



JULIANNE ARGYROS STAGE / DECEMBER 11 - 23, 2008

South Coast Repertory

David Emmes
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Martin Benson
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

presents the 15th annual production of

LA POSADA MÁGICA

THE MAGICAL JOURNEY

written and directed by **Octavio Solis**
music by **Marcos Loya**

Christopher Acebo
SCENIC DESIGN

Shigeru Yaji
COSTUME DESIGN

Lonnie Rafael Alcaraz
LIGHTING DESIGN

Marcos Loya
MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Gabriela Estrada
CHOREOGRAPHER

Nicholas C. Avila
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Joshua Marchesi
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Jennifer Ellen Butler*
STAGE MANAGER

Socorro and Ernesto Vasquez
HONORARY PRODUCERS



CORPORATE PRODUCER

*The Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund has provided major support for the commissioning, workshop and production of
La Posada Mágica through its New Works for Young Audiences Program.*

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In order of appearance)

Horacio	<i>Miguel Najera*</i>
Eli/Bones/Lauro	<i>David DeSantos*</i>
Gracie	<i>Gloria Garayua*</i>
Mom/Mariluz	<i>Erica Ortega*</i>
Papi/Jose Cruz	<i>Danny Bolero*</i>
Refugio/Buzzard	<i>Sol Castillo*</i>
Consuelo/Widow	<i>Denise Blasor*</i>
Caridad/Widow	<i>Teresa Velarde*</i>
Musicians/Ensemble	<i>Marcos Loya, Lorenzo Martinez</i>

SETTING

Christmas Eve. The present.

LENGTH

Approximately two hours, including one 15-minute intermission.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Casting Director	<i>Joanne DeNaut</i>
Production Assistant	<i>Wendy Leef</i>
Costume Design Assistant	<i>Peg Oquist</i>
Stage Management Intern	<i>Julie Renfro</i>
Dresser	<i>Bert Henert</i>
Additional Costume Staff	<i>Pauline Good</i>
Deck Crew	<i>Steven Burhoe</i>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*Las Amigas de la Cultura, Sylvia Krenzien, Teri Rocco and Alice Rumbaugh
for the special exhibit in the Julianne Argyros lobby.*

*Cellular phones, beepers and watch alarms should be turned off or set to non-audible
mode during the performance. Please refrain from unwrapping candy or making
other noises that may disturb surrounding patrons.*

*The use of cameras and recorders in the theatre is prohibited.
Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the theatre.*

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

THE GIFT OF GRACE

When I was commissioned to write a family Christmas play for South Coast Repertory, I had no idea there would be deep synchronicities with my own life. I simply thought I would write another play for another theatre and that would be that. But while my talented collaborators (director José Cruz González and composer Marcos Loya) and I toiled away on our first draft of *Posada* at the Sundance Theatre Lab in Utah, I received a call from my wife Jeanne that she was pregnant with our daughter, and that changed everything.

The play suddenly revealed to me the essential universal sanctity of life, the glowing sense of hope and love that babies always suggest for the world. But the confluence of this play with my wife's news also transformed the holiday of Christmas for me. The adoration bestowed on the infant Jesus spoke more deeply and directly to my

I had just settled on that name for my protagonist. How could she have known? She hadn't read the play, nor had I spoken of it to her. And yet here now, our daughter was not only coming into our house, she was filling our play. It seemed fitting.

Gracie was born on September 24, 1994, and the play itself was delivered three months later.



new status as a father. The Nativity became a metaphor for the profound responsibility we all owe to the fragile innocent children we dare to bring into this brutal world.

Later that spring, as I continued to write *Posada* and Jeanne pored over all the books of baby names, she told me that she wanted to name our baby girl Graciela, or Gracie, for short. This stunned me because

Gracie has been played by four actresses since its premiere in 1994: Ruth Livier (1994), left; Crissy Guerrero (1995-1998), top; and Tiffany Ellen Solano (1999-2006), with Mauricio Mendoza as Papi and Crissy Guerrero as Mom in 2002; and Gloria Garayua (2007-2008).

We brought her for one of the first performances, and to this day, I can't help but feel that the wide brown eyes of the infant Graciela have shone their grace on *La Posada Mágica*.

—Octavio Solis

THE HISTORICAL PROCESSION OF LAS POSADAS

The familiar story of Joseph and Mary's long-ago search for lodgings is related every year at Christmas-time in churches and homes the world over. But in many Latin countries, it actually comes to life again each December, reenacted for nine consecutive nights in the festive ritual of *Las Posadas*, which means inns, or lodgings.

The idea of commemorating the Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem can be traced to St. Ignatius Loyola, in the 16th Century. He suggested a Christmas novena, special prayers to be said on nine successive days. In 1850, St. John of the Cross made a religious pageant out of the proceedings, and seven years later the nine-day remembrance was introduced to the Indians in Mexico by Spanish missionaries.

Solemn and deeply religious in feeling at first, the observances soon became imbued with a spirit of fun and, eventually, left the church and began to be celebrated in people's homes. The *posadas* have become community affairs with friends, relatives and neighbors sharing in the festivities and visiting a different house each evening.

The *posada* begins with a procession that sets off as soon as it gets dark. Often a child dressed as an angel goes first, followed by two more children carrying figures of Mary and Joseph on a small litter adorned with twigs. After more boys and girls come the lead figures, then come the grown-ups and last of



The 2008 cast of *La Posada Mágica* features from left: Miguel Najera, Marcos Loya, David DeSantos, Lorenzo Martinez, Denise Blasor, Sol Castillo, Teresa Velarde, Gloria Garayua, Danny Bolero and Erica Ortega.

all the musicians. Singing or chanting special *posada* songs, they all walk slowly along, each person carrying a lighted candle. When the procession reaches the house chosen for that evening, it divides into two groups, one representing the holy pilgrims, the other the innkeepers.

The pilgrims line up behind the angel and the children bearing the figures of the Holy Family, and they file through the house until they arrive at a closed door, behind which the innkeepers have stationed themselves. The pilgrims knock on the door and call out in song, asking for shelter. A chorus of voices on the other side asks: "Who knocks at my door so late in the night?"

