

2018/19 SEASON

FIRST SEASON PRODUCTION

SWEAT

By Lynn Nottage
Directed by Lisa Peterson
August 29 – October 7, 2018

SECOND SEASON PRODUCTION

VALLEY OF THE HEART

Written and Directed by Luis Valdez
October 30 – December 9, 2018

THIRD SEASON PRODUCTION

LINDA VISTA

By Tracy Letts
Directed by Dexter Bullard
January 9 – February 17, 2019

FOURTH SEASON PRODUCTION

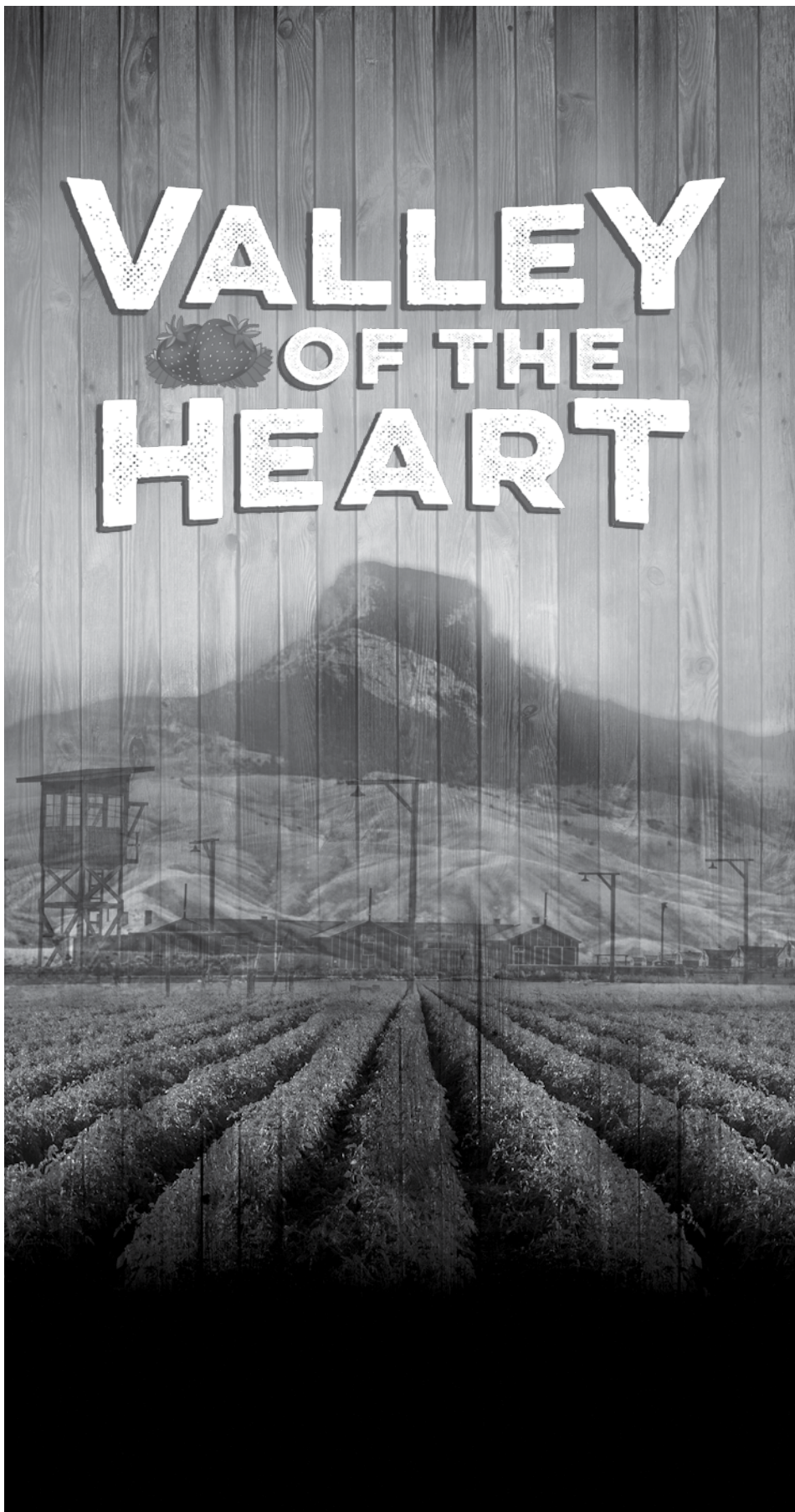
LACKAWANNA BLUES

Written, Directed, and Performed
by Ruben Santiago-Hudson
Music Composed and Performed
by Bill Sims Jr.
March 5 – April 21, 2019

FIFTH SEASON PRODUCTION

HAPPY DAYS

By Samuel Beckett
Directed by James Bundy
With Dianne Wiest
May 15 – June 30, 2019



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GORDON DAVIDSON Founding Artistic Director

In association with El Teatro Campesino
 Presents

VALLEY OF THE HEART

Written and Directed By

Luis Valdez

Associate Director

Kinan Valdez

With

Mariela Arteaga
Randall Nakano
Christy Sandoval

Moises Castro
Joy Osmanski
Scott Keiji Takeda

Justin Chien
Michael Naydoe Pinedo
Daniel Valdez

Melanie Arie Mah
Rose Portillo
Lakin Valdez

Scenic Design

John Iacovelli

Costume Design

Lupe Valdez

Lighting Design

Pablo Santiago

Sound Design

Philip G. Allen

Projections Designer

David Murakami

Fight Director

Edgar Landa

Casting

Rosalinda Morales
Pauline O'con, CSA

Original Sound Design

Joe Luis Cedillo

Music Consultant

Daniel Valdez

Original Compositions & Arrangements

PJ Hirabayashi & Roy Hirabayashi

Additional Arrangements

Noé Yaocoatl Montoya

Associate Artistic Director

Kelley Kirkpatrick

Executive Producer
 El Teatro Campesino

Phillip Esparza

Production Stage Manager

David S. Franklin

OCTOBER 30 – DECEMBER 9, 2018 **MARK TAPER FORUM**

Valley of the Heart workshop production at El Teatro Campesino, 2013/14
 World premiere at San Jose Stage Company, 2016

