



2022 LATINX THEATRE COMMONS  
COMEDY  
CARNIVAL

June 9-11, 2022 | Su Teatro | Denver, CO

#2022LTCComedyCarnaval

#LatinxTheatreCommons





LATINX THEATRE  
**COMMONS**

The **Latinx Theatre Commons (LTC)** is a national movement that uses a commons-based approach to transform the narrative of the American theatre, to amplify the visibility of Latinx performance making, and to champion equity through advocacy, art making, convening, and scholarship. The LTC is a flagship program of HowlRound.

Our values include Service, Radical Inclusion, Transparency, Legacy & Leadership Cultivation, and Advancement of the Art Form. The actions of the LTC are championed by a volunteer Steering Committee made up of passionate Latinx theatremakers and scholars from across the country. The LTC Steering Committee a self-organized collective that has chosen to adopt a commons-based approach to advocate for Latinx theatre as a vital, significant presence in the New American Theatre. We foster emergent national leadership through an organic organizing method of activating our networks and expanding our circles of connection. We seek to celebrate diverse connections, honor our past with reflection, and envision our future with optimism and enthusiasm. [latinxtheatrecommons.com](http://latinxtheatrecommons.com)

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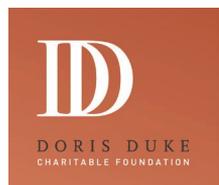
**Su Teatro** is a cultural and performing arts center dedicated to the creation and presentation of artistic work by Chicano and Latino artists. The organization was born out of the Chicano Movement, and is committed to providing a forum and vehicle for the strengthening and preservation of culture, history and memory of the Latinx community. [suteatro.org](http://suteatro.org)

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**HowlRound**, located in the Office of the Arts at Emerson College, is a free and open platform for theatremakers worldwide that amplifies progressive, disruptive ideas about the art form and facilitates connection between diverse practitioners. Using a commons-based approach, HowlRound invites open participation from theatremakers worldwide around shared values and envisions a theatre field where resources and power are shared equitably in all directions, contributing to a more just and sustainable world. For more information visit [howlround.com](http://howlround.com).

**The 2022 LTC Comedy Comedy Carnaval is made possible by**



## Producer's Note

Ten years ago, eight Latinx theatre artists gathered in Washington, D.C. for a day-long conversation on the challenges and opportunities facing Latinx theatremakers in the United States. Seeking a way to create greater dialogue and increase Latinx representation across the field resulted in what we now know as the Latinx Theatre Commons (LTC).

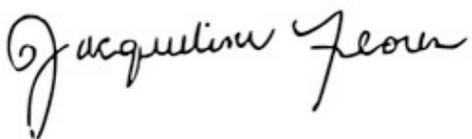
Throughout the last decade, the LTC has grown into a national volunteer-driven movement of Latinx and allied theatremakers working to establish a strong, visible, equitable, and inclusive network of over 6,300 constituents, championed by 38 active Steering Committee members and 34 Advisory Committee members. We have ventured to create a park that is welcoming to all and able to serve people as they walk through different paths in life and in our ever-evolving theatre field.

In 2019, the LTC announced its programming for the next four years. The first initiative in the robust slate was supposed to happen in March 2020. Needless to say, there was no in-person gathering and there hasn't been until now. However, we have not been dormant. Throughout the last two and a half years, we have worked to deepen our understanding of Latinidad, gathered virtually to complete workshops on combating anti-Blackness, created space for a five-week, Latinx-led playwriting series which was livestreamed on HowlRound, continued our work with the Fornés Institute, and re-imagined what our next convening would look like time and time again, as we received new information daily and longed to safely gather again.

This month marks my first full year as the LTC Producer. And what a year it's been! I am geekily excited to see you all in person instead of Zoom squares. I am so thankful for those that came before me and your willingness to give your time to this movement and continue to push the American theatre in unimaginable ways. The LTC is yours and I am grateful for the opportunity to help steer it alongside you all.

Comedy Carnival marks the LTC's twelfth convening. This event is a product of the stereotypes that still exist today in the American theatre. It is the first genre-specific event of the LTC and our way to interrupt the repeated immigrant, trauma-based stories that are often put on stage and seek to represent an entire ethnicity. We are immigrants, children of immigrants, first generation, dreamers, y mucho mas. We hope this gathering shines light on the vastness of what it means to be Latine and sparks dialogue that increases the diversity of stories that are told about our people. Let's continue showing up in spaces as our full selves and celebrating our existence.

Pa'lante,



Jacqueline Flores  
Producer, Latinx Theatre Commons

## Champion's Note

When I pitched the idea for the Comedy Carnival to the Latinx Theatre Commons Steering Committee in 2018, I had an abstract idea based on a love of humor, a curiosity about the intersection of theatre with other forms of storytelling, and a hunger for an event centering fun and playfulness. It has only been through the rigorous process of planning (and re-planning when it seemed we would need to go virtual...and then re-re-planning for in-person) that I have come to understand more deeply why comedy is so potent and so critical. If you spent the early, isolated weeks of COVID watching every stand-up special on Netflix, or if you navigated your anxiety during the interminable week of waiting for the results of the 2020 election by laughing darkly with your friends and family about plans to revolt or flee that may or may not have been a joke, or if you felt compelled to come to this event even though it was inconvenient or expensive, then you know exactly what I mean.

I am so grateful for this opportunity to share in a communal, co-created space that values Latine humor, joy, and comedy in all its intersectional forms. I must especially thank Jacqueline, Tony, Mica, the Su Teatro team, the LTC Steering Committee, and HowlRound for all of the support and trust. I am grateful to each of you for your presence. Laughing alone can help heal a person, but laughing together can help heal the world.



