



CSU Summer Arts HOSTED BY  
California State University, Long Beach

*June 28 - July 25, 1998*

# Abraham Adzenyah, Arlene Biala & Jimmy Biala

Friday - July 10, 1998 8:00p.m.  
Studio Theatre \$5/\$6/\$8

**Abraham Adzenyah**, born in Gomoa Abso, Via Agona Swedru, Ghana, West Africa, is a Fante master drummer, educator, littérateur and community activist. Mr. Adzenyah studied with the Afro-Caribbean Music Conference in Kingston, Jamaica in 1969-70. He studied music, dance and drama for 5 years at the University of Ghana. He obtained his B.A. in Liberal Arts in 1976 from Goddard College and a M.A. in Music from Wesleyan University, 1979.

Mr. Adzenyah performs an extensive variety of music at his concerts to which the audience can dance. As a master drummer Adzenyah performs a variety of drumming techniques. These techniques include Keti, the drumming pattern of the Ashanti people of the Republic of Ghana and the Gohu, the pattern of the Ewey people of Eastern Ghana.

In addition to his numerous workshops, Adzenyah taught music at Wesleyan University, York University, Northern Illinois University, University of Ghana and at the University of Kingston as a visiting professor. He was a research fellow at Dartmouth College and taught for the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. In Albany, Georgia Adzenyah served as consultant for the construction of a model African village.

Mr. Adzenyah promotes music to children and diverse communities. His abundant presentations expose local cultures to African music. He has, on several occasions, fulfilled duties as arbitrator on a judging panelist for Rhode Island State Council, Youth Cultural Contest and the Gomoa East Youth Cultural Contest.

Anyone interested in reading more on the subject of drum technique may procure one of Mr. Adzenyah's publications. In 1995 Manhattan Music, NY, published *West African Rhythms for Drumset*. In 1986 World Music, Danbury, CT, published *Let Your Voice Be Heard*. Also, *The Role of Music in Ghana*, *Percussive Notes*, April 1995, published by **Percussive Arts Society**, Lawton, OK.



Abraham Adzenyah



Arlene Biala

Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, **Arlene Biala** has been writing poetry for many years. She has been fortunate to study the craft with such renowned poets as Genny Lim, Juan Felipe Herrera, Margarita Luna Robles, David Meltzer, and Lyn Hejinian. She is also a performance artist, and in the past several years has been collaborating with her two brothers, Jimmy Biala who plays percussion, and Billy Biala who plays the saxophone. She has performed at a number of venues, including the San Francisco Women's Building, Center for the Arts at Yerba Buena Gardens, CSU Long Beach as part of Summer Arts '96, and MACLA - Center for Latino Arts in San Jose.

Arlene completed her MFA in Poetics and Writing at New College of California in San Francisco. At New College she involved herself in performance poetry and working with students grades K-12 on creative writing projects. Arlene also served as editor of an anthology compiled by a group of young women at Horace Mann Middle School.

Her works, published in various journals and anthologies, include Bamboo Ridge Literary Review, South Coast Poetry Review, Haight-Ashbury Literary Review, CUPS - A Cafe Journal, New College Community Action Journal, Prosodia, Reed Magazine, and AJAX Poetry Anthology. Individual poems have also won in the San Francisco Bay Guardian Poetry Contest and the Wendy Norins Writing Contest, as well as being nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She is the author of *bone*, a chapbook of poetry. Her most current manuscript, *continental drift*, is out on review. She is always exploring the connections between languages, dreams, music, food, dance, continents, and funny expressions on her dogs' faces in relation to the tides.

**Jimmy Biala** has been involved in spoken word performance collaborations since 1993. He has performed with artists from the Asian Improv and Records Company. He also performed with poets Margarita Luna Robles, Juan Felipe Herrera, Genny Lim & Arlene Biala. Specializing in Afro Cuban music study & performance, Jimmy has just recently graduated from folkloric music & dance study in Matanzas, Cuba. He is a recipient of a 1995 Downbeat Magazine Jazz Performance and Recording Award.

