

The UC San Diego  
Department of Theatre and Dance  
at the Theodore & Adele Shank Theatre  
presents



# THE PROMISE

Written by : José Rivera  
Directed by : Ludmila de Brito

**UC San Diego**  
ARTS AND HUMANITIES  
Theatre and Dance

Friday, Nov. 17 @ 7:30PM  
Saturday, Nov. 18 @ 2PM  
Saturday, Nov. 18 @ 7:30PM  
Thursday, Nov. 30 @ 7:30PM  
Friday, Dec. 1 @ 7:30PM  
Saturday, Dec. 2 @ 7:30PM

# THE PROMISE '23

Directed by Ludmila de Brito

Written by Jose Rivera

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## CAST

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Guzman	Ricardo Lozano
Alegria	Kenneth Ray
Malinche	Nate B. Smith
Lilia	Kat Peña
Lolin	Colby Muhammad
Milton	Diego Gonzalez
Carmelo / Hiberto (Nov. 17th & 18th)	Noé Castrejón
Carmelo (Nov 30th, Dec. 1st-2nd)	Germainne Lebrón
Priest	Sophia Marcos Jeronimo
Woman In Shroud	Mercedes Rockin
Spirit People	Scarlett Arreola
	Gabriella Marie Johnson
	Mars Stern

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## UNDERSTUDIES

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Guzman / Priest	Vincent Del Rio
Alegria / Milton	Ivan Quezada
Malinche / Spirit	Jessica Ragsac
Lilia	Rachel Daguman
Lolin	Mercedes Rockin

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## STAGE MANAGEMENT

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Production Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Manager  
Production Assistant

Stephanie Diana Carrizales  
Lily Fitzsimmons  
Fabricio Apuy Novella  
Kyle Liu

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## CREATIVE TEAM

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Director  
Assistant Directors  
Dramaturgs  
Research Assistant  
Choreographer  
Scenic Designer  
Assistant Scenic Designer  
Costume Designer  
Assistant Costume Designer  
Lighting Designer  
Assistant Lighting Designer  
Sound Designer  
Assistant Sound Designer  
Drum Captain  
Drumming Coach  
Bomba Coach  
Dialect Coach  
Theatre Auntie  
Cultural Consultant  
EDI Advocate

Ludmila Cardoso de Brito  
Sydney Enthoven, Lucy Cai  
Haia R'nana Bchiri  
Mia Van Deloo  
Jessica Ragsac  
Eleanor Williams  
Frank Seed  
Anabel Olguin  
Kieran Padgett, Nena Lockhart  
Vida Huang  
Stephaney Knapp  
Harper Justus  
Madison Novitski  
Sophia Marcos Jeronimo  
Carlos Blanco  
Jade Power-Sotomayor  
Cynthia Santos-DeCure, Andrea Caban  
Siobhan Brown  
Nic Rodriguez Villafane  
Julie Burelle

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## PRODUCTION/ADDITIONAL TEAM

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Production Manager	Laura Manning
Technical Director	Daniel Capiro
Paints Supervisor	Vicki Erbe
Props Shop Supervisor	Jeni Cheung
Costume Shop Supervisor	Jan Mah
Electrics Supervisor	Mike Doyle
Audio & Video Supervisor	Steve Negrete

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## THE DIRECTOR

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**Ludmila de Brito** (Director) is a Brazilian director of Indigenous descent. Her heart steers towards politically urgent work and plays that ask us to transcend the conditioning of surviving. Most recently, Ludy directed Beth Hyland's Grippy Sock Vacation at the WNPF 23 (UC San Diego), Emily J. Daly's episode of the MTARadioPlays (Rattlestick) as well as Project Transform (Hartford Stage) with Nilaja Sun. United World Colleges and NTI alum, Ludy is a Lin Manuel Miranda Family Fellow. Ludy has assisted Jenna Worsham in The Siblings Play by Ren Dara Santiago at Rattlestick and Megan Sandberg-Zakian in Much Ado at the Boston Common. As an educator, she has worked with Westerville South Theatre, Hartford Stage, and the National Theater Institute at the O'Neill.

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

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In Patchogue, NY, 1989, a Puerto Rican man tries to break his family's cycle of poverty by marrying his daughter, Lilia, to a rich man. While bulldozers eat away the city that, at the time, was the home of many black and brown folk and has now become a gentrified white tourist town. The Promise by José Rivera shines light towards the unsustainable nature of colonization and the human sacrifices in the middle of it all.

In this play we see how the dream of family that Guzman could have had gets destroyed by his need to assimilate, trapped in an American Dream that perpetuates the colonizer mentality: forgetting his mother tongue, tortured by inequality, Guzman brings himself to lose the most important thing he has ever had; his relationship with his children. We also see Lilia, who changes the whole world around

her in her pursuit of being true to who she is and who she loves. Milton, her brother, goes on a journey of erasing his Latino identity and becoming a cowboy, even changing his name to Clint, or Dodge and their neighbor, Lollin works the system to fight for herself and for her children as a single mother.

Why does Lilia's freedom need to be a Guzman tragedy? How can we find our way out of cycles of survival? Resist when our own culture is being erased from our bodies? Can we ever separate the dreams from the sorrows of our people?

Unkechaugi Chief Harry Wallace shared with us something about the land where this story takes place: That everyone is welcome to come and take what they need from the land, and no more than what they need. - What we are currently doing to the land and to ourselves is not sustainable.

The Mafia is here, putting us against each other, eating away the land, culture, and people. But they can't take away our ability to dream and tell stories. Our dreams are too large to be contained, in this play, psychology explodes in the form of theatricality. This is what Magical Realism is in Latin America, a tool for resistance.

The Promise is a story about colonial violence, about the patterns of dominance against women and the land, and at its core, it is a love letter to those who have had their homelands colonized, to the immigrant in the USA, and to their children: an acknowledgment of the sacrifices that are made every day in order to survive in this country.

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## CAST

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**Ricardo Lozano** (Guzman) is a first-year MFA student from Laredo, Texas by way of Mexico. Ricky loves performing in work centering around the Mexican experience through art creation that provokes conversations and amplifies the voices of the underrepresented. UC San Diego Credits: The Promise/Guzman). Selected Credits: The Jersey Devil is a Papi Chulo (La Jolla Playhouse), Thomas! (Mill Mountain Theatre), Black and Latino Playwrights Conference, and Mad like the devil. Directorial credits include: She kills Monsters + Dance works. Ricky received a B.F.A in Acting and a minor in Dance from Texas State University.

**Kenneth Ray** (Allegria) is a first-year MFA student.

**Nate B Smith** (Malinche) is a third-year theatre major who is excited to be making his UC San Diego debut. Other credit: Nino Quincampoix in Amelie, Spring Awakening at El Camino College.

**Kat Peña** (Lilia) is a third-year MFA acting student. She's a Dominican plant-mom from the Bronx. UC San Diego Credits: Dance Nation, Nonna Kills The President, Flea in Her Rear, Everybody. Other credits: Sabrina in Sharon (Cygnet Theatre), Yaz in Water by the Spoonful (Cahill Theater/Regional), Sullivan in Dracula (Actors Theatre of Louisville), Escolastica in Eight Tales of Pedro (The Secret Theater), and Michelle in award-winning short comedy, Reina. Katpena.com.

**Colby Muhammad** (Lolín) is a third-year MFA candidate with a BFA in Musical Theatre from Howard University. UC San Diego: Just the Two of Us, Bunny, Bunny, Dance Nation, Nonna Kills the President, Everybody, and In The Red and Brown Water. Regional: Pride and Prejudice (Chautauqua Theatre Company), Love All (La Jolla Playhouse). Select Theatre credits: Anything Goes, Spunk!, and Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine (Howard University). Film credits: Centerfold, Transcend, and Doing it Wrong.

**Diego Gonzalez** (Milton) is a fourth-year theatre major. UC San Diego credits: 900 Years, Baal, Twelfth Night, Epicene: A Queer Extravaganza and As You Like It. UC San Diego LAB credits: Embers Adrift, The Antipodes, Circle Mirror Transformation and Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom.

