



SECOND STAGE • DECEMBER 7 THROUGH DECEMBER 23, 2001

South Coast Repertory

David Emmes
Producing Artistic Director

Martin Benson
Artistic Director

presents



written by OCTAVIO SOLIS
music by MARCOS LOYA

Scenic Design
CLIFF FAULKNER

Costume Design
SHIGERU YAJI

Lighting Design
LONNIE ALCARAZ

Musical Director
MARCOS LOYA

Choreographer
LINDA KOSTALIK

Production Manager
JEFF GIFFORD

Stage Manager
*RICHARD SOTO

directed by DIANE RODRIGUEZ

SADIE AND BRIAN FINNEGAN, *Honorary Producers*

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 *Geoffrey Rivas
Gracie *Tiffany Ellen Solano
Eli, Lauro, Bones *Richard Coca
Mom, Mariluz *Teresa Velarde
Papi, Jose Cruz *Danny Bolero
Refugio, Buzzard *Sol Castillo
Consuelo, Widow *Denise Blasor
Caridad, Widow *Carla Jimenez
Musicians, Ensemble Marcos Loya, Lorenzo Martinez

SETTING:

Christmas Eve. The present.

LENGTH:

Approximately two hours including one 15-minute intermission

PRODUCTION STAFF

Casting Director Joanne DeNaut
Production Assistant Karen Cecilio
Assistant to the Lighting Designer Amber Grunwal
Stage Management Intern Barbra Pushies

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

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.*

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The Historical Procession of Las Posadas

The familiar story of Joseph and Mary's long-ago search for lodgings is related every year at Christmastime 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 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 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.

'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

Chorus:

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.

(repeat Chorus)

Words by Octavio Solís; music by Marcos Loya

Artist Biographies

***DENISE BLASOR** (*Consuelo/Widow*)

returns to SCR this season for her sixth year in *La Posada Mágica*. She was last seen at the Odyssey Theatre in Koan's new adaptation of *Faust* (part one and two) directed by Ron Sossi. She appeared at Los Angeles Theatre



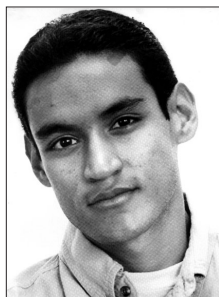
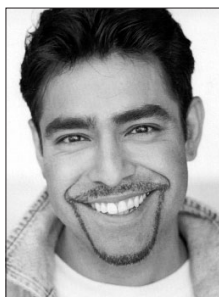
Center as the Bride in *Blood Wedding*, directed by Margarita Galban, which the *Los Angeles Times* named one of the year's top productions. She is Artistic Director of Los Angeles Diversified Theater Company, where she adapted and performed in *The Three Sisters* and appeared in the Ovation Award-nominated production of *He Who Gets Slapped*, directed by Dan Shor. She also performed with the original musical production of *Caderas* at LATC. Other stage credits include leading roles in the world premiere of *House of the Spirits* at LATC; *Yerma*, *Lorca* and *Women Without Men* for Bilingual Foundation of the Arts; *Cervantes' Interludes* at Stages, directed by Florinel Fatulescu; *The Good Woman of Setzuan* at the Odyssey Theatre, directed by Ron Sossi; *Made in Lanus*, directed by Lillian Garrett at the Old Globe Theatre; and *Accelerando*, *Puntilla & Matti* and *The Bacchae* at the Odyssey Theatre. She played Juana in *The False Chronicle of Juana La Loca* at the Festival Cervantino De Guanajuato in Mexico and has performed in Spain and Puerto Rico. Ms. Blasor's film credits include *The Disappearance of Garcia Lorca* with Andy Garcia, *Univers'l* directed by Ana Nicholas, and *Noriega, God's Favorite* with Bob Hoskins, directed by Roger Spottiswoode. In January she will be performing at BFA in the new production of *Loren's Women*.

***DANNY BOLERO** (*Papi/Jose Cruz*) is a Los Angeles native and graduate of the American Center for Music Theatre. He is thrilled to be making his SCR debut. A founding member of the Plaza de la Raza Players under the direction of Margo Al-

bert, he has appeared onstage from California to Broadway. Recently he had the privilege of starring as Abraham in the premiere of *Selena, A Celebration of Life* in Los Angeles. On

Broadway he originated the role of Naphthali in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* starring Michael Damien, then appeared in the first national tour with Sam Harris. Other recent credits include *Man of La Mancha*, *Evita* (Drama-Logue Award, Best Actor), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *The World Goes Round*. Regionally he has performed in *A Chorus Line*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Broadway Sings Out*, *Side by Side by Sondheim*, *Bird of Quintain*, *Nine*, *West Side Story*, *Pacific Overtures*, *Show Boat* with Van Johnson as well as *Man of La Mancha* with Robert Goulet. Television credits include "Judging Amy," "Down Home," "Beverly Hills 90210," the television pilot "Los Alvarez" and "JAG." He would like to thank his family, friends and his agent Eric at the Bobby Ball Agency in Los Angeles. He dedicates this work to the memory of his mother and father who keep him believing that impossible dreams can come true.

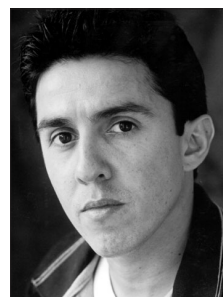
***SOL CASTILLO** (*Refugio/Buzzard*) is proud to return to SCR for his second season of *La Posada Mágica*. He was seen in the SCR world premiere *The Hollow Lands* and the Pacific Playwrights Festival workshop of *References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot*. At San Diego Repertory he appeared in *Zoot Suit*, *The Imaginary Invalid* and *Barrio Hollywood*. Other theatre credits include *Veteranos: A Trib-*



ute, West Side Story, Bye Bye Birdie and *Talking to Yellow Roses*. Mr. Castillo was last seen in Showtime's production *Resurrection Blvd.* and will be seen in Valor Productions feature film *Who's James Cagney?* He dedicates his performance to his family, and is grateful for their love and support.

***RICHARD COCA** (*Eli/Lauro/Bones*)

appeared in the Pacific Playwrights Festival's workshops of Cusi Cram's *Landlocked* and José Rivera's *References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot*—both directed by Juliette Carrillo. He was seen in the West Coast premiere of Sam Shepard's *Eyes for Consuela* at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco. He appeared in the Evelina Fernandez penned feature film, *Luminarias*, directed by Jose Luis Valenzuela, and the film *The Mexican*, directed by Gore Verbinski. As a writer he is currently working on his second full-length play, *Radicals*.

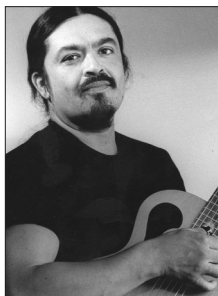


***CARLA JIMENEZ** (*Caridad, Widow*) returns for her second season in *La Posada Mágica*. Her theatre credits include *The*

Lalo Project (A Mark Taper Forum presentation at the Actor's Gang, directed and written by Diane Rodriguez), *Godspell* at the Knightsbridge Theatre, *Black Butterfly*, *Jaguar Girl*, *Piñata Woman and Other Super Hero Girls Like Me* (Mark Taper Forum at Actor's Gang), *South Pacific* at the Glendale Center Theatre and the national tour of *The Mikado* among others. Ms. Jimenez thanks amazing directors like Diane Rodriguez and Luis Alfaro, as well as her family, for believing in her.