# Genny Lim & John Marron

Monday - July 13, 1998 8:00p.m.  
California Repertory Theatre \$5/\$6/\$8

**Genny Lim** is a native San Franciscan poet, performer and playwright. She was featured in the five-part PBS series, "*The United States of Poetry*," on the KQED TV NEIGHBORHOODS Series, *San Francisco Chinatown*, and in Paul Kwan and Arnold Iger's feature documentary, "*Pins and Noodles*," which she narrated and which premiered at the 1997 Asian American Film Festival in San Francisco.

Genny's collaborations have included jazz poetry concerts with musicians Max Roach, James Newton, Herbie Lewis, Eddie Gale, Jon Jang Kash Killion and Francis Wong. She is a recipient of a Goldie from the San Francisco Bay Guardian, an Improvisations Award from San Francisco Asian Improvarts, and a Rockefeller fellowship for the upcoming collaboration with Jon Jang and James Newton, *A Cantata for Paul Robeson and Mei Lanfang*.

Genny is featured on Jon Jang's newly released CD, *Immigrant Suite* on Soul Note and on her own recent CD, *Devotee*, with Francis Wong on Asin Improv Records.

Her award-winning play, "*Paper Angels*," was broadcast on American Playhouse in 1985. She is also the author of a collection of poems, *Winter Place*, and co-author of *Island Poeky and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island, 1910-1940*.

Lim teaches at New College of California and coordinates the Art and Social Change program.



Genny Lim

**John Marron**, born December 12, 1947, is a poet, artist, Zen Buddhist lay monk, and family man. His publications are *Oiyeau*, 1987; *Because Why*, 1994; *Parrots Tomato*, 1992; *Pitch White*, 1990; *Blips*, 1998, and soon to appear, *Ajo-Xquyzeeto*!

Mr. Marron publishes *As is/So & So Press*; *SF Multicultural Calendar*, "*And Still It Moves*" and *Galileo HS*. Mr. Marron, as an artist, has shown several works which include: Enzo Zen Ink Gesture Paintings, Assemblage/Collage, and Guerilla Guerrafeeti.



# Monica Palacios & Michele Serros

Wednesday - July 15, 1998 8:00p.m.  
California Repertory Theatre \$5/\$6/\$8

Native Californian **Monica Palacios** is a Chicana Lesbian writer/performer who creates one person shows, short stories, plays, journalism articles and performance monologues. She is also a guest professor at UCLA, a producer of performance and art shows and is on the Board of Directors of VIVA, Lesbian & Gay Latino Artists.

Palacios grew up in San Jose, one of six children, she attended Catholic school and in 1984 received her B.A. in Screenwriting/Film Studies at San Francisco State University.

Monica Palacios emerges as a talented writer with a gift for capturing dialogue and rendering the urban Latina lesbian scene with piquant humor. Palacios uses the same balancing technique as a writer and comedian who is both Latina and lesbian. "I'm two different cultures. I'm lesbian and I'm Chicano and they're always in sync," Palacios said. "I'm never one without the other."

Palacios is famous for having helped develop the all Latino comedy troupe, Culture Clash, which aired on Fox. In addition to her performance comedy she also does traditional stand-up comedy. She deals with themes that have broad appeal, such as love and family.



Monica Palacios



Michele Serros

**Michele Serros** is a Chicana writer reared on both *cultura mexicana* (glitzy quinceaneras and crunchy chicharrones) and American pop culture (she's crazy for Cocoa Puffs and Judy Blume books!). Born in Oxnard, California, Michele later moved 60 miles south to Los Angeles where, as a UCLA undergraduate, her first book of short stories and poems was published. This text, *Chicana Falsa and Other Stories of Death, Identity and Oxnard*, quickly became required reading for high school curriculum as well as for Chicana Studies and English courses in colleges and universities throughout the Southwest.

"Because Michele has the genius to create full-blooded characters in just a few sentences," *Si* magazine raves, "the poems lend themselves to performances, which are part poetry reading, part stand-up comedy, part theatrical event."

A widely anthologized writer, her work has appeared in The United States of Poetry (Abrams ); Anotologia de Poesia Chicana (Spanish Edition, Huerga and Fierro); New World-Young Latino Writers (Dell); and her first solo CD, Selections from Chicana Falsa (Mouth Almighty/Mercury Records). Her second book, *How to be a Chicana Role Model*, is slated for publication by Riverhead Books.

