

PEPPERDINE THEATRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

Allegories of our Youth:



DIGITAL PERFORMANCE

DIRECTED BY NATALIA ESCOBEDO

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2021, 2021 • 7:30 PM PST

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2021, 2021 • 10 AM PST

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY FINE ARTS DIVISION
THEATRE PROGRAM
presents

Allegories of our Youth

Friday, Feb. 12, 2021 • 7:30 PM PST
Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021 • 10 AM PST

Director	Natalia Escobedo*
Assistant Director/Intern	Leyla Dillig
Stage Manager	Ellora Venkat
Technical Coordinator	Christopher Jerabek
Faculty Mentor	Dr. Bradley Griffin
Production Manager	Yelena Babinskaya
International Collaborators	Yuval Maoz, Jesús Quintero, and Ramón Verdugo

This performance does not include an intermission.

**in fulfillment of senior thesis project*

SONGS

SWEET MEMORIES

Written and Produced by wavytrbl

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ACOUSTIC GUITAR INSTRUMENTAL BEAT 2019 #10

Written and Produced by Ryini Beats

YouTube (Ryini Beats)

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LITTLE CANYON RIDE

Written by Lobo Loco

Free Music Archive

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CAST

(in alphabetical order)

Luis Calva

Britain Hope

Christopher Jerabek

Brianna Jimenez

Juliet Johnson

Chase Perry

Jassiel Santillán

Indy Wilson

Last June I was approached by my faculty mentor and dear friend Dr. Brad Griffin with an idea. Since a traditional thesis project on campus was no longer possible because of COVID-19, the theatre faculty proposed an original project involving international collaborators. That was it. There was no script, no cast, and no official collaborators. While some may have been intimidated by such a vague proposal, I immediately jumped at the opportunity. Being both Mexican and Jewish, I knew that I wanted to tap into my roots and reach out to artists in both Mexico and Israel. But what story would we share? This summer, as racial tensions rose in America and all eyes were focused on the Black Lives Matter movement, I found myself particularly intrigued by what I was witnessing among my peers and, more broadly, young people across the country. Suddenly, I saw people who had never demonstrated any interest in activism speaking up about political issues on social media. I became fascinated with this newfound spark among my generation. I found myself wondering, what is our role as young people in this country? And what commonalities do we share with the young people of other countries who are dealing with their own social turmoil? These questions became the centerpiece of *Allegories of Our Youth*, which consists of a series of vignettes in which the company members explore their individual roles in their home country through unique performance styles. Throughout this devising process, I have learned so much about the universality of wanting to fight for a better future. As you watch, I invite you to consider what your role is in your home country, and I'm certain you will find some commonalities with our company.

—*Natalia Escobedo, Director*

ARTISTIC STAFF

Natalia Escobedo (Director) is a senior studying theatre arts with a directing emphasis from Coronado, CA. Escobedo's theatrical experience spans across the world: assistant producing in Mexico, musical theatre with the American Academy of Dramatic Arts (NYC), Shakespeare performance with the Shakespeare's Globe (London), and interning at the La Jolla Playhouse. On campus, Escobedo has been the recipient of four university research grants and served as the Assistant Director/Dramaturg on *Well*, *Futureproof*, and *The Cherry Orchard* for Pepperdine Theatre. Escobedo is proud to be a member of both the Pepperdine Ambassadors Council and the Brenden Mann Jewish Studies Scholars. Escobedo currently works in arts programming for Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life on CSU Northridge's campus.

Leyla Dillig (Assistant Director/Intern) is a senior theatre major with an emphasis in acting from Stuttgart, Germany. Her Pepperdine credits include *The Pirates of Penzance* (Ensemble), *Well* (Ensemble Member B), *Rhinoceros* (Housewife), *Stay Because...* (Erin), *Falling* (Lisa), *Ragtime* (Sarah) and *Men on Boats* (Dunn). In 2018 Dillig was part of the world premiere of *The Abode* with Pepperdine's Edinburgh Summer Program. She is a recipient of the Theatre Scholarship and a member of the Pepperdine Student Players.

