

THE FLORES EXHIBITS



March 20, 2021
10am - 12pm

www.lachsa.net/boxoffice

*Los Angeles County High School for the Arts Theatre Department
In Collaboration with Waterwell presents*

The Flores Exhibits: Voices from the Americas

*With contributions from Dance, Music, Visual Arts
& Cinematic Arts Departments*

Please be advised this presentation contains some mature themes.

Organizer/Director Kimiko Warner-Turner

Organizer.....Esmeralda Xochitl Flores

Actors in Alphabetical Order.....Jordan Anderson, Gloria Aung,
Kaylah Copeland, Olivia Prado,
Emily Rodriquez, Andrea Tupas

Dancers..... LACHSA Dance Department

Cinematic Art LACHSA Cinematic Art Department

Visual Artists.....Kasey Agosto, Gannon Falone,
Jessica Fung, Mitzi McKinnon, Maia Serras
Christina Quarles, Garcia Vace, Wyatt Workman

Choral IntroductionsDavid Contreras,
Estefani Lopez, Nadia Olea

Vocalists..... LACHSA Vocal Ensemble & Concert Choir

Facilitator & Panelists Isabel Castro, Stephanie Delgado,
Carlos Murillo, Carolina Sheinfeld, Lee Sunday Evans

Facilitator Teams..... Jordan Anderson, Janette Angel, Gloria Aung,
David Contreras, Kaylah Copeland, Hera Farago, Olivia Prado,
Emily Rodriquez, Stephanie Ruiz, Andrea Tupas

Poster Artwork.....Kasey Agosto

Video Editor..... William Lancaster

Translators.....Laura Vera & Karla Walters

Context

The Flores Settlement Agreement - A Timeline in 5 Acts

You will hear readings of four of the 69 testimonies taken on a routine trip by monitors. They are the voices of minors detained at Clint and Ursula detention centers in Texas. First reading of the testimonies were by Company members of Waterwell, NYC.

1985: In response to what Jenny (15 years old) and other children had to endure in a motel-turned-detention facility, immigration advocacy groups filed a class action lawsuit against the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

1997: Legal parties reached a settlement and named it after Jenny: The Flores Settlement Agreement. The Flores Settlement imposes obligations on U.S. immigration authorities to provide basic protections for children in custody.

June 2019: Monitors sent on a routine trip were sent to evaluate whether or not detention facilities at the U.S./Mexico border were in compliance. The team discovered many violations of the Flores Settlement Agreement. A team of lawyers interviewed the minors detained at Clint and Ursula, two facilities in Texas.

Context

The Flores Settlement Agreement - A Timeline in 5 Acts

August 2019: The Trump Administration announced plans to scrap the Flores Settlement in its entirety to allow for indefinite detention of migrant children and their families.

June 2020: U.S. District Judge Dolly Gee ruled that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) had failed to adequately protect minors held in the country's three family detention centers from Covid-19.

Currently

According to the Council on Foreign Relations, President Joe Biden, has pledged to undo Trump-era asylum and travel restrictions, as well as maintain DACA, expand humanitarian resources at the border, end prolonged detention, and create a road map to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

March 15th, 2021: Over four thousand children are being held in detention centers. This, as the Biden administration asks FEMA for assistance to "relieve, shelter and transfer" children over the next 90 days.

For more information go to: <https://www.facebook.com/waterwell/posts/the-flores-settlement-agreement-in-5-acts-click-right-so-see-the-legal-framework/10158726572217380/>

Director's Note

“One of the challenges of effective activism is learning to simultaneously hold a clear picture of radical transformation and take advantage of the smaller opportunities that present themselves without being distracted or seduced into thinking them adequate.”

- Medicine Stories by Aurora Levins Morales

This quote comes from a book I read while getting my master's degree in Applied Theatre Arts at USC. It's part of my personal signature on my email. My artistry and my family life are driven by this sentiment. *The Flores Exhibits: Voices from the Americas* is an example of effective activism that Morales writes about. They paint a picture of an issue that was almost silenced by the day-to-day noise that goes on in our world. Hearing the voices of *The Exhibits* invites us to enter into a dialog with the issues, taking action in small and large ways. Individually and collectively.