A frequent commentator on public radio, Serros won the PRNDI (Public Radio News Director Incorporated) award for national journalistic excellence and was awarded first place honors for radio editorial and commentary by the Greater Los Angeles Press Club of Southern California.

Clearly an accomplished writer and performer, Michele has gained a strong following since her success as a touring poet for Lollapalooza '94. She proves you don't have to be Latino, female or a hyphenated American to enjoy her stories. She captures what the *Village Voice* recognizes as "... more than the vagaries of Latina life in La La--the pressures and yearnings Serros describes are those of anyone, anywhere in America."

# Victor Hernandez Cruz & Margarita Luna Robles

Thursday - July 16, 1998 6:30p.m.  
University Theatre \$5/\$6/\$8

**Victor Hernandez Cruz**, born in Puerto Rico and reared in New York City, has created a language as if between the continents. It is a blend of Spanish and English and a juxtapositioning of geographies. While a young man in Manhattan, he published a small chap book, *Papo Got His Gun*, 1966. Random House published *Snaps* in 1969 and opened the way for *Mainland*, 1973, a poetics which was national in scope.

*Red Beans*, a major collection of poems, stories and essays, was published by Coffee House Press, 1991, and was a Publishers Weekly Best Book of The Year. Hernandez Cruz has recently traveled to Mexico, England, and Spain to do performances of his poetry. *Panoramas* is his most recent collection of poems, essays, and stories.

Mr. Hernandez Cruz has received numerous awards, including a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, The Guggenheim Award, and the New York Poetry Foundation Award. He has twice been crowned the World Heavyweight Poetry Champion in Taos. Mr. Hernandez Cruz is spending this year at C.U. as the Visiting Instructor in the Creative Writing Program.



Victor Hernandez Cruz



Margarita Luna Robles

**Margarita Luna Robles**, a poet, performance artist and multi-media playwright has had her work staged at the University of Iowa, California State University, Humboldt, Pima College, UC Berkeley, Stanford University and other colleges and arts centers throughout the United States. Her poetry collection, *Tryptich: Dreams, Lust & Other Performances* (Santa Monica College Press, 1993) is being utilized in various arts and academic university courses. Ms. Robles has taught poetics, creative writing, performance and multi-media workshops at Cal State Fresno, University of Iowa and Stanford University. Her new collections include *The Anita Chronicles* and *Granma was a Pistol Packing Ruka*.

A few of Ms. Robles' publications currently in print are: *Tryptich: Dreams, Lust and Other Performances*, Santa Monica College Press, 1993; *The Two Fridas*, Crossroads Magazine, 1993; and *Querida Juana*, Bovine Interventions, 1989. The films and videos featuring her poems are: *Tu Abuela Y Que*; *Floriscanto*; *Flavors in Your Mouth*; *In Defense of a Community*; and *The Shinning Mirror*.



# Ruben Martinez & Juan Felipe Herrera

Tuesday - July 21, 1998 8:00p.m.  
California Repertory Theatre \$5/\$6/\$8

**Ruben Martinez** is an Emmy Award-winning journalist, poet and performer. He is a U.S. - Mexico correspondent for Pacific News Service and is a co-host of PBS affiliate KCET-TV's politics and culture series, *Life and Times*. Martinez's *The Other Side: Notes From the New L.A., Mexico City and Beyond* (Verso, 1992; Vintage Departures, 1993), a collection of essays and poetry, has won widespread critical acclaim. He is also a guest commentator on National Public Radio's, *All Things Considered*, and the former news editor of the *L.A. Weekly*.

Martinez is currently at work on a "non-fiction novel" about life and death in the borderlands for Metropolitan/Holt Books. Also forthcoming from Power House Books is *Eastside Stories; Gang Life in East Los Angeles*, a book of photographs by award winning photographer Joseph Rodriguez, with text by Martinez.

