

Brava presents

# Pachuquismo



A LIVE rhythmic remembrance of las Pachucas & their stylized power of rebellious resistance

Featuring

**VANESSA  
SANCHEZ**

**& LA MEZCLA**



Photo by  
Beth LaBerge,  
Courtesy of  
KQED Arts

Car provided by  
Carlos Sanchez

March 26 & 27, 2022 at 7:30pm

La Mezcla &

**BRAVA**  
THEATER CENTER  
2781 24TH ST @ YORK  
BRAVA.ORG

Brava! for Women in the Arts presents

# Pachuquismo



Along with the World Premiere of  
"GHOSTLY LABOR: A DANCE FILM"

Opening the evening's program is the World Premiere of "Ghostly Labor: a Dance Film," a short film by John Jota Leaños and Vanessa Sanchez that explores Sanchez's latest work in-progress of the same name. Based on farmworker interviews in California, "Ghostly Labor: a Dance Film" honors the sacred hands that feed us and was filmed on Avila Garcia Farms with support from Ayudando Latinos a Soñar (ALAS) in Half Moon Bay, CA.

A full-length dance theater production of *Ghostly Labor* will premiere in 2023.

For more information about ALAS, visit [alasdreams.com](http://alasdreams.com)

13 minutes

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Performers: **Vanessa Sanchez, Sandy Vazquez, Kirsten Millan, Diana Aburto, Micah Sallid, Javier Navarette, Pedro Gomez, Elena de Troya, Tanya Benítez, & Sharon Benítez.**

Interviewees: **Rocio Avila Garcia, Serafin Avila Garcia, Don Ramon Sonoqui Martínez, & Antonio Castro.**

Co-Directed by **John Jota Leaños & Vanessa Sanchez**

Choreography and Artistic Direction by **Vanessa Sanchez**

Performed by **La Mezcla**

Song "El Camotal; Manos Que Nos Dan" Letras by **Laura Reboloso** with arrangement by **Javier Navarete** and **Vanessa Sanchez**

Produced by **Harry Gregory & Sharon Benítez**

Edited by **John Jota Leaños & Harry Gregory**

Director of Photography **Elie M. Khadra**

Gimbal Operator **Andrew Lew**

1st Assistant Camera **Yuito Kimura**

Audio Engineer **Jim Choi**

Costumed by **Vanessa Sanchez**

Sound Editing **Greg Landau**

Production Assistant **Joseline Granados**



# “PACHUQUÍSMO”

*Pachuquismo* is an all female tap dance, Son Jarocho and live music performance inspired by the experiences of Las Pachucas in the 1940s and the systemic racism that communities of color continue to face today.

*75 minutes without intermission*

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Performers **Ayla Davila, Christian Galindo, Kirsten Millan, Luna Fuentes, Micah Sallid, Natalie John, Sandy Vazquez, Tanya Benítez, Vanessa Sanchez, & Yuridia Martinez**

Director & Choreographer **Vanessa Sanchez**

Musical Director & Arrangements **Ayla Davila**

Son Jarocho Arrangements & Advisor **Laura Reboloso**

Musical Advisor **Greg Landau**

Advisor **Dr. Catherine Ramirez**

Video **John Jota Leños**

Technical Director & Lighting Designer **Justine Fernandez**

Audio Engineer **David Molina**

Hair and Costume Design **Ariana Martinez**

La Mezcla Company Manager **Sharon Benítez**

La Mezcla Production Manager **Joseline Granados**

Brava Production Manager **Alba Lluch**

Brava Technical Director **Drea Schwartz** / Theater Technician **Carlie Algas**



This performance of *Pachuquismo* is dedicated to the Pachucas of the 1940s, who, despite being mistreated, racially targeted, villainized in the media and overlooked throughout history, stood their ground and rose up as Mexican-American activists during a time of great strife and oppression. We honor your work, your legacy and your resistance and hope to inspire little brown girls everywhere to fight for what they believe in, just as you inspired us.

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### Special Thanks

Cat Ramírez, Sharon Benítez, John Jota Leños, Stacie Powers-Cuellar, Laura Reboloso, Avila Garcia Farms, Pedro Gomez, Elena de Troya, Monica Fimbrez, Lolis Garcia, Javier Navarette, Diana Aburto, Violeta Romero, Marivel Mendoza, Emmeline Gonzalez-Beban, Joti Singh, Norman Zelaya, Aaron Mattocks, Emily Waters, Emil Kang, Stella Adelman, Krissy Keefer, Susanne Takehara, Jose Navarette, Yaya Porras, Nicholas Centino, Greg Landau, Belinda Arriaga, Joaquin Murrieta, Andres Flores, Alfredo "Godo" Herrera, Benito Cortés Padua, Sheri Sampson, Tania Santiago, Susana Arenas, Carlos Sanchez, Mary Sanchez, Emilio Gallegos, Seryna Gallegos, Pillie Gallegos, Darío Mendoza, Tía Tela, Virginia Sanchez, ALAS, Dance Mission Theater, Eastside Arts Alliance, Brava Theater, Paseo Artístico, Calle 24, MACLA, The Mellon Foundation, Zellerbach Foundation, New England Foundation for the Arts, Dance/USA, Circuit Network, Los Angeles Public Library, El Pachuco Zoot Suits.

