

The American Southwest Theatre Company
& NMSU Department of Theatre Arts present

that drive thru monterey

a play by matthew paul olmos

directed by eva cullen



february 21 - march 2
with a special preview performance on february 20
www.theatre.nmsu.edu

All performances by the American Southwest Theatre Company are at the
ASNMSU Center for the Arts, located at 1000 E. University Ave. in Espino.
Free parking is available for all performances.

tickets



Director
Scenic Designer
Costume Designer
Hair and Makeup Designer
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Properties Designer
Stage Manager

EVA CULLEN
DANIEL AGUILERA
DR. HEATHER STRIEBEL
JJ HANLEY
AARON KROHN
JIM WILKINSON
DIANA DÁVILA
DIEGO LARA

**Originally written and developed through The Lark's Winter Writers Retreat, developed, in part, through
Ojai Playwrights Conference Foundry Project.**

That Drive Thru Monterey is presented by special arrangement with United Talent Agency.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD AND MANAGING DIRECTOR



Welcome to our opening production of the spring term - we are so glad to have you with us.

This show is especially exciting as it has been directed by a senior student, Eva Cullen, and many students are filling other roles as part of the creative team. This allows you to truly witness our program's training and how much our students accomplish. Kudos to all of these students, and if you see them about, they'd love to hear your responses.

I hope you'll join us for our upcoming fundraiser sponsored by our all volunteer and highly valued board of the American Southwest Theatre Company. It's called "Boots and Bling" at the Farm and Ranch Museum on March 22nd, with dinner, line dance lessons, freestyle dance with a DJ, cash bar, and a silent auction - much fun to be had. You can book tickets with Onthestage, our usual ticket outlet, or get a check to the theatre department.

Next up I have the honor of directing the musical, *The Prom*. Filled with song, dance and a beautiful message of acceptance, it's sure to lift your hearts - so book your tickets - opening April 11th.

Thank you for supporting live theatre!

Land Acknowledgement Statement

New Mexico State University honors Native American knowledges and worldviews based on intimate relationships to the natural world. The genesis of the Southwest Indigenous Peoples, including the Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache, established their guardianship of the lands now occupied by New Mexico State University. As the state's Land-Grant University, we acknowledge and respect the sovereign Indian Nations and Indigenous Peoples. We pledge to have a meaningful and respectful relationship with the sovereign Indian Nations, Indigenous communities, and Native American Peoples within the institution.

The play is approximately 2-½ hours long with a 15 minute intermission

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

The video or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited.

Thank you for your consideration.

THE CAST

DANIELA GALLOSO.....Monterey
MIGUEL MARTINEZ.....Maximilliano
ATHENA MCPEAKE.....Lydia
OKALANI VENTURA.....Lupe
ERICK GRANILLO.....Lazaro
CHRYS TRUJILLO.....Monterey Understudy
ADAN HERNANDEZ.....Maximilliano/Lazaro Understudy

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"This life ain't ever in our hands. No for no women, not for no Mexicans."

As me and the cast began to explore this play more and more in the rehearsal room, I began to understand why Lupe says this in the first act. Our world and the systems within our world were not built for us. In 1971, Monterey is fighting on all fronts to make a future for herself and is met with obstacle after obstacle in a country that is trying to push her away. Flash forward to this year in 2025, and Lupe's words still ring true.

I hope as you watch this show, whether you identify as Mexican American, Chicano, Latino, Black, White, Native, and so on, that you can leave this show with a greater empathy for your neighbors around you. This can be a very scary time for many of the members of our community here in the borderlands, and it is most important right now that we take care of each other. However, it is equally as important to let ourselves feel joy. Joy in our cultures, joy in our relationships, and to find joy in our futures and what they could be.

that drive thru monterey has captured my heart and has changed the way I look at myself, and the world around me. As a Chicana woman, finding my identity through this show and through my exploration of Chicano theatre, I have learned so much about myself and about this beautiful community and culture that I have neglected for so many years. From practicing Spanish during rehearsals, dancing together with the cast, to having tough conversations about our cultures and assimilation as Mexican Americans; I have learned of the importance of shows like this in our borderland community and will be forever changed after this show.

