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SCT Press Room



In their upcoming production of *Luchadora!*, Seattle Children's Theatre (SCT) centers Mexican American culture, powerful girls and women, and the tradition of Lucha Libre Wrestling.

(Seattle, Wash.) SEATTLE – January 25, 2024 – SCT Associate Artistic Director Johamy Morales leads a dynamic team of “high flying” theatre artists to bring award-winning playwright Alvaro Saar Rios’ timely new take, on an ancient tale, for the hearts and minds of Seattle youth and families.

Transport yourself to the world of lucha libre—Mexican wrestling, with this inspired adaptation of the Chinese legend Hua Mulan. The discovery of a worn pink wrestling mask prompts Nana Lupita, a Wisconsin grandmother, to share her coming of age story growing up in 1960s Texas. As we follow Lupita’s journey, we witness her life as a daring teen tomboy; bike riding with her friends, working at her father’s flower stand, and lucha libre. When a World Championship match is announced, Lupita’s excitement explodes; she anticipates seeing it until she discovers her ailing father is one of the wrestlers. With the help of a magical mask maker, Lupita secretly trains to take her father’s place. She soon finds it difficult keeping her secret from her friends and, most importantly, her father.

“This play is rooted on the power of passing on the stories of women that changed the narrative of societal expectation, and in many ways paved the way for today’s generation of girls and women. As Nana Lupita celebrates her family’s legacy and shares her story with her granddaughter Vanessa, she also empowers Vanessa to own their family story by literally becoming her younger self and telling it. In Mexican culture, when a family member shares a story about the past, it’s symbolic of their coming of age.”

-- Johamy Morales

With prominent Latinx artists in key roles, SCT is setting the stage for a timely production that's both authentic in its representation and groundbreaking in its approach. Collective expertise and passion for storytelling are the driving forces behind this rendition of *Luchadora!*, ensuring that every step of the process, every scene, every design element, echoes the richness of the narrative it celebrates. An action packed coming of age story, centered on three generations of Mexican American women, SCT’s production brings to the forefront powerful, diverse voices that have long remained in the backdrop. Leading the charge is Johamy Morales, an internationally recognized theatre artist, educator, and changemaker. A child of Mexican immigrants, Morales exemplifies the spirit of the play — a blend of rich heritage and forward-thinking dynamism. Playwright Alvaro Saar Rios is a Texican playwright living in Chicago whose plays have been performed in New York City, Mexico City, Hawaii, Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee, and all over Texas. His award-winning plays include *Luchadora!*, *On The Wings of a Mariposa* and *Carmela Full of Wishes*, a stage adaptation of Matt de la Peña’s children’s book which SCT produced in their 22-23 Season.

Morales and Rios are working closely with a collective of artists to adapt and present the show for the SCT audience, including adapting some roles. With these changes, SCT's production will be the premiere of this version of the *Luchadora!* script.

The Collective:

- Alvaro Saar Rios: An award-winning, self-identified, "Texican" playwright, recognized for his commitment to new relevant stories for today's youth, who skillfully fuses cross-cultural narratives, creating a tale that resonates with depth and diversity.
- Johamy Morales: As the Director of our production, Morales' rich Mexican American heritage, combined with her expertise in Theatre for Young Audiences, brings a unique authenticity and heart to every moment of this production.
- Arnold Bueso: Creating the world of our play, Scenic Designer Bueso effortlessly encapsulates the Lucha Libre spirit, as well as the allusions to Mexican and Mexican American iconography and aesthetics.
- Jazmin Aurora Medina: As Costume Director, Aurora crafts costumes that merge the iconic Lucha Libre style with elements that underline our female-centric narrative.
- Predominate Latinx Cast: artist portrays a tapestry of characters, ensuring the story remains grounded in the diverse cultures and experiences they represent.

Partners and Events:

SCT is proud to once again partner with Nepantla Cultural Arts Gallery during the production of *Luchadora!*. Founded in October 2018 by Jake Prendez & Judy Avitia-Gonzalez, The Nepantla Cultural Arts Gallery is a multi-use multi-cultural accessible arts gallery grounded in the Chicana/o Latinx arts traditions, and located on the border of West Seattle and the White Center neighborhood. SCT invites audiences and community members alike to engage with Nepantla via several partnership opportunities available during the run and beyond.

Launch of a Nepantla Lucha Libre exhibition | Opens March 2, 2024

Luchadora Mask Pinata Making Workshop @ Nepantla | March 9, 2024 from 2-4pm

Luchadora Mask Pinata Making Workshop @ SCT |

February 24, 2024 prior to the 12pm and 3pm performances of *Luchadora!*

More information about Nepantla Cultural Arts Gallery on their website, nepantlaculturalarts.com

Low-cost Tickets and Additional Performances

SCT for ALL Under SCT for ALL, SCT provides low-cost and free tickets to young people and any family who express need. To book tickets simply call (206) 441-3322 or email [the Ticket Office](#) and set any price for any upcoming show in the 22-23 Season.

Pay What You Can Performance

February 22, 2024 at 6:30pm is our Pay What You Can performance of *Luchadora!* Call our Ticket Office at (206) 441-3322 to arrange your Pay What You Can ticket for this performance at any price!

Sensory Sensitive Performance- Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 1:00pm.

SCT's Sensory Friendly performance incorporates special modifications to accommodate children and families with sensory needs. **Learn more about Sensory Friendly Performances** [here](#).

ASL Interpreted and Audio Described Performances

ASL Interpreted Performance: Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 1:00pm. Audio Described Performance: Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 1:00pm.

Central to Seattle Children's Theatre's mission is a commitment to serving diverse communities including those who are deaf and hard of hearing and who have low vision or blindness. Tickets for ASL/AD performances are available throughout the season online or through the Ticket Office at tickets@sct.org or (206) 441-3322.

For Calendar Editors:

What: *Luchadora!* by Alvaro Saar Rios

Approx 75 minutes, no intermission | Recommended for Ages 8+

Where: SCT's Charlotte Martin Theatre

When: February 22 – March 17, 2024

Cost: Tickets range \$25-\$50 on [sct.org](#)

About SCT:

Since 1975, SCT has been a leading generator of new works, aiming to provide youth of all ages access to professional theater and theatre education. Under new initiatives, **SCT for All** provides low-cost and free tickets to young people and families. In addition, every first and fifth grade classroom in Seattle Public Schools can receive free tickets under **One&Five**. Learn more information about both of these programs at [sct.org](#).

The 2023-2024 season is supported by generous contributions from season sponsors **Microsoft**, **ArtsFund**, and **The Shubert Foundation**, which will help the organization serve 130,000 annually and provide more than 60,000 free or significantly reduced tickets to children in the Puget Sound area.

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