CAST

(In Alphabetical Order)

Kurogo	MARIELA ARTEAGA
Ernesto “Tito” Montaña	MOISES CASTRO
Joe “Yoshi” Yamaguchi	JUSTIN CHIEN
Thelma “Teruko” Yamaguchi	MELANIE ARII MAH
Ichiro Yamaguchi	RANDALL NAKANO
Hana Yamaguchi	JOY OSMANSKI
Kurogo	MICHAEL NAYDOE PINEDO
Paula Montaña	ROSE PORTILLO
Maruca Montaña	CHRISTY SANDOVAL
Calvin Sakamoto, Benjirou	SCOTT KEIJI TAKEDA
Cayetano Montaña	DANIEL VALDEZ
Benjamin Montaña	LAKIN VALDEZ

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for a listed performer unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance.

Hana Yamaguchi, Thelma “Teruko” Yamaguchi, Kurogo—MELODIE SHIH
Benjamin Montaña, Ernesto “Tito” Montaña, Cayetano Montaña—MICHAEL URIBES
Paula Montaña, Maruca Montaña, Kurugo—NATALIE CAMUNAS
Ichiro Yamaguchi, Joe “Yoshi” Yamaguchi, Calvin Sakamoto, Benjirou—RICKY PAK

STAGE MANAGER

SUSIE WALSH

TIME AND PLACE

Valley of the Heart takes place between the winter of 1941 and the fall of 1945 in California’s Santa Clara Valley, Heart Mountain Relocation Camp in Wyoming, and in the memories of Benjamin Montaña in the fall of 2001.

INTERMISSION

Valley of the Heart will be performed with one intermission.

VALLEY OF THE HEART ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS FOR EL TEATRO CAMPESINO

MARILYN ABAD CARDINALLI and JOE CARDINALLI

Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phones and watch alarms. The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.

WHO'S WHO



MARIELA ARTEAGA (*Kurogo*) most recently played the role of Mimi in the TUTS production of *Guys and Dolls*. She is thrilled to be returning to the Mark Taper Forum in *Valley of the Heart*. Born in Miami, FL, Mariela graduated from the prestigious New World School of the Arts. Some of her additional credits

include, stage: *Zoot Suit* (Mark Taper Forum); *Steve Wynn's ShowStoppers* (Encore Theater). TV: *Jane the Virgin*, *General Hospital*, *Harry's Law*, and *Deal or No Deal*. She would like to thank her family, friends, and everyone involved in making this dream a reality. Follow Mariela on Instagram @theofficialmariela.



MOISES CASTRO (*Ernesto "Tito" Montaña*). As an L.A. native, Moises is excited to be part of this beautiful and timely play at the Taper! Recent credits: *Evangeline*, *the Queen of Make-Believe* (About Productions), *Brown & Out* (CASA 0101), *The Hotel Play* (Playwrights' Arena), *Guards at the Taj* (A.C.T.), *Milton*

(PearlDamour), *Brooklyn Bridge* (Seattle Children's Theatre), *The Motherf**ker with the Hat* (WET), and *John Baxter Is a Switch Hitter* (Intiman). Education: UW, NYU, and AMDA. themoisescastro.com. Instagram @themoisescastro. Thanks to all. RISE UP.



JUSTIN CHIEN (*Joe "Yoshi" Yamaguchi*) is ecstatic to be making his Los Angeles stage debut. He is an actor, writer, and director hailing from Taipei, Taiwan, and recently graduated with a BFA in acting from the USC School of Dramatic Arts. He has appeared in *Punk Rock*, *The Kentucky Cycle*, *A Midsummer Night's*

Dream, *Get. That. Snitch.*, and *The Rimers of Eldritch*, among others. As co-founder of Rogue Shore Productions, he has variously written, acted in, and directed the award-winning short films *Tiger of the White Sun*, *Reverallium*, and *Continuum*. justin-chien.com

MELANIE ARII MAH (*Thelma "Teruko" Yamaguchi*) is honored to be making her Center Theatre Group debut in *Valley of the Heart*. Off-Broadway: *4,000 Miles* (Lincoln Center Theater). Regional: *Valley of the Heart* (El Teatro Campesino and the San Jose Stage Company). Education: BFA from Boston University School of Theatre. She wishes to express her



utmost gratitude to Luis Valdez for once again asking her to be a part of the powerful world he has envisioned and created. Her performance is dedicated to her late grandfather, Mamoru "Mum" Arii, Staff Sergeant: Easy Company, 442ND RCT. And to Daddy and Mommy: I miss you every day, and hope I am making you proud.



RANDALL NAKANO (*Ichiro Yamaguchi*) is a San Francisco/Bay Area-based actor. He originated the role of The Monk/Dreamer with the San Francisco Opera in the World premiere of Bright Sheng and David Henry Hwang's *Dream of the Red Chamber*. In the Bay Area, he has performed with Campo Santo,

New Conservatory Theatre Center, Aurora Theatre, Magic Theatre, TheatreWorks (Silicon Valley), Central Works, El Teatro Campesino, San Jose Stage Company, Theatre of Yugen, Asian American Theater Company, and the Bay Area Playwrights Festival. He has participated in the development of new plays with American Conservatory Theater's New Strand Festival and Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor project. He taught drama for 24 years in the San Francisco Unified School District. He was a founding faculty member at the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts.