Amelia Acosta Powell  
2022 Latinx Theatre Commons Comedy Carnival Champion

# DAY ONE

Thursday,  
9 June 2022



Live captions:



## 12:00-2:00pm

### **Check-in Table Opens**

New conveners are encouraged to arrive by 12:30pm to make the New Convener's Session. All others should plan to arrive by 1:40pm. During this time attendees will check-in, get their name tag, program, some cool swag (!), and check for proof of vaccination. Please make sure you bring your vaccine card or a picture of it and an ID that matches the name on the vaccine card.

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## 12:30-1:30pm

### **New Conveners Session**

Join LTC Advisory Committee members Kevin Becerra and Abigail Vega for the 411 on the LTC's history and get paired up with a buddy who has attended an LTC event before. This session is geared toward those attending an LTC convening for the first time, but all are welcome.

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## 2:00-3:30pm

### **Opening Ceremonies\***

It's been three years since we've been in the same room together! Join us for remarks from LTC Producer Jacqueline Flores, Comedy Carnival Champion Amelia Acosta Powell, and Su Teatro Artistic Director Tony Garcia. They will set intentions for the weekend and lead an ice breaker activity to help everyone get to know each other before kicking off the weekend!

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## 3:30-4:00pm

### **Snack Break!**

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## 4:00-6:00pm

### ***Escobar's Hippo\** by Franky Gonzalez | Directed by Sorany Gutierrez | Staged Reading**

A Colombian town along the Magdalena River plunges into chaos after a flatulent, destructive, easily offended, and sexually adventurous hippo comes to town and wreaks havoc. The crisis worsens when people begin transforming into hippos themselves, causing not only chaos, but the beginnings of a revolution where humans are put to death by these new Hipposapiens. As this shifting of civilization unfolds, three friends try to figure out how to deal with the transforming population and solve the connection between the hippos and a notorious drug lord.

Sessions marked with a \* will be live-streamed on Howlround. These sessions will also have live captions available in-person or online. To access the captions in person, follow the QR code on the previous page.

## 6:15-7:00pm

### **Break/Optional Shuttle buses to Denver Center for the Performing Arts**

Shuttle buses will be available to transport attendees from Su Teatro to Denver Center for the Performing Arts for the pre-show reception and performance of *Quixote Nuevo*.

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## 6:30-7:30pm

### **Pre-Show Reception at DCPA**

Location: 1101 13th St, Denver, CO 80204

The event, held in partnership with Colorado Symphony and Arts & Venues, will take place under the glass rooftop of the Denver Performing Arts Complex before stepping into the fantastical journey of *Quixote Nuevo*. Admission is free. Local food and drinks will be available to purchase.

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## 7:30-10:00pm

### ***Quixote Nuevo* by Octavio Solis | Directed by Lisa Portes**

Set in the fictional modern-day Texas border town of La Plancha, Quixote and his luckless but trusty sidekick, Sancho, embark on a fantastical quest in search of long-lost love. Infused with imagination, comedy, and Tejano music, *Quixote Nuevo* reveals the joys and perils of facing down Death and becoming the hero of your own story.

In service and celebration of Tejano culture and Cervantes' classic tale of Don Quixote, audiences can expect to hear lots of music and Spanish language throughout the performance.

# DAY TWO

Friday,  
10 June 2022



Live captions:



 **10:00-11:00am**

**Cafecito!**

It's not morning without a cafecito! Get all the chisme from fellow attendees before starting the day. Coffee and light pastries will be provided.

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 **11:00am-1:00pm**

***Exhaustion: Dancin' Trees In The Ravine, a Psychedelic Comedia\****  
**by W. Fran Astorga | Directed by R. Réal Vargas Alanis | Staged Reading**

Three friends escape into the Santa Cruz mountains in search of a place to swim and BBQ. They packed for the beach without realizing they had a treacherous hike down a ravine. Once at a waterhole, the consumption of some shrooms sets the stage for a heartfelt adventure between friends too tired to know how to rest.

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 **1:00-2:30pm**

**Lunch**

Lunch will be provided by the LTC from Tocabe. Weather permitting we will be gathering outdoors!

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 **2:30-4:00pm**

**Latine Comedy in Conversation\***

Amelia Acosta Powell will host a conversation with Adrienne Dawes, Evelina Fernandez, Donelle Prado, and Herbert Siguenza about the intersection of Latinidad and comedy performance. Learn how these Latine artists approach comedic storytelling, how comedic Latine stories are valued (or not) by artists, producers and audiences, what is unique and important about Latine storytelling in the genre of comedy and about live comedic performance within the realm of Latine storytelling, how comedic forms heal Latine communities, where Latine comedy theatre comes from, and where it may be going.

Sessions marked with a \* will be live-streamed on Howlround. These sessions will also have live captions available in-person or online. To access the captions in person, follow the QR code on the previous page.

 **4:30-5:30pm**

**Breakout Sessions**

Choose a workshop to participate in. Sign-ups will be available beginning on Wednesday at the check-in table.

**Session #1: Demystifying the Submission Process**

Join Patrice Amon, Associate Artistic Director and Latinx Projects Producer at San Diego Rep and Sonia Fernandez, Director of New Work at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in a workshop to learn more about the inner workings of the new work submission and selection process for a theatre's season.

**Session #2: The Art of Play**

Join Meghan Frank and Buba Basi of Theatre Artibus for a physical comedy ensemble building workshop.

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 **5:30pm-7:00pm**

**Dinner on your own**

Recommendations of local restaurants provided by the LTC. Make a reservation for multiple people and bring friends and someone you just met!

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 **7:00-7:30pm**

**Pre-Show Reception at Su Teatro**

Join Su Teatro staff and community members to toast to *Chicanos Sing the Blues!*

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 **7:30-10:00pm**

***Chicanos Sing The Blues* at Su Teatro**

Explore the corridos, boleros, the oldies and the bluesiest of the blues, while uncovering the legends and roots of Chicano Music.

## 10:00-10:30pm

### **Travel to Raices Brewery**

Location: 2060 W Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80204

Lyft rides will be provided to transport attendees from Su Teatro to Raices Brewery. You can use the code: COMEDYCARNAVAL to get a free ride to Raices from Lyft. You can also use this link: [lyft.com/lp/COMEDYCARNAVAL](https://lyft.com/lp/COMEDYCARNAVAL) and the discount will be automatically applied to your account.

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## 10:30pm-12:30am

### **Stand up/Solo Performance Evening at Raices Brewery**

Join us for an evening of laughter hosted by local Denver comedian, Donelle Prado!

#### ***Are You There?* by Cristina Fernandez**

Cristina Fernandez is a performer, writer, and translator originally from Puerto Rico and currently living in Los Angeles. *Are You There?* is a stand-up comedy show that mixes video from the 2020 Los Angeles lockdown with live performance. The show pokes at modernity, motherhood, and existentialism. *Are You There?* shows us how far we've come and how much we're still seeking.

#### **Stand-Up Comedy by Jess Martínez**

She's single, bilingual, and ready to mingle...well, she's single. Jess Martínez is a Chicago-based stand-up comedian who enjoys making audiences laugh as she genuinely tries to make sense of the world around her. She is the associate producer of Las Locas Comedy and assistant producer at the Moth StorySLAM Chicago.

#### ***What Are You?* by Milta Ortiz**

In the ten-minute solo piece *What Are You?*, a young muxer finds herself in 1990s Oakland hip-hop culture. People assume she's mixed: Black and Latina. She begins to question what it means to be 100 percent Salvadoreña. Is the drum beat an ancestral call? But Mamí grew up in El Salvador and has different ideas.

#### ***A Little Bit of Gay: A Standup Piece by a Homo* by R. Réal Vargas Alanis**

Dive into the queer world with R. Réal Vargas Alanis. Leave censorship and code-switching behind, tap into your inner chola, and go on a journey to a barrio in Central California. Get a glimpse of the life of a homo navigating sugar daddies, queer hookup culture, and religion. Careful though—you might catch "the gay" after experiencing this piece... we can't blame you though. Gay is cool. *A Little Bit of Gay* is slated to open during Pride Month. It would be homophobic of you not to support. Warning: This stand-up piece is not for the prudes—you will hear about the time they went to urgent care because they damaged their throat glock glockn' on turkey necks.

#### **HOLY KITTY KAT by Katie Ventura**

HOLY KITTY KAT is an emotional dramedy following a first-gen Chicana YouTuber coming to grips with Catholicism and generational curses of her Mexican lineage while being queer. Told in vignettes, we follow her as a teen and young adult trying to define who she is inside/out.

# DAY THREE

Saturday,  
11 June 2022



Live captions:



 **10:30-11:30am**

**Cafecito!**

Join for pan dulce and cafecito after a late night. The party is not over yet!

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 **11:30am-1:30pm**

**Short Form Comedy**

This session will showcase a variety of forms including sketch, carpa, and short film.

***Marimacha* by Darrel Alejandro Holnes (short film) | Directed by Cami Cruz Thomas**

When an illicit picture outs the daughter of two conservative Afro-Panamanians on their way to a family wedding, the family must finally confront the elephant in the room and decide who gets to define love in and outside the family.

***La Carpa De La Frontera\** by CARPA San Diego | Directed by Samuel Valdez**

*La Carpa De La Frontera* is a site-specific, tent-like vaudeville touring show which can be taken into communities that are in most need of healing from the current pandemic situation. These performances address issues such as immigration, race, gender, human rights, accessibility, and culture in comedic form, using the concept of the old carpa style used in Mexico during the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. This unique touring troupe of performing artists focuses on social change creating a show dealing with social and political issues through a comical platform that anyone can enjoy.

***The Invocation of Selena\** by Tus Tías | Directed by GerRee Hinshaw**

*The Invocation of Selena* (TIOS) is a sketch comedy and cabaret-style show that explores how cultural icon Selena Quintanilla Pérez continues to inspire and motivate Latine people, particularly women and the LGBTQIA community. Through character monologues, drag, choreographed dance numbers, audience participation, moments of song, and more, TIOS celebrates cultural duality while examining when, why, and how we call on Santa Selena in our everyday lives. At the top of the show, Selena is literally invoked and, in this case, she is a larger-than-life drag queen who guides the cast on this journey to help them find their way in a society that desires to put them in a box. The show also uses biographical information about the artist as well as the 1997 Gregory Nava film *Selena* as source material to create characters and scenes that tease out our diaspora as Mexicans, Americans, Mexican Americans, *pochos*, *Latines*, *queers*... “and it’s exhausting!”

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 **1:30-3:00pm**

**Lunch + Small Group Takeaways**

Lunch will be provided by the LTC from El Noa Noa with special beverages from Aguas Colorado. You’ll be prompted to enjoy your meal while participating in a reflection activity for our final day together.