Martinez was awarded an Emmy by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for, *Life and Times*, 1995. He is also the recipient of a Freedom of Information Award from the American Civil Liberties Union, 1994, a Greater Los Angeles Press Club Award of Excellence for coverage of the Rodney King beating investigation and its aftermath, 1992, a University of California, Irvine prize in poetry, 1990, a Fellowship in Literature from the California Arts Council, 1988, and a Santa Monica Arts Council prize in poetry, 1986.

In addition, Martinez has taught journalism at Claremont McKenna College, and lectured at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Chicano Studies Department. In 1996, he led the Gould Center for the Humanities Seminar at Claremont McKenna, "*Crossing the Border: U.S. Latino Writers on the Move*," for which he created a concurrent reading series that included authors Richard Rodriguez, Ana Castillo, Helena Maria Viramontes, Guillermo Gomez-Pena, Miguel Algarin, Luis Alfaro and Marisela Norte.



Ruben Martinez

**Juan Felipe Herrera**, the 1998 course coordinator for the Manikrudo Mambo, is an awarded writer, producer, performer, and educator. Mr. Herrera received his B.A. in Social Anthropology, UCLA, 1972; M.A., Social Anthropology, Stanford University, 1980; M.F.A., Poetry, University of Iowa, 1990.

In addition to having various works cited in the Chicano Latino CD-ROM archives, UC Berkeley, Mr. Herrera has received innumerable awards. Among these awards are: Friends of Children & Literature, FOCAL award, 1998, for his publication, *Calling the Doves*; Ezra Jack Keats Award, 1997; Cooperative Children's Book Center Choice, 1997; Smithsonian Notable Children's Book, 1997.

Publications currently in print date from 1974. His forthcoming publications are: *Cilantro Facials: The Big Book of Latino Toons & Comedy*, Temple University Press, 1999; *The Upside Down Boy*, Children's Book Press, San Francisco, 1999.

Mr. Herrera has taught at California State University, Fresno; University of Southern Illinois; University of Iowa; New College of California; The Literary Bay; and De Anza Community College. Through a Stanford University Chicano Fellows program he taught writing to grades 3-12.

## Program

**Title:** "*All the Salsa You Can Eat*"

### Description:

A minimal set. Image surfaces. Gong water. Vida tropical truffles. Flamenco rain. Universe blankets. The Is. Sabor in emptiness. Gracias.

# L i - Y o u n g L e e

Wednesday - July 22, 1998 8:00p.m.  
Studio Theatre \$5/\$6/\$8

With the publication of *Rose* in 1986, **Li-Young Lee** burst into the American literary consciousness. Fusing memory, family, culture and history. Mr. Lee's poetry is expansive, marked by celebration, intimacy, passion and sadness. Never cautious in vision, Mr. Lee draws on the language of the people, American and Southeast Asian, on the stories that sustain memory, to craft moving and haunting verse.

Li-Young Lee was born in 1957 in Jakarta, Indonesia, of Chinese parents. In 1959 his father, after spending a year as a political prisoner in President Sukarno's jails, fled Indonesia with his family. Between 1959 and 1964 the Lee family traveled throughout Hong Kong, Macau and Japan, until arriving in America.

Li-Young Lee's poems have appeared in a select variety of major literary journals, including *American Poetry Review*, *Grand Street*, *The Iowa Review*, *Ironwood*, *Ploughshares* and *Tri-Quarterly*. His poems have also been selected for inclusion in three different editions of *The Pushcart Prizes: Best of the Small Presses*.

He has studied and taught at a number of universities, including the University of Pittsburgh, the State University of New York College at Brockport, Northwestern University and the University of Iowa. Mr. Lee has read his poetry at a wide variety of colleges, universities, bookstores and cultural centers across the United States.

Mr. Lee has received several honors, among them, a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, a Writer's Award from the Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation and creative writing grants from the Illinois Arts Council, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

*Rose* won the New York University's 1986 Delmore Schwartz Memorial Poetry Award and *The City In Which I Love You* was the 1990 Lamont Poetry Selection of the Academy of American Poets.

Li-Young Lee currently lives in Chicago, Illinois, with his wife Donna and their two children.



Li-Young Lee Photo by Arthur Furst

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