



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Marin Theatre Company presents the
West Coast Premiere of
LYDIA by Octavio Solis
Directed by Jasson Minadakis

March 19 through April 12, 2009 | Opening Night March 24, 8:00 PM

[Photos available early January]

MILL VALLEY, CA—Marin Theatre Company is pleased to present the **West Coast premiere** of *Lydia* by award-winning **San Francisco playwright Octavio Solis**. *Lydia* was the standout play at the Denver Center Theatre Company's Colorado New Play Summit in January 2008 and is in limited release for the 2008-2009 season. Two other theaters will produce *Lydia* this season: Yale Repertory Theatre, which will stage the East Coast premiere in February 2009; and the Mark Taper Forum, which will stage the second West Coast production in April 2009.

Set in 1970's El Paso, the Flores family is mired in grief, rage, and guilt over their daughter Ceci's debilitating accident on the eve of her quinceañera two years earlier. Locked inside her mind and body by her injuries, 17-year-old Ceci lives with her parents, devout and superstitious Rosa and short order cook Claudio, and her two brothers. Gentle younger brother Misha helps to look after Ceci and writes poetry, while older brother Rene gets into nightly fights with anyone who crosses his path. Cousin Alvaro has recently returned from Vietnam and inexplicably joined the Border Patrol. Into this damaged and explosive family comes Lydia, an illegal from Mexico, who is hired to help care for Ceci. When Ceci forms a nearly miraculous bond with Lydia, the family is elated. But their joy quickly turns to anger when the new relationship threatens to uncover disturbing family secrets.

The poetic, magical, shocking new play *Lydia* amazed audiences and drew critical comparisons to O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night* and Miller's *Death of a Salesman* in its world premiere at the Denver Center Theatre Company earlier this year.

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Critics are already calling *Lydia* the latest addition to the canon of epic American family plays.

“Everyone at MTC is honored to premiere this brave, passionate, and important new play on the West Coast, and we are thrilled to be working so closely with Solis on its production. With *Lydia*, Solis has unquestionably affirmed his place among our elite contemporary playwrights,” said director **Jasson Minadakis**.

Plays by San Francisco playwright and director **Octavio Solis** include *June in a Box*, *Lethe*, *Marfa Lights*, *Gibraltar*, *The Ballad of Pancho and Lucy*, *The Seven Visions of Encarnacion*, *Bethlehem*, *Dreamlandia*, *El Otro*, *Man of the Flesh*, *Prospect*, *El Paso Blue*, *Santos & Santos*, and *La Posada Mágica*. His plays have been produced at Magic Theatre, Intersection for the Arts, San Jose Repertory, South Coast Repertory Theatre, Yale Repertory Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Denver Center Theatre Company (which commissioned and premiered *Lydia*), and many other theaters around the country. Solis has received numerous awards, including the Roger L. Stevens award from the Kennedy Center, the TCG National Theatre Artists Residency Grant, the National Latino Playwriting Award, and the 2008 NEA Distinguished New Play Development Project grant for *John Steinbeck’s The Pastures of Heaven* with Cal Shakes and Word for Word. He is presently working on an adaptation of *Don Quixote* for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival’s 2009 summer season. Solis is a Thornton Wilder Fellow for the MacDowell Colony, a New Dramatists alumnus, and a member of the Dramatists Guild.

The cast of *Lydia* includes Bay Area stage veterans **Wilma Bonet** as Rosa; Campo Santo founder **Luis Saguar** as Claudio; **Elias Escobedo**, seen recently in several Bay Area productions, as Alvaro; **Gloria Garayua**, familiar to audiences for her recurring role on the popular TV show *Grey’s Anatomy*, as Ceci; New York actress **Adriana Gavira** as Lydia; Los Angeles actor **David Pintado** as Misha; and **Lakin Valdez**, son of playwright and director Luis Valdez (*Zoot Suit*), as Rene.

The full script for *Lydia* has been published in its entirety in the December 2008 issue of *American Theatre*.

Please note: this play contains nudity and extreme situations. It is not appropriate for children.

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THE FACTS

For more information visit www.marintheatre.org or call 415.388.5208.

Marin Theatre Company is located at 397 Miller Ave, Mill Valley 94941.

Previews—Thursday, March 19 through Sunday, March 22, 2009

Opening Night Gala—Tuesday, March 24 at 8:00 pm

Performance Schedule

Tues, Thu, Fri and Sat 8:00 pm

Wed 7:30 pm

Sun 7:00 pm

Matinees: Thu 1:00 pm | Sat and Sun 2:00 pm

Please check www.marintheatre.org or call box office at 415.388.5208 for exact performance dates and times.

Ticket Prices \$20–51

Previews: Thu through Sun: \$31

Tues: \$31 in advance or Pay-What-You-Can (excludes Opening)

Wed, Thu, & Sun Evenings: \$34 & \$41

Fri: \$39 & \$46

Sat Evenings: \$44 & \$51

Wed, Thu, Sat & Sun Matinees: \$34 & \$41

Opening Night (Tues) with Cast Reception: \$44 & \$55

Student tickets: \$20, all performances

Senior discounts available

Rush tickets \$10, available one-half hour prior to show, based on availability

MTC ENGAGED!

Programs for *Lydia* include:

Post-Show Q&As—After most performances (except Saturday evenings and Opening Night), MTC hosts a Q&A with a member of MTC’s Artistic staff and members of the cast.

