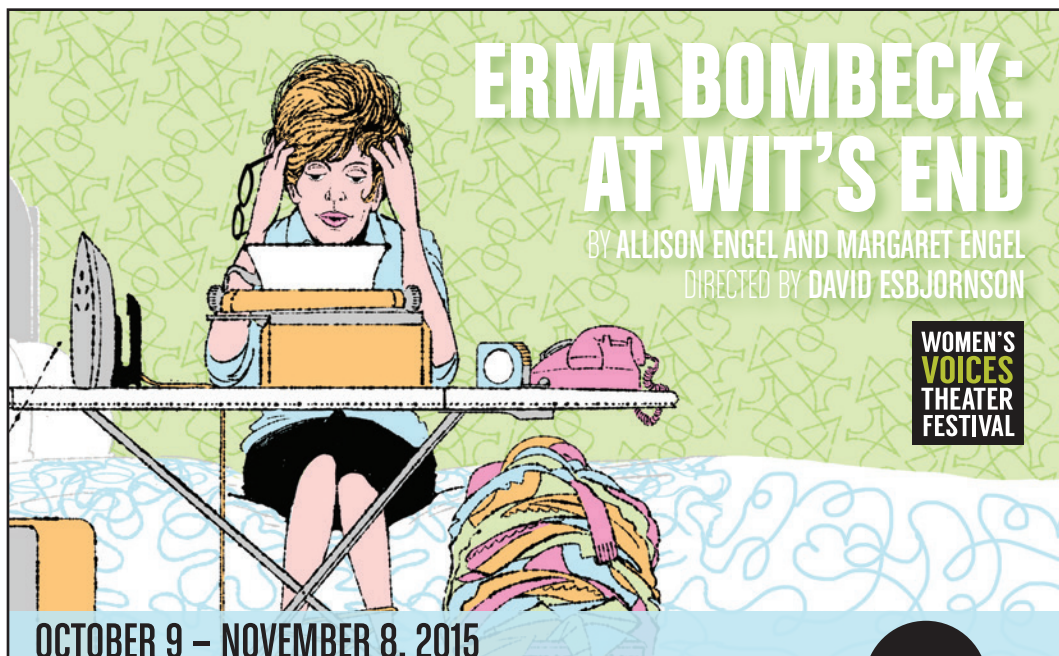
Scene 1	Life, Death And Destiny
Scene 2	A Song Of Destiny And Desire
Scene 3	A Chance Encounter
Scene 4	Betrayal And An Unexpected Outcome
Scene 5	A Fateful Meeting
Scene 6	Secrets And Lies
Scene 7	More Secrets And Lies
Scene 8	Where There Was Once Pain
Scene 9	Taking A Chance On Love
Scene 10	A Surprising Turn Of Events

### ACT II

Scene 1	Sorrow And Loss
Scene 2	Regrets Over Drinks
Scene 3	Another Surprising Turn Of Events
Scene 4	Love Is Thicker Than Blood
Scene 5	Mother And Daughter
Scene 6	Truth Will Out

A Break In The Action

*Destiny of Desire* includes two acts and one 15-minute intermission.



**ERMA BOMBECK:  
AT WIT'S END**

BY ALLISON ENGEL AND MARGARET ENGEL  
DIRECTED BY DAVID ESBJORNSON

**WOMEN'S  
VOICES  
THEATER  
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# CAST LIST, FOR THIS PRODUCTION

<b>CAST</b> (in order of appearance)	
Sister Sonia.....	MARIAN LICHA*
Ernesto del Rio / Dance Captain.....	CARLOS GÓMEZ*
Hortensia del Rio.....	RAYANNE GONZALES*
Fabiola Castillo.....	GABRIELA FERNANDEZ-COFFEY*
Dr. Jorge Ramiro Mendoza / Casino Dealer / Cop.....	OSCAR CEVILLE
Victoria del Rio / Nurse 1.....	ELIA SALDAÑA*
Pilar Castillo / Nurse 2.....	ESPERANZA AMERICA*
Armando Castillo.....	CÁSTULO GUERRA*
Sebastián Jose Castillo / Paramedic 1 / Cop 1.....	NICHOLAS RODRIGUEZ*
Dr. Diego Mendoza / Paramedic 2 / Cop 2.....	FIDEL GOMEZ*
Augustín Lara, Jr.....	ROSINO SERRANO

