



Heralded by Latino Weekly as a "beautifully crafted multimedia experience," this PLAY with MUSIC returns to Lincoln Height's Plaza de la Raza. With its reimagined "Los Lobos songbook as a reverb-drenched 60's garage band," NINA DIAZ (Girl in a Coma) fronts "The Neighborhood" band.

April 4-14, 2019

Plaza de la Raza

3540 N. Mission Road, Los Angeles, CA 90031







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UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment





STORY BY

Theresa CHAVEZ, Louie PÉREZ and Rose PORTILLO

WRITTEN BY

Theresa CHAVEZ and Rose PORTILLO

DIRECTED BY

Theresa CHAVEZ

FEATURING THE MUSIC OF

David **HIDALGO** & Louie **PÉREZ**

CAST

Elizabeth ALVAREZ	Alicia
Adrian BRIZUELA	Edgar/James
Sarah CORTEZ*	Évangeline
Moises CASTRO*	
Ariana GONZALEZ	
Lennon HOBSON	Sandy
Keyla Monterroso MEJIA	
Michael "Naydoe" PINEDO	

"THE NEIGHBORHOOD" BAND

Featuring Nina DIAZ as the Lead Singer

with

Jorge GONZALEZ	Drums
Jose ROJAS	Bass

STAGE MANAGER: Angela **SONNER***

DESIGNERS

COSTUME DESIGNER
Abel ALVARADO
CHOREOGRAPHER
Michele BACHAR

SET DESIGNER
Gerardo DAVALOS

SOUND DESIGNER/OPERATOR
Davey DONALDSON

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Ginevra LOMBARDO

LIGHTING ASSOCIATE
Darren REZOWALLI

VIDEO DESIGNER Claudio ROCHA

VIDEO BOARD OPERATOR
Gabriel GARZA

*Appearing through an Agreement between About Productions and Actors' Equity Association,
the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

CO-CREATORS

Theresa CHAVEZ (Director, Co-Writer, Producer) is About...Productions' Co-Founder and Producing Artistic Director. Under her direction, the company has engaged with numerous communities, and cultural and educational institutions, locally and nationally, in the production of innovative theaterworks and educational programs. She has directed a number of the company's signature works including By the Hand of the Father, and the recent sitespecific restaging of They Shoot Mexicans, Don't They? at the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse. A published playwright, she is included in Women Playwrights of Diversity, a book that describes the work of 90 women identified by professional theaters or scholars as significant theatre voices. Chavez is an interdisciplinary theater artist whose work has been seen on national television. extensively in Southern California, throughout the U.S., and in Canada, including the Public Theater (New York), Hogg Auditorium (UT Austin), The Mexican Museum (Chicago), The Getty Center (L.A.), Banff Centre (Alberta, Canada), and the Mark Taper Forum (L.A.). From 1991 to 2007, she directed and taught in the California Institute of the Arts Interdisciplinary Studies program. In addition to her training as a dancer and musician, she earned her B.F.A. and M.F.A. in photography from California Institute of the Arts and an interdisciplinary B.A. in the social sciences from UCLA. Chavez is the recipient of a 2012 La Opinión Mujeres Descatadas (Exceptional Women) Arts & Culture Award, and received, along with Rose Portillo, the 2012 Playwright's Arena Lee Melville Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Los Angeles Theatre Community.

Rose PORTILLO (Co-Writer) recently performed "Perfecta" by Diane Rodriguez in MATRIARCH, curated by Jesse Bliss. This past fall she returned to the Mark Taper Forum in Luis Valdez's VALLEY OF THE HEART. In 2017 she played Dolores "Mama" Reyna in the revival of ZOOT SUIT at the Mark Taper Forum where almost 40 years earlier she originated the role of Della. In 2018 she appeared in the premiere of Cherrie Moraga's THE MATHEMATICS of LOVE at Brava Theater in San Francisco. Rose has a long history of creating work with Theresa Chavez for About Productions as actor, writer, and director, and founded the

company's Young Theaterworks program. Rose has numerous film tv credits - most recently appearing in Marvel's *RUNAWAYS* - and you'll hear her voice in an upcoming animation series. Rose teaches at Pomona College where she designed and directs Theater with Young Audiences now in its 12th year. She has graced the stages of the Mark Taper Forum, South Coast Rep, San Diego Rep, The Old Globe, and NY's Public Theater. Her artwork has toured nationally and internationally through Self-Help Graphics and Art and is known for her 'Rosaic' work. She received, along with Chavez, the 2012 Playwright's Arena Lee Melville Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Los Angeles Theatre Community.

