



Theatre presents

World Theatre
Workshop



LUCHADORA!

by

Alvaro Saar Rios

directed by

Adam Flores

Rhynsburger Theatre

7:30 pm: March 8-11

2:00 pm: March 12



The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.

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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

Welcome back to the Rhynsburger Theatre for our second production this semester. We are so fortunate and pleased to have guest director Adam Flores with us from the St. Louis Shakespeare Festival. The students have benefited greatly from his directing expertise on this World Theatre Workshop offering. Our guest scenic designer, Ryan Zirngibl has brought his skills as resident scenic designer for the Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre to this production as well. The production students and staff have enjoyed their time working with him and learning from him in the shops. Now you our audience will enjoy their creative work in producing *Luchadora!*

We have one more offering this semester which I hope you will plan to see. In April we will be presenting *The Wolves* by Sarah DeLappe, directed by Kasey Lynch. This story is focused on nine girls on an indoor soccer team as they warm up before weekly games, tribulations and celebrations ensue. Join us in Studio 4 for performances April 19th through April 23rd.

The Larry D. Clark Summer Theatre will be gearing up for performances of *Little Shop of Horrors* and a new Theatre for Young Audiences piece, *Jacked!* by Idris Goodwin. (Based on the Jack and the Beanstalk tale.) More information will be coming soon!

Thank you for joining us this academic season as we continue to present stories that matter with a focus on diversity.

Dr. Mimi Hedges
Chair, MU Department of Theatre

LUCHADORA!

by Alvaro Saar Rios

DIRECTOR
ADAM FLORES

COSTUME DESIGNER
PROF. MARC W. VITAL II

SCENIC DESIGNER
RYAN J. ZIRNGIBL

STAGE MANAGER
HARLOW BUNTEN

DRAMATURG
ZACH APONY-MORIARTY

LIGHTING DESIGNER
VINCENTE WILLIAMS

SOUND DESIGNER
ELIZA BROOKS

PRODUCTION
COORDINATOR
DR. CLAIRE SYLER

FIGHT
CHOREOGRAPHER
BRANDON RILEY

Partial funding for our productions is provided by Chrisha's Fund,
an endowment established by her parents in memory
of Chrisha L. Siebert, BA, '90.

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Cast

Vanessa.....Aria Garcia
Nana Lupita.....Virginia Martinez
Lupita.....Max Contreras
Father.....Ben Tatum
The Mask Maker.....Luisa Perea
Leopold.....Chance McKim
Liesl.....Lucy Hoener
El Hijo.....Joe Quick Mena
Hannah.....Gabby Daugherty
Tough Boy 1/Others.....Malakai Howard
Ring Announcer/Others.....Francisco Melendez
Green Luchador/
Yellow Luchador/Others.....Matthew Culligan
Blue Luchador/others.....Bridgette Chan

Setting: Santa Teresa, Texas and Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Time: Now and 1968

Intermission: 15 minutes

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INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED, A VIOLATION OF THE AUTHOR'S
RIGHTS AND ACTIONABLE UNDER UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT LAW.

Luchadora! Production Staff

Assistant Stage Manager.....	Elise Hawley
Properties Manager.....	Wren Miller
Properties/Paint Assistants.....	Peyton Boudouris, Tricia Carver-Horner Haley Frazer, Aaliyah Jones, Payton Woodruff
Light Board Operator.....	Christian Evans
Sound Board Operator.....	Gabe Levi
Wardrobe Crew.....	Dominic Barbosa, Payton Woodruff
Running Crew.....	Zakee Branch, Sammy Driggers, Delaney Eischen, Bruno Grubestic, Karsyn Helms, Emma Knudson,
Electrics Crew.....	Vincent Adams, JJ Measer, Cedric Singleton
Scenic Construction Students.....	Vincent Adams, Zakee Branch, Nichelle Brown, Riley Clark, Delaney Eischen, Christian Evans, Nick Frieders, Aria Garcia, Caleb Jared, Emma Knudson, Chance McKim, JJ Measer, Emma Pavlik, Kennedy Rhoades, Cedric Singleton, Savannah Taffe, Zach Vajda
Scenic Artist.....	Jake Price

MU Department of Theatre Faculty

Kevin Brown, Associate Professor
M. Heather Carver, Professor
David Crespy, Professor
Les Gray, Assistant Professor
Mimi Hedges, Department Chair, Associate Teaching Professor
Joy Powell, Associate Teaching Professor
Claire Syler, Assistant Professor
Marc W. Vital II, Assistant Professor

Director's Notes

My niece is an excellent soccer goalie, I mean as far as 7-year-olds go. Her younger brother would live his best life as a roaring dinosaur who loves hugs. I wanted very much for them both to be performers, but alas it seems not yet to be their preference, though I tried with all my might to lead them so. The unpredictability of young humans' interests is one of the few things I am certain of. And though older humans often think we know what's best, all of literature and history is filled with young humans asserting their desire to do what makes them happy. The best intentions of elders rarely clears the way for the success of youth. Progress always seems hardest to those who are comfortable with the way things are.