**Noé Castrejón** (Carmelo / Hiberito) is a fourth-year theatre major and Latin American studies minor. This is his first UC San Diego production.

**Germainne Lebrón** (Carmelo) is a proud Boricua from the Bronx and a first-year M.F.A. Actor. Theatre credits includes: LA GRINGA at American Stage; NATIVE GARDENS at The Warehouse Theatre; THE INHERITANCE PART 1 at Trinity Rep; He is also an Actors Theatre of Louisville PTC 2019/20 Alum where he wrote and performed a solo show: MADRE TIERRA He also performed in LOUISVILLE//KENTUCKY//USA in their new play project festival, Fifth Third Banks DRACULA; A CHRISTMAS CAROL and ARE YOU THERE? in the Humana Festival of New American Plays 20'.

**Sophia Marcos-Jeronimo** (The Priest) is a fifth-year theatre major from Oaxaca, Mexico. UC San Diego credits: Bunny Bunny, 900 Years.

**Mercedes Rockin** (Woman in the Shroud) is a fourth-year theatre major. UC San Diego credit: Limp Wrist on the Lever. Other credits: Another College Musical, Devour (Triton Television Studio); 24 Hour Experiment at Point Loma Playhouse.

**Scarlett Arreola** (Spirit) is a second-year communications and data analytics double major with a double minor in dance and business. UC San Diego Credits: New Directions (Epstein Amphitheater), and Muir Musical's, Into the Woods (Mandeville Auditorium). Other credits: Chicago (Robert D. Haugh

Performing Arts Center), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Bridges Auditorium), In The Heights, Newsies (Glendale Community College), and Descanso Garden's, Enchanted Forest of Light.

**Gabriella Marie Johnson** (Spirit) is a fourth-year theatre major and literature minor. UC San Diego credits: (WNPF'23) Thicker Than, Blu, Machinal, Peerless. So much love to her family and friends for the constant support!

**Mars Stern** (Spirit) is a first-year human biology major.

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## UNDERSTUDIES

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**Vincent Del Rio** (understudy for Guzman / Priest)

**Ivan Quezada** (understudy for Alegrian / Milton)

**Jessica (Jess) Ragsac** (understudy for Malinche / Spirit) is a third-year biology major and human developmental sciences minor. This is their very first department show, and they are so grateful for the opportunity to be pursuing their love of storytelling through movement. UC San Diego credits: Into The Woods (Choreographer, Muir Musical), The Rocky Horror Show (Columbia, Muir Musical), A Chorus Line (Maggie Winslow, Muir Musical).

**Rachel Daguman** (Understudy for Lilia) is a third-year transfer theatre major. This is Rachel's first production at UC San Diego. Community college credits: The Addam's Family, Love's Labour's Lost, Suessical The Musical!, The Wolves, and The House of Bernarda Alba (Bakersfield College). Other credits: Fefu and Her Friends (Stars Playhouse), The Bridges of Madison County, The Sound of Music, Carrie, Disaster! The Musical, A New Brain, The Pajama Game, Dogfight, Androcles and the Lion, and Merrily We Roll Along (Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center).

**Mercedes Rockin** (Understudy for Lilia) is a fourth-year theatre major. UC San Diego credit: Limp Wrist on the Lever. Other credits: Another College Musical, Devour (Triton Television Studio); 24 Hour Experiment at Point Loma Playhouse.

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## STAGE MANAGEMENT

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**Stephanie Diana Carrizales** (Production Stage Manager) is a third-year MFA stage management candidate. UC San Diego: A Flea In Her Rear (PSM), FallWorks: Inside Out (PSM), New Directions (PSM), Fifty Boxes of Earth (PSM, WNPF 22), Everybody (ASM), Men on Boats (ASM). Regional: The Jersey Devil is a Papi Chulo, reading (PSM, La Jolla Playhouse LNPF'23), Crime and Punishment, A Comedy (PA, The Old Globe Theatre), What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank (Script PA, The Old Globe Theatre).