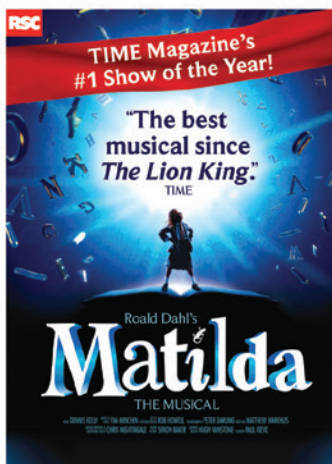
\* Member of Actors' Equity Association

## FOR THIS PRODUCTION

Technical Director.....	SCOTT SCHRECK
Properties Director.....	CHUCK FOX
Costume Director.....	JOSEPH P. SALASOVICH
Master Electrician.....	CHRISTOPHER V. LEWTON
Sound Director.....	TIMOTHY M. THOMPSON
Directing Fellow.....	JECAMIAH YBAÑEZ
Stage Management Fellow.....	ELEANORE BOLIN
Rehearsal Accompanist.....	JACOB BREMKAMP
Show Carpenter.....	NISHA LACY REAVES
Props.....	JUSTIN TITLEY
Wardrobe Supervisors.....	EMILY GRACE BLACKSTONE, ALICE HAWFIELD
Wigs / Hair Supervisor.....	VINCENT HILL
Wardrobe Swing.....	ALINA GERALL
Assistant to the Costume Designer.....	APRIL HICKMAN
Light Board Operator.....	SCOTT FOLSOM
Assistant to the Lighting Designer.....	KELLY RUDOLPH
Sound Engineer.....	ADAM W. JOHNSON
Second Audio.....	JEFF GOLDGEIGER

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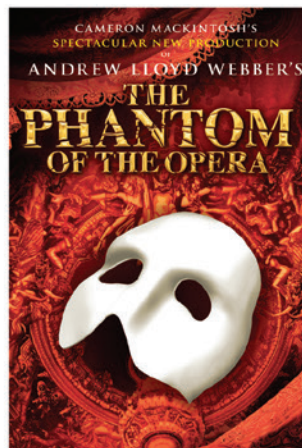
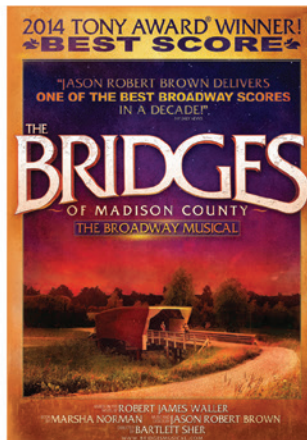
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## CAST (in alphabetical order)



**ESPERANZA AMERICA** (*Pilar Castillo / Nurse 2*) was born and raised in East L.A. and completed her BA at UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television. Her most recent theater credits include *Habitat*, *The Vault: Bankrupt* and *The Vault: Unlocked* by The Vault Ensemble; *Faith, Hope and Charity* and *Dementia* by Evelina Fernandez; and *Melancholia* at the LATC and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, directed by José Luis Valenzuela. Her television credits include *Southland* and *Single Ladies*. Her movie credits include *Cry Now*, directed by Alberto Barboza; *Water and Power*, directed by Richard Montoya; *Gino's Wife*, directed by Aaron Lee Lopez; and, most recently, *31*, directed by Rob Zombie. Esperanza is excited to be a part of this production and would like to thank her family for always supporting her and pushing her to be her best.



