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**A PLACE CALLED HOME ANNOUNCES ITS INAUGURAL
“EL CENTRO DEL SUR LATINX THEATER FESTIVAL”
UNITING SIX CELEBRATED LOS ANGELES LATINX THEATER COMPANIES
SEPTEMBER 16 TO SEPTEMBER 25**

LOS ANGELES (August 19, 2021) – A Place Called Home (APCH), a transformative youth and community center serving South Central Los Angeles, announces their inaugural El Centro Del Sur Latinx Theater Festival, presented FREE to the community through support from the National Endowment for the Arts, to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month.

El Centro Del Sur Latinx Theater Festival’s six participating theater companies include: Latino Theater Company (LTC); East Los Angeles College (ELAC); Company of Angels; Teatro Luna; Casa 0101 Theater/Chicanas, Cholas, Y Chisme; and APCH Theater Program and ACT @ APCH. Collectively, these family-friendly (PG / TV-14) productions will feature over 40+ actors, 11 directors (7 F/4 M), and 16 playwrights (15 F/2 M). The 6 festival productions include 2 original premieres. Each free streaming production will include Spanish subtitles with Live Q&A sessions translated into Spanish in real time.

The inaugural festival was previously slated for Fall of 2020, originally conceived as a weekend-long community celebration hosted at the APCH campus, with all performances to take place in The Bridge Theater at A Place Called Home. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent temporary shutdown of the APCH campus, The El Centro Del Sur Latinx Theater Festival was postponed. It is now reimaged as an online streaming experience.

“We look forward to returning to live performances in our beautiful Bridge Theater at A Place Called Home soon, but we’re thrilled to be able to celebrate virtually, with our collaborative partners, the incredible, diverse Latin talent that calls Los Angeles home. We’re deeply grateful to the NEA for supporting our inaugural year and hope to make this a highly-anticipated annual experience for the community of South Central,” said Jewel Dellegal, APCH Chief Program Officer.

The staff of A Place Called Home conceived of the theater festival in response to increased interest in, and demand for, quality theatrical experiences from APCH members and the larger South Central community. The opening of The Bridge Theater in 2017 ushered in a new era of opportunities for young people to engage in acting, playwriting, theatrical production and theater management opportunities. The 90011 zip code where APCH is located is one of the most impoverished and systemically under-resourced in the nation. This incredible space for learning also doubles as a cultural enrichment and artistic entertainment venue for the entire neighborhood.

Jonathan Zeichner, APCH CEO stated, “At A Place Called Home we believe that exposure to, and exploration of, the Arts is a powerful key to self-actualization. We find great meaning and joy in offering courses, career preparation and performance opportunities in visual arts, dance, music and theater for the young people we serve. We opened our on-campus theater in 2017 to not only give our members a space to learn and perform, but to give the entire community a safe gathering space to celebrate and immerse in the Arts.”

El Centro De Sur Latinx Theater Festival schedule is as follows: Thursday September 16 @ 7 pm, Latino Theatre Company presents ***Solitude***; Friday September 17 @ 7 pm, East Los Angeles College presents ***From the Works of John Leguizamo From East Coast to East Los***; Saturday September 18 @ 7 pm, Company of Angels presents ***Lolo***; Thursday September 23 @ 7 pm, Teatro Luna presents ***The Inbetweens***; Friday September 24 @ 7 pm, Casa 0101 Theater/Chicanas, Cholas, Y Chisme presents ***Womxn In Herstory***; Saturday September 25 @ 7 pm, APCH Theater Program and ACT @ APCH present ***Alice in Slasherland***. Each streaming production is FREE, includes Spanish subtitles, and will be followed by a live Q&A translated into Spanish in real time. For tickets visit: www.apch.org/elcentrodelsur

ABOUT A PLACE CALLED HOME

A PLACE CALLED HOME (producer/presenter)

A Place Called Home is a transformational youth and community center based in South Central Los Angeles. Founded in 1993 as a safe space for young people facing poverty and systemic adversity, APCH provides a safe, nurturing environment with proven programs in arts, education and wellness for the young people in South Central Los Angeles to help them improve their economic conditions, and develop healthy, fulfilling and purposeful lives. To learn more visit: apch.org