Ellora Venkat (Stage Manager) is a junior theatre arts major with an emphasis in production and design and a minor in business marketing from Calabasas, CA. Her previous experience at Pepperdine includes serving as Assistant Stage Manager for *Curtains* and *Well*; Stage Manager for the *Fine Arts Cabaret*, *Futureproof* and Pepperdine Student Players' *Stay Because...*; and Property Designer for *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*. Venkat is also proud to be a current Theatre Rep (2019–2021). She is a recipient of the Pickford-Stotsenberg Endowment and Pepperdine Theatre Arts Scholarship, courtesy of the Theatre Department.

Christopher Jerabek (Technical Coordinator) is a senior theatre arts major, emphasizing in production/design and directing, with a minor in studio art from Lubbock, TX. His scenic designs have been seen on Pepperdine stages in *Rhinoceros*, *Call Center*, and *Stay Because...* Jerabek also served as the Scenic Designer, Props Master, and Assistant Director for *The Abode* at its Edinburgh Fringe Festival world premiere. He was recently the Scenic and Projections Designer for the 2020 TEDx event sponsored by Pepperdine University. His designs will be featured in Pepperdine Theatre's upcoming productions of *Ugly Lies the Bone* and *As You Like It*. Jerabek is a Regents' Scholar, and recipient of the Pickford-Stotsenberg Endowment, courtesy of the Theatre Department.

Yuval Maoz (Collaborator) is a theatre director, writer, and actress based in Tel-Aviv, Israel. Maoz has a bachelor of education in theatre directing from Seminar Ha'kibutsim (SMKB), and she is currently studying scriptwriting at the Sam Spiegel Film and Television School (JSFS). Maoz directed the play *Thieves by Dea Loher* in 2020 and won 1st prize at SMKB for writing and directing *Illegal Parking*. Maoz has collaborated with Jaffa Theatre, directing and writing the show *Gacaca*, a political play about the Gacaca courts in Rwanda, Africa.

Jesús Quintero (Collaborator) is the executive director of Tijuana Hace Teatro in Tijuana, Mexico. A graduate of the theatre program at Mexico's National Fine Arts Institute (INBA), he has worked in producing, audience engagement, teaching, directing, performing, and more. Quintero has extensive global experience as an artist, speaker and programmer: International Festival of the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts (Los Angeles); Theatre Communications Group National Conference (San Diego); ITI World Congress (Armenia); Theatre Communications Group's Audience (R) Evolution Convening (Kansas City); Theater Bay Area Conference (San Francisco); Agor Drysau/Opening Doors (Gales); Festival Internacional ¡A Trote! (Mexico City); Fira de Teatre Infantil Juvenil de les Illes Balears (España); Encuentro de las Américas (Los Angeles); and the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People (ASSITEJ) Artistic Gathering (Beijing).

Ramón Verdugo (Collaborator) is the artistic director of Tijuana Hace Teatro in Tijuana, Mexico. As an actor, director, and producer, he has collaborated in over 30 shows. He is a professor of theatre at Universidad Autónoma de Baja California and also a professor of acting for opera singers at Escuela Escénico Vocal Já'sit. Verdugo has extensive international experience participating in seminars, conferences, and festivals such as the Next Generation Programme of the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People (ASSITEJ) (China), Odin Week Festival (Denmark), Fira de Teatre Infantil I Juvenil (Spain), ITI World Congress (Armenia), amongst others in Mexico, United States, and Argentina. Over the past ten years, Verdugo has worked closely with his binational community where he has co-directed and produced the Binational School of Audiences program and the Festival Interprepas for young theatre groups in Tijuana. He is also the co-founder of the Festival de Teatro Íntimo and has collaborated with The Old Globe (San Diego) in its community program coLAB.

CAST

Luis Calva is an actor and dancer from Tijuana, Mexico with a bachelor's degree in theatre from the Autonomous University of Baja California. He has worked with company Tijuana Hace Teatro on their productions of *Kiwi* and *El Puente de Piedras y la Piel de Imágenes*, and he is currently Assistant Director for *Los Cuervos No Se Peinan*. His film debut was in the international award-winning independent film *Heroyna*. He is making his directorial debut in his next project *Incógnita*, written by Ricardo Avila.

