

# Sanctuary City

BY MARTYNA MAJOK

DIRECTED BY LARISSA LURY

October 2 - 12

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

SANCTUARY CITY is presented through special arrangement with TRW PLAYS 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036.



Tickets ↘



## NOTE FROM DEPARTMENT HEAD WIL KILROY:



Welcome to the first show of the American Southwest Theatre Company's NMSU production of *Sanctuary City*. If you sought out season tickets, you may have realized we had a delay. We had originally sought the rights to perform the musical, *Chicago*, but were denied those rights due to a tour of that show coming to the region. However, we scrambled and discovered another favorite for many was the musical, *Into the Woods*, which will now be featured this spring. We appreciate your understanding and your continued patronage. With this show you may notice familiar faces and new faces onstage, bringing this poignant and rather timely situation to life. I hope that the show will inspire conversation, and lead to us all understanding each other and our world just a bit better. As always, feel free to reach out with any feedback to [wkilroy@nmsu.edu](mailto:wkilroy@nmsu.edu). Happy Autumn!

## 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.

SANCTUARY CITY

by Martyna Majok

SANCTUARY CITY had its World Premiere at New York Theatre Workshop,

Jim Nicola, Artistic Director, Jeremy Blocker, Managing Director, 2020

SANCTUARY CITY was developed, in part, at the 2018 Sundance Institute Theatre Lab

**Content Advisory:** SANCTUARY CITY contains adult language, themes, and flashing lights.

## **A note from the director...**

At a key moment in the play, Martyna Majok uses a stage direction that says, “A light goes off” and then “A light goes on.” This might not seem significant in theater where lights are going on and off all the time, but it’s the wording – the singular light – that makes it special. In theater, we usually say “lights out” or “blackout” or, in some plays, “white out.” That stage direction of a singular light going off and coming on got me thinking about what it means for a light to be on or off:

Leaving and returning.

The sense of possibility or hope dying or appearing.

Endings and beginnings.

And maybe most of all in this play, a light that someone has left on for you... meaning you have the freedom to travel away, and a place to come home to.

I don’t know if it’s possible, when so many people’s lives and everything they have worked for are uprooted every day, when instability is the norm, when there are so many forces at work that seem to undercut the human right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, when the echoes from the play’s post-9/11 era seem to get stronger instead of fading...

but the play makes me ask: Are there still ways amidst all of this that we can be each other’s sanctuary? What might it take for us to really create cities and counties, and states, and countries, and globes of sanctuary? How do we keep the light on?

The experience of working with this generous, brilliant, caring and dedicated group of students on a play I am grateful to get the chance to share with you has been a light for me.

Thank you for taking the time to be a part of this.

The play is approximately 105 minutes without an 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.

## CAST

G.....EMILY SIERRA GLOVER  
B.....EDWARD LEYVA  
Henry.....JARED LONG  
G Understudy.....HYACINTH FAYE PANGANIBAN

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....LARISSA LURY  
Scenic and Lighting Designer.....AARON KROHN  
Costume Designer.....DR. HEATHER STRIEBEL  
Production Audio.....JIM WILKINSON  
Technical Director.....DANIEL AGUILERA  
Vocal Coach.....NICHOLE HAMILTON  
Stage Manager.....DANIELA GALLOSO  
Consultants.....DR. JUDITH FLORES CARMONA and KATIA DENISSE MCEVOY-HOLGUIN  
Assistant Director.....SIOBHAN PYPER  
Assistant Stage Manager.....VERONIKA LAZOS

## GUEST ARTISTS

**Katia Denisse McEvoy-Holguin** (Consultant) is an immigrant woman from Mexico who has lived in the U.S. since she was 15. Her experience as a former undocumented immigrant has shaped her approach to life and inspired her pursuit of a career in mental health. She is currently a fourth-year PhD student in Counseling Psychology at New Mexico State University, where her research and practice focus on immigration, borderlands, and the impacts of coloniality on

mental health and well-being. Outside of her academic and professional work, Katia loves cozy moments at home with her loved ones and cats, as well as exploring local coffee shops to find inspiration for her writing.