JOY OSMANSKI (*Hana Yamaguchi*) is thrilled to be working with Luis Valdez at the Mark Taper Forum. Theatre: *Our Town* (Actors Theatre of Louisville), *The Matchmaker*, *Major Barbara* (San Jose Rep), *Be Aggressive* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Romeo and Juliet* (A Noise Within), and *Three Sisters* (Chalk Repertory Theatre).

Film and television: *Dead Night*, *Shot*, *Wedding Palace*, *Shameless*, *Will & Grace*, *Santa Clarita Diet*, *The Fosters*. Joy is a proud graduate of the University of California, San Diego MFA acting program. Love to C+C+S+W+A+60,000 bees. joyosmanski.com

MICHAEL NAYDOE PINEDO (*Kurogo*) is a Los Angeles-native performer and actor represented by Go 2 Talent Agency. His talents have brought him to stages with Toni Braxton and Ariana Grande, as well as national commercials for McDonald's and Apple, and to television shows such as *The Late Late Show with James Corden*. In 2017, Pinedo



had the privilege and honor to act and dance in the revival hit show *Zoot Suit* under the direction of legendary Luis Valdez and his son Kinan Valdez. He has also worked on theatrical shows *They Shoot Mexicans, Don't They?* and *Evangeline, the Queen of Make-Believe*.

When Mike isn't dancing alongside major artists and captivating audiences, he travels nationwide, helping enrich various youth programs by teaching hip hop dance. Pinedo also endeavors to create opportunities for blooming artists with other like-minded individuals at Boogiezone Utopia. Together, working alongside Elm Pizarro and Knicole Haggins, Mike and his production team at Boogiezone have successfully created programs such as Developing Next Artist (DNA) and interactive theatrical shows *Speakeasy 360*, *Dystopia*, and *ZirQus*. Mike is grateful to hit the stage once again at the Mark Taper Forum. He is excited to bring yet another meaningful piece of art to life. *Valley of the Heart* knocked on Michael Pinedo's door at the right time in his life. He would like to remind us that "WAR IS OVER, if you want it" and that love will always prevail.



ROSE PORTILLO (*Paula Montaña*). Center Theatre Group: *Zoot Suit* (Della), *Zoot Suit* (revival, Dolores Reyna), *The Wood Demon* (Sonia), *The Traveler, Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner, The Day You'll Love Me*; About...Productions (co-author/director/actor): *They Shoot Mexicans, Don't They?* (revival), *Properties of Silence, Evangeline, the Queen of Make-Believe, They Shoot Mexicans, Don't They?, Memory Rites, Vox, Bleeding Through, Correct Posture of a True Revolutionary, L.A. Real, Know Your Place*. Regional: *Death and the Maiden* (San Diego Rep); *The Granny* (The Old Globe); *Man of the Flesh* (South Coast Rep); *Spinning into Butter* (director); *Maria, Maria, Maria, Other People's Money, Cyrano, One Hundred Years of Solitude* (Mixed Blood Theatre). Broadway: *Zoot Suit*. NY Public: *L.A. Real*. Film: *...and the earth did not swallow him, Zoot Suit, Mean Season, Where the Buffalo Roam, The Heretic/Exorcist II*. Television: Starz's *Vida*, Hulu/Marvel's *Runaways*, and other stuff. Voiceover: Netflix's upcoming anime series *Seis Manos* (as Danny Trejo's mother), Hulu's upcoming *Undone*. Playwrights' Arena Lee Melville Award for Outstanding Contributions to L.A. Theater. Faculty: Pomona College.



CHRISTY SANDOVAL (*Maruca Montaña*) is delighted at the opportunity to continue the journey with *Valley of the Heart* after being part of the workshop and World premiere production in Northern California. As an 11-year company member of El Teatro Campesino (ETC), Christy has directed, produced, choreographed, and performed in numerous productions with the company, some of which include *Zoot Suit, La Carpa de los Rasquachis, La Pastorela, La Virgen del Tepeyac, Corridos: Tales of the Mexican Revolution, Popol Vuh: Heart of Heaven*, and *¡Viva La Causa!: A Teatro Retrospective*. Christy also currently serves as El Teatro Campesino's General Manager and Education Director, and holds a BA in Latin American and Latino studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz.



SCOTT KEIJI TAKEDA (*Calvin Sakamoto, Benjirou*) is thrilled to be making his Center Theatre Group debut! Previous theatre credits include Calvin/Benjirou in *Valley of the Heart* (El Teatro Campesino), Henry in *Next to Normal* (East West Players; Ovation Award for Best Production of a Musical, Large Theater), Lucas (U/S) in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* (Garry Marshall Theatre), Setsuzo Kotsuji in *Fugu* (Pico Playhouse), Upton in *Ching Chong Chinaman* (Artists at Play), and Brian in *Mysterious Skin* (East West Players). Film credits include *MDMA; Carrie Pilby; Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible...; and Eat with Me*. Scott will also be starring opposite Gad Elmaleh in the upcoming Netflix series *Huge in France*. Much love to his family, friends, and Andrea for all their love and support. scottkeijitakeda.com



DANIEL VALDEZ (*Cayetano Montaña, Music Consultant*) is best known for roles in the movies *La Bamba, Zoot Suit, The China Syndrome, Which Way is Up?*, and *Born in East L.A.* As an actor, composer, and musician, Daniel co-founded El Teatro Campesino with his brother Luis Valdez. He has written original music for films and plays, including *Zoot Suit*, and was producer, researcher, and driving force behind *La Bamba*. Currently, Daniel is working with Su Teatro in Denver, Colorado. He is currently collaborating with Tony Garcia on several projects and original material as well.



