



Teatro del Pueblo
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEATRO DEL PUEBLO and PANGEA WORLD THEATER present:
The 10th Annual Political Theatre Festival: Latinos in Transition
February 17 - 27, 2011

MINNEAPOLIS & SAINT PAUL, MN—January 7, 2011—For the 10th successive year, Teatro del Pueblo, in collaboration with Pangea World Theater, is shining the spotlight on Latin American politics at the 2011 Political Theatre Festival. This year's theme is "Latinos in Transition" and will feature two productions by guest artists: ***Aliens, Immigrants, & Other Evildoers***, by José Torres-Tama, and ***¡Gaytino!*** by Dan Guerrero. The festival runs Feb. 17-27 at St. Paul's Gremlin Theatre, opening with *Aliens, Immigrants, and Other Evil Doers* February 17-19, and concluding with *¡Gaytino!*, Feb. 25-27.

Transición: Spanish for transition, it is the process of changing from one state or condition to another. The 2011 Political Theatre Festival explores this universal experience of being in the in-between as the characters of *Aliens, Immigrants, & Other Evildoers* and *¡Gaytino!* transition between time, place, culture, and language. In *Aliens, Immigrants, & Other Evildoers*, José Torres-Tama portrays numerous Latino "extraterrestrials" who find themselves in transition as they bilingually challenge the flaws of a country built by immigrants that vilifies the same people whose labor it exploits. In *¡Gaytino!* Dan Guerrero tells his story of transitioning between gay and Chicano identities. "The idea behind this year's plays," explains Al Justiniano, Teatro's Artistic Director, "is that the Latino community is coming of age in the United States as they become the largest minority in the country. It's a period in history in which Latinos take their place as a people of our nation and sit at the table of defining what we as a nation are."

Aliens, Immigrants & Other Evildoers, co-presented by Pangea World Theater, is a sci-fi Latino noir, multimedia solo by award-winning performance artist José Torres-Tama that satirizes the status of Latino immigrants as "aliens" and explores the rise in hate crimes against Latinos across the U.S. Torres-Tama shape-shifts into numerous Latino "extraterrestrials" who bilingually challenge the flaws of a country built by immigrants that vilifies the same people whose labor it exploits. *Aliens, Immigrants, & Other Evildoers* dares to ask the hard questions, "Since the Pilgrims arrived without papers and were the first illegals, why were they not deported?"

Torres-Tama plays eight characters in *Aliens, Immigrants, & Other Evildoers*, and it includes a Nicaraguan woman who crossed the border when she was eight years old to reunite with her father who had escaped the country's civil war in the 1980's. Also, he performs a Honduran man



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who was sequestered at the border, a New Orleans Congress of Day Laborer activist who almost lost his arm in a reconstruction job, a Methodist Minister who petitions people to see the Christ in the persecuted immigrant, an enigmatic and silent "alien" character who opens the show carrying a cross of dollar bills in a visually dynamic ritual, and a few other immigrant characters who put a human face and heart on a people being vilified across the country.

The real life characters portrayed by José Torres-Tama in *Aliens, Immigrants, & Other Evildoers* are inspired by interviews the artist conducted of immigrants in the three cities of Houston, New Orleans, and Washington, DC, cities of the three commissioning theater arts organizations for the performance project. *Aliens, Immigrants, & Other Evildoers* premiered at New Orleans' Ashé Cultural Arts Center in September of 2010. Torres-Tama is an interdisciplinary artist based in New Orleans and the recipient of a Louisiana Theater Fellow and NEA award.

<http://www.torrestama.com/site/aliens.html>

¡Gaytino! is Dan Guerrero's autobiographical, one-man show about his Chicano and gay identities. Guerrero uses music and monologue to explore his relationship with his father, Chicano musician Eduardo "Lalo" Guerrero; his career as a Broadway talent agent; and his return to his Chicano roots. Described by the *Washington Post* as "a disarming twist on the triumph-of-the-human-spirit theme," it is a witty, personal reflection of the larger experience of growing up gay in the Chicano community.