Louie PÉREZ (Co-creator, Composer) is an American songwriter, percussionist, painter, prose writer and guitarist for the multiple Grammy Award-winning and Rock and Roll Hall of Famenominated band Los Lobos. As the group's primary lyricist, Pérez is a keen observer of the human condition. His work has been showcased on every Los Lobos recording, beginning with And A Time To Dance (1983) and continuing through the band's most recent album, Gates of Gold (2015). Pérez also co-wrote songs with his writing partner David Hidalgo for two critically acclaimed albums by Latin Playboys, their side project. His songs have been covered by many artists including Elvis Costello, Jerry Garcia, and Robert Plant. He also wrote songs for Tony Kushner's 1994 theatrical adaptation of Bertolt Brecht's "The Good Person of Szechwan" at the La Jolla Playhouse. Serving as art director for all of Los Lobos' recordings, he was nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Boxed Recording Package for the 2001 "El Cancionero: Más y Más." As a visual artist, Perez has shown his painting and sculpture since 1975 in many prominent spaces including The Vincent Price Art Museum (L.A.), San Antonio Museum of Art, and El Museo Del Barrio (N.Y.).

SONGWRITERS

David HIDALGO is the driving vocal and guitar force of East LA's Los Lobos and Latin Playboys, the former known for being on the forefront of blending traditional Mexican music with blues, rock, and country. David started his musical exploration at age 10, when his brother introduced

him to the drums and the music of James Brown. Chuck Berry, and later Jimi Hendrix and Canned Heat. Two years into the drums, he picked up his first guitar and has never put it down. In addition to being a master of the guitar, David is also a multi-instrumentalist, well known for playing the accordion, violin, cello, requinto jarocho, percussion and drums. Hidalgo and his songwriting compadre Louie Pérez began their collaboration together in high school, composing songs about what Pérez says were usually "goofy girls." As they matured so did their subject matter writing for Los Lobos, Latin Playboys, and other projects. Poverty. illegal immigration, and other cultural issues have made their way into the verses. David's diverse musicianship has been showcased on multiple recordings by other artists including Bob Dylan, and Los Super Seven, the Grammy Award-winning band of which he is a member.

Louie PÉREZ (Songwriter) SEE CO-CREATOR

THE CAST



Elizabeth ALVAREZ
(Alicia) is an actor and comedian with a love of theater. She has made folks laugh at The Ice House, Comedy Store and Flappers to name a few comedy clubs. Elizabeth's stage work has graced

the stages of Company of Angels, Urban Theater Movement, Homeward LA and CTG. She is excited to be a part of this fabulous production. Thankful to everyone who has supported her passions.

Adrian BRIZUELA

(Edgar/James) is a classically trained actor that has played roles on stage from Shakespeare, Chekov, Miller and Williams. He received his BFA in acting from California Institute of the Arts. At CalArts he worked

on projects such as the original play Los Angeles Founding Families where he acted alongside Roger Guenveur Smith. Aside from acting Adrian is a recording artist and is involved with music production company Brizz Productions. He is a

regular session singer for film and T.V. libraries and enjoys the experience of sharing his talents on multiple platforms.



Sarah CORTEZ

(Evangeline) is repped by DDO Artists Agency and Arc Artist Management, is an actress, dancer, martial artist, and bookworm from Houston, Texas. She has been performing since she can remember and is

thrilled to be back on the stage. Recent credits include: *Angie Tribeca* (TBS), *LA to Vegas* (FOX), and *Dear White People* (Netflix).



