



Streaming 10.29.21- 12.2.21



TuYo Presents Virtual Theatre

# Ofrendas en Pandemia: A Día de Muertos Anthology

New Short Plays by Pa' Letras  
Streaming On Demand  
October 29-December 2, 2021



# What is Pa' Letras?

In keeping with its mission to amplify Latinx voices, TuYo Theatre established Pa' Letras in the beginning of 2021 as a workshop for emerging Latinx playwrights. Pa' Letras meets weekly and offers a space for community, creativity, and accountability. The inaugural cohort members are Denessa Cazares, Vanessa Duron, Gabriela Flores, Cynthia Ochoa Galaz, Mario Vega, and Marielle Vizcarra. The workshop is facilitated by Mabelle Reynoso



Ofrendas en Pandemia:  
A Día de Muertos Anthology  
Includes ...

Cocovid-19

by Mario Vega

Las Ganas de Morir

by Denessa Cazares

Better Living Through Albondigas

by Mabelle Reynoso

Sueña un Sueñito de Mi

by Gabriela Flores

Fiestas en Tiempos de Pandemia

by Marielle Vizcarra

# Actors

Mikaela Macias

Bianca Vanegas

Marielle Vizcarra

Bernardo Mazón Daher

Markuz Rodriguez

Braulio Arquilla

Gabriela Flores

## Design, Film, and Technical Crew

Celia Vasquez ..... Production Assistant

Gabe Zendejas .....Camera

JJ Eccles ..... Camera

John Arquilla ..... Technical Director

Rosa Sanchez ..... Costume Designer

Laura Odette Sandoval ..... Marketing



# Playwrights



Mabelle  
Reynoso



Mario  
Vega



Denessa  
Cazares



Marielle  
Vizcarra



Gabriela  
Flores



# Bios

**Mabelle Reynoso** - Mabelle Reynoso is a multidisciplinary storyteller and teaching artist who works in non-traditional theatre spaces, including classrooms, community centers, and correctional facilities. She is co-host of the podcast Hey Playwright and leads TuYo Theatre's Pa' Letras, a new play development workshop for emerging Latinx playwrights. She has a BFA from New York University, an MFA from the School of Visual Arts, and is currently pursuing her PhD in Education for Social Justice at the University of San Diego.

**Mario Vega** - Mario Vega is a playwright/lyricist/digital artist from Southern California. A graduate from San Diego State University, he has written the book and lyrics to three full length musicals during his undergrad on top of various short plays.

**Denessa Cazares** - Denessa Cazares is an actress and an award-winning playwright at the collegiate level. She has been in *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (Dockdaisy, O'Casey, Betty Dullfoot); *No Soy De Aqui Ni De Alla/ I Am Not From Here Nor From There* (devised piece); *She Kills Monsters* (Agnes Evans); *Everything Has Two Sides* (Angel); *Dear 2020* (devised piece); *Fight Girl Battle World* (Mikah Monoch); *Twelfth Night* (Malvolio/a). Her first play was her autobiographical ten-minute monologue *There Are No Sunrises On This Side*, which premiered at the City College New Play Festival 2021. It won first place in the district's Student Literary Competition for the League for Innovation in the drama category and it won second place internationally; her work will be published in the 2021 anthology of the organization. Denessa is a part of Pa'Letras, a play development workshop for emerging Latinx playwrights, she is honored to have her play *Las Ganas De Morir* debut at TuYo Theatre along with her peers' work.

**Gabriela Flores** - Gabriela Flores is a Chicana screenwriter and playwright, she has a Bachelors of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies of film, women studies and sociology from San Diego State University. Above all, she values kindness, authenticity, and creativity. Her pieces are centered around social justice issues like reproductive justice, immigrant rights, and sex education. She hopes that her work will help people find the shades of gray between many issues that divide us into groups of black and white.

**Marielle Vizcarra** - Marielle Vizcarra, a native of Calexico, CA, earned her Bachelor's degree in Communication and Theatre minor from UC San Diego in 2018. As a Senior in college, her first play, *Not a Family Gathering*, was produced by UCSD's Fair Play Theatre Company. That same year, she also played the role of Dorine during a modern production of *Tartuffe*. In April 2019, Marielle's play *Diosito Lindo* was produced by TuYo Theatre Company during their first show titled -UN. She has been a member of a playwrighting group called Pa' Letras since January 2021. Marielle identifies herself as a writer (poet/playwright) who occasionally enjoys acting and has recently taken up podcasting. She is fascinated by the family dynamic in Latinx households and enjoys portraying these stories in her work.