**OSCAR CEVILLE** (*Dr. Jorge Ramiro Mendoza / Casino Dealer / Cop*) is delighted to make his Arena Stage debut. D.C. credits include *The House of Desires* (Don Juan), *The Young Lady from Tacna* (Cesar), *Anna in the Tropics* (Juan Julian) and *The Knight from Olmedo* (Don Fernando) with Gala Hispanic Theatre; *Zorro* (Constellation Theatre); *The New World Order and Other Plays* (Scena Theatre); and *Host & Guest* (Synetic Theater). Oscar is a company member of Factory 449. Regional credits include *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Caiaphas), *The Royal Hunt of the Sun* (Atahualpa), *Corpus Christi* (Matthew), *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told* (Adam) and *Jeffrey* (Steve). In Panama, he received the Escena Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Play for his performance in Alan Ayckbourn's *How the Other Half Loves*. He has also voiced TV and radio programs.



**GABRIELA FERNANDEZ-COFFEY** (*Fabiola Castillo*) is thrilled to be making her Arena Stage debut. Other D.C.-area credits include *Uncle Vanya*, *The Lyons* and *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* at Round House

Theatre; *Mockingbird* at the Kennedy Center; *Detroit*, *Gruesome Playground Injuries* and *Stunning* at Woolly Mammoth; *Water by the Spoonful* and *The Motherf--ker with the Hat* at Studio Theatre; and *After the Fall* at Theater J, for which she won a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress. She is a Woolly Mammoth Company Member and graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.



**CARLOS GÓMEZ** (*Ernesto del Rio / Dance Captain*) is thrilled to be making his Arena Stage debut. On Broadway, he originated the role of Kevin Rosario in the Tony Award-winning musical *In the Heights*. Other theater credits include *Zorba*, *West Side Story*, *Once Removed* and *Living Out* (Mark Taper Forum). Film credits include *Desperado*, *Fools Rush In*, *The Negotiator*, *Dolphin Tale 2*, *House of Sand and Fog* and *The Perfect Game*. On television he was awarded three Imagen Awards and nominated for an Alma Award for his part as Carlos Sanchez in the A&E television series *The Glades*. Additional TV credits include *Friends*, *ER*, *Charmed*, *24*, *Shark*, *Criminal Minds*, *Weeds*, *Castle* and *Gang Related*.



**FIDEL GOMEZ** (*Dr. Diego Mendoza / Paramedic 2 / Cop 2*) was born and raised in East L.A. and is a proud graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where he received a BFA in theater. His stage credits include the national tour of *Placas*; *Just Like Us* at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts; the national tour of *Solitude*; *Melancholia*, *The Vault: Bankrupt* and *The Vault: Unlocked* at LATC; and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Romeo and Juliet* at Shakespeare Festival L.A. His film and television credits include HBO's *Walkout*, *NCIS*, *Undercovers*, *Grey's Anatomy* and *7th Heaven*.



**RAYANNE GONZALES** (*Hortensia del Rio*) happily returns to Arena Stage following her appearances in *Mother Courage and Her Children*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Music Man*, *Damn Yankees* and *Señor Discretion Himself*. She was also recently in *Man of La Mancha* at Shakespeare





