



For Immediate Release

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Brava! For Women in the Arts presents
the Latino Theater Company in

Solitude

A play by Evelina Fernandez

WHO: Latino Theater Company from Los Angeles

WHAT: **Solitude** by Evelina Fernandez, Directed by Jose Luis Valenzuela

Cast: Robert Beltran, Evelina Fernandez, Fidel Gomez, Semyon Kobialka, Sal Lopez,
Geoffrey Rivas and Lucy Rodriguez

WHERE: Brava Theater Center, 2781-24th Street at York, San Francisco, CA 94110

WHEN: November 7 – 9, Thurs & Fri 8pm / Sat 3pm & 8pm

TICKETS: Reserved seating \$25/\$35 (Thurs Community Night \$15),
Sat Evening VIP Reception \$50 tickets available at www.brava.org

Brava! For Women in the Arts presents **Evelina Fernandez's** critically acclaimed play, **Solitude**, performed by the Latino Theater Company from Los Angeles. The play is directed by LTC Artistic Director, **Jose Luis Valenzuela** and stars Latino stage/screen/tv actors, **Robert Beltran, Geoffrey Rivas and Sal Lopez.**

Choreography is by **Urbanie Lucero**, Scenic Design by **François-Pierre Couture** and Sound Design by **John Zalewski**. The production is a sponsored project of New England Foundation for the Arts' National Theater Pilot program and had its world premiere at the Los Angeles Theater Center.

Inspired by Octavio Paz's essay collection on the Mexican psyche, *The Labyrinth of Solitude*, Evelina Fernandez's acclaimed play, **Solitude**, explores universal themes of life, love and loss woven through the consciousness of multi-generations of Chicano life and culture. A wealthy and successful lawyer (Rivas) returns home for his mother's funeral, whom he hasn't seen in 20 years. There he revisits his past and those he left behind. The wistful and evocative journey is led by Man (Beltran) a Paz-quoting limo driver and self appointed expert on love and accompanied by a live cello (Semyon Kobialka). Layered and richly theatrical, Paz's themes are deeply explored in this ground-breaking piece. The eloquent phrasing and dynamic rhythms of the script's poetry is well-matched by Valenzuela's stunning visual pictures, silhouettes, and dance and slow motion sequences.

Evelina Fernández (Playwright) is an award-winning actor, playwright and screenwriter. In 2012 she was awarded the LA Drama Critics Circle Ted Schmitt Award for the world premiere of her epic cycle of plays, *A Mexican Trilogy*. Her stage play, *Solitude* (2009) and a revival of her critically acclaimed play, *Dementia* (2010) both made the L.A. Times Critic's Choice list. *Dementia*, won the GLAAD Media Award (2003) for Outstanding Theater Production in Los Angeles and received four L.A. Stage Alliance Ovation Award nominations, including Best World Premiere. She was a finalist for the Humanitas Prize in 2005 for an episode of PBS's *Maya and Miguel*, "Give me a little sign." Evelina's writing credits also include the stage plays *Luminarias*, *Premeditation* and *How else am I Supposed to Know I'm Still Alive*, the latter which was published by Routledge Press in *Contemporary Plays by Women of Color* and has been produced throughout the U.S. and adapted into an award-winning film for the Universal Hispanic Film Project (CineFestival Special Jury Award). Other plays include an adaptation of Bizet's *Carmen* titled L.A. Carmen set in present-day Los Angeles, as well as *La Virgen De Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin* (featured in both the L.A. Times and N.Y. Times) which is performed annually at Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral free to the public as a holiday gift for poor and working families.

José Luis Valenzuela (Director/Artistic Director, Latino Theater Company/LATC) is an award winning theater/film director and tenured professor at the UCLA School of Theater, Film & Television. For over 25 years he has directed critically acclaimed productions at major regional theaters including the Los Angeles Theatre Center where he created the Latino Theatre Lab in 1985 and the Mark Taper Forum where he established the Latino Theater Initiative. He most recently directed *Habitat* by Judith Thompson (LATC), *Melancholia* by The Latino Theater Lab (LATC), *A Mexican Trilogy (Faith, Hope & Charity)* and *Solitude* by Evelina Fernandez (LATC), *La Victima* by El Teatro de La Esperanza (LATC), and *La Virgen de Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin* (Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral), all produced by the Latino Theater Company. His international directing credits include Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* (Ibsen Theatre, Norway, 2013), and Manuel Puig's *Kiss of the Spider Woman* at the National Theatre of Norway. In 2002 he directed the World premiere of *Dementia*, written by Evelina Fernandez, which won the 2003 GLAAD Award for Outstanding Theater Production in Los Angeles. Mr. Valenzuela has been featured in the *New York Times* in December 2007 and the *Los Angeles Times* in December 2008 for his annual pageant play *La Virgen de Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin*. In 2006, He successfully acquired funding from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment to renovate the Los Angeles Theatre Center for which the Latino Theater Company received a 20-year lease from the City of Los Angeles. Mr. Valenzuela's artistic vision



