

FIERCE
TONGUES



WOMEN
OF
FIRE

January 21-23, 1994
Highways Performance Space
1651 18th Street, Santa Monica
Organized by Luis Alfaro y Monica Palacios

Women of Fire
Pachanga de Palabra
Fierce Tongues
Las Culture Critics
Por Estos Ojos
En Mi Cuarto

[performance]
[poetry/music]
[poetry]
[panel/discussion]
[visual art]
[video]

Friday, January 21, 8:30 PM, \$10
Saturday, January 22, 12-7 PM, Free
Saturday, January 22, 8 PM, \$10
Sunday, January 23, 3-5 PM, \$5
Fri-Sun, January 21-23, Gallery, Free
Fri-Sun, January 21-23, Video Room, Free

THIS EVENT MADE POSSIBLE WITH A GENEROUS GRANT FROM
THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA, CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LATINO TASK FORCE.

LAS ARTISTAS

Por Estos Ojos
Friday-Sunday.
January 21-23.
Gallery. Free

LAURA AGUILAR is an internationally known photographer who has had six solo and twenty-eight group exhibitions throughout the United States and was most recently represented at the Venice Italy Biennale. A native of San Gabriel, Laura's work has ranged in theme from 'Clothed/Unclothed', 'Day of the Dead' and the 'Plush Pony' series. She is currently included in the 'Bad Girls' exhibition at UCLA's Wright Gallery, which opens Sunday.

MAGDALENA AUDIFRED was born in Mexico City and graduated from the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico in 1987 with a degree in graphic communications and visual art. Her interest in serigraphic technique inspired many possibilities in new work. "I believe in the deep relationship between the artist and the community in the context of the political, social and economic realities. The role of the artist is to take an active stance in the creative expression of information that these events inspire".

YAN MARIA CASTRO is a Latin-American painter and activist in many movements, social struggles and one of the founders of the Lesbian movement in Mexico. Her work is a commitment to the struggle against many forms of human oppression, as well as it searches for a spiritual-revolutionary proposal. "I paint my colors with my people's blood, the Third World; the sweat of my class, the working class; the tears of my gender, being a woman and the moisture of my erotic affective preference, to be a Lesbian. But I also paint with the rage and the combative spirit of those who are not willing to let themselves be stepped upon nor step over others".

DYAN GARZA is a native Californian Latina Lesbian. A freelance illustrator focusing on childrens books, comic strips, and

watercolors. Garza incorporates poetry and text to create multi-media drawings. Garza is a recipient of the VIVA Artist Exhibition Series which was presented in 1992. She is currently developing a book of illustrations which she describes as 'thoughts made visible'.

ANITA LANDEROS received her BA in painting and drawing from Cal-State Long Beach. She has participated in numerous exhibitions through Los Angeles including, Cal-State Northridge, Whittier Art Gallery, SPARC, LAPIS, UCLA's Ackerman Hall, Cal-State Long Beach and "Visions & Voice" exhibition presented by the Getty Museum and Cal-Arts.

ISABEL MARTINEZ received her MFA from Cal-State Los Angeles and her BA from the Universidad Autonoma de Mexico. She has received solo exhibitions from the Instituto Guerrerense de la Cultura, Chilpancingo, Mexico and the International Trade Mart in New Orleans, LA. She was featured in six group exhibitions in Los Angeles in 1993 including, Galeria Las Americas, Centro Cultural Macondo, LACC and Angels Gate Cultural Center.

En Mi Cuarto
Friday-Sunday.
January 21-23.
VideoRoom. Free

NAO BUSTAMANTE "I like to push reality, and constructs. I used to think I was the Virgin Mary. Did you? I want more access. I come from San Joaquin, California. Wound up in San Francisco's Mission District. I've been struttin and squirming on stages for ten years now. Que Viva! Thank you for having me."

ALMA ELENA CERVANTES is a poet, writer and film artist. In a family of 15 children Alma is "La Docena". She grew up in the Maravilla Projects located in East Los Angeles. She graduated from Garfield High School in 1982 and in 1987 she received her B.A. degree in English and American Studies from UCLA. After three years of reading her poetry across California and as

far as New Mexico, Alma decided to apply to graduate school; she was accepted to Claremont's American Studies Graduate School, University of New Mexico in Albuquerque and The International School of Film in CUBA. After two years at the International School of Film in CUBA she completed her Professional Degree in August of 1992 as a Director/Producer. While at the Film School she submitted her script which was chosen among the top five films that would be Directed as a thesis project. Her film will also be shown this weekend. Titled "Los Rincones de la Espiral".