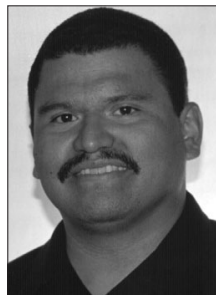


MARCOS LOYA (*Composer/Musical Director/Ensemble*) is an accomplished musician and composer and a master of acoustic guitar. He is also adept on *requinto*, *jarrana*, *cuatro*, 12-string, mandolin, electric guitar and various indigenous folk instruments. His debut CD, *Love is the Reason*, garnered an Independent Contemporary Jazz Album of the Year nomination. In 1996 he composed the score for two films for "American Playhouse": *Hostile Intentions* starring Tia Carrera and the adaptation of Tomas Rivera's *and the earth did not swallow him* (*y no solo trago la tierra*). 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). He scored and/or composed music for several plays, including the Los Angeles Theater 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 KTLA-TV documentary "Amnesty - a Dream Fulfilled?" and 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 Buenavista/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 in-



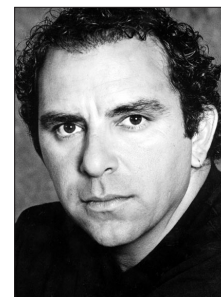
cluding Placido Domingo, Linda Ronstadt (with the Houston Symphony Orchestra), Celia Cruz, Tito Puente, Lalo Guerrero, Chick Corea, Chaka Khan, Gerald Albright, Hugh Masekela, Keiko Matsui, Phillip Bailey, Stephen Stills, Vicki Carr, Luis Enrique, and Jose Feliciano, and recorded with Madonna. Mr. Loya's most recent project is the acoustic group Trio Los 5, which offers a fascinating look at the political/folk music of the Americas. The group, which includes current *La Posada Mágica* ensemble member Lorenzo Martinez and past member Mundo Armijo, looks for ways to express their Chicano heritage to contemporary audiences. He dedicates his performance to the memory of his father, Arthur Loya, whose courage and love remain a constant source of inspiration. Mr. Loya would like to extend his thanks to Jack for the accordion as well as recognize the generous sponsorship of Tacoma Guitars, whose fine instruments are featured in this production.

LORENZO MARTINEZ (*Musician/Ensemble*) was raised with the rich, culturally diverse music of Los Angeles and has traveled and performed throughout the Southwest. Recently 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 Freddie Fender and Vicki 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 the Mark Taper Forum and with Culture Clash in *La Carpa* at the Mark Taper Forum.

***GEOFFREY RIVAS** (*Horatio*) is a native Californian who graduated from UCLA with a Master of Fine Arts Degree with a concentration on acting. He received a 1999 Ovation nomination for his role of Martin in Sam Shepard's *Fool for Love* at the newly opened Madrid Theatre in Canoga Park. He has performed at Los Angeles Theatre Center in *Luminarias* (the film version should be released on video next year), *I Don't Have to Show You No Stinking Badges* for Luis Valdez and *Piano* by Anna Deavere-Smith; at SCR in *Man of the Flesh* by Octavio Solis; and at New Mexico Repertory in *Once Removed* by Eduardo Machado. Film credits include *La Bamba*, *Born in East L.A.*, *Pow Wow Highway*, *Bound by Honor*, *Above Suspicion*, *Notes From Underground*, *Eye for an Eye*, *The Right to Remain Silent* and *Foto Novelas* for PBS (for which he won an ALMA Award in 1998). Numerous



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John Rozenbergs, Ph.D
Dominique Merz, Ph.D
Karen R. Lloyd
Gene E. Phillips

television credits include movies of the week *Little Assassin*, *Drug Wars-The Kiki Camarena Story*, *Overkill*, *Blind Side*, *Ambush at Waco*, *Trial by Fire*, *The Lake* and television shows "Jake and the Fat Man," "L.A. Law," "E.R.," "Relativity," "Chicago Hope," "Brooklyn South," "Al-right Already," "Early Edition," "Pensacola," "Air America" and "Promised Land." Currently he has a recurring role as Det. Vega on the CBS show "C.S.I." He is a member of the Latino Theatre Co. created by Jose Luis Valenzuela at LATC. He is currently working on a new play by Evelina Fernandez called *Dementia*. He derives great pleasure from his work with the Virginia Ave. Project, an organization that uses the performing arts to encourage children growing up under difficult circumstances to achieve their full potential; he is also a member of the board.