Moises CASTRO (Ray) is a returning cast member from the 2018 production of Evangeline. Recent credits: Valley of the Heart (Mark Taper Forum), Brown & Out (CASA 0101), The Hotel Play (Playwrights Arena), Guards at the Taj (A.C.T),

Milton (PearlD'Amour), Brooklyn Bridge (Seattle Children's Theater), The Motherf**ker with the Hat (WET), and John Baxter is a Switch Hitter (Intiman). Education: UW, NYU, and AMDA. themoisescastro. com. Instagram @themoisescastro. Thanks to all. RISE UP.



Jorge GONZALEZ

(drums) is a musician and audio engineer from San Antonio, TX. Jorge enters this production with 15+ years of performing and touring experience as a professional drummer.

4 production company Brizz Productions. He is a 5



Nina DIAZ (lead singer) is hailed by NPR as "one of the two or three most exciting, scary-good vocalists in rock today," began her musical career fronting the critically hailed indie-punk band, Girl in a Coma, when she was only 13. The San

Antonio. Texas-based band was famously nurtured by Joan Jett, opened for Morrissey and Tegan and Sara, and earned multiple Independent Music Awards. Her music has been featured in commercials and films including Robert Rodriquez' Machete. Being a public performer at such an early age took a toll and Nina began finding an outlet as she began writing new material that was all her own. The creative floodgates opened. What began, in her mind, as a five-track EP, grew into something epic. The resulting debut solo album, "The Beat Is Dead," was released on Cosmica Records and received raves from everyone from NPR to Elle to the Austin Chronicle.



Ariana GONZALEZ

(Ensemble) was born and raised in Venezuela. She received her BFA in Performing Arts, Acting at AMDA College and Conservatory for the Performing Arts in both campuses, NY and LA. She has worked in

both cities and her work includes Enter Stage Right at 24th St. Theatre, The Skin of Our Teeth, Mr. Burns: a Post-Electric Play, The Pilgrims Progress, among others. She has also worked in independent films and recently a video for SoulPancake. Ariana is also a writer; currently, she's developing a stage play and has also written some short films. You can keep up with her work through her website arianagonzalez.me and her Instagram @ari.gonza.



Lennon HOBSON

(Sandy) is a Los Angeles based actress, choreographer, producer, and classically trained dancer with a BA in Dance and Theater from Loyola Marymount University. Some of her performance

credits include live events and theater at venues such as The El Portal and Rockwell Table & Stage, to commercials and music videos with artists such as Tomo Nakayama, FOZZY and Veva Entertainment. Currently Lennon is working as the President and Co-Founder of BoomStick Theater (BoomStickTheater.com) which was formed in 2018. (www.LennonHobson.com IG:@LennondHobson)



Keyla Monterroso **MEJIA** (Rita) is proud to be performing once again in this encore production of Evangeline, The Queen of Make-Believe. This is Kevla's third professional show. Previously she was seen in Playwrights'

Arena production of The Hotel Play directed by Jon Lawrence Rivera, a collaboration written by all female playwrights. Keyla is a graduate of The School of Arts and Enterprise in Pomona, CA.



Michael "Navdoe" PINEDO (Ensemble) is a Los Angeles-native performer and actor represented by Go 2 Talent Agency. His talents have brought him to stages with Toni Braxton and Ariana Grande, as well as national commercials for

McDonald's and Apple, and to television shows such as The Late Late Show with James Corden. Pinedo had the privilege and honor to act and dance at the Mark Taper Forum in the revival hit show Zoot Suit and Valley of the Heart under the direction of legendary Luis Valdez and his son Kinan Valdez. This show is dedicated to his beloved younger sister Angelina, who was taken from us this year in a hit and run. May her life be a lesson to all to always be in each moment. Naydoe asks that we give back to our communities as Angelina always did. Pay it forward in her honor. And you will start to see the beauty in the little things.



