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**SIN MUROS: A BORDERLESS TEATRO FESTIVAL CELEBRATES
5th YEAR HIGHLIGHTING LATINX ARTISTS AND STORIES**

Free Public Festival Happens In-Person at The Gordy February 17-20

HOUSTON, TX (February 2, 2022) – Each year, Stages celebrates the range of Latinx voices and stories reflecting the diversity of local Texas communities. This season’s 5th annual *Sin Muros: A Borderless Teatro Festival* will take place February 17-20 at The Gordy. The festival weekend will be filled with public events for audiences, local theater-makers and educators, including play and poetry readings, workshops and an art market.

As all arts communities navigate a unique time in the middle of a pandemic, the 5th anniversary of Sin Muros marks the festival’s return to an in-person celebration following last year’s fully virtual event. The 2022 festival includes three in-person readings and one virtual reading which will continue to be available online following the festival’s conclusion.

“On behalf of the Sin Muros Teatro Festival – we welcome you back to the magic making – al puro son del corazón!” said Lupe Mendez, festival coordinator. “Come see what all the buzz is about, come see cutting edge work from every kind of thing that is Tejano.”

The festival showcases four world premiere play readings for development. After a remarkable number of submissions, the Sin Muros play selection committee chose readings of new plays **Karen Alvarado**, **Alicia Margarita Olivo**, **Adrienne Dawes** and **Josie Nericcio**. Notably, this year’s Sin Muros will include the largest number of Latinx theater-makers in the festival’s history.

In addition, co-organizing partner **Tintero Projects** will provide a series of poetry readings, an educator’s professional development session and a writing workshop throughout this year’s festival.

The **2022 Premio Puente** will be presented to **Ruby Rivera**, Artistic Director for the Texas Salsa Congress – the Salsa community’s only female Salsa organizer on the national scene. The Premio Puente was created to recognize the exceptional contributions of leaders in the Houston area Latinx arts community. Each year, the Sin Muros Task Force (organizing body) selects an individual or organization who has demonstrated great skill/talent/drive/care in serving the Latinx art community in the Houston area. Recipients are celebrated during the festival and are honored with a one of a kind award created just for them by renowned artist Joseph Blanchard.

TICKETS: All events are free and open to the public. Patrons can support the festival and help keep it free for the community by purchasing a suggested \$25 pass for the full weekend. To purchase, call the Stages Box Office at 713.527.0123, email patronservices@stageshouston.com or reserve online at stageshouston.com.

Safety protocols: All patrons must show a negative Covid-19 test or proof of vaccination prior to entry. Masks are required for all patrons during events in The Gordy. For more information, please visit StagesHouston.com.

Festival Schedule

Thursday, February 17

7:00pm - *Body of Christie*

Friday, February 18

7:00pm - *Body of Christie*

7:00pm - *Count Yourself Among the Lucky*

Saturday, February 19

11:00am–8:00pm - Arts Market

11:00am–1:00pm - Professional Development Workshop

2:00pm - *Count Yourself Among the Lucky*

7:00pm - *This Bitch: Esta Sangre Quiero*

Sunday, February 20

11:00am–1:00pm - Writing Workshop

2:00pm - *This Bitch: Esta Sangre Quiero*

2:00pm - *Easter Sunday at the Juarez Flower Shop*

Body of Christie

by Karen Alvarado

Thursday, February 17, at 7:00pm

Friday, February 18, at 7:00pm

Rochelle & Max Levit Stage

directed by Luis Galindo

assistant directed by Edmundo Cardona

A timid Christie joins a Hispanic historical theatre troupe, The Quetzal Theatre Company, and in doing so she embraces a world of intricate friendship, artistry, and cultural awakening. Christie's father joins the group, but his overambition causes the financial collapse of the group which parallels his own financial and marital collapse. As Christie's "happy place" slips away she strives to defend her martyr mother, understand her flawed father, and build a shaky tower towards her dream of acting. *Body of Christie* will take the tone of a dark, yet fantastical "Little Miss Sunshine" set in Corpus Christi, Texas. The Latinx characters are complex Americans floating between generational poverty, modernity, and

cultural perseverance. This play explores race and culture's role in Latinx upward mobility in the context of the Anglo-colonized Texas borderlands.

***Count Yourself
Among the Lucky***

by Alicia Margarita Olivo

Friday, February 18, at 7:00pm
Saturday, February 19, at 2:00pm
Lester & Sue Smith Stage

directed by Cesar Jaquez

Belén and Andy, childhood friends-turned-lovers, find themselves stranded off of an abandoned South Texas highway on their way to Mexico. They're trapped in a liminal space, where only the two of them exist without the need for food, water, or sleep. Soon enough, the couple's buried resentments and secrets start to rise, culminating in one last celebration. Inspired by comic book aesthetics, *Count Yourself Among the Lucky* is a confrontation of violence, trauma, and, of course, love. Commissioned by AlterTheater Ensemble in San Rafael, CA. Part of Telatúlsa's #telatuesdays virtual readings series.