The pilgrims respond. "In the name of Heaven I beg you for lodging—my beloved wife can no longer travel, and she is weary." But the response is a stony,



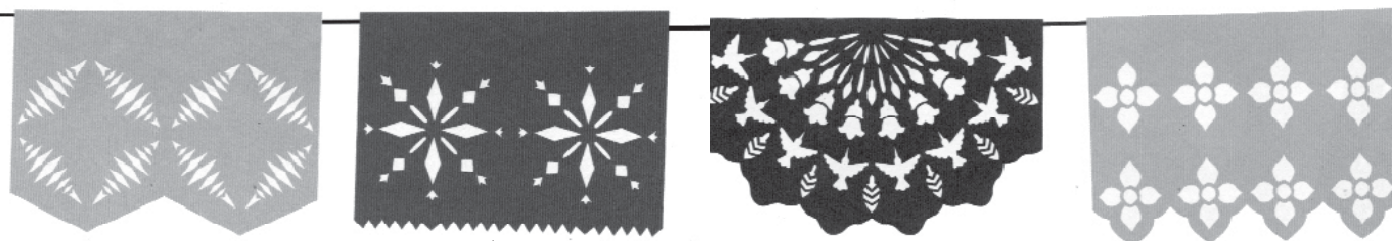
hardhearted refusal. "This is no inn. Go away!" After repeated requests for shelter, the pilgrims explain who they are and that Mary will soon give birth to the Son of God. The innkeepers relent and welcome the exhausted travelers: "Enter, Holy pilgrims. Come into our humble dwelling and into our hearts. The night is one of joy, for here beneath our roof we shelter the Mother of God." Everyone enters the room and kneels in prayer, after which the party moves out to the patio

Denise Blasor, Teresa Velarde and Gloria Garayua, above. Gloria Garayua with Marcos Loya, right.

for fireworks and fun. Small baskets of sweets, called *colaciones*, are offered along with sandwiches, cookies and a fruited punch. And then it's time for the most exciting moment of all, the breaking of the fancifully decorated candy and nut-filled piñata. Sometimes there are separate parties for different age groups—one for teenagers and another for the younger children. In Mexico City, especially, so many *posadas* are held that active partygoers can manage to attend four or five in one evening... and the festivities often go on until dawn.

Over time, *posadas* have been tailored by their respective communities, so that a remarkable variety of *posada* styles can be found throughout Mexico and the Southwestern United States.





THE MAGIC OF THE CELEBRATION

THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

"It begins with one simple candle—
so full of golden light"

— *La Posada Mágica*

After Gracie reluctantly joins her church's *posada*, she sets about trying to extinguish not only the candle that has been lit in her honor, but all those that represent the other members of her group. With each flame she blows out, another character disappears until Gracie is left lost and alone.

The tradition of candles at Christmastime began in medieval Europe, where a very large Christmas candle was burned until the Twelfth Night in remembrance of the arrival of the Wise Men to Bethlehem. In Victorian times, candles represented good will toward those less fortunate. They were placed in windows from December 25 to January 6 to welcome any passersby needing shelter and food.

Some people believe that flames from burning candles frighten away evil spirits during the darkest days of the year. In Norway, candles that burn out on Christmas Eve are thought to bring bad luck for the family. Another ancient tradition suggests that placing a candle in the window symbolically lights the way of the Holy Family as it provides a welcome for friends, neighbors and holiday guests.

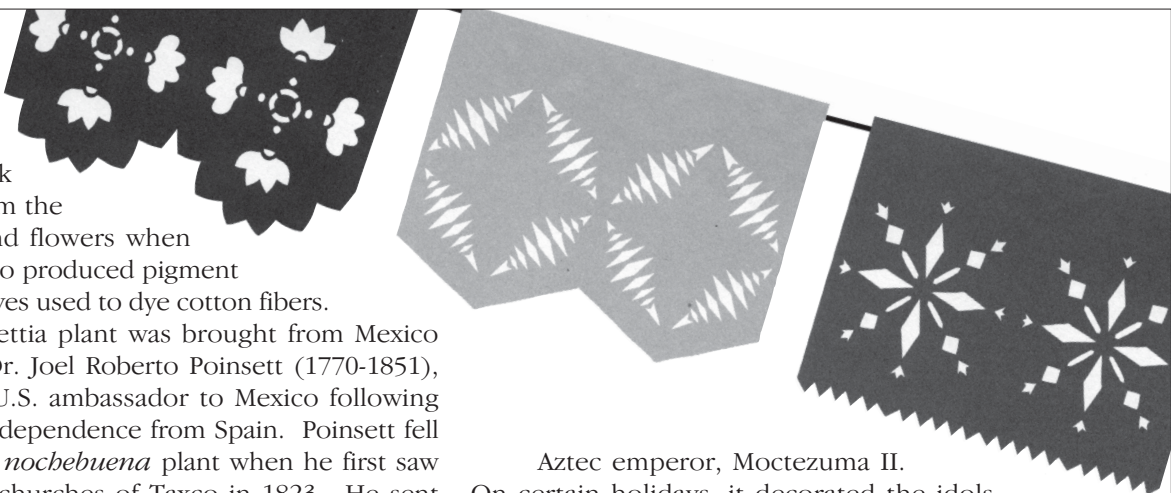


POINSETTIAS

A favorite flower for the *posada* celebration is the poinsettia, with its beautiful red star shape. The legend of the poinsettia relates the story of a girl named Maria and her little brother Pablo. They were very poor but always looked forward to the Christmas festival each year, when a large Nativity scene was set up in the village church and the days leading up to Christmas were filled with *posadas*. But the two children were saddened because they had no money to buy presents. They especially wished to give something to the church, but they had nothing.

One Christmas Eve, Maria and Pablo set out for church to attend Midnight Mass. On their way they picked some weeds growing along the roadside to present as their gift to the church. They were mercilessly teased by the other children when they arrived with their humble offering, but Maria and Pablo knew they had given everything they had. As they began to place the weeds around the Nativity scene, the green top leaves turned into bright red petals. Soon the manger was surrounded by the bright red, star-shaped flowers and everyone in the church believed they were witnessing a true Christmas miracle. Since that day, these beautiful flowers that bloom during the Christmas season have been known as *Flores de Noche Buena* or "Flowers of the Holy Night."

Nochebuena, the Mexican name of the flower English-speakers call poinsettia, was discovered in Taxco and the valleys surrounding Cuernavaca. Known by the Aztecs in their native Nahuatl language as *cuetlaxochitl*, it is believed that they brought the plant from the tropical climate of Cuernavaca to their Aztec highlands for cultivation in special nurseries.



Prized for the curative properties of the milk that dripped from the leaves, stems and flowers when cut, the plant also produced pigment from the red leaves used to dye cotton fibers.

The poinsettia plant was brought from Mexico to America by Dr. Joel Roberto Poinsett (1770-1851), who served as U.S. ambassador to Mexico following that country's independence from Spain. Poinsett fell in love with the *nochebuena* plant when he first saw it adorning the churches of Taxco in 1823. He sent specimens back to the States to decorate his mansion in South Carolina one Christmas, and upon his return home several years later, he was astonished to find the entire town of Charleston growing the festive red flower.

