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For Immediate Release

**SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE AND AMIGOS DEL REP ANNOUNCE THE  
SAN DIEGO REP LATINX NEW PLAY FESTIVAL, IN-PERSON AND ONLINE SEPTEMBER 3-5**

*A weekend of readings of new plays by Latinx playwrights along with a  
festival showcase production of Conjunto Blues*

**SAN DIEGO, CA – July 23, 2021 – San Diego Repertory Theatre** (San Diego REP) and **Amigos del REP** announced today the lineup for the Fifth Annual **San Diego REP Latinx New Play Festival** presented in-person and streamed live online, **September 3-5, 2021**. Amigos del REP is a theatre advocacy council of community members and artists who promote Hispanic/Latino/Chicano theatre at San Diego REP. The San Diego REP Latinx New Play Festival is a celebration of engaging, dynamic and enlightening new plays by Latinx playwrights from across the United States. This year's festival will be held in the Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union Theatre, a state of the art screening theatre with plush tiered seating and surround sound. The Student Union Theatre is made available to the festival through San Diego State University and is part of SD Rep's deepening partnership with SDSU. **Festival passes are available starting August 1st** at pay-what-you-can prices at [sdrep.org/latinx](http://sdrep.org/latinx) or 619.544.1000.

*"Ten years ago I began dreaming and working towards the day when San Diego REP could present a festival of readings of plays by Latinx writers featuring Latinx performers."* stated **Sam Woodhouse, Artistic Director of San Diego Repertory Theatre** *"When Patrice Amon joined the San Diego REP staff five years ago we began to plan such a festival. The vision, hard work and outreach of Patrice has built this festival into one of the premier festivals of its kind in America."*

The selection process was highly competitive with only four plays out of more than 90 submissions chosen for the festival. While there were numerous new plays worthy of being chosen for the festival's roster, the selection committee based its decision on works that most closely support San Diego Repertory Theatre's mission to generate and sustain a more inclusive community through artistic endeavors that further progressive political and social values and celebrate the multiple voices of the region.

*"Our exciting hybrid festival will bring the incredible accessibility growth we found with our online platform and restore that missing component: our audience."* stated **Patrice Amon, San Diego REP Latinx New Play Festival Producer**. *"We cannot wait to welcome our audience back and gather safely to celebrate these brave new works."*

Below is the schedule of the 2021 Latinx New Play Festival.

### Friday, September 3rd

- 4:00pm Directing Panel
- 5:00pm ***Black Mexican*** by Rachel Lyne
- 7:00pm Opening Reception

### Saturday, September 4th

- 11:00am Designer Showcase
- 12:00pm ***(trans)formada*** by Lily Gonzales
- 2:00pm Dramaturgy Panel\*
- 3:00pm ***Get Your Pink Hands Off Me Sucka and Give Me Back*** by Daniella De Jesús
- 6:00pm ***Conjunto Blues*** spotlight performance, by Nicolas R. Valdez
- 7:30pm Reception

### Sunday, September 5th

- 11:00am Historical Context Panel\*
- 12:00pm Local Project Panel\*
- 1:00pm ***A Skeptic and a Bruja*** by Rosa Fernandez
- 3:00pm Closing Playwrights Panel\*

### ***Black Mexican***

Who gets to be a part of Latinidad? While Valery fights to prove Ximena isn't Cuban, Alia has given up fighting that she is Latine. As the women in this play discover the truth about themselves and each other, they also have to face the internal bias that allowed a white woman to be Cuban but didn't allow a Belizean to call herself Latine.