SPECIAL REMOUNT

DEC 3, 2015-  
JAN 3, 2016

**BAD JEWS**  
BY JOSHUA HARMON  
DIRECTED BY SERGE SEIDEN



SEP 9-  
OCT 18, 2015

**CHIMERICA**  
BY LUCY KIRKWOOD  
DIRECTED BY DAVID MUSE

OCT 28-DEC 13, 2015  
San Francisco

**THE APPLE  
FAMILY CYCLE**  
BY RICHARD NELSON  
DIRECTED BY SERGE SEIDEN



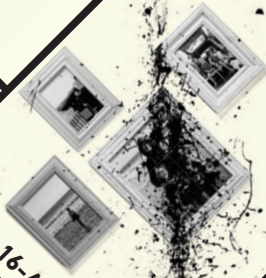
**MAIN  
SERIES**



JAN 13-FEB 28, 2016

**BETWEEN RIVERSIDE  
AND CRAZY**  
BY STEPHEN ADLY GUIGIS  
DIRECTED BY BRIAN MACDEVITT

MAR 16-APR 24, 2016



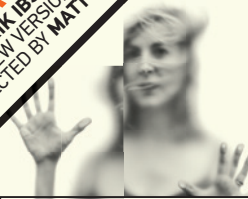
**MOMENT**  
BY DEIRDRE KINAHAN  
DIRECTED BY ETHAN MCSWEENEY

2015-2016

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DIRECTED BY MATT TORNEY



**ANIMAL**

BY CLARE LIZZIMORE

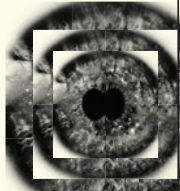
DIRECTED BY GAYE TAYLOR UPCHURCH

WORLD PREMIERE

SEP 30-OCT 25

2015

**STUDIO X**



**CONSTELLATIONS**

BY NICK PAYNE

DIRECTED BY  
DAVID MUSE

FEB 10-MAR 6

2016



Theatre Company. Broadway credits include *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Hands on a Hardbody*. Rayanne's other credits include *South Pacific* (North Carolina Theatre and Casa Mañana), *Porgy and Bess* (Natchez Festival), the first national tour of *In the Heights* and NBC's *The Sound of Music Live!*. An alumna of Boston University, the Longy School of Music and The Banff Centre, her honors include the National Federation of Music Clubs, Metropolitan Opera Auditions and Plácido Domingo's Operalia. Thanks to my family, CGF Talent and mi Palomita. Dedicated to the late Charlotte Hoffman. *Credo*.



**CÁSTULO GUERRA** (Armando Castillo) returns to Arena Stage after performing 33 years ago in *Galileo*, *The Suicide*, *Animal Crackers* and *Undiscovered Country*. He debuted at the Delacorte Theater in *Othello*

with Raúl Julia and *Coriolanus* with Morgan Freeman, followed by *Watch on the Rhine* and *Much Ado About Nothing* at Center Stage. At the Mark Taper Forum he performed in JoAnne Akilaitis' *Green Card*, and at La Jolla Playhouse he was Prospero in Robert Woodruff's *The Tempest*. With the Latino Theater Company, he played the Bishop in *La Virgen de Guadalupe* at the Cathedral of Los Angeles for 14 years and performed in *Lysistrata* and *La Olla* at the Getty, all directed by José Luis Valenzuela. Film credits include *Terminator 2*, *The Usual Suspects*, *The Mexican*, *Alamo*, *Beverly Hills Chihuahua 2*, and *Bless Me Ultima*.



**MARIAN LICHA** (Sister Sonia) is delighted to be back at Arena Stage. Her favorite roles include Ofelia in *Anna in the Tropics*, directed by Jo Bonney at Arena Stage, and Ferula and Count Satigny in *The House of Spirits*

at Gala Hispanic Theatre. Other stage credits include Round House Theatre, Provincetown Playhouse, TOMI Theater, Repertorio Español and the Kennedy Center, where she played Elena in their national tour of *Maggie Magalita*. She portrayed Imelda on television's *Homicide* and Mrs. Serrano in the film *Step Up 2*. She received an MCAC Theatre Fellowship in 2000, and in 2010, the Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artists Award for her solo performance in the title role of her solo show *Frida Vice-Versa* (director Jessica Lefkow, co-

writer R. Dennis Green) at the Chautauqua Festival and other sold-out venues.



## NICHOLAS RODRIGUEZ

(Sebastián Jose Castillo / Paramedic 1 / Cop 1)'s Arena Stage credits include *Curly in Oklahoma!* (Helen Hayes Award, Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical), *Mother Courage...*, *My*

*Fair Lady* (Helen Hayes nomination), *The Light in the Piazza* and *The Power of Two*. Other credits include *Tarzan* (Broadway); *The Toxic Avenger*, *Almost Heaven*, *Bajour* and *Collete Collage* (Off-Broadway); *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita* and *Hair* (Touring); *The Ten Commandments*, *Mothers and Sons*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Damn Yankees*, *Cinderella*, *South Pacific*, *Master Class*, *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *The King and I* (Regional); *Sex and the City 2* (Film); and *Madam Secretary* and Nick Chavez on ABC's *One Life to Live* (GLAAD Award) on TV. His debut album, "The First Time...", is available on iTunes and [www.psclassics.com](http://www.psclassics.com). He holds a BM and MM in Vocal Performance from the University of Texas at Austin. [www.thenickrod.com](http://www.thenickrod.com).