PAPEL PICADO

Paper cutting has been a folk art ever since paper was invented in 105 A.D. by Ts'ai Lun, an official in the court of Ho Ti, emperor of Cathay. The humble nature of its origins and the anonymity of its practice has caused paper cutting to be ignored as an art form, though artists, artisans and collectors are becoming increasingly aware of this valuable folk heritage.

In Mexico, the technique is called *papel picado*, which means "pierced paper." After the Spanish Conquest of Mexico, *papel de China* (tissue paper) was introduced and became the material of choice for Christian holiday decorations. Paperwork was apparently among the imports that poured in from the Orient via the annual Pacific treasure fleet that traveled between the Far East and Acapulco, laden with such exotic goods as silver, ivory, spices and porcelain. Once the craft arrived in Mexico, it became the basis for many important and widespread folk art forms.

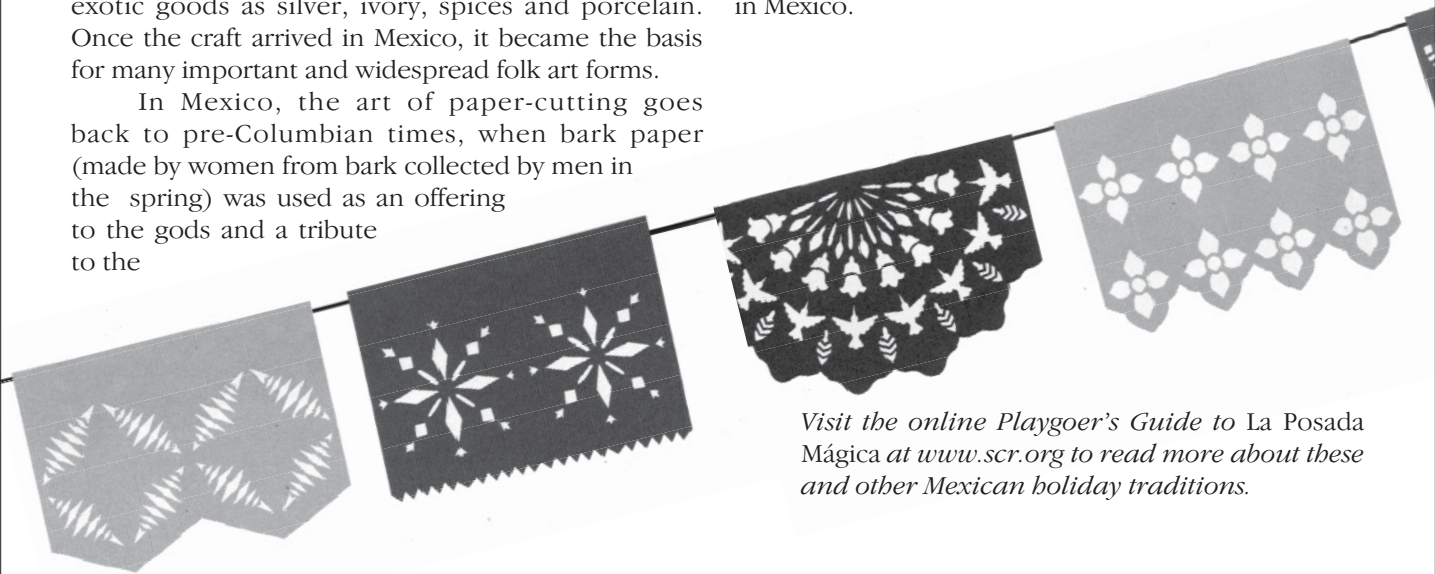
In Mexico, the art of paper-cutting goes back to pre-Columbian times, when bark paper (made by women from bark collected by men in the spring) was used as an offering to the gods and a tribute to the

Aztec emperor, Moctezuma II.

On certain holidays, it decorated the idols in temples and palaces, and priests embodying the gods and the cosmos wore elaborate costumes of colored paper. Cutouts of dark paper were made to represent evil spirits, while white paper represented good spirits and was used by healers and witches in their rituals.

Color schemes selected for *papel picado* are frequently linked with specific festivities. Sky blue or pink and white are commonly chosen for celebrations in honor of the Virgin Mary, yellow and white for patron saints. Vibrant pink, orange and purple are the key tones employed for *ofrendas* (offerings) associated with *El Día de los Muertos*, or the Day of the Dead. Shades of purple are also widely used at Easter. The colors of the Mexican flag—red, white and green—are set aside for venerating the nation's patroness, *La Virgen de Guadalupe*, as well as for commemorating Independence Day, September 16. Rainbow hues are appropriate for Christmas and non-religious festivities.

Cut from colored tissue paper (or plastic) to simulate lace, *papel picado* can be seen today hanging from Day of the Dead altars and decorating graves during November. Also during Christmas, *papel picado* decorates indoor and outdoor festivities in Mexico.



Visit the online Playgoer's Guide to La Posada Mágica at www.scr.org to read more about these and other Mexican holiday traditions.

SING ALONG WITH THE POSADA

'Vamos A Pie'

Vamos a pie caminando
Caminando, caminando
Una posada Buscando
Buscando para El.

Velas prendidas alumbran
La noche más santa de Dios
Este camino termina
En oración.

Vamos con fe caminando
Caminando, caminando
Los angeles saben cuando
Saben cuando llegará.

A la posada más linda
Llena de luz y amor
En esta noche veremos
Al Redentor.

Vamos a pie caminando
Caminando, caminando
Una posada buscando
Buscando buscando.

'Este Canto Mio'

Este canto mío canto con pasión
Por el Niño Dios quien es mi salvación
Si mi voz al cielo no alcanza
Es porque le falta esperanza

Gloria gloria gloria al Señor
Eschuchame y hazme el favor
Quiero ver el Rey de la humanidad
En la Noche Buena de la Navidad.

Mucho gusto siento en mi corazón
Cada vez que canto, santa es mi canción
Ya se acerca el momento de
El Nacimiento de la Nueva Fe.

Gloria gloria gloria al Señor
Eschuchame y hazme el favor
Quiero ver el Rey de la humanidad
En la Noche Buena de la Navidad.