**Lily Fitzsimmons** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a second-year MFA student. UC San Diego: I Found a Zipper (PSM/WNPF '23), blu (ASM), and Machinal (ASM). Other Credits: Pam Farr Summer Shakespeare Studio 2023 (Production Coordinator, The Old Globe), Seagull (PA, Steppenwolf Theatre Company), King Lear (PA, St. Louis Shakespeare Festival).

**Fabricio Apuy Novella** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a fifth-year undergraduate theatre major who transferred from Antelope Valley College. Fabricio comes from Palmdale, California and sends out his gratitude to all the mentors and artists that he has learned from. He thanks his family for their support during this new journey in his life. UCSD credits include: Napoli (Ciappa), Late - a Cowboy Song (Crick), Hope (Playwright, LAB Series), Dracula - A House of Lies (Playwright, Company 157), A Flea in Her Rear (ASD), Limp Wrist on the Lever (AD), and 900 Years (SPA). Fabricio is grateful to have had the opportunity to work on this production and thanks the amazing cast and crew!

**Kyle Liu** (Production assistant) is a fourth-year undergraduate theatre major who came from China. Les Miserables Valjean, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Joseph, Grease Danny, 4.48 Psychosis, Teachers Nixon, Blood Brothers Micky, Macbeth Macduth.

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## CREATIVE TEAM

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**Sydney Enthoven** (Assistant Director) is a fourth-year theater major. UC San Diego credits: 900 Years (ASM), A Flea in her Rear (PA), 50 Boxes of Earth (ALD). Other credits: The Rocky Horror Show (PSM, Muir Musical), Church Play (SM, Cygnet Theater), American Idiot, Into the Woods (ALD, Muir Musical).

**Chenxun (Lucy) Cai** (Assistant Director) is a fourth-year economics major and theater minor. UC San Diego Credits: 900 Years (Production Assistant), Best Years (Dramaturg), Placeholder (ASM) Other Credits: The Mistress of the Inn (Director, UC San Diego Fusheng Theater Club), Doubt (Mother, UC San Diego Fusheng Theater Club)



**Haïa R'nana Bchiri** (Dramaturg) is a fourth-year PhD student. UC San Diego credits: Boxed (Dramaturg/Fight Captain), Winter's Tale (Dramaturg), Trojan Women (Dramaturg), Uncle Vanya (Dramaturg). Selected recent credits: Hereville (Dramaturg) at the Old Globe; These and Those (Ayala/Dramaturg) with SD Rep; Eurydice (Director), Fefu and Her Friends (Emma), Circle Mirror Transformation (Theresa), Peer Gynt (Solveig/Aase) at Brandeis; interactive Hamlet (Director), Midsummer (Puck/Facilitator), Taming of the Shrew (Kate), plus Julius Caesar (Decius/Fight Choreographer), Cymbeline (Director), Henry VI Part III (Dramaturg) with the Public Domain Players, where she's Director of Development, Intimacy Coordinator, and co-Fight Choreographer. תברכו ותהנו.

**Mia Van Deloo** (Research Assistant) is a fourth-year theatre and history double major from the Bay Area. UC San Diego credits: Dance Nation, Grippy Sock Vacation, I Found a Zipper, A Flea in Her Rear, BAAL, Everybody, Backwaters. Other Credits: The Untitled Unauthorized Hunter S Thompson Musical (La Jolla Playhouse).

**Jessica (Jess) Ragsac** (Choreographer) is a third-year biology major and human developmental sciences minor. This is their very first department show, and they are so grateful for the opportunity to be pursuing their love of storytelling through movement. UC San Diego credits: Into The Woods (Choreographer, Muir Musical), The Rocky Horror Show (Columbia, Muir Musical), A Chorus Line (Maggie Winslow, Muir Musical).

**Eleanor Williams** (Scenic Design) is a second-year MFA student. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and Bachelor of Arts in Theater from Lafayette College. UC San Diego credits: Thicker Than... , The Winter's Tale, Dance Nation (ASD).

