LUNA STAGE PRESENTS

THE FRONTERA PROJECT

a bilingual play in Spanish and English
Created and Directed by Ramón Verdugo and Jessica Bauman
Creado y Dirigido por Ramón Verdugo y Jessica Bauman

OCT 7 - OCT 16
TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW @ LUNASTAGE.ORG

LACKAWANNA PLAZA, MONTCLAIR
OCTOBER 7-10 @ 7PM

LUNA STAGE, WEST ORANGE
OCTOBER 14-16 @ 7PM

All performances outdoors

Masks and proof of COVID-19 vaccine required
LUNA STAGE THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

THE FRONTERA PROJECT

Created and Directed by
Ramón Verdugo and Jessica Bauman

Text by
Bárbara Perrín Rivemar and the company

Design by
Jesús Quintero

Original Music by
Jassiel Santillán

Produced by
Jessica Bauman, Jesús Quintero and Ramón Verdugo

Creative Producer:
Natalia Escobedo

Company:
Lou Best, Cristóbal Dearie, Jesús Quintero,
Jassiel Santillan, Valeria Vega-Kuri

Special Thanks to
DCP Holdings and Valley National Bank for their support of this production.
“The Frontera Project” started when I spent ten days in Tijuana Mexico on a TCG travel grant to get to know the work and the artists at Tijuana Hace Teatro, Ramón’s company. At the same time that I was falling in love with THT’s work, and company members, Tijuana was challenging me in completely unexpected ways. Simply put, I discovered that everything I thought I understood about the Border was wrong. Without realizing it consciously, I had internalized the idea that the Border was simply a place of transit – and, in the case of Tijuana – layered with a healthy dose of suffering. What I found instead was a vibrant place with its own, distinct hybrid culture. Sure, migration and suffering are definitely one part of the picture, as is the violence of drug trafficking. But there are so many other stories that we just don’t hear if we aren’t there ourselves: art, music, a sophisticated food culture; people on both sides of the border with deep connections to the other side - living on one side, but working, going to school, maintaining relationships on the other side. One of our company members grew up in San Diego, but regularly went to the movies in Tijuana because her grandmother loved the Mexican movie theater popcorn. With the zeal of a convert, I was immediately compelled to get the word out to people like me, who don’t even know what they don’t know – that The Border is a place of complexity and contradiction and beauty. I have been blessed to spend the last two and a half years working with this company of thoughtful, talented Fronterizos as we have explored their experiences and perspectives in order to share their stories with audiences across the US. The stories you will hear tonight come from the actual experiences of people in our company, or people we have interviewed for the project, including the story of Rosita and Jared. We are so happy you have joined us today! Bienvenidos!

Hablar de nuestra casa no es fácil, está llena de emociones que se alimentan de los recuerdos, los deseos y las experiencias de ese lugar que hemos habitado. Hablar de nuestra ciudad, de nuestra Frontera, tampoco lo es. “The Frontera Project” ha sido un viaje de redescubrimiento, donde el diálogo ha traído nuevas perspectivas y viejas contradicciones. Los clichés y las realidades se enfrentan en un discurso difícil de considerar verdadero, por eso no podemos contar una sola historia, sino múltiples ángulos de un territorio complejo.

Contents, un grupo de artistas de México y Estados Unidos construimos una experiencia que se cierra cada noche con la llegada del público, quien completa el momento con sus ideas y perspectivas de lo que significan las fronteras, no solo en el mundo, sino también las propias.

Nuestra escena es un espacio vacío que llenamos cada día con las nuevas experiencias que construimos juntos gracias al convivio del teatro, que hoy más que nunca nos recuerda que es un refugio para seguir conectando con otros seres humanos, sin importar las fronteras.
DIRECTORS

Ramón Verdugo
Artistic Director of Tijuana Hace Teatro since 2007. As an artist he has collaborated in more than 35 shows as an actor, director and producer. University professor for theatre and acting programs for opera singers. With experience in seminars and festivals such as ASSITEJ (China), Odin Theatre (Denmark), Fira Infantil I Juvenil (Spain), ITI (Armenia), among others in Mexico and the United States. For over 11 years he has codirected the Binational School of Audiences and Festival Interprepas for youth theatre groups. www.ramonverdugo.net