**Dr. Judith Flores Carmona** (Consultant) is Professor in the Honors College and in the College of Health, Education and Social Transformation at New Mexico State University (NMSU). Dr. Flores Carmona is the daughter of Josefina and Vicente (QEPD/RIP). She was born in Veracruz, Mexico, raised in South Los Angeles and is a first-generation college student and scholar. Her academic and community work is guided by a sense of responsibility and commitment to social justice. Her research interests include critical pedagogy, critical race feminism, critical multicultural education, and testimonio methodology and pedagogy. Her work has appeared in *Equity and Excellence in Education*, *Qualitative Inquiry*, in the *Journal of Women and Gender in Higher Education*, and in *Chicana/Latina Studies: The Journal of Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social*, among others.

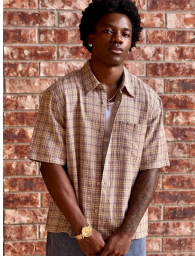
## CAST BIOGRAPHIES



**Emily Sierra Glover** (G) is a senior Theatre Major at NMSU, and is beyond grateful to be involved in *Sanctuary City*. She transferred to NMSU last year after spending her first two years studying theatre in New York, where she became a proud member of NYC choral group SAVA Singers. She is thrilled to be back in her home state as she closes this chapter of her life. Lastly, Emily would like to thank her mom for her unwavering support. She would never have found the courage to pursue theatre without her.



**Edward Leyva** (B) is in his second year of majoring in Musical Theatre at NMSU. He's done a total of 5 musicals and 3 straight plays right after high school. Edward is excited to put on a show with this amazing cast and to show the work with the help of the amazing team that made it a great process. This show has challenged him in so many ways that really helps prove his motivation to the stage. Edward plans to take his career all the way to Broadway.



**Jared Long** (Henry) is an artist who expresses himself through music, gaming, and theatre. He creates art to share his life experiences, inviting others to see the world through his perspective. Inspired by family, friends, and the people he's met along the way, Jared's work reflects themes of love, struggle, and growth. Whether writing songs, performing on stage, or spending time with loved ones, he is always searching for connection and meaning. Theatre has given him the chance to merge his passions and bring his truth to life, and he is grateful to share that with audiences.



**Hyacinth Faye Panganiban** (G Understudy) is currently a sophomore at NMSU. Sanctuary City will be her first play that she gets to work on at NMSU and she is quite excited. She loved getting to observe and learn from the amazing people around her in this new environment. The passion, determination, and craft that everyone has poured into this play is something she will carry with her for the rest of her life. She hopes the audience can enjoy and learn as much as she did. She would like to thank her family and everyone involved for supporting and believing in her.

## STUDENT PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

**Daniela Galloso** (Stage Manager) is a Junior Theatre major and Computer Systems minor here at NMSU. This is her first time stage managing for NMSU's mainstage, though you may recognize her as Monterey from *that drive-thru Monterey*, performed last spring. She would like to thank Bobbi and Larissa for trusting her with this show and letting her help in telling this story!

**Veronika Lazos** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore here at NMSU, majoring in Theatre Arts. You may have seen her in NMSU's production of *The Prom* this past spring. She's so excited to be back, kicking this semester off with such a great play! Sanctuary City is the first show she's ever assistant stage managed. So, although this is very new for her, she's excited for people to see all the hard work that everyone put into the show. She hopes you enjoy the play as much as she enjoyed the experience!

**Siobhan Pyper** (Assistant Director) is a sophomore Theatre Major at NMSU, who has dreams of being involved in theatre professionally. She has always looked up to Larissa as a professor, and is honored to have the opportunity to assistant direct under Larissa's guidance. She feels this is

an incredible cast who brings this impactful story to life. She hopes this production will be as meaningful to you all as it has been—and always will be—to her and everyone involved. Enjoy the show!