# Cast



Bianca  
Vanegas



Markuz  
Rodriguez



Mikaela Rae  
Macias



Braulio  
Arquilla



Marielle  
Vizcarra



Gabriela  
Flores



Bernardo  
Mazón Daher



# Bios

**Mikaela Rae Macias** is grateful for her role as Fernanda in Better Living Through Albongidas. She is a sophomore at San Diego State University as a Theatre Performance major. You may have last seen her as Tilly Evans in San Diego State University's production of She Kills Monsters. Her favorite past roles are Hero in Much Ado About Nothing (SDSU), Hope Cladwell in Urinetown the Musical (Coronado School of the Arts), Duke Frederick in As You Like It (CoSA) & Anne Frank in The Diary of Anne Frank (CoSA). Mikaela wants to say thank you to her mom, grandmother, and little cousin Bella for being constant reminders of what powerful women can do. She would also like to thank TuYo Theatre for continuously lifting up the voice of Latinx Women.

**Markuz Rodriguez** - A San Diego native, Markuz has been acting professionally for the last 15 years and is honored to have been asked to help these very special stories to life. Some favorite local credits include: Stage (Backyard Renaissance); All in the Timing, A Bright New Boise, Good People (Onstage Playhouse); Sweat, A Christmas Carol, Corridos REMix (San Diego Repertory Theatre); The Madres (Moxie Theatre); Under Construction (Sledgehammer Theatre); Speech & Debate (Diversions Theatre); Seven Spots on the Sun (InnerMission Productions); Punks (Ion Theatre); Wally & His Lover Boys, Midnight Alley, Bedrooms & Boyfriends (Compulsion Dance & Theatre). Mr. Rodriguez has studied on-camera performance with Robert Dahey, commedia dell'arte with Gale McNeeley, and most recently completed two years of the Meisner technique at Studio 4/Playhouse West in North Hollywood, California. A newly minted teaching artist with Playwrights Project, he devotes much of his time to the development of new work for stage, film, television, radio/podcast, and the interwebz at large. Along with friend and author David Vaughn, he wrote, directed and produced the irreverent madcap comedy The Cat Lady which saw its sold-out world premiere run at the Tenth Avenue Arts Center in the summer of 2017, and a year later, in collaboration with local artist Isaac Kalimo, wrote and directed the sexy ensemble one-act Okurrr (presented at the 2018 San Diego Fringe Festival under Michael Mizerany's Tabled Manners) which he is currently adapting into a short film.

**Bianca Vanegas** is very proud to be performing and working with great actors and writers after a year and a half of COVID. She is more than excited to share these lovely projects with her friends and family and hope they enjoy it. She would like to thank Mabelle for reaching out and giving her this opportunity and everyone else involved for making her feel like she was apart of the family.

# Bios

**Bernardo Mazón Daher** (he/him) is a border-brat bred in the San Diego South Bay. While he was in college Bernardo cut his teeth locally practicing theatre as an actor, director, writer, educator, and producer. After graduating, he began making theatre around the country in both premier, prestigious productions alongside grassroots, community-based projects. Along the way, Bernardo also organized for public health causes and voting campaigns in Hispanic communities. His work dovetails activism and art in pursuit of social progress. He has advocated for reform and funding on regional, national, and hemispheric levels, including serving as a steering committee member of the Latinx Theatre Commons, forging grants and awards opportunities for dramaturgs across Latin America, and founding a nonprofit for Latinx artists and audiences back home. Bernardo is an all around storyteller driven to create spaces where different peoples can intersect to listen, learn, labor, love, and play together.

**Braulio Arquilla** is a sixth-grader from San Diego, California. He plays tennis, video games, and paintball. A history buff, he loves to read and write about World War II. His first play, Quarantine Birthday was performed by Playwrights Project as a Zoom reading at the start of the pandemic. Manuel in Cocovid-19 is his first acting role -- his mom made him do it.

**Rosa Sanchez** is a San Diego State University graduate with a Bachelors in Theatre, emphasis in technology and design. She was born and raised in a Mexican household in Southern California. Her art is a tribute to her immigrant Hispanic parents and desires to teach her stories, and her families stories through costuming and live performance.





For more info or to inquire about  
joining Pa' Letras, contact  
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