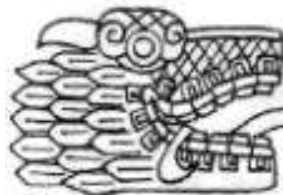


BUSCANDO CALIFORNIA



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EDITOR'S NOTES



Poet Marisela Norte and performance artist Luis Alfaro were at the Centro Cultural de la Raza on May 14-16 for their second appearance together in San Diego. But only a handful of people made it to the opening reception. Marisela, in a bilingual presentation, ever so smoothly pulled us, the privileged few, into the "Chicano Bermuda Triangle" called East L.A. Luis's performance included material he did at UCSD last November, such as the rotating Virgin Mary Doll, and more. His work continues to fascinate because of its sensual internal patterns.

It wasn't the most ideal location for a Chicano Secret Service performance (May 17, Time Out Sports Bar & Grill, Anaheim)--on one side of the narrow room sat a number of non-Latinos at the bar drinking and watching a VERY LOUD basketball game on TV; on the other side were the rest of us staring into a dimly lit corner. CSS took the stage after a sincere effort by El Teatro Chilaquiles. The CSS post-discussion was more interesting than usual with crossover white audience members voicing their concern about separatism.

Immediately afterwards, at an informal gathering at the El Teatro Cometa playhouse (thanks for the food!), I traded shop talk with Lalo Loper. He says Chicano Secret Service is recording a comedy album at a July 4th gig in L.A. Also, he and Steve of Artlan Nation have been working together on a Chicano version of Mad magazine called Pocho.

There was an ArtStreet Beat magazine reception (May 30) at the downtown San Diego Public Library for the third cycle of ArtStreet, a S.D. Youth & Community Services intervention program that uses a combo of group/family counseling and the arts to aid high-risk youth, recruited from local high schools and homeless shelters. ArtStreet Beat contains creative writing, drawings, and photographs done by the current 12 youths in the program. (Copies available from ArtStreet, 2220 Broadway, San Diego, CA, 92102. \$5 donation suggested.) Each cycle of ArtStreet is four months long and ends with a group-initiated art project. The first and second cycles worked on theatrical productions, "The Streets Are Not Our Home" and "Mirror Mirror" respectively. The second cycle also did an exhibit of aerosol art.

A lot of people are involved with the program. Said Nancy Mercado-Ramirez, project director for ArtStreet, "There's me, then there's the artists, and they have a supervisor. There's five artists. We have visual arts, photography, music, creative writing, and we're wanting to get a dance/drama teacher right now. We have two interns doing their master's, and they go to the counseling sessions. They're with the students On Tuesdays and Thursdays, we have guest speakers that come and talk about whatever going's on--gangs, peer education, suicide, anything the students might be going through"

"We call it [art and counseling] like a marriage. It's together. We try to work at it together to bring out the students' self-esteem and their self-awareness, to try to make them into better youth and to be aware of what's going on."



Above: Nancy Mercado-Ramirez, project mgr. for ArtStreet.
 Below: ArtStreet aerosol art and a project banner.



(Editor's Notes continued)

A friend, who slyly refers to himself as a Chicano Romantic, tipped me off about George Morales, an ex-con, ex-drug addict turned writer of comedic skits about life in the barrio. (Much of Morales' work is anti-gang, anti-violence.) But it was by accident that I finally caught up to this cool vato and some of his La Raza Kids following a Teatro Chilaguiles/Chicano Street Service show (May 17) in a small Anaheim bar. I did an on-the-spot interview.

Days later, I ran into George again at Rancho Santiago College in Santa Ana (he works in Financial Aid). He lent me a video--that he just happened to be carrying--of acts that he and La Raza Kids had done for the "Adelante, Mujer" conference (May 20) at the college. At that time, scheduled shows included stints at Horizon High School (a continuation school in Anaheim) and Juvenile Hall in Sylmar.

To get in touch with George Morales, write him at 1709 W. 6th St., Santa Ana, CA, 92703.



HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH TEATRO?

MORALES: "Basically, I feel that I'm the no. 1 Chicano writer in this whole pinchi country. And I felt that by writing it wasn't enough, that let's put my writing in action, like poetry in motion so to speak."

"I didn't want to . . . waste time trying to look for other groups who might need me. . . . I went out there and said, you know what, nobody writes better than me. Check this out. You in or not?"

"We did a gang show for a gangs class that's a criminal justice class on campus, . . . [then] for the staff. The staff came, and everybody came, and they really loved it. So I began to just write scripts."



". . . I can see a scenario in my mind long before it even happens and act it out. I've had no formal acting training, but I acted in front of judges, lawyers, public defenders, police, you know, all my life acting. The only thing I do know is how to act right."

WHAT DO YOU FORESEE YOU'RE GOING TO BE DOING IN THE FUTURE?

MORALES: "I foresee these beautiful young girls right here (GESTURES TO LA RAZA KIDS LISTENING TO THE INTERVIEW) with me on stage, shooting for television, . . . breaking down the pinchi red tape that holds back Chicanos from going into Hollywood And, yeah, there is red tape. Definitely. But we, we bad, man."



