



AHMANSON THEATRE
MARK TAPER FORUM
KIRK DOUGLAS THEATRE

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For immediate release.

SPANISH LANGUAGE OPEN CAPTIONED PERFORMANCE SET FOR LUIS VALDEZ'S "VALLEY OF THE HEART" AT THE MARK TAPER FORUM

Center Theatre Group will offer Spanish-language translations of the 8 p.m. performance of Luis Valdez's **"Valley of the Heart"** on Friday, December 7 at the Mark Taper Forum. Each show will be performed in English with Spanish translations running simultaneously on open caption screens. Audience members wishing to view the open captions should request to be seated in the captioning area when purchasing tickets.

Written and directed by **Luis Valdez** ("Zoot Suit") and presented in association with El Teatro Campesino, "Valley of the Heart" will run at the Taper through December 9, 2018.

The cast of "Valley of the Heart" includes, in alphabetical order, **Mariela Arteaga, Moises Castro, Justin Chien, Melanie Arie Mah, Randall Nakano, Joy Osmanski, Rose Portillo, Michael Naydoe Pinedo, Christy Sandoval, Scott Keiji Takeda, Daniel Valdez** and **Lakin Valdez**.

The creative team includes set design by **John Iacovelli**, costume design by **Lupe Valdez**, lighting design by **Pablo Santiago**, projection design by **David Murakami** and sound design by **Philip G. Allen**. The production stage manager is **David S. Franklin** and **Kinan Valdez** is the associate director.

The fight to maintain dignity, identity, family and faith are at the heart of this American story deeply rooted in the once-fertile farmland that is now known as the Silicon Valley. "Valley of the Heart" tells the story of the Yamaguchis and the Montañós, two immigrant families struggling to provide a future for their American-born children after the Great Depression on the farmland the two families share. The families' oldest children secretly fall in love only to have the emotional stakes further heightened when the attack on Pearl Harbor throws these Mexican and Japanese American families into uncertainty.

When the Yamaguchis are interned along with thousands of other Japanese Americans, allegiances are tested, heroes are made, and the two young lovers must find a way to stay loyal both to their families, their country and each other.

Luis Valdez's screen credits include "Zoot Suit" (featuring Edward James Olmos), "La Bamba" (starring Lou Diamond Phillips), "The Cisco Kid" (featuring Jimmy Smits and Cheech Marin) and "Corridos: Tales of Passion and Revolution" (with Linda Ronstadt). Awards include LA Drama Critic Circle Awards, Bay Area Critics Awards, the George Peabody Award for excellence in television, the Presidential Medal of the Arts, the Governor's Award

from the California Arts Council and Mexico’s prestigious Aguila Azteca Award given to individuals whose work promotes cultural excellence and exchange between the U.S. and Mexico. He was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Theatre at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. In 2007, he was awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship as one of the 50 U.S. artists so honored across the United States. Valdez was recently inducted into the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences as a director.

Center Theatre Group, one of the nation’s preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles’ leading nonprofit theatre company, which, under Artistic Director Michael Ritchie, programs seasons at the 736-seat Mark Taper Forum and 1600 to 2000-seat Ahmanson Theatre at The Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles, and the 317-seat Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City. In addition to presenting and producing the broadest range of theatrical entertainment in the country, Center Theatre Group is one of the nation’s leading producers of ambitious new works through commissions and world premiere productions and a leader in interactive community engagement and education programs that reach across generations, demographics and circumstance to serve Los Angeles.

Tickets to the Spanish language open captioned performances of “Valley of the Heart” are \$30. They are available by calling (213) 628-2772, online at www.CenterTheatreGroup.org/promo using promo code VOHSL or at the Center Theatre Group Box Office (at the Ahmanson Theatre at The Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles). The Mark Taper Forum is located at The Music Center, 135 N. Grand Avenue in Downtown L.A. 90012.

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November 15, 2018