

Up next in Central Works 2022 Season



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for more information.

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Central Works
presents



**Dreaming in
Cuban**



Central Works mission is to develop and produce new plays for the theater. We are building a community where our commitment to new plays and civic engagement flourish together.

Central Works believes:

- New Plays are the lifeblood of a vital, relevant, and progressive theater.
- Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion—in our storytelling, our company, and our audiences—are fundamental to our success.
- We are committed to social justice and the exploration of pressing political issues facing our world, inviting our community to reflect, converse, and connect in civic engagement.

A Note About the Play

My first novel, *Dreaming in Cuban*, started as a poem based on the women in my extended family. It quickly got out of control! Over time it metamorphosed into a meditation on the stories that official history excludes. Now after thirty years in circulation, it felt like a good time to give the novel a more public airing. Hence, this adaptation! It's been thrilling to bring this intimate tale to four-dimensional life (four, if you include time). I love working with director Gary Graves and the sublime Central Works at the Berkeley City Club. It's truly the perfect venue for introducing the del Pino women, up close and personal, to a live audience.
www.cristinagarcianovelist.com

- Cristina García



Enjoy 15% off Dinner
before the show

*Excludes beverages, tax & gratuity

Located on the second floor of the Berkeley City Club. A contemporary, farm-to-table French restaurant influenced by California culinary cuisine. Combined with a beautiful atmosphere and friendly service, Julia's creates a memorable dining experience for all guests.

Make a reservation on Open Table,
call (510) 848-7800 or email julias@berkeleycityclub.com

Executive Chef Fabrice Marcon, a Master Chef of France



We have relaunched the lounge on the second floor of the Berkeley City Club as Morgan's Bar & Lounge! Take a seat at our new bar, originally built in the 1880s and graