

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: February 28, 2017



WHAT

Milagro presents the Northwest Premier of *Lydia*
By Octavio Solis & Directed by Kinan Valdez

ABOUT THE PLAY

Milagro presents the 2008 Henry Award winner for Outstanding New Play, *Lydia*. Set in the 1970s on the Texas border separating the United States and Mexico, the play tells the story of a young girl, Ceci, disabled by a tragic accident, and her caretaker, Lydia, who is the only one with whom Ceci can communicate. An emotionally-charged play of family, secrets, and magical realism. Some thoughts from the playwright on *Lydia*:

How much of the story is drawn from your own experience in El Paso?

It's not about my family but it's about elements of my life growing up. Elements in my life that are common in a lot of a Latino families. I recently went to El Paso and they were doing a performance of *Lydia* at a local school. They did a reading for me and some friends of mine that came said they felt like, "you were telling our stories." The themes became immediate to them and it brought it all back for them. I thought to myself that's good, it really is universal. And of course, the only way to make a play universal is to make it specific.

Do you have any comment on the place of this play as it deals with immigration in regards to today's political climate?

Today there is a lot of national talk about immigration. In El Paso it's always been like that; it's only now a part of a national conversation. We always had to deal with the fact that the border patrol was going to be walking around every couple hours. There was always going to be someone trying to find their way here. It has always been part of my consciousness.

WHEN

March 16 – April 8, 2017

Thursday – Saturday at 7:30 PM, Sunday at 2 PM

Thursday, March 16, 7:30 PM — Preview

Friday, March 17, 7:30 PM — Opening Night

WHERE

Milagro Theatre, 525 SE Stark Street, Portland, OR, 97214

ADMISSION

Adult tickets are \$27 in advance, \$32 at the door.

Discount for students, seniors, veterans, groups 15+, and with the Oregon Trail card through the Arts for All program.

Senior tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door.

Student/ Veteran tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

Tickets available at milagro.org or 503-236-7253.

MORE INFORMATION

www.milagro.org or call 503-236-7253

MEDIA CONTACTS/ MEDIA PASSES

Cambria Herrera, Marketing & Communications Manager, cambria@milagro.org
503-236-7253 x117

High- resolution photos can be found:

On Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/miracletheatre/group>

Or by emailing cambria@milagro.org

CAST

Ceci: Maya Malan-Gonzalez

Misha: Matthew Sepeda

Rosa: Nurys Herrera

Lydia: Marian Mendez

Claudio: Tony Green

Rene: Rega Lupo

Alvaro: Ricardo Vazquez

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: Kinan Valdez

Stage Manager: Amanda Kishlock

Scenic Design: Mark Loring

Lighting Design: Katelan Braymer

Costume Design: Marychris Mass

Props Design: Sarah Andrews

Sound Design: Philip Johnson

ARTIST INTERVIEWS

To arrange interviews with artists, contact Cambria Herrera, Marketing and Communications Manager, 503-236-7253, x117, cambria@milagro.org

SEASON SPONSORS

Milagro's 2016 – 2017 Season is sponsored in part by The Kinsman Foundation, The Collins Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts,

US Bank Foundation, Ronni Lacroute/WillaKenzie Estate, Oregon Arts Commission, Regional Arts & Culture Council, Work for Art, Juan Young Trust, Oregon Community Foundation, Print Results, A to Z Wineworks, Portland Roasting Coffee, Poster Garden, Nicholas Restaurant, The Oregonian, Tilde Noticias, and El Centinela.

About the Playwright, Octavio Solis

Octavio Solis is a playwright and director whose works *Alicia's Miracle*, *Se Llama Cristina*, *John Steinbeck's The Pastures of Heaven*, *Ghosts of the River*, *Quixote*, *Lydia*, *June in a Box*, *Lethe*, *Marfa Lights*, *Gibraltar*, *The Ballad of Pancho and Lucy*, *The 7 Visions of Encarnación*, *Bethlehem*, *Dreamlandia*, *El Otro*, *Man of the Flesh*, *Prospect*, *El Paso Blue*, *Santos & Santos*, and *La Posada Mágica* have been mounted at the California Shakespeare Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Yale Repertory Theatre, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, the Dallas Theater Center, the Magic Theatre, Intersection for the Arts, South Coast Repertory Theatre, the San Diego Repertory Theatre, the San Jose Repertory Theatre, Shadowlight Productions, the Venture Theatre in Philadelphia, Latino Chicago Theatre Company, Boston Court and Kitchen Dog Theatre, the New York Summer Play Festival, Teatro Vista in Chicago, El Teatro Campesino, the Undermain Theatre in Dallas, Thick Description, Campo Santo, the Imua Theatre Company in New York, and Cornerstone Theatre. His collaborative works include *Cloudlands*, with Music by Adam Gwon, *Burning Dreams*, cowritten with Julie Hebert and Gina Leishman and *Shiner*, written with Erik Ehn. Solis has received an NEA 1995-97 Playwriting Fellowship, the Roger L. Stevens award from the Kennedy Center, the Will Glickman Playwright Award, a production grant from the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays, the 1998 TCG/NEA Theatre Artists in Residence Grant, the 1998 McKnight Fellowship grant from the Playwrights Center in Minneapolis, and the National Latino Playwriting Award for 2003. He is the recipient of the 2000-2001 National Theatre Artists Residency Grant from TCG and the Pew Charitable Trust, the United States Artists Fellowship for 2011 and the 2104 Pen Center USA Award for Drama. Solis is a Thornton Wilder Fellow for the MacDowell Colony, New Dramatists alum and member of the Dramatists Guild. His new anthology, "The River Plays" has been published by NoPassPort Publishing. He is working on commissions for the Magic Theatre SF and Yale Repertory Theatre.

ABOUT MILAGRO

As the premier Latino arts and culture center of the Pacific Northwest, Milagro has provided extraordinary Latino theatre, culture, and arts education for the enrichment of all communities since 1985. Teatro Milagro, Milagro's touring & arts education program, presents its original bilingual plays and educational residencies to diverse and underserved communities across the nation. On the mainstage, Milagro produces a full season of regional or world premieres, including one Spanish-language play each year, as well as our long-running Día de los Muertos signature production. We entertain our audiences; we give them pause to think, feel and imagine; and, through the cultural lens of latinidad, we reflect the full spectrum of humanity. For more information about Milagro, visit www.milagro.org or call 503-236-7253.

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