and community commitment has garnered him numerous recognitions, nominations and awards including the Ann C. Rosenfield Distinguished Community Partnership Prize presented by UCLA Center for Community Partnerships, and the Hispanic Heritage Month *Local Hero of the Year* Award sponsored by Union Bank and KCET, Los Angeles. Both awards recognize distinguished citizens for their contributions to improving the quality of life throughout their respective communities.

Latino Theater Company

The Latino Theater Company was founded in 1985 by current Artistic Director, Jose Luis Valenzuela, under the auspices of the former Los Angeles Theatre Center, known then as the Latino Theater Lab. The Company has produced and commissioned many playwrights including Octavio Solis, Jimmy Santiago Baca, Cherrie Moraga, and Milcha Sanchez-Scott. In 1991, the Latino Theater Company took residency at the Mark Taper Forum where Jose Luis Valenzuela created the Latino Theater Initiative. While at the Taper, there was a historic run of Latino plays including Carpa Clash by Culture Clash, Luis Valdez's Bandido, and Eduardo Machado's Floating Islands. In 1995, the company's search for a more direct way of serving the Latino community resulted in the group's move to Plaza de La Raza in East LA, where the company offered its first full season. A subsequent move back to the Los Angeles Theatre Center for a production of Luminarias was followed by the award winning feature-film adaptation, that starred Cheech Marin, Scott Bakula, Lupe Ontiveros, and several Latino Theater Company members. In 2003, the Latino Theater Company's production, Dementia, garnered the prestigious GLAAD Award for Outstanding Theater Production in Los Angeles as well as four Ovation Award nominations in the mid-size theater category. For the last seven years, the Latino Theater Company offered their production of the Spanish language pageant play, La Virgen de Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin, free to the public at the downtown Los Angeles Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. The play has become an annual holiday tradition, increasing access to the arts for low-income, working class families in Los Angeles.

Brava! for Women In The Arts

Brava! For Women in the Arts celebrates its 26th year as a professional arts organization dedicated to cultivating the artistic expression of women, youth, LGBT, people of color and other unheard voices through the ownership and operation of Brava Theater Center. Brava's producing history includes award-winning premieres by Diana Son, Eve Ensler, Debbie Swisher, Reno, Cherylene Lee, Suzan-Lori Parks, Culture Clash, Joan Holden, Anne Galjour, Elizabeth Summers, Kate Rigg, Dan Guerrero, and Mabou Mines, as well as works by internationally known playwrights like Jesusa Rodriguez and Liliana Felipe of Mexico, Jorge Drexler of Uruguay, and Ojos de Brujo and Ismael Serrano of Spain. BRAVA's current artistic programming includes 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 multi-faceted arts venues in the Bay Area. BRAVA's resident youth programs include the long standing SF Running crew which pairs youth with professional mentors and hands on opportunities for technical theatre training; Cuicacalli Escuela de Danza, traditional and contemporary dance training for youth, Famooly Productions Salsa Band workshops and Loco Bloco dance and drum ensemble. 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.

Company Bios:

***members of Actor's Equity Association (AEA)**



Robert Beltran* (The Man) is perhaps most recognizable for his role as a regular on *Star Trek Voyager* or his recurring appearances on the HBO series *Big Love*. In 2009, he starred in Jose Rivera's *Boleros for the Disenchanted* at ACT in San Francisco. Other theater credits include his own productions of *Hamlet* and *The Big Knife*; *A Touch of the Poet* with the Hispanic Theater Project; Luis Valdez' *I Don't Have to Show You No Stinkin' Badges*, among others, with the Los Angeles Theatre Center; and numerous productions with El Teatro Campesino, La Jolla Playhouse, and Center Theatre Group. Other television credits include the BBC miniseries *Shannongate*, *The Mystic Warrior*, *Medium*, and *CSI: Miami*, among

others; some of his many film credits include *Luminarias*, *Night of the Comet*, *Bugsy*, *Scenes from the Class Struggle in Beverly Hills*, *Latino*, *Eating Raoul*, and *Lone Wolf McQuade*, as well as *Patriotville* and *Repo Chick*. He is a co-founder of East LA Classic Theatre.