An extra special thanks to the Mission District, NSSJ, Los Angeles and the communities of color that continue to fight with and for la gente!

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### Funders

*La Mezcla* projects receive support from **New England Foundation for the Arts, Zellerbach Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, California Arts Council, SF Arts Commission, Dance/USA, Center for Cultural Innovation, The Kenneth Rainin Foundation, National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures, Dancers' Group, Akonadi Foundation.**

## Pachuquismo Artist Bios

**Vanessa Sanchez** is a Chicana-Native dancer, choreographer and educator who focuses on community arts and traditional dance forms to emphasize voices and experiences of Latina, Chicana, and Indigenous womxn and youth. Based in SF, she is a 2019 Dance/USA Artist Fellow. She works to ensure accessibility to arts training and performances while mentoring youth and young adults of color. Sanchez's work is rooted in community engagement, creating choreography and accessible events to tell stories of collective resistance. Her production "Pachuquismo" received the Isadora Duncan Award for Outstanding Production. She received a Hewlett 50 Arts Commission grant with Brava Theater for upcoming work "Ghostly Labor." Sanchez is currently a Dance Lecturer at UCSC and a resident artist at Brava Theater.

**Sandy Vazquez** works in developing the vision of La Mezcla's artistic content and narratives. Sandy is an interdisciplinary artist and arts educator born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. In 2016, she graduated from UCLA with a dual degree in Dance and Chicana Studies. As the daughter of working class, undocumented Mexican immigrants, she has committed her life's work to honoring her community and ancestry by making space for dialogue onstage and in the classroom.

**Kirsten Millan** promotes La Mezcla events by sharing behind the scenes videos and clips, promoting opportunities for the community, and creating content including videos and flyers to be shared on social media. Kirsten is a Filipino-American tap dancer based in San Francisco who received her BA in History and Dance at SFSU. She hopes to continue exploring identity in the context of race, culture, and society in her work on and offstage.

**Micah Sallid** is a Los Angeles native who began studying with Arlene Kennedy Universal Dance Design at 17 months old and danced with the Kennedy Tap Company. She moved to Atlanta, GA for her high school years and danced for Decatur City Dance in their Apprentice Ensemble ballet/jazz company and Junior Rhythm Keepers tap company. For three years, she was an intern in choreography with the Broadway Dreams Foundation and toured multiple cities. In May 2019 Micah graduated from Saint Mary's College with a BA in Dance and a minor in Women & Gender Studies and is now a part of university's faculty.

**Christian Galindo** is a queer, first generation Mexican & Guatemalan multidisciplinary dancer, community organizer, and plant-based chef, born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. She is currently based out of Oakland, CA and is thrilled to join the incredibly talented cast of Pachuquismo. Being a part of this performance is meaningful to her as it honors the stories and strength of Mexican American women from her hometown during a male-centered time of resistance through movement, music and visual productions.

**Ayla Davila** is a bassist, composer, and multi-instrumentalist from Berkeley, California. Raised in a musical household, Ayla started playing traditional Guatemalan and folkloric Mexican music as a young child. At age 11, Ayla found her voice in the bass, which remains her primary instrument. She graduated from the Berklee College of Music with a degree in Film Scoring and Bass Performance. She returned to the SF Bay Area in 2002, where she has had the opportunity to work with many of the area's most talented and distinguished musicians in a variety of musical styles, with an emphasis on Latin music. Pachuquismo is Ayla's first collaboration with La Mezcla. With over 25 years of experience as a performer, composer, arranger, teacher, and studio musician, Ayla is thrilled to draw upon her vast musical knowledge to help bring this important story to life.

**Tanya Benítez** is a multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, actress, and educator who is deeply committed to building community through the performing arts. As a multi-genre vocalist and Mexican folk artist, she is active throughout California and México. She is the Music Director of Los Panaderos; Artistic Director of Casita de las Artes; and is the Performing Arts Coordinator of Luther Burbank School District in San José.

