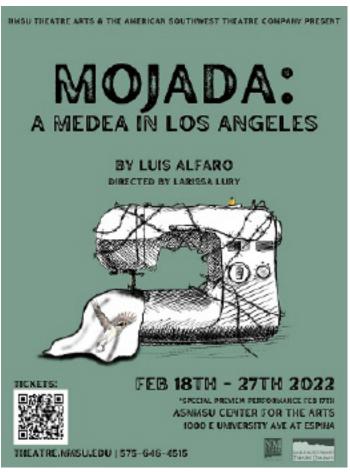


American Southwest Theatre Company at NMSU Theatre Arts presents





Director
Scenic Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Props Designer
Sound Designer
Stage Managers

Larissa Lury
Jim Billings
Chloe Cappuccilli
Jim Billings
Chloe Cappuccilli
Jim Wilkinson
Luis Alfonso Castro
& Mike Wise

CAST

by order of appearance

Elia Vasquez MEDEA
Santiago Garzon ACAN
Dominique Joy Gomez TITA
Omar Moreno JASON
Bianca Marie Castro JOSEFINA
Ashley G. Almanza ARMIDA

The play is approximately 100 minutes in length, and is performed without an intermission.

We recommend and high encourage you to wear a mask inside the theatre at all times.

Audiences are reminded to please silence all electronic devices (cell phones and alarms) prior to the performance.

Thank you for your consideration.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD AND MANAGING DIRECTOR

Welcome to our first production of the spring semester, *Mojada, A Medea in Los Angeles*. We are so happy that you are joining us as we slowly emerge from the pandemic and once again offer you "live" theatre. We also appreciate that you may have joined us in the past year for our "online" presentations.



It is important for us to continue presenting productions, despite the challenges, as we want to provide our students with the best educational experiences possible. We also want to be sure that we provide you with entertainment, which I believe is crucial during these times where many have felt isolated. Whether drama or comedy, a play or a musical, we can all be enlightened and uplifted by participating in a theatre performance, whether onstage, backstage, or in the audience. Theatre is a unique experience that I believe can provide a window into our shared humanity and hopefully bring more understanding to us all. What's next? Please join us on March 4th for the staged reading of "Deal Me Out", a new play by writer MJ Halberstadt, who will have spent a week working directly with our student actors and faculty/staff. On March 5th, you can witness excerpts of playwrighting from both our students and community members. No tickets are required for either of these events, though we do suggest a \$5 donation at the door

Our final event is the ever-popular *Broadway Onstage - Movie Magic!* for one night and one matinee only, April 29th and 30th. Please order your tickets early! More info on our website at theatre.nmsu.edu And, I'm always glad to hear from you at wkilroy@nmsu.edu

CAST BIOS

Ashley G. Almanza (Armida) Ashley is a senior at NMSU, majoring in Animal Science and minoring in Horse Management. This is her first show with the NMSU theatre program. She has done shows in high school working both as an actor and tech crew. Ashley played Older Sister/Mad Hare in Alice in Wonderland, Silly girl in Beauty and the Beast, and Pinocchio in Shrek the Musical. Being away from theatre for so long, Ashley is happy to finish her college journey by taking one last chance to act again. She'd like to thank her family, loved one, and friends for their support especially Lisa Hermanson who pushed her to take the leap.

Bianca Marie Castro (Josephina) Bianca is so happy to finally take part in an NMSU production and couldn't be happier it is Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles. She has been having the time of her life and made so many new friends that she now considers family. She rarely does straight plays, but you could have seen her in many Las Cruces Community Theatre (LCCT) musicals including Mary Poppins, Annie, Legally Blonde and A Christmas Story. She also recently began directing for A Children's Theatre of the Mesilla Valley (ACT) back in the Fall. She has directed The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, A Seussified Christmas Carol and is currently directing The Legend of Robin Hood ... Sort Of. She would like to thank the entire cast and crew of this show for teaching her new skills and welcoming her with open arms. She would also like to thank her girlfriend, friends and family for their constant support in everything she does. Hope everyone enjoys the show! Everyone has worked so hard to put it together.

Santiago Garzon (Acan) Santiago is in the 8th grade at La Academia Dolores Huerta, where he is part of the Ballet Folklorico and performs at various community events throughout the year. He has appeared onstage at LCCT in *A Christmas Story*, *Mary Poppins*, and *Enemy of the People*. He was in several musicals in Florida prior to moving here. He has been in 3 short films and was an extra in the movie *Walking with Herb*. He is grateful to Larissa for this wonderful opportunity to learn and grow as an actor. Apart from acting, Santiago is testing for his black belt in Taekwondo and plays soccer.

CAST BIOS

Dominique Joy Gomez (Tita) Buenas Tardes! Dominique is an actor from the Southwest and a proud undergraduate of the NMSU theater department set to graduate this May. Her most recent roles include Syd in *Syd the Solstice Kid*, Julia in *Fefu and Her Friends*, and Alicia in *The Thanksgiving Play*. She has also worked in trailers, short films, Netflix shows, and voice-over work projects. Dominique extends her deepest gratitude to the director, crew, cast, and NMSU family. She also wishes for the audience to know that she has absolutely loved serving the Las Cruces community through the art of storytelling.

Omar Moreno (Jason) Omar is a junior at NMSU, majoring in Theatre Arts. This is his first play with NMSU due to having recently moved from El Paso. Other stage productions that he has been part of are *Stand and Deliver, Thirst*, and *The Romancers*. He is very excited and honored to be part of this play and looks forward to show his talents.

Elia Vasquez (Medea) Elia is a Theatre Arts major with almost three years in the department. Their previous roles include Madison in *Tracer!* and Julia & Sonneteer in *The Shakespeare Project*. They want to share their gratitude for the opportunity to take this project on with such a talented cast and crew.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Extra special thanks to Lucia Carmona and Carlos Aceves for sharing knowledge, insights and music with us.

Student Production Bios

Edward Goldstein (Assistant Director) Edward is a Junior here at NMSU. He is double majoring in Theater and Biology. He has both experiences working on and off stage including in *Fefu and Her Friends*, *The Vagina Monologues*, and *Marilyn/God*. He looks forward to the rest of his time at NMSU because he has no idea what he wants to do with his future.

Dominique Joy Gomez (Assistant Director) Dominique is extremely grateful for the privilege of assistant directing for ASTC Company's production of *Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles*. She is a director and producer from the Southwest and a proud undergraduate of the NMSU theater department set to graduate in May 2022. Dominique has produced two short films and directed a nationwide online charity event AWW Project 2020, with all proceeds supporting finding justice for violent crimes against women. Dominique extends her deepest gratitude to the NMSU family and to the director for inspiring her.

Alia Belinte (Assistant Lighting Designer) Alia's most recent credits include assistant stage manager for the Four Corners Musical Theatre Company's run of *Mamma Mia* and production stage manager and lighting designer for ENMU's virtual production of *Everybody*. Her lighting design on *Syd the Solstice Kid* earned her a meritorious achievement in from the KCACTF organization.

Luis Alfonso Castro (Co-Stage Manager) is so excited to be taking part of his very first NMSU production. The last time he stage managed was in high school. He has recently gotten back into acting after 10 years of "retirement". He played Bob Cratchit in A Children's Theatre of the Mesilla Valley's (ACT) production of A Seussified Christmas Carol. He has also directed numerous productions for the Gadsden High School theatre department and (ACT) including Miss Nelson is Missing!, Anna and August, The Phantom Tollbooth and Alice in Wonderland. He is also currently the Artistic Director for ACT and is working on obtaining his degree in Education and minor in theatre. He hopes to become an English/Theatre hybrid teacher. He would like to thank Mike Wise for asking him to be a part of this production, Larissa Lury for welcoming him with open arms and the entire cast and crew of Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles for making this experience one to remember!

DIRECTORS NOTES

"In lak'ech ala k'in." You are my other me." "Tú eres mi otro yo."

What if we saw this each time we looked at each other? What if we knew that looking at one another was a mirror? Would it change the way we see and name what we see? The way we treat what we see?

You might, as you watch this story unfold, listen for all of the times the characters introduce themselves and each other, naming how they see themselves and one another: "gabacho," "hipster," "immigrant;" "Tita," "housekeeper," "slave," "viejita," "family," "curandera," "healer;" "Jason," "husband," "Dad," "Papi;" "Armida," "boss," "gente," "just a door;" "Josefina," "friend," "sister," "the one who makes the sweet bread," "one of us;" "Medea," "wife," "guaco," "costurera," "reina," and then, "mojada."

How easy is it to have our own identity changed by the name someone calls us, by what they see when they look at us, by how they treat us?

How do we gain the agency to name ourselves?

How do we remind ourselves and each other who we are?

While I hope you get the chance to step away from your everyday to lose yourself in the play today, I hope you find something of yourself here too, and I look forward to hearing what you see.

-Larissa Lury, Director

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Luis Alfaro is a Mexican-American playwright, writer, director, performance artist, and social activist. His works focus on the Chicano neighborhoods of Los Angeles and often deal with working-class themes and the LGBTQ community, including the AIDS epidemic in Latinx communities.



Oedipus El Rey, a modern Chicano retelling of Oedipus Rex, premiered at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco in 2010. It was produced at Dallas Theatre Center in 2014, San Diego Repertory Theatre in 2015, and premiered in New York at the Public Theatre's Shiva Theatre in 2017. His one-man show, St. Jude, details his complicated relationship with his father. It was produced at the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City, California in 2013, the South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa, California, in 2014, and as part of the "Up Close and Personal Series" at the Victory Gardens Theatre in Chicago in 2017. Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles, is another Chicano retelling of a classic Greek tragedy. It premiered at the Magic Theatre in 2012 under the title Bruja. Mojada was later produced at the Getty Villa in 2015 and at Oregon Shakespeare Festival in 2017.

Other plays include: This Golden State Part One: Delano, Alleluia, The Road, Electricidad, Downtown, No Holds Barrio, Body of Faith, Straight as a Line, Bitter Homes and Gardens, Lady Bird, Jaguar Girl, Black Butterfly, Piñata Woman and Other Superhero Girls, Like Me, Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner, and The Gardens of Aztlan.

Amongst other awards, Luis Alfaro was awarded a MacArthur "Genius" Foundation Fellowship in 1997 and the National Hispanic Playwriting Competition Prize in 1998. He was named Playwright-in-Residence at Oregon Shakespeare Festival from 2013-2016, and again for 2016-2019.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Boyle Heights

For information on Boyle Heights, the East Los Angeles neighborhood with a very rich history, where most of our play takes place, you might start with:

https://eastlainterchangefilm.com/about-film/boyle-heights-history/

There are a number of groups working to support immigrants in our community.

You can find more information about these organizations by and for immigrants in our region, below:

NM Dream Team

https://www.nmdreamteam.org/our-work/

"The NM Dream Team is the largest immigrant youth-led network in New Mexico, and is committed to create power for multigenerational, undocumented, and mixed status families towards liberation through leadership, development, civic engagement, policy research, curriculum building, and grassroots organizing. Our mission is to cultivate and develop leaders for the upcoming generations by using intersectional gender and racial justice framework."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Somos un Pueblo Unido

"Somos, founded in 1995, is a statewide community-based and immigrant-led organization that promotes worker and racial justice. With an active membership of 2,500 people in eight counties, Somos: offers community education about rights and remedies, forges leadership opportunities for immigrants and low-wage workers, provides legal services to wage theft victims and initiates impact litigation to defend worker's rights, engages Latinos in the political and electoral process, and leads and supports grassroots campaigns for local and national policies that strengthen our communities."