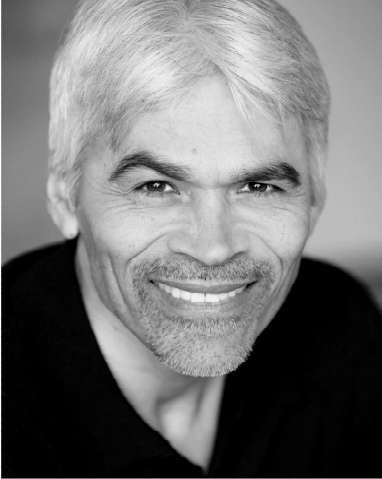


Geoffrey Rivas* (Gabriel) is a native Californian, originally from the San Joaquin Valley and a graduate of UCLA's School of Theater, Film & Television. Geoffrey is a member of The Latino Theater Company. He has performed at The Los Angeles Theatre Center (LATC) in *Faith*, *Hope*, *Charity*, *Luminarias*, *Solitude* and the 2003 GLAAD Award-winning play *Dementia*, all by Evelina Fernandez, *I Don't Have to Show You No Stinkin' Badges* by Luis Valdez, *La Victima* by El Teatro de la Esperanza. At South Coast Rep in the 2003 Pulitzer winning play *Anna in the Tropics* by Nilo Cruz and *Man of Flesh* by Octavio Solis. Film and TV include recurring roles on the television shows *CSI* and *American Horror Story* and the film *La Bamba*.



Lucy Rodriguez* (Sonia) is originally from San Antonio, Texas, and has been working professionally in L.A. since 1986. She is an active member of the Latino Theater Company (LTC) with which she has been affiliated since 1988. As an LTC member she co-produces the annual pageant play *La Virgen de Guadalupe: Dios Inantzin* and has also produced several workshop presentations including *L.A. Carmen* at the John Anson Ford. Past theatre credits at The Los Angeles Theatre Center include: *Melancholia*, *Faith*, *Charity*, *La Victima*, *Solitude*, *Dementia* and *La Virgen de Guadalupe: Dios Inantzin* with the Latino Theater Company, *Man of the Flesh* and *A Christmas Carol* at South Coast Repertory, *¡Bocon!* and *La Llorona* at Mark Taper Forum, *August 29* and *The Promise* at Los Angeles Theatre

Center, and *Real Women Have Curves* at San Diego Repertory. Television credits include recurring roles on *ER* and *Sunset Beach*.



Sal Lopez* (Johnny) is a founding member of The Latino Theater Company, he has been in, produced or helped create several plays including: *August 29th*, *Stone Wedding*, *La Victima*, *Premeditation*, *Luminarias*, *Dementia*, *Solitude*, *A Mexican Trilogy (Faith, Hope & Charity)*, *Habitat*, and the lead in the annual pageant play, *La Virgen Dios Inantzin*. Other plays include, *Blade To The Heat*, *Bandido*, *Zootsuit*, for the Mark Taper Forum, *Selena* (musical), at the Ricardo Montalban Theater, *La Posada Magica*, for Southcoast Rep, *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, for East L.A. Classical Theater, *Corridos Tales Of Passion And Revolution*, *La Virgen Del Tepeyac*, for Teatro Campesino, and *Wild in Wichita*, *Lorca Child Of The Moon*, *Young Lady From Tacna*, *Wanted Experience Operators*, for The Bilingual Foundation Of The Arts: Numerous T.V. shows; *Off The Map*, *CSI Miami*, *Entourage*, *Life*, *The Shield*, *Nip/Tuck*,

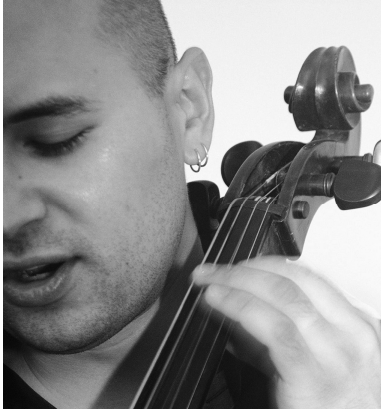
ER...etc. Many films; *Beverly Hills Chihuahua*, *Full Metal Jacket*, *Silver City*, *Astronaut Farmer*, *American Me*...etc. Recent independents; *Water and Power*, *On The Run*, *Road to Juarez*, *An Evergreen Christmas* and *Time in Between*.