NANCY DE LOS SANTOS has enjoyed writing since she received top prize in the fourth grade for a composition titled, "What My Mother Means To Me." Born and raised in Chicago, she graduated from a secretarial high school - "Where all the cool Latinas went" - and then through a series of strange circumstances, attended college in Texas. College also offered the opportunity to travel throughout the southwest, the midwest and the west. In each state there was a Chicano student union, a Mexican community, another new Latin dance step. And each state offered a different perspective on being Latino. With those differences in mind, she is presently concentrating on writing for theatre, dramatic television and feature films.

ESZTER DELGADO was born in Whittier in 1961 and went to Humboldt University, receiving her BA in art in 1985. She is an exhibiting artist, painter and ceramicist who has had exhibits at Self-Help Graphics, Watts Towers, Little Tokyo Clay Works and the Armory Center for the Arts. She previously coordinated multicultural festivals for the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery. She is currently teaching at Plaza de la Raza, Downtown Homeless Women's Center and the Junior Arts Center.

EVELINA FERNANDEZ was born and raised in East Los Angeles and began her acting career in Luis Valdez' 'Zoot Suit' at the Mark Taper Forum. She has toured nationally and internationally with El Teatro De La Esperanza and has co-starred in several productions at the Los Angeles

Theatre Center. She is a founding member of the Latino Theatre Lab. She has numerous film and television credits and is a Golden Eagle Award winner for her performance in 'American Me'. Her play, 'How Else Am I Supposed To Know I'm Still Alive' has been produced regionally and adapted into an award winning film.

Women of Fire
Friday Evening,
January 21
8:30 PM. \$10

BELINDA ACOSTA is a feminist writer and performer who celebrates the Chicanas and Mexicanas of the midwest. While she is a playwright, she also writes short stories, creates mixed-media performance events and is a regular columnist for the Austin American Statesman Newspaper. She participated in the Tenaz Festival in November of 1992. In February of 1993, she was a featured reader and writer at Diverseworks in Houston. She previously has worked with Maria Irene Fornes at Intar in New York.

ELIA ARCE is a performance artist and filmmaker. She was raised in Costa Rica and has lived in the United States for the past eleven years. At the University of Costa Rica, she was a theater arts and dance major. In the United States, she studied film at New York University and was a film major at UCLA. She received the 1993 J. Paul Getty Foundation Individual Artist Fellowship and the 1994 Rockefeller Multi-Arts Production Grant.

NAO BUSTAMANTE- see En Mi Cuarto

DOLORES CHAVEZ was born in Los Angeles, the third daughter of a stubborn woman. Growing up in El Sereno, her most revealing memories are the sugary aroma of the local panaderia, weed pulling on Sundays, and the funerals she attended for Barbie and her younger sister Skipper in the backyard. Tonight's piece received a workshop as part of the 1993-94 New Work Festival at the Mark Taper Forum. 'Performing' is the one thing her family

agrees she has done all her life and, as they tell it, she will never be satisfied until she can get on some talk show and tell all about how horrible everyone was to her when she was young.

BETTY GONZALES-NASH is a performance artist who has created work which has ranged from the humorous to the bizarre and exotic. Nash' work is true to the tradition of performance in that it is highly personal and has been performed at all the places in Los Angeles that one can perform in, including the Los Angeles Theatre Center, Highways, the National Women's Theater Festival at UCLA, Pipeline and most recently at the Los Angeles Festival as one of featured performers in the Crossing L.A. series. She has created and performed with Tomato Sage, which she co-founded with Bill Roper, Open Gate Theater, Dance L.A. and she has danced with Gene Marinaccio, Donald Byrd/The Group and Repertory Dance Theater of Los Angeles.

MONICA PALACIOS is a writer/performer and continues to tour with her one mujer show "Latin Lezbo Comic" which was featured on PBS. Her new show "Confessions... of a Chicana Lesbian in Heat", premieres this fall at Highways. Monica is published in "Chicana Lesbians: The Girls our Mothers Warned us About" and many other cool books.

JOSEPHINE RAMIREZ recently completed her fourth year at the Mark Taper Forum where she produced the "Out In Front" festival and co-produced "The 13th Hour" at Taper Too in 1991. She wrote and adapted the award-winning "Balun Canan" for the Taper's literary Cabaret. She also produced "Ignore the Dents", a large scale performance piece at the Million Dollar Theatre, which was featured in the 1990 Los Angeles Festival. She has produced the ITP (Improvisational Theatre Project) productions of "Freedom Song", "Robinson & Crusoe", "According to Coyote", and "Stamping, Shouting, and Singing Home". She was vice-president of the L.A. Cultural Affairs Commission under Mayor Tom Bradley. Former coordinator of Community Arts Programs for Seattle/King County,

she has also served as a panelist and site visitor for the National Endowment for the Arts.