**Rachel Lynett** (Playwright) is a queer Afro-Latinx playwright who writes dark comedies about complex, complicated women of color. Her recent playwriting credits include commissions with Barrington Stage Theatre Company (HOLY GROUND), Florida Studio Theatre (CARRY ME and AS YOU ARE), and Theatre Lab (LAST NIGHT). Other credits include LAST NIGHT presented as a reading with Theatre Lab (2020); HERE BE DRAGONS presented as a reading with Capital Rep (2019); YOU WERE MINE presented as a reading at the Kennedy Center Page to Stage Festival presented by Theatre Prometheus (2019); HE DID IT presented as a reading with Equity Library Theatre, Chicago (2018) and presented as a workshop production with University of Central Florida's Pegasus PlayLab; REFUGE as part of Z Space's Problematic Play Festival (2018); GOOD BAD PEOPLE as part of Talk Back Theatre's Reading Series (2018), part of American Stage Theatre Company's 21st Century New Voices New Play Festival (2018), part of Jackalope Theatre's CIRCLE UP series (2017) and as a reading as part of Unicorn Theatre Plays In Progress (2018); WELL-INTENTIONED WHITE PEOPLE as the Michigan premiere with Matrix Theatre (2018), the world premiere with Barrington Stage Theatre Company (2018), the Downstage Left Residency with StageLeft (2017), part of Orlando Shakespeare New Play Festival (2017), and receiving honorable mention for the 2017 Kilroys for her play (2017). Her play, ABORTION ROAD TRIP received a workshop production produced by Theatre Prometheus as part of Capital Fringe where it won Best Comedy (2017) and then was later presented by Theatre Prometheus, as a part of the 2017 Kennedy Center Page to Stage Festival. Rachel Lynett is also the 2018 Recipient of the Arkansas Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship and one of the 2020 recipients for the Artist 360 grant.

### ***(trans)formada***

Sam is gay, a little trans, and a child of Mexican immigrants living in the Texas Hill Country. They're trying to figure out how to express their gender -- to themselves and to the world. Just as Sam is building the courage to present their gender to their mother, they go to a high school party. Everyone is way too into each other and drinking way too much. Amidst the debauchery, a brave and strange set of rituals ensues.

**lily gonzales** (Playwright) (they/them) is a playwright from Texas who graduated from UT Austin with a Bachelor's in Theater & Dance / English. Their work has been developed or read at The John F. Kennedy Center, Teatro Vivo, Repertorio Español, Stages, San Diego Rep, AlterTheater Ensemble, and The Workshop Theater.

### ***Get Your Pink Hands Off Me Sucka and Give Me Back***

While studying abroad in Spain, Solandra, a young Dominican-American woman, finds herself alone in the throne room of Queen Isabel and King Ferdinand, whose portraits come alive, transporting her to 1492. Meanwhile, on the island of what we now refer to as "hispaniola," Anacaona awakens, terrorized by a violent nightmare, which she soon learns is a prophetic dream. As Anacaona struggles to save her community from invasion, Solandra contends with her racial identity, attraction to older white men and their attraction to her.

**Daniella De Jesús** (Playwright) (she/her/hers) is an actor/writer from Bushwick, Brooklyn. As an actor, she is best known for her role as Zirconia on Netflix's "Orange is the New Black." A member of the Public Theater's 2018-19 Emerging Writers Group, her plays include "Pa' Ti Tengo De Todo" (The Public Theater's Spotlight Series), "Get Your Pink Hands Off Me Sucka and Give Me Back (FKA Columbus Play)", "The Thief Cometh" (United SoloFestival), and "Mambo Sauce," which was a semi-finalist for Clubbed Thumb's 2018 commission. She's also the creator of the new web series "Talk To Me" on IGTV. De Jesús is a graduate of NYU Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in Drama.

### ***Conjunto Blues***

*Conjunto Blues*, written and performed by Nicolás R. Valdez, is a play that explores the social and historical conditions that led to the development of Conjunto music as an expression of cultural resistance and liberation. This story centers on playwright, actor, and musician Nicolás Valdez's personal experience growing up in the Conjunto music scene and is loosely based on the relationship with his grandfather, himself a Conjunto music aficionado. Audiences are taken through a shifting landscape of memory and reflection that is highlighted throughout with traditional music performed live by Valdez and accompanied by musicians on Bajo Sexto (12 string Mexican guitar), Tololoche (upright bass), and drums. Filled with a cast of colorfully poignant characters, *Conjunto Blues* is a deeply personal performance for audiences of all ages and backgrounds that is sure to entertain and educate.