**ELIA SALDAÑA** (Victoria del Rio / Nurse 1) hails from Los Angeles and is happy to be making her Arena Stage debut. Regional credits include the musicals *Ivy and Bean* (Bean) and *Jane of the Jungle* (Kayla) at South Coast

Repertory (the latter with book and lyrics by Karen Zacarias); *The Anatomy of Gazellas* (Alex) with Playwrights' Arena; *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Maria Elena) with Theatre League; and *Family Planning* (Jilly) at Chalk Repertory, for which she received an Ovation Award nomination. She has also worked with The Pasadena Playhouse, Denver Center Theatre, Latino Theater Company and National Theatre for Children, among others. TV/Film credits include *Jane the Virgin*, *Criminal Minds*, *The Cleveland Show* and *The LeBrons*. She received her BA in theater from The University of California, San Diego. Infinite thanks to her family and Burl.





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**ROSINO SERRANO** (*Augustín Lara, Jr.*) was born in Spain and has been part of the musical scene of Mexico since the early 80's. For the last two decades he has shared his professional life between New York, Los Angeles and Mexico City. He served as composer/musical director for numerous theatrical productions with Thalia Spanish Theatre, Central Park Summerstage and Compañía Nacional de Teatro, among others. He is a regular collaborator with the Latino Theater Company. A renowned film composer, Rosino has scored iconic features including the Oscar-nominated *The Crime of Father Amaro*, *Santitos* and *Walkout*. Either as a pianist, MD, composer, arranger or producer, Rosino has worked alongside prominent artists including Eugenia León, Armando Manzanero, Santana, Ivan Lins, Camila and many others. He is a faculty member at ITESM in Mexico City and an Artistic Member of *Sistema Nacional de Creadores de Arte* (CONACULTA / FONCA).

## CREATIVE TEAM

**KAREN ZACARÍAS** (*Playwright*) has written award-winning plays including *The Book Club Play*, *Legacy of Light*, *Mariela in the Desert*, *The Sins of Sor Juana*, the adaptations of *Just Like Us* and *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, and many more. She collaborated on the libretto for *Sleepy Hollow* and *Hemingway: The Sun Also Rises* for the Washington Ballet. The 2016 season will see world premieres of her plays *Destiny of Desire* at Arena Stage; *Native Gardens* at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park; *Oliverio: A Brazilian Twist* at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; *Ella Enchanted: The Musical* at First Stage and *Into the Beautiful North* at Milagro Theatre. She is one of the inaugural resident playwrights at Arena Stage and is a core founder of the Latino Theatre Commons. She is the founder of Young Playwrights' Theater, an award-winning theater company that teaches playwriting in local public schools in Washington, D.C. Karen lives in D.C. with her husband and three children.

**JOSÉ LUIS VALENZUELA** (*Director*) is the Artistic Director of the Latino Theater Company (LTC) and the Los Angeles Theatre Center (LATC), and is also the head of the MFA directing program at UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television. José is an award winning theater director and has been a visionary and an advocate for Chicano/Latino theater for over 29 years. He has directed critically-acclaimed productions at major theaters both internationally and nationally including the LATC, where he created the Latino Theatre Lab in 1985, and the Mark Taper Forum, where he established the Latino Theater Initiative in 1991. José also serves on the national steering committee of the Latina/o Theatre Commons and produced the historic national Latina/o theater festival Encuentro in 2014.

