

## El Río Cast

**Carla Pantoja** (El Río) is grateful to take this beautiful journey with this group of talented beings. A local actor, she has worked with the Magic Theater, Cal Shakes, Crowded Fire, Teatro Visión, Shotgun Players, and the SF Mime Troupe to name a few. She is a resident artist of San Francisco Shakespeare Festival and a company member of Playground. Carla is also a certified stage combat instructor with Dueling Arts International and a founding member of the local chapter, Dueling Arts San Francisco. A big thank you to her family who care for two little munchkins while mama gets to act. Open mind, open heart, and breathe.

**Halili Knox** (Francisca) is a versatile performing artist and Bay Area native who last appeared in *Detroit '67* at Aurora Theatre Company (Bay Area Critics Circle Award nomination, Principal Actress in a Play). She is an Associate Artist at Ubuntu Theater Project where she most recently appeared in *Dance of the Holy Ghosts* and *The Gospel of Loving Kindness* (Theatre Bay Area Award nomination, Outstanding Female Actor). She also appeared in *Barbecue* at SF Playhouse (Bay Area Critics Circle Award, Best Ensemble). Halili is an Emmy nominated television host who made her national debut on HGTV. In addition to stage and screen, Halili has performed locally and internationally as a jazz and blues vocalist.

**Laura Espino** (Rosario) is very happy to join the cast of *El Rio*. Other credits include Theatreworks, American Conservatory Theater, The Magic Theatre, Playground, City Lights Theatre Co., TheatreFIRST, California Shakespeare Theater, and Bay Area Playwrights Foundation. Laura leads the Theatre for Young Audiences Program at Golden Thread Productions. She is a teacher at Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of The Arts, and an MLA candidate at Stanford University. "For Eva and Isaac".

**Eduardo Soria** (Reynaldo Madrid) is thrilled join BACCE and to be a part of the world premiere of *El Rio* by Andrew Saito! Eduardo is currently a student at CCSF finishing his studies in Theatre Arts and Fire Science Technology. He is the co-founder of CCSF's very own Theatre Club to help other theatre majors refine their techniques from acting to tech and to expose other students on campus as well as the surrounding community to performance art. Recent performances include *Buffalo Soldiers: The Untold Story* (Wolf Sleeve) at the Oakstop, *Memoria del Silencio en el Pias de la Eterna Primavera* (Fernando, Esqueleto, Viejo, and Military Captian) at the Mission Cultural Center of Latino Arts, and *Cradle Will Rock* (Diego Rivera) *Mission* (Herbert) as well as writing & performing an original solo one act *Dia De Mi Muerte* at CCSF's Diego Rivera Theatre. Eduardo has also written & directed a one act *Perfect* that was also performed at CCSF's Diego Rivera Theatre. Infinite thank you's to his father, two sisters, family, friends, and mentors for their ongoing love and support.