**Nicolás Ramiro Valdez** (Playwright & Performer) is a San Antonio, Texas based interdisciplinary performance artist with over 20 years experience in cultural arts activism. His introduction to the stage came early when, at the age of 9, Nicolas was trained in traditional Conjunto music by master accordionist Valerio Longoria Sr. By the age of 15 he was an active member of the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center's youth theater company Grupo Animo, writing and performing in original staged works. His training continued at the University of Wisconsin Madison and later through the practical experience of working with other artists around the country. Over the years, Nicolas has developed

his own unique style incorporating music, poetry and theater into culturally relevant performances that speak to the experiences of the communities along the US-Mexico border.

### ***A Skeptic and a Bruja***

Priscilla buys a home in the middle of nowhere after losing her life partner with the hope of turning it into a lucrative Bnb. When she starts having paranormal experiences, she calls on paranormal investigators Sam and Jess from "A Skeptic and a Bruja" to help her. The women get more than any of them expected and more than they will ever be able to forget.

**Rosa Fernandez** (Playwright) lives in Buffalo, NY full time with her husband and two children. She is an associate member of the Dramatist Guild and a two time participant of the Emmanuel Fried New Play Workshop facilitated by Road Less Traveled Productions in Buffalo, NY. She attended Brooklyn College for a BFA in Theater. Her play, Curse of the Puerto Ricans was a semi-finalist for the Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference and runner up in the MetLife Nuestras Voces Playreading Series for Repertorio Español. It has also made the 2020 Kilroys list and will hopefully receive it's World Premiere in 2021 at Bishop Arts Theatre Center in Dallas, TX.

San Diego REP's Latinx New Play Festival is supported in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency. Learn more at [www.arts.ca.gov](http://www.arts.ca.gov). The festival is also supported in part by the Peggy and Robert Matthews Foundation.

Photos and more information are available at [sdrep.org/latinx](http://sdrep.org/latinx)

### **Ticket Prices:**

Festival passes are available starting August 1st with suggested donations ranging from \$0 to \$250.

### **About Amigos del REP**

Amigos del REP is a theatre advocacy council of community members and artists who promote Hispanic/Latino/Chicano theatre at San Diego Repertory Theatre. The council hosts the annual San Diego REP Latinx New Play Festival, Historias Tenebrosas cultural celebrations and staged readings of plays by Latinx playwrights. Amigos del REP creates opportunities for Latinx playwrights, directors, actors, stage managers and designers.

### **About San Diego Repertory Theatre**

San Diego Repertory Theatre (San Diego REP) produces intimate, exotic, provocative theatre. Founded in 1976, San Diego Repertory Theatre is downtown San Diego's resident theatre, promoting a more inclusive community through work that nourishes progressive political and social values and celebrates the multiple voices of our region. The company produces and hosts over 550 events and performances year-round on its three stages at the Lyceum Theatre. Since moving to the Lyceum, The REP has produced 54 main stage productions by Latinx playwrights, and more than 45 world premieres. The company has received more than 200 awards for artistic excellence from the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle, Patti Theatre Awards, NAACP, Backstage West, Dramalogue and StageSceneLA. In 2005, the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle presented The REP with the Craig Noel Award "For 30 Years of Artistic Dedication to Downtown and Diversity." San Diego Repertory Theatre feeds the curious soul. To learn more about San Diego Repertory Theatre, to purchase tickets, or make a donation, visit [www.sdrep.org](http://www.sdrep.org). Join us on Facebook (@SanDiegoREP) and follow us on Twitter (@SanDiegoREP).