## Pachuquismo Artist Bios cont...

**Natalie John** is a jazz singer, trumpet player and composer. With a deep knowledge of the roots of the musical tradition, Natalie performs and composes with open ears and broad brush strokes to create a style all her own. In support of her latest album release, Natalie recently toured western Europe, performing at such notable jazz venues as Jazzclub Unterfarht in Munich, Germany, L'Archiduc in Brussels, Belgium, and Jazzkeller in Frankfurt, Germany. She is currently involved in several San Francisco Bay Area music projects, including the Jazz Mafia, Oakadelic, Speakeasē, Shavon and the Boneyard, and the Klipptones, playing trumpet and singing jazz and soul classics, originals and hard hitting funk jams.

**Luna Fuentes** (she/her) is a multi-instrumentalist, music teacher, and graphic designer based in Oakland, California - originally from Valparaíso, Chile. She provides guitar and vocal harmonies for feminist-indie-folk-pop group Coraza; percussion, guitars and vocal harmonies for latin-flamenco-rock group LoCura; drums for folk-punk group That Band Frank and indie-folk group Mount Saint Elias, and rhythm guitar in jazz manouche duo Coucou, among other many projects. Loves cats and dogs, coffee, and disrupting the patriarchy.

**La Mezcla** is a polyrhythmic, multidisciplinary San Francisco-based dance and music ensemble rooted in Chicanx and Latinx traditions and social justice. Founded in 2015 by Dance/USA artist fellow Vanessa Sanchez, their work brings together Tap dance, Son Jarocho and Afro-Caribbean rhythms to bring the histories and experiences of communities of color to stages, streets and fields. Vanessa Sanchez & La Mezcla have been featured in KQED Arts "If Cities Could Dance" and The Joyce Theater's JoyceStream. Find out more about La Mezcla at [LaMezclaSF.net](http://LaMezclaSF.net).

### Tech & Production Crew

**Sharon Benítez** manages the company's productions and community programs by providing administrative support for La Mezcla projects and touring. Sharon is a musician, dancer, educator, and arts administrator who has taught and performed throughout California, México, Nicaragua, and London. A SF Bay Area native, Sharon Benítez graduated from Santa Clara University with dual degrees in English and Ethnomusicology and has spent the last decade working as a program coordinator for various arts nonprofits, museums, and schools.

**John Jota Leños** is a Mestizo (Xicano/Chumash) interdisciplinary artist, documentary animator concerned with the embattled terrains of history and memory as they relate to nation, power and decolonization. A Guggenheim Fellow of Film and Media, Creative Capital Artist and United States Artist Fellow, Leños' practice includes a range of media arts, documentary animation, video, public art, installation and performance. He is currently a Professor at the UCSC in the Department of Film and Digital Media.

**Justine Fernandez** is a theater and museum worker born and raised in the Bay Area. She is currently working as a freelance TD/technician at venues around the Bay and as a preparator at the Oakland Museum of California where she enjoys and takes pride in creating and working with her hands

**David R. Molina** is a composer, musician, sound artist/designer, and instrument inventor who works on performing arts and multimedia productions. Credits: El Borracho (The Old Globe), King Lear (STL Shakespeare Festival), Quixote Nuevo (Tour 2019-2020, Round House 2021), Mojada (Rep of St. Louis, CTG, OSF), Two Trains Running (Seattle Rep, Arena Stage), Macbeth (Play On Podcasts). Resident Artist: NAKA Dance Theater, Human Shakes, Brava Theater. Awards: L.A. Ovation, Creative Capital, Wattis Fund, InterMusic SF Grant, San Francisco Arts Commission Grant. Multimedia: SFMOMA, The Broad, Oakland Museum of California, McLoughlin Gallery. Music Collaborations: Tau (Berlin), Emanative (U.K.), El Paso (Peru), The Pyramids. Bands: Impuritan, Ghosts and Strings, Transient. Drmsound.com.

# Brava! for Women in the Arts

Brava! for Women in the Arts was founded in San Francisco's Mission District in 1986 to champion, celebrate, and create space for the voices of women, people of color, LGBTQIA+, and underrepresented communities. For over three decades, Brava has produced vibrant, culturally diverse, provocative work by prominent San Francisco feminists, community leaders, activists, and artists. Brava's producing history includes award-winning new work by Artists in Residence Rhodessa Jones & Cultural Odyssey, Marga Gomez, Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe, and Cherríe Moraga; the world premieres of *The Mathematics of Love* by Cherríe Moraga, and the Off-Broadway hit *Mighty Real: A Fabulous Sylvester Musical*, as well as the annual events Baile en la Calle: The Mural Dances and San Francisco Son Jarocho Festival. Brava's current artistic programming encompasses traditional and contemporary music festivals, a variety of film festivals, contemporary and experimental theatrical productions, international comedy shows, lectures, and professional dance productions—making Brava one of the most eclectic and multifaceted arts venues in the Bay Area. Brava's resident youth programs include the long-standing SF Running Crew, pairing youth with professional mentors and hands-on opportunities for technical theater training; Cuicacalli Escuela de Danza, traditional and contemporary dance training for youth; Mariachi teaching students to make beautiful music mariachi style; and Young Thespians Theatre Lab, offering high quality instruction integrating drama, dance, music, and stagecraft. Brava is committed to providing affordable space for artistic development and presentation and quality professional arts training for underserved youth in the San Francisco community.

