
¡CELEBRAMOS!
U-SU PLAZA
OCT 2, 2024 AT 4PM
OCT 3, 2024 AT 7PM
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

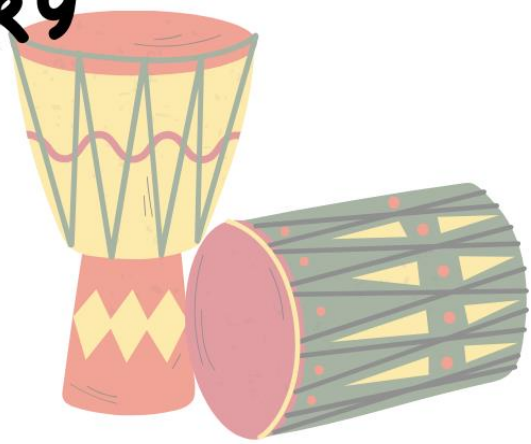
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,LOS ANGELES
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

PRESENT

¡CELEBRAMOS!

CONCIEVED AND DIRECTED BY

TANYA KANE-PARRY



CHOREOGRAPHER
PATRICIA LEWIS



PLAYWRIGHT/DRAMATURG
SOPHIE GOLDSTEIN

STAGE MANAGER
MIA ZELL

THE CAST

CHRIS APABLAZA

AQUANETTA BROOKS

MONSERATT CHIQUETE

MATTHEW DOMINGUEZ

GERALD HERNANDEZ

YOUSEF JAVIER

EUGENE NEGRETE

ALEXIS RAMIREZ

CECILIA SEVILLA

TESHAN TEACHEY

KIMBERLY TORRES

KETZALI SARAVIA UMANA





Chris Apablaza's performing career has dabbled from dancing, playing instruments, and now with his first ever theater show *Celebramos.* Chris first began as a Cueca dancer who performed at Chilean folkloric events when he was younger. In middle school, and then high school, Chris joined concert band along with marching band, gaining the ability to play not only the alto saxophone but also the baritone saxophone. Chris is a Theater major, with a Performance option. Other than the performing arts, Chris also enjoys reading literature, writing poetry, writing scripts, and drawing. Chris hopes to further his career as an actor, especially in film. He also partakes in Cal State LA's film club to not only help create new projects but also hopefully star in them. He wants to be the representation of not only Chileans and Guatemalans in media, but of all Latinos. His drive in each of his projects are the people who have helped him succeed in the arts. He wishes to thank his middle school band concert director Karen Mizerak, his high school marching band director Joseph Calderon, and his father Christian Apablaza who taught him how to dance Cueca.



Aquanetta Brooks (she/her) is a Bay Area native singer, songwriter, and actress with over 10 years of experience in music, performance, theatre, and film. Aquanetta attended ACT's Young Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco as a young child and studied performing arts throughout high school and undergrad at San Jose State University, where she received her BA in Theatre Arts and African American Studies. After signing a recording contract with Atlantic Records, she was named one of the top 50 BuzzFeed singers in 2017 and performed at TEDTALK X Oakland in 2018. Aquanetta has triumphed through many struggles, leveraging her talents to craft compelling narratives that bring both her own stories and those of others to life. Aquanetta's most recent credits include the "Big Girl Blues" web series directed by Keke Palmer and Apple TV's "Amazing Stories" directed by Sylvain White. Aquanetta is currently pursuing her MFA degree in Television, Film and Theatre/Acting option at Cal State Los Angeles.



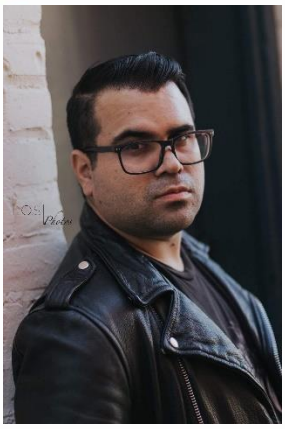
Monserrat Chiquete is a fourth-year student in the Department of Psychology and the Department of Theater and Dance. *Celebramos* is her first production at Cal State LA. Prior productions include *13 Ways to Screw Up your College Interview*, *Dios Salve a la Reina*, *Imaginary Friend* and *La Receta del Chef*. She has also worked in numerous shows directing and assisting as an art consultant, costume designer, translator and makeup artist such as *Luis, Un Viaje al Mas Alla,* and *Where the Wind Took Him*. Her work as a playwright has been turned into the productions, including: *The Fifth Time*, and *Sin Retorno* a Dia de los Muertos special. Originally from Mexico, she is fluent in Spanish, and is working towards her degree in multicultural psychology. In addition, she has a passion for styling, voice acting, activism, and team leadership.