Evelina Fernandez* (Ramona) has starred in film roles with Edward James Olmos and Cheech Marin in *A Million to Juan* and in *Luminarias* with Scott Bakula, Robert Beltran & Cheech Marin. She was nominated for a DESI AWARD and is the recipient of the prestigious Nosotros GOLDEN EAGLE AWARD for her critically acclaimed portrayal of Julie in *American Me* and the ALMA AWARD for *Hollywood Confidential*. She received the best actress award at the Ibero-American International Film Festival in Huelva, Spain for her performance in *Luminarias* and her second GOLDEN EAGLE AWARD for Outstanding Writer for *Luminarias*. A founding member of the Latino Theater Company she has performed in *A Mexican Trilogy (Faith & Charity)*, *Solitude*, *La Victima*, *Dementia* as well as numerous other stage productions, television, and films.



Fidel Gomez* (Angel) is a graduate of the Tisch School of the Arts at NYU. He has worked with Los Angeles companies including Shakespeare Festival LA, Cornerstone Theatre Company and The Latino Theater Company. He is a co-founder of The Vault Ensemble at the Los Angeles Theatre Center. His Television and film credits include HBO's *Walkout*, *7th Heaven*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *NCIS*, and *Undercovers*. He dedicates this show to his family.



Semyon Kobialka (Chelo) has been playing and performing music from the age of three. Semyon began studying the cello under the tutelage of Margaret Rowell, the late “Grande Dame of the Cello,” and Irene Sharp, later continuing his studies in college with Bernard Greenhouse of the Beaux Arts Trio in New York. Never one to be constrained to one genre of music, Semyon explored improvisation on multiple instruments playing jazz, rock, and funk. Semyon has recorded two solo albums utilizing the unique techniques he has pioneered on the cello and is currently in the process of finishing a new album in collaboration with his father. Working with the talented members of the Latino Theater Company is one of the greatest challenges and thrills of his musical career, and he is

grateful for the opportunity to be a part of *Solitude*. For further information, please visit www.celloboy7.com.

Urbanie Lucero (Choreographer) has danced on Broadway, countless television shows and films. She’s danced at the Grammys, Great Performances for PBS, and done numerous commercials. Urbanie danced in various music videos under the direction of Kenny Ortega. She was a member of the dance troupe Mexicapan, and was a featured dancer in the play *Rosalba Y Sus Llaveros* for the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts. Urbanie was also part of the Lalo Guerreo Review. She traveled through out the country with Linda Ronstadt’s *Canciones De Mi Padre* Broadway tour, and her likeness is immortalized as the God of Water in the ride, The Mexico Pavilion at EPCOT Disney World Orlando Florida. She was a judge on The Amalia Hernandez panel (Ballet Folklorico De Mexico) to award scholarships to young talent. Urbanie was on The Hispanic Dance committee for the 1984 Olympics. She has choreographed and danced as La Muerte in *La Virgen De Guadalupe Dios Inantzin*, and also choreographed *Solitude*, *Dementia*, *La Victima*, *Hope*, and *Charity* for the Latino Theater Company.

François-Pierre Couture (Scenic Designer) designed the scenery and lighting for the critically acclaimed production of *Love’s Labour’s Lost* at the Actors’ Gang Theatre. He was nominated for an *Ovation Award* for his scenic design of *A Picasso* at the Los Angeles Geffen Playhouse, received the *2010 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle* for sustained achievement in set design; received a *Garland Award* for the scenery of *The Quality of Life* also at the Geffen Playhouse, was nominated for best scenic design for *Stranger* at the 2010 *LA Weekly Awards*. Other productions he has designed include: Scenery for *Medee*, Chicago Opera Theatre; Scenery, lighting and projections for *Maestro* at the Geffen Playhouse; scenery for *Beethoven as I knew Him* @ the San Diego Old Globe (also @ Geffen Playhouse, Chicago Water Tower, Phoenix HTC, Cleveland Bolton Theatre