'We Go On Foot'

We go on foot
Walking, walking
Searching for a *posada*
Searching for Him

Burning candles shine on
God's holiest night
This path ends
With a prayer

We walk along in faith
Walking, walking
The angels know when
They know when He will arrive

To the most beautiful *posada*
Filled with light and love
On this night we will see
The savior

We go on foot
Walking, walking
Searching for a *posada*
Searching, searching

'My Song'

I sing my song with passion
For baby Jesus, my salvation
If my voice won't reach heaven
It is because it lacks hope

Glory, glory, glory to the Lord
Listen to me, do me a favor
I want to see the King of humanity
On Christmas' holy night

I feel pleasure in my heart
Every time I sing, holy is my song
The moment is near
The birth of a new faith

Glory, glory, glory to the Lord
Listen to me, do me a favor
I want to see the King of humanity
On Christmas' holy night

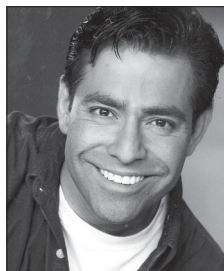
Words by Octavio Solis; music by Marcos Loya. Translation by Santiago Uceda.

Artist Biographies



DENISE BLASOR *
Consuelo/Widow

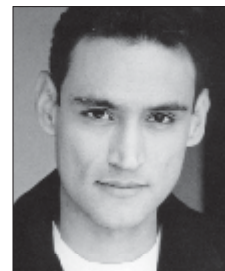
returns for her 13th appearance in *La Posada Mágica*. This year she performed in the world premiere of Octavio Solis' *June in a Box* at Inter-section for the Arts and worked with Solis' daughter Gracie. She recreated her role of Amina at Stella Adler Theatre in *Los Muertos* by Timothy McNeil, with Mark Ruffalo. *Los Muertos* was first presented at Elephant Theatre directed by David Fofi. She appeared in *Electricidad* by Luis Alfaro, directed by Lisa Peterson at Mark Taper Forum and *Ten Tiny Love Stories* by Rodrigo Garcia. She has performed at Los Angeles Theatre Center (LATC) in *Blood Wedding*, directed by Margarita Galban, *Yerma*, *The House of Bernarda Alba* with Carmen Zapata and *The Threepenny Opera*. She was part of Ron Sossi's Odyssey Theatre Ensemble for many years, where she last performed *Faust*. She was Artistic Director of Los Angeles Diversified Theater Company, where she performed and adapted *The Three Sisters*, designed and appeared in the Ovation Award-nominated production of *He Who Gets Slapped* with Bud Cort and performed and produced the original musical *Caderas*. Other stage credits include leading roles in the world premieres of *The House of the Spirits* at LATC; Cervantes' *Interludes* at Stages, directed by Florinel Fatulescu; *Made in Lanus*, directed by Lillian Garrett at The Old Globe; and *Accelerando* by Lisa Loomer. She played Juana in *The False Chronicle of Juana La Loca* at Festival Cervantino in Mexico and has performed in Europe, Latin America and Puerto Rico. Film credits include *The Disappearance of Garcia Lorca* with Andy Garcia; *Univers'l* directed by Ana Nicholas; *Noriega: God's Favorite* with Bob Hoskins, directed by Roger Spottiswoode; *Happy Feet* with Robin Williams; and indie film *Love Simple* directed by Mark Von Sternberg.



DANNY BOLERO *
Papi/Jose Cruz

Thank you SCR, and Octavio. It's great to be back. A graduate of the American Center for Music Theater, Bolero has performed from regional theatre throughout the United States, to Broadway, and around

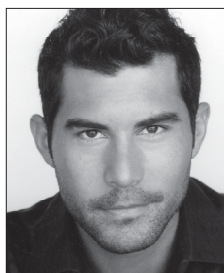
the world, as a production singer for Royal Caribbean Cruises Lines. Last year, Mr. Bolero was awarded the Ida B. Payne Award for Best Actor in a Musical by the Critics Circle of Theaters in Austin, Texas for his portrayal of Cesar Chavez in Ed Begley's *Cesar and Ruben*, which he reprised again last year at the NoHo Arts Center. On Broadway, he appeared in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, with Michael Damian (cast recording). A new member to L.A.'s Musical Theater Guild, Mr. Bolero has performed in the Guild's recent productions of *The Fix* and *Seesaw*. Other credits include, *Bark, Is This Any Way to Start a Marriage?*, *El Gallo* in *The Fantasticks*, *Twice Upon a Time*, *Beggar's Holiday* with Carl Anderson, Mark Taper Forum's *Lalo*, *Man of La Mancha* with Robert Goulet, *Selena*, *Pacific Overtures*, *World Goes 'Round*, (Robbie Award nominee), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Inland Empire Award), *Zorro the Musical*, currently receiving rave reviews in London's West End, Guido in *Nine* and Che in *Evita*, (*Drama-Lounge* Award). He recently enjoyed a short run of *Dance with Me*, the Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz musical, which was showcased at the National Alliance for Musical Theater Festival in NYC. Film and television credits include *Viva la Causa!*, the 2007 remake of the *The Hitcher* with Sean Bean, "The Mullets," "The Young and the Restless," "Ally McBeal," "Ghost Whisperer," "Beverly Hills, 90210" and "Malcom in the Middle." Mr. Bolero is in the final phase of completing work on his one-man show entitled *Shadowboxing*. Keep an eye out.



SOL CASTILLO *
Refugio/Buzzard

returns to SCR for his eighth season in *La Posada Mágica*. Mr. Castillo was also seen at SCR in the world premiere of *The Hollow Lands*, and the Theatre for Young Audiences productions of *The Adventures of Por Quinly* and *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, *Charlotte's Web*, the Pacific Playwrights Festival workshops of *Sea of Tranquillity* and *References to Salvador Dalí Make Me Hot*, the Educational Touring production of *Bad Water Blues* and the reading of *The BFG (Big Friendly Giant)*. At San Diego Repertory Theatre he appeared in *Zoot Suit*, *The Imaginary Invalid* and *Barrio Hollywood*. Other theatre credits include the national tour of *Veteranos: A Tribute*, *West Side Story*, *Bye*

Bye Birdie and *Talking to Yellow Roses*. Mr. Castillo was seen in Showtime's "Resurrection Blvd." and Valor Production's *Who's James Cagney?* He also wrote a screenplay that was shot by Valor Productions in February 2008. Mr. Castillo dedicates his performance to his lovely wife, terrific daughter, and is expecting his second child in January. A proud member of Actors' Equity.