**ROSINO SERRANO** (*Original Music / Music Coordinator*) See above.

**ROBERT BARRY FLEMING** (*Choreographer*) is the Director of Artistic Programming at Arena Stage. Movement and choreography credits include Cheryl L. West's *Puddin' 'n Pete* (The Old Globe), Marivaux's *The Game of Love and Chance* (San Jose Rep), *Thunder Knocking on the Door* (A Contemporary Theater), *Twelfth Night* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), *Blues in the Night*, *She Loves Me*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Lucky Stiff*, *All Shook Up* and *Ella, the Musical* (Center REP). Robert was a professional actor ([imdb.com/name/nm0281777/](http://imdb.com/name/nm0281777/)), was granted the SDCF Charles Abbott Directing Fellowship, produced the NYC revival of *Tennessee Williams' The Two Character Play* with Amanda Plummer and held academic positions at the University of Memphis and the University of San Diego (tenured associate professor/chair of the theatre arts and performance studies department). [www.robertbarryfleming.com](http://www.robertbarryfleming.com)

**FRANÇOIS-PIERRE COUTURE** (*Set Designer*) is originally from Montreal and has had the privilege of working across the United States for the last decade as a scenic, lighting and projection designer. Some of his designs include *Everything You Touch* for Rattlestick productions at the Cherry Lane Theatre; *La*





*Voix Humaine*, a double bill of the Cocteau play and Poulenc Opera, at the Castleton Opera Festival; *OZ 2.5* and *James and the Giant Peach* at South Coast Repertory; *The Year of Magical Thinking* at the Laguna Playhouse; *Death of a Salesgirl* at the Bootleg Theater; *The Children* at the Boston Court Theatre; *A Picasso* at the Geffen Playhouse; *Médée* and *Teseo* for the Chicago Opera Theater; and *Metamorphoses* and *Woyzeck* at the Ensemble Theatre Company of Santa Barbara.  
www.fpcouture.com

**JULIE WEISS** (Costume Designer) has Broadway credits including *The Elephant Man* (Tony Nomination), *Piaf*, *Macbeth* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* with Scarlett Johansson. She won Emmy awards for *The Dollmaker* and *A Woman of Independent Means*, and her work was Emmy-nominated for *Mrs. Harris*, *Evergreen*, *Little Gloria Happy at Last* and *Liza Minelli: Radio City*. She received Oscar nominations for *Frida* and *12 Monkeys*, and won the Costume Designer Guild Award for *American Beauty* and *Blades of Glory*. Other films include *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, *Searching for Bobby Fischer*, *Get Low*, *The Freshman*, *Steel Magnolias*, *The Ring*, *Hitchcock* and the soon-to-be-released *November Criminals*. She designed pilots for Steve Zaillian's *Criminal Justice* and Sam Raimi's *Rake*, and the past three Academy Award ceremonies. Recent recognition includes Costume Designers Guild's Career Achievement Award.

**PABLO SANTIAGO** (Lighting Designer) is the winner of the 2015 Stage Raw Award for Best Lighting Design for his work on *The Brothers Size* (Fountain Theatre) and the 2014 Scenic Award for Memorable Design for his work on *The Brothers Size* and *Time Stands Still* (Chance Theater). Nominations include the 2014 Ovation Award for Best Lighting Design for his work on *Premeditation* (LATC) and a 2014 L.A. Weekly Best Lighting Design award for his work on *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Actors Co-Op Theatre). Recently he worked with the L.A. Philharmonic as part of their Green Umbrella Project and on *Amor Brujo* with conductor Gustavo Dudamel and choreographer Siudy Garrido at Disney

Hall; *La Olla* (LTC at Getty Villa) and *Woyzeck* (The New Vic in Santa Barbara.)  
Instagram: #pablosdesign

**JOHN ZALEWSKI** (Sound Designer)'s work has been seen at LATC, the Guthrie, Portland Center Stage, South Coast Repertory, Humana Festival, Cherry Lane, Disney Hall, Geffen, Center Theater Group, Broad Stage, Evidence Room, Boston Court, Antaeus, Padua Playwrights, Actors' Gang, and the 24th Street Theater. Awards include six L.A. Stage Alliance Ovarations, seven L.A. Weekly Awards, two LADCC Awards, and ten Backstage Garlands. Recent work includes *The Day Shall Declare It*, at Theatre Delicatessen in London, UK and Imperial Art Studios in Downtown L.A.; *Everything You Touch with Rattlestick*/Boston Court at Cherry Lane Theatre; *Tokyo Fish Story* at South Coast Repertory; *La Olla* with Latino Theater Company at Getty Villa; *My Barking Dog* at Boston Court; *AFGHANISTAN*, *ZIMBABWE*, *AMERICA*, *KUWAIT* at The Gym at Judson; and *A Steady Rain* at Alliance Theatre.