Thank you to everyone who helped to present this premier of *The Flores Exhibits* in California. Special thanks to Waterwell for sharing the testimonies with us. And to the students who took time out of their already busy schedules to BRING IT! Wow! Here at LACHSA, the talent is everywhere we turn. It's not just their talents that I admire, but the way they see the complex world, and grab each opportunity to create positive change. How lucky I am to have gone through this experience with this community of artists who believe that change is possible.

Co-Organizer's Note

In my first month of joining the LACHSA team, I was included in the conversations for *The Flores Exhibits: Voices from the Americas* and asked to join in the organizing of this presentation. One of the unique components of this project is the intentionality to include discussion, inquiry, and opportunities for further engagement after viewing the student presentations and art.

What I personally LOVE ABOUT ART (all the disciplines) is its power to make someone feel. Art can bring every emotion to the forefront. For me, this is a presentation that builds empathy for others. Empathy is a necessary ingredient for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Empathy fuels connection. Empathy challenges biases. “It is about recognizing others’ humanity, understanding and giving space to their emotions, and challenging ourselves to be present.” - Christina Sackeyfio

Tlazohcamati (thank you) to everyone who participated and supported this project to fruition, especially our students who shared their art and voices for this important topic.

THEATRE DEPARTMENT CAST

In Order of Appearance

Olivia Martinez-Prado (Exhibit #3) Senior, (she/her/ella), first generation U.S. citizen, parents immigrated from Argentina. Olivia Prado is a senior in the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts Theatre department. She has pursued acting from a young age, working on commercial, independent features, and short films, as well as theatre productions at LACHSA. Olivia has also pursued filmmaking arts, and plans to attend a university for film production, and follow a career in acting and film directing.

Jordan Anderson (Exhibit #58) Senior, (he/him/el) is a 2nd Generation American. His family migrated from Cuba and Japan and the reason he wants to be a part of this project is that his ancestors had to go through the Japanese internment camps, one being Manzanar, in World War 2. If he can do his part to help people get through these ICE camps and be a source for people to become more educated on these horrors. Then he will gladly contribute for these people's justice.

Emily Rodriquez (Exhibit #58) Senior, (she/her/ella) Her family is from Ponce, Puerto Rico. Emily is humbled to be a part of the Flores Exhibits. She is currently a senior in LACHSA's theatre department and is assistant directing Extreme Home Makeover with Sacramento's oldest Latine Theatre, Teatro Espejo. Following graduation, she plans to study applied theatre and community drama, finding new ways to engage theatre for social change.

THEATRE DEPARTMENT CAST

In Order of Appearance

Andrea Tupas (Exhibit #4) Senior, (she/her) is a first-generation American. Her family migrated from Guanajuato, Mexico, and Kidapawan, Philippines. Andrea has worked as a student teaching volunteer with her local community theatre, MET2, and is a part of the Self Help Graphics Youth Committee. This work means a lot to her and she supports spaces that connect conversations of immigration and art.

Gloria Aung (Exhibit #4) Senior, (she/her) is a first-generation Asian American. Her family immigrated from Myanmar. Gloria has volunteered as a student teaching volunteer for Metropolitan Educational Theatre Network, where she helped students find their passion for theatre. She aspires to continue striving for diversity in theatre as well as creatively encouraging her peers around her during difficult times.

Kaylah Copeland (Exhibit #41) Senior, (she/her) is a first-generation American on her mother's side. Her family migrated from Mexico City, Mexico. Kaylah hopes to attend college in the fall for a BA or BFA in Theatre. She is inspired to be an actor to share stories of those who are hardly heard and can not wait to devote the rest of her life to this kind of work.

VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

Kasey Agosto poster, graphic designer, (she/her) is a third generation American. Her great grandparents immigrated from Cuba, British Guiana, Eastern Europe, and Ireland. A Los Angeles based artist, she is currently studying at LA County High School for the Arts.

Mitzi McKinnon Title: Separation Anxiety, 2020 (she/her), student, LACHSA was born in China and adopted at 15 months old by American citizens. She is studying visual arts and proudly serves as Junior Class President. Her piece is inspired by the subconscious psychological trauma she experienced at a young age.

Michael Morran Title: "Everything Will Be OK", 2020 (he/him) is a junior in the Visual Arts program. He is a first-generation American from his mother's side from the area of central Israel and Irish on his father's side. Michael enjoys spending his time painting, playing music, and is committed to living an expressive life. Contrast and telling a story are the sources of his motivation and inspiration as a creator.

