

CAL POLY DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND NEW DANCE
presents

MOJADA:

A MEDEA IN LOS ANGELES

November 10–19, 2023
University Theater
Building 25



CalPoly
Pomona



MOJADA: A MEDEA IN LOS ANGELES

Written by Luis Alfaro

Directed by Bernardo Solano

Featuring

Mya Alvarado, Stephanie Alvarado, Astrid Avila, Noemy Clara,
Andrea Lopez, Joseph Montoya, Manny Pimentel, Gaven Samano-Tovar

Scenic Designer

Leslie Ann Parada

Costume Designer

Janette Arellano Bejarano

Lighting Designer

Jesse Portillo

Sound Designer

Melanie Falcón

Props Designer

Troy Woodfin

Stage Manager

Crystal Espinoza

There Will Be No Intermission.

Please note: This production contains violence and
descriptions of sexual assault.

The New York premiere of MOJADA was produced by The Public Theater
(Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director; Patrick Willingham, Executive Director)

The West Coast premiere of MOJADA was first performed at the Getty Villa on September 10, 2015

MOJADA world premiere produced by Victory Gardens Theater, Chicago, Illinois
(Chay Yew, Artistic Director; Chris Mannelli, Managing Director)

BRUJA, a first adaptation of Medea, was commissioned, developed and received a world premiere in 2012 by
Magic Theatre, San Francisco, CA (Loretta Greco, Producing Artistic Director)

CAST

Medea.....	Mya Alvarado
Jason.....	Joseph Montoya
Tita.....	Andrea Lopez
Josefina.....	Stephanie Alvarado
Armida.....	Noemy Clara
Young Girl.....	Astrid Avila
The Soldier.....	Gaven Samano-Tovar
Acan.....	Manny Pimentel

PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager.....	Brian S. Newman
Director of Theatre Facilities.....	Jonathan Bastow
Technical Director.....	Kenneth Blenc
Costume Shop Manager.....	Lexy Perez
Intimacy Director.....	Allison Bibicoff
Vocal Coach.....	Sayda Trujillo
Assistant Director.....	Sara Torres
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Ava Ferreira
Assistant Scenic Designer.....	Isaiah Maldonado
Assistant Lighting Designer.....	Andre Lee
Scenic Charge.....	Bernice Lopez
LX Programmer/Board Operator.....	Kevin Davis
Audio Operator/Programmer.....	Minh Tran
A2.....	Flora Chen
Stage Crew.....	Tedy Setlak
Youth Actor Supervisor.....	Isai Pantoja
Scenic Paint Crew.....	Darcy Egebakken, Bernice Lopez JoeJoe McKinney, Elisa-Belle Tremblay, Sarah Varela
Properties Crew.....	David Valdez
Wardrobe Crew.....	Olivia Riddle, Kristin Stull
Scene Shop Crew.....	Anthony Arzate, Chris Carrillo Vianney De La Torre, Crystal Espinoza Isabel Sanchez, Troy Woodfin
Costume Shop Crew.....	Justin “JayJay” Castro, Jennifer Edwards Mattie Flores, Emily McCormick, Isabella Petrone, Ivy Smith
Electrics Crew.....	Alan Hernandez, Alex Leyva Isaiah Moldonado, Tedy Setlak, Kristin Stull
House Manager.....	Justin Ni
Box Office.....	JoeJoe McKinney

This production is dedicated to the memory of
Marie Maslowski, mother, grandmother, friend,
and the heartbeat of the CPP Department of Theatre and New Dance.
We will miss you.

A lot has been written about Luis Alfaro's *MOJADA: A Medea in Los Angeles*.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Yes, it's an adaptation of the Greek tragedy, *MEDEA*, written by Euripides in the 5th Century BCE.

Then, as now, the play ends with Medea being responsible for multiple murders. It's hard to oversimplify the play more. But like it or not, it's what most audiences leave the play thinking about. However, that is not all that this play sets out to do and what it ultimately accomplishes. It's set in contemporary Los Angeles, the neighborhood of Boyle Heights to be exact. The characters are Mexican and Mexican American. They arrived in the United States under different circumstances. They are immigrants, some recent, some not. And they each have a story to tell about their journeys. It bears mentioning that this play is currently being used by the entire state of California to teach public school students about immigration.