***This Bitch:
Esta Sangre Quiero***

by Adrienne Dawes
music by Eric Johnson
lyrics by Adrienne Dawes & Lope de Vega
adapted by khattieq

Saturday, February 19, at 7:00pm
Sunday, February 20, at 2:00pm
Rochelle & Max Levit Stage

directed by Marissa Castillo

When Diana, a ruthless and power-hungry Pilates influencer, learns her social media manager Teodoro is hooking up with her makeup artist Madeinusa, it sparks bitter jealousy. Even though it would be social suicide for her to date someone with zero followers, Diana finds herself falling madly in love, but if she can't have Teodoro ... no one can! *This Bitch: Esta Sangre Quiero* is a big, bawdy, bilingual Gen-Z comedy inspired by Lope de Vega's Golden Age epic "El perro del hortelano" and set in Tulum, México.

***Easter Sunday
at the Juarez Flower Shop***

by Josie Nericcio

Sunday, February 20, at 2:00pm
Streaming Online via YouTube

directed by Candice D'Meza

It's Easter Sunday at the floral shop run by the Juarez sisters, Tencha and Anita. The shop is across the street from the city cemetery and sells only artificial flowers. Anita, the younger sister, is dying of cancer, but Tencha is holding out hope in the form of a curandera she has hired, without telling her sister. As Tencha waits for the curandera, Anita tries to prepare her sister for her death, something Tencha does not want to talk about; but the future is coming, no matter how hard Tencha tries to avoid it.

Professional Development Workshop

led by Lupe Mendez

Saturday, February 19, 11:00am–1:00pm

Join Texas Poet Laureate, Lupe Mendez as educators work a 2 hour workshop - STORYTELLING + the LANGUAGE of SPACE. Educators will use a snippet of EASTER SUNDAY AT THE JUAREZ FLOWER SHOP as a way to jump into a conversation about storytelling and its connection to space, time, setting and oral history as inroads to crafting narrative and nonfiction hybrid writing.

Writing Workshop

Ekphrasis as Work-share: Adapting Classical Art into Narrative

led by Adrienne Dawes

Sunday, February 20, 11:00am–1:00pm

Join playwright Adrienne Dawes for an exploration of adaptation modeled through 2 recent projects: Dawes' play "Casta" an adaptation of 17th century casta paintings and "This Bitch: Esta Sangre Quiero," her Gen Z adaptation of the Golden Age epic "El perro del hortelano" by Lope de Vega. This workshop will include generative writing exercises that draw inspiration from comedia and classic art.

Sin Muros: A Borderless Teatro Festival is a collaborative community effort. The organizing taskforce is made up of activists, educators, artistas, grassroots organizers, Ph.Ds, compadres y comadres. Stages looks to their direction and voice to help mold what the festival looks like year after year.

Marissa Castillo

Marketing & Communications
TEATRX

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Benito Vasquez
Artistic Director
TEATRX

Sin Muros is produced in partnership with an incredible community of artists, educators, advisors and organizations. Stages encourages patrons to consider making a donation to one of our 2022 partner organizations:

TEATRX is a Latinx theatre company established in 2018 to advance Latinx performance arts in order to be a vital and prominent part of the artistic identity of Houston by representing and supporting the Latinx community, its artists, and its stories. True to our mission in just two years we have built a community of Latinx artists by providing artistic opportunities to over 50 local artists. Our programming gives community ownership of the art that is being created for and about them; sparking inspiration in the community, creating future theatre goers, and perhaps future artists. Our 3rd annual short play and short film festival, *La Vida Es Cortos / Life Is Shorts* continues in November 2021.

TINTERO PROJECTS The word *tintero* is Spanish for *inkwell*, an old school container once used to house the ink for a pen. The image was selected as a way to show that this project, this movement is about providing resources for the writer. Founded by poet **Lupe Méndez, Tintero Projects / Proyectos Tintero** aims to promote writing & reading opportunities for emerging Latinx poets and writers in the Houston – Galveston/Gulf Coast Region. Originally founded as just “Tintero Readings”, Méndez hopes to reestablish a nurturing aspect to the ever-growing Latino writing community, with Houston as its main hub. **Tintero Projects** is the emerging writer’s arm of *Nuestra Palabra: Latino Writers Having Their Say*, focusing on creating workshop, performance and community opportunities in Spanish, English, Spanglish, Indigenous Languages and Portuguese. Tintero Projects is dedicated to helping create a platform for Latinx writers and Writers of Color.

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ABOUT STAGES

In January 2020, Stages opened our new \$35.4 million home, The Gordy, ushering in a new era for this iconic Houston institution. Founded in 1978, Stages is a professional Equity theater that makes plays and tells stories that invite everyone to live more deeply and love more boldly. We hold up a mirror to our community in order to crack open the question: "What does it mean to be human?" Stages presents a broad scope of plays and musicals in an intimate setting, generating critical acclaim and creating a devoted community of patrons and artists who share a true sense of engagement, inclusion and connection.

Stages is one of only a handful of Texas theaters that offers year-round employment for creative professionals. On average, Stages produces 10 productions per year offering hundreds performances and reaching 75,000+ patrons. Almost all of Stages' shows are rehearsed and constructed on-site in Houston, brought to life by an exceptional community of locally-based artists and craftspeople along with occasional guest directors, actors and designers from around the world.

For more than a decade Stages has made a strong investment in nurturing emerging artists and craftspeople who have now become field leaders and working professionals. Stages' learning opportunities include student matinees, mentorship programs for college students and young professionals, and conservatory-style training for middle and high school students.

For more information visit www.stageshouston.com.