LAKIN VALDEZ (*Benjamin Montaño*) is thrilled to make his debut at the Mark Taper Forum with *Valley of the Heart*. Born and raised in the extended family of El Teatro Campesino, Lakin served as the company's Associate Artistic Director from 2000–2005. He has performed with Portland Center Stage and Oregon

Shakespeare Festival (*Mojada*), San Jose Stage (*Valley of the Heart*), Goodman Theatre (*Mother Road/New Stages*), American Conservatory Theater (*Between Riverside and Crazy*), San Diego Repertory Theatre (*Oedipus El Rey*), La Jolla Playhouse (*El Henry*), Marin Theatre Company (*Lydia*), and El Teatro Campesino (*Victor in Shadow*). Film and television credits: *The Brave* (NBC), *Slice* (A24), *The Narc* (Prospect Films), *The Cisco Kid* (TNT), and *Crisis* (NBC). Visit @otrosol.



NATALIE CAMUNAS (*Understudy for Paula Montaño, Maruca Montaño, Kurogo*). As a native Angeleno, Natalie is thrilled to be making her Center Theatre Group debut. Recent theatre credits: originated the role of Gabby Orozco in the World premiere co-production of *American Mariachi* at the Old Globe and Denver Center for the

Performing Arts; West Coast premiere of *Seven Spots on the Sun* at The Theatre @ Boston Court; World premiere of *DJ Latinidad's Latino Dance Party* at Mixed Blood Theatre and MACLA, World premiere of *Pang!* at Legion Arts and 24TH Street Theatre. TV/film: *Goliath*; *Speechless*; *Major Crimes*; *Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn*; *Bright* (Netflix, dir. David Ayer); *Bruising for Besos* (Adelina Anthony); *Detained in the Desert* (Iliana Sosa). Training: BA, University of Southern California/XRT Studio Conservatory/Upright Citizens Brigade Improv. nataliecamunas.com



RICKY PAK (*Understudy for Ichiro Yamaguchi, Joe "Yoshi" Yamaguchi, Calvin Sakamoto, Benjiro*). As well as being an actor, Ricky Pak is the Artistic Director of the Circle Squared Collective, a Los Angeles-based theatre company interested in exploring the intersection between traditional storytelling and

avant-garde experimental theatre techniques to bring theatre to a new generation of audience members. He is also a teaching artist for the New York City-based Tectonic Theater Project (AD Moisés Kaufman), creators of

The Laramie Project. Ricky holds an MFA in performance for theatre, film, and TV from California State University, Los Angeles; is a member of AEA & SAG/AFTRA; and has appeared on numerous TV shows, films, and theatre productions, most recently with East West Players in Los Angeles. TheRickyPak.com



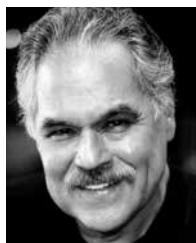
MELODIE SHIH (*Understudy for Hana Yamaguchi, Thelma "Teruko" Yamaguchi, Kurogo*). Raised in the backwoods of Orange County, Melodie grew up in a Chinese immigrant family. She developed a deep love for acting while getting her degree in counseling and social work at Cal State Fullerton. Her love

for storytelling led her to Beverly Hills Playhouse in 2015, where she diligently studies character work and script analysis. She also recently performed in David Henry Hwang's *Yellow Face* under the Firescape Theatre Company, which was touring in Los Angeles. Melodie also enjoys going back to her roots through her classically trained dancing and singing background. If you ever have trouble finding her, she's probably at a dance studio or singing her heart out at a local open mic. Melodie also loves dogs. Like a lot.



MICHAEL URIBES (*Understudy for Benjamin Montaño, Ernesto "Tito" Montaño, Cayetano Montaño*) is originally from San Jose, California. He is a graduate of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts West Coast campus. Theatre credits: the title role in *Hamlet* for the Las Vegas Shakespeare Company,

Zoot Suit (El Pachuco), *Man of La Mancha* (The Duke), *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Picasso), *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (Guildenstern), *Twelfth Night* (Tranio), *Camino Real* (Kilroy), *Oedipus El Rey* at The Theatre @ Boston Court (Choro), *Candida* (Eugene). He was nominated for the Valley Theatre League Award for his performance in the World premiere musical *Musical Chairs*, written by Academy Award-winning composer Joel Hirschhorn. Film and TV credits: *Goliath*, *Harry's Law*, *America's Most Wanted*, *Dick Night*. He is thrilled to be making his debut at the Mark Taper Forum.



LUIS VALDEZ (*Playwright and Director*) founded the internationally renowned and Obie Award-winning El Teatro Campesino (The Farm Workers' Theater) in 1965 during the United Farm Workers (UFW) struggle and the Great Delano Grape Strike in California's Central Valley. His involvement with Cesar Chavez, the UFW,

and the early Chicano Movement left an indelible mark that remains embodied in all his work. Valdez's screen credits include *Zoot Suit*, *La Bamba*, *The Cisco Kid*, and *Corridos: Tales of Passion and Revolution*. Awards include LA Drama Critics 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. 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 50 artists so honored across the United States. Valdez was recently inducted into the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences as a director. In September 2016, he was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Obama at the White House.



