

high desert.

play festival

march 6 - 8

a festival of new works, original one-acts, excerpts and monologues by students and other las cruces writers. full-length readings of plays by nationally recognized playwrights in residence at nmsu. a celebration of theater of and for this moment.

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.

tickets



NOTE FROM DEPARTMENT HEAD WIL KILROY:



Welcome to this whirlwind weekend event of wonderful new works. Our appreciation for this event goes out to the late Dr. William ‘Bill’ Storm, who was the originator of this idea, and now to his successor, Professor Larissa Lury, who has taken on this complex task. What a joy to have professional playwrights joining us from a distance, as well as local writers and students of all ages contributing to this weekend’s event. I hope that you will be entertained and enlightened by the vast variety of presentations, and as always, we appreciate your support of NMSU theatre.

PLAYWRIGHTS IN RESIDENCE

A LITTLE BROWN GIRL CROSSES A SILLY LITTLE LINE

by ALEXIS ELISA MACEDO

Directed by ADRIANA DOMINGUEZ, PHD

Maricela.....DANIELA GALLOSO
Alba- Guadalupe, La Mariposa, Mrs. Ham.....ANGELIQUE REAGAN
Abuelita- Mrs. Ham, Officer 1, La Jefa.....KATIA MCEVOY-HOLGUIN
Ricardo- Officer 3, El Luchador.....EDWARD LEYVA
Betsy- Ka Bestia.....MARIAH ROMERO
Jr- Officer 1.....ISRAEL CASTILLO
Stage Directions.....POET JAMES HOVDA

A RIVER, ITS MOUTHS

by JESÚS I. VALLES

Directed by LARISSA LURY

Actor 1- Mouth One, The Man Crossing, Xandra, Steffany, The Other Lady With Them
.....MARIANA TABLON
Actor 2- Mouth Two, The Drowning Man Ahead of Them, Marc, La Loca, Gilberto, Another
Child, The Drowned Thing.....ERICK GRANILLO

Actor 3- Mouth Three, The Child Crossing, Rosario, Try It Again, Officer in a Truck, First Time Crossing.....BRITNEY STOUT-BARDEY

Actor 4- Mouth Four, An Officer, The Lady on the Loudspeaker, Don Frito, A Correspondent, Erasmo, Officer Dispatch.....GUILLERMO PORTILLO

Actor 5- Mouth Five, Another Officer, Diana, Yesi, An Anchor.....CYNTHIA ÁLVAREZ

Actor 6- You.....MARIO MONTIEL

Stage Directions.....JOURNEY LOPEZ

Assistant Director.....SYDNEY LOPEZ

EXCERPTS

PAPER CRUTCHES by JAMES FRITZ JEROME
Directed by ANGELIQUE REAGAN

Mike.....BARROW WILLIAMS

Sam.....DANIELA GALLOSO

Conto.....CYNTHIA ÁLVAREZ

Stage Directions.....ANIKET SINGH

Lighting Design.....SYDNEY LOPEZ

A PICTURE OF A WOMAN ON AN ISLAND by LUCENE DRISSELL
Directed by DANIELA GALLOSO

Sullivan.....DELANEY DWYER

Daisy.....KATE CONRAD

Stage Directions.....JOSELYN ANDREU

Lighting Design.....ABRAHAM MARTINEZ ALVARADO

THE BOOK OF JOHN by ALYCIA HERRERA
Directed by ANGELIQUE REAGAN

Jesus.....ANIK ALVI

Mary.....CYNTHIA SOPHIA ÁLVAREZ

Mary Magdalene.....SYDNEY LOPEZ

Matthew.....EDWARD LEYVA

James.....ERICK GRANILLO

Groom.....JACK MCGILL
John the Beloved.....EDWARD LEYVA
Peter.....ERICK GRANILLO
Banquet Master.....BARROW WILLIAMS
Thomas.....JACK MCGILL
Female Servant.....DEVYNNE HADLEY
Stage Directions.....TJ HOLDRIDGE
Lighting Design.....KATIE MAYERS

OLD FRIENDS by MARY ROGAN
Directed by ANGELIQUE REAGAN

Elaina.....MONICA MOJICA
Maria.....BRITNEY STOUT-BARDEY
Stage Directions.....TJ HOLDRIDGE
Lighting Design.....EDWARD LEYVA & BOBBI MASTERS