**ANNE NESMITH** (Wig Designer) is pleased to return to Arena Stage following last season's *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* and *The Blood Quilt*. She also designed *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, *Other Desert Cities* and *The Music Man* for Arena Stage. Her recent work includes *Cabaret* with Signature Theatre, *Falstaff* for Saito Kinen Festival (Matsumoto, Japan) and *Ghosts of Versailles* and *Madama Butterfly* at Wolf Trap Opera. Her designs have been seen at the Kennedy Center, Opera Philadelphia, Signature Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Folger Theatre and Lyric Opera of Baltimore. Anne was the resident wig/makeup designer for the Baltimore Opera and has constructed wigs for *Scooby Doo! Live* tour and the Asian tour of *42nd Street*.

**MONALISA ARIAS** (Fight Director) returns to Arena Stage following her appearance in *Mother Courage and Her Children*. Other Washington appearances include *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* with Catalyst Theatre Company (Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Ensemble); *Anna in the Tropics*



and *The Knight from Olmedo* with GALA Hispanic Theatre; and *Brainpeople* with Rorschach Theatre. Fight choreography credits include *Optimism! or Voltaire's Candide* (Helen Hayes nomination for Outstanding Movement), *The Lord of the Flies* with Round House Theatre, *Picasso's Closet* with Theatre J and *The House of Spirits* with GALA Hispanic. Monalisa trained at The London Drama Academy, The College of William and Mary, The Society of American Fight Directors and The Center for Movement Theatre. [www.monalisayrodrigo.com](http://www.monalisayrodrigo.com)

**MARY COY** (*Vocal Coach*) is happy to be coaching at Arena for the first time. Other D.C. coaching credits include Adventure Theatre, Ford's Theatre, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, Woolly Mammoth and Keegan Theatre. She has coached and taught voice, acting and improvisation at a variety of institutions including New York University, Syracuse University, Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Virginia, Shakespeare & Company and the American Shakespeare Center. Mary is a designated Linklater voice teacher and adjunct instructor at the University of Maryland, College Park.


**KURT HALL** (*Stage Manager*)'s favorite Arena Stage credits include *The Blood Quilt*, *Our War*, *The Shoplifters*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Mother Courage and Her Children* starring Kathleen Turner, *Maurice Hines is Tappin' Thru Life*, *Good People*, *Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins* starring Kathleen Turner, *The Normal Heart*, *Red, Ruined, every tongue confess* starring Phylicia Rashad, *Duke Ellington's Sophisticated Ladies*, *Looped* starring Valerie Harper, *Next to Normal* starring Alice Ripley, *Awake and Sing!* and *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?* Other regional credits at the Kennedy Center, Roundabout Theatre Company, McCarter Theatre Center, Shakespeare Theatre Company and Signature Theatre. Thanks to his family for all their support.

**TREVOR A. RILEY** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is excited to return to Arena Stage after having worked on *Our War* last fall. Other D.C.-area credits include *Sinbad: The Untold Tale*

(Imagination Stage); *Godspell*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Farragut North* and *Annie* (Olney Theatre Center); *Just the Two of Each of Us*, *Appropriate*, *Detroit* and *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Diety* (Woolly Mammoth Theatre); *Pas de Deux* (Studio Theatre); and *Twelfth Night* and *RuleBreaker Rep* (Taffety Punk). Trevor has a BFA in stage management from Virginia Commonwealth University.