DAVID DESANTOS*
Eli/Bones/Lauro

returns to SCR for his second year after appearing in *Hamlet* and the Theatre for Young Audiences production of *The BFG* (*Big Friendly Giant*). Theatre credits include *A View From the Bridge*, *Othello*,

The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler the upcoming *Paradise Lost* and Octavio Solis' world premiere adaptation of *Don Quixote* all at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival; *Anna in the Tropics* at TheatreWorks; *King Lear* and *Liliom* at Kansas City Repertory Theatre; *King Lear*, *The Tempest* and *The Merchant of Venice* at California Shakespeare Festival; *Hamlet* at Ojai Shakespeare Festival; *Dracula* at Allied Artists; *So It Is! If So it Seems to You* and *Twelfth Night* at A Noise Within; *The Threepenny Opera* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Theatricum Botanicum; and *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Taming of the Shrew* at The Pasadena Shakespeare Company. Film and television credits include *Delta Farce* and *Face Value*; roles on "Ugly Betty," "CSI," "House," "CSI: Miami," "Crossing Jordan," "Seven Days," "American Family," and recurring roles on "General Hospital" and "Spyder Games."



GLORIA GARAYUA*
Gracie

is delighted to return for her second year in *La Posada Mágica*. Theatre credits include *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings* at the Kirk Douglas Theatre; *illumINATION* at Mark Taper Forum; *Two*

Sisters and a Piano at The Old Globe; *American Triage* at Marin Theatre Company; *Inbetween/Peacemaker* at George Street Playhouse; *Purim Day* at Lamb's Theatre; *The Threepenny Opera*, *The Tempest* and *Medea* at Long Island University; *Romeo and Juliet* at the Bloomsburg Theatre and *The Skriker* at Kennedy Center Stage. Film credits include *Henry Poole is Here*, *Fun with Dick and Jane* and *House of D*. Television credits include a recurring role as an intern on "Grey's Anatomy"; guest-starring roles on "Weeds,"

"ER," "Cold Case," "Life," "The Shield," "Strong Medicine" and "NYPD Blue"; and co-starring roles on "Six Feet Under" and "Joey."



MARCOS LOYA
Composer/Musical Director/Ensemble

is an accomplished musician and composer and a master of acoustic guitar. He is also adept on *requinto*, *jarrana*, *cuatro*, 12-string, mandolin, electric guitar and various indigenous folk instruments. Currently, he is a visiting artist and adjunct instructor at California State University, Dominguez Hills. He teaches a Multicultural Performing Arts course and a course on Chicana/o Latina/o music. Recently, he scored *Looking Back*, Severo Perez' documentary on renowned visual artist Carmen Lomas Garza. In 1996 he composed the score for the "American Playhouse" film adaptation of Tomas Rivera's *and the earth did not swallow him* (*y no se lo trago la tierra*). Mr. Loya's debut CD, *Love is the Reason*, garnered an Independent Contemporary Jazz Album of the Year nomination. His music is featured in the films *Deep Cover*, *The Waterdance*, *A Million to Juan*, *Old Gringo*, *Vibes*, *Stand and Deliver*, *Born in East LA*, *Hold Me*, *Kiss Me*, *Thrill Me* and *Kiss Me a Killer* (for which he received a nomination for the Independent Spirit Award) as well as Director Robert Rodriguez' *Once Upon a Time in Mexico*. He scored and/or composed music for several plays, including the Los Angeles Theatre Center productions of *La Victima*, *August 29* (*Drama-Logue Award*, Best Original Music) and *Stone Wedding* (Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award nomination). His television work includes the musical scores for the PBS productions "Dreams of Flying," "Elders," "Between Friends" and "Los Pinateros." His music can be heard in the "Mangas" episode of the PBS series "Foto Novela" for which he also composed the theme. He served as musical director for Univision's long-running "El Show de Paul Rodriguez," the Buena Vista/Disney "Navidad en las Americas" special, the ABC special "Latin Nights" and NBC's "Vida Awards." Mr. Loya has performed and/or toured with a variety of performers including Plácido Domingo, Linda Ronstadt (with the Houston Symphony Orchestra), Celia Cruz, Tito Puente, Lalo Guerrero, Chick Corea, Chaka Khan, Hugh Masekela, Phillip Bailey, Stephen Stills, Vicki Carr, Luis Enrique and Jose Feliciano. With Madonna, he appeared in the video "La Isla Bonita." He can be seen performing solo, with his acoustic ensemble Trio Los Cinco, or with the Marcos

Loya Latin Jazz Band. He dedicates his performance to his mother, Bertha Loya, and the memory of his father, Arthur Loya, whose courage and love remain a constant source of inspiration.



LORENZO MARTINEZ
Musician/Ensemble

was raised with the rich, culturally diverse music of Los Angeles and has traveled and performed throughout the Southwest. He represented Chicano music in Paris with Lalo Guerrero and Flaco Jimenez. His education includes Music Theory and Instrumental Studies at Cerritos College and UCLA's Ethno musicology program with emphasis in Mariachi music. His vast musical experience includes Tex-Mex, *conjuntos*, *orquesta* styles, mariachi, zydeco, jump blues, jazz, *jarocho*, *huasteco*, *nueva cancion*, *trio romantico*, early California and Chicano movimiento music. Other groups Mr. Martinez has performed with include Hermanos Baca and Lil Joe y La Familia. He was part of the Mariachi concert *Las Tres Voces de Oro*, backing Lucha Villa, Lola Beltran and Miguel Aceves Mejia. He performed with the UCLA Mariachi under the direction of Nati Cano of Los Comperos, and in the Universal film *Who Will Sing the Songs* starring Freddy Fender and Vikki Carr. He performed and recorded with Los Perros del Pueblo Nuevo and Trio Los Cinco with Marcos Loya, Mundo Armijo and Ray Islas. The group performed *Dia de Los Muertos* and *La Virgen del Tepeyac* by Luis Valdez at the Japan Theatre, the opening ceremony of Luis Valdez' *Bandido* at Mark Taper Forum and with Culture Clash in *La Carpa* at Mark Taper Forum. He toured with The Four Brown Hats theatre production of *Veteranos: A Legacy of Valor* between 2002 and 2004. This year he performed for the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan with Los Tex Maniacs, a Texas based band. He performed through these countries for nine different

military bases. It was a life changing experience to remember forever.



MIGUEL NAJERA *
Horacio

is a veteran actor and award-winning filmmaker who returns for his seventh year as Horacio. Recent television credits include "Grey's Anatomy," "The Shield," "CSI," "24," "Lincoln Heights" and "Alias" among many others. In recent years, he has devoted his passion to creating socially relevant documentaries and shorts. Recently he completed a documentary on cancer research at Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science. His documentary went on to win the Outstanding Documentary Award at the 2005 IMAGeNation Aboriginal Film and Video Festival in Canada. Najera's film, *Phillip's Story*, is a documentary dealing with a Native American teenager stricken with HIV/AIDS. This tragic and inspiring film is used by the Association of American Indian Physicians as an educating tool and shown on reservations across the nation. He wrote and directed *Libertad*, a short that screened to critical acclaim at WGBH Boston as part of their Latino film series. DreamWorks also screened this film as part of their in house film series. Current projects include *Mayor of Arvin*, a feature film he co-wrote with Yareli Arizmendi and Sergio Arau (*A Day Without a Mexican*). Mr. Najera is the executive producer and director of the 2008 Oscar Night America Los Angeles, an Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences sanctioned charity event in Los Angeles. Mr. Najera is the president of Americua Films—a company that produces and develops films and documentaries. He has an MFA in Film, Theatre and Television Directing from the California Institute of the Arts, received his BA in Drama from San Francisco State University and attended the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco.