Thank you to everyone who has helped me make this show possible and to everyone involved for trusting me to lead you in this project. I will forever be grateful for this opportunity.

Con cariño,
Eva Cullen

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



DANIELA GALLOSO (Monterey) is a first-year Theatre Arts major here at NMSU. She has previously worked on *Dracula: A Comedy of Errors*, *Hung! A New Western Comedy*, and *Mother Courage and her Children* as part of the stage management team and backstage crew; but she is excited to make her acting debut as Monterey! She is honored to be able to bring Monterey to life, as well as celebrate her own culture through this show.



ERICK GRANILLO (Lazaro) is a passionate theater major from Deming, NM, with a deep love for acting and performance. Currently pursuing a career in the arts, Erick has worked on various theater productions at New Mexico State University and has also had the opportunity to appear in films. His dedication to the craft is driven by a desire to bring characters to life and connect with audiences through the power of storytelling. When not performing, Erick is constantly refining his skills and looking for new opportunities to grow as an actor. He is eager to pursue his dreams in the world of theater and film.



ADAN HERNANDEZ (Maximilliano/Lazaro Understudy) is a senior at New Mexico State University, pursuing a bachelor's degree in Theater Arts. He is thrilled to be part of *That Drive Thru Monterey* and grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with such a talented cast and crew. Adan would like to express his heartfelt appreciation to his wife and daughter for their unwavering support throughout this journey. He hopes you enjoy the show!



MIGUEL MARTINEZ (Maximilliano) is a Junior Transfer Student from AZ. He is in his 2nd Semester with NMSU and this is his 2nd production with the school. He is really excited to share with you all the hard work that has been put in by himself as well as the cast and crew!



ATHENA MCPEAKE (Lydia) is a senior theatre major at NMSU, acting for her final time before graduating. You may have seen her recently as Mother Courage in *Mother Courage and Her Children*, or last year as Celia in *As You Like It*. She is so incredibly proud to be a part of this production, and hopes you enjoy the show as much as she does.



CHRYS TRUJILLO (Monterey Understudy) though a 2D Animation major, Chrys has always admired and had a passion for theatre and acting, as well as the technical aspects involved in productions. In high school, she performed in *Nevermore!* and *Legally Blonde The Musical*, as well as serving as a light board operator for the school's UIL play *Small Actors*, and constructing set pieces for multiple shows. She is grateful for the learning experience that comes from being an understudy, and thanks her family, friends, and cast for the support they have given her through the show's production!



OKALANI VENTURA (Lupe) is a Junior at NMSU majoring in Theater. She is currently an actor and Stage Manager in the department. Her past credits include *Penny (Hairspray)*, *Peter (Peter & Wendy)*, *Lucy (Dracula: A Comedy of Terror)*. She would like to express her gratitude to her family for their support. She also encourages all individuals to overlook any troubles or perturbations during this time and enjoy the beauty of theater :)

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director	Diana Dávila
Assistant Technical Director	Sydney Lopez
Theatre Manager	Jim Wilkinson
Production Stage Manager	Bobbi Masters
Assistant Stage Manager	Siobhan Pyper
Intimacy Coordinator	Bobbi Masters
Spanish Pronunciation Consultant	Aslan Chavez
Vocal Production Coach	Nichole Hamilton
Scene Shop Assistant	Daniel Aguilera
Properties Designer	Diana Dávila
Paint Charge	Aaron Krohn
Technical Production Assistant	Dameon Vasquez
Scene Shop Work-study	Eva Cullen, Sydney Lopez, and Miguel Martinez
Costume Shop Manager	Tamara M. Carruthers
Hair and Makeup Designer	JJ Hanley
Costume Shop Assistants	Angelique Reagan and Dameon Vasquez
Master Electrician	Jim Wilkinson
Lighting Electricians	THTR 347 students
Light Board Operator	Katie Mayers
Sound Board Operator	Delaney Sivils
Crew Chief	Wyborne Blanco