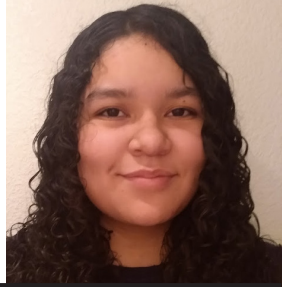
There are uncomfortable moments, violent moments—each of us will respond as necessary, based on our own perceptions, our own histories. The Greek playwrights understood catharsis as the release of strong emotions, in essence, as a cleansing or purging, and we vicariously experience what the characters experience, leading to something healthful and humanizing. Perhaps that helps explain why we keep coming back to these ancient stories, to help us make sense of a seemingly senseless world.

-Bernardo Solano, Director

CAST



Mya Alvarado



Stephanie Alvarado



Astrid Avila



Noemy Clara



Andrea Lopez



Joseph Montoya



Gaven Samano-Tovar

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Mya Alvarado (Medea) (she/her) not to be confused with Stephanie Alvarado is a third year acting student at Cal Poly Pomona. This is her first theatrical production. They would like to thank their family, friends, and the cast and crew for the love and support they have given throughout this production. They hope you enjoy the journey that is *Mojada*.

Stephanie Alvarado (Josefina) (they/them/theirs), the other Alvarado in the cast, has been training in acting with the Department of Theatre and New Dance at Cal Poly Pomona since 2019. This is their last semester! Past credits include *Star Stuff* (Lola/Ensemble), *As You Like It* (Corin/Charles the Wrestler), and *Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play* (Jenny/Chorus). As a Latine actor, they are honored to be involved in *Mojada* as their last undergrad production. They would like to thank their friends and everyone involved in the show for their support and encouragement!

Astrid Avila (Young Girl) (she/her/hers): Astrid has enjoyed being part of the Theatre and New Dance Department at Cal Poly Pomona since the Fall of 2021. Her major is Theatre Arts with an emphasis in Acting. A few of her past credits include; *The Clean House* (Understudy for Ana and Matilde), *The Nether* (Iris), and *A Christmas Carol* (Tiny Tim). She is very excited to finally perform on the stage and to represent her Mexican/Latina/Hispanic community. She would love to thank the theatre community, the cast, her friends and family for their support.

Noemy Clara (Armida) is a Theatre Arts major at Cal Poly, Alumni from Chaffey College, and a graduate with five Associate Arts Degrees, one-of them pertaining to Theatre Arts. Her first main stage production took place at Chaffey College for the role of Mrs. Peters in *Trifles* by Susan Glaspell. This role led to her first KCACTF nomination in 2020. In 2021, during her last year at Chaffey College she appeared in two virtual productions, *Golden Age Radio* and *Who Dunnit*. Aside from her Theatre career, she's working in short films, singing and modeling runways for Mexican dress designers. This is her first main stage production at Cal Poly Pomona, and she feels very fortunate for the opportunity to work alongside a very talented cast! "Gracias Amapá por todo el amor y apoyo." She would like to thank her family and friends for all the love and support and always believing in her. She would also like to thank you Director Bernardo for giving her the opportunity in bringing this character to life.

Crystal Espinoza (Stage Manager) is a fourth year Theater in Education major. Past Stage Management works include *Star Stuff*, and Assistant Stage Managing *Spark* at CPP. She is grateful for the opportunity and extremely proud of everyone's hard work. She'd like to thank her family for their endless support and hopes that everyone enjoys the show!

Melanie Falcón (Sound Designer) (she/her) is an LA-based Sound Designer born and raised in Southern California. She is currently in her second year of the graduate Sound Design program at UC Irvine, and holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Cal Poly Pomona. She has worked throughout Southern California in a variety of fields in sound, including positions as a designer, assistant designer, and audio engineer for theatre, film, and podcasts. Credits include: *The Sweetheart Deal* and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* at UC Irvine, design assistant for *Romeo and Juliet* at the Irvine Barclay Center, and QLab Projector and Audio Op for Critical Role Productions. Her future credits include *King Lear* and *Brothers Paranormal* at UC Irvine. Melanie is very excited to design again for the CPP Department of Theatre and New Dance as an alumni, and to work with such a great team.

Ava Ferreira (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior transfer, coming from West Valley College in Saratoga. She is so excited to be working on her first show at Cal Poly Pomona. Her previous credits include directing *The Good Doctor* and stage managing *Black Snow* at WVC. She is so proud of this cast and crew and all they've accomplished.

Andre Lee (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a senior majoring in theatre at Cal Poly Pomona. He is a transfer student from Chaffey College with an Associate in Arts for Transfer in Theatre Arts. His previous credits include Assistant Stage Manager for *As You Like It* and Projection Designer for *4.48 Psychosis* at Chaffey College. This will be his first production at Cal Poly Pomona.

