





Dear Friends,

We're excited to present a production that we think wonderfully mirrors the vibrancy of spring: *Laughs in Spanish*. This affecting, laughter-filled play is a celebration of life and joy that we hope touches your hearts just as it has ours.

With Laughs, we're also celebrating a remarkable new partnership with Stages Houston, the near-50-year-old theatre whose mission matches our own.

The heart and soul poured into *Laughs in Spanish* by playwright Alexis Scheer are echoed in the words of director Rebecca Rivas: "The play's themes resonate with me deeply—themes of women in the arts, mothers in the arts, and, ultimately, the sacrifices we make for our loved ones, so they have a capacity for joy that allows them to laugh with their whole heart, unedited. I hope that you, too, will get to laugh a little bit—and hopefully a little bit in Spanish."

Trust us, the laughs won't stop here. Our recently announced Season 19 is a surprise-filled blend of comedic and classic, dramatic and thrilling, mysterious and musical, bold and inventive. We're thrilled to share your brand new season of plays—and we mean "your brand new season." If you don't already, we hope you'll come to see T2 as your theatre.

Our team sifts through over a hundred plays each year, looking for just the right combination of stories—characters that stir compassion, unexpected spaces, distinct voices. As we make our selections, to paraphrase Willie Nelson, you are always on our mind.

Thank you for your continued excitement and enthusiasm for live theatre. And enjoy the show!

Shannon A. Jones / Executive Director

Bob Ford / Artistic Director

Shoulfun



CREATIVE TEAM

Rebecca Rivas Director

Tanya Orellana Scenic Designer
David Arevalo Costume Designer
Javier Moreno Lighting Designer
Cricket Myers Sound Designer

Emely Zepeda* Production Stage Manager

CAST

Ricardo Pérez Dávila*
Juan
Tonie Knight
Estella
Amanda Martinez*
Mariana
Sarah Sachi*
Carolina
Annie Wild
Jenny

UNDERSTUDIES

Damian Dena Juan Understudy
Candace Cochran Jenny Understudy

ADDITIONAL CREATIVES

Carlos Cantu Assistant Stage Manager

Jennifer McClory Wig Stylist
Ashley Love Intimacy Director
Adi Cabral Dialect Coach

Originally produced at the Denver Center Theatre Company, Chris Coleman, Artistic Director. "Laughs in Spanish" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com Any recording, taping, filming, or broadcast of this play—musical or otherwise—is strictly prohibited. Laughs in Spanish is a co-production with Stages Theatre in Houston, Texas. Artistic Director, Kenn McLaughlin; Interim Managing Director, David Schmitz.

STAGES HOUSTON Founded in 1978, Stages makes plays and tells stories that invite everyone to live more deeply and love more boldly. Guided by core values of Courage, Intimacy, Generosity, Inclusion, and Tenacity, Stages' intimate productions forge lasting connections while holding up a mirror to the community, sparking contemplation on the question: "What does it mean to be human?" As Houston's sixthlargest nonprofit performing arts producer, and the largest beyond the downtown theater district, Stages produces approximately 12 productions annually, totaling 430+ performances and drawing 75,000+ visitors per season. In January 2020, Stages unveiled The Gordy, a cutting-edge three-theater venue, redefining how Houston experiences theater.

TIME PERIOD

December, ART BASEL

SETTING

Wynwood. Miami, Florida







- * Member, Actors' Equity Association
- Member, United Scenic Artists, Local 829
- # Member, Stage Directors and Choreographers

RUN TIME

90 minutes, with no intermission

LAUGHS in SPANISH **WRITTEN BY ALEXIS SCHEER** DIRECTED BY REBEGGA RIVAS Ricardo Pérez Dávila **Tonie Knight** Amanda Martinez Sarah Sachi **Annie Wild** Rebecca Rivas

RICARDO PÉREZ DÁVILA

(Juan) makes their TheatreSquared debut. Selected acting credits include *Laughs in* Spanish and Panto Alicia in Wonderland (Stages Houston). Film and television credits include The Land of Owls and Dietland. They are also an acting coach, teaching artist, and playwright (Parts Per Million and Prophets, Sin Muros Latinx Festival). They have a BFA from NYU and an MFA from Yale.

TONIE KNIGHT (Estella) makes her TheatreSquared debut. Recent credits include Frau Keller/Theodora Van Hoven in *Murder on the Links* (Austin Playhouse); Ofelia in Anna in the Tropics (B. Iden Payne Award for Outstanding Featured Performer) and Rita in Jenna & the Whale (Ground Floor Theatre): Dotty/Mrs. Clackett in Noises Off! (B. Iden Payne Award nomination for Outstanding Featured Performer in a Comedy, Zach Theatre); Nana Ensemble in Secret of My Lupita in *Luchadora!* (B. Iden Payne Award nomination for Outstanding Lead Performer TYA, St. Edward's Mary Moody Northen Theatre); and Houston State University. Odessa/Haikumom in Water by the Spoonful (Different Stages Theatre). She holds a BA in performance studies from UT Austin.

AMANDA MARTINEZ

(*Mariana*) makes her TheatreSquared debut. Off-Broadway credits include Bernadette Perez in Keith Huff's Six Corners and Marv Bailey in It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play (Chain Theatre). Regionally, she's been seen as Helena in A Midsummer Night's Dream and Martha Cratchitt/ Christmas Angel in A Christmas Carol (The Alley);

Joanna Lypiatt in *Present* Laughter, Julia in Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter, and Mary-Agnes Russo in *The* Best of Everything (Main Street Theater). She was also seen in Camelot (Casa Manana) and was the female cover for American Mariachi (The Alley). Television credits include REDRUM (ID) and My Crazy Love (Oxygen). Amanda has been seen and heard in commercials nationally and world-wide. She holds a BM in musical theatre from Oklahoma City University.

SARAH SACHI (Carolina) makes her TheatreSquared debut. Selected credits include Glory Dupree in Thunder Knocking on the Door, Roxy in ROE, and Mae Florence in You Are Cordially Invited to Sit In (Stages Houston); Stepsister Joy in Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella, Squeegee/ Roger's Mom/Ensemble in *ŘENT*, Police Officer/ Ensemble in *Mary Poppins*, Success, and Nurse Dinah/ Ensemble in South Pacific (Theatre Under the Stars). She has a BFA from Sam

ANNIE WILD (Jenny) makes her TheatreSquared debut. Selected credits include the Governess/Miss Fox in The Turn of the Screw (Catastrophic Theatre); Mandy in *Untitled Horse* Play and Summer in Eyes Were Blue (Alley Theatre); Charlotte Corday in *The* Revolutionists and Beth in A Lie of the Mind (Dirt Dogs Theatre Co.); Suzy in *Da* Kink in My Hair (Ensemble Theatre); Cassie in The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley and Jerusha u/s in Daddy Long Legs (Main Street Theater). Recent film

credits include The Dancing Monkey, Spangled, and various short films. Voice acting credits include work for Sentai Filmworks and audiobooks with Hachette Audio, She has a BFA from the Boston Conservatory and works as a teaching artist for Alley Theatre.

REBECCA RIVAS (Director) returns to TheatreSquared, where she is a Senior Artistic Associate and has previously directed American Mariachi and Native Gardens. Other directing credits include a reading of *Then They Forgot* About the Rest by Georgina Escobar at Stages Houston's 2019 Sin Muros Festival. Acting credits include: Madame Pontengnac/ Fabiola/Mandy in The Dina Dong (Or How the French Kiss), Carly in Reasons to Be Pretty, and various roles in the Arkansas New Play Festival (TheatreSquared); the one-woman show Highway 47 and Sarah in Tom Lea: Grace Note in a Hard World (Frontera Repertory Theatre). Rebecca is originally from El Paso, Texas, where she was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance at UT El Company); Brighton Beach Paso. Her university directing credits include *Electricidad*. Labyrinth of Desire, Esperanza and Pinocchio (Cincinnati Rising, Just Like Us, and Bless Me, Ultima. She holds an MFA in acting from the University of Arkansas.

TANYA ORELLANA

(Scenic Designer) returns to TheatreSquared. She designs performance spaces for theatre, opera, and immersive **JAVIER MORENO** (*Lighting* experiences. Collaborations include For The People by Larissa FastHorse and Ty Defoe (The Guthrie Theatre): Big Data by Kate Attwell directed by Pam MacKinnon (A.C.T.), Oedipus directed

by Jenny Koons (The Getty Villa), We the Peoples Before directed by Roberta Uno (The Kennedy Center); The *Ìndustry's Sweet Land*, an immersive opera directed by Yuval Sharon and Cannupa Hanska Luger (LA State Historic Park); Voices from a Killing Jar by Kate Soper directed by Zoe Aja Moore (Long Beach Opera); LEAR by Marcus Gardley directed by Eric Ting (Calshakes), and The Kind Ones by Miranda Rose Hall directed by Lisa Peterson (Magic Theatre). She is a member of Wingspace Theatrical Design and an organizing member of La Gente: The Latine Theatre Production Network, She received her MFA in scenic design from CalArts and is a recipient of the Princess Grace Fabergé Theatre Award.

DAVID AREVALO (Costume Designer) makes his TheatreSquared debut. Regional credits include: Laughs in Spanish (Stages Houston); Selling Kabul (Northlight Theatre); Don't Let the Pigeon Sing Up Late! (The Kennedy Center); Private Lives (Arizona Theatre Memoirs (The Human Race Theatre Company); Rapunzel Playhouse in the Park); and Don Giovanni (Queen City Opera). David has an MFA from Northwestern University. He is an assistant professor and head of the MFA in Costume Technology program at UT Austin.

Designer) makes his TheatreSquared debut. He serves as the in-house Lead Electrician at Stages Houston, where his lighting design credits include Laughs in Spanish, The Bride, and

Panto Little Mermaid. With Stages he co-designed Stages Studio Sessions 2.0: John Ryan Del Bosque & Carolyn Johnson. He formerly worked as an IATSE lighting technician and board operator for the Cleveland Playhouse, working on shows including Sweat, An Iliad, Pipeline, and the world premiere of *Tiny Houses*. He holds an MFA in lighting design from the University of Nevada Las Vegas and a BA in theater technology from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras.

CRICKET S. MYERS

(Sound Designer) returns to TheatreSquared where she previously worked on Tiny Beautiful and Sanctuary City. On Broadway, Cricket earned a Tony nomination and a Drama Desk Award for her design of Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo. She has also designed regionally at La Jolla Playhouse, The Geffen Playhouse, The Ahmanson, The Mark Taper Forum, Arizona Theater Company, South Coast Repertory Theatre, The Kirk Douglas Theater, Pasadena Playhouse, Denver Center, and Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. Other selected L.A. credits include The Wallis Annenberg Center for Performing Arts, East West Players, Celebration, and Ghost Road Theater Company. She has earned 24 Ovation nominations as well as winning The Ruth Morley Award from the League of Professional Theater Women, The Kinetic Award for Outstanding Achievements in Theatrical Design, an LADCC, and a Garland Award. Cricket is a proud member of Local USA 829 and the TSDCA.

EMELY ZEPEDA (Stage *Manager*) is the resident production stage manager at TheatreSquared, where she has stage managed What the Consitution Means to Me, The Band's Visit, Dial M for Murder, Violet, Sanctuary City, Detroit '67, It Came From Outer Space, Miss You Like Hell, The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity, The Mountaintop, A Christmas Carol, Designing Women, and *American Mariachi*. She was previously the resident production stage manager with Brave New World Repertory Theatre in Brooklyn, NY, where she stage managed *Shakespeare* on Stratford (2021 and 2019), The Hook, A View from the Bridge, The Plantation, and Miss Julie, Asian Equities. Other credits: I Am My Own Wife (Long Wharf Theatre); Only Human (St. Clement's); Tech Support (59E59 Theaters); Till (New York Musical Festival); Zen AM and I Am Antigone (Theater for the New City); Hatefuck (WP Theater); Soft Butter (Ars Nova); Melt (High Line); Thunderbodies (Soho Repertory Theatre); Ann and Skeleton Crew (Dorset Theatre). She holds an MFA in stage management from the Yale School of Drama and a BA in theatre technical design from Binghamton University.

ROBERT FORD (Artistic Director) is an awardwinning playwright, novelist, and musician who helped found TheatreSquared in 2005 and since then has co-produced 90 plays and musicals and facilitated the development of over 85 new works. Most recently, T2 featured his new playin-progress, In The Grove of Forgetting, in the 2023 Arkansas New Play Festival.

With Amy Herzberg, he coadapted two versions of A Christmas Carol for T2. T2 has produced several of his plays, including *Fault*, The Spiritualist, The Fall of the House (also Alabama Shakespeare Festival - Edgar Award nominee), My Father's War, Look Away, 'Twas the *Night*, and adaptations of Great Expectations and It's a Wonderful Life. His critically acclaimed first novel, The Student Conductor, was a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers pick. He holds a MMus degree from Yale and MFAs in acting from Rutgers and in playwriting & screenwriting from the University of Texas at Austin.

SHANNON A. JONES

(Executive Director) ioined TheatreSquared in 2014 and navigated roles from assistant stage manager to general manager before taking the helm in 2023. In her time at T2, she has managed, supported, and uplifted a multitude of artists, facilitated donor, artist, and community engagement, mentored emerging stage managers, served as a member of the DEI-focused TRUE NWA Train Cohort, and led the development of T2's DEIA goals. As Executive Director, she oversees the company's 100 employees, budgeting, operations, and the production of eight plays and the Arkansas New Play Festival each season. She was recognized in Northwest Arkansas Business Journal's 2023 Forty Under 40 class. Highlights of some of her behind-the-scenes work at T2 include Peter and the Starcatcher, The Champion, and The Legend of Georgia McBride, among many others. She holds a BFA in stage management from the University of Central Florida

and is a member of Actors' Equity Association.

ALEXIS SCHEER

(Playwright)'s breakout play was the off-Broadway hit Our Dear Dead Drug Lord (NYT Critics Pick, John Gassner Award; LTC Carnaval of New Latinx Work; Kilroy's List), and she recently made her Broadway debut adapting the book for Andrew Lloyd Webber's Bad Cinderella. Her new play Breaking The Story will premiere Off Broadway at Second Stage this spring directed by Jo Bonney. Other plays include Laughs in Spánish (Kennedy Center's Harold & Mimi Steinberg Award) and Christina (Roe Green Award: O'Neill Finalist). Her plays have been produced by Second Stage, WP Theater, Center Theatre Group, Denver Center, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, and more. Alexis is currently under commission by Manhattan Theatre Club, Miami New Drama and Seaview. Television/Film: Pretty Little Liars: Original Sin (HBO Max) and projects developed for HBO Max/ Salma Hayek's Ventanarosa and Sony/Netflix, Alexis was born and raised in Miami, Florida, in a Jewish-Colombian household. Her mother is from the magical mountains of Medellín (yup, like Encanto) and her father is probably the great grandson of Motel the tailor from Fiddler on the Roof. Alexis is a proud alum of New World School of the Arts and holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from The Boston Conservatory and MFA in Playwriting from Boston University. She also has an extensive acting background. She resides in Boston with her music conductor husband and mini Aussie Sagan.



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Shannon A. Jones Executive Director

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David Houston Director of Human Resources
Tara Fletcher-Gibbs Finance Office Assistant
Eleanor Hill Company Manager

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Rebecca Rivas Senior Artistic Associate & Program Director,

LatinX Theatre Project

Dexter J. Singleton Senior Artistic Associate & Director of New Play

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Sammi Shane Casting Assistant

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M. Stratton Head Bartender

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Trey Smith Event Manager

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Kyle Hoehn Operations Coordinator

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Bryce Kemph Scene Shop Supervisor
Kyle Hancock Technical Direction Apprentice

Parker Lane Scenic Painter

Scenic Technicians

Spenser Crampton, Elissa Kasper, Anne Lancaster

COSTUMES

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Jennifer McClory Wardrobe Supervisor
Kelsey Blotter Costume Technician
Preston Dulaney Wardrobe Crew

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Lighting Supervisor

Production Technician

Light Board Programmer

AUDIO

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Kat Magaña Facilities Supervisor

Sandra Cruz Custodian

CREW

Spenser Crampton Deck Crew

SPECIAL THANKS

Mitchell Greco, Joel Burkholder, and the staff of Stages Houston Wesley Hitt (Photography)

Justin Hebert (Animation)

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Dear friends,

TheatreSquared is a place where the community gathers to experience the magic of storytelling and the joy of togetherness. It's where families come to laugh, friends come to be inspired, and individuals from all walks of life come to connect with the arts and with one another.