Stage Crew	Emily Glover, Silas Lohse, and Camren Vugteveen
Set Construction	THTR 141L & THTR 346 students
Costume Construction	THEA 1310L & THEA 345 students
Wardrobe Supervisor	Angelique Reagan
House Manager	Indira Rucker
House Crew	Grace Mellen and Natalia Sierra
Box Office Managers	Lenora Lare, Katie Mayers, and Dameon Vasquez

STUDENT PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

Eva Cullen (Director) is a Theatre Arts senior set to graduate this May. Having found a love for directing during her time in community theatre, she has now directed with three different theatre companies and is glad to be making her NMSU directorial debut at the Center for the Arts. Working as a work study in the scene shop, being a student in costume practicum, and also directing the show; she has grown very attached to this project and is so excited to share it with the Las Cruces community. She thanks the cast for being so trusting of her and helping her create this world. She wants to give a special shoutout to her stage manager Diego for being amazing and perfect and always being her biggest hype man.

DIEGO LARA (Stage Manager) is a third-year student at NMSU pursuing a degree in Computer Science and recently a minor in Theatre Arts. You may have recently seen him as Swiss Cheese in Mother Courage and her Children or as an Ancestor in The Addams' Family here at NMSU. He's super excited and honored to be stage managing his first show. He wants to thank his friends, family, and his mentor, Bobbi, for their unconditional support.

SIOBHAN PYPER (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman at NMSU who has been involved in theatre for years. This is her first time assistant stage managing and she's grateful for the opportunity to work with this amazing team of cast and crew.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

Héctor Madrid

RESIDENT COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

Tamara M. Carruthers received a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts (with an emphasis in Costume Design) from New Mexico State University. She managed NMSU's Costume Shop for three semesters directly after graduation then joined Wayside Theatre (Middletown, VA) and spent ten years as their Resident Costume Designer and Costume Shop Manager. She has also been a

Costume Designer, Costume Shop Manager, and Draper/First Hand at Creede Repertory Theatre (Creede, CO). She has been the Costume Shop Manager and an Instructor at NMSU since 2017 and is the proud recipient of the Fall 2021 “A” *Mountain Staff Award* and the Spring 2022 *College of Arts and Sciences Exempt Staff Development Award*.

Diana Dávila (she/ella) was born in Juarez, Mexico and moved to El Paso, TX when she was very young. She graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Tech/Design with an emphasis in Scene Design from the University of Texas at El Paso, where she worked as a Visiting Assistant Professor from 2021-2022. She has worked in theater professionally across multiple states, most recently as an Assistant Technical Director for the California Shakespeare Theater in Orinda. Throughout her work in New York, Colorado, and California, Diana has worked with many excellent designers and directors, and enjoys the collaboration magic that always shines through at the end of putting together a production. She enjoys the challenge of coming up with solutions for a difficult technical aspect of a production, and prides herself on always advocating for the laborers of the shops where she's worked to ensure their safe and healthy work environments. When she isn't working, Diana likes to go hiking and exploring different outdoor trails, usually bringing along her best trippawd friend, Camila. She'd like to thank her parents and community of friends and loved ones for supporting her through all the funky adventures she's gone on through the last few years; there'll always be more, and she'll always be grateful to have their love and support through all of them.

