

New York City



DANISARTE

presents / presenta



SOLILUNA



*A Magical Voyage thru Five Continents of the World /
Un Viaje Mágico por Cinco Continentes del Mundo*

A bilingual interactive series of folktales from the five continents
Musical
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
Una serie de cuentos folclóricos interactivos de los cinco continentes
PARA TODA LA FAMILIA



CAST

(in order of appearance)

- HERNAN ACUÑA.....Sun (Sol)
- ALICIA KAPLAN.....Moon (Luna)
- MARIA RENÉE LAVALLE.....Lili from Nigeria,
Spain, India & Mexico, Mama Tonga,
and Estrella (Star)
- PIEDAD CASTAÑO.....Agua (Water), Benjamin from
España, India, & Mexico,
Hijo del Sol, & Viento (Wind)
- LEANDRO COMRIE- PEPIN.....Visual Artist (Tonga)
- INMA HEREDIA.....Narrator (Tonga Video)
- LUIS GALLI.....Narrator (Tonga Video)
- VALERIA AVINA.....Boy Voice (Tonga Video)
- PREMIER SOLIS.....God/Dios (Mexico Video)

CREATIVE/TECHNICAL/PRODUCTION TEAM

ALICIA KAPLAN: Creator, Director, Choreographer

HERNAN ACUÑA: Associate Producer/Technical Director

JULIO ORTEGA: Stage Manager/Assistant to the Director

ELAINE MENDEZ: Puppet Designer & Creator

SARA RIVAS: Graphic and Video Designer/Editor

JUAN GUZMAN: Puppet & Clown Workshops

MARIPOSA: Tech Support & Understudy

MIGUEL MALO: Tech Support & Video Operator

OLGA STYLES: Costumier

ANA MONTERO: Additional Costumes

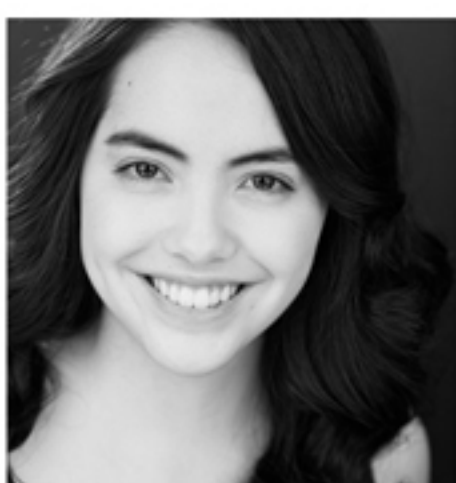
WHO'S WHO IN CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



HERNAN ACUÑA: see Producers



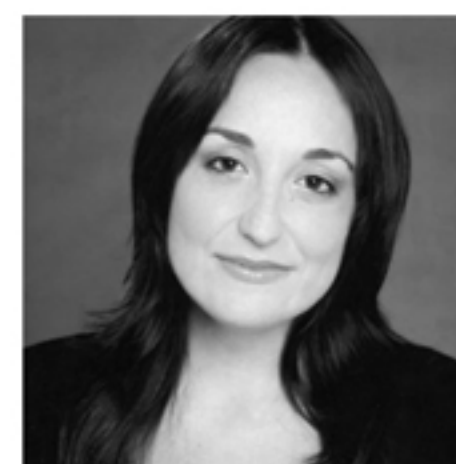
ALICIA KAPLAN: see Producers



MARIA RENÉE LAVALLE: Is an NYC-based queer actor, director, and puppeteer, born and raised in Mexico City. The American Academy of Dramatic Arts (AADA,'18). She is a proud member of INTAR Theatre's Unit 52, one of the United States' longest-running Latino theater producing in English. Credits include; Emmy Nominated Show *Hasta Que Te Conoci* (Disney Latinamerica & BTF Media), *I'd Rather Be Me* music video (Mean Girls on Broadway), the original cast of *Julio Ain't Goin Down Like That* (Off-Broadway), *Foul Shots* (INTAR's MicroTeatro Festival), *Third Wing* (LaMicro Theater), *LORDES* (Lenfest Center for the Arts), *Noche de Alebrijes!* (ArtVallARTa, Mexico), *The 24Hour Plays* (INTAR Theater), *La Casa de Bernarda Alba S.XXI* (Coqui Theater), *Only Remains Remain* (MoMa PS1), *Cry, Scream, Shout, Sing!* (Queens Museum). IG:@mariareneelavalle