Sessions marked with a \* will be live-streamed on Howlround. These sessions will also have live captions available in-person or online. To access the captions in person, follow the QR code on the previous page.

 **3:30-5:00pm**

***La Egoista\** by Erlina Ortiz | Directed by Amelia Acosta Powell | Staged Reading**

*La Egoista* explores the story of Josefina, a rising stand-up comic who takes nothing seriously, and her conservative sister Betsaida, who is suddenly diagnosed with a chronic illness. This surreal one-act follows Josefina through her comedic sets as they unfold in conjunction with the deterioration of her sister's health. *La Egoista* uses comedy, puppets, magic, and memory to explore the cost of caregiving, the different ways we process grief, and how to find the balance between selfless and selfish. *La Egoista* was commissioned and developed at Live & In Color.

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 **5:00-6:30pm**

**Closing Ceremonies and Honoring Diane Rodriguez\***

During this time we will respond to questions of the event, set intentions for the future and uplift the commitments we are making moving forward. We will also pass the torch to the champions of the LTC's next event and share with you all a little bit about the 2023 LTC Colaboratorio Director & Designer Process Lab. We will also honor former LTC Advisory Committee member and la mera mera, Diane Rodriguez (1951-2020).

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 **6:30-9:30pm**

**Closing Fiesta!**

Location: Museo de las Americas, 861 Santa Fe Dr, Denver, CO 80204. The Museo is walking distance from Su Teatro - just 1 block away!

Dance the night away to tunes provided by DJ Nes and enjoy a taste of Denver with food trucks including El Cubanaso and Las Cazuelas de Fer as well as sweet treats from Lala's Bakery. Local beer provided by Latine owned breweries, Cheluna and Dos Luces.

# Meet the Artists of Comedy Carnaval 2022



## **R. Real Vargas Alanis** they/them, elle/elles, inde/ima



R. Réal Vargas Alanis (Purépecha) is a queer, Indigenous, interdisciplinary artist and entrepreneur from the barrio of what is currently known as Winton, California (Yokut). Réal focuses on new works centering social justice, uplifting marginalized stories and artists. They have had the privilege of training and working nationally and internationally. Réal is the current artistic director of the arts and advocacy organization In the Margin, leading an ensemble of intersectional and interdisciplinary QTBIPOC artists. Réal believes in taking action as opposed to “listening” and works alongside the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement; Northern Valley Labor Council; the San Francisco Video Labor Project; 99 Rootz; ILWU; Teamsters; IATSE; Central Valley BIPOC Coalition; and is the founder of the Central Valley vs. COVID Coalition, serving community members and upholding labor rights for food processing and agriculture workers. Réal is also an ordained minister (Reverend St. RAV) and runs the widely successful, Sexii Tacos: “Where the tacos are Sexii and so are you!”

Instagram: [@realvalanis](#) | [@inthemargin\\_ITM](#) | [@sexiitacos](#)  
[realvalanis.com](#) | [inthemargin.org](#)

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## **W. Fran Astorga** they/them



Fran is a queer, Latinx/Chicanx creator that upholds, “If ‘all the world’s a stage,’ then we need to ensure that the world we represent on our stages insights action for the world we need and not the world we need to leave behind.” They’ve had the privilege of working across the country and abroad. Their work has primarily been showcased and performed in California’s Central Valley, where they call home. The stories and art that excite Fran most are those that dismantle monolithic expectations for marginalized identities. They are a founder and core leader of In the Margin, a non-profit arts and advocacy organization.

Instagram: [@theyarefran](#)

# Meet the Artists of Comedy Carnaval 2022

## Cristina Fernandez

she/her



Cristina Fernandez is an actor, stand-up comedian, and writer. She's currently writing the Spanish translation of *El Verde* by Anthony Aguilar, a comic book about a Mexican American superhero.

Cristina has worked alongside Conan O'Brien and Christopher Guest, and has been seen and heard on NBC, HBO, Fuse TV, American Latino, CliffsNotes' Animated Series, and numerous national commercials. She's performed at prestigious venues including Skirball Cultural Center, Hammer Museum, Bootleg Theater, El Portal Theatre, CTG, Laugh Factory, and the Comedy Store.

Cristina's work centers around presence, parenthood, and existentialism. She holds a MA in acting from the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts). Cristina was born to Cuban parents and is originally from Puerto Rico. Yes, it's part of the United States.

Instagram: [@Theonecristinafernandez](#) | [Cristinafernandez.net](#)

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## Franky Gonzalez

he/him



Franky D. Gonzalez is a playwright and TV writer of Colombian descent based in Dallas, Texas. Franky was a recipient of the 2020 Charles Rowan Beye New Play Commission, co-recipient for the 2018 MetLife Nuestras Voces Latino Playwriting Award, winner of the 2020 Crossroads Project Diverse Voices Playwriting Initiative Award, the Judith Royer Award for Excellence in Playwriting, and was a staff writer for the fourth season of *13 Reasons Why*. His work has been seen at the Lark, Sundance Institute, Goodman Theatre, the Latinx Playwrights Circle, the National Winter Playwrights Retreat, NNPN, New Harmony Project, Ojai Playwrights Conference, Great Plains Theatre Conference, Repertorio Español, LAByrnth Theater Company, Dallas Theater Center, Austin Latinx New Play Festival, Stages Repertory Theatre, Ammunition Theatre Company, and Kitchen Dog Theater. Franky served proudly as the 2018 Dramatists Guild Regional Representative and was named the 4Seasons Resident Playwright in 2021.