Nichole Hamilton is an Associate Professor of Theatre Arts at NMSU and teaches performance-based courses. Her directing credits here have included *It's a Wonderful Life a Radio Play*, *Inspecting Carol*, *The Wolves*, *Tracer (a pandemic interactive virtual whodunnit)*, *Fefu and her Friends*, *Big Frog*, and staged readings for the High Desert New Play Development. Regional directing credits include productions at City Lights Theatre Company, Dragon Productions, Renegade Theatre Experiment, Bus Barn Theatre, and Mission City Opera in the Bay area of California and the American Thymele Company in New York. Nichole is also a professional actor and has been a proud member of the Actors' Equity Association since 2010. She is a member of the Hippodrome Theatre Acting Company in Gainesville, Florida, a certified teacher with the Lessac Training and Research Institute and National Michael Chekhov Association, and the recipient of the 2020 NMSU Patricia Christmore Teaching Award. VOTE.org.

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 co-founder 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. Wil is currently under contract with Routledge Press for his upcoming book, "Improvisation the Michael Chekhov Way: Active Exercises for Acting".

Aaron Krohn joined NMSU's Theatre Department in 2023 as an Assistant Professor of Design and as the resident lighting and scenic designer for the University's theatre productions. He came to NMSU from Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina where he served as an Assistant Professor of Lighting and Scenic Design as well as the Technical Director. Aaron earned his MFA in Lighting Design from The University of Houston and received his BA in Theatre with a minor in Art and Art History from Trinity University in San Antonio. Before returning to school for his graduate degree he served as the Production Manager and Acting Technical Director for Ballet San Antonio. Prior to his time with the ballet, he worked at Mega Systems Inc. developing and building lighting control consoles aimed at megachurches and nightclubs. He regularly works as a guest designer and technical director in both theatre and dance.

Larissa Lury is an Associate Professor at NMSU (where she's taught since 2013), as well as a director, deviser, and 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 around the country, including: Nashville Rep, American Shakespeare Center, San Diego Rep, 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. Larissa was a member of the inaugural group of National Directing Fellows, received a *Next Stage* Residency through The Drama League, an Audrey Residency through New

Georges, was an LMCC *Process Space* Resident, a Resident Director at Ensemble Studio Theatre, and a chashama AREA Award recipient. She was a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, and is a New Georges Affiliate Artist, and a member of the National Alliance of Acting Teachers. She received a BS from Northwestern University and an MFA from UC San Diego. She works to cultivate practices, processes and structures for our field that are as innovative, equitable, inspiring, productively malleable, supportive and humane as an industry built on creativity warrants (so if you've got ideas and want to talk about how to do that better, please reach out!). larissalury.com

Bobbi Masters (she/hers) is so happy to return to Las Cruces. Since directing THE BALD SOPRANO at No Strings Theatre Company, she has earned her MFA at Southern Illinois University and serves as the Artistic Director at Stage Left Theatre in Chicago. She directed the online streaming production of Crystal Skillman's OPEN and created the monthly new play reading series, Off-Stage Left. Her passion is new plays and throughout her career, she has worked in various roles in the development of countless new works. As a director, her work has been seen regionally at theatres such as Kitchen Dog Theatre (where she served as an artistic associate) to Off-Off Broadway at Theatre for the New City. She previously served as Resident Director at Coffee Black Productions and an Artistic Associate at Milk Can Theatre. For more information, please visit her website www.bobbimasters.com

Dr. Heather Striebel is an Assistant Professor of Costume Design/Resident Costume Designer at New Mexico State University. She is a freelance costume and fashion designer who earned her Ph.D. in Apparel Design and M.F.A. in Technical Theatre, Costume Design from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. She is a two-time recipient of the Mary Mitchell Fashion Design Award (2020-2021) with one garment selected by the Costume Society of America for presentation at the 2021 National Symposium. Other awards include: ariZoni (Zoni) Award for Best Costume Design for *The Little Mermaid* (Theater Works, 2019) and the Arizona Theater Teacher of the Year Award (2013). Select Design Credits: Fashion - Omaha Fashion Week (2018 - 2020), Miss USA Pageant 2022 – *Lady Liberty* Costume for Miss Nebraska 2022, Film - *The Bell Affair & The Michael Shiner Diaries* (Salt Marsh Productions), Stage – *Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors*, *As You Like It*, *The Addams Family*, *Carmela Full of Wishes* (NMSU), *Something Rotten!* (Theater Works), *Spamalot*, *Escape to Margaritaville*, *Dirty-Rotten- Scoundrels*, *A Christmas Carol* (Arizona Broadway Theatre), *Violet* (Glenn Korff School of Music), *Mother Courage* (Nebraska Rep), *The Serpent* (Nebraska Rep), *This Random World* (U.N.L.). To learn more about Dr. Striebel's work please visit: www.hscostumedesigns.com