Andrea Lopez (Tita) is an actor stage manager, and director, currently in her final year at Cal Poly, Pomona. She is overjoyed to have been a part of this amazing production and is extremely proud to have the opportunity to give voice to these stories. Some past productions include, *As You Like It* (Touchstone), *The Nether* (Sims/Papa), and *El Nogalar* (Stage Manager). She is so grateful for the cast, and the production team for putting together such a beautiful production! Special shout out to Sarah Krainin. She would like to dedicate this show to her father Benjamin Lopez, por todo su apoyo, amor, y sabiduría. Te amo Pa <3 She hopes you enjoy the show!!

Isaiah Maldonado (Assistant Scenic Designer) This is Isaiah's third year here at Cal Poly Pomona and he is proud to serve as the assistant scenic designer. Shout out to Leslie and Sarah for helping him learn during this process. Enjoy a Medea in Los Angeles!

Joseph Montoya (Jason) is a fourth year Theater major with an emphasis in acting. This is his first production with the department of Theatre and New Dance at Cal Poly Pomona. He is very excited and grateful to have this opportunity to perform and would like to thank all his friends and family who supported him along the way!

Leslie Ann Parada (Scenic Designer) is a recent Spring of 2023 graduate of Cal Poly Pomona. She is a Technical Theatre major with a focus on Design. She was previously the properties manager for *The Clean House* as well as worked on props for *Let Me Down Easy*, did scenic painting for both *Mr. Burns* and *As You Like It*, and was the assistant scenic designer for *Spark*. Post graduation she is working towards becoming a scenic designer, and is currently working for AMDA Performing Arts College as part of their production staff. She would like to thank the director, faculty, designers, and the cast and crew for all their hard work.

Gaven Samano-Tovar (The Soldier) is a fourth year at Cal Poly Pomona, majoring in theater with an emphasis on acting and he is excited to be in his first show at CPP. He is inspired by actors like Johnny Depp, Austin Butler, and Joaquin Phoenix and hopes to perform with them some day. Previous shows he has worked on before include *Baggage Unattended* as Man with Suitcase/Cop 1 and *Life of Frost* as King. He also made his directorial debut last spring with the short one-act play *Echo* which starred his costars in this show Joseph Montoya (Jason) and Astrid Avila (Young Girl). Lastly he would like to thank his director Bernardo for giving him this opportunity to perform in such an amazing show.

Bernardo Solano (Director) A graduate of the Yale School of Drama in Playwriting, Mr. Solano is a recipient of the NEA/TCG Theatre Residency Program for Playwrights, McKnight Fellowship, NEA, Rockefeller, Ford Foundation, AT&T OnStage, Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest grant, and several Fulbright Awards in Zimbabwe and Colombia. His plays and librettos have been produced at theatres across the country, written for PBS, WB, and NBC networks, as well as for Universal and Paramount Studios. Mr. Solano is an associate artist of Cornerstone Theatre and is chair of the Department of Theatre and New Dance at Cal Poly Pomona. This is the 23rd production he has directed at CPP.

Sara Torres (Assistant Director) is grateful to be part of Mojada, especially being a Chicana herself. She was previously the assistant director for *Star Stuff* and wrote and directed the short film *When the Music Stops...* Sara is excited to continue writing, directing, and creating interesting and moving art for the years to come. She is also thankful for the continued support from her friends and family.

Sayda Trujillo (Vocal Coach) (she/her) is a Guatemalan Canadian American theatre-maker who writes solo performance and teaches voice, movement, acting, devising, and applied theatre. Identity and storytelling inspire her personal and collective work with communities around the world. For more information visit www.saydateatrera.com

Troy Woodfin (Props Designer) is a third year Cal Poly Pomona student. Originally coming from Mechanical Engineering major, switching to theatre. He is very excited to be working on his first show ever in theatre and can't wait for everyone to see it.

Up Next:



Workshop Production Dec 5-7, 2023

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.

@cpptheatredance



DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & NEW DANCE

FACULTY AND STAFF

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

Adjunct Lecturers, Theatre

Tom Bryant • Colin Campbell • Doug Cooney • Lisa Sanaye Dring
Joyce Hesslegrave • Jill Holden • Michael Kachingwe • Nancy Kyes
Celeste Lanuza • Paulo Lima • Aly Mawji
Paula Weston Solano • Dylan Southard • John Sylvain • Julianne Zajac

Adjunct Lecturers, Dance

Zachary Groenewold • Jeremy Hahn • Manny Macias

Department Staff

Kenneth Blenc - Technical Director
Jonathan Bastow - Director of Theatre Facilities
Lexy Perez - Costume Shop Supervisor
Chelsea Sutton - Publicist