A SIMPLE BOON by HYACINTH FAYE PANGANIBAN
Directed by OKALANI VENTURA

Jessie.....ABBY WATKINS
Lily.....SYDNEY LOPEZ
Fiona.....KATE CONRAD
Hannah.....MARIAH ROMERO
Stage Directions.....ANIKET SINGH
Lighting Design.....KATIE MAYERS

SITTING NAKED BY THE PHONE by MARIA TORRES
Directed by DANIELA GALLOSO

Man.....ASLAN LONGARIO
Woman.....ABBY WATKINS
Stage Directions.....JOSELYN ANDREU
Lighting Design.....KATE CONRAD

I FORGOT TO HIDE DARYL by DREA HURRELL
Directed by OKALANI VENTURA

Mother.....BRITNEY STOUT-BARDEY
Daughter.....DANIELA GALLOSO
Stage Directions.....AALIYAH GORHAM
Lighting Design.....KATIE MAYERS

REY DE LA LUNA by DIEGO MUÑOZ HOLGUIN
Directed by ERICK GRANILLO

Rey.....ASLAN LONGARIO
Didi.....BRAD CRISTIAN MARTINEZ
Joey.....EDWARD LEYVA
Desire.....MARIAH ROMERO
Angelica.....PAM MORALDE
Stage Directions.....AALIYAH GORHAM
Lighting Design.....SYDNEY LOPEZ

MIDDLE SCHOOL SHORTS

GOING AWAY

Written by Nicolas Santillan and Cedar Browning

Louis.....ISAIAH HOLGUIN
Bartholomew.....ALEX SMITH
Stage Directions.....HYACINTH FAYE PANGANIBAN

HAUNTED HALLWAY

Written by Aiden Crandall, Cristiano Rios Whitford, Dakota Prado, Izreal Leeth, and others.

Ghost.....ISAIAH HOLGUIN
Robert.....KATE CONRAD
Principal.....MARIAH ROMERO
Stage Directions.....ALEX SMITH

THE LOVE TRIANGLE

Written By Leila Oliver and others.

Ivy.....MARIAH ROMERO
Iris.....KATE CONRAD

Jake.....ISAIAH HOLGUIN
Stage Directions.....KATIE MAYERS

THE PROGRAM TEST

Written by Hailey Harrell, Ariana Martinez, Alizay Chavez, and others.

Maya.....MARIAH ROMERO
Molly.....KATE CONRAD
Teacher.....ALEX SMITH
Stage Directions.....AALIYAH GORHAM

DISCONNECTED (OR WAS IT WORTH IT)

Written by Emelia Yaw, Lilianna Garcia, Violet Jaure, and Others.

Charlotte.....MARIAH ROMERO
Ophelia.....KATIE MAYERS
Mysterious Ghost + Announcements.....HYACINTH FAYE PANGANIBAN
Stage Directions.....KATE CONRAD

THE RAINBOW FLICK

Written by Xavier Martinez, Andree Beaumont, Nehemiah Romero and Angel.

Grandpa Gerald.....KATE CONRAD
Timmy.....ISAIAH HOLGUIN
Stage Directions.....ALEX SMITH

FRIENDS

Written by Rain Browning and Lexi Abbott

Grace.....AALIYAH GORHAM

Eleanor.....HYACINTH FAYE PANGANIBAN
Michel.....ISAAH HOLGUIN
Mean Kid 1.....ALEX SMITH
Stage Directions.....MARIAH ROMERO

NEVER GIVE UP GIRLS

Written by Mia Arredondo Reyes, Emma Graley, Eleanor Hutchison, Victoria Parra,
and Eliana Peraza

Alexis.....KATE CONRAD
Brooklyn.....KATIE MAYERS
Hazel.....HYACINTH FAYE PANGANIBAN
Ms. Legarda.....AALIYAH GORHAM
Stage Directions.....MARIAH ROMERO

FRIENDS APART

Written by Jadiel Perez and Andres Salas

Nick.....ALEX SMITH
Jaxson.....ISAAH HOLGUIN
Ms. Legarda.....AALIYAH GORHAM
Stage Directions.....KATIE MAYERS