Growing up in Jefferson City I didn't always feel like I could see past "the way things are" to what "could be." Luckily I had elders who helped me see what could be. *Luchadora!* is a high-flying exploration of the internal journey of young people trying to find their way through their own desires. Right now, all over our state, elders are arguing about finding ways to limit the knowledge and expressions of desire that young people are advocating for. This play serves as a reminder that supporting and mentoring students as they explore their desires will bring elders closer to youth, rather than trying to dictate what they can and cannot do. Having college students tell this story of younger people also reminds us that we are never too young to lift as we climb to the top rope.

Adam Flores
—Director



Theatre
University of Missouri

Latine Communities in the American Midwest

Many might believe lucha libre bouts only happen in Mexico, but the traceable lines between Mexico and cities like Milwaukee mean numerous matches take place in the United States. Since the vast majority of Latine stories we typically see come from specific locations in the US—the Chicano movement of the Southwest, Nuyorican communities in New York City, Caribbean crossover to cities like Miami—one may conclude that people carrying these cultures and identities only exist along the edges of the country. And while *Luchadora!* sets many of its scenes in Texas, it also cares deeply for Milwaukee and the many Latine people who live between those two places, especially those coming from Mexico.

When the Father of this play says, “From here [Arkansas] to Wisconsin, I worked on all kinds of farms,” he is speaking to an often undiscussed experience across the Midwest. As of the last count in 2018, nearly 39,000 Mexican-born individuals were living in Missouri (per American Immigration Council), and despite policies and systems that intend to limit immigration from countries to our south, that number will likely only continue to rise. But this is not a new phenomenon. The American colonization of the Midwest in the late 19th and early 20th century heavily involved migration from many Latin-American nations, Mexico being the most predominant among them; the image of a purely white Midwest does not hold up. Therefore, with lucha libre’s founding in the 1930s, a sizable Mexican-born population had already planted roots in Missouri and further north as well.

Even within the history of Mizzou, a trio of lucha films were produced on and around this campus. Starring one of the great luchadores Mil Máscaras, these movies—*Song of the Dead* (2005), *Mil Mascaras vs. the Aztec Mummy* (2007), and *Academy of Doom* (2008)—brought together artists and technicians from across the university and Columbia to add to the incredible and over-the-top lucha cinematic universe. With this production of *Luchadora!* MU

Theatre builds upon this and other traditions of the broader Midwestern Latine experience.

Zach Apony-Moriarty
—Dramaturg

MU Theatre Technical Crew and Staff

Artistic Director and Director of Production.....	Mimi Hedges
Technical Director.....	Zach Alley
Lead Carpenter.....	Cyan Crockett
Head of Costumes.....	Marc W. Vital II
Costume Shop Manager.....	Manda Apony-Moriarty
Scenic Studio Assistants.....	Harlow Bunten, Tricia Carver-Horner, Carter Davidson, Angelina Derry, Robert Dresselhaus, Jake Price, Ben Tatum
Artist-in-Residence.....	Vincente Williams
Academic Advisors.....	Alex Anderson, Kathrynn Brueggemann
Front of House Director.....	Jabarbara Jennings
House Manager.....	Andrew Schulte
Front of House Staff.....	Maggie Bledsoe, Ariel Hall, Sydney Hendrickson, Connor Hughes, Kaylah Janssen, Hanna Keeter, Gabriella Lacey, Sophia Leftwich, Dani Major, Kennedy Rhoades, Anna Schulte, Joe Shifrin, Joshua Stender, Primula Stonebraker, Ayanna Taylor, Joey Vigliaturo, Grace Wickert
Business Affairs.....	Pat Garmon
Graphic Design.....	Dory Colbert

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Carla Waal Johns Award
Irene Gasarah

Frances McCurdy Memorial Scholarship
Josh Saboorizadeh



Stories matter.
Come experience the ones we tell.

UPCOMING SHOWS

***The Wolves* April 19 - 23, 2023**
by Sarah DeLappe, directed by Kasey Lynch
Studio 4

COMING THIS SUMMER!

Jacked!
Little Shop of Horrors



Larry D. Clark
Summer Repertory Theatre

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