Twitter: [@phatthedd](#) | Instagram: [phattheddproductions](#)

# Meet the Artists of Comedy Carnival 2022

## Darrel Alejandro Holnes

he/him



Darrel Alejandro Holnes is an Afro-Panamanian American writer. His plays have received productions or readings at the Kennedy Center for the Arts American College Theater Festival (KCACTF), the Brick Theater, Kitchen Theatre Company, Pregones Theater/PRTT, Primary Stages, and elsewhere. He is a member of the Lincoln Center Director's Lab, Civilians R&D Group, Page 73's Interstate 73 Writers Workshop, and other groups. His play, *Starry Night*, was a finalist for the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Playwrights Conference and the Princess Grace Award in Playwriting. His play *Bayano* was also a finalist for the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Playwrights Conference. His most recent play, *Black Feminist Video Game*, won an Inaugural Anthem Award and was produced by the Civilians for 59E59 Theaters, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Center Theatre Group, and other theatres and venues. He is the founder of the Greater Good Commission, a festival of Latinx short plays.

Instagram: [@blackboytraveljoy](#) | [darrelholnes.com](#)

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## Jess Martínez

she/her



Jess Martínez is a Chicago-based comedian who enjoys making audiences laugh as she genuinely tries to make sense of the world around her. She has entertained audiences at Laugh Factory Chicago, Steppenwolf, Chicago Women's Funny Fest, Yippie Fest, and countless other venues across Chicago, Milwaukee, and Houston. Her love of stand-up comedy started in middle school when she became obsessed with Comedy Central's half-hour specials featuring comedians like Mitch Hedberg, Jim Gaffigan, Demetri Martin, Nick Swardson, Pablo Francisco, Mike Birbiglia, and Brian Regan.

Jess is a graduate of both the Second City Training Center and Feminine Comique stand-up programs. Her background in art, fundraising, and user experience design makes her an unflappable designer of delightful experiences. Her roles as associate producer at Las Locas Comedy and assistant producer at the Moth StorySLAM Chicago are proof.

Instagram: [@meetjessmartinez](#) | [meetjessmartinez.events](#)

# Meet the Artists of Comedy Carnival 2022

## Erlina Ortiz

she/her/ella



Erlina Ortiz is a Dominican American playwright and theatremaker from Reading, Pennsylvania. She is proud to be co-artistic director of Power Street Theatre, where many of her heartfelt and timely plays have been given life. Erlina's plays have won the Bonaly Award for Creation of Community Joy and been nominated for six Barrymore Awards, including Outstanding New Play. Erlina has had residencies with Amtrak, Signal Fire Outpost, and Live & In Color. In 2019, she delivered a keynote address at the Delaware Writer's Conference on the importance of nurturing your artistic community. She was a member of NEXUS with NYSF in 2020/2021, is a two time recipient of the Leeway Art and Change Grant (2020/2021), and the Transformation Award (2021). She has been a teacher with UARTS, Power Street Theatre, and Blue Stoop in Philadelphia. Erlina believes being an artist is a superpower and she believes in using her powers for good.

[erlinaortiz.com](http://erlinaortiz.com) | Instagram: [@erlina6ortiz](https://www.instagram.com/erlina6ortiz) | Twitter: [@ErlinaOrtiz](https://twitter.com/ErlinaOrtiz)

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## Milta Ortiz

she/her



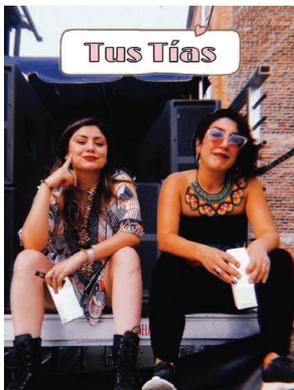
Milta Ortiz is an award-winning playwright, poet, performer, and writer. From the Bay Area by way of El Salvador, she now calls Tucson home. She is developing *Anita*, a musical in collaboration with composer Quetzal Guerrero at Borderlands Theater. She incubated *Anita* at ASU HIDA where she was a 2020-21 Projecting All Voices Mellon Fellow. Her play *Pilar and Paloma* was part of Launchpad's 2021 BIPOC Reading Series Festival. Judge Torres, commissioned and produced by Milagro Theatre Group, toured nationally to universities (2019-2020). Milta is associate artistic director at Borderlands Theater, where a few of her plays, including *Sanctuary* (2018) and *Más* (2015), have world-premiered. Borderlands' production of *Más* toured Arizona universities. *Más* was produced at Su Teatro, Ubuntu Theatre Project/Laney College, and San Diego State University. She teaches theatre at Pima Community College. She earned an MFA from Northwestern University, and a BA from San Francisco State University.

Instagram, Twitter, Facebook: [@miltaortiz](https://www.instagram.com/miltaortiz) | [miltaortiz.com](http://miltaortiz.com)

# Meet the Artists of Comedy Carnaval 2022

## Tus Tías

Jessi Realz (she/her) and  
Marilet Martínez (she/they)



Jessi Realz and Marilet Martínez are the artistic creative force known as Tus Tías because Tus Tías always bring the chisme, fun, and fierceness! They have collaborated together since 2017 and are half of the nationally renowned, Chicago-based Latina comedy collective Ratas de Dos Patas (RDDP). Jessi and Mari have co-created fan favorite programming like RDDP's annual Día de Los Muertos show, Ratas Gigante, and the first inception of The Invocation of Selena. With puro amor for representation, Tus Tías conceive shows that put Latine cultura, icons and unique experiences front and center while offering insights to audiences being introduced to twenty-first century Latine living. They are advocates for radical joy through self-reclamation and ancestral honorings. Con café, palo santo, y chistes, Tus Tías will lift you up while showing you how to get down! And to remind you, ¿quién te quiere? Tus Tías!