PIEDAD CASTAÑO: From Colombia, Piedad has participated with various Hispanic groups in New York as an actress. In 2011 she won an award for her performance of the monologue of "La Luna" from Lorca's play *Blood Wedding*, directed by Teodoris Castellanos (q.ep.d.), in the Monologando Ando theatrical festival. Piedad also won an award for her participation in TEBA's festival for her performance in *Cama para tres* (*A Bed for Three*), directed by Cecill Villar. Piedad performed various poems and monologues in *Danisarte's* Lorca festivals. During the Requiem for Lorca theatrical festival, Piedad performed with Jonathan Reed-Wexler in the bilingual adaptation of Lorca's La Luna monologue in a dramatic dance theatre piece, directed by Alicia Kaplan. For her participation in *Soliluna* during 2021, Piedad was the recipient of ATI and Talia Awards. She is delighted to reprise her role in *Soliluna* during this tour, under the direction of Alicia Kaplan. So "fasten your imaginary seatbelts, and here we go!"



INMA HEREDIA: A native of Seville, Spain and the world's first and only Flamenco comedienne, Inma is noted for her "salero" and performs as an actress, master of ceremonies, singer, dancer, comedian and host. With *Danisarte* she has performed extensively in plays of different genres and all of *Danisarte's* Lorca festivals. Inma created the role of Lili, the multinational narrator, actress, and puppet in Alicia Kaplan's bilingual interactive play *Soliluna: a magical voyage thru five continents*.



LEANDRO COMRIE-PEPIN: Began his passion for art at an early age. Born in Brooklyn, New York of Panamanian and Venezuelan descent, his dedication to art was nurtured in Caracas, Venezuela, where he grew up. In the core of his work lays a profound concern for social, cultural and intellectual matters. He has depicted the plight of single mothers, social unrest, homophobia, loneliness, sexuality, and identity. He has exhibited in the United States, Germany, Austria and Hungary.



LUIS GALLI: From Peru, and of Italian descent, Luis is an actor, lawyer, professor, and a novelist. He has many film credits, including in the Peruvian film *La Novia del Libertador* and the Peruvian series *Fray Martin of Torres*. Before acting, Luis worked as a lawyer for UNO in Geneva, Switzerland. His latest novel *Mujer Desaparecida* is an international bestseller. He created the role of Benjamin for the premiere of *Soliluna: a magical voyage thru five continents* in New York City.



VALERIA AVINA: From Durango, Mexico, Valeria holds a MFA in Acting from the University of Iowa. She also is a graduate of the Fitzmaurice Teacher Training, and has taught voice at Rutgers and Fordham Universities. Valeria is the Associate Producer of Dias Entertainment and the Co-Founder at Claro Wey WebSeries. She has participated in theatrical productions, commercials, and films in the U.S.A., as well as in her native Mexico.



PREMIER SOLIS: From Puerto Rico, Premier studied at the University of Puerto Rico and the Queens College Department in New York. Premier is a former columnist of the newspaper *La Voz Hispana de Nueva York* and also performed with many Hispanic groups in New York City. With *Danisarte* he portrayed Fidel Castro in *Un Encuentro Fugaz* by Sonia Suarez Schwartz, directed by Alicia Kaplan, and in *A Nuyoricano Tale*, by and directed by Anita Velez-Mitchell.

CREATIVE/TECHNICAL/PRODUCTION TEAM



JULIO ORTEGA: Born in Guayaqui, Ecuador. Graduated at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts of New York. He has worked in theater, film and TV. Among the most prominent NY theater companies which Julio worked for, the most significant are Teatro SEA, Repertorio Español, *Danisarte*, Kayros Theater Group y Fragal.

In film he has worked as the leading role in “*Medardo*” the film – also he was the General Producer and Scriptwriter – “*American Quartet*” and “*Wet Shapes*”. In TV shows he has worked for “*De la vida real*” by Ecuavisa, “*The Perfect Murder*”, “*A Crime to Remember*”, “*The Hunt*” and “*El puente del destino*”.

Along his career he has received awards and recognitions as an actor, producer and scriptwriter, such as Borimix of New York (2019), Guayaquil LAB (2019), El Cinefilia in Medellín, Colombia (2018), Consulado Ecuatoriano of New York (2017), MICSUR of Bogotá, Colombia (2016), Premios HOLA of New York (2016), “La Palma de Oro” of México, “La Iguana Dorada” of Guayaquil, Ecuador (2015), Premios ACE of New York (2012), Premios ATI of New York (2012). Ortega is member of The Actors Society, HOLA (Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors) and TAPNYC.