Wyatt Workman Title: America, 2020, a senior in the Visual Arts program at LACHSA (he/him), is a second-generation American on his dad's side, originating from a small town in Sicily, while his mother's ancestors trace back to the Mayflower. Wyatt spends his time illustrating, painting, and supporting organizations that protect the environment. His work was inspired by the collaboration of people who have taken on the task of healing this country and keeping it united.

Thanks also to the following contributing artists

Gannon Falconer Title: Identity Crisis

Jessica Fung Title: Mahjong Reflection

Maia Serras Two Untitled Pieces

GUEST ARTISTS

In alphabetical Order

Christina Quarles Title: Casually Cruel, 2018 (she/her/hers) LACHSA graduate, is a third generation American. Her father's family is African-American/Trinidadian and her mother's family is Norwegian/German. Born in Chicago and raised in Los Angeles, her gestural, abstract images confront themes of legibility, racial and sexual identities, gender and queerness. Recent and upcoming exhibitions include: South London Gallery, London (2021); MCA, Chicago (2021); X Museum, Beijing (2021); and Whitechapel Gallery, London (2020).

Gustavo Garcia Vaca is an interdisciplinary visual artist/writer and community teaching artist. He is a first generation US citizen, born in Los Angeles and whose family immigrated from Colombia. His artwork is in the Collections of MoMA, LACMA and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. He develops and conducts art-making workshops in LACMA, MOCA, the California African American Museum, the Compton Unified School District, the Claremont Unified School District and the Los Angeles Unified School District. Gustavo's website is: <http://www.chamanvision.com>

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

“Democracy”

Text by Langston Hughes

Composition by Jared Jenkins

Introduction by

David Contreras (he/him/el) is a 3rd generation Mexican whose grandparents immigrated from Michoacán Mexico. David has been performing since he was 5 and has performed at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, at the Grammys, and several mariachi competitions as a solo singer.

Estefani Lopez (she/her/ella), Senior at LACHSA is a first generation student. Being proud of her roots which come from San Luis Potosi, Mexico, she embraces her love for her culture by singing the music genre, Regional Mexicano as well as playing the violin and singing in her own mariachi, Mariachi Voces de Oro. She began singing at the age of 3 years old and since then has been singing Mariachi music and has even had the opportunity to sing with internationally recognized Mariachis such as Mariachi Los Camperos, Mariachi Divas, Mariachi Garibaldi, and Mariachi Angeles de Pepe Martinez. As of right now she plans on pursuing a degree in vocal performance for classical music but she will continue to sing mariachi and embrace her love for her culture.

Nadia Olea (she/her/ella) is a 3rd generation Mexican and is currently a junior vocalist at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. Nadia has studied operatic performance, choral performance and music theory at LACHSA and outside of school, she dances Folklorico (Mexican Folk Dance) at the Sabor de Mexico studio in Torrance, CA. Her father immigrated from Acapulco, Guerrero and her mother's parents immigrated from Mexico's capital (Distrito Federal) and Nayarit, Jalisco. She is very excited to be a part of this project and hopes you enjoy the performances!

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Soloists

Aguilar, Amelia

Kassulke, Akira

Trio

Constantinides, Karina

Kassulke, Akira

Patao, Leilani

Treble Voices

High

Aguilar, Amelia

Baker, Simone

Bartolome, Liana

Bondurant, Lauren

Constantinides, Karina

Granger, Hadley

Kuzina, Margo

Porter, Candace

Moncrieff-Karten, Ruby

Verhoeven, Ava

Winston, Georgia

Zager, Lily

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Middle

Broneer, Ava
Chiu, Chelsea
D'Angelo, Coco
Edwards-Mendez, Celia
Goodman, Rachel
Isaacs, Talia
Kassulke, Akira
Lee, Karissa
Lopez, Estefani
Olea, Nadia
Patao, Leilani
Richaud, Tatyana
Tillman, Drew

Low

Cain, Elyse
Candler, Juliana
Clark, Devon
Gibbs, Aila
Gonzalez, Natalia
Haber-Levin Sonya
Moncrief, Isabella
Mori, Coco
Navarro, Grace
Ramirez, Monique
Steinman, Molly