ABOUT PARTICIPATING THEATER COMPANIES

Latino Theatre Company (LTC) operates the Los Angeles Theatre Center (LATC), a Historic Landmark, and five-theater performing arts complex, in the revitalized Historic Core District of Downtown Los Angeles. We believe the theater creates empathy and educates, has the power to provoke dialogue by illuminating the social issues of our times, and can awaken the collective consciousness of a community to act in creating a better tomorrow. LTC was founded in 1985 with the goal to establish a theater company dedicated to contributing new stories and novel methods of expression for the American theater repertoire and to increase artistic opportunities for underserved communities. As the company has evolved, our role as the leaseholder of the LATC has become critical to our mission. As we continue to explore the U.S. Latina/o/x experience in bold and contemporary terms, we program our Fall and Spring Seasons with work by local playwrights that speaks to important issues and highlights new voices within the Latina/o/x, First Nation, Black, Asian American, Jewish American and LGBTQ+ communities.

East Los Angeles College (ELAC) offers a multidisciplinary approach to the study of theater. Students are encouraged to attend classes while participating in our productions to better understand all aspects of the craft. Although we offer specializations in acting, directing, designing, stage management, and theater in the community, we encourage students to expand their horizons and explore as many avenues as possible. ELAC Theater is officially a two-year program and offers an Associate of Arts Degree and an Associate of Arts Transfer degree (the transfer degree guarantees students priority consideration for admission into a California State University campus) along with Skills Certificates and Certificates of Achievement.

Company of Angels, founded in 1959 by a group of television and film actors that included Richard Chamberlain, Leonard Nimoy, and Vic Morrow, Company of Angels is now the oldest professional theater in Los Angeles. As such it has a revised mission to provide a space for the voices and audiences neglected by the major regional theaters. Company of Angels now produces original work by professional theater artists who reflect the communities that make up the City of Los Angeles and engages residents from low-income communities including Boyle Heights and Skid Row to develop original theater pieces for performance. In this way CoA re-envision theater to reflect and respond to the richness, diversity, and complexity that is Los Angeles, entertaining new audiences and serving the City of Angels.

Teatro Luna West (Los Angeles) is a 2nd virtual and physical center that specializes in creative collaboration towards a social justice purpose. Founded in 2000, 1st as Teatro Luna (Chicago) then Teatro Luna West (Los Angeles), Luna generates award-winning original theatre, digital media, and cultural disruptions that empower Women of Color. Recognized by The New York Times as "Theatre That Matters," Luna shamelessly cultivates bold and brave spaces where artistic risk is the only currency that matters, failure is a sought-after milestone of growth, and transformation is the party favor everyone gets to take home. We are often a virtually assembled, constantly traveling national cohort of artist-leaders and strategists who also lead trainings, workshops, and retreats for women of color seeking to move into leadership, organize for social impact, or creative entrepreneurship. We create performances, podcasts, audiobooks, videos, and photographic art that is meant to make visible what the mainstream invisibilizes daily.

Casa 0101 Theater/Chicanas, Cholas, Y Chisme, is currently in its ninth year of original new works and sprung from the desire to foster creative Latina-driven projects. Since its modest beginning in 2012, Chicanas, Cholas, y Chisme has more than quadrupled in size, presented 100 new plays, and has broken attendance records at Casa 0101 Theater by selling out every show. Chicanas, Cholas, y Chisme empowers Latinas by giving them the tools to develop new creative works. Each of the playwrights also undertakes the role of director and associate producer, making it an entirely Latina driven production.

APCH Theater Program and ACT @ APCH, empowers young people from South Central to understand, develop and express their stories, and to create career pathways in the arts for under-represented communities of color. The Theater Program offers a rotating schedule of classes in acting, stage makeup, fight choreography, production, and different areas of theatrical design. Offering a full roster of classes for high school teens, as well as acting classes for middle school and elementary students, APCH provides opportunities for creative expression to every member that enters our doors. APCH's Advanced Classes in Theater (ACT@APCH) is a program designed specifically for teens that wish to pursue a career in theater.