## **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Technical Director	<b>Daniel Aguilera</b>
Theatre Manager	<b>Jim Wilkinson</b>
Intimacy Coordinator	<b>Bobbi Masters</b>
Scene Shop Work-study	<b>Daniela Galloso, Sydney Lopez, and Anderson Weese</b>
Costume Shop Manager	<b>Tamara M. Carruthers</b>
Master Electrician	<b>Jim Wilkinson</b>
Lighting Electricians	<b>THTR 347 students</b>
Lighting Work-Study	<b>Charles Gardner and Katie Mayers</b>
Light Board Operator	<b>Delaney Dwyer</b>
Sound Board Operator	<b>Sydney Lopez</b>
Crew Chief	<b>Angelique Reagan</b>
Fly Rail Operator	<b>Aslan Longario</b>
Stage Crew	<b>Karlten Friedrich, Alex Smith, and Abby Watkins</b>
Set Construction	<b>THTR 141L &amp; THTR 346 students</b>
Set/Paint Work-Study	<b>Emily Glover</b>
Costume Shop Assistant	<b>Angelique Reagan</b>
Costume Construction	<b>THEA 1310L &amp; THEA 345 students</b>
Costume Crew	<b>Erick Granillo</b>
House Manager	<b>Xena Chavez</b>
House Crew	<b>Greta Greenblatt, Elianna Lopez-Sanchez, and Rachel Maze</b>
Box Office Managers	<b>Sarah Guerrero</b>
Marketing Assistants	<b>Siobhan Pyper and Alex Smith</b>

### ***SPECIAL THANK YOU TO***

Shawn Lecrone and Héctor Madrid

## RESIDENT COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

**Daniel Aguilera** is an alumnus of NMSU with a wide range of skills and experiences that serve the position of Technical Director well. He grew up working as a carpenter in the city of Los Angeles where he did residential and commercial work and continued on and off for almost 30 years. Other work includes graphic design, exhibit design and fabrication, and filmmaking. As a resident of Las Cruces for over 20 years Daniel has worked in public education in LCPS, as exhibit fabricator, and an independent contractor.

**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*.

**Nichole Hamilton** is an Associate Professor of Theatre Arts, teaching classes in Vocal Production and Acting. Her directing credits at NMSU include *It's a Wonderful Life a Radio Play*, *Inspecting Carol*, *The Wolves*, *Tracer (a pandemic interactive virtual whodunnit)*, *Fefu and her Friends*, *Big Frog*, *Dracula A Comedy of Terrors*, and staged readings for the High Desert New Play Development. Nichole has been an actor and proud member of Actors Equity Association for 15 years. She has professionally acted and directed for companies in New York, Massachusetts, California, Florida, and Tennessee as well as performed her solo show, *Dame Dada* for Minnesota Fringe, Denver Fringe, and various festivals in Nevada, Washington, Tennessee, Kansas, and Texas. Nichole is a certified teacher with the National Michael Chekhov Association and the Lessac Training and Research Institute and the recipient of the NMSU 2020 Patricia Christmore Faculty Teaching Award. [nichole-hamilton.com](http://nichole-hamilton.com)

**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 director, music director, pianist, vocalist, and composer/playwright. She has worked in theatres across the country, including Virginia Repertory Theatre (Richmond, VA) and the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theatre (Seattle, WA), as well as multiple years in theatre education in Seattle. Favorite music credits include *Into The Woods* (Theatre VCU), *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* (5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theatre). Favorite directing credits include *Little Shop of Horrors* (Theatre VCU), *12 Angry Jurors* (Meadowdale High School), *The Good Doctor* (Seattle Pacific University), and *Robin Hood* (Shoreline Christian School). Local work includes music direction of *Matilda* and *The Sound Of Music* (LCCT), *Godspell* and *The 25<sup>th</sup>...Spelling Bee* (NMSU/ASTC), and many others. In addition to working with published pieces, Lisa also focuses on new work. Her current project is a musical on the question of immigration, *The Golden Door*, the first act of which was last seen at NMSU in the February 2024 High Desert Play Festival.

