

L.A. TEATRO & FRIENDS ARE...

**"BACK IN THE BARRIO"
AT
"SELF-HELP GRAPHICS"**



**SEPT. 15TH, 1994
THURSDAY - 8 PM
AT**

"SELF-HELP" GRAPHICS"

**3802 AVENIDA CESAR CHAVEZ
(CROSS STREET GAGE AVE. & BROOKLYN)
EAST LOS ANGELES**

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

RICK NAJERA *Has been on the cutting edge of ethnic comedy. He founded, co-wrote, Latinos Anonymous. From there he moved on to writer of In living color. His next move was The Robert Townsend Show, where he was a writer-performer. Then on to Culture Clash as a producer, writer and performer. He has co-written two pilots, one for Universal and one for Paramount Studios all based on the Latino experience. His most recent stage work is the critically acclaimed The Pain of the Macho (a one man show) which premiered at the Chicago Goodman Theater. As a stand up he most recently filmed A & E Evening at the Improv and his now hosting L.A. Stories for CBS. He lives a lonely life in Silverlake with his cat but from his deep well of isolation, loneliness and pain comes his comedy. Out of his compassion he directs L.A. Teatro to keep them out of gangs.*

LA TEATRO *or Los Angeles Teatro is a Chicano/Latino theater group. Its conception began in September 1992 when three students from the drama, art and music department at California State University of Los Angeles saw a need to create a world class status for Chicano/a Theater. Collectively, Paul Saucido, Cindy Vargas and Chris Flores, decided to create a theater group that would deal with the political, social and cultural issues facing the Chicano/Latino community. What they created was a young group made up of both university students and community members. Actors like Paul Saucido, Miguel Olvera, Lobo and Monica Torres are as diverse as the name, each representing the many facets of the Chicano/Latino community. Their dedication to their work has evolved them into a full fledged Acting Group.*

To their credit, LA TEATRO has performed the play "Latinos Anonymous", and from their own material "Sorry Wrong #". Successfully, these productions have been performed at various locations in the L.A. and outside of L.A. area, where their acceptance has been overwhelming. Currently LA TEATRO is working on new material "Back to Aztlan", dealing with immigrant issues of the outcast or the American nightmare, that will surely strike as some of this groups funniest and profound work yet.!!!

CHARO TOLEDO *A Puerto Rican woman and a newcomer to the Los Angeles area got her start in San Francisco, where she attended the MFA program at American Conservatory Theatre. She has worked in numerous theatrical productions at the Eureka Theatre, Mission Cultural Center, The Magic Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, American Conservatory Theatre and Teatro de la Esperanza. Recently, she got a chance to be a "virgenette" in Teatro Campesino's production of "La Virgen del Tepeyac". This year Charo performed at the Wadsworth Theatre with the Rachel Rosenthal Company in their original piece "Zone" and will be joining this performance art company to create and present a new piece in December. Also she has worked with Culture Clash in their television show at Fox and in their movie, "Rediscovering Columbus" directed by Lourdes Portillo. She has done her stand-up at numerous clubs in the United States.*

LYSA FLORES *Has been playing guitar & singing since she was 15. Once the lead singer of the band Longfields, Lyssa is now a solo performer, writing & singing her own brand of chicana music. Describing her style as the "confessions of a struggling chicana", Lyssa writes & sings about the optimism of love & the outcome of life. Lyssa has performed at venues throughout Southern California including the Roxy & the Palomino, in addition to working the coffee bar circuit. Lyssa is also no stranger to benefit performances having played for Cesar Chavez and the UFW, the homeless, and most recently to buy books, build new homes, & plant trees for Colonia Mariano Matamoros in Tijuana.*

RICK NAJERA, EMCEE FOR THE EVENING

LAS 15 LETRAS *In November of 1992, three young Chicanos, Martin Sanchez (guitar and vocals), Robert Negrete (guitar & vocals), and Jorge Briones (drums), came together in a reduced basement with the propositions to form a "Rock en Espanol" band. This trio, in June of 1993, was joined by Abel Sanchez (bass) and Edgar Briones (sax). It was at this time that "Las 15 Letras" was officially formed. Their first performance in August of 1993 was at the Hully Gully in Glendale. Since then they have performed at various places including: Macondo Espacio Cultural, Hong Kong Low, El Planeta, and Los Angeles City College. They have shared the stage w/local bands such as: Los Olvidados, Motita, La Raza, Coma, Panteon Azteca, Excel Nova, Area 502, Ley de Hielo, Echo Park and Jabom. The member's influences range from the Ramones and Blur to Agustin Lara and Cepillin. The music is composed collectively by all band members while lyrics are written by vocalists' Robert and Martin. While some lyrics depict personal experience's, (No Me Sueltes), others express political issues (COMMUNISTA). According to them, their music is a mixture of punk, funk, rancheras, pop, and alternative. The intergrantes of LAS 15 LETRAS are: Martin Sanchez- guitar and vocals, Robert Negrete-guitar & vocals Abel Sanchez-bass, Edgar Briones-bass, Jorge Briones-bass.*

MICHELE SERROS *Originally from La Colonia (a community of Oxnard, Ca.), Michelle M. Serros has been writing "seriously" for three years in her native tongue (English) and is currently a Chicana/o Studies Major at UCLA. Her first book, Chicana Falsa and other stories of death, identity, and Oxnard by Lalo Press (published in January of 1994 and already in a second printing), is a required text for classroom curriculum, three of which are college level. Her work is featured in various journals, ragzines, Chicana/o anthologies and in upcoming projects: L.A. Journal II, (laser disc by New Alliance Records), United States of Poetry (PBS documentary) and the Jim and Kai Show (Austrian television). She is also a newly appointed instructor of Californian Poets in the Schools.*

Michelle spreads word germs in universities, juvenile halls, grade schools, youth rallies, stuffy political fund-raisers, even stuffier literary centers and the snottiest of all night clubs. She has fortunately never been a victim of "open mike night" and refuses to write poems about ex-boyfriends or the L.A. riots. Her biggest fantasies are to have work published in Sassy and Lowrider magazine, meet Matt Dillon, and be a featured spoken word artist with some kind of traveling, multi-media, multi cultural, freak show that promotes political and environmental awareness while encouraging self-expression and self-esteem of the youth of today!

RALPH M. "The Mexican" *A veteran deejay in the L.A. street scene. Ralph M. has spun the wheels of steel for Kid Frost and Cypress Hill. Most recently Ralph M. has established his funky style as deejay and founding member of Funk Doobiest. Funk Doobiest first album which Doobie U B sold an impressive 400,000 copies. The trio is currently at work on their 2nd album.*

JOSE RAMIREZ- The Environment