ABOUT STREAMING PRODUCTIONS

Solitude, presented by Latino Theater Company, is inspired by Octavio Paz's essay collection, *The Labyrinth of Solitude*, Evelina Fernandez's acclaimed play explores universal themes of life, love and loss woven through the consciousness of multi-generations of Chicano life and culture. A wealthy and successful lawyer returns home for his mother's funeral, whom he hasn't seen in 20 years. There he revisits his past and those he left behind. The journey is led by Man, a Paz-quoting limo driver and self-appointed expert on love and accompanied by a live cello. Layered and richly theatrical, Paz's themes are deeply explored in this ground-breaking piece. The eloquent phrasing and dynamic rhythms of the script's poetry is well-matched by director's Jose Luis Valenzuela's stunning visual pictures, silhouettes, dance and slow-motion sequences.

From the Works of John Leguizamo East Coast to East Los, presented by East Los Angeles College, is dedicated to celebrating one of the most original Latino talents of our day, bringing the "East Coast to East Los". In this collection of eight monologues chosen from The Works of John Leguizamo's ***Spic-O-Rama & Mambo Mouth***, you will meet characters filled with dark and intellectual humor, reflecting an immigrant family that settled in Queens, New York.

Lolo, presented by Company of Angels: Lorraine "Lolo" Lopez is forced to return home from college upon the sudden loss of her father, Cesar Lopez, a pillar in the Baldwin Park community whose life work had been put into his shop, Lopez Auto, and his classic car. Faced with the news that her mother cannot run the shop without her and that her half-brother wants his piece of the pie, Lolo must make the difficult choice of staying on her own path or picking up where her father left off.

The Inbetweens, presented by Teatro Luna West (Los Angeles), takes on four stories crafted as a response and meditation on two words we have all been dealing with for the last 16 months of the Covid-19 pandemic, GRIEF & HEALING. With stories filmed in Mexico City, Los Angeles, Puerto Rico, and Chicago audiences will journey with four performers through the rage, softness, isolation, and hope that great loss and transformation bring out of all of us. From tracking the lessons passed down after losing a mentor of over 12 years to cancer through the rollercoaster of suffering from witnessing the decay of dementia, we are all learning how to be better humans to ourselves and each other.

Womxn In Herstory, presented by Casa 0101 Theater/Chicanas, Cholas, Y Chisme, is a Festival of Short Plays exploring the struggles and triumphs of womxn throughout the ages. Plays Include: ***Adelita, Catch One, Chabuca Mami and Me, Eve's Deliverance, Last Woman Standing, Manitas, Wemoon, Xochitl Xience***.

Alice in Slasherland, presented by APCH Theater Program and ACT @ APCH: When young Lewis Diaz accidentally resurrects the soul of a brutally slain girl named Alice, he unwittingly unleashes a literal hell on Earth. Now, with every imaginable kind of demon, monster, and killer ravaging his small town, it's up to Lewis and his newly undead companion to protect his classmates -- including longtime crush Margaret -- from becoming freshly slaughtered carcasses. With the help of Alice's trash-talking demonic teddy bear, Lewis races to find a way to close the rift before the devil himself shows up and totally ruins their senior prom.

Details for Calendar Listings
EL Centro Del Sur Latinx Theater Festival

WHAT:

A Place Called Home's Inaugural EL Centro Del Sur Latinx Theater Festival presented FREE to the community through support from the National Endowment for the Arts and in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

WHO:

Latino Theater Company, *Solitude*
East Los Angeles College, *From the Works of John Leguizamo East Coast to East Los*
Company of Angels, *Lolo*
Teatro Luna, *The Inbetweens*
Casa 0101 Theater/Chicanas, Cholas, Y Chisme, *Womxn In Herstory*
APCH Theater Program and ACT @ APCH, *Alice in Slasherland*

WHEN:

Thursday September 16 @ 7 pm, *Solitude*
Friday September 17 @ 7 pm, *From the Works of John Leguizamo East Coast to East Los*
Saturday September 18 @ 7 pm, *Lolo*
Thursday September 23 @ 7 pm, *The Inbetweens*
Friday September 24 @ 7 pm, *Womxn In Herstory*
Saturday September 25 @ 7 pm, *Alice in Slasherland*

WHERE:

A Place Called Home's The Bridge "Virtual" Theater (www.apch.org)
All productions will stream online and will include Spanish subtitles.
Live Q&A sessions will be translated into Spanish in real time.

HOW:

Must reserve tickets: www.apch.org/elcentrodelsur

TICKET PRICES:

Free

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