YOU IN OR NOT ?

TEATRO '92 CALENDARIO



BILINGUAL FOUNDATION OF THE ARTS

421 North Avenue 19
Los Angeles, CA 90031
Box office: (213) 225-4044



May 19-June 7, 1992

(In English: June 2-7)

My Visits With MCM

(My Grandmother Marta)

"If you want to work with men,
m'iija, do it. If you want to
stay home with your kids, do it.
But whatever you do, you need
chickens . . . Sell the eggs,
and when the chickens get old,
sell the pinche chickens."

By Edit Villareal

Directed by José Cruz Gonzalez

Tickets: \$18-\$10

*Being performed at the Los
Angeles Theatre Center.

BFA READER'S THEATRE

Free admission; starts at 8 p.m.

6/15--La Noche de Hernán Cortés

6/22--Quintuplets (In English)

6/29--El Día de Gloria

CENTRO CULTURAL DE LA BAJA

2130-1 Pan American Plaza #1

San Diego, CA 92101

For info.: (619) 235-6135



Saturdays--Theatre games

for children (6-12) taught by

Chava Burqueño, (619) 425-9170.

June 6-July 19, 1992

(Reception--June 5, 7-10 p.m.)

Historias Portátiles/Portable

Stories Border Realities VII

BAW/TAF multi-media exhibit.

June 18, 1992; 7:30 p.m.

The Border: A Docu. Journey

An evening with documentary

filmmaker Paul Espinosa.

Tickets: \$2 (kids, seniors free)

Did anyone catch the reading of Carlos Morton's
new play, El Niño Diego, in Hollywood on June 1?
How was it?

EAST WEST PLAYERS

4424 Santa Monica Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90029

Info.: (213) 660-0366



July 6-August 16, 1992

Summer workshop program for

Asian American actors,

includes production work.

Reg.: \$50, tuition: \$600

EL TEATRO CAMPESINO

P.O. Box 1240

311 Third St.

San Juan Bautista, CA 95045

Info./tickets: (408) 623-2444



March 3-June 7, 1992 (tour)

Simply Maria

"Dear Mamá and Papá . . .

I want to create a world of my
own. One that combines the
best of me. I won't forget the
values of my roots, but I want
to get the best from this land
of opportunities."

By Josefina López

Directed by Socorro Valdez

EL TEATRO DE LA ESPERANZA

P.O. Box 40578

San Francisco, CA 94140-0578

Info./tours: (415) 255-2320,

ask for Eve Donovan



Spring 1990-Fall 1992 (tour)

Real Women Have Curves

"Perhaps the greatest thing I've
learned is that we women are
powerful, especially when working
together."

By Josefina López

Directed by Rodrigo Duarte-Clark

July 13-Aug. 23, 1992

5th Annual Isadora Aguirre

Playwriting Lab with readings.

GUADALUPE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

1300 Guadalupe St.

San Antonio, TX 78207-5519

YEMAI Festival, Nov. 10-15, 1992

LATINO CHICAGO THEATER COMPANY

1625 Damen Ave.

Chicago, IL 60647

June 4-June 28, 1992

Shadow of a Man

"Sometimes a man thinks of
another man before he thinks
of anybody else."

By Cherríe Moraqa

Directed by Carmen Aguilar

In July, LCTC hosts Chameleon

--an all-female theatre group--

that will stage Sandra Cisneros'

The House on Mango Street.

SOUTH COAST REPERTORY

655 Town Center Dr.

Costa Mesa, CA 92628-2197

Box office: (714) 957-4033



June 18-July 5, 1992

Comedy troupe Latins Anonymous

takes everyone on a fantastical

tour of Latino stereotypes.

Tickets: \$22-\$17

[PRESS NOTES]

Arte Público Press (Univ. of
Houston, Texas, 77204-2090)
has a theater catalog available.

Buy an autographed copy of
Johnny Tenorio & Other Plays
(1992) direct from the author--
Carlos Morton, c/o Theatre Dept.,
U.C. Riverside, Calif., 92521.
Bargain price \$11 incl. shipping.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



MAS MEXICO! March 1, 1992

It was cold and windy. Leaves flew onto the stage, into the audience. Dirty gray skies threatened rain. Still, Xipe Totec, an Aztec Dance troupe, bravely went ahead and did their job, part of Louie Olives, Jr.'s, bilingual play *Mas Mexico!*



OUTDOOR THEATRE

the moth in the spotlight
I mistook for a firefly
how it danced in those short seconds
then wove itself back into the darkness

an ordinary moth

a plain moth

and a cricket underneath the amphitheatre seats
chirped merrily on
ignorant of its compadre's flight
only aware that it was night
thus a time for stars to shine

--K. A., *Wide Open Magazine*, 10/86

XIPE TOTEC

AUTHENTIC AZTEC DANCERS FROM MEXICO

LIVE
MUSIC



BEAUTIFUL
COSTUMES

Lázaro Arvizu

(714) 774-9803

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Dept. of Communication, 0503
La Jolla, CA 92093-0503



TEATRO ERES EL MUNDO --Luis Valdez (1972)