**ERICA ORTEGA****Mom/Mariluz*

appeared at SCR previously in *Scrappers* and staged readings of *La Posada Mágica* and *The Old Matador*. Theatre credits include *The Three Sisters* at LATC; *People Like Me* at Playwrights' Arena; *He Who Gets Slapped* at Hudson Theatre; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *A Touch of the Poet* with the Latino Classical Repertory; *This Land* at the California Youth Theatre; *The Old Matador* at Arizona Theatre Company; *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *Cross in the Mirror* and *Fuenteovejuna* at the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts; as well as touring productions with Will & Co. and Blue Palm. In addition, Ms. Ortega is a supervisor at Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre Programs. Film and television credits include *Panic*, "The Division," "Strong Medicine," "Air America," "Babylon 5," "The Pretender" and "Chicago Hope." Most recently, she was seen at the Cannes and LALIFF film festivals in *A Day at the Theatre* produced by Valor productions.

**TERESA VELARDE****Caridad/Widow*

returns to *La Posada Mágica*, where she originated the roles of Mom and Mariluz. She also appeared in SCR's *Man of the Flesh* and participated in many of SCR's Hispanic Playwrights Project readings. Ms. Velarde understudied the role of Eponine in *Les Misérables* at the Shubert Theatre in Los Angeles. Some of her other theatrical credits include leading roles in *Latins Anonymous* at San Diego Repertory Theatre; *B.C. Historia*, produced by the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts at the Los Angeles Theatre Center; the award-winning *A Piece of My Heart* at International City Theatre; and multiple roles in *Happy Birthday, Angel*, an anti-gang play produced by SCR. Some of her starring television credits include "General Hospital," "Hotel Malibu," "Days of Our Lives," "Down the Shore," "Sunset Beach," "Empty Nest," "Beverly Hills, 90210," "The Bad Land," "Brother's Keeper," "Malcolm in the Middle" and "The Practice." Ms. Velarde has also appeared in films including *The Addict*, *Choose Me*, *The People Under the Stairs* and *Outbreak*. She has leading roles in *My Indian Summer*, a CBS After School Special and *Mi Casa Es Su Casa*, an award-winning film produced by AFI. She is a licensed therapist who works with adolescents and adults and trains new therapists in Los Alamitos. She is also currently assisting the homeless and underserved helping to provide mental health services in the Orange County

area. She has two handsome sons, Justin and Lucas, and has been married to drummer David Page for 23 years. She wishes to thank her family and friends and wishes everyone a blessed Christmas. *Feliz Navidad!*

PLAYWRIGHT, DIRECTOR & DESIGNERS

OCTAVIO SOLIS (*Playwright/Director*) is a playwright and director living in San Francisco. His works *Lydia*, *June in a Box*, *Lethe*, *Marfa Lights*, *Gibraltar*, *The Ballad of Pancho and Lucy*, *The 7 Visions of Encarnacion*, *Bethlehem*, *Dreamlandia*, *El Otro*, *Man of the Flesh*, *Prospect*, *El Paso Blue* and *Santos & Santos* have been mounted at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Dallas Theater Center, Magic Theatre, Intersection for the Arts, San Diego Repertory Theatre, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Shadowlight in San Francisco, Venture Theatre in Philadelphia, Latino Chicago Theatre Company, New York Summer Play Festival, Teatro Vista in Chicago, El Teatro Campesino, Undermain Theatre in Dallas, Thick Description, Campo Santo, Imua Theatre Company in New York, and Cornerstone Theatre. His collaborative works include *Burning Dreams*, co-written with Julie Hebert and Gina Leishman; *Shiner*, written with Erik Ehn; and *Great Highway*, written with Wendy Weiner. Mr. Solis has received an NEA 1995-97 Playwriting Fellowship, the Roger L. Stevens Award from the Kennedy Center, the Will Glickman Playwright Award, a production grant from the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays, the 1998 TCG/NEA Theatre Artists in Residence Grant, the 1998 McKnight Fellowship grant from the Playwrights Center in Minneapolis, and the National Latino Playwriting Award for 2003. He is the recipient of the 2000-2001 National Theatre Artists Residency Grant from TCG and the Pew Charitable Trust for *Gibraltar* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Mr. Solis is a Thornton Wilder Fellow for the MacDowell Colony, a New Dramatists alum, a member of the Dramatists Guild and an Associate Artist for SCR.

MARCOS LOYA (*Composer/Musical Director*) See biography on page P-10.

CHRISTOPHER ACEBO (*Scenic Design*) designed SCR's world premiere productions of *My Wandering Boy*, *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler*, *The Beard of Avon*, *Hold Please*, *California Scenarios*; and the West Coast premiere of *The Countess* and *Habeas Corpus*. Recent productions include the world premieres of *The Clean House* at Yale Repertory Theatre and Lincoln Center Theater; *Electricidad* at The Goodman Theatre and Center Theatre Group; and *Water and Power*, *Living Out* and *Chavez Ravine* for CTG. Other regional design work includes productions for The Guthrie, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Oregon Shakespeare

Festival, Denver Center Theatre Company, The Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis, Hartford Stage and Portland Center Stage, among others. He received his MFA in design at the University of California, San Diego and is a past recipient of the NEA/TCG fellowship for designers. He is an Associate Artistic Director for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

SHIGERU YAJI (*Costume Design*) has designed costumes for over 50 SCR productions including most recently *An Italian Straw Hat: A Vaudeville*, *A Little Night Music*, *My Wandering Boy*, *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler*, *Habeas Corpus* and *Cyrano de Bergerac*. His other recent work has been seen at Lincoln Center Theater, Yale Repertory Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Cornerstone Theater Company and San Jose Repertory Theatre, as well as Nashville Ballet. He is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including six Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards and a Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award, as well as an Emmy Award nomination for Cathy Rigby's *Peter Pan*. Mr. Yaji is a member of the United Scenic Artists Local 829 and the UC Irvine Drama Department faculty.