KINAN VALDEZ (*Associate Director*) is an ensemble member of El Teatro Campesino (ETC). Reared in the collective milieu of the famed social justice theatre company, Kinan served as ETC's Producing Artistic Director until 2016. As a director, Kinan explores the intersections between the mundane

and the mythic. Recent credits: *La Esquinita, USA* (2017, Arizona Theatre Company), *Lydia* (2017, Miracle Theater), *The River Bride* (2017, Arizona Theatre Company), and *Zoot Suit* (2017, Associate Director, Center Theatre Group). Aside from his theatre work, Kinan is an educator at the University of California, Santa Cruz and a national advisor for the Latinx Theatre Commons.



JOHN IACOVELLI (*Scenic Designer*). Broadway: *Peter Pan* starring Cathy Rigby (Emmy Award), *The Twilight of the Gods*. National tour: *Camelot*. Regional: over 300 productions—Steppenwolf, Geffen Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, Pasadena Playhouse, Berkeley Rep, McCarter, Denver Center, Long Wharf,

and Seattle Rep. Center Theatre Group: *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Immediate Family*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Temptation*, *Largo Desolato*, *The Dream Coast*, and *Making Noise Quietly* (Mark Taper Forum); *Endgame* (Kirk Douglas Theatre). International: *A Slight Ache* in Barcelona, *Casablanca* in Beijing, and *Oedipus in Colonus* in Delphi. Film: production designer on *Ruby in Paradise* starring Ashley Judd. Art director on *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*. TV: *Beckett Directs Beckett: Endgame*, *The Old Settler* starring Phylicia Rashad and Debbie Allen, *The Gin* starring Mary Tyler Moore and Dick Van Dyke, *Babylon 5*, *Ed*, *Resurrection Blvd.*, *Lincoln Heights*. MFA: NYU Tisch. Awards: LADCC for Career Achievement. iacovelli.com



LUPE VALDEZ (*Costume Designer*) joined El Teatro Campesino as a full ensemble member in 1968 and has served as the company's Resident Costume Designer since 2000. Notable productions for the company: *Ballads of the Borderlands* (2006); *Zoot Suit* (2007); *Sam Burguesa and the Pixie Chicks* (2009); *Corridos:*

Tales of the Mexican Revolution (2010); *Canción de San Juan* (2012); *La Pastorela* (2013); *La Virgen del Tepeyac* (2014); and the World premiere of *Valley of the Heart* (2016). Most recently, she designed the World premiere of *The Sweetheart Deal* at the LATC (2017). Film credits: *Amor y Tomates* (2012), *Supernova* (2017).



PABLO SANTIAGO (*Lighting Designer*) is originally from Mexico and the winner of the 2017 Richard E. Sherwood Award and 2015 Stage Raw Award. He was nominated for an Ovation Award in 2018 and 2014. Pablo is honored to return to the Taper after working on *Zoot Suit*.

His work has been seen at Arena Stage, ArtsEmerson, and Skirball Cultural Center. Recent credits include *Proving Up* and *The Wreck* (ONE Festival/Opera Omaha and Miller Theatre); *The Threepenny Opera* (Boston Lyric Opera); *Destiny of Desire* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Goodman Theatre); *Ne Quittez Pas: A Reimagined La voix humaine* (OperaPhila/O18 Festival); *War of the Worlds* (Los Angeles Philharmonic and The Industry); *Breaking the Waves* (OperaPhila and Prototype Festival); *Flight* (Opera Omaha); *Boris Godunov*, *On the Town*, *Das klagende Lied* (San Francisco Symphony); *The Mexican Trilogy* (Los Angeles Theatre Center); *Good Grief* and *Citizen* (Kirk Douglas Theatre); *I Am My Own Wife* (Laguna Playhouse

and EST Santa Barbara); *Skeleton Crew* and *The Cake* (Geffen Playhouse). Upcoming projects include *Schoenberg in Hollywood* (Boston Lyric Opera), *Prism* (Los Angeles Opera and Prototype Festival), *Macbeth*, and *Mother Road* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival).



PHILIP G. ALLEN (*Sound Designer*).

Broadway: *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*. Select credits: national tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar* (2002–2005); *Oklahoma!* at the Denver Center; *Annie*, *Mamma Mia!*, *A Chorus Line*, *Spamalot*, *Hair*, *Chicago*, and *The Producers* at the Hollywood Bowl; Deaf West's *Spring Awakening*; *The Ten Commandments* at the Dolby Theatre; *Zoot Suit* (revival), *Harpis and Angels: The Music of Randy Newman*, *Pippin*, *The House of Blue Leaves*, *The Talking Cure*, *Like Jazz*, *Big River*, and *Flower Drum Song* at the Mark Taper Forum; and the first 15 seasons of Reprise Theatre Company shows at UCLA. Mr. Allen created and oversees the BFA program in sound design at USC.



DAVID MURAKAMI (*Projections Designer*)

is a projection designer and film director focused on the union between the cinematic and theatrical. Past designs include Minnesota Opera's *Das Rheingold*; Opera Parallèle's *Dead Man Walking*, *Champion*, *Les Enfants Terribles*, *Flight*, and *Little Prince*, with the American premieres of *Anya 17* and *Heart of Darkness*; and the World premieres of Jake Heggie's *Out of Darkness* and the original production of *Valley of the Heart* in San Juan Bautista. Other companies include the San Jose Repertory Theatre, Enacte Arts, SFJazz, Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Arizona Opera, Opéra de Montréal, El Teatro Campesino, Music of Remembrance, and Sun Valley Summer Symphony. In Los Angeles, recent credits include LA Opera's production of Gordon Getty's *Scare Pair* at The Broad Stage, *Sense and Sensibility* at South Coast Repertory, and *Zoot Suit* at the Mark Taper Forum. In addition to his work as a designer, David directs independent films with the 4th Hallway Film Studio, and currently teaches projection design at the University of California, Irvine. davidmurakami.com