**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. [aaronkrohn.com](http://aaronkrohn.com)

**Larissa Lury** is an associate professor at NMSU (where she's taught since 2013), as well as a director, a deviser, and a former acrobat. In the face of an increasing number of people denouncing empathy as a weakness, she works to kindle it as one of our greatest strengths. She seeks artwork and experiences that open her to new ways of looking at the world, and strives to create those experiences for others. She's directed and workshopped plays for companies around the country, including: Central Square, Upstream, San Diego Rep, Nashville Rep,

American Shakespeare Center, The Assembly, Cherry Lane, The Playwrights' Center, Urbanite, Portland Center Stage, Southern Rep, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Clubbed Thumb, New Georges, Ma-Yi, The Playwrights Realm, New Jersey Rep, Keen Company's Keen Teens, McCarter Theatre's Youth Ink!, and Curious. She's grateful for the support she's received for her work, including: a National Directing Fellowship, The Drama League's *Next Stage* Residency, a New Georges *Audrey Residency*, an LMCC *Process Space* Residency, and as Resident Director at Ensemble Studio Theatre. She was a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, and is an Affiliate Artist with New Georges. BS, Northwestern University; MFA, UC San Diego.

**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](http://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](http://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



The American Southwest Theatre Company (ASTC) thanks you for attending *Sanctuary City*, the first play of the 2025-2026 season. We hope you will consider season tickets to secure your seats for *A Christmas Carol*, the *High Desert Play Festival*, and the season closer *Into the Woods*.

*Sanctuary City* was written by Pulitzer Prize winner playwright, Martyna Major.

This play is about 2 undocumented teenagers, who were brought to America as children. The play explores friendship and sacrifices as they navigate life.

ASTC is a nonprofit which supports the NMSU Theatre Arts Department and Theatre Students. Monies are raised through direct donations and a variety of fund-raising events. Please mark your calendars for our next fund raiser *It's Showtime* on Saturday October 18th at 7pm at the NMSU Center for Arts Theatre. Funds are used to bring in guest artists such as directors, choreographers, set designers and musicians to work side by side with our students. ASTC also provides theatre students travel funds so they can attend workshops and competitions and emergency funds for things like textbooks.

Please consider becoming a Center Stage Society member, donate \$500.00 and receive two season tickets, you will be recognized in the curtain speech before each performance.

Contact me, Denise Welsh, ASTC President: [dwelsh@nmsu.edu](mailto:dwelsh@nmsu.edu) 575-642-2980 or Wil Kilroy [wkilry@nmsu.edu](mailto:wkilry@nmsu.edu) 575-646-6000 with any questions.

## ASTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Denise Welsh, President  
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Wil Kilroy, Managing Director

## **SPONSORS AND DONORS**

We hope you will consider both a season subscription and becoming a donor – our students, faculty, and staff appreciate your support. ASTC welcomes your donations at the following levels

### Center Stage Society:

JULIA & WILLIAM BROGAN

DENISE WELSH

## **ASTC RESIDENT COMPANY / NMSU THEATRE ARTS FACULTY / STAFF**

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

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Department of Theatre Arts Scholarship

## **25-26 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

Daniela Galloso  
Emily Glover  
Edward Leyva  
Rachel Maze  
Katie Mayers  
Grace Mellen

Angelique Reagan  
Delaney Sivils  
Alex Smith  
Conner Striebel  
Chantel Turner

## **PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 2024-2025 SEASON**

**SANCTUARY CITY**, a play by Martyna Majok

Directed by Larissa Lury

October 3-12, 2025

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**, adapted by Niall McGinty,

based on the original story by Charles Dickens

Directed by Nichole Hamilton

November 29 - December 6, 2025

## **THE HIGH DESERT NEW PLAY FESTIVAL**

February 20-23, 2026

**INTO THE WOODS**, music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, book by James Lapine

Directed by Lisa Hermanson

April 23 - May 3, 2026

**Purchase your tickets by visiting [theatre.nmsu.edu](http://theatre.nmsu.edu)  
or by calling our box office at 575-646-4515!**



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*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.