Matthew Dominguez is a first-year Cal State LA student majoring in Theatre. *Celebramos* is his fourth production with the department. You might've seen him in his previous role as C in *Rough for Theatre Two* in the Summer Beckett Projects, Donalbain in the 2024 Spring semester's production of *Macbeth*, and Nigel in the 2023 Fall semester's production of *Something Rotten*. He hopes you are able to take something away from this performance whether it's a new-found appreciation for Bomba or a deeper understanding of Afrolatinidad. Matthew would like to give thanks to his parents Matt and Jenn, and his family, and friends for their continued support in his future endeavors.



Yousef Javier is musician and educator based out of Los Angeles, California. He received his Master of Music degree at California State University, Los Angeles with an emphasis in Afro-Latin music and has toured internationally as a bassist with groups such as La Misa Negra, Bang Data, Barrio Manouche, and Orchestra Gold. As an educator, he has taught middle school in some of Los Angeles' most underserved Black and Latinx communities. He has a rich passion for music of the African diaspora and is interested in linking music to culture in ways that are both accessible and empowering for young people. He believes that music and the arts are an important component in the fight for social justice and integral to the self-determination and achievement of students.



Gerald Hernandez is a Senior Cal State LA student studying Psychology and majoring in Theatre. Gerald began singing at Colton High School for their choir ensemble for three and a half years. Gerald plays drums and has performed for various punk rock, alternative, and experimental bands. He also plays synthesizer, piano, and drum machines for his solo project, and released his debut album in 2023. He performed as King Kasper for *Amahl and the Night Visitors* at San Bernardino Valley College, was in the chorus for *Bye, Bye Birdie* at the Lewis Family Playhouse, and a dancer for student choreographies at Chaffey College in 2018 and 2019. Gerald was also an extra in films such as *Bad Words*, directed by Jason Bateman, and performed for the San Bernardino Valley College Voci Soli Choir Ensemble. He performed in several dance films directed by Mads Irving and Megan Fowler-Hurst. Gerald also helped build a set at San Bernardino Valley College for their production of *Smokey Joe's Café*. He was also an extra *in Secret in Their Eyes*, directed by Billy Ray. He is currently an ensemble for an independent film in the middle of production called *Fuselage*.



Eugene Antonio Negrete is a first year student in the MFA in Television, Film and Theatre/Acting option from Sacramento, CA. He is a film and stage actor, director, poet and arts educator. Past credits include *Stop Kiss* by Diana Son, *Mummified Deer* by Luis Valdez, *Ghost Dance* by Carolyn Dunn, *Mujeres en el Encierro* by Maria Morett, *String Theory* by Ifa Bayeza, *La Pastorela de Sacramento*, *Little Known Legends* by Radical Evolution.

Alexis Ramirez is a Sophomore majoring in Theatre, with an interest in creative writing and marketing. She would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her dreams.



Cecilla Sevilla is a graduate student in the Afro-Latin Music program (Vocal Performance). She is a bilingual Spanish/English performer across a range of style including Latin, soul, R&B, rap, and pop. Prior performances include the recording of the reggaeton pop song, "Sangre De La Tierra" with Carla Hassett and Uziel Colon-Ramos; a remix of Cardi B's "I Like It" for the Cal State LA Afro-Latin ensemble and background vocals for Bardo Martinez, the lead vocalist from Chicano Batman. She is also part of a developing band, "Tea Collective" who have performed at Stages Bar in Santa Ana. She is currently creating an album of original music to be released soon.



Teshan Teachey is excited to make his debut at Cal State Los Angeles in the production of *Celebramos!* after recently being seen in a production of *Beauty and the Beast*. This marks an exciting new chapter in his performing career. During his time at West Valley, Teshan portrayed Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*, Wadsworth in *Clue*, Harry MacAfee in *Bye Bye Birdie*, and both the Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come and Mr. Fezziwig in *A Christmas Carol*. He cherished every moment on that stage and is eager to continue his journey in theater. Beyond theater, Teshan enjoys a variety of hobbies including drawing, dancing, singing, skateboarding, and playing musical instruments. He also spent two rewarding years in the school band, delighting in the experience of playing at football games. Teshan is looking forward to his time here at Cal State LA.