Jose ROJAS

(bass) is a professional touring and recording musician born and raised in East LA. Featured on LA Times, LA Weekly, and Forbes Magazine under the band Thee Commons. Notable performances:

Tropicalia (2017) and Coachella (2017).

PRODUCTION/CREATIVE



Angela SONNER

(Stage Manager) is excited to be working again on the remount of this fantastic show as her fourth project with About...Productions. She is also currently directing Biola University's Theatre 21 production of As

It Is In Heaven and coming up is excited to return as a teaching artist and musical theatre director for youth at Performing Arts Workshops. Angela would like to thank her husband for his support and love; they are expecting their first child in May. www.angelasonner.com

Abel ALVARADO (Costume Designer) works include the award-winning Untitled: Warhol Project, Julius Caesar, Banshee and the West Coast Regional Premier of In The Heights. He designed for the original works It Happened in Roswell, A Force To Be Reckoned With, An L.A. Journey, Little Red, Drunk Girl, Boyle Heights, Bad for the Community and Teatro MOZ. He has designed Mariela In The Desert, They Shoot Mexicans Don't They?, Vietgone and Enemy of the Pueblo. Video work includes Wardrobe Stylist for Grammy Award nominee Gerardo Ortiz music video "Para Que Lastimarme?" and the webseries Café Con Chisme. Recently he designed Disney's Beauty and the Beast The Broadway Musical and produced Brown and Out IV theater festival. A highlight in his work was designing for Josefina Lopez's Real Women Have Curves at the Pasadena Playhouse. Abel's credits also include Producing Artistic Director for the L.A.-based TNH Productions Company.

Michele Bachar MENDICELLI

(Choreographer) has worked with About Productions since 2006, first as a dancer in They Shoot Mexicans, Don It They? and then as choreographer in the 2012 premiere of Evangeline. Queen of Make Believe at the Bootleg Theater. She is pleased to be back again, drawing on her years of experience dancing in numerous film, television, music and stage productions. Examples of her dance experience include: The Francisco Martinez Dancetheatre: The Glen Campbell Show, Disney is Toy Story at the El Capitan Theater, The Radio City Rockettes Christmas Spectacular, commercials for

AT&T, Betty Crocker, and Pepsi. She teaches and choreographs for several schools in Los Angeles, including the Westside School of Ballet, where she is currently choreographing Cabaret.

Ginevra LOMBARDO (Lighting Designer) is a freelance lighting designer for theater, opera and musical theater based in Los Angeles. Her recent credits include: Buver & Cellar and Taking Sides (Rubicon Theater) directed by Stephanie Coltrin; The Hothouse (Antaeus Theater Company) directed by Nike Doukas; Unbound (Hudson Theater) directed by Jennifer Chambers; Carousel (Freud Playhouse) directed by Jeremy Mann; Mille Miglia (Williamstown Theater Festival) directed by Gabriel Vega Weissman; A Midsummer Night's Dream (Little Theater, UCLA) directed by Ellen Lauren; I due Figaro (Freud Playhouse) directed by Peter Kazaras; and the West Coast premiere of the Polish play Trash Story directed by Monica Payne. Her assistant lighting designer credits include The Fantastiks directed by Seema Sueko; And No More Shall We Part directed by Anne Kauffman; Barcelona directed by Trip Cullman; Moon for the Misbegotten directed by Gordon Edelstein, A Dog's House directed by Trip Cullman; and The Country House directed by Daniel Sullivan. In addition, Ginevra has worked at the Williamstown Theater Festival for 2015 and 2016 seasons, and she holds an MFA in lighting design from UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television.

Gerardo DAVALOS (Set Designer) has done set designs for the following: Los Novios for Ta' Yer Theatre Group; El Niño Dios Viene a LA, El Agua la Vida for Teatro Jornalero Sin Fronteras: I: Witness. and Evangeline, the Queen of Make-Believe for About... Productions; Romeo and Juliet, ELAPAM/ SCLA; Epitafio, and Are You Bringing Something from México? for Off The Tracks. Gerardo is a founding member of Off the Tracks Theatre Company.

