



CalPolyPomona



EL NOGALAR

April 21-30, 2023

University Theatre

Building 25



CalPoly
Pomona



EL NOGALAR

Written by Tanya Saracho

Directed by Melanie Queponds

Featuring

**Christopher Lopez, Emily McCormick, Daisy Posadas
Rossy Sarabia, Sofi Sierra**

**Scenic Designer
Natalie Morales**

**Costume Designer
Paulo P. Lima**

**Lighting Designer
Joe Loats**

**Sound Designer
Natalie Lambert**

**Stage Manager
Andrea Lopez**

*EL NOGALAR received its world premiere production by Teatro Vista, Chicago, IL.
Edward Torres, Artistic Director, in association with The Goodman Theatre.*

*EL NOGALAR is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com*

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Setting: 2011, Nuevo León in México

Warning: This play contains strong language, a visual of a prop gun, a sexual situation, and flashing lights.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Peter Trofimov, a character from the play that *El Nogalar* is adapted from, Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, says to Anya: "Oh, it's awful, your orchard is terrible. And when in the evening or at night you walk through the orchard, then the old bark on the trees sheds a dim light and the old cherry trees seem to be dreaming of all that was a hundred, two hundred years ago, and are oppressed by their heavy visions." But this was not the original text as Chekhov had intended. This was a substitute the playwright wrote after a censor asked him to cut the following text: "To own human beings has affected every one of you – those who lived before and those who live now. Your mother, your uncle, and you don't notice that you are living off the labors of Others – in fact, the very people you won't even let in the front door." The original passage was restored after the 1917 revolution in Russia. How beautiful yet tragic yet ironic is it that the themes that Chekhov wrote about for his culture and time work so well when transposed to 2011, Nuevo León, México. The struggles of the working class, the issues with the upper class, and social mobility seem to cycle themselves through history, no matter what country you are from. What moment in the cycle are we at now, in 2023? What is our place in our history, in our cultures? What mark are we leaving behind? What is our legacy?

**- Melanie Queponds,
Director**

CAST

Dunia.....	Daisy Posadas
Lopez	Christopher Lopez
Valeria	Rossy Sarabia
Anita.....	Sofi Sierra
Maite	Emily McCormick
Female Swing.....	Victoria Murillo

PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager	Brian S. Newman
Director of Theatre Facilities	Jonathan Bastow
Technical Director	Kenneth Blenc
Costume Shop Manager	Lexy Perez
Assistant Director.....	Asia Dorsey
Assistant Scenic Designer.....	Bernice Lopez
Assistant Costume Designer.....	Arely Del Toro
Assistant Stage Manager	David Valdez
Dialect Coach	Michelle López-Rios
LX Programmer/Board Operator	Elisa-Belle Tremblay
Audio Programmer/Operator	Nolyn Ducich
Properties Managers.....	Itaka Ushijima, Matthew Schroeder
Wardrobe Crew	Manami Kurakake, Rain Reaza, Ivy Smith
Paint Crew.....	Julia Hibner, Manami Kurakake, Minh Tran
Scene Shop Crew	Vivian Aguilar, Anthony Arzate
.....	Dan Marcozzi, Leslie Parada, Rossy Sarabia
Costume Shop Crew	Arely Del Toro, Justyn Lozano,
.....	Victoria Murillo, Corey Rosellini
Electrics Crew.....	Flora Chen, Kevin Hynes, Joe Loats
.....	Andrea Lopez, Jesus Martinez
House Manager.....	Vivian Aguilar
Box Office.....	Gaven Samano-Tovar, Isaiah Maldonado

CAST



Christopher Lopez



Emily McCormick



Victoria Murillo



Daisy Posadas



Rossy Sarabia



Sofi Sierra

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Melanie Queponds (Director) (she/her/ella) is a Mexican-American director, dramaturg, and theatre artist from the Inland Empire in Southern California. She earned her MFA in Directing from The Theatre School at DePaul University in Chicago in 2020. Since graduating with her MFA, Melanie has directed at A Red Orchid Theatre (Chicago), Renaissance Theatre Works (Milwaukee), Same Boat Theater (SF) and Teatro Frida Kahlo (LA), and Breath of Fire Latina Theatre Ensemble (Santa Ana, CA). She has developed new plays and directed workshop readings at La Jolla Playhouse (San Diego, CA), TuYo Theatre (San Diego, CA) and Renaissance Theatre Works (Milwaukee). She has worked as a dramaturg at Teatro Leyden (Chicago), Austin Latinx New Play Festival (Austin, TX), and Pork-Filled Productions (Seattle), as well as working closely with several Latinx playwrights, all to develop their new works. Melanie is passionate about multilingual theatre, adaptations of classics with a new cultural lens, and new play development with up-and-coming Latinx writers.
melanieclaireq.com

Arely Del Toro (Assistant Costume Designer) is excited to begin her Final year at CPP as a Costume Design Assistant for *El Nogalar*. While spending time in the costume shop, she has found herself much more collaborative in her efforts and work during this production which is a positive change of face. Past productions include Make-Up for *Mr. Burns*, Painter for *The Thanksgiving Play* and *Spark*, as well as Assistant Scenic Designer for *The Revolutionists*. Arely likes to thank her family for supporting her passions.