**PAULINE O'CON** (*Los Angeles Casting*) began her entertainment career at the ABC-owned radio stations KABC and KLOS, assisting with talent relations and concert promotions. She segued to the ABC corporate division in 1980, where she soon began a career in network television casting. As director of casting, Pauline supervised ABC's primetime drama pilots, series, movies-for-television and mini-series, working with such television creators and innovators as Stephen J. Cannell, David Lynch, David E. Kelley, Steven Bochco and Oprah Winfrey. Pauline joined Fox Broadcasting Company in 2001 as vice president of casting, overseeing casting of the network's drama pilots and series including *House*, *The O.C.*, *Bones*, *Prison Break*, *Dark Angel*, *Alley McBeal* and *24*. Currently Pauline is partnered with Rosalinda Morales casting independent films, theater and television.

**ROSALINDA MORALES** (*Los Angeles Casting*) is a native of Los Angeles, California, attended USC and achieved a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater. Rosalinda began her career in the entertainment industry as a casting associate, moving on to Talent Agent where for ten years she developed up-and-coming talent in the areas of film, TV, theater and commercials. Rosalinda then returned to casting, working with notable industry professionals including veteran TV producer Stu Segall and indie filmmaker Ken Loach. Rosalinda's notable feature casting credits are *Under the Same Moon* (*La Misma Luna*), U.S. casting; *Ladrón Que Roba a Ladrón*; *Down For Life* and *Revolucion/Lindo y Querido* directed by Patricia Rigen. Rosalinda is currently partnered with Pauline O'con working on independent films, theater and television projects.



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**MOLLY SMITH** (Artistic Director) has served as Artistic Director of Arena Stage since 1998. Her directing credits include *The Originalist*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Camp David*, *Mother Courage and Her Children*, *Oklahoma!*, *A*

*Moon for the Misbegotten*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Great White Hope*, *The Music Man*, *Orpheus Descending*, *Legacy of Light*, *The Women of Brewster Place*, *Cabaret*, *An American Daughter*, *South Pacific*, *Agamemnon and His Daughters*, *Coyote Builds North America*, *All My Sons* and *How I Learned to Drive* at Arena Stage. Her directorial work has also been seen at the Shaw Festival in Canada, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Trinity Repertory Company, Tarragon Theatre in Toronto, Centaur Theatre in Montreal and Perseverance Theater in Juneau, Alaska, which she founded and ran from 1979-1998. Molly has been a leader in new play development for over 30 years. She is a great believer in first, second and third productions of new work and has championed projects like *How I Learned to Drive*, *Passion Play*, a cycle and *Next to Normal*. She has worked alongside playwrights Sarah Ruhl, Paula Vogel, Wendy Wasserstein, Lawrence Wright, Karen Zacarias, John Murrell, Eric Coble, Charles Randolph-Wright and many others. She led the re-invention of Arena Stage, focusing on the architecture and creation of the Mead Center for American Theater and by positioning Arena Stage as a national center for American artists. During her time with the company, Arena Stage has workshopped more than 100 productions, produced 29 world premieres, staged numerous second and third productions and been an important part of nurturing seven projects that went on to have a life on Broadway. In spring 2014, Molly made her Broadway debut directing *The Velocity of Autumn*, following its critically acclaimed run at Arena Stage in fall 2013. She was awarded honorary doctorates from American University and Towson University.



**EDGAR DOBIE** (Executive Producer) After nearly four decades, Edgar continues to enjoy a career in public theater. He has served as executive director of Trinity Repertory Company in Providence,

founding managing director of Toronto's Canadian Stage Company and managing director at National Arts Centre in Ottawa and Vancouver's New Play Centre. Based in New York City for six years, he was president of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Company and the North American executive producer of *Riverdream*, as well as managing producer of the Tony Awards. His Broadway producing credits include *Sunset Boulevard* (Tony Award for Best Musical), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Paul Simon's *The Capeman*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, Boubli and Schönberg's *The Pirate Queen* and Dolly Parton's *9 to 5*. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the Helen Hayes Awards. Edgar, his good wife Tracy and their daughter Greta Lee are all proud residents of Southwest Washington, D.C.

This theater operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association.



The actors and stage managers are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



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Artistic Development  
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