EDGAR LANDA (*Fight Director*) is an actor/director, and creates fights and violence for theatres large and small. Recent fight credits include Geffen Playhouse, San Diego Rep, South Coast Repertory, The Wallis, Kirk Douglas Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Son of Semele, Fountain Theatre, Sacred Fools, and Playwrights'

Arena. Edgar serves on the faculty of the USC School of Dramatic Arts, and is a long-time collaborator of Son of Semele Ensemble. He is an AEA member and supporter of intimate theatre in Los Angeles. edgarlanda.com

ROSALINDA MORALES AND PAULINE O'CON (*Casting*) met

at the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival. Joining their varied experiences in independent film, network television, studio casting, and their professional relationships in the agency management community, they formed Morales/O'con Casting. Their passion and knowledge of actors, writing, and the casting process showcase the diverse and progressive culture of today's audiences. In 2018, they were honored to receive the CSA Artios Award for Outstanding Achievement in Casting—Regional Theatre West for the revival of *Zoot Suit* for the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles.



PJ & ROY HIRABAYASHI (*Original Compositions & Arrangements*). Founder and Artistic Director Emeritus of San Jose Taiko (SJT) recently celebrated 45 years of playing taiko. For their years of community-building through SJT, they were awarded the 2011 National Endowment of the Arts National Heritage

Fellowships, the nation's highest honor in folk and traditional arts. Roy & PJ have also received the SV Creates Legacy Laureate, San Jose Arts Commission Cornerstone of the Arts, Bunka Hall of Fame, and both have been mentors in the Alliance for California Traditional Arts Master Program. In 2017, they performed at the Smithsonian FolkLife Festival and the Library of Congress Noontime Series and remain active performing and conducting workshops internationally. PJ's current project is TaikoPeace, an extension of her Peace Ambassadorship with the Shift Network's Summer of Peace and Karen Armstrong's Charter for Compassion. PJ seeks to inspire personal, social, and global change through the art of taiko. She is President for Kodo Arts Sphere America. Recent awards include the Arts Council of Silicon Valley Artistic Fellowship for Music Performance, and the US/Japan Creative Arts Fellowship.

Roy remains active in the national arts community and has served on the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose Board, School of Arts & Culture at Mexican Heritage Plaza Board, and is a founding member of 1stACT Silicon Valley, the Multicultural Arts Leadership Institute, and the Taiko Community Alliance. He is an American Leadership Forum Silicon Valley John W. Gardner Leadership Awardee and a member of the 2017 US-Japan Council Japanese American Leadership Delegation.

NOÉ YAOCOATL MONTOYA (*Additional Arrangements*) has been a member of El Teatro Campesino (ETC) since 1970, while a sophomore in high school. He's served as musician and actor, and appeared in numerous productions of ETC, including *La Carpa de los Rasquachis*, *Popul Vuh*, *Corridos*, and *La Virgen del Tepeyac*, and toured with the company on several national tours that included the Midwest and Southwestern United States and a two month, seven country European tour. He performs Mexican folk music, as well as Chicano music, and is currently studying native pre-Columbian instruments. He takes pride in preserving his cultura.



PHILLIP ESPARZA (*Executive Producer, El Teatro Campesino*) has nearly 50 years of experience in the performing arts as an actor, technical director, media production specialist, and producer. He is a founding member of El Teatro Campesino (ETC) and has coordinated and managed regional, national, and international

theatrical tours for ETC. He assisted on the film producing teams for *Zoot Suit*, *La Bamba*, *La Pastorela*, and *The Cisco Kid*, to name a few. He has produced work at the Aratani Japan America Theatre, the Marines' Memorial Theatre, the Mark Taper Forum, the Winter Garden Theatre, The Old Globe, and numerous small and community based theatres. He currently serves on the Board of El Teatro Campesino, Digital Media Foundation (president), and the Conexiones Committee of the Western Arts Alliance, and works as the Operations Manager of CSU Monterey Bay World Theater.

EL TEATRO CAMPESINO. Founded in 1965 by American playwright Luis Valdez as a means of organizing the nation's agricultural workers, El Teatro Campesino (ETC)—literally “the Farm Workers’ Theatre”—has been at the forefront of using theatre as an artistic generator of social change for 53 years now. From flatbed trucks to the Broadway stage, ETC built its reputation as the premier Chicano/Latino theatre

company during its first two decades of extensive touring. Traveling the world from its rural base in San Juan Bautista, CA, the company became world-renowned for its exuberant image-fueled work and music based productions that dynamically explore the cultural fusions of the continental Americas. Under the direction of its visionary founder, the company also developed “Theatre of the Sphere”—a theatrical training method based on the thought and culture of ancient America and built on the nexus between artistic excellence and community activism. ETC's work has impacted and influenced several artists and cultural institutions with its aesthetic, acting technique, and narrative of Latinos' pursuit of social justice in the United States and internationally.



DAVID S. FRANKLIN (*Production Stage Manager*). Center Theatre Group highlights: *An Enemy of the People*, Baz Luhrmann's *La Bohème*, *Art, Romance, The Cherry Orchard*, *Curtains*, *Nightingale*, *The History Boys*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *Two Unrelated Plays by David Mamet*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Parade*,

The Subject Was Roses, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, Randy Newman's *Harps and Angels*, *God of Carnage*, *Vigil*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Los Otros*, *Red*, *Seminar*, *Tribes*, *Humor Abuse*, *The Steward of Christendom*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Bent*, *The Christians*, *Disgraced*, *A View From The Bridge*, *Zoot Suit*, *Archduke*, *King of the Yees*, *Head of Passes*, *Water by the Spoonful*, *Sweat*, and had the pleasure of assisting on *Soft Power*. Other Los Angeles: Los Angeles Theatre Center in its heyday from 1985–1990, Pasadena Playhouse, and the Geffen Playhouse. Regional: Seattle Rep, Intiman Theatre. New York: Public Theater. Tours: Europe—*Quotations from a Ruined City*, *Law of Remains* (with Reza Abdoh's Dar a Luz company).