***TIFFANY ELLEN SOLANO** (*Gracie*) is happy to return to SCR for her third year with this production. This teenager has spent more than half her life on stage, beginning in musical theatre, and later progressing to performing straight plays and Shakespeare. Ms. Solano portrayed Ginya in *Nine Armenians* at the Mark Taper Forum and Denver Center Theatre, and received critical acclaim for her depiction of Anne in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Other performances include lead roles in *David and Lisa*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *West Side Story*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Under the Gaslight*. Earlier this year the Young Artist Organization awarded Ms. Solano the prestigious honor of "Most Outstanding Young Performer in Live Theatre" for her portrayal of Gracie in last year's *La Posada Mágica*. Though



her heart is truly in the theatre, this multi-talented young artist also enjoys film and music work. She is a proud member of AEA, SAG and AFTRA. Film credits include commercials, television guest spots, industrials, interactive videos and independent films. She is also currently working with a music producer towards obtaining a record contract. She sends her love to all of her family and friends and encourages you to keep supporting the wonderful art of theatre.

***TERESA VELARDE** (*Mom/Mariluz*) returns to *La Posada Mágica*, where she originated the roles of Mom and Mariluz. She also appeared in SCR's Second Stage production of *Man of the Flesh* and has participated in many of SCR's Hispanic Playwrights Project readings. Ms. Velarde understudied the role of Eponine in L.A.'s production of *Les Misérables* at the Shubert Theatre. Some of her other theatrical credits include leading roles in *Latins Anonymous* at San Diego Repertory; *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 the 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 most recently "The Practice." Ms. Velarde has also appeared in various films including *The Addict*, *Choose Me*, *The People Under the Stairs* and *Outbreak*, starring Dustin Hoffman. 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 AFL. Ms. Velarde teaches acting and musical theatre to children during the summer for Long Beach's International City Theatre. She has two handsome sons, Justin, 9, and Lucas, 4, and is married to drummer David Page. She wishes to thank her family and wish everyone a blessed holiday season. Feliz Navidad!

PLAYWRIGHT, DIRECTOR & DESIGNERS

OCTAVIO SOLIS (*Playwright*) is a playwright and director living in San Francisco. His works *Man of the Flesh*, *Prospect* (a film was completed in May), *El Paso Blue*, *Santos & Santos*, *La Posada Mágica*, *El Otro* and *Dreamlandia* have been mounted at theatres nationwide. *Burning Dreams*, co-written with Julie Hebert and Gina Leishman, was produced by the San Diego Repertory, and his collaborative project with Erik Ehn, *Shiner*, was mounted by the Undermain Theatre in Dallas. Solis has received an NEA 1995-97 Playwriting Fellowship, the Roger L. Stevens Award from The Kennedy Center and the Will Glickman Playwright Award for *Santos & Santos*, a production grant from The Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays for *Dreamlandia* at the Dallas Theater Center, the 1998 TCG/NEA Theatre Artists in Residence Grant, the 1998 McKnight Fellowship grant from the Playwrights Center in Minneapolis and the 2000-2001 National Theatre Artists Residency Grant from TCG. He is the recipient of a grant from the Pew Charitable Trust for a new project with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Solis is a member of the Dramatists Guild and New Dramatists.