Instagram: [@tus.tias.productions](https://www.instagram.com/tus.tias productions)

## Samuel Valdez

he/him/his



Samuel Valdez graduated from San Diego State University with a BA in theatre and an emphasis in directing. He is an actor, playwright, director, and producer who has worked with groups such as Sledgehammer Theatre, the Fritz Theatre, Chronos Theatre, Los Amigos del Rep, and currently his own binational company CARPA San Diego. He served on the Centro Cultural de la Raza board, the National Performance Network board, the Alternate Roots Executive Community, and National Disability Theatre board. In 2016 he received the Ashley Walker Social Justice Award from the city of San Diego for his community theatre work.

Mr. Valdez has written several plays, including *Outside the Circle*, a devised piece that toured Minneapolis, Denver, and San Antonio; and *And He Became Man*, another devised work that opened in San Diego in June 2015, toured locally, then nationally to Dallas, Ashville, Denver, and Tijuana, Mexico.

Facebook: [CARPA San Diego](https://www.facebook.com/CARPA San Diego) | [Samuel Valdez](https://www.facebook.com/Samuel Valdez)

## **Katie Ventura**

she/her



Katie Ventura, raised between San Diego county and Tijuana, is a queer, Chicana, hybrid artist. She credits her childhood home of music, Mexican telenovelas, and Spanglish as her beginnings in molding her acting craft. Prior to embracing filmmaking, Katie devoted her craft in theatre as an actor/director working alongside LGBTQ+ POC and BIPOC artists like Adelina Anthony, Josefina Lopez, Luis Valdez, Iona Weissberg, as well as comedy writing with UCB, the Groundlings, and Bobbie Oliver. Over the past four years, she has collaborated with digital influencers like Shameless Maya and Queen of Spanglish Media RaqC, and is currently a director/producer creating performance marketing ad campaigns for multiple brands.

Instagram: [kurious\\_katie](#) | [katieventura.net](#)

# Meet the Directors of Comedy Carnaval 2022



# Meet the Directors of Comedy Carnaval 2022

## Amelia Acosta Powell

she/her



Amelia Acosta Powell is the impact producer at the Actors Theatre of Louisville. Previously she has been honored to serve as associate artistic director at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, line producer at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and artistic associate & casting director at Arena Stage. Most recent directing work includes *Every Brilliant Thing*, *The Gradient* (world premiere), and *The Thanksgiving Play* (nominated for Outstanding Director of a Comedy, St. Louis Theatre Circle Awards). She is a steering committee member of the Latinx Theatre Commons, a member of the Casting Society of America, an inaugural grantee of TCG's Rising Leaders of Color, and a proud alumna of the Allen Lee Hughes Fellowship. Her teaching credits include serving as adjunct faculty at Webster University Conservatory of Theatre Arts. She is originally from Denver and holds her bachelor's and her master's degrees from Georgetown University.

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## Sorany Gutierrez

she/her



Sorany Gutierrez considers collaborative work fundamental, recognizing the importance of merging different languages, different artistic techniques, and multiple cultural expressions. Her mission is to create art that contributes to a better human connection. Ms. Gutierrez hails from Colombia. For over 18 years, she has participated in professional theatrical productions, working as an actress, designer, producer, and artistic director, with theater companies in Colombia, Spain, Mexico, Panama, Germany, and the United States. She holds a BFA in Performing Arts from the University of Valley and has trained with companies such as Odin Teatret in Denmark, the Company of Jerzy Grotowski in Italy, Centro Moveo in Barcelona, and Laboratorio de la mascara in Mexico City.

Sorany is the former artistic director of Teatro Dallas, where she directed educational programs and community shows, as well as professional theater productions like *Fur*, *Villa*, *Little Mexico*, *Tlali*, and *Cement City*. Her previous training and continuous exploration have led her to develop performances that focus on contemporary theatrical forms and promote the cultural empowerment of the Latino community in the United States. She currently works with cultural and artistic projects for Dteatro Productions, Artstillery, Caramia Theatre, the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture (Arts Activate & CAP programs). Her recent work includes *Escobar's Hippo* at UNT; *Skin*, an experimental short film; and *Sin Piel*, a City of Dallas mobile installation celebrating diversity and unity.

## Meet the Directors of Comedy Carnaval 2022

### GerRee Hinshaw

she/her

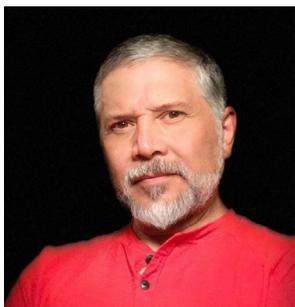


GerRee Hinshaw is a writer, singer, and theatremaker. Recently, Colorado audiences saw GerRee onstage in the world premiere of *Refuge* at Curious Theatre, by co-creators Satya Jnani Chávez and Andrew Rosendorf, and transcreator Mari Meza Burgos. GerRee is an associate artist and board member at Local Theater Company, which just closed its annual new-work incubator Spring Lab. She heads to Steamboat Springs next to develop more new work at the Colorado New Play Festival. GerRee is currently working on her one-woman show *Raised on Ronstadt*, first seen as a live virtual broadcast for Stories on Stage in March 2021. Come play with GerRee the last Monday of every month at The Bug Theatre in northwest Denver for *Freak Train*, an open-stage, anything-goes showcase of twelve five-minute performances that defy description.