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. 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

FROM THE ASTC BOARD PRESIDENT



Welcome back to the second half of the 2024-25 season! First I want to thank all who attended and supported the ASTC fundraising event "Showtime" on December 6th 2024. The event was amazing, fun, and successful.

Eva Cullen, director of *that drive thru monterey* describes this production: "that drive thru monterey at its core explores what it's like to move through grief. Monterey already as a Mexican American woman in America has to push through obstacles and systems that were put in place to keep her down." She also states "this show has a production team and cast full of students and many are Mexican-American."

ASTC wants to acknowledge *that drive thru monterey* playwright Matthew Paul Olmos, was part of the 2018 High Desert Play Development Workshop with *Three Girls Never Learnt the Way Home*.

Please mark your calendar for the American Southwest Theatre Companys next fundraiser "Boots & Bling" Saturday, March 22, 2025 at the Farm and Ranch Museum. \$65 per person, dinner, DJ, dancing, cash bar, and an amazing silent auction!

ASTCs fund raising activities are vital to maintaining the breadth of the NMSU theatre program. ASTC supports and helps fund guest artists to work side by side with our students, provide funds for the High Desert Play Development Workshop, the Summer Theatre Camp, travel and emergency funds for theatre students and out-reach programs with schools and community. Consider joining the ASTC Board and/or making a financial donation to support our *efforts*.

The musical *The Prom* will be the final play of the season, performances are April 10,11,12, 25 and 26th. Join me opening night, Friday April 11th for a reception after the play.

Thank you again for supporting NMSU Theatre just by being here!

Please feel free to contact me

American Southwest Theatre Company

dwelsh@nmsu.edu or call me 575-642-2980

<https://theatre.nmsu.edu>

Denise Welsh

ASTC Board President

ASTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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THEATRE ARTS FACULTY / STAFF**

Wil Kilroy	Professor/Department Head/Managing Director
Daniel Aguilera	Scene Shop Assistant
Tamara M. Carruthers	Costume Shop Manager
Diana Dávila	Technical Director
Nichole Hamilton	Assistant Professor
Lisa Hermanson	Assistant Professor
Aaron Krohn	Assistant Professor
Larissa Lury	Associate Professor
Bobbi Masters	Production Stage Manager/Associate Professor
Dr. Heather Striebel	Costume Designer/Professor
Jim Wilkinson	Theater Manager/Sound Designer

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Theatre Arts Endowed Scholarship
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Department of Theatre Arts Scholarship

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Kate Conrad	Grace Mellen
Ana Cotton	Eliza Phillips
Jackson Giffing	Angelique Reagan
Emily Glover	Timothy Roulscup
Edward Leyva	Indira Rucker
Athena McPeake	Delaney Sivils

OUR 2023-2024 SEASON

DRACULA, A COMEDY OF TERRORS by Gordon Greenberg and Steve Rosen
Directed by Nichole Hamilton
September 27-October 6

MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN by Bertolt Brecht, translated by David Hare
"Mother Courage" composed by Jonathan Dove
Directed by Larissa Lury
November 8- 17

THAT DRIVE THRU MONTEREY by Matthew Paul Olmos
Directed by Eva Cullen
February 21-March 2

THE PROM books and lyrics by Chad Begullin, book by Bob Morton, music by Matthew Sklar
Directed by Wil Kilroy
April 11- 27

**Purchase your tickets by visiting theatre.nmsu.edu
or by calling our box office at 575-646-4515!**



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.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and 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.

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.