STUDENT MONOLOGUES

GOLDEN MUSE by TJ HOLDRIDGE, and performed by SYDNEY LOPEZ

WES NORMANDY by HASANI GONZALEZ, and performed by ADAN HERNANDEZ

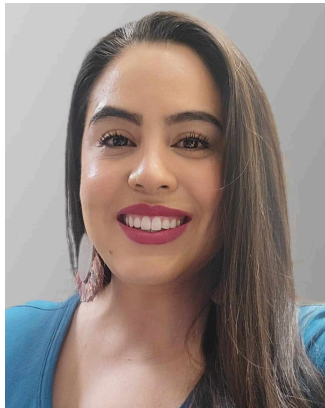
UNTITLED by SYDNEY LOPEZ, and performed by HASANI GONZALEZ

YOU RIPPED MY HEART OUT written and performed by JOY LIGHTFOOT

LETTER TO LILLY by BIANEY MORALES, and performed by BRAD CRISTIAN MARTINEZ

A BROTHER'S LOVE by CONNER STRIEBEL, and performed by ALEX SMITH

GUEST ARTISTS



Dr. Adriana Domínguez is a community-engaged artist-scholar-educator and Associate Professor with the UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance. She focuses on the purpose of community and cultural engagement in the performing arts with a focus on marginalized voices. Dr. Domínguez is the recipient of three National Endowment for the Arts grants, two Texas Commission on the Arts grants, and 16 institutional grants to support her creative work. She has been honored with over 25 local, regional, and national awards, including the 2024 Kennedy Center Gold Medallion, the 2020 Texas Educational Theatre Association's Educator of the Year for Higher Education, and a Congressional Commendation in 2025. Recent projects include: *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican*

Daughter, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *Acts of Kindness*, *Los empeños de una casa*, *Heroes and Saints*, and *Real Women Have Curves*.



Alexis Elisa Macedo - worth every letter - is an unapologetic, produced, and published Chicana playwright, producer and performer. She's a National Theater Institute Alum (Spring '20, Theatermakers '22) and has her BA in Theater Arts - Acting Emphasis (Fresno State '21). Macedo is a Latinx Playwrights Circle Intensive Mentee and was awarded the Sewanee Writers' Conference - SolProject Fellowship, Individual Artist Fellowship from the California Arts Council. Her recent acting credits include: *Fatso Goes to McDonald's* (PVD Fringe), *Someone Will Remember Us* (Trinity Rep), *L.A. Muerta* (Teatro Chelsea), *Yerma in Vitro* (Dramatic Question Theater) Her play credits include: *CHICANA LEGEND* (The Fools Collaborative, SheATL) *Red Hood(ie)* (Lime Arts Productions 20x20 Fringe, published by Next Stage Press,) and, *Under the Sheet*

(Moxie NYC Arts). You can find more of Macedo's work on Youtube, NPX and her website.

www.alexiselisamacedo.com Not too bad for a little brown girl from Reedley, California.

Jesús I. Valles - (they/them) is a queer Mexican immigrant, educator, writer-performer from Cd. Juarez/El Paso. Jesús is the 2023 Yale Drama Series winner (Bathhouse.pptx), selected by Jeremy O. Harris, the 2022 Emerging Theatre Professional awarded by the National Theatre Conference, and the winner of the 2022 Kernodle Playwriting Prize (a river, its mouths). Their playwriting work has also received awards and support from OUTSider festival, Teatro Vivo, The VORTEX, The Kennedy Center, New York Theatre Workshop, The Latino Theatre Co. at the LATC, and The Flea. As an actor, they are the recipient of four B. Iden Payne Awards, including Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama (2018), and Outstanding Original Script (2018) and they were nominated for the Mark David Cohen New Play Award for their play, (Un)Documents. They also starred as (not) Penny Marshall in New York Theatre Workshop's Pinching Pennies with Penny Marshall: Death Rituals for Penny Marshall, written by Victor I. Cazares. Jesús a 2021 CantoMundo fellow at the Palm Beach Poetry Festival, a 2021 Lambda Literary fellow, a 2019 Walter E. Dakin Playwriting Fellow of the Sewanee Writers' Conference, a recipient of the 2019 Letras Latinas Scholarship from the Community of Writers' Poetry Workshop, and a 2019 poetry fellow at Idyllwild Arts Writers Week. Jesús is also a 2018 Undocupoets Fellow, a 2018 Tin House Scholar, a fellow of The 2018 Poetry Incubator, and the runner-up in the 2017 Button Poetry Chapbook Contest. Their work has been published in Shade Literary, The Texas Review, The New Republic, Palabritas, The Acentos Review, Quarterly West, The Mississippi Review, Palette, The Adroit Journal, BOAAT, The McNeese Review, and PANK. Their poetry has also been featured on NPR's Code Switch, The Slowdown, The BreakBeat Poets' LatiNext Anthology, the Best New Poets 2020 anthology, and the anthology, Somewhere We Are Human.