The critically-acclaimed 2006 world premiere of *¡Gaytino!* in Los Angeles was produced by the Center Theatre Group. Since then, the play has toured to more than a dozen cities. Guerrero was recognized by Hispanic Magazine as "one of the most powerful Latinos in Hollywood," and he has been twice honored by the Imagen Foundation for his positive portrayal of Latino culture through his work. <http://www.gaytino.com/>

The Political Theatre Festival Turns Ten

Teatro del Pueblo has been bringing Latin American politics to Minnesota through the Political Theatre Festival since 2002. The idea for the Festival came about when Teatro's Artistic Director Alberto Justiniano was in Ireland teaching conflict resolution and realized that he wanted to be better-versed in Latin American politics. And, what better way to create an educational conversation than through the performing arts! Since the Political Theatre Festival was first introduced to the Twin Cities 10 years ago, it has become an annual event, addressing Latino (and universal) issues such as social justice, community, identity, and immigration. "As I look back," reflects Justiniano, "I realize that it was worth all the effort to create a space where we can create a creative dialogue around political issues. As the old-age tradition in Latin America, we are making theater relevant to the political discourse." Teatro has collaborated with other Twin Cities' theaters, including Intermedia Arts, Pangea World Theater, and the University of Minnesota Department of Theatre Arts and Dance.



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About Teatro del Pueblo and Pangea World Theater:

Based in the heart of West St. Paul's Latino community, Teatro del Pueblo promotes Latino culture through the creation and presentation of performing arts. Teatro develops and supports Latino artists, provides educational opportunities for all to experience Latino culture and promotes cross-cultural dialogue. Fostered by the Latino community in West St. Paul, it has grown since its inception in 1992 to serve the metro area and greater Minnesota.

www.teatrodelpueblo.com

Pangea World Theater illuminates the human condition, celebrates cultural differences, and promotes human rights by creating and presenting international, multi-disciplinary theater. Since 1995, Pangea has worked to create and present new possibilities and new aesthetic realities for an increasingly diverse audience. The artistic direction evolves out of relevant shifts in the social, cultural and political pulse of the communities in which we live and work.

www.pangeaworldtheater.org

Teatro del Pueblo and Pangea World Theater collaborated last year to produce The Ninth Annual Political Theater Festival and *The House of Bernarda Alba*. "In this particular time it is imperative that like minded organizations find new ways to partner to maximize the impact of or work on our community and the field of American Theater as a whole," says Pangea World Theater, Executive and Literary Director Meena Natarajan. Alberto Justiniano of Teatro del Pueblo agrees: "This partnership will create powerful theater while renewing our individual artistic practices and institutions."

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Teatro-del-Pueblo/310677960497>
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Pangea-World-Theater/13359084204>

Twitter:

http://twitter.com/Pangea_PanLab

CALENDAR EDITORS

10th Annual Political Theater Festival:

Aliens, Immigrants, and Other Evil Doers by José Torres-Tama

¡Gaytino! by Dan Guerrero

For the 10th successive year, Teatro del Pueblo, in collaboration with Pangea World Theater, is shining the spotlight on Latin American politics at the 2011 Political Theatre Festival. This year's theme, "Latinos in Transition," explores the universal experience of being in the in-between. The festival features two productions by guest artists: ***Aliens, Immigrants, & Other Evildoers***, a sci-fi Latino noir and multimedia solo by José Torres-Tama in which Torres-Tama portrays numerous Latino "extraterrestrials" in transition as they bilingually challenge the flaws of a country built by immigrants that vilifies the same people whose labor it exploits; and ***¡Gaytino!***



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by Dan Guerrero, in which Guerrero sings and dances his personal narrative of transitioning between his gay and Chicano identities. The festival runs Feb. 17-27 at St. Paul's Gremlin Theatre, opening with *Aliens* February 17-19, and concluding with *¡Gaytino!*, Feb. 25-27.

Press/Opening Nights:

Thursday, February 17 @ 8:00pm, *Aliens, Immigrants, and Other Evil Doers*

Thursday, February 25 @ 8:00pm, *¡Gaytino!*

Run:

Thursday, February 17 @ 8:00pm, *Aliens, Immigrants, and Other Evil Doers*

Friday, February 18 @ 8:00pm, *Aliens, Immigrants, and Other Evil Doers*

Saturday, February 19 @ 8:00pm, *Aliens, Immigrants, and Other Evil Doers*

Friday, February 25 @ 8:00pm, *¡Gaytino!*

Saturday, February 26 @ 8:00pm, *¡Gaytino!*

Sunday, February 27 @ 2:00pm, *¡Gaytino!*

Gremlin Theatre, 2400 University Ave., St. Paul, MN 55114,

Tickets: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/145813>, 1-800-838-3006

Groups of 10+, call 651-224-8806

Pricing: \$15 General Admission, \$12 Students/Seniors, \$11 Groups of 10+ (call 651-224-8806)

More Information: info@teatrodelpueblo.org, 651-224-8806

Other upcoming Teatro del Pueblo and Pangea World Theater collaborations in 2011:

Oedipus el Rey by Luis Alfaro, **March 10-27, 2011**

More information about this collaboration and the Political Theatre Festival, including high-resolution photos, will be available mid January of 2011 at <http://www.teatrodelpueblo.org/press.html>.

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