As a valued member of our theatre family, you hold a special place in our hearts.

Your gift to T2, no matter the size, helps us create an environment where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and uplifted through accessible ticket prices, educational programs, and world-class theatre experiences.

Together, let's ensure that the tradition of gathering around shared experiences remains alive for all in our community.

With heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support,

Todd Simmons / T2 Board President

WHY SUPPORT T2?

35% of TheatreSquared's annual budget is funded by ticket sales. Your generosity allows T2 to provide:

REMARKABLE LIVE THEATRE / In our intimate space, great theatre performances are just feet away. Each play is newly envisioned and staged for diverse audiences here in Northwest Arkansas.

EDUCATION FOR YOUTH / More than 25,000 students experience T2's performances and residencies each year—from Fayetteville to Mena, Bentonville to Searcy, Southeast Missouri to the Arkansas Delta.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS'S HOME FOR PROFESSIONAL THEATRE

ARTISTS / T2 is one of only two professional theatre companies in the state presenting a year-round season. Artists are compensated on a national scale. Broad access to a professional theatre supports a higher quality of life for everyone working and living in Northwest Arkansas.

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

These community members have given generously to support T2's work on stage and in schools, providing the margin of excellence that sets T2's work apart.

Reflects contributions received as of March 1, 2024.

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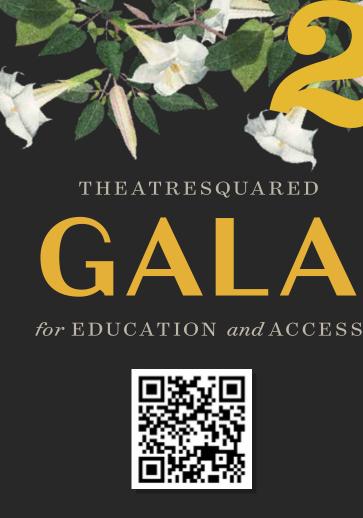
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For more information, contact Chris Seawood, Corporate and Institutional Giving Manager, at 479-445-6333 or chris@theatre2.org.

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Have guest lodging, a vehicle, or airline miles to contribute? Contact our Company Management team at 479-445-6333 or by email at company@theatre2.org.



OUR NEXT STAGE

Join us with your gift to close out TheatreSquared's ambitious commitment to a state-of-the-art home for professional theatre in our region—and help us guarantee the future of this award-winning cultural and educational anchor for decades to come.

Gifts of all sizes, pledged over three years, will ensure the vitality of this exceptional community resource. From artist's patio bricks, to seat sponsorships, to room naming

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For giving levels, continuing updates, and information on the campaign, visit OURNEXTSTAGE.ORG.

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A Raisin in the Sun

By Lorraine Hansberry Directed by Dexter J. Singleton August 21-September 15, 2024

twenty50

by Tony Meneses
Directed by Rebecca Rivas
October 2-November 3, 2024

A Christmas Carol

From the novel by Charles Dickens Adapted by Amy Herzberg & Robert Ford November 20-December 24, 2024

Primary Trust

By Eboni Booth Directed by vickie washington January 22-February 23, 2025

Twelfth Night

By William Shakespeare In a modern verse translation by Alison Carey March 5-March 30, 2025

In The Grove of Forgetting

By Robert Ford Directed by Damon Kiely April 16-May 11, 2025

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder

Book & Lyrics by Robert L. Freedman Music & Lyrics by Steven Lutvak Co-directed by Amy Herzberg & James Taylor Odom Based on a novel by Roy Horniman June 4-June 29, 2025

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NEXT UP

Fat Ham April 17-May 12, 2024
Responders June 5-June 30, 2024