Pachanga de Palabra
Saturday Afternoon,
January 22
12-7 PM. Free

GINA ACUNA has been consistently performing as a Singer Guitarist in the Los Angeles area since 1989. She has been very active in the Gay & Lesbian Community, performing in several AIDS benefits, as well as many Gay Pride Festivals. She has performed in both the '92 & '93 'Chicks & Salsa' productions for VIVA, Lesbian and Gay Latino Artists.

MARIA CABILDO is a fresh new local talent discovered by way of her involvement at UCLA and as a member of y que mas?

TERRI DE LA PENA is a fifth-generation Santa Monican who grew up on 15th and Broadway, near Highways. She is the author of two novels, "Margins" (1992), and the forthcoming "Latin Satins" (1994). She is a two-time winner of the UC Irvine Chicano Literary Contest, 1986 and 1992.

NANCY DE LOS SANTOS - see En Mi Cuarto

FRANKIE ESTRADA's work has been featured on KPFK & KPCC Radio. She presents "Grief Through Expression of Written Thoughts" workshops with Kaiser Hospice. Frankie's work is being published in the current journals of 'Untitled' and 'LaLa Land'. She is a member of the Chicana poetry group y que mas? Writing is the only thing that Frankie feels she has 100% control of.

EVELINA FERNANDEZ (Host) - see En Mi Cuarto

GERMAINE FRANCO is a Percussionist, Composer, Tarahumara Woman... Searching for the meaning of El Quinto Solo via music, and a return to the ancient conocimiento of the indigenas who came before us. She

tours internationally as a solo artist and with her group "Hecho en Mexico". She records and produces music for La Luna Mextli Records as well as soundtracks for Film. Credits include, "Breaking Pan with Sol", "La Carpa", "Tanto Tiempo", and "Thunderheart".

MARIA ELENA GAITAN is the "Chola Con 'Cello (A Home Girl in the Philharmonic)". A one woman show written and performed by Gaitan, a naive of East Los Angeles. This agitprop satire about stereotypes, racism, and immigrant bashing was created to give voice to the extraordinary roles Chicanas are obligated to play in real life. The musical arrangement is by Joseph Julian Gonzalez, rap intro by Octavio Tizoc Gaitan-Diaz, visuals by Guillermina Roland, costume by Bjorn Bjornsson and wig concept by Patssi Valdez.

LINDSEY HALEY was born in El Paso, Texas to a Chicana mother and Irish father. She grew up in Venice and at the age of 14 eloped with the lowrider next door and moved to Fresno where she made her living as a farmworker. Now divorced, she is the mother of two children. She will be publishing her first collection of poetry and short stories with Santa Monica Press. She is presently the program manager for the Great Walls Unlimited: Neighborhood Pride Mural Program at the Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC). She is a community activist, works with gangmembers in the areas of education, employment, and job training and a creative writing instructor.

LISA MARY MORENO is a Mexican-Russian person who was born in East Los Angeles and raised east thereof. She is currently working on her MA in creative writing at Cal-State Los Angeles.

SANDRA C. MUNOZ is an East L.A. Chicana woman now living in Montebello (how sad, huh?) My ultimate sueno is to own a King Taco and have Vicente Fernandez sing to me all night long as I sit by candlelight eating more and more tacos.

CRISTINA PASCAL has participated in Gay & Lesbian and women's functions. She has appeared in a number of VIVA productions including "Chicks & Salsa" and "Raza & Rhinestones" at the Atlas Cabaret. She has studied at San Francisco State and other places along the way. A native San Franciscan of Panamanian descent, she considers herself a *Pan Franciscan*.

ROSE PORTILLO's recent acting credits include the west coast premiere of "Death and the Maiden" at San Diego Repertory Theater, the soon to be released film "...And The Earth Did Not Swallow Him", and Theresa Chavez' "L.A. Real". She is best known as 'Della' in "Zoot Suit" and was a participating writer/performer in the "L.A. Women's Theater Festival". Upcoming for Rose this spring is "The Wood Demon" at the Mark Taper Forum. She is also a well known visual artist.

NAOMI QUINONEZ is one of the most highly acclaimed poets to come out of Los Angeles. She is a poet, short story writer, award-winning editor, community & literary activist, scholar and currently a lecturer with a history of groundbreaking work behind her. Currently a visiting scholar in Charlottesville, West Virginia, we are most pleased to be able to include Naomi and her many talents in this festival.