LOCAL PLAYWRIGHTS

Drea Hurell is an actor, writer, and podcaster from El Paso, TX. This is the first time that her work will be showcased in the great state of New Mexico. She would like to thank her family, friends, the director and cast of "I Forgot to Hide Daryl", and the High Desert selection committee for this opportunity.

Lucene Drissell is the author of *A Picture of a Woman on an Island*, is currently a student at NMSU pursuing a degree in Fine Art. Previous from the Midwest Lucene writes in their free time and their work has been published on several occasions.

Diego Muñoz Holguin is an award-winning writer and director from El Paso, Texas. His films have been featured in festivals across the United States and Canada, earning acclaim for their raw storytelling and authentic voice. His short film *A River Runs on Cliff Street* (2022) made its U.S. premiere at the Houston Latino Film Festival's Cine De Muertos 2023 and its East Coast premiere at the Philadelphia Latino Film Festival in 2024. In 2023, in association with Rampart Records, Diego wrote and directed the music video for "I Did the Wrong Thing" by The Romancers (1969). The video has been recognized by creative agencies and organizations including Create.Repeat., The El Paso Community Foundation, and the Simi Valley Music Video Festival. His latest film project, *Black Magic* — a short-form biopic inspired by the life

of 1960s bluesman Magic Sam — enters the film-festival circuit in spring 2025. Expanding his creative reach beyond film, Diego is also the writer and director of the original stage play *Rey De La Luna*, premiering at the historic Philanthropy Theatre in El Paso, Texas, as part of the El Paso Community Foundation's 2025–26 Jewel Box Series. Known for his introspective writing and naturalistic directing style, Diego creates emotionally resonant worlds where characters are given room to breathe, explore, and reveal their truth. Alongside his film work, he continues to serve as an active theatre arts director and performer, fostering creativity and storytelling within his community

James Fritz Jerome graduated from Valley Forge Military College and completed the requirements for a reserve commission as 2nd lieutenant in the US Army. He also attended the University of Pittsburgh and the HB Studio in New York City where he studied with Uta Hagen. He worked as an actor and stage manager for fifteen years, (eight years in New York), until embarking on a sojourn to the desert of southern New Mexico. Here he wrote memoirs, essays, and poems; two full-length non-fiction works. He returns to the American theatre with his first full-length stage play, *PAPER CRUTCHES*.

Bianey Morales is a film major at NMSU, however, she was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. She's always had a keen interest in writing so one day, she hopes to write a script for either film or theater.

Hyacinth Faye D. Panganiban is currently a sophomore at NMSU. This is her first time participating in the High Desert Play Festival and first time writing a script. She is glad she was able to be a part of this festival and loved getting to observe the process of her characters come to life. She appreciates everyone involved that has helped make the festival happen and to the amazing actors and director who made her inspired to write more.

Mary A. Rogan is extremely grateful for the opportunity of having her first play chosen for production by The High Desert Play Development Workshop and Festival. Mary recently decided it is more than time to retire from being a businesswoman. Since Mary is a complete novice as a fledgling playwright, she has found that she had and still has a lot to learn. This has been an amazing experience for her. She is extremely thankful for all of the help she has received from everyone involved.

Maria Torres was born in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, raised in El Paso, TX and now teaches at Doña Ana Community College. A cofounder and former member of the *Border Theatre*, a performance ensemble producing original works, she volunteered for *ImprovISA*, presenting movement workshops in women's shelters in Ciudad Juarez. She previously served on the board of directors for Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center and more recently founded *UNIDAS (@unidaspodemosnm)*, a women's group in Sunland Park, NM, and has organized events like the *Women in the Arts* panel, *Immigrant Women on Education*, and workshops on movement, community and self-care.