Britain Hope is a senior theatre arts major with an emphasis in acting and a minor in computer science from Rancho Santa Margarita, CA. His Pepperdine credits include *Polar Bears*, *Black Boys & Prairie Fringed Orchids* (Tom), Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2020 Company Member, *Ragtime* (Grandfather), *Curtains* (Johnny), and *Medea* (Son). Hope is a six-time academic Dean's List member and a Theatre Scholarship recipient.

Brianna Jimenez Parra is a student at Hussian College L.A. from Tijuana, Mexico. She is currently working to get her bachelors in acting for film and television. Parra's career started with Esmeralda Ceballos, a collaboration which helped Parra establish the children's theatre group *Los Inteatrables* in Tijuana. Her training involved a scholarship at Culture Institute of Baja California (ICBC) and Centro Estatal de las Artes Tijuana (CEART). Parra toured for one year in the international leadership program *Up With People*. Her passion for theater and acting allowed her to find a love for stage managing, working in her school productions such as *The Wolves*, *Sister Cities*, *Seascape with Sharks and Dancer*, and many more.

Juliet Johnson is a sophomore theatre arts major with an acting emphasis from Ventura, CA. Johnson's on-campus performances include last year's Dance in Flight as well as this year's upcoming virtual Dance in Flight. Her outside credits include Rubicon's Shakespeare Summer Theatre Company's productions of *Macbeth* (Lady Macbeth) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Beatrice). Johnson is a Regents' Scholar and a Theatre Scholarship recipient.

Chase Perry is a senior theater arts major with an emphasis in acting from Hawthorne, CA. Her Pepperdine credits include *The Taming of the Shrew* (Tranio), the student production of *Mauritius* (Jackie), *Ragtime* (Ensemble), and *The Cherry Orchard* (Anya). Perry was also chosen for the 2020 Edinburgh Fringe Festival company. She has recently participated in several film projects such as the short film *Energy Never Dies* (Felicia), as well as two series appearances in *Superficially Deep* (Tasha) and *Digital Affairs* (Diamond). She is a Residential Advisor, a member of the Black Student Association, and a Posse Scholarship recipient.

Jassiel Santillán is a multidisciplinary actor from Tijuana, Mexico. His vocal training has been under José Medina, Marco Antonio Labastida, María Lozano, and Aurora Paz. He has formed part of the Lyrical Youth Ensemble of La Opera de Tijuana, the Dance Conservatory of Mexico, and the Superior Music School of Baja California. Santillán's theatre credits include: *The Sound of Music* (Friedrich), *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Schroeder), *¿Quién le Teme a Espantapájaros?* (Espantapájaros), *También Hay Moscas en la Luna*, *Hecho en Cautiverio* (Award Winning FITU 2016–17), and *El Puente de Piedras y la Piel de Imágenes*, amongst others.

Indiana Wilson is a senior theatre arts acting student with a hispanic studies minor from Palm Desert, CA. Her Pepperdine credits include *Polar Bears*, *Black Boys & Prairie Fringed Orchids* (Molly), *The Cherry Orchard* (Charlotta), *Ragtime* (Ensemble), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Vincentio), *Curtains* (Carmen Bernstein), and *Medea* (Chorus). Wilson is also the proud President of the Pepperdine Improv Troupe.

COMPANY BIO

Tijuana Hace Teatro (THT) is a theatre company that produces national, international, and new work in its intimate venue, Teatro Las Tablas. It has established many programs for audience and community engagement such as the THT Binational School of Audiences—a theatre appreciation program with the public that became a cultural bridge between Mexico and the United States for its participants; the Festival Interprepas THT—a new work festival among young high school students; and the Festival de Teatro Íntimo, which in its first event addressed the Cabaret Theater. THT has participated in conferences and festivals across the globe in Mexico, the United States, Spain, China, and Armenia. The company is internationally recognized as members of the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People (ASSITEJ) and as members of the International Theatre Institute and its Indigenous Cultures and Migration Committee. THT continuously works to maintain strong alliances with institutions and theatres in the Tijuana–San Diego region.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & THANKS

The company of *Allegories of Our Youth* would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Bradley Griffin the faculty mentor on this project. Thank you for your mentorship and guidance throughout this process, we could not have done it without you!

To Tijuana Hace Teatro and Yuval, getting to work with you has been a true pleasure. Thank you for sharing your artistry and embarking on this journey with us.