LONNIE RAFAEL ALCARAZ (*Lighting Design*) is an Associate Professor at UC Irvine and a professional lighting designer. He has designed at various regional theatres, such as Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Sierra Repertory Theatre, Arena Stage, Laguna Playhouse, Alabama Shakespeare Festival and the Utah Shakespearean Festival. In addition to his 14 seasons with *La Posada Mágica*, productions at SCR include *An Italian Straw Hat: A Vaudeville*, *Culture Clash in AmeriCCa*, *Doubt, a parable*, *My Wandering Boy*, *The Prince and the Pauper*, *Blue Door*, *Man from Nebraska*, *Bunnicula*, *The Hoboken Chicken Emergency*, *Play Strindberg*, *Dimly Perceived Threats to the System*, *Sidney Bechet Killed a Man* (for which he received a Drama-Logue Award), *BAFO*, *Later Life* and *Three Viewings*. He designed *Culture Clash's The Birds* at both SCR and Berkeley Repertory Theatre, along with their national touring show, *Radio Mambo*. Recent design experience includes Richard Montoya's *Water & Power* at San Diego Repertory, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Taming*

of the Shrew at the Great River Shakespeare Festival and *A Holtville Night's Dream*, *Warriors Don't Cry*, *LETHE*, *I Ask You*, *Farewell to Manzanar* and *Waking Up in Lost Hills* with Cornerstone Theater Company, where he is an Associate Artist. He was also a designer for Universal Studios, Japan, where he designed the live shows *Terminator 2 in 3D* and *Monster Makeup*, the attractions Jurassic Park the Ride and Snoopy Studios, along with exterior architectural facades throughout the park. He is a member of the United Scenic Artist/IATSE - Local 829.

GABRIELA ESTRADA (*Choreographer*) was born in Los Angeles and graduated from the University of California, Irvine with a BA in Dance. In 1996 she founded Dance Collage School of Dance where she taught ballet, jazz, tap, flamenco, Mexican folk and Latin American dance. With Dance Collage Ms. Estrada produced *The Best of Broadway*, the first Flamenco Festival of Sonora and Al-Andaluz, Anthology of Spanish dance. In 1999 Ms. Estrada received a travel grant to do research about Spanish dance in Spain and was invited to become part of the faculty at the dance department at the University of Sonora, where she taught ballet, kinesiology and movement analysis until 2007. In 2001, Ms. Estrada was selected as finalist in the Leos Choreography Competitive Event at the X Jazz Dance World Congress. In 2006 she founded "DCG", and received a grant to tour the state of Sonora with "Contrastes" which included ballet, contemporary jazz and Flamenco. From 2004 to 2008 she taught Flamenco at the RAD Summer Schools at California State University, Long Beach and in 2008 she began teaching Musical Theatre as well. In 2007 Ms. Estrada received a scholarship to study her MFA in Dance at the University of California, Irvine, where she is conducting her research thesis on "The Three Cornered Hat," collaborating teaching technique classes and choreographing for MFA productions.

NICHOLAS C. AVILA (*Assistant Director*) returns to SCR after the Theatre for Young Audiences production of *The Prince and the Pauper*. Mr. Avila is a recent graduate of the Directing Program at the Yale School of Drama. This spring he will be directing the world pre-

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SOCORRO AND ERNESTO VASQUEZ (*Honorary Producers*) have been passionate supporters of SCR as annual Gala underwriters, Platinum Circle members and major donors to the Next Stage Campaign. Socorro served on the SCR Board of Trustees from 1996 through 2005 — a very active year, during which she chaired both the Platinum Circle and the Gala Ball, “Encantar... As if by Magic.” She recently was elected to the SCR Emeritus Board. Last season, the Vasquezes underwrote *Culture Clash in AmeriCCa*, and this season they are happy to be Honorary Producers of *La Posada Mágica*. Socorro comments, “*La Posada Mágica* transforms our hurried, frantic lives into a festive reminder of a season for caring and sharing. The music is lively and the story is a touching tribute to a beloved holiday tradition. Ernie and I welcome this opportunity to support SCR.”

TARGET (*Corporate Producer*) has renewed its generous partnership by underwriting the holiday production *La Posada Mágica*. Target’s partnership with SCR and Orange County children goes back to 1986 and includes underwriting of the Young Conservatory Players, The Target Tour of original plays to underserved schools, “A Dickens of A Day” holiday fundraiser, Festival Latino and the Theatre Discovery Project. Three seasons ago, the company made a generous grant to establish the “Target Family Performances” of selected Theatre for Young Audiences and *La Posada Mágica* performances for families at significantly reduced prices. “At Target, we are making a real difference every day through our community partnerships with organizations like SCR,” said Laysha Ward, President of Community Relations and Target Foundation. “The Target Family Performances give families a great opportunity to experience theatrical entertainment at an affordable cost.”

miere of Jose Cruz-Gonzalez’s *Sunsets & Margaritas* at the Denver Center Theatre Company. Most recent credits include *American Triage* by Marisela Treviño Orta, *Measure for Measure*, *The Real Thing*, *Mirror*, *Mirror* by Sarah Treem, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Muke the Inquisitive* by Victor Kaufold.

JENNIFER ELLEN BUTLER* (*Stage Manager*) has been with SCR for six seasons and 22 productions. She is pleased to be back on *La Posada Mágica* after a two year hiatus and looks forward to singing along in the booth. Other theatre credits include Laguna Playhouse, Utah Shakespearean Festival, California Shakespeare Theatre, TheatreWorks, Perseverance Theatre, Spoleto Festival USA and Shakespeare Santa Cruz. She has also stage managed operas for Long Beach Opera and Pacific Repertory Opera. Ms. Butler has a BA in Theatre Arts from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

DAVID EMMES (*Producing Artistic Director*) is co-founder of SCR. He has received numerous awards for productions he has directed during his SCR career, including a Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for the direction of George Bernard Shaw’s *The Philanderer*. He directed the world premieres of Amy Freed’s *Safe in Hell*, *The Beard of Avon* and *Freedomland*, Thomas Babe’s *Great Day in the Morning*, Keith Reddin’s *Rum and Coke* and *But Not for Me* and Neal Bell’s *Cold Sweat*; the American premieres of Terry Johnson’s *Unsuitable for Adults* and Joe Penhall’s *Dumb Show*; the West Coast premieres of C.P. Taylor’s *Good* and Harry Kondoleon’s *Christmas on Mars*; and the Southland premiere of *Top Girls* (at SCR and the Westwood Playhouse). Other productions include the West Coast premieres of *Three Viewings* by Jeffrey Hatcher, *The Secret Rapture* by David Hare and *New England* by Richard Nelson; and *Arcadia* by Tom Stoppard, *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde, Ayckbourn’s *Woman in Mind* and *You Never Can Tell* by George Bernard Shaw, which he restaged for the Singapore Festival of Arts. He has served as a theatre panelist and onsite evaluator for the National

Endowment for the Arts, on the Executive Committee of the League of Resident Theatres, and as a panelist for the California Arts Council. After attending Orange Coast College, he received his BA and MA from San Francisco State University, and his PhD in theatre and film from USC.