DIRECTORS

Daniela Galloso is a Junior Theatre major with a concentration in Design/Tech/Management here at NMSU. Her most recent work includes *A Christmas Carol* as Asst. Lighting Designer and *Sanctuary City* as the Stage Manager. This is her first time participating in High Desert and is honored to make her directorial debut through the shows *Sitting Naked by the Phone* by Maria Torres and *Picture of a Woman on an Island* by Lucene Drissell. She is also happy to help originate the role of Maricela in *A Little Brown Girl Crosses A Silly Little Line* by Alexis Elisa Macedo.

Erick Granillo is a director and actor committed to bold, emotionally driven storytelling. He directed *Rey de la Luna* and appears as an actor in "Book of John" and "River at Its Mouth". Focused on building impactful work that resonates both on screen and theater.

Angelique Reagan is a senior Musical Theatre major at NMSU in her last semester. You may have previously seen her as Alyssa Greene in *The Prom!* Or as Yvette in *Mother Courage*. Angelique is so excited to take a step off stage and into the role of Director in this process of High Desert! Each one of her excerpts is contrasting and she's worked hard with each talented cast and hopes the writers love seeing their works on stage. Angelique wants to thank all the casts, writers, Larissa, and Bobbi for trusting her with these projects and she hopes you love them too! She is so thankful for these opportunities and gives all glory to God!

Okalani Ventura is currently a senior at NMSU majoring in Theater Arts. She is the director of 'I Forgot to Hide Darl' and 'A Simple Boon.' She is very excited and grateful for the opportunity to direct these excerpts for local works.

ACTORS

Cynthia Sophia Álvarez (she/her) is a local theatre artist that works throughout the borderland and beyond. She is extremely estatic to participate in various plays for this festival, *Paper Crutches*, *The Book of John*, and *A river and its Mouths*. Most recently she portrayed the title role of Yerma with Los Actores (TX), participated in Santa Fe Playhouse's 505 Alive! stage reading series (NM), and played Carmen in Phantom Projects' production of *Mariachi Girl* at La Mirada Theatre (CA). She obtained her BFA in Theatre Performance from UTEP (2016) and her MFA in Acting from UCLA (2021). She'd like to take this opportunity to thank the entire team behind High Desert, as well as the faculty, staff, and students at NMSU for fostering such a welcoming and loving community.

Joselyn Andreu is an animation major with a minor in film. She has a deep passion for visual storytelling and discovered a love for acting while attending NMSU. She is a stage reader for both *A Picture of a Woman on an Island* and *Sitting Naked by the Phone*.

Anik Alvi is a Software Developer at the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute (NM WRRI) at New Mexico State University. He works at the intersection of water resources, data engineering, and community-focused technology solutions. At NM WRRI, he designs and develops interactive dashboards, web platforms, and database systems that integrate real-time environmental sensor data to support water managers, researchers, and local communities all across New Mexico. Beyond his technical and research contributions, Anik has a creative side. He gained some theatre experience during high school and has always been passionate about watching plays. This long-standing interest led him to participate in the High Desert Play Festival for the play *The Book of John*, blending his analytical mindset with artistic expression.

Israel "Izzy" Esteban Castillo is double majoring in Digital Filmmaking and Economics. He has directed, acted, and crewed in short films in El Paso, and CMI productions in Las Cruces. This is his first time participating in a stage play since high school. He's thankful to Professor Larissa Lury for giving him the opportunity to join in the High Desert Festival. On his off time, he reads novels and write screenplays, study films and television shows; and when it isn't media involved, he walks his dogs, cook, and build miniature models.

Kate Conrad is a sophomore Musical Theatre major here at NMSU from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and this is her first year participating in the High Desert new works play festival! Some of her previous works include *Angie Dickinson in The Prom* (NMSU Theatre), *Prudence in Beyond Therapy* (Las Cruces Community Theatre), *Kaboodle in Hung! A New Western Comedy* (Ember Theatre Co.), and is currently *Florinda in NMSU Theatre's upcoming production of Into The Woods*. Kate would like to thank the directors and other actors for making this a wonderful and exhilarating journey to put these new works up on stage for the first time!

Delaney Dwyer (she/her) is a senior theatre major at NMSU. She is super excited to be involved in High Desert this year. You may have seen her recently in NMSU's production of *A Christmas Carol* as the Ghost of Christmas Present. She is thankful for all of the amazing people that have helped make this festival happen, and thankful for the opportunity to be involved! She hopes you enjoy the show!