http://www.somosunpueblounido.org/somos-unpueblo-unido.html

Catholic Charities of Southern NM

"Alleviating suffering and creating hope for those in need is the mission of Catholic Charities of Southern New Mexico. We work to help meet the basic needs of individuals and families, address the root causes of poverty, eliminate oppression, and build a more just and compassionate society."

https://catholiccharitiesdlc.org/about_us/

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director

Theatre Manager

Production Stage Manager

Scene Shop Foreman

Costume Shop Manager

Master Electrician

Assistant Lighting Designer

Additional Sound Effects

and music by

Light Board Operator

Sound Board Operator

Stage Crew

Set Construction

Costume Construction

Wardrobe Supervisor

Costume Crew

House Manager

House Crew

Photographer

Chloe Cappuccilli

Jim Wilkinson

Mike Wise

James Jaworski

Tamara M. Carruthers

Jim Wilkinson

Alia Belinte

Mike Simses

Yasmine Jarangiri Elissa Featherstone

Eva Cullen, Carolina Ortiz, Ben

Ramsey, Bat Reynolds,

Kienna Rodriquez

THTR 141L & THTR 346

students

THEA 1310L & 345 students,

and Anabelle Fortin

Mattie Ruminer

Edward Goldstein, Amber Law,

Gus David Sanchez

Kayla McCabe

Russell White, Jonathen

Cordova, Karlten Friedrich, JJ

Hanley

Michael Wise

Coming Up at ASTC at NMSU

The High Desert Play Readings -

Deal Me Out - March 4

Local Playwrights - March 5

Broadway On Stage -

Movie Magic!
A musical revue

April 29th & 30th

RESIDENT COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

Claudia Waldrip Billings is a Professor in the Dept, of Theatre Arts. She has taught The World of Theatre and Beginning Acting to literally thousands of students at NMSU over the last 20 years. She is also an actor and a director. Her last acting part was Silda in *Other Desert Cities* and she directed *Silent Sky* in the spring of 2019. She is also on the Board of Directors for The Children's Reading Alliance and is a huge advocate of reading with children!

Jim Billings received a BS in Theatre and Dance from the University of Wyoming and an M.F.A. in Scenic Design from the California Institute of the Arts. He has worked as a freelance designer around the country, and came to NMSU, as a guest artist in 1985. Design credits include design for dance, theatre, opera, industrials, museums, sculptures and Television. Jim was awarded the Ralph B. Crouch Award for "Outstanding contributions to the life of the NMSU community", the Community Arts Award from the Dona Ana Arts Council in 2006 and the Department of Theatre Arts' BRAVO award for service in 2012. Jim Recently designed the set for the television show "Bands of Enchantment" Produced and created by some of his former students. Jim's favorite collaborator is his wife of 41 years, Claudia. Together they have created several memorable shows here, "The Laramie Project" and "Tomas and the Library Lady" and, of course, their daughter, also Jim's favorite artist, Maggie, who always reminds him there is more than one way to look at the world.

Chloe Cappuccilli is a new Visiting Assistant Professor at NMSU working as a costume designer and technical director. She received her B.F.A from Columbia College Chicago in 2015 and her M.F.A from West Virginia University in 2020. She has worked as a costume and puppet designer, as well as costume crafts artisan and draper. Costume design credits include: *The Phantom Tollbooth*, *Naga Mandala* (West Virginia University) *Half Life of Memory* (Cold Basement Dramatics) *Moon shot*, *The American Revolution* (Theatre Unspeakable) *The Tempest*, *True West*, *Human Rites* (Columbia College Chicago).

Tamara M. Carruthers received a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts from New Mexico State University. She managed NMSU's Costume Shop for three semesters directly after graduation. She then joined Wayside Theatre (Middletown, VA) and spent ten years as their Resident Costume Designer and Shop Manager. She has spent the last five summers in the Costume Shop at Creede Repertory Theater (Creede, CO) designing and serving as their Draper, Draper/First Hand, Assistant Costume Shop Manager and, most recently, Costume Shop Manager.