Asia Dorsey (she/her) (Assistant Director) is a theatre major at Cal Poly Pomona and her primary study is directing.

Natalie Lambert (Sound Designer) is delighted to be a part of this beautiful project. Though this is only her second time sound designing, she has already developed a thorough fascination and appreciation for the world of sound. When she is not programming a QLab file, she typically can be found in rehearsal or hunched over a laptop with remarkably poor posture, soaked in blue light, writing a silly little play. She is graduating this spring, and is thrilled to say that she will be attending a playwriting MFA program this fall. Natalie wants to thank the wonderful design team, the director Melanie, the production and management team, and the beautiful cast for their commitment to this lovely production.

Paulo P. Lima, Ph.D. (Costume Designer) In 2002, Brazilian artist Paulo P. Lima moved to the United States to work in the hospitality business. After a couple of years working in Colorado, he moved to California to earn an MFA in theater arts at California State University, Long Beach. While in his graduate program, Paulo designed costumes for national and international plays including *The Saint Plays* by Erik Ehn. It was during the research for his costumes for *The Saint Plays* that Paulo discovered a new outlet for his creativity – Brazilian Baroque Saints, which he simply calls “santos”. Lima received his doctoral degree in theater and performance studies at UCLA in 2014. His dissertation, *Candomblé and Its Living Garments*, touches upon issues of “race,” gender and class in the use of dress for religious and secular performances in Brazil. In addition to being an artist, Lima has been teaching diversity in American drama classes at Loyola Marymount University and costume design, costume history and art classes at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Bernice Lopez (Assistant Scenic Designer) is a second year at Cal Poly Pomona, majoring in theatre with an emphasis in design and technical production. She has previously worked on *As You Like It* last Fall as a properties artisan and only hopes to work on even more productions. As for life after Cal Poly Pomona, she would love to earn her Masters in Fine Arts under Production Design. She has hopes of working in film and TV, noting *The Truman Show*, *Little Women* (2019), *Babylon*, *EEAAO* and *La La Land* as some of the films that have inspired and continue to inspire her path. She would love to thank her parents and sisters for always encouraging her, reminding her to take a break, and making her laugh when she needs it.

Christopher Lopez (Lopez) is very excited to be performing in his first play at Cal Poly Pomona. He was born and raised in the Coachella Valley, and his love for films is what inspired him to pursue acting. Actors like, Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt and Johnny Depp are some of his biggest inspirations and is eager to be able to work with them one day. Lastly, he would like to dedicate his performance to his family.

Emily McCormick (Maite) is a 3rd year transfer student majoring in Theater (Acting Focus). She is thrilled to be a part of her first CPP Theater production. Favorite past roles include Mimi Marquez in *Rent*, Sandy Dumbrowski in *Grease*, and Martha in *Spring Awakening*. Emily enjoys spending her free time hanging out with friends, at the beach, thrift shopping, and singing as often as she can. She wants to thank her family and friends for always supporting her love for the arts. Bienvenidos a *El Nogalar!*

Natalie Morales (Scenic Designer) Recently graduated from CSULB with an MFA, Natalie Morales explores theatre and design in her journey as a scenic designer. She is currently a professor of Digital Scenic Technology and mentors students of Scenic Design and Properties for the Theatre Department at CSU Northridge, while simultaneously designing various productions in Southern California. Apart from this one, Natalie's recent productions include *Cabaret* at Loyola Marymount University, *Nochebuena* at the Soraya Performing Arts Center, and *Tartuffe* at CSUN. She will be returning as Scenic Designer for Independent Shakespeare Co.'s upcoming Summer Festival in Griffith Park, and for CSUN's TADW program designing *Shrek Jr*. See more of her work here: natalieamorales.com

Victoria Murillo (Female Swing) is in her third year at Cal Poly Pomona. It is her first production at Cal Poly and is very excited and grateful to take part in it. She has learned a lot and has gained more experience as an actor being a part of this production.

Daisy Posadas (Dunia) is a Theatre and Liberal Studies double major graduating this spring from Cal Poly Pomona. Some of her previous credits include *As You Like It* (Amiens), *Mr. Burns: a Post-Electric Play* (Bart Simpson), *ROE* (Connie), *Men On Boats* (Old Shady), and *In the Heights* (u/s Nina/ensemble). Daisy is extremely honored to be working alongside each of the talented and passionate individuals bringing this show to life, such as the director Melanie Queponds, her beautiful castmates, the management team, and designers. She would like to dedicate her performance to her parents, close friends, and the educators in The Department of Theatre and New Dance who have shown her endless support throughout her endeavors as a student at Cal Poly.