Jessica Bauman
Community engaged theater maker, director and teacher. Her production of Arden/ Everywhere - a reimagining of Shakespeare’s As You Like It as a refugee story - ran Off-Broadway, with a cast of both professionals and non-professional immigrant actors from nine different countries. She has worked with immigrants and displaced people in New York City, Tijuana and Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. As Artistic Director of New Feet Productions, she has directed world premieres of several new plays, and innovative reimaginings of Shakespeare. She is also the co-creator of the WordPlay Shakespeare electronic book series, an innovative way to “read” Shakespeare using text and video. She is a long-time Affiliated Artist at New Georges, and a New York Theater Workshop Usual Suspect. Jessica is a recipient of a Theater Communications Group/Mellon Foundation Travel Grant to support her collaboration with Tijuana Hace Teatro

PLAYWRIGHT

Bárbara Perrín Rivemar
She studied Theater at the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, under the guidance of Mario Cantú and Daniel Serrano. Her play I still have shit in my head was directed by Carmen Ramos and more recently by Manuel Cruz. She participated in collaboration with Casa del Teatro with the work Amor Amor, directed by Hugo Arrevillaga and carried out an adaptation of the novel NADA by Janne Teller, directed by Mariana Giménez. In 2017 she premiered All Fish on Earth under the direction of Alejandro Ricaño.

CREATIVE PRODUCER

Natalia Escobedo
Theatre director and producer with training in Mexico, California, New York, and London. Escobedo graduated with a B.A. in Theatre Arts (Directing Emphasis) from Pepperdine University and is currently a student in the M.F.A program in Theatre Management & Producing at Columbia University.

From Luna’s Artistic Director

At Luna, we celebrate theatrical adventures that invite a deeper understanding of ourselves and our world. Pre-pandemic performances transported audiences to Malawi, Afghanistan, Nebraska, Berlin and Moscow, as well as exploring the history of our own region. During the past 20 months, we have leaned deeply into storytelling that examines the heart of our divided country, while commissioning work that inspires civic participation and community revitalization. It is beautiful and fitting that we return in-person with The Frontera Project, which so beautifully invites us to see one another, to challenge and re-imagine our idea of borders, and to embrace the ways that sharing one another’s stories can transform us all.

Ari Laura Kreith

PAY-WHAT-YOU-WISH @ LUNA STAGE

At Luna, we are committed to ensuring that artistic events and arts education are accessible to all. As part of our commitment to equity, we invite all who experience our programs to contribute at whatever level you wish.

This means ALL our plays, events, and educational programs are accessible to everyone! If you can support a ticket for another patron, we invite you to do so. If free admission will allow you to experience our plays or classes, we are grateful you are joining us.

We acknowledge that this is a risky business model, but as a socially-engaged arts institution, we know this choice is aligned with our values and commitment to truly serving our communities.

Please visit www.lunastage.org/donate or scan the QR code below to support our programs.

Luna Stage Staff:

Ari Laura Kreith - Artistic Director
Joey Yow - Managing Director
Kaela Mei-Shing Garvin - Communications Associate
Steve Brown - Sound Engineer
Liz Cesario - Production Manager
Dawn Pasquin - Managing Associate
Betty Graham - Graphic Designer
Annika Franklin - Company Administrator
Ann Coughlin - Office Administrator
Interns: Alana Garcia, Lily Greenberg, Jessica Stier
Lou Best
Performing artist and Singer born in Tijuana, Mexico. She earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Performing Arts by Université de Paris-8 and a Diploma in Contemporary Popular Music by Atla Music School in Paris, France. During her 10 year stay in France she participated in several projects including theater, musical theater, vocal jazz, cabaret and clown. She is also part of TIJUANA HACE TEATRO Theater Company with whom she has played in it’s “Arrecife” and “También hay moscas en la Luna” productions. Best is also a Vocal Coach and a French Certified Music therapist offering individual and group sessions/workshops in voice development, empowerment and creativity.

Cristóbal Dearie
Actor and director with more than 30 local, national and international plays in his repertoire. Has worked with directors such as Daniel Serrano, Ángel Norzagaray, Jesús Quintero and Ramón Verdugo. Bachelor’s in Theatre from the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, México. Last since as an actor in plays such as “Memorama”, “El Mexican Dream” and “La Ardilla Vuela”. As a director his last work in theatre are “Opción Múltiple” and “Narcos, Putos y Gritones”. And in opera, “Bety” and “La Maravillosa Idea del Señor Cobalstain”. He has also developed his work as a scenic and lightning designer.