**Frank Seed** (Assistant Scenic Designer) is a fourth-year theatre major. UC San Diego credits: BAAL, Flea In Her Rear, Boxed, Grippy Sock Vacation, and Just The Two Of Us. Other credit: Small Mouth Sounds, Embers Adrift

**Anabel Olguin** (Costume Designer) is a second-year MFA student from Phoenix, Arizona. UC San Diego credits: नेहा & Neel (Costume Designer/ WNPF'23), blu (ACD), Dance Nation (ACD). Select credits: Trail to Oregon, Freaky Friday, Zombie Prom, and Evil Dead the Musical.

**Kieran Padgett** (Assistant Costume Designer) is a third-year cognitive and behavioral neuroscience major and human developmental sciences minor.

**Nena Lockhart** (Assistant Costume Designer) is a fourth-year theatre major.

**Vida Huang** (Lighting Designer) is a second year MFA lighting design student from Los Angeles. She was originally from Taiwan, and she earned her BA from California State University of Long Beach in technical theatre. After graduating, she got hired by the National Theatre and Concert Hall in Taipei, Taiwan. She worked as an assistant stage manager and lighting technician for two and a half years. UC San Diego credits: 900 Years (LD/WNPF'23), Blu (ALD), Dance Nation (ALD), Late: A Cowboy Play (LD) Other credits: Trade/ Mary Motorhead (ALD, REDCAT), 2022 Mini Organ Concert: The Golden Age of the Organ (LD, National Theatre and Concert Hall)

**Stephaney Knapp** (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a fourth-year theatre and psychology major. UC San Diego Credits: New Directions 2023, Gippy Sock Vacation, Just the Two of Us.

**Harper Justus** (Sound Designer) is a second-year MFA student. She holds a BFA in Production Design from Ohio University. UC San Diego Credits: नेहा & Neel (WNPF'23), The Winter's Tale, Bunny Bunny (ASD), Dance Nation. Selected Design Credits: Head Over Heels (Diversions Theatre), The Ferryman (New Village Arts), Natasha Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812 (Tantrum Theatre), An Iliad (Brick Monkey Collective), and Pluto (Ohio University)

**Madison Emi Novitski** (Assistant Sound Design) is a second-year theatre major and film studies minor. UC San Diego credits: I Found A Zipper (WNPF'23). Other credit: Two Kids That Blow Shit Up (Eversummer Productions), Colors' Eve (Company 157).

**Sophia Marcos-Jeronimo** (Drum Captain) is a fifth-year theatre major from Oaxaca, Mexico. UC San Diego credits: Bunny Bunny, 900 Years.

**Carlos Blanco** (Drumming Coach)

**Jade Power-Sotomayor** (Bomba Coach)

**Cynthia Santos-DeCure** (Dialect Coach)

**Andrea Caban** (Dialect Coach)

**Siobhan (Vonnice) Brown** (Theatre Auntie) is a citizen of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. She lives on her ancestral homelands on the southern coast of Cape Cod. She holds a BFA in Performing Arts and African American studies from Emerson College and is a graduate of the A.R.T. Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University. Siobhan received certification in the Montessori Primary from the Institute for Guided Studies. She has worked with the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project as a student of the language since 2005. From 2013 to 2021 Siobhan was a language apprentice and member of the founding teaching team of Weetumuw Katnuhtôhtâkamuq, the first Wôpanâak

language and culture immersion school providing academic and Indigenous education using a Montessori pedagogy for decolonization and language reclamation. Performance credits include Suzan-Lori Parks' The America Play at A.R.T., The Emancipation of Valet de Chambre at Cleveland Play House, Studs Terkel's American Dreams: Lost and Found with the Acting Company, Medea and Antony and Cleopatra for Actors' Shakespeare Project, Adrienne Kennedy's Funnyhouse of A Negro with Brandeis Theatre Company and several seasons with Commonwealth Shakespeare Company.

**Nic Rodriguez Villafane** (Cultural Consultant)

**Julie Burelle** (EDI Advocate)

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## CONTENT WARNINGS

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Self Harm, Blood, Whipping, Death, Flashing Lights

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## CONNECT WITH US

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