ELAINE MENDEZ: Of Cuban and Puerto Rican descent, New York-based and self-taught artist Elaine operated two art spaces, NYC Arts Empire and E&M Productions located in the neighborhood of Soho, N.Y. She is one of the founders of Labyrinth Arts Collective, Inc. a 501 © 3 non for profit arts organization based in Staten Island N.Y. To date, Elaine has participated in more than 80 group and solo shows. Inspired by multiple experimentation and fellow mentoring, she continues to be a “lifelong learner” in the arts and shares in the pleasure of discussing her work with the public and offering children’s workshops in New York and Puerto Rico. Her online private collection of NYC Arts Empire is at www.nycartsempire.com.



SARA RIVAS: Born and raised in NYC, of Mexican/Russian/Spanish descent, Sara has been a long-term contributor to *Danisarte*’s artistic and cultural history, beginning as a production assistant. Sara is a multi-faceted artist. She has worked as an actress in film, television and commercials. As a musician, she has played bass in a variety of bands. And currently plays keyboard/synth in an all girl post-punk band called Agender. Sara has also worked as a web and graphic designer for several international companies.



JUAN GUZMAN: From Mexico, Juan is a producer, playwright, author, actor, & clown (Payaso Boliche). He is a graduate of the Colegio de Arte Dramático de la Escuela de Artes de la Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, Juan is the Founder and Director of Teatro LETAR. He has performed extensively throughout New York and New Jersey with different entities. He has written and edited three books. He has a long association with *Danisarte*, appearing in almost every bilingual theatrical festival of Los

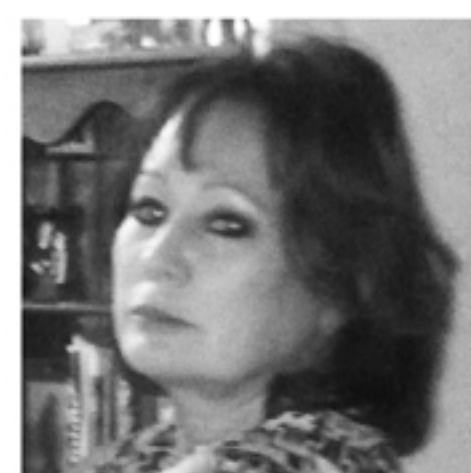
Nuevos Valores/the New Treasures in el Barrio as an actor/director/playwright. Juan is a veteran of four Lorca festivals produced by *Danisarte*.



MIGUEL MALO: From Ecuador, Miguel has worked as a Field and Studio Producer at BRONXNET and BRIC. He studied theatre at the Julia de Burgos Cultural Center and at the Comisionado Dominicano de Cultura in New York. As an actor, he participated in *La Mamá Tingo* Christmas play, directed by José Bonilla and in *La Pasión de Cristo* in 2022 and 2023 produced and directed by Juan Guzmán. He also participated in *La Pastorela* in 2022, also produced and directed by Juan Guzmán.



MARIPOSA: From Puerto Rico, Mariposa studied acting at La Academia Arte y Comunicación Celínés Toribio with Fior Marte, the Comisionado Dominicano de Cultura with Luis Felipe Rodriguez, la Casa de la Cultura Navarrete U.S. with José Bonilla, Teatro Intinerante de Venezuela with Dimas González, and others. Mariposa is grateful for the opportunity to work with this marvelous cast in this exemplary production and the opportunity to further her knowledge of all aspects of acting, technical expertise, and theatre arts. She doesn’t forget her roots, and thanks God that with discipline and determination, she can serve thru her art. Blessings!



OLGA STYLES: From Puerto Rico, Olga began designing dresses for her dolls, school plays, and sewing her own clothes. After moving to New York with her mother at age fourteen, she began sewing dresses seen at stores that she could not afford. Olga is also a singer, and delights in collaborating on creative projects.



ANA MONTERO: From the Dominican Republic, Ana has participated in numerous productions as an actress and costumier in both her native country and in New York. She has been directed by J.J. Franco, Peter Dubó, Carlos Sanchez, Yollany Rodriguez, Cheo Olivera, Ediberto Saldaña, José Ignacio Viveros, and America Barrera (q.ep.d.). Ana has appeared as an actress in various productions with *Danisarte*, directed by Alicia Kaplan, including the first production of *Medardo*, by Julio Ortega, *El Manicómio* by Myrna Lluch, *Gypsies: Heaven or Hell* by Ella Veres, and an adaptation of a monologue from Lorca’s *Yerma*. Here she supplies her exceptional talents as a Costumier to this production.