Jesús Quintero
Artistic Director for Teatro Las Tablas. Executive Director for Tijuana Hace Teatro. A graduate of the Theatre Program of INBA has experience in production, teaching, directing, performing and more. Codirects audience engagement programs in collaboration with public, private and independent organizations. Experience as artist, speaker and programmer: Theatre Communications Group National Conference (San Diego), ITI World Congress (Armenia), TCG’s Audience (R)Evolution Convening (Kansas City); Theater Bay Area Conference (San Francisco); Festival Internacional ¡A Trote! (CDMX); Fira de Teatre Infantil i Juvenil de les Illes Balears (España); Encuentro de las Américas (Los Angeles); ASSITEJ Artistic Gatherinc (Beijing).

Jassiel Santillan
is a multidisciplinary artist from Tijuana, Mexico. His vocal training has been under tenor José Medina and soprano María Lozano. Former member of the Lyrical Youth Ensemble of the Tijuana Opera, the Dance Conservatory of Mexico, and the Superior Music School of Baja California. His acting credits include: “¿Quién le Teme a Espantapájaros?” (Tijuana Hace Teatro), “Welcome Back” (Best short film IMDb Independent Shorts Awards 2018) and “El Puente de Piedras y la Piel de Imágenes” (PNTE), amongst others.

Valeria Vega-Kuri
Graduated from Centro de Artes Escénicas del Noroeste. Starts her career as an actress on 1999. Has participated in numerous plays as a member of different theatre companies such as Grupo Ojo, Grupo Las Diablas, y Tijuana Hace Teatro. In November 2017 she begins to work with The Old Globe in San Diego California as a Teaching Artist. And has participated as an actress in various new playwright readings and community plays. Owner and promoter of Café Dionisio (Tijuana B.C.) an independent cultural coffeeshop dedicated to showcase all the artistic move-ment in the city since 2012.
Luna Stage 2022 Season

Two World Premieres
Two Regional Premieres
And a Site-Specific Outdoor Performance

including...

#RIFT
World Premiere
by Gabriel Jason Dean
directed by Ari Laura Kreith
February 10 – March 6, 2022

THE GIANT VOID IN MY SOUL
Regional Premiere
by Bernardo Cubria
directed by Lou Moreno
April 21 – May 15, 2022

More details at www.lunastage.org!

Join Us For In-Person Classes Starting Oct 16.
In partnership with the New Jersey School of Dramatic Art.
More details at www.lunastage.org/classes

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Luna Stage acknowledges that our physical theatre space is on the occupied land of the Lenni Lenape people. Caretakers, warriors, and diplomats, the Lenape people were the first Native tribe to sign a treaty with the United States government. They lived in the area in and surrounding New Jersey for over 10,000 years, stewarding the land for generations until Dutch and English settlers arrived in the seventeenth century. In the subsequent centuries, these settlers took land from the Lenape, killing or relocating them away from their native land.

We at Luna Stage believe that this acknowledgment is only an initial step in respecting and supporting Indigenous and other disenfranchised communities. We are committed to honoring Native Tribes through learning and relearning history, working as allies and accomplices, creating open theatrical spaces, and sharing resources.
About Luna Stage

Luna Stage develops and produces vibrant plays about local and global experiences. We bring our communities together for artistic events that spark powerful conversations and create understanding and change.

Founded in 1992, Luna made its home in Montclair, NJ for the first 18 years, first in a small space on Walnut Street and then in a larger facility on Bloomfield Ave. Ten years ago, Luna was offered a home in West Orange’s Valley Arts District, where the theatre reaches audiences from throughout Essex County and beyond.

Luna Stage is a home for the adventurous theatre goer. Over the course of its history, Luna has contributed to the development of over 100 new works for the stage. Our world premieres have gone on to be produced in New York, across the country and internationally. We have repeatedly been honored with statewide awards for artistic excellence, and were named the JerseyArts Favorite Small Theatre in New Jersey.

Our work is resonant, responsive, and reflects the diverse voices that surround us. On our stages, in our classrooms, through our new work development programs, and through our community events, we are dedicated to creating artistic experiences where all are welcome, engaged, challenged, inspired and uplifted.

Join us on our journey!

Luna Stage wishes to express appreciation to all of our donors, both individual and corporate, whose support allows us to continue our work.

For a complete list please scan the QR code