RESIDENT COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

Nichole Hamilton is an Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts at NMSU, teaching classes in vocal production and acting. At NMSU, she has directed *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, Inspecting Carol, The Wolves*, and last year's original play written for students in virtual format, *Tracer*. Nichole has been an actor, director, and instructor for over 20 years and is a proud member of Actors Equity Association and the Hippodrome Acting Company. She holds a BA in Theatre from the University of Montevallo and an MFA in Acting from the University of Florida. She is a certified teacher with the National Michael Chekhov Association and a practitioner with the Lessac Training and Research Institute. Nichole is the recipient of the 2020 Patricia Christmore Faculty Teaching Award.

Lisa Hermanson is originally from Seattle, Washington. She holds her MFA in Theatre Pedagogy/Performance from Virginia Commonwealth University, where she was also adjunct faculty in Theatre and Speech, and her BA in Theatre and Music from Seattle Pacific University. Lisa is a music director, director, pianist, vocalist, and composer/playwright. She has worked in theatres in both the Seattle and Richmond areas, including Virginia Repertory Theatre (Richmond, VA) and the 5th Avenue Theatre (Seattle, WA), as well as multiple years in theatre education in Seattle. Favorite music credits include Into The Woods (TheatreVCU), Spitfire Grill (Northwest University), The Little Mermaid (Broadway Bound Children's Theatre), several years with Covenant Kids (Shoreline Covenant Church), and work on the revival of Paint Your Wagon (5th Avenue Theatre). Favorite directing credits include Little Shop of Horrors (TheatreVCU), 12 Angry Jurors (Meadowdale High School), The Good Doctor (Seattle Pacific University), and Robin Hood (Shoreline Christian School). In addition to working with published and classic pieces, Lisa also focuses on new work. Her current project is a musical on the question of immigration, the first draft of which was developed and workshopped in Richmond, VA as a culmination of her graduate work.

Wil Kilroy joined NMSU after many years in Maine where he was Chair and Professor of Theatre at the University of Southern Maine. At USM he directed dozens of plays and musicals including *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Laramie Project* which were invited to Kennedy Center regional festivals. Wil has worked nationally as an actor, with roles ranging from Steve in *Becky's New Car* to Laertes in *Hamlet*, and on TV productions such as *All My Children* and *Babylon Five*, and is an annual alumni guest artist with The State Ballet of Rhode Island. As the cofounder of the National Michael Chekhov Association, Wil has taught nationally and internationally. Wil was awarded the Kennedy Center bronze medallion for achievement in Theatre Education in 2014.

RESIDENT COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

James Jaworski comes from Buffalo, NY. Jim is a regionally-recognized artist and bowl maker and spends his "free time" making bowls and finding lumber.

Larissa Lury is an associate professor, director, deviser, and a former acrobat. She loves artwork and experiences that open her to new ways of looking at the world around her, and strives to create those experiences for others. She's directed and workshopped plays for companies including: The Assembly, Cherry Lane (Mentor Project), The Playwrights' Center, Urbanite, Dorset Theatre Festival, Portland Center Stage, Southern Rep, San Diego Rep, InterAct, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Clubbed Thumb, New Georges, Ma-Yi, New Jersey Rep, Keen Company's Keen Teens, McCarter Theatre's Youth Ink!, Curious Theatre Company, American Southwest Theatre Company, Lake Dillon, Passage Theatre, Abingdon/Small Pond, Leviathan Lab, and Prospect Theatre. She was recently awarded a Next Stage Residency with The Drama League in NYC. She was a member of the inaugural group of National Directing Fellows, an LMCC Process Space Resident, a Resident Director at Ensemble Studio Theatre, and a chashama AREA Award recipient. She is a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, and a New Georges Affiliate Artist. She received a BS from Northwestern University and an MFA from UC San Diego.