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Tenor/Bass

High

Bertisch, Aden

Damas, Randy

McCafferty, Kiernan

Fincher, Harry

Garel, Trenton

Middle

Boyd, Eugene

Elyon, Joshua

Hirose, Adam

Matsu, Max

Schlichting, Kai

Low

Alvarenga, Sergio

Danna, Arden

Isaacson, Archer

Luna, Micah

Schinner, Lucas

Schinner, Nate

DANCE DEPARTMENT

Introduction

Cynthia Morales, LACHSA Dance Department Chair and Senior Dance Representatives who performed in “Present Tense”: Robert Farr-Jones, Assata Gaines, Tara Aghaian, Stella Lansill and Maya Pacheco

Note: Today’s presentation includes only the film portion of an artistic concept that included a collaboration with Dance and Cinematic Arts. In the actual, live performance, the cast of 13 dancers performed on the stage in front of the film to bring a powerful and visceral experience of the tragic aspects of the theme to the audience.



“Present Tense” - In Rehearsal

DANCE DEPARTMENT

“Present Tense”

Concept: Cynthia Morales

Choreography: Ellia Asha di Ningrat assisted by Stella Lansill

Visual Director: Kevin De Kimpe

Dance film footage: Asha di Ningrat

Sound Design & Editing: Ellia Asha di Ningrat and Kevin DeKimpe

Track: “The Present Tense: solo recording composed and performed by Thom Yorke at Atoms for Peace Lotto Arena Antwerp Concert in Belgium (2013-07-09)

This piece was originally created and performed at the 2018 Arts Schools Network Conference: “Arts in Motion” in Santa Ana, California. The collaboration features the work of LACHSA’s sophomore Cinematic Arts majors under the visual direction of instructor Kevin DeKimpe, and the work and performance of select LACHSA Dance majors under the choreographic direction of Ellia Asha di Ningrat. This timely work focuses on the challenge confronting the untold depth and tragic consequences of the separation of families at our southern U.S. borders.

PANELISTS

Includes Actors Listed Above

Lee Sunday Evans (Facilitator) grew-up in Colorado and now lives in New York City. Her family has been in this country for several generations. She is a two-time Obie Award winning Director, and the Artistic Director of Water Well. Her work has been seen in the BAM Next Wave Festival, Lincoln Center, The Public, Playwrights Horizons, Steppenwolf, ArtsEmerson, Sundance Theater Lab, Baryshnikov Arts Center, The International Edinburgh Festival, among others. Recent credits: *The Courtroom* which is now being made into a feature-length film, and *Dance Nation* by Clare Barron at Playwrights Horizons and Steppenwolf. She is the co-creator of The Flores Exhibits (www.flores-exhibits.org).

Isabel Castro is a Mexican-American filmmaker who aims to shine a light on civil rights injustice and into the hidden corners of the immigrant experience in America. Isabel directed, produced, and lensed the documentary short *USA v Scott* (Tribeca 2020, Camden Film Festival 2020, The New Yorker) a film that explores the legality and ethics of humanitarian aid for migrants, *Darlin* (Tribeca 2019, NYT OpDocs), which was nominated for a News Emmy in 2020, follows a Honduran family in the months after their separation under the zero tolerance policy; and the Netflix docu-series *Pandemic*. Her directorial debut *Crossing Over* (Univision/Participant Media), about transgender asylum seekers, won a 2015 GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Documentary.

PANELISTS

Includes Actors Listed Above

Stephanie Delgado Managing Attorney for Released Youth, Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project (she/her/ella) is a first generation American. Her parents hail from San Julian and Tonaya, Jalisco, Mexico. She currently splits her time between overseeing community education efforts and directly representing unaccompanied minors. She has worked in the field since November 2016. Stephanie is a graduate of Harvard College and Cornell Law School.

Carlos Murillo Playwright (he/him/his) Professor & Head of Playwriting at The Theatre School of DePaul University, is a first generation US Citizen. His father emigrated from Subachoque, Colombia and his mother was born and raised in Moca, Puerto Rico before moving to New York City. Carlos is an award-winning Chicago based playwright, director and educator. His plays have been widely produced in the United States and internationally. Recent awards include a 2015 Doris Duke Impact Award, and a 2016 Mellon Foundation National Playwright Residency Program Fellowship. He is an alumnus of New Dramatists, and currently serves on the Board of Directors of MacDowell, the nation's oldest continuing artist residency program.