Rossy Sarabia (Valeria) is a senior who commutes from Santa Ana in Orange County. This is her first ever production at the college level and is grateful for getting to experience being onstage before graduating. Rossy plans to continue her acting career after graduation, her plans also include getting behind the camera to produce and direct for film and television. She would like to thank her friends for their ongoing love and support. Rossy would like to especially thank her best friend for her continued support during her artistic journey.

Matthew Schroeder (Properties Manager) is a SoCal native who is currently a third year student studying Theater Design and Technical Production at CPP. Outside of school, he works as a Park Decorator at Knott's Berry Farm. In his free time, Matthew can be found visiting theme parks, hiking, doing photography, and designing and building various outdoor projects.

Sofi Sierra (Anita) is a second year Communications Student with a minor in Theatre. She is extremely excited to star in her first production at Cal Poly Pomona. She would like to thank her friends and family who have been extremely supportive during the whole development of this production and all of the amazing cast and crew of *El Nogalar*.

Itaka Ushijima (Properties Manager) Originally born in San Francisco, Itaka came to Pomona to study at CalPoly. Originally a Mechanical Engineering major, he changed his major as a fourth year and is currently in his first semester as a Theatre Design major. While currently working on props for *El Nogalar*, he plans on pursuing a future career in prop making.

WELCOME TO THE CAL POLY POMONA DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & NEW DANCE

About Us: Cal Poly Pomona's Department of Theatre and New Dance awards undergraduate degrees in theatre, emphasizing theatrical production and the "doing" of theatre. At the same time, the Department offers courses in all aspects of theatre, both artistic and academic. After completing the theatre major at Cal Poly Pomona, students are prepared to begin their careers or specialized training in professional theatre, television or film; to go for advanced training in graduate schools; or to go into teaching in high schools. We are proud to boast alumnus in numerous professional positions throughout the entertainment industry.

Our Mission: The Department of Theatre and New Dance provides opportunities within a diverse and inclusive environment to explore and develop meaningful, innovative ideas that engage the interdependence of process and creation. Students develop critical thinking and disciplinary excellence through experiential learning, collaboration and interdisciplinary practices to prepare them to be current and relevant artists. Students work within established and experimental processes utilizing trends in new technologies, community and contemporary performance practices.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We at Cal Poly Pomona respectfully acknowledge the original caretakers of this land, the Tongva peoples, and all of their ancestors, elders, and descendants, past, present and emerging. We also recognize this land known as Los Angeles County today is also home to many Indigenous peoples from all over, and we are grateful for the opportunity to live and work here as guests on these lands, the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Tongva.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & NEW DANCE FACULTY AND STAFF

Bernardo Solano - Professor, Department Chair
C. Julian White - Professor, Movement and Acting
Sarah Krainin - Assistant Professor, Head of Design
Jesse Portillo - Assistant Professor
Brian S. Newman - Assistant Professor
Dr. Joshua Truett - Assistant Professor

Adjunct Lecturers, Theatre

Paul Barron • Lily Bartenstein • Tom Bryant • Colin Campbell
Doug Cooney • Monica French • M. Glenn-Schuster • Jocelyn Hall
Joyce Hesslegrave • Jill Holden • Michael Kachingwe • Nancy Kyes
Paulo Lima • Tashara Moorehead-Gavin • Elizabeth Noth • Marissa Pitts
• Melanie Queponds • Tyle Seiple • Paula Weston Solano
Dylan Southard • John Sylvain

Adjunct Lecturers, Dance

Suchi Branfman • Kim Gadlin
Zachary Groenewold • Jeremy Hahn • Manny Macias

Department Staff

Marie Maslowski - Department Administrative Coordinator
Kenneth Blenc - Technical Director
Jonathan Bastow - Director of Theatre Facilities
Lexy Perez - Costume Shop Supervisor
Chelsea Sutton - Publicist

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The Kennedy Center
THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Up Next:

Cal Poly Department of Theatre and New Dance presents

Star Stuff

Written by Kimberlee Stone
Directed by Bernardo Solano

May 6-8, 2023

Studio Theatre (University Building 25-110)



Saturday & Sunday at 2pm / Monday at 7:30pm
\$5 General Admission

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bit.ly/cpptheatre

Up Next:

Cal Poly Department of Theatre and New Dance presents

CPP DANCE CONCERT



Created by the Faculty and Students
of the Department of Theatre and New Dance

May 12 & 13, 2023

University Theater Mainstage (Building 25)



Friday & Saturday at 7:30pm
\$15 General Admission
\$12 Cal Poly Alumni
\$10 Students/Faculty/Staff/Seniors

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