Jim Wilkinson is a graduate of Oñate high school in Las Cruces New Mexico where he studied technical theater. He continued his education at Full Sail University in Orlando Florida where he received an associates of science in show production and touring. He returned to New Mexico to become the head of the audio department at the Spencer Theater in Alto, NM. He travelled the U.S. and Canada on tours of Broadway shows including; Oklahoma, Big River, My Fair Lady and Movin' Out. In 2007 he moved to New York City and worked as a sound operator and mixer on many Broadway productions including Hair, Spamalot, Porgy And Bess, A Christmas Story, Spiderman: Turn Off the Dark, and If/Then. Jim is thrilled to be back living in the southwest and to be part of the NMSU Theatre Department. He would like to thank his wife, Jackie for her continued support.

Michael Wise received his B.A. in Theatre from UC Santa Barbara and has been working professionally in theatre for over three decades. He has worked for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Bathhouse Theatre Company, A Contemporary Theatre in Seattle, Intiman Theatre, The Empty Space Theatre, The Seattle Group Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Mt. Hood Repertory Theater, The Player's Guild in Canton, Ohio, New City Theater, Fargo Interarts Ballet, Southern California Conservatory Theater, and Seattle Childrens Theatre.

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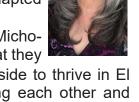
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Rorie and Edward Measure
Ruth Mudge
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From the ASTC Board President

We are so excited to be able to continue to bring you live theatre and the second half of the American Southwest Theatre Company/NMSU Theatre season with Mojada: A Medea In Los Angeles. This play by Luis Alfaro and directed by Larissa Lury is a border land story adapted from the ancient Greek drama.

Medea and her family survived the journey from Michoacán to California. Now, as the family decides what they



need to hold onto and what they need to cast aside to thrive in El Norte, they may prosper, or they may risk losing each other and themselves. When faced with impossible choices, what should a mother decide?

The American Southwest Theatre Company is working with Mesilla Valley Estate Sales to put together an online auction. We are looking for donated auction items such as jewelry, art, pottery, small furniture or gift certificates for goods or services. Do you have an amazing item you would like to donate to be auctioned off? Please email me at astcnmsu@gmail.com to arrange the pickup of your donation. We are hoping to go live in March 2022 so keep an eye on our website, Facebook, Instagram, or twitter for updates.

Mark your calendars for two High Desert Play Development readings. March 4th at 7:30pm *Deal Me Out* by MJ Halberstadt, directed by Nicole Hamilton. March 5th at 7:30pm an Evening of Excerpts by Local Playwrights, Directed by Larissa Lury. A donation of \$5.00 is suggested at the door, for season ticket holders this is included. Both will be in the theatre. Please go to our web site for more info mation on these performances https://theatre.nmsu.edu

Do not miss our *Broadway on Stage* extravaganza! This annual fund raiser will have two performances: April 29th at 7:30pm and April 30th a matinée performance at 2:00pm. Tickets are part of your season tickets or purchase tickets for \$25.00. These performances include both NMSU performers and talented community

members of all ages!

Please consider supporting the mission of ASTC by donating or joining our dedicated board! Help us continue to support NMSU theatre and our students. Contact me via email dwelsh@nmsu.edu or Wil Kilroy - wkilroy@nmsu.edu with any questions.

Denise Welsh, President ASTC Board of Trustees

ASTC Board of Directors

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

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

AdditionalsupportisprovidedbyTheHonorableStuartBernsteinand Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

ThisproductionisenteredintheKennedyCenterAmericanCollege Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater educationprogramaretoidentifyandpromotequalityincollege-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 criticsatboththeregionalandnationallevels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitationtotheKCACTFregionalfestivalandmayalsobeconsidered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production design, directionandperformance.

Lastyearmorethan1,500productionswereenteredintheKCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production,ourtheaterdepartmentissharingintheKCACTF goalsto recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in collegeanduniversitytheatersacrossthenation.

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Kurtis Donisthorpe, Esq.

For immediate service call:575-619-0081

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