Daniela Galloso is a Junior Theatre major with a concentration in Design/Tech/Management here at NMSU. Her most recent work includes *A Christmas Carol* as Asst. Lighting Designer and *Sanctuary City* as the Stage Manager. This is her first time participating in High Desert and is honored to make her directorial debut through the shows *Sitting Naked by the Phone* by Maria Torres and *Picture of a Woman on an Island* by Lucene Drissell. She is also happy to help originate the role of Maricela in *A Little Brown Girl Crosses A Silly Little Line* by Alexis Elisa Macedo.

Aaliyah Gorham is a Junior at New Mexico State University. She is an elementary education major at NMSU and is also working towards a minor in Musical theatre as well as in Studio Art. She will be reading stage directions for the plays, "I forgot to hide Daryl", "Rey de la Luna", as well as "The Program test" for the middle school shorts. She is also playing the roles of Grace and Ms. Legarda in the plays, "Friends", "Friends apart", and "Never give up girls". She is very

excited to be a part of the High Desert play festival and says thank you to all who are involved and are attending.

Erick Granillo is a director and actor committed to bold, emotionally driven storytelling. He directed *Rey de la Luna* and appears as an actor in "Book of John" and "River at Its Mouth". Focused on building impactful work that resonates both on screen and theater.

Devynne Hadley is an employee at Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine who has taken on the role of the Female Servant in *The Book of John*. She enjoys acting in local productions and watching old movies in her spare time.

TJ Holdridge is a Senior at New Mexico State University studying Secondary Education focused in English and Theatre arts who is passionate about mental health and young adult advocacy. Holdridge's monologue "Golden Muse" will be performed by Sydney Lopez. Additionally, Holdridge will be conducting stage directions for the one-act plays "The Book of John" by Alicia Herrera and "Old Friends" by Mary A. Rogan.

Isaiah Holguin is a Sophomore here at NMSU. He is participating in the Middle School Shorts at the High Desert Play Festival. He is a musical theatre major and has been in a couple of NMSU productions, but it is his first time ever doing something like High Desert. He is very excited to be able to participate and he hopes you enjoy!

Poet James-Hovda is a multidisciplinary artist currently based in Las Cruces, NM. She graduated from NMSU with a bachelor's in 2D Animation and Visual Effects, but grew up in the Gila Forest in southwest New Mexico. She is a freelance visual artist and writer, and often works in film as an actor and script supervisor. Poet's work is primarily focused around personal identity and existentialism, often inspired by fantasy and abstract works. Outside of that, she enjoys spending time with friends and watching movies.

Edward Leyva is a Musical Theatre major at NMSU. He has participated in LCCT with his most recent role of "Herman" in *Cabaret*. He also involves himself in NMSU theatre with his most recent role of "B" in *Sanctuary City*. Edward is so excited for you all to see all the amazing work everyone has put into this festival. Catch him next in *Into The Woods* at NMSU, he will get to be "The Wolf" for this great musical. He plans to take his career all the way to Broadway!

Joy Lightfoot is a NMSU Musical Theater student, and is honored to have the opportunity to read her original monologue for the festival. She loves everything about theater and loves studying theater while she continues to perform as well.

Aslan Longoria is a Musical Theatre Senior in New Mexico State University. You might have seen him in past productions like *The Prom*, *Mother Courage*, or *Addams Family* (amongst others), as well as the last High Desert - Play Festival performed here in NMSU. This production of High Desert will be his last performance as an actor in college. He is extremely thankful to his

family, friends, and professors/mentors for helping him get to where he is right now and can't wait to show them what he will accomplish in the future.

Journey E. Lopez is a senior here at NMSU, has participated in the previous High Desert productions. She began acting about 10 years ago and has performed in productions such as *Night Witches* and *The Lady Pirates of Captain Bree*. Adding to the thrill of her senior year, she is very excited to participate in this year's High Desert production, *A River, It's Mouth*, of which she holds a deep love for.

Sydney Lopez is a senior pursuing a career in Technical Directing. She is employed at the theatre scene shop on campus, helping with scenic builds. Sydney started as an actor but found her lifelong passion behind the scenes. After many years being off stage, she is excited to end her college career with the chance to be back on stage for a just moment while still working hard behind the scenes.

Brad Cristian Martinez is an actor based in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He holds a BFA in Acting from Columbia College Chicago. One of his favorite recent credits is as Kipps in *The Woman in Black with Blank Conversations Theatre Company*. Brad would like to extend his thanks to his mom and dad for their unwavering support and considerable wisdom. He hopes you enjoy the show.