MARTIN BENSON (*Artistic Director*), co-founder of SCR with his colleague David Emmes, has directed nearly one third of the plays produced here. He has distinguished himself in the staging of contemporary work, including William Nicholson's *The Retreat from Moscow*, the world premiere of Horton Foote's *Getting Frankie Married — and Afterwards* and the critically acclaimed California premiere of Nicholson's *Shadowlands*. He has won accolades for his direction of five major works by George Bernard Shaw, including the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle (LADCC) Award-winners *Major Barbara*, *Misalliance* and *Heartbreak House*. Among his numerous world premieres is Margaret Edson's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Wit*, which he also directed at Seattle Repertory Theatre and the Alley Theatre in Houston. He has directed American classics including *Ab, Wilderness!*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *A Delicate Balance* and *A View from the Bridge*. Benson has received the LADCC Distinguished Achievement in Directing awards an unparalleled seven times for the three Shaw productions, John Millington Synge's *Playboy of the Western World*, Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, Sally Nemeth's *Holy Days* and *Wit*. He also directed the film version of *Holy Days* using the original SCR cast. Along with Emmes, he accepted SCR's 1988 Tony Award for Outstanding Resident Professional Theatre and won the 1995 Theatre LA Ovation Award for Lifetime Achievement. Benson received his BA in Theatre from San Francisco State University.

PAULA TOMEI (*Managing Director*) is responsible for the overall administration of South Coast Repertory and has been Managing Director since 1994. A member of the SCR staff since 1979, she has served in a number of administrative capacities including Subscriptions Manager, Business Manager and General Manager. She served on the board of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national service organization for theatre, from 1998-2006, and was its President for four years. She has also served as Treasurer of TCG, Vice President of the League of

Resident Theatres (LORT) and has been a member of the LORT Negotiating Committee for industry-wide union agreements. In addition, she represents SCR at national conferences of TCG and LORT; has been a theatre panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the California Arts Council, and site visitor for the NEA; served on the Advisory Committee for the Arts Administration Certificate Program at the University of California, Irvine; and has been a guest lecturer in the graduate school of business at Stanford and the University of California, Irvine. She recently joined the board of Arts Orange County, the county wide arts council. Ms. Tomei graduated from the University of California, Irvine with a degree in Economics and pursued an additional course of study in theatre and dance.

SOUTH COAST REPERTORY, founded in 1964 and continuing today under the leadership of Artistic Directors David Emmes and Martin Benson, is widely regarded as one of America's foremost producers of new plays. In its three-stage Folino Theatre Center in Costa Mesa, California, SCR produces a five-play season on its Segerstrom Stage, a four-play season on its Argyros Stage, plus two annual holiday productions. SCR also offers a three-play Theatre for Young Audiences series, and year-round programs in education and outreach. SCR's extensive new play development program consists of commissions, residencies, readings, and workshops, from which up to five world premieres are produced each season. Among the plays commissioned and introduced at SCR are Donald Margulies' *Sight Unseen*, *Collected Stories* and *Brooklyn Boy*; Richard Greenberg's *Three Days of Rain*, *Everett Beekin*, *Hurrah at Last* and *The Violet Hour*; David Henry Hwang's *Golden Child*, Jose Rivera's *References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot*, Lynn Nottage's *Intimate Apparel*, Craig Lucas' *Prelude to a Kiss*, Amy Freed's *The Beard of Avon* and *Freedomland*, Margaret Edson's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Wit* and David Lindsay-Abaire's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Rabbit Hole*. Most of these plays were developed through its Pacific Playwrights Festival, an annual workshop and reading showcase for up to eight new plays, attended by artistic directors and literary staff members from across the country. Over forty percent of the plays SCR has produced have been world, American or West Coast premieres. In 1988, SCR received the Regional Theatre Tony Award for Distinguished Achievement, particularly in the area of new play development.



The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

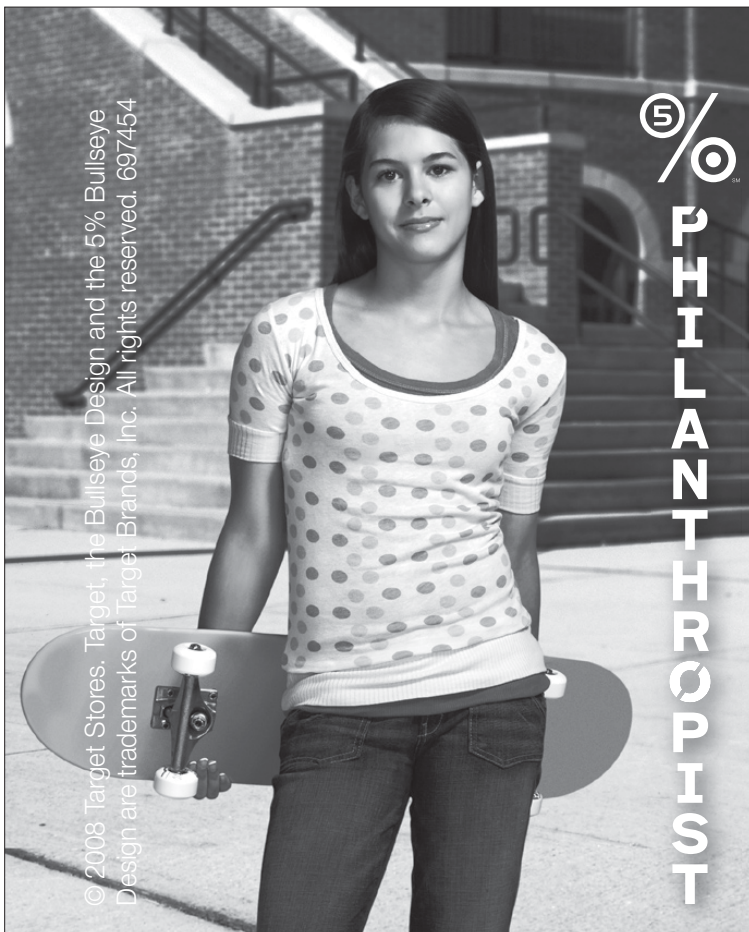


The Scenic, Costume, Lighting and Sound Designers in LORT theatres are represented by United Scenic Artists Local USA-829, IATSE.



The Director is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union.


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