DIANE RODRIGUEZ (Host) is a founder of Latinos Anonymous. A well known actress with a history in theater (Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles Theatre Center), film ('La Bamba', 'Terminator II', 'Relentless II') and television (KCET's 'The Works', Hallmark's Hall of Fame 'Stones for Ibarra', 'Cop Rock', 'Adam-12') She directed the Borderlands Theatre production of 'Latinos Anonymous' and Cherri Moraga's 'Heroes and Saints'. She was a guest performance artist in Culture Clash's 'Carpa Clash' and will make a guest appearance on their Fox TV series later this winter.

RAQUEL SALINAS will be presenting an excerpt from her creative and timely performance art piece entitled "Heat Your Own." She and director Olivia Chumacero recently returned from the II Encounter of

InterAmerican Community Theater festival held in Oaxaca Mexico, where "Heat Your Own" was successfully received by the Mexican audiences. Initially the piece began as a fifteen minute rendition of Ms. Salinas' concept. Last year she was a recipient of the Brody Award and thus was able to evolve her concept into a one hour performance, under the direction and dramaturge of Olivia Chumacero. The work portrays the abuse of women entrenched in the numerous cultural platitudes of a Latina's world. The seriousness of the subject is transcended through its unique style and much applauded comical parodies.

MICHELE M. SERROS is a native of Oxnard and the first time author of the hilarious and provocative new book from Lalo Press, "Chicana Falsa and Other Stories of Death, Identity and Oxnard". She is currently a student in Chicano Studies at UCLA. Her self assured talent and public reading skills have garnered raves throughout Los Angeles with readings at coffehouses, bookstores and Beyond Baroque Literary Center in Venice where she studied with Michelle T. Clinton. A member of the literary collective, Guava Breasts, she will be featured in the upcoming New Alliance literary laser disc, "L.A. Journal II".

GRACIE SOTO is a stand up comedienne, writer, actress/mother. She is the ex-publisher of Latina Magazine, a publisher/owner of the first nationally distributed Latina magazine in the United States. She is also a screenplay writer and currently working on a book called Cactus Heart, stories of growing up Latina in the southwest.

EDIT VILLARREAL is primarily a playwright and the author of "My Visits With MGM (My Grandmother Marta) which has been performed all over the United States. A graduate of the Yale School of Drama in 1986, her new play "The Language of Flowers" (a Chicano Romeo & Juliet) will be presented at UCLA's Freud Playhouse March 11-19, 1994.

Fierce Tongues
Saturday Evening.
January 22
8 PM. \$10

GLORIA ALVAREZ is a much talked about poet and literary activist whose work has been gracing Los Angeles for many years. Gloria's great work in producing a literary festival for the City of Los Angeles a few years ago was inspiration for Fierce Tongues. She has read her work throughout the city, including recent outings at Beyond Baroque and as one of the curators and presenters during the Los Angeles Festival "Crossing L.A." series.

ALMA CERVANTES - See En Mi Cuarto

TERESA MENDOZA is a phenomenon if ever we saw one. With an artist's heart and a poet's tongue she has been slaying Los Angeles audiences with her fierce lengua. A first time author, she has previously appeared at Highways in "Run(way) Model Minority" and was one of the featured poets of the Los Angeles Poetry Festival. She has curated a number of poetry readings and events and was also seen at the Mission Cultural Center in San Francisco.

HELENA VIRAMONTES is a highly regarded and awarded fiction writer, editor and screenwriter. She has co-edited two works of non-fiction, taught in the university system, is currently completing her MFA at U.C. Irvine. Her first collection of stories, 'The Moths and Other Stories' has sold over 12,000 copies. She is a well known lecturer and reader throughout the United States. "With my two young children providing an inspiration for the future, I believe that language is a powerful tool for social change. Through writing I have learned to protect the "souls" of my feet from the broken glass. Writing is the only way I know how to pray."

Las Culture Critica
Sunday Afternoon,
January 23
3-5 PM, \$5

ALICIA ARRIZON is a professor at U.C. Riverside who has written important work about Latinas and artists. She is currently working a on book about Latina performers.

ELOISE DE LEON has a Masters Degree in education and is a currently an MFA in visuals arts at the University of California at San Diego. She is the performance curator for El Centro Cultural de la Raza in San Diego. She serves on the steering committee for the National Performance Network people of color caucus. She serves on the Board of Directors for the San Diego Theater League, on the National Advisory Board for the American Festival Project. Her artistic work includes performance within Las Comadres performance collective and the last five years as an independent video maker.

MICHELLE HABELL is a graduate of U.C. San Diego currently continuing her studies at U.C. Santa Cruz. She helped organize today's panel and will help moderate this discussion.

