

Portland Center Stage at

THE **ARMORY**

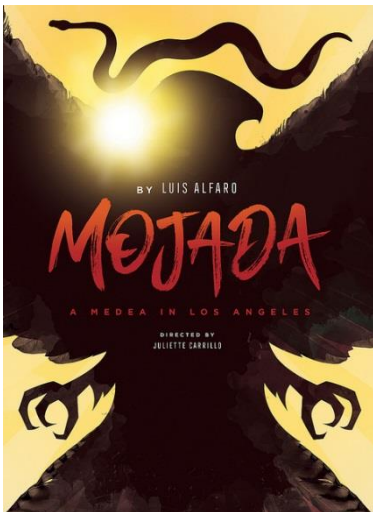
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M E D I A R E L E A S E

WHAT IS THE PRICE WE PAY WHEN WE COME TO A NEW COUNTRY?

The celebrated Oregon Shakespeare Festival production of
Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles comes to The Armory

Previews begin Nov. 4 | Opening night is Nov. 10 | Must close Nov. 26



October 4, 2017 — PORTLAND, OR. The Oregon Shakespeare Festival production of Luis Alfaro’s *Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles* comes to The Armory after a triumphant six-month run in Ashland. Directed by Juliette Carrillo, this powerful adaptation of Euripides’ *Medea* set in modern-day Los Angeles features the same cast as the Oregon Shakespeare Festival run: Sabina Zuniga Varela as Medea, Lakin Valdez as Jason , VIVIS as Tita, Nancy Rodriguez as Josefina, Vilma Silva as Armida, and Jahnangel Jimenez as Acan. New to the company is Ken Yoshikawa as Soldier.

“The reason I adapt the Greeks is to re-interpret them to say something important about the time we’re in right now,” said Luis Alfaro. “In this case, it’s the ongoing immigration debate in this country. Medea embodies the immigrant experience. What is the price we pay when we come to a new country?” he continued. “[Medea] is a whole class of people — extraordinary people who work very, very hard to hold on to who they are as they navigate the waters of immigrating to America. The experience of trying to make it, to fit in, is a universally American experience.”

Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles has a limited-engagement three-week run on the U.S. Bank Main Stage. Preview performances begin November 4, opening night is November 10, and the production

must close November 26. This production of *Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles* was originally produced at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Bill Rauch, Artistic Director, Cynthia Rider, Executive Director. Bringing the production to Portland is a return to Portland Center Stage at The Armory's roots for its 30th anniversary season, as the company was originally founded as the Portland branch of Oregon Shakespeare Festival before becoming independent in 1994.

Regular tickets start at \$25 and are on sale now. Tickets may be purchased at www.pcs.org, 503.445.3700, or in-person from the box office (128 NW Eleventh Avenue, Portland, OR). Rush tickets are \$20. Students and patrons who are 30 or younger can purchase \$30 tickets in premium seating areas. \$5 tickets are available for Oregon Trail Card holders through the Arts for All program. Regular tickets are 50% off for active duty or veteran military personnel and their immediate families. Discounts for groups of 10+. General performance times are Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m., and a Thursday matinee at noon on November 16. *Mojada* is recommended for ages 15+; it contains adult situations, sexual references, violent references and some mature language (spoken in English and Spanish). More at www.pcs.org/mojada.

ABOUT THE PLAY

In this retelling of *Medea* seen through the lens of immigrants to the United States, playwright Luis Alfaro blends tragedy, wry humor, Mexican folklore and a bracingly modern setting to unleash the power of Euripides' ancient tale of love, transformation and betrayal. The title of the play is based on the Spanish word *mojado/a*, which translates literally as "wet" and is also a slur akin to "wetback" for Mexican immigrants. In using the word for the title of his play, Luis Alfaro said, "It's a word that has existed in my vernacular since I was little, so it's a word that for me, has a lot of resonance and a lot of power ... I wanted to disarm that word, I wanted the word to re-appropriate itself, I wanted for us to own the word, and see how ugly that word is, and also give it new meaning."

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Luis Alfaro is a Chicano writer/performer known for his work in poetry, theater, short stories, performance and journalism. He is the first-ever resident playwright of Oregon Shakespeare Festival, courtesy of an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant. His play *Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles* had its world premiere at Chicago's Victory Gardens Theater in 2013 (Jeff Award for Best New Play) followed

by a production at Getty Villa in Los Angeles in 2015 (Los Angeles Drama Critics' Circle Awards for Best Adaptation). Alfaro's plays and performances have also been seen at The Public Theater, Magic Theatre, Boston Court, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Goodman Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Kirk Douglas Theatre, Primary Stages and The Kennedy Center, among others. He is the recipient of a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation fellowship and is currently under commission from Center Theatre Group, Victory Gardens Theater, Magic Theatre and Oregon Shakespeare Festival for the trilogy *This Golden State*.