## Meet the Dramaturg of Comedy Carnaval 2022

### Lorenzo González Fontes

he/him



Lorenzo González Fontes has been a theatre performer, director and an educator for the past thirty years. Among the many theatres where he has worked include El Teatro Campesino, The Oregon Shakespeare Festival for six seasons, Los Angeles' Ahmanson Theatre, RED CAT at Disney Hall, the Independent Shakespeare Company, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Arizona Theatre Co., Tacoma Actor's Guild, and the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. He is an Associate Artist with El Centro Su Teatro of Denver, and Director of Performance Programs at Naropa University. He received his MFA from the Professional Theatre Training Program at the University of Delaware.

# Meet the Panelists of Comedy Carnaval 2022



# Meet the Panelists of Comedy Carnaval 2022

## **Dr. Maria Patrice Amon** she/her



Dr. Maria Patrice Amon is an associate artistic director and Latinx projects producer at San Diego Repertory Theatre, where she launched and produces the Latinx New Play Festival at San Diego Repertory Theatre. She is a Southern California-based director, dramaturg, producer, and scholar. Patrice is co-artistic director of TuYo Theatre, a 2020 National Directing Fellow, a Latinx Theatre Commons steering committee member, and a board member for the National New Play Network. Patrice is an assistant professor at California State University San Marcos.

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## **Adrienne Dawes** she/her



Adrienne Dawes is a writer, producer, and teaching artist originally from Austin, Texas. Her full-length plays have been produced by Salvage Vanguard Theater (Austin, Texas), Sacred Fools (Los Angeles, California), and American Theatre Company (Tulsa, Oklahoma). Adrienne wraps up her final year of graduate school next spring and is excited for the upcoming workshop of her thesis play *This Bitch: Esta Sangre Quiero*, a big, bawdy, bilingual adaptation of Lope de Vega's Golden Age comedia *El perro del hortelano*. Follow her work online at [www.adriennedawes.com](http://www.adriennedawes.com) or @heckleher.

# Meet the Panelists of Comedy Carnaval 2022

## Evelina Fernandez

she/her



Evelina Fernández was born and raised in East LA. She is an award-winning playwright, screenwriter, actor, and activist who writes about the Xicanx experience. Her roots are the Chicano theatre movement and her work with El Teatro de la Esperanza, Teatro Primavera, and Teatro Chancla, where she began her lifelong journey of telling the stories of the Chicанx community. Her plays with the Latino Theater Company include *Sleep with the Angels* (Running until 27 June); *The Mother of Henry* (LA Drama Critics Circle Award, LA Times Critic's Choice); *A Mexican Trilogy* (LA Drama Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Writing of a World Premiere Play), published by Samuel French; *Solitude* (LA Times Critic's Choice); *Dementia* (LA Times Critic's Choice, GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Theatre Production in Los Angeles); *La Virgen de Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin*, featured in both the LA Times and the New York Times; *Hope: Part II of a Mexican Trilogy* (Ovation nomination for Best Playwright); *Charity: Part III of a Mexican Trilogy* (Backstage Critic's Pick); *Premeditation* (three Ovation Award nominations) and the *Premeditation Podcast* (2021). Other plays include *Luminarias*, *La Olla*, *Liz Estrada in the City of Angels*, and more. She is currently commissioned by the South Coast Rep and the Latino Theater Company's Circle of Imaginistas and is developing a television series for Amazon Studios with her producing partners Wise Entertainment and Blue Monday Productions. She is a founding member of the Latino Theater Company @ The LATC, a core member of the 50th Chicano Moratorium Committee, and operator of the Los Angeles Theatre Center in downtown LA's Historic Core.

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## Sonia Fernandez

she/her



Sonia Fernandez is a dramaturg, administrator, and producer specializing in new work. She is the director of new work at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in Washington, DC. Previously she served as interim artistic director and associate artistic director of Magic Theatre in San Francisco, producing five years of Magic's annual Virgin Play Festival featuring workshops and readings of new plays in development. Some favorite recent dramaturgy credits include *unseen* by Mona Mansour at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the world premiere of *Don't Eat the Mangos* by Ricardo Pérez González at Magic, and *Quixote Nuevo* by Octavio Solis at Cal Shakes.

# Meet the Panelists of Comedy Carnaval 2022

## Donelle Prado

she/her



Donelle Prado is a Denver-based stand-up comedian who can be seen performing regularly at the Comedy Works and Denver Improv. She was featured on the Hot Tamales Live comedy DVD with Eva Longoria, and featured twice on the nationally syndicated, Hispanic-themed television network SiTV. She was also a finalist on Nick-at-Nite's 2007 Funniest Mom in America.

Donelle tours nationally and has performed in Hollywood's top comedy clubs including the Comedy Store, the Laugh Factory, the Improv, and the Ice House. This past fall, she toured with Crazy Woke Asians—a stand-up comedy troupe dedicated to bringing awareness to social justice issues through humor—where she headlined their Seattle shows.

In addition to stand-up, Donelle is also highly sought after as a corporate and college entertainer, having performed for countless organizations including Coca-Cola, the United States Postal Service, and the Colorado School of Mines. Donelle enjoys giving back to the community by performing for underserved populations, including the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and the Colorado Women's Correctional Facility.

Committed to transforming stereotypes through her comedy, Donelle's unique background and perspective enable her to represent not only Asian American and Latina women but all women in an empowering, positive, and celebrated light.