## Staff

Anastacia Powers Cuellar, *Executive Director*  
Gabby Lozano, *Operations Manager*  
Annette Muller, *Marketing Director*  
Theresa Pasion, *Development Manager*  
Drea Schwartz, *Technical Director*  
Carlie Algas, *Theater Technician*  
Alba Lluch, *Production Manager*  
Angelica Rodriguez, *Venue Manager*  
Marco Flores, *Facilities Manager*  
Melvign Badiola, *Education Director*  
Niku Radan, *MAPA Program Coordinator*

## Board

Frankie Burton (President); Lauren Ryerson (Co-President), Ben Quiñones (Treasurer); Nora García-Zepeda, MD; Liliana Herrera; Anastacia Powers Cuellar; Marcus Trigueros; Anna Westendorf.

## Support

Brava receives funding from the Budding Artist Foundation, California Arts Council, City & County of San Francisco, Creative Work Fund, Department of Children, Youth, & Their Families, Fleishhacker Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts, Kenneth Rainin Foundation, San Francisco Arts Commission, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, Violet World Foundation, Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation, and the Zellerbach Family Foundation.

Individual donors play a key role in supporting innovative new work, while also supporting the next generation of art and audiences through education and outreach programs. Visit [brava.org](http://brava.org) to find out more and give today.

## Connect

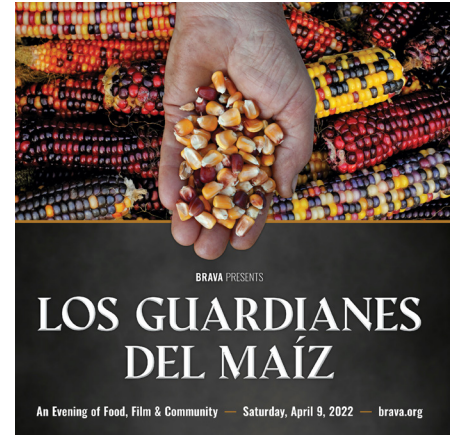
[brava.org](http://brava.org)  
[@BravaTheater](https://www.instagram.com/BravaTheater)

**Brava Presents**  
Upcoming Events & Performances

**Los Guardianes del Maíz**

An Evening of Food, Film & Community  
Saturday, April 9, 2022 – 5:30pm

Los Guardianes del Maíz is an evening of food, film & community to benefit Brava! for Women in the Arts. The evening opens with a limited-seating, pre-performance reception in Brava's Lobby featuring Oaxacan dishes from award-winning Bay Area chefs and mezcal tasting. Followed by screenings of Gustavo Vazquez's documentary film *Los Guardianes del Maíz* and directors Mateo Hinojosa and Rowen White's 7-minute short, *Seed Mother: Coming Home*. The screenings will be directly followed by the panel discussion "Keeping Native Corn" with the filmmakers and Chef Dominica Rice-Cisneros of Oakland's famed restaurant Bombera.



**Ballet Napanatla's "Valentina"**

Friday, April 15 & Saturday, April 16, 2022 – 8pm

Making their first appearance at Brava, NYC's Ballet Napanatla presents "Valentina," stories of women and their roles during revolutionary Mexico through extraordinary dance that fuses traditional ballet folklórico with contemporary ballet. "Valentina" delves into subjects of wealth and power, hope and despair, struggle, loss, and ultimate triumph, with exceptional principal dancers, innovative choreography, and beautiful costume design.



**Indómitas Live Podcast with host Chelis López**

Monthly in Brava's Cabaret – 7pm

Indómitas is a live monthly podcast series hosted by Chelis López of KPOO and Radio Bilingüe, featuring untamable voices of fierce women artists and activists. The April 13, 2022 podcast will feature award-winning Latiné filmmaker and multidisciplinary artist Mabel Valdiviezo. The May 25, 2022 episode brings you interdisciplinary writer, artist, and racial justice educator Leticia Hernández-Linares.