PRODUCERS



HERNAN ACUÑA (Associate Producer & Technical Director): From Colombia, Hernan studied Theatre Arts at La Universidad Tecnológica in Pereira, and performed with the theatrical group “*Los Juglares*” in many productions. In New York, he studied at the Center for Media Arts and also worked as an actor and as a technician throughout New York. His history with *Danisarte* began as a lighting technician and then as the Technical Director in numerous bilingual theatrical festivals at the Julia de Burgos Latino Cultural Center in East Harlem. He worked with *Danisarte* at the Tenement Theatre at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum with “*Herencia de amor y sangre*” (by Arnaldo Rodriguez), which was the first production in Spanish at that theatre. In 2014 he served as the Technical Director and Narrator of “*El Manicomio*” (by Myrna Lluich), both directed by Alicia Kaplan, presented in collaboration with el Taller Boricua at the Julia de Burgos Latino Cultural Center. He was also the Associate Producer and Technical Director for *Danisarte*’s previous Lorca Festivals and spearheaded the Colombian tour of “*Soliluna: a magical journey thru 5 continents.*”



ALICIA KAPLAN: (Producing Artistic Director & Founder of *Danisarte*, Stage Director, Choreographer, Bilingual Actress): *Danisarte*, now in its 31st year, a not-for-profit bilingual theatrical production company whose mission is to develop original productions in English and Spanish with the goal of increasing understanding among people of many cultures and nations, develop, and showcase the talents of minority artists. *Danisarte* (www.Danisarte.org) has offered bilingual acting and playwriting workshops, an annual theatrical festival in East Harlem and served as an incubator for novice artists and an experimental platform and springboard for both novices and professionals. Alicia has developed and directed 58 plays for *Danisarte* and many other theatrical companies and institutions.

As a child, Alicia studied ballet and performed in many productions on television and at el Teatro Nacional and Municipal in Caracas Venezuela. Later she studied diplomacy, languages, dance and acting in New York under the tutelage of Maria Swoboda, Merce Cunningham, Luigi, Uta Hagen, as well as with Sonia Moore and the Center for Stanislavski Art. A veteran of more than 260 productions including television series, films, theatre, commercials, and broadcasting.

Alicia has performed in the United States, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Colombia, and Spain. She is the Host of the web series *Welcome to My World/Bienvenidos a mi Mundo with/con Alicia*.

AWARDS: The Association of Latin Critics of New York (A.C.E.), The Hispanic Organization of Latin Artists, Aplausos, Palmas de Oro, the Latin American Theatre Ensemble, The Screen Actors’ Guild’s Joseph C. Riley Service Award for her work with the Equal Ethnic Opportunities Committee, and the Medaille D’Argent from the Société Académique D’Éducation et D’Encouragement from France in recognition of her contributions to the acting profession. From Mexico, an Award from the Ayuntamiento Constitucional y el Instituto de Protección de la Infancia. In Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, Alicia was bestowed an Honor Distinction. In New York, the “*Gabriela Mistral, Frida Kahlo, Julia de Burgos Reconocimiento*” from the Galo Plaza International Committee, a Latin American Theatre Award, and the “Premio Concepción Arenal Aponte” from the Latin American Cultural Center of Queens, New York. From Spain, for Artistic Excellence, a Special Recognition Award from el Ayuntamiento de Churriana de la Vega.

Alicia was awarded in 2018 Golden ACE Award for her artistic and cultural legacy as the Producing Artistic Director of *Danisarte*. Alicia presented two Lorca festivals: Celebrating Lorca & Requiem for Lorca at La Nacional in New York City in 2019, and in 2020 the Premiere of the first virtual online bilingual theatrical festival: *Lorca Lives/Lorca Vive*. In June 2021 *Danisarte* became one of the first companies to present a live theatrical festival Lorca Forever/Lorca por siempre, featuring a vast array of international artists. And in 2023, A Latin Alternative Theatre Award.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (OUR ANGELS)

Roberto Sanfiz, Executive Director of La Nacional



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All our Individual Angels: Lucia Armendariz, Rafaela Ronnie Billini, Isabel S. Charbonneau, Betty Kaplan, Masha Kuznetsov, Chris Mastro, Elaine Mendez, Yorman Ostos, Jonathan Reed Wexler, Fr. Jesus Ledesma of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Volunteers, Press

& our Audiences:

A Sincere Thank You! / !Mil Gracias!

Donations are gratefully accepted at www.Danisarte.org
for the continuation of our mission!



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