SUSIE WALSH (*Stage Manager*). In Los Angeles, Susie has stage managed over 150 shows at theatres such as the Mark Taper Forum, the Ahmanson Theatre, the Geffen, LATC, the Wallis, the Laguna Playhouse, and Pasadena Playhouse. Favorites include *Zoot Suit*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Flower Drum Song*, *Stuff Happens*, *Arcadia*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Minsky's*, *The Price*, and *Endgame*. In New York, Susie stage managed *Putting it Together* with Carol Burnett. She loves Ken.

Center Theatre Group



MICHAEL RITCHIE (*Artistic Director*) is in his 14TH season as Center Theatre Group's Artistic Director, and has led over 200 productions to the Ahmanson Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, and Kirk Douglas Theatre stages, including the premieres of six musicals that moved to Broadway—*The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Curtains*, *13, 9 to 5: The Musical*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, and *Leap of Faith*—and the Pulitzer Prize in Drama finalist *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*.



STEPHEN D. ROUNTREE (*Managing Director*) joined Center Theatre Group in 2014 as Managing Director. He was previously the President and CEO of The Music Center (2002–2014) and concurrently the CEO of the Los Angeles Opera (2008–2012). He served the J. Paul Getty Trust for 22 years, starting in 1980 as Deputy Director of the Getty Museum, then Director of the Getty Center Building Program, and in 1998, the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the Getty Trust. He currently serves as a trustee of Occidental College, The Ahmanson Foundation, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, and Polytechnic School.



DOUGLAS C. BAKER (*Producing Director*) is now in his 29TH season at Center Theatre Group. He is an active member of the Broadway League, the Independent Presenters Network, and is a proud member of the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers. In May 2013, Doug received the Broadway League's prestigious Outstanding Achievement in Presenter Management Award.



KELLEY KIRKPATRICK (*Associate Artistic Director*). Since arriving at Center Theatre Group in 2005, Kelley has produced over 60 productions at the Ahmanson Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, and Kirk Douglas Theatre, many of which have gone on to future lives on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and beyond. In addition to producing shows across Center Theatre Group's three stages, he has had the privilege of collaborating with numerous local and national artists to commission and develop new works.



NAUSICA STERGIUO (*General Manager, Mark Taper Forum and Kirk Douglas Theatre*) has worked professionally supporting artists in theatres of all shapes, sizes, and locales including many seasons at Center Theatre Group as General Manager and, previously, as Audience Development Director. She oversees mainstage productions at the Taper and Douglas, as well as new play commissions and developmental productions through Center Theatre Group's New Play Development. Nausica has taught at USC's School of Dramatic Arts, and advises and works with local nonprofits including Hollywood Orchard.



GORDON DAVIDSON (*Founding Artistic Director*) led the Taper throughout its first 38 seasons, guiding over 300 productions to its stage and winning countless awards for himself and the theatre—including the Tony Award for theatrical excellence, Margo Jones Award, The Governor's Award for the Arts, and a Guggenheim fellowship. *The Kentucky Cycle* and *Angels in America (Part One)* won the Pulitzer in consecutive years and, in 1994, three of the four plays nominated for the Tony Award for Best Play were from the Taper (*Angels in America* won). In 1989, Gordon took over the Ahmanson and, in 2004, he produced the inaugural season in the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR VALLEY OF THE HEART

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 Resident Assistant Lighting Designer Ginevra Lombardo
 Assistant Sound Designer Stephen Jensen
 Audio Engineer Dante Carballo
 Assistant Projections Designer Elizabeth Barrett
 Assistant Costume Designer..... Kat Patterson
 Assistant Set Designers..... Robert Frye, Chad Dellinger, Yuki Izumihara
 TailorSwantje Touhino
 First Hand Stephanie Molstad
 Master Stitcher Mary Bergot
 Stitchers Cosmo Martinelli, Jodessa Pressler, Manee Leija
 Prop Lead.....Kitty Murphy-Youngs
 Assistant Prop Lead Erin Walley
 Prop Carpenter Ryan Howard
 Prop Artisan Eric Babb
 Casting Associate Vanessa Helton
 Puppet Artisan Sean Purucker

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THANK YOU

Rosamaria Escalante, Gustavo Mellado, Anita Garcia, Louisa Munoz,
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 Anahuac Valdez, Patricia Perez, Francisco Hernandez, Jay Africa,
 and Joe Luis Cedillo.

The OBI Group.

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The following employees are represented by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Machine Operators, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, its Territories and Canada, AFL-CIO, CLC: Stage Crew Local 33; Local Treasurers and Ticket Sellers Local 857; Wardrobe Crew Local 768; Makeup Artists and Hair Stylists Local 706. The scenic, costume, lighting, and sound designers in LORT Theatres are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829.



The Press Agents, Company, and House Managers employed in this production are represented by the Association of Theatrical Press Agents & Managers.



The Director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Inc., an independent national labor union.

Center Theatre Group is a member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the American Arts Alliance, the Broadway League, Independent Producers' Network (IPN), LA Stage Alliance, National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT) and the Theatre Communications Group (TCG).