DIANE RODRIGUEZ (*Director*) returns to direct *La Posada Mágica* again this



*Ranked #1 in Orange County
for six consecutive years.*

season. She also appeared at SCR in *Latins Anonymous*, which she co-wrote. She has participated in six Hispanic Playwrights Projects that included directing Nilo Cruz' *Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams* and Octavio Solis' *El Otro*. She has directed at Hartford Stage in Connecticut, Mixed Blood in Minneapolis, the Mark Taper Forum and Cornerstone Theatre in Los Angeles, Phoenix Theatre and Borderlands Theatre in Arizona, among others. This season she will direct at the Actors' Theatre of Phoenix and the Strasburg Theatre in Los Angeles. She has been an NEA/TCG Director and in 2000 was one of five women honored for Women's History Month in Los Angeles. Also an anthologized writer and actor, she is on artistic staff at the Mark Taper Forum and Co-Director of the Latino Theatre Initiative, one of the largest Latino play development programs in the country.

MARCOS LOYA (*Musical Director*)
See biography on page SCR-5.

CLIFF FAULKNER (*Scenic Design*) has created designs for more than 75 productions for South Coast Repertory, including *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Breaking the Code*, *Sight Unseen* and *Woman in Mind*. His Shakespeare productions include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *As You Like It* and *Much Ado about Nothing* at SCR; *Timon of Athens*, *Julius Caesar* and *Macbeth* at The Globe Theatres in San Diego; *King Lear* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival/Portland; and *Hamlet*, *Love's Labour's Lost* and *Henry IV, Part I* at the Grove Shakespeare Festival. Twice a recipient of the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award, Mr. Faulkner has also been honored with their Bob Z (Robert Zentis) Award for Lifetime Achievement in Scene Design. He is a member of the Drama faculty at UC Irvine.

SHIGERU YAJI (*Costume Designer*) has been designing costumes on the West Coast for over 20 years, creating designs for more than 100 productions. This is Mr Yaji's 19th season with SCR, and he is pleased to continue with the 8th year of *La Posada Mágica's* tradition with the company. Mr. Yaji's design work has also been seen in the 1997-2000 National Tour/Broadway production of *Peter Pan*, and at San Jose Repertory Theatre, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, the Intiman Theatre, ACT in Seattle, Oregon Shakespeare Festival/Ashland and Portland, ACT San Francisco, the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, Pasadena Playhouse, Ballet Pacifica in Irvine, La Mirada Theatre, Sacramento Theatre Company, Westwood Playhouse, Los Angeles Theatre Center, Taper, Too, Grove Shakespeare Festival, East West Players, International City Theatre, GeVA Theatre in New York and the 1990 Singapore Festival of Arts. He also works as a consulting designer for such companies as Disneyland, DreamWorks Animation and Universal Studios. He is the recipient of five Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards for Distinguished Achievement in Costume Design, in addition to numerous awards and other recognitions. Mr. Yaji is a member of the United Scenic Artists Local 829 and the UC Irvine Drama Department Faculty.

LONNIE ALCARAZ (*Lighting Design*) is a Professor at the University of California, Irvine and a professional Lighting Designer. He has designed at various regional theatre houses, such as South Coast Repertory, Berkeley Repertory, Sierra Repertory, The Arena Stage in DC, and the Utah Shakespeare Festival. In addition to *La Posada Mágica*, shows at SCR include *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*. Also Culture Clash's *The Birds* at both SCR and Berkeley Repertory, along with their national touring show, *Radio Mambo*, which has been seen in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Arizona, New York, Seattle and Washington DC. Further selected design experience includes the Utah Shakespearean Festival for two seasons and *Watsonville* at the York Theatre in San Francisco. His most recently completed work is on 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 various exterior architectural facades throughout the park. He is a member of the United Scenic Artist/IATSE - Local 829. He received his MFA and BA from University of California, Irvine.

LINDA KOSTALIK (*Choreographer*) is a professor in the Theatre Arts and Dance at CSULA and works for the award-winning Los Angeles County High School of the Arts as choreographer for their Musical Theatre Ensemble. Her career as dancer, choreographer and educator has spanned 38 years. She has choreographed numerous productions for professional theatres such as SCR, Playwrights Horizons, the Goodman and the International City Theatre. This year she will choreograph the Bobby Rodriguez *A Latin Jazz Christmas* show and is planning work with Jazz flutist James Newton. This year it is especially good to be working for the SCR family. The happiest of holidays to everyone!