CLAUDIA HUIZA is a graduate of U.C. San Diego who is continuing her studies there. As an active political force on campus, she has helped bring many Latina artists and scholars to this campus to present their work. She helped organize today's panel and will help moderate this discussion.

NAOMI QUINONEZ - see Pachanga de Palabra

EL STAFF

LUIS ALFARO [El Fierce Coordinator] is a performance artist who writes poetry, plays and short stories. A Chicano born and raised in the Pico-Union district of downtown Los Angeles, Luis is published in numerous anthologies including 'Men on Men 4'. A member of the Mentor Playwrights Program at the Mark Taper

Forum, his award winning play, Bitter Homes and Gardens, has been produced nationally. His solo spoken-word CD, downtown, will be released February 1st on New Alliance Records.

Danielle Brazell [La Highways House Manager]

Jerry Browning [El Highways Technical Director]

CINDY CAMPMAN [La Fierce Stage Manager] has been a Stage Manager in New York and has toured the country for such groups as Lincoln Center, Alvin Ailey Dance Ensemble and the Big Apple Circus. Currently the Special Events Manager for a non-profit organization, she also works with the community with C.O.R.E. on a variety of productions.

Guillermo Hernandez [El Driver/Best Boy]

Monica Palacios [La Fierce Coordinator]-
See Women of Fire

Jordan Peimer [El Highways Administrative Director]

JOEY TERRILL [El Banner Artist] is a Gay Chicano visual artist who has worked in acrylic paintings and collages since 1974. A native of Los Angeles, Terrill studied at Immaculate Heart College and has been exhibited at the Santa Monica Museum, of Art and Williams & Lamb Gallery, among others. The creator of "Homeboy Beautiful", he is the illustrator of "Chicos Modernos", a safer-sex information comic book for Queer Latinos. His work was most recently seen in "Joteria" and "TranscEND AIDS". He is the coordinator of the HIV and Vision Loss Program at the Center for the Partially Sighted in Santa Monica.

Susanna Veksler [La Assistant House Manager/Gal-Pal]

Nicole Werner [La Highways Performance/Volunteer Coordinator]

Fierce Tongues / Women of Fire

a three day festival of art events and
educational discussion by and about Latinas

con:

Belinda Acosta, Gina Acuna, Laura Aguilar, Magdalena Audifred, Gloria Alvarez, Ella Arce, Alicia Arrizon, Nao Bustamante, Marla Cabildo, Yan Maria Castro, Alma Elena Cervantes, Dolores Chavez, Terri de la Pena, Eloise De Leon, Nancy de los Santos, Eszter Delgado, Frankie Estrada, Evelina Fernandez, Germaine Franco, Maria Elena Gaitan, Dyan Garza, Betty Gonzales Nash, Michelle Habell, Lindsey Haley, Claudia Hulza, Anita Landeros, Isabel Martinez, Teresa Mendoza, Lisa Mary Moreno, Sandra C. Munoz, Monica Palacios, Cristina Pascal, Rose Portillo, Naomi Quinonez, Josephine Ramirez, Diane Rodriguez, Raquel Salinas, Michele M. Serros, Gracie Soto, Edit Villarreal y Helena Viramontes.

Mil Gracias

To all the artistas for their enthusiasm and perserverance while Madre Earth moves.

La Gran Artista, Yolanda Lopez, por su beautiful 'Portrait of the Artist as the Virgin of Guadalupe' which she loaned to the festival.

Nuestra Senora, Linda Burnham, for the insight, vision and idea for a festival. For helping to define what artists can do for communities and what communities can do for artists.

La Chica, Jill Burnham, por las endless horas writing grant notes y making copies and fighting for dinero.

El Tan Guapo, Tim Miller, for asking in the primer place for the Latino voice to be presente at Highways and for making sure there was an espacio for the expression.

Mr. Casado Al Trabajo, Jordan Peimer, for taking over mid-stream and for bearing witness.

Aye Chula, Nicole Werner, por el structure and por la fe.

La Dueña de la Casa, Danielle Brazell, por enthusiasm y mas buenas ideas.

Senor Luz, Jerry Browning, for dealing with many y for having muy buen patience.

La Kitten with a Quip, Marisela Norte, for helping give voice to the idea, for giving up poquito del address libro to secure la talenta.

La Poetry Goddess, Naomi Quinonez, for many years of ejemplo. For a sense of history y enthusiasm

La Mayordoma, Cindy Campman, crack that whip babe, it makes us hot.

El Chico Moderno, Joey Terrill, for designing and delivering, sin ninguna complaint.

La Sofa Seat, Laura Greenlee, for providing a place to sit.