Katie Mayers is currently in her third year at NMSU studying theatre. You may have recently seen her in *Blank Conversations "Jesus Christ Superstar"* or NMSU's *"Mother Courage"*. She loves High Desert and is so excited to be involved both acting in the middle school screenplays and lighting designing for some of the local excerpts. She wants to thank you for being here and supporting new work!

Katia Denisse McEvoy-Holguín identifies as a Mexican American immigrant. Originally from Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico, Katia and her family moved to California when she was fifteen years old in pursuit of a safe life in America. Her experiences as a former undocumented immigrant have shaped many aspects of her identity, including her creative and professional pursuits. As a professional, Katia is currently a fourth year Counseling Psychology PhD candidate at New Mexico State University. Her desire to pursue a PhD is rooted in her commitment to challenge current mental health systems that often reduce complex experience—like immigration—to a list of symptoms. Her academic work focuses on decolonial psychology, and the interpersonal journey mental health practitioners take when actively incorporating liberation and cultural approaches into their practice. When not learning about decoloniality, Katia finds joy in crafting stories and poems, often with her cats as witnesses and music in Spanish and English playing in the background. She also enjoys her role as a graduate assistant at the Chicana Latina Studies Journal, sharing coffee with loved ones, finding solace in coffee shops, and watching reality shows like *Love is Blind* and the *90-Day Fiancé* franchise, where she can name every cast member and spin-off, even if it's gotten a bit too dramatic.

Pam Moralde is thrilled to take on the role of Angelica, Rey's mother, in "Rey de La Luna." Returning for her second production with High Desert Theatre, Pam brings experience from both stage and screen. She previously collaborated with NMSU film students, expanding her involvement in supporting theatre students and local artists on a variety of creative projects. With credits in film and commercials, Pam is grateful for the chance to contribute to the High Desert Play Festival and to share in the vibrant artistic community it fosters.

Angelique Reagan is a senior Musical Theatre major at NMSU in her last semester. You may have previously seen her as Alyssa Greene in *The Prom!* Or as Yvette in *Mother Courage*. Angelique is so excited to be a part of this process of High Desert and help tell such a moving story. Angelique is also the director of three other excerpts for High Desert! She is so thankful for these opportunities and gives all glory to God!

Mariah Romero (Betsy/ La Bestia) is a sophomore at NMSU pursuing a degree in musical theater. This is her first production at NMSU and is so excited to be a part of the High Desert play festival! Mariah has had previous theater experience with "Four Corners Musical Theater Company" with some of her favorite acting credits including Regina (Rock Of Ages: Youth), Leilani/Stenographer (Legally Blonde), Newscaster/Hooker/Baltimore teen (Hairspray). Mariah thanks her family and educators for all their support!

Aniket Singh is a Digital Filmmaking student at New Mexico State University with a strong interest in acting, directing, and storytelling. He is excited to be part of the High Desert Play Festival as a stage direction reader for Paper Crutches and as a performer in A Simple Boon. Aniket enjoys collaborating on creative projects and exploring different areas of film and theatre.

Alex Smith is in his second year at NMSU pursuing a degree in Theatre Arts. You most recently have seen him act in A Christmas Carol in December, or have seen his directorial debut, First Impressions, in February. He thanks you for your support of local theatre and encourages you to appreciate the moments of joy that pass by as we move through the world.

Britney Stout-Bardey is a new addition to the NMSU Theater Arts Department. This is her first foray into the High Desert Play Festival; she is happy and thankful to have been given the opportunity to work with so many talented young actors and do her part to bring these new stories to life. Britney thanks her husband, Chris, for providing love, support, yummy meals, and for taking care of Moe and Kevin while she's been in rehearsals.

Mariana Tablon is thrilled to be involved in this reading! Mariana was most recently in Alice By Heart (Ensemble), Lost Boys Shadow cast (Star), Home, I'm Darling (Alex), and Rossum's Universal Robots (Helena Glory). Mariana is a current film major at DACC and enjoys photography in her free time. Mariana is especially drawn to work that explores heart, humanity, and connection. She believes it is important to stay connected to her culture. She would like to thank her loved ones for their constant support.