RICHARD SOTO (*Stage Manager*) has appeared on the SCR Mainstage the past 11 years as young Ebenezer in *A Christmas Carol*. He has participated in several of SCR's Hispanic Playwrights Projects, most recently stage managing this



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summer's *California Scenarios*. He has also performed in or stage managed nine Educational Touring productions at SCR. Mr. Soto is a Resident Artist of the highly acclaimed theatre company A Noise Within, where he has appeared in over 25 productions, including *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *What the Butler Saw*, and *So It Is!* (Drama-Logue Award). Other theatres include The Globe Theatres, San Diego Rep, and the Grove Shakespeare Festival. Mr. Soto is a member of Palabras Writers Lab, where he has just completed *Danny and the Masked Avenger*, a children's theatre piece. His film and television credits include *Firebirds* with Nicolas Cage, *Third Degree Burn* for HBO, "General Hospital," "Days of Our Lives," as well as numerous commercials.

DAVID EMMES (*Producing Artistic Director*) is co-founder and Producing Artistic Director of SCR, one of the largest professional resident theatres in California. He has received numerous awards for productions he has directed during SCR's 37-year history, including a 1999 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 *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 premiere of Terry Johnson's *Unsuitable for Adults*; 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). Recent 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, *Six Degrees of Separation* by John Guare, *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 1990 Singapore Festival of Arts. His producing responsibilities involve the overall coordination of SCR's programs and projects. He has served as a consultant to the Orange County Performing Arts Center and as a theatre panelist and onsite evaluator for the National Endowment for the Arts. He has served on the board of the California Theatre Council, 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 California State University, San Francisco, and his PhD in theatre and film from USC.

MARTIN BENSON (*Artistic Director*) shares co-founder credit and artistic leadership of SCR with his colleague David Emmes. As one of SCR's chief directors, Mr. Benson has directed nearly one third of the plays produced here in the last 37 years. He has distinguished himself in the staging of contemporary work, most notably Paul Osborn's *Morning's at Seven*, the critically acclaimed California premiere of William Nicholson's *Shadowlands*, Athol Fugard's *Playland*, Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa*, David Mamet's *Oleanna*, the West Coast premiere of Peter Hedges' *Good As New* and David Hare's *Skylight*. 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 *Misalliance* and *Heartbreak House*. Among the numerous world premieres he has directed are Jon Bastian's *Noah Johnson Had a Whore...*, Tom Strellich's *BAFO*, and 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 *Ah, Wilderness!*, *A Street-*

car Named Desire, *A Delicate Balance* and *All My Sons*. Mr. Benson has been honored with the Drama-Logue Award for his direction of 21 productions and received LADCC Distinguished Achievement in Directing awards an unparalleled six times for the two 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 David Emmes, he accepted SCR's 1988 Tony Award for Outstanding Resident Professional Theatre and won the 1995 Theatre LA Ovation Award for Lifetime Achievement. Mr. Benson received his BA in Theatre from California State University, San Francisco.

PAULA TOMEI (*Managing Director*) is responsible for the overall administration of the day-to-day operations of SCR. A member of the staff since 1979, she has served in a number of administrative capacities including Subscriptions Manager, Business Manager and, for six years, General Manager. She currently serves as President of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national service organization for theatre where she just completed a two-year term as Treasurer, and has served as the Vice President of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT). In addition, she has been a member of the LORT Negotiating Committee for industry-wide union agreements and represents SCR at national conferences of TCG and LORT; is a theatre panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and the California Arts Council (CAC), and site visitor for the CAC; served on the Advisory Committee for the Arts Administration Certificate Program at UC Irvine; and has been a guest lecturer in the graduate school of business at Stanford. She graduated from UC Irvine with a degree in Economics and pursued an additional course of study in theatre and dance.



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