Carolina Sheinfeld Immigrant Relations Coordinator for the Los Angeles County Office of Education. After growing up in the Canary Islands her family migrated to Venezuela, where she finished high school at age 16. This life changing event sparked her passion for immigrant and refugee integration. Carolina came to the United States as a student 20 years ago and finally became an American citizen in 2017. Prior to coming to LACOE, she coordinated a program for immigrants in need of humanitarian protection at the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, providing legal assistance, case management and community education to asylum seekers and refugees.

Post-Show Discussions

Facilitators for Breakout Room Discussions

Jordan Anderson

Janette Angel

Gloria Aung

David Contreras

Kaylah Copeland

Hera Farago

Olivia Prado

Emily Rodriguez

Stephanie Ruiz

Andrea Tupas

Hera Farago Student, (she/her/hers) family from Sicily/other areas. Hera is a freshman in the Cinematic Arts department at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. Through her school, she has become increasingly involved in social justice work as the student leader of the Equity and Inclusion Committee and a member of various other subcommittees. Her involvement in this project stems from a need to spread awareness in her school community and aid in amplifying the voices and stories of others, as well as supporting her peers.

Pre-show track: “Farolito,” Little Light.” Artist Natalia Lafoucade a Dueto con Gilberto Gill, 2012.

Track: “California En Suenos” TrioEllas, 2017.

LACHSA STAFF

John Lawler Principal is a fourth-generation US citizen, whose paternal great grandparents immigrated from Ireland during the 19th century to escape the Great Potato Famine. In the famine, over 20% of the Irish population died or emigrated. His great grandfather drove a horse-drawn beer wagon, his grandfather was a bartender, and his father was a mechanic. Mr. Lawler is the first person in his family to attend college.

Lois Marie Hunter Senior Program Specialist-Theatre (she/her/me), is a fourth generation American on her father's side. His great-great-great-great grandfather, an Igbo from Nigeria, "migrated" during the transatlantic slave trade, also known as the Middle Passage. Ms. Hunter also is a third generation indigenous American on her mother's side. Her mother's grandfather was Creek/Seminole.

Esmeralda Xochitl Flores Equity Coordinator (she/her/ella), is a 2nd generation citizen to this country. Her mother's family was from Durango, Mexico including native Tepehuanes roots. Her father's family migrated from La Ceiba and Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Her DNA includes Native American, European (Spanish/Portuguese), and Sub-Saharan African. Both her parents were active in their community as educators, organizers and social workers.

Kimiko Warner-Turner Director (she/her/me), is a first generation Japanese-American on her mother's side, who hails from Northern Japan. Kimiko's DNA shows she is 50% Japanese. Her father's DNA shows she's Mali in West Africa, Nigerian, Cameroon, Congo & Western Bantu Peoples; Wales, Benin & Tango, Ivory Coast & Ghana, Sweden, and Senegal. She has never met her mother or father. She's honored to be able to work with LACHSA students, artists, and administrators to present this multi-department arts presentation.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO

John Lawler

Lois Hunter

Allison Andreas

Ruthie Ballenger

Alex Blake

Jonathan Dhauw

Gregory Grano

Barry Markowitz

Drew McClellan

Cythina Morales

Eddie Padilla

Michael Powers

Joy Silverman

Natalie Spevak

Laura Vena

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REMEMBERING LIZ YOUNG

We remember Liz Young, Visual Arts Department Chair, Artist for always moving the conversation forward with her art and the work she contributed while on the Social Justice Committee. She showed us how art is liberating and sometimes whimsy at the same time. We thank her for sharing her opinions with us. <https://www.lachsa.net/staff/liz-young>

lizyoungproduce.com



REMEMBERING LIZ YOUNG



Field of study: Fine Arts, 2001.



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Tina M. Vartanian, Natalie Spevak, *Assistant Principals*

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The non-profit LACHSA Foundation ensures that the most remarkable student artists in LA County are able to engage in a transformative conservatory incubator, regardless of their backgrounds. Each year, LACHSA Foundation works to fund the actual costs of the arts curriculum and programs by cultivating relationships with a broad base of donors who recognize how critical it is to support young artists destined to change the world.

www.lachsafoundation.org