After Words—Sunday, March 22

After our Sunday Preview matinee in the Boyer Theatre, Margot Melcon, MTC’s Literary Manager/Dramaturg, will interview a personality onstage (TBA).

Opening Night—Tuesday, March 24

The theater’s most festive evening! Meet the cast and director at an informal post-show reception and enjoy a complimentary glass of Korbel champagne and treats provided by Whole Foods.

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Director's Night— Wednesdays, March 25 & April 8

Lively post-show conversations with the director and/or cast members on two Wednesday evenings.

Wine Tasting Series— Saturday, March 28

Complimentary pre-show tasting (one hour prior to show) beginning at 7pm. Wine provided by Barefoot Wines and Bubbly of Modesto.

Perspectives— Thu Matinee, April 2

Topical lecture one hour prior to the Thursday matinee, speaker TBA.

Happy Hour— Wednesday, April 1

All drinks half-off one hour before a Wednesday evening performances.

ABOUT MTC

Entering its 42nd year, Marin Theatre Company is one of only five LORT theaters in the Bay Area, and is the largest professional regional theater company located in San Francisco's North Bay. It produces an annual season of more than 200 performances on its two stages. MTC provides a forum for contemporary, classic and emerging playwrights and, through the new Expanded Programs forum, an environment that introduces people of all ages to the transformative power of theater. Through its public performances, school tours, and various educational programs, MTC serves more than 40,000 people annually.

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Marin Theatre Company Presents *LYDIA* by Octavio Solis

CAST BIOS

Wilma Bonet (*Rosa*) returns to MTC having previously appeared as several characters in the 1999 production of *Mere Mortals* for which she won the Goodman Award for performance. She has appeared on many Bay Area stages including recent roles in San Jose Repertory Theatre productions of *Wintertime* and *Matchmaker*, and San Jose Stage Company's *Ghosts*. Her one-person play *Good Grief Lolita* toured the Bay Area and has been published in *Puro Teatro: A Latina Anthology*. For many years, she was a collective member of the Tony Award-winning San Francisco Mime Troupe. Regional credits include Mark Taper Forum, Denver Center Theatre Company, Old Globe, Dallas Theatre Center, and international tours with the San Francisco Mime Troupe and El Teatro Campesino. Film and television credits include *What Dreams May Come*, *8MM*, *Underwraps*, *Jack*, *Radio Flyer*, and *Nash Bridges*.

San Francisco native **Elias Escobedo** (Alvaro) has worked with Marin Shakespeare Festival (Dean Goodman Choice Award, *Benvolio, Romeo & Juliet*), Cal Shakes, TheatreWorks, Berkeley Rep, SF Playhouse, Belrose Theatre, Town Hall Theatre, Curtain Theatre, Exit Theatre, Brava Theatre, New Conservatory Theatre, and Theatre Rhinoceros. Elias earned his BA in Dramatic Arts from UC Davis.

Gloria Garayua (*Ceci*) appeared in the 2008 MTC workshop production of *American Triage*. Among her many credits, Gloria has appeared in *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings* at the Kirk Douglas Theatre, *Illumination* at Mark Taper Forum, *Two Sisters and a Piano* at The Old Globe, and *American La Posada Magica* at South Coast Repertory Theatre. Film credits include *Henry Poole is Here*, *Fun with Dick and Jane*, and *House of D*. Television credits include a recurring role as an intern on *Grey's Anatomy*, and guest-starring roles include *Weeds*, *ER*, *Cold Case*, *LIFE*, *The Shield*, among many others.

New York actress **Adriana Gavrira** (*Lydia*) has appeared in the FringeNYC Encore Series at Classic Stage Company and the Lion Theatre, the Lark, Pregones, Repertorio Español, Immigrants' Theatre Project at The Public Theater/Mazer, Young

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Playwrights Inc., and the 52nd Street Project at EST/The Public Theater. Regional credits include the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Denver Center Theatre Company, Dallas Center Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, Pasadena Playhouse, and Yale Repertory Theatre. Adriana received a BFA from Florida International University and an MFA from Yale School of Drama.

David Pintado (*Misha*) is appearing for the first time in the Bay Area. From Los Angeles, he has been seen as Silvius in *As You Like It* and Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Will Geer Theatrum Botanicum. He has worked on many productions with various theaters in Southern California. David is a recent graduate of Cal State University of Fullerton with a BA in Acting.

Luis Saguar (*Claudio*) co-founded the award-winning San Francisco theater company Campo Santo where he has appeared in many productions including Octavio Solis' *Bethlehem*. He has appeared at A.C.T., Magic Theatre, San Jose Stage Company, and TheatreWorks, among other Bay Area theater companies. Regional credits include El Teatro Campesino and Denver Center Theatre Company. Film and television credits include *The Zodiac*, *Fun with Dick and Jane*, *Quality of Life*, *Flawless*, *The Shield*, and *Nash Bridges*.

Lakin Valdez (*Rene*) was born into the theatrical Valdez family and raised in the extended family of El Teatro Campesino, appearing in plays and films from the time he was able to walk and speak. Lakin has been seen there in numerous productions including *Ubu Roi*, *The Cenci*, *El Fin Del Mundo*, and *Zoot Suit* (written by his father, Luis Valdez). He has also appeared in theaters around the Bay Area, including Magic Theatre and Brava Theatre. Film and television credits include *La Bamba*, CBS' *Fort Figueroa*, and PBS' *La Pastorela*.

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