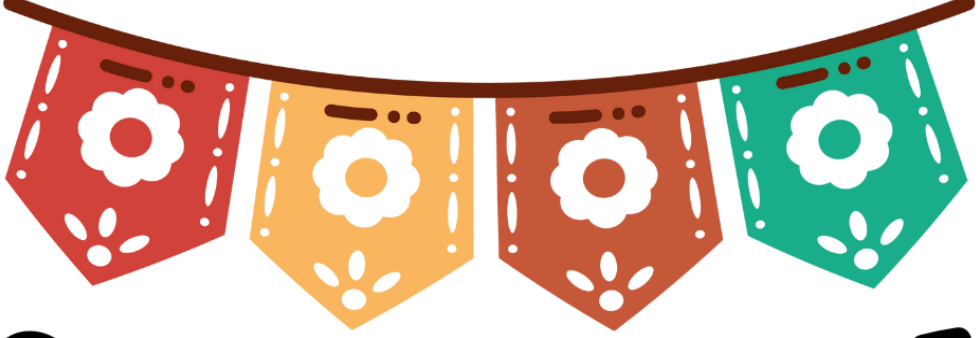


Kimberly Torres is a senior at Cal State LA majoring in Business Management with a minor in Theatre. She is a transfer student from Cañada College where she graduated with her AS-T in Business Administration, an AA in Economics and an AA in ECE. She is also in two organizations on campus which include the Hispanic Business Society and Alpha Sigma Tau. She completed an acting program in 2019 called The Celebrity Experience where she worked with professionals and performed in front of agencies. She last performed in *The Panza Monologues* directed by Tanya Kane-Parry and MFA student, Sophia Hernandez, in Spring 2024. She also performed in *Los Faustinos* directed by Roberto Alcaraz in Spring 2022 where she played Margarita. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support, she couldn't have done it without you.



Ketzali Antu Saravia Umana (Musician) is a multi-instrumentalist, Afro Salvi, queer, nonbinary trans woman, currently studying percussion with Prof. Joey de Leon in the Afro Latin M.M. program at Cal State LA. She resides in Tovaangar (colonially known as Los Angeles) where she played and toured locally with the now disbanded Progressive Metal band, Color Inn (formerly Synapse), as a drummer and songwriter from 2012-2018. She holds a B.A. in Central American Studies with a minor in American Indian Studies from California State University, Northridge where she was an organizer with the Central American United Student Association (CAUSA) and the American Indian Student Association (AISA). In her time as a student organizer, Ketzali co-organized a music festival for Indigenous People's Day called, "Indigeridoo", that created a safe space for leftist student activists of color to express themselves, connect with each other's cultures and recover from the ongoing student protests at the time against the CSU's racist executive order, "EO 1100". Ketzali was recently featured on Kai's debut single, "High Tide", playing congas and drums for alternate versions of the track.





PRODUCTION TEAM

Technical Coordinator ..... Tim Jones
Sound Operator ..... David Yang
Running Crew ..... Mia Hagooli Bolanos

Electrics Shop Student Assistants ..... Karen Aguilar-Rodriguez, Duncan Martinez
Scene Shop Student Assistants ..... Jose Luis Andrade-Hernandez
Cindy Campos, Luis Cortes, Jayden Lozada,
Brianna Sandoval, David Yang, Jayden Lozada
Costume Shop Student Assistants ..... Isabella Benavides, Olive Lalli
Theatre and Dance Production Assistants ..... Matthew Dominguez,
Jessica Gonzalez, Montgomery King, Venio Kustura,
Ece Renkman, Brizea Suarez, Teshan Teachey

Faculty Scenic Design Mentor ..... Arnold Bueso
Faculty Lighting Design Mentor ..... Karyn Lawrence
Faculty SM Mentor ..... Morgan Zupanski
Faculty Technical Director ..... Daniel Czypinski
Faculty Production Manager ..... Meredith Greenburg
Associate Production Manager ..... Christopher Cid
Social Media ..... Parise Zeleny
Electrics Shop Supervisor ..... Tim Jones
Scene Shop Supervisor ..... Mark Russell
Costume Shop Supervisor ..... Bruce Zwinge
A&L Safety Coordinator ..... Elizabeth Pietrzak

Celebramos! wishes to thank the following people, without whom we could not have made this show happen:

Stephen Trzaskoma, Dean of the College of Arts & Letters, Katherine Weiss, Associate Dean of the College of A&L
Claudia Chan, Leticia Ramirez, Flora Saavedra-Hernandez and Sylvia Ramirez in the A&L Dean's Office
Armando Rosales, Adam Snow, Christopher Gravis from the Department of Music
Adam Guthrie, Ronald Ruiz and the folks at the University Student union



Tanya Kane-Parry (Director)
Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance. Teaches dance, acting and Viewpoints. Professionally, she is a director/choreographer in theatre, opera, dance. Credits include productions at Long Beach Opera, LA Phil, Festival Opera, Opera Omaha, Houston Grand Opera, Washington National Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Liceo Opera (Barcelona), National Opera of Bordeaux, Angels Vocal Arts and Napa Valley Festival. In more recent years, she has been invited by Positional Projects to create solo performances and videos in response to environmentally related locations and themes. These works and more can be seen on her YouTube channel.