Abby Watkins is a sophomore theatre arts major here at NMSU with a concentration in musical theatre. Originally from Socorro NM, you may have most recently seen her as Marley in *A Christmas Carol*, and she is a proud member of the student theater group, Ember! She is super excited to be a part of *High Desert* and be a part of the new works being done!

Barrow Williams was born and raised here in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He has been acting since elementary school and has experience locally, nationally and internationally. Barrow is currently a junior at NMSU studying film, history and theater. He is also active in Greek life and independent film production. Barrow looks forward to being on stage again and hopes everyone enjoys the show!

CREW

Abraham Martinez Alvarado is a junior at New Mexico State University, pursuing a degree in Theatre with an emphasis in Technical Theatre and Management. He has greatly enjoyed his experience serving as Assistant Stage Manager for Bobbi Masters. Being part of the High Desert Play Festival has been especially meaningful, as it fosters collaboration, creativity, and the opportunity to help bring compelling new stories to life. Abraham looks forward to continuing his work on future productions at NMSU and is grateful for the support of everyone who makes these experiences possible.

STUDENT PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Assistants.....EMILY GLOVER, RACHEL MAZE, and SIOBHAN PYPER
 Light Board Op.....RACHEL MAZE
 Sound Board Op.....SIOBHAN PYPER
 Backstage Crew.....EMILY GLOVER

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager
 Assistant Stage Manager
 Technical Director
 Theatre Manager
 Scene Shop Work-study

 Costume Shop Manager
 Master Electrician

Bobbi Masters
Abraham Martinez Alvarado
Daniel Aguilera
Jim Wilkinson
Daniela Galloso, Sydney Lopez, and
Anderson Weese
Tamara M. Carruthers
Jim Wilkinson

Lighting Electricians
Lighting Work-Study
Light Board Operator
Sound Board Operator
Crew Chief
Lighting, Paint, Props Work-Study

House Manager
House Crew

Box Office Managers
Marketing Assistants

THTR 347 students
Charles Gardner and Katie Mayers
Rachel Maze
Siobhan Pyper
Emily Glover
Emily Glover, Katie Mayers, and
Chantel Turner
Chantel Turner
Allyra Dickerson- Crites,
Kiana Montoyoa, and Bianey Morales
Sarah Guerrero
Grace Mellen and Alex Smith

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

Brien Murphy and Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico, Adan Hernandez, Hector and Xavier Madrid



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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. She has acted and directed for companies in New York, Massachusetts, California, Florida, and Tennessee as well as professionally 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. She is a proud member of Actors’ Equity Association, 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 5th 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* (5th 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 25th...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

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

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



The American Southwest Theatre Company welcomes you to this year's High Desert Play Development Workshops and Festival! This event starts Friday March 6th at 7pm with a full reading of *A Little Brown Girl Crosses a Silly Little Line*. This was written by Alexis Elisa Macedo, a Chicana playwright, producer and performer.

Saturday March 7th Excerpts and Shorts by local writers will run 3pm-5:30pm. Then at 7pm the second play reading *a river it mouths* written by Jesus I. Valles, an educator, writer and

Performer.

Sunday features at 1:30pm a tribute reception hosted by ASTC to Honor William Storm, cofounder of High Desert. At 2pm Middle schoolers will read shorts, 3:30 will feature Monologues.

ASTC is proud to support this event by providing funds for the playwrights and hosting the receptions after the two playreadings.

We hope you will join us again April 24th for the opening of *Into the Woods* our last play of the season.

ASTC is able to support NMSU theatre through the generosity of our patrons like you. We raise funds primarily through fund-raising events. April 11th will be our second annual *Boots & Bling* fundraiser at the Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum at 6pm. There will be a live DJ, a line dance instructor to get folks on the dance floor along with a dinner catered by Marci Dickerson, a cash bar, and most importantly a silent auction with tons of fantastic items donated by local businesses and surrounding areas.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, dwelsh@nmsu.edu.

Denise Welsh, ASTC President

ASTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Denise Welsh, President

Beth Pollack, Vice-President

Julian Brogen, Secretary

Open Position, Treasurer

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:

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ASTC RESIDENT COMPANY / NMSU THEATRE ARTS FACULTY / STAFF

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

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

Angelique Reagan
Delaney Sivils
Alex Smith
Conner Stribel
Chantel Turner

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 2025-2026 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
March 6 - 8, 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
or by calling our box office at 575-646-4515**