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## Herbert Siguenza

he/him



Herbert Siguenza is currently the playwright-in-residence for the San Diego Repertory Theatre, thanks to a generous grant from the Mellon Foundation. Herbert is also a founding member of the performance group Culture Clash. For thirty years, Herbert and Culture Clash have performed their original satirical work around the country's top regional theatres, including the Mark Taper Forum, the Kennedy Center, the Alley Theatre, the Huntington Stage, Yale Stage, La Jolla Playhouse, and Berkeley Repertory Theatre to name a few. As a solo writer and performer, Mr. Siguenza has had fully produced productions of the following works: *Cantinflas!* (2003); *A Weekend with Pablo Picasso* (2010); *Steal Heaven* (2015); *El Henry* (2014); *Manifest Destinitis* (2016); *Beachtown* (2017) *Bad Hombres/Good Wives* (2019). Other works in development include *Birth Day* and *Isaac Asimov Grand Master Funk*. Mr. 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. Television and Film credits include *Ben Ten Alien Swarm* for Cartoon Network and *Larry Crowne*, a feature film directed by Tom Hanks. His voice was prominently featured in Pixar's 2017 Oscar winning animation feature, *Coco*.

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## What is the LTC Steering Committee?

The LTC Steering Committee is a group of dedicated volunteers from across the continent who lend their talents, time, and energy towards promoting Latinx theatre and changing the narrative of the American theatre through advocacy, artmaking, convening, and scholarship. The Steering Committee selects programming in line with the LTC's values, and works to execute that programming across the country. If you're interested in joining the LTC Steering Committee, talk to a current steering committee member.

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## Steering Committee

Adriana Gaviria  
Alexis Macedo  
Amelia Acosta Powell  
Andrew Aaron Valdez  
Anne Garcia-Romero  
Anthony Rodriguez  
Brian Herrera  
Carla Della Gatta  
Christina Rios  
Daphnie Sicre  
David Mendizabal  
Dillon Yruegas  
Elaine Romero  
Elizabeth Nungaray

Eric Swartz  
Gabriel Barrera  
Janette Martinez  
Juliana Kleist-Mendez  
Julianna Stephanie Ojeda  
Karen Loewy Movilla  
Laura Moreno  
Maria-Tania Bandes B. Weingarden  
Meggan Gomez  
Michele Apriña Leavy  
Nadia Guevara  
Norma Medina  
Patrice Amon  
Pedro Chamale

Rachel DeSoto-Jackson  
Rebecca Aparicio  
Richard Perez  
Ricky Quintana  
Rose Cano  
Roxanne Schroeder Arce  
Samuel Valdez  
Shayna Schlosberg  
Tara Houston  
Thea Rodgers  
Tiffany Vega-Gibson  
Tony Bruno

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## Advisory Committee

Abigail Vega  
Adrienne Dawes  
Benjamin Benne  
Chantal Rodriguez  
Christiamilda Correa  
Clyde Valentin  
Cynthia DeCure  
Daniel Jáquez  
Estefania Fadul  
Evelina Fernandez  
Georgina Escobar

Gina Sandi-Diaz  
Irma Mayorga  
Jamie Gahlon  
Jecamiah Ybañez  
Jesse Portillo  
Jose Carrasquillo  
José Luis Valenzuela  
Juliette Carrillo  
Karen Zacarías  
Kevin Becerra  
Kinan Valdez

Lisa Portes  
Marisela Orta  
Marissa Chibas  
Miranda Gonzalez  
Olga Sanchez  
R. Real Vargas Alanis  
Rebecca Martinez  
Sandra Delgado  
Selene Santiago  
Trevor Boffone

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## LTC Producer

Jacqueline Flores

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## 2022 LTC Comedy Carnaval Champion

Amelia Acosta Powell

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## Comedy Carnaval Programming Committee

Amelia Acosta Powell

Dr. Patrice Amon

Rebecca Aparicio

Jacqueline Flores

Tony Garcia

Micaela Garcia de Benavidez

Adriana Gaviria

Norma Medina

Lisa Portes

Eric Swartz

Andrew Valdez

Lori Vega

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## Comedy Carnaval Selection Committee

Amelia Acosta Powell

Dr. Patrice Amon

Michele Apriña Leavy

Jacqueline Flores

Mica Garcia de Benavidez

Tony Garcia

Norma Medina

Richard Perez

Dr. Gina Sandi-Diaz

Dr. Daphnie Sicre

Eric Swartz

Andrew Valdez

Lori Vega

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## Su Teatro Staff

Anthony Garcia: Executive Artistic Director

Tanya Mote: Associate Director

Micaela Garcia de Benavidez: Managing Director

Jennie Hurrieta: Finance Manager

Felicia Gallegos Pettis: Community Engagement Specialist

Molly Gallegos: Program Associate

Angelina Milan: Operations Associate

Jose "Jozer" Guerrero: CAEI Associate Director

Lara Gallegos: Artistic Programs Associate

Arnold King: Technical Director

Steve Nash: Facilities Manager

Debra Gallegos: Development & Marketing Associate

Keilah Hernandez: Program Assistant

Adriana Gonzales: Program Assistant

Claylish Coldiron: Program Intern

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## HowlRound Theatre Commons Staff

Jamie Gahlon: Director and Co-Founder

Vijay Mathew: Cultural Strategist and Co-Founder

Abigail Vega: Creative Producer

Deen Rawlins-Harris: Associate Producer

Ramona Rose King: Communications Manager

Ciara Diane: Content Editor

Ashley Malafronte: Content Editor

Thea Rodgers: HowlRound TV Producer

Joshua Robinson: HowlRound Fellow

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## Special Thanks

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Elle Powell

Ramona Powell

David Rochlin

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