In the rehearsal room for

VALLEY OF THE HEART



Top (L-R): Randall Nakano. Melanie Arie Mah. | Middle (L-R): Rose Portillo. Kinan Valdez, Daniel Valdez, Luis Valdez, Lupe Valdez, Lakin Valdez. | Bottom (L-R): Moises Castro, Christy Sandoval. Justin Chien. Joy Osmanski. Photography by Craig Schwartz.

Zoot Suit Creator **Luis Valdez** Plants New Seeds at the Taper with ***Valley of the Heart***

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE THAT LESS THAN A GENERATION AGO, CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA WAS AN AGRICULTURAL TOWN.

Today, it is home to Apple Inc.'s headquarters—a vast, ring-shaped structure made of glass and steel—and one of the wealthiest cities in the country. Yet for playwright, director, and El Teatro Campesino founder Luis Valdez, Cupertino will always be known for the rich land that once grew an abundance of crops and fruit trees.

“I remember it as the ‘Valley of the Heart’s Delight,’” said Valdez, who lived in the area shortly after World War II. “Back in the ’40s, no one knew it was going to become Silicon Valley.”

As a child of Mexican farmworkers who had immigrated to California, Valdez grew up around intersecting cultures, which inevitably inspired his stories about America’s cultural diversity. His landmark play *Zoot Suit* reimagined Los Angeles’ 1942 Sleepy Lagoon trial—which unjustly convicted a group of young Latino men of murder—and the racially charged riots that followed. *Zoot Suit* made its World premiere at the Mark Taper Forum in 1978, just a few decades after the events it portrayed had taken place, and went on to become Broadway’s first Chicano play.

“I feel a sense of basic responsibility as a playwright born and raised in California to reflect [our] reality to the rest of the world,” Valdez said, “to say, ‘Look we’re all the same. We’ve all had our common struggles.’ I use the theatre not just to enlighten but to touch the hearts of people. If we can touch the heart, maybe we can do something to bring justice to our lives.”

Valdez’s broad and highly celebrated body of work—which also encompasses films such as *La Bamba* and the screen adaptation of *Zoot Suit*—has not only contributed to greater representation of Latinos in entertainment but spurred a theatre movement, with a new generation of Latino theatre groups springing up on college campuses and in communities throughout the country since the 1970s. In honor of his accomplishments and historic cultural influence, Valdez has been awarded the Governor’s Award from the California Arts Council, the George Peabody Award for excellence in television, and the National Medal of the Arts from President Obama.

Like *Zoot Suit*, his latest play, *Valley of the Heart*, uses California history as a jumping-off point to tell an important story. Its roots also lie in Valdez’s

personal history, from his memories of growing up on ranches and farms in the Central Valley. His father had worked for a Japanese American farmer until the attack on Pearl Harbor. After President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, the Japanese American farmer and his family were forcibly relocated to one of 10 internment camps in the Western states.

With unoccupied farmlands on their hands in the midst of a major war effort, the Farm Security Administration encouraged and supported remaining farmworkers—like Valdez's father—to tend the farms in the Japanese American owners' absence. Although Valdez's family prospered with this opportunity, it all came to a halt when the war ended. Valdez was a child at the time, and he hadn't realized that the farm belonged to another family.

"I still feel a sense of guilt, a sense of disappointment, about the fact that it wasn't our farm," he said. "All of the [Army] support fell apart; the whole agribusiness fell apart. My dad's lease was out, and we couldn't afford to buy the place."

By 1946, the Valdez family found themselves "in a worn-out pickup truck traveling up and down California, working as migrants." At one point while they were living in a small Central Valley town near Delano, another family of migrant farmworkers moved down the street from them. Valdez befriended the son, Esteban, whose mother was a Japanese American woman named Thelma. Esteban's father, Benjamin, was Mexican American. Later, this couple would inspire the star-crossed lovers in *Valley of the Heart*.

"I never forgot Thelma and Benjamin and my friend Esteban," said Valdez. At the same time, "the story of *Valley of the Heart* is really universal in the sense that it is common to all the Japanese American families during that period."

As a "homegrown product" of El Teatro Campesino—which was founded in 1965 as a "farm workers' theatre" with the support of Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers—the play has come full circle. *Valley of the Heart* was workshopped and performed at El Teatro Campesino's theatre in Northern California's San Juan Bautista in 2013 and moved to the San Jose Stage Company in 2016 for its World premiere. Some of the original company and creative team members followed the production to reprise their roles for the Taper stage, including many of Valdez's family members. Luis Valdez's brother, Daniel Valdez—who wrote music for *Zoot Suit* and appeared in both the original production and last year's revival—is one of them. Rose Portillo, who also appeared in both productions of *Zoot Suit*, is also back.

"The Taper was my introduction to the whole professional theatre world, where I went from arts activism among farmworkers to the more commercial aspect of theatre," said Valdez. "L.A. is where my audience is. I'm talking not just about Latinos but about people who are conscious of this changing world. The cultural fusion we see in L.A. is the wave of the future. It's a place where you see people being accepted for who they are and being allowed to contribute what they can give from their souls. In that sense I'm overjoyed to be coming back to the Taper with a new play, and to continue to reflect our commonalities and our experiences as Americans."

"I feel a sense of basic responsibility as a playwright born and raised in California to reflect [our] reality to the rest of the world," Valdez said, "to say, 'Look we're all the same. We've all had our common struggles.' I use the theatre not just to enlighten but to touch the hearts of people. If we can touch the heart, maybe we can do something to bring justice to our lives."



MICHAEL RITCHIE Artistic Director | **STEPHEN D. ROUNTREE** Managing Director
DOUGLAS C. BAKER Producing Director

Center Theatre Group would like to thank its exceptional staff for their ongoing commitment, dedication, and extraordinary efforts.

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