THE CAST

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival cast reunites in Portland: Sabina Zuniga Varela as Medea (Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for the role of Medea in the Getty Villa production of *Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles*; OSF credits include *The Tenth Muse* and *The Heart of Robin Hood*); Lakin Valdez as Jason (*Valley of the Heart* at San Jose's The Stage; *Mother Road* at Goodman Theatre); VIVIS as Tita (Tita in the Getty Villa production; *Gibraltar* at Thick Description; *!CANTINFLAS!* at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts); Nancy Rodriguez as Josefina (seven seasons at OSF; *Cymbeline* on Broadway); Vilma Silva as Armida (22 seasons at OSF, most recently Mistress Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*); and Jahnangel Jimenez as Acan (*Inherit the Wind* at Camelot Theatre Company). New to the company is Ken Yoshikawa as Soldier (recently *King Lear* at Oregon Adventure Theatre and *Coriolanus* at Portland Actors Ensemble).

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Bringing the world of Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, to life is director Juliette Carrillo (*The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window* at OSF; world premiere of *Lydia* for Mark Taper Forum); scenic and costume designer Christopher Acebo (11 seasons at OSF, most recently *UniSon* and *Beauty and the Beast*); lighting designer Lonnie Rafael Alcaraz (*Dead Man's Cell Phone* at OSF; *Manifest Destinitis* at San Diego Repertory Theatre); composer and sound designer David Molina (*The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window* at OSF; *Lydia* for Mark Taper Forum); video designer Kaitlyn Pietras (*Fable* Off-Broadway; *The Gin Baby* at IRT Theater); dramaturg Tiffany Ana López (director of the School of Film, Dance and Theatre at Arizona State University; founding artistic director of Latina/o Play Project at the Culver Center of the Arts); voice and text director Michelle Lopez-Rios (*Julius Caesar* at OSF; *Measure for Measure* at Goodman Theatre); and OSF stage manager D. Christian Bolender.

TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

When: November 4* – November 26, 2017

*Opening night is Friday, November 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding Nov. 23); Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding Nov. 4, 5 and 11); and a Thursday matinee at noon on November 16.

Where: On the U.S. Bank Main Stage at [The Armory](#).
128 NW Eleventh Ave., Portland, Ore., 97209

More Info: www.pcs.org/mojada

To Purchase: **Regular tickets range from \$25 to \$80.** Rush tickets are \$20. Students and patrons who are 30 or younger can purchase \$30 tickets in all premium seating areas. \$5 tickets are available for Oregon Trail Card holders through the Arts for All program. 50% off regular tickets for active duty or veteran military personnel and their immediate families.

Discounts for groups of 10+. *Prices vary by date, time, and seating area, and are subject to change.*

Online: www.pcs.org

By Phone: 503.445.3700, 12–6 p.m.

In Person: PCS's box office is at 128 NW Eleventh Avenue
12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on performance days
12 p.m. to 6 p.m. on non-performance days

Groups: Discounts available for groups of 10+ by calling 503.445.3794.

Please Note: Recommended for ages 15+; it contains adult situations, sexual references, violent references, and some mature language (spoken in English and Spanish).

Accessibility: PCS is committed to making our performances and facilities accessible to all of our patrons. Learn more at www.pcs.org/access/.

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PORTLAND CENTER STAGE AT THE ARMORY

[Portland Center Stage at The Armory](#) is the largest theater company in Portland and among the top 20 regional theaters in the country. Established in 1988 as a branch of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the company became independent in 1994 and has been under the leadership of Artistic Director Chris Coleman since 2000. Around 150,000 visitors attend The Armory annually to enjoy a mix of classical, contemporary and world premiere productions, along with a variety of high quality education and community programs. 11 productions are offered each season, in addition to roughly 400 community events created — in partnership with 170+ local organizations and individuals — to serve the diverse populations in the city. As part of its dedication to new play development, the company has produced 23 world premieres and presents an annual new works festival, JAW: A Playwrights Festival. Home to two theaters, The Armory was the first building on the National Register of Historic Places, and the first performing arts venue, to achieve a LEED Platinum rating.

THE 2017-2018 SEASON

The [2017-2018 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and Mary Boyle and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank. Further support comes from Season Sponsors the Regional Arts and Culture Council, The Wallace Foundation and Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the state of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts. Support for *Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles* comes from Ronni S. Lacroute; Argyle Winery; Dr. Curtis Thompson and Associates; Work for Art; Stoel Rives, LLP; and Steven and Deborah Wynne/Moda Inc. Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner for the company. Portland Center Stage at The Armory was selected as a participant of the Wallace Foundation's [Building Audiences for Sustainability Initiative](#), a four-year effort with a nationwide cohort of 26 performing arts organizations.

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