Patricia "Melo Gia" Lewis (Choreographer) referred by her colleges as the "Swiss army knife" is a Puerto Rican and African American artist known across the east coast, Los Angeles and Puerto Rico as a multi-faceted talent with many hats in the visual arts and musical fields. She has been a professional vocalist and composer for 17 years, a tattoo artist for 6 years and a Puerto Rican folklore dancer and vocalist for nearly 10 years. Born and raised in the island of Puerto Rico, she began her artistic journey painting and sculpting at Central High School for Visual Arts while, spending her evenings singing and playing the violin at Puerto Rico's Music Conservatory Youth String Program since the age of 7. After graduating from Central Visual Arts High School and the Conservatory's String Program at 17, Patricia received a generous scholarship to attend Berklee College of Music in 2005 with vocals being her main instrument and violin second. She received a Bachelor's Degree for Music Business upon graduation. Patricia later returned to Puerto Rico to curate her knowledge and experience in Afro-Puerto Rican folklore. She began dancing and singing Bomba music in 2015. She also toured the world with renowned Grammy Winning reggae band "Cultura Profética". She landed the leading role for the Spanish adaptation of *Once on this Island* and performed at the historical University of Puerto Rico Theater. However, everything abruptly stopped in 2017. Hurricane María, the strongest hurricane ever recorded in history, devastated Puerto Rico. Work stopped for most artists in the island and Patricia was forced to migrate to Philadelphia and later New York. Music never stopped for Patricia. She continues to write and do vocal producing for herself and other artists. She has been a proud Puerto Rican cultural ambassador in Los Angeles, working, learning and teaching with LA's top Bomba groups; Taller Kerubina led by Maritxell Carrero and the Los Angeles Bomba Collective led by Jhan Lee Aponte.





Sophie Goldstein (Playwright/Dramaturg) is a Jewish Chicana from Los Angeles, CA and a proud alumna of the Cal State LA Theatre Department. After graduating in 2010, she went on to receive her MFA in Physical Theatre from the Accademia Dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy. She has directed and/or choreographed with several Los Angeles theaters and educational institutions including: Vagrancy, Son of Semele, Leo Rising, 2Cents, Dean Productions, Cal State LA, and La Crescenta High School. She has assistant directed numerous opera productions with Tanya Kane-Parry at Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra and Angels Vocal Arts. She has taught movement, Commedia Dell'Arte, and acting classes/workshops, at Cal State LA, A Noise Within, Azusa Pacific University, and Loyola Marymount. In 2022 she was a writer finalist for a monologue competition sponsored by Nosotros. Her 10-Minute play *Rosa* was part of the 2022 Frida Kahlo Festival and then adapted into a short film by Sherry Mandujano. Her one-act play *This House is Legacy* was selected and performed at the 2024 Hanne Pedersen competition in Carpinteria, CA. Two of her 10-Minute plays were selected for upcoming festivals in Michigan and Illinois. She is a member of the LA Female Playwrights Initiative and Company of Angels playwright's group.



Ileanna Santiago Ruiz *(Musician)* originally from Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, has been immersed in music since birth, thanks to her father, renowned international percussionist Freddie Santiago. Though she moved to Los Angeles in 2017 and built a career as an industrial psychologist, her passion for Bomba—a traditional Afro-Puerto Rican genre that blends drumming, dance, and song—has been a central part of her life since 2015. Bomba holds deep cultural significance, symbolizing resilience, community, and the enduring legacy of African traditions in Puerto Rico.



Mia Zell (Stage Manager) is a Theatre major (Design & Production Option) at Cal State LA and this is her fourth production with the Theatre Department. She has worked on shows such as *Fighting Back* (Ensemble member), *Something Rotten!* (Assistant Stage Manager), and *Macbeth* (Young Siward). Mia would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her throughout her artistic endeavors, and the Cal State LA faculty for their mentorship.