John Zalewski (Sound Designer) is a sound designer, electronic musician and visual artist who's been active in live performance since his experience with the work of the late Reza Abdoh in the early 1990s at The Los Angeles Theatre Center. U.S. Regional: Portland Center Stage, South Coast Rep, Geffen, Pasadena Playhouse, Center Theater Group, ATL/Humana Festival, La Mirada Theatre,

Lewis Family Playhouse. Los Angeles: Theatre at Boston Court, Bootleg, Redcat, Antaeus, LATC, 24th Street Theatre, East West Players, Actors' Gang, Odyssey, Padua Playwrights, He's a member of Evidence Room and Antaeus. Others: LA Philharmonic, Hammer Museum, LACMA, chashama, La Mama and Theatre Delicatessen/Bush Bazaar. Awards: 3 LA Stage Alliance Ovarions and 20 nominations, 5 LA Weekly Awards, 1 L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award, 10 Backstage Garlands, Scenies, Ticketholders Awards and NEA/TCG. Most recently he designed *Habitat* at The Los Angeles Theatre Center, *Miss Warren's Profession* at Antaeus, *Shaheed* at Culture Project in NYC and *The Nether* at the Kirk Douglas Theater.

Pablo Santiago (Lighting Designer) is the winner of the Cirque Du Soleil Scholarship Award, James Pendleton Foundation Prize and the Kovler Foundation Award. Most Recently, Pablo has worked on *Empanada for a Dream* (director: Alex Levy), *The Psychic Life of Savages*, *The Ginger Man* (Director: Angie Scott), *A Dark Sun* (director: Alex Levy), *Adding Machine*, (director: J.Ed Araiza), *Erendira* (director: Monica Payne), *RENT*, (director: Joe Olivieri), at UCLA-TFT, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Bugsy*, (Director: Nancy Fraciolla). Pablo has also worked in Dance for choreographers: Randé Dorn, Manuelito Biag, Arianne MacBean, Heidi Duckler, Paula Present, Rebecca Alson-Milkman and String Theory. Pablo holds an MFA in Lighting Design from UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television.

Christopher Ash (Projection Designer) Has designed for Drury Lane Oakbrook, Drury Lane Watertower Place, Hershey Park, South Coast Rep, River North Chicago Dance Co., Heidi Latsky Dance, Hubbard Street 2, Hershey Felder, Arizona Theatre Co, Geffen Playhouse, Laguna Playhouse, Victory Gardens Biograph, Los Angeles Theatre Center, Theatre At The Center, NYMF, Maltz Jupiter, About Face, Opera Delaware, Summer Opera, and so on. His designs have been seen touring throughout the world including Germany, France, Turkey, Romania, Egypt, and a majority of the United States. In 2006 he received an After Dark award for the lighting of *The Sweet Smell of Success* for Circle Theatre in Chicago. In 2008 he was nominated for his lighting design for *Wedding Play* for About Face. In 2009 he was a nominee for the Michael Maggio emerging artist award, and was nominated for the Scenic design of *Pump Boys and the Dinettes* for Drury Lane Oakbrook. In 2010 he was a nominee for a Garland award for the projection design of *Solitude* at the LATC, and an Ovation award for the lighting design of *1951-2006* at the LATC. He is currently pursuing an MFA in design at the Yale School of Drama.

Nikki Delhomme (Costume Designer) is a New York based freelance designer. Amongst her work, notable companies include: Yale University, CalArts University, Disney's RedCat Theatre, A Noise Within, The Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Los Angeles Theatre Center, Theatre at the Center in Indiana, Light Opera Works, Piven Theatre Ensemble, Strawdog Theatre, Evanston Dance Ensemble, and the Appletree Theatre. In Los Angeles Nikki provided production support on the television series *True Blood*, *Party Down*, *Crash*, and *The Super Sportlets*. As well as features such as *Our Family Wedding* and *Warrior*. Her work has been showcased internationally at the 2007 Prague Quaddrenial and she received the Elizabeth Schrader award for costume design in 2006. She was nominated for a Joseph Jefferson equity award in 2008 and a Garland award in 2010. Nikki is currently at Yale University working towards an MFA (2013), she holds a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University.