Davey DONALDSON (Sound Designer/Operator) is a sound engineer, musician, and audio/visual wizard. Hailing from Los Angeles, Davey's passion for music, song, and art has gifted him with a career in the technical side of the arts. Performing live music drives him, and he is blessed with a wide range of musical skills that he puts to use for himself and other artists. Getting to work with performers, musicians, filmmakers, artists, and heroes puts a smile on Davey's face every single day of his life.

Claudio ROCHA (Video Designer) was born in Mexico City and has been making films and animation for over two decades.

Gabriel GARZA (Video Board Operator) is an artist, mainly working in sculpture and performance. Born and raised in Los Angeles, he has been a video tech at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Hammer Museum, and Novo at L.A. Live.

Lillian VINCE (Make-Up Consultant) is a makeup and special effects artist working in TV and film. She has a theatre background and a focus on providing both makeup services and education to people from all walks of life. Lillian is thrilled to be a small part of Evangeline.

Raul Clayton STAGGS (Casting Director) is a freelance casting director happy to be working with About...Productions again. Raul has cast projects for Playwrights' Arena, LATC, The Getty Villa, The Skylight Theatre, Garry Marshall Theatre, Theatre Planners, Bootleg Theatre, The Theatre @ Boston Court, and many others all over Los Angeles. He is a 2018 recipient of the Lee Melville Award for Outstanding Contribution to Los Angeles Theatre.

Cecilia BRIZUELA (House Manager) is a director, storyteller, videographer, songwriter, and iustice advocate. Co-founder of Brizz Productions a leading multimedia company that focuses on video and music production. Cecilia's other passion is theater. She has worked in various capacities, both on and off stage. She is thrilled to be working with such wonderful team.

Raul ESPINOZA (Marketing Manager) is a theatrical marketing consultant/producer with a career spanning 16+ years. Raul was Marketing Associate/Audience Development Manager at Center Theatre Group (2002 to 2009). As a consultant. Raul worked on the Broadway Tours of In The Heights, West Side Story, and John Leguizamo's Sexaholix...A Love Story & Ghetto Klown all in L.A. In N.Y. he's consulted The Public Theater and worked on the 5th Anniversary Broadway Reunion concert of In The Heights. This past year Raul work on The Untranslatable Secret of Nikki Corona for the Geffen Playhouse and Valley of the Heart by Luis Valdez in association with El Teatro Campesino at the Taper. He's thrilled to be working on his 6th show for About Productions including the original production of Evangeline in 2012.

Ilana MINDIOLA (Production Intern) is a recent graduate of UC San Diego. She majored in International Studies with an emphasis in Anthropology and a minor in Theater. She is interested in interdisciplinary theatre, the collective formation of memories and identities in oppressed communities and activism and resistance through the arts.

Ilka Erren PARDIÑAS, Fly PR (Publicist) is a California native born to German and Mexican immigrant parents. She is a publicity professional based in Los Angeles who designs and implements campaigns for clients in music, art, film, literature, visual arts and business, architecture and design. The firm has run a robust internship program since 2005, helping women, LGBTQ and minorities gain access to music and entertainment industry career opportunities. Ilka founded the independent publicity firm Fly PR in 1994.

Gabriela LÓPEZ DE DENNIS (Graphic Designer) is an award-winning storyteller-writer, producer, director, video editor, actor, content creator, visual artist-that has specialized in creating for the arts, entertainment and music industry for 21 years with her company, Soap Studio Inc. Gabriela is also the co-founder and C.E.O. of Lone Stars Entertainment, an awardwinning production company that creates short films & videos, music videos, documentaries and more. Gabriela was included in Remezcla's list of "10 Latino Filmmakers You Should Know." For more information and to watch some of her work. visit lonestarsentertainment.com or soapstudioinc. com. Follow her @thegabriela.

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multidisciplinary community arts venue dedicated to serving the Eastside neighborhoods of Los Angeles. www.plazadelaraza.org



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Through all of these efforts, the academic departments and disciplines.

CSRC exemplifies UCLA's institutional priorities - academic excellence, civic engagement, and diversity - and remains committed to research that makes a difference, www.chicano.ucla.edu

GRANTORS

The EVANGELINE INITIATIVE is generously supported in part by awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, the Puffin Foundation, Exploring the Arts Foundation, the Pasadena Educational Foundation, and the City of Pasadena.







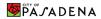












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With additional gratitude to our MAGNIFICENT, GLORIOUS, and COSMIC ANGELS

SPECIAL THANKS

Maria Jiménez-Torres, Executive Director of Plaza de la Raza, and the entire staff of Plaza including Rebecca Nevarez, Tomas Benitez, and Kay Rosser and her Volunteer team.

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EVANGELINE PRODUCTION HISTORY: The full production of Evangeline, the Queen of Make-Believe premiered in May 2012 to excellent reviews, sold-out houses, and enthusiastic audience response in a 6-week run at the Bootleg Theater in Los Angeles. The production traveled in October 2013 to California's Central Valley for an educational outreach tour with Lobos' musicians David Hidalgo and Louie Pérez performing. From 2010-2011, work-in-progress versions and excerpts were performed at Plaza de la Raza; the Autry National Center as part of Pacific Standard Time; the Los Angeles Theater Center as part of the Los Angeles premiere of Stories & Songs - David Hidalgo and Louie Pérez' show chronicling their songwriting history; KPCC's Crawford Family Forum; and the Music Center Plaza as part of the L.A. Arts Month Kick-Off.

The current two-year **EVANGELINE INITIATIVE** commemorates the **50th Anniversary** of the 1968 East L.A. Student Walkouts and included the 2018 revised and remounted production at Plaza de la Raza, featuring Gaby Moreno as lead singer of The Neighborhood band. One of the Initiative's major goals is to bring this inspiring coming-of-age story and powerful community and cultural history to L.A.-area youth and provide them with transformative educational and artistic experiences. The 2019 educational components include:

- Free Morning Matinees for L.A.-area public high school students.
- 20-Session Residency at Monterey High School highest-risk students will study Evangeline themes and write plays reflecting their own lives, culminating in a concert reading with professional and student actors; and will attend morning matinee.
- 4-5 Session Evangeline-related Workshops at 5 East L.A. and Pasadena-area high schools including attendance at free morning matinees.
- Evangeline Discovery Guide study guide that explores 1960s cultural and political history, and Evangeline narrative; distribution to students to support Residency and Workshop content and exploration.

GIVE THE GIFT OF THEATER TO A STUDENT

We are anticipating 400 students will attend our special student matinees of Evangeline, the Queen of Make-Believe through our Young Theaterworks program using theater as an inspiring and transformative learning tool.

Every \$15 will support one student to attend. And every \$300 will support a group of 20 to see the show! A gift in any amount will help give this experience to students many of whom have never been to the theater.

Please visit www.aboutpd.org/donate to share your gift.

Every penny counts, and every penny is appreciated. Thank you for being an Angel.

About...Productions is currently celebrating 30 years of creating original interdisciplinary theaterworks and educational programs that provoke new perspectives on history, humanity, and culture. The award-winning company is dedicated to generating new work through collaboration to create artistic and community dialogue; and believes in the power of theater to enlighten audiences, transform youth, and celebrate the lives of seniors. Its theaterworks and educational programs unearth and illuminate cultural histories of Latin America, the Southwest, California, and Los Angeles. The company has toured throughout the U.S., and in Canada, and been featured on national television. More info at aboutpd.org.

Theresa CHAVEZ, Producing Artistic Director; **DeAnne MILLAIS**, Administrative Director; **Raul ESPINOZA**, Marketing Manager; Jose GARCIA, Lead Teaching Artist; Marlene Beltran CUAUHTIN, Jenny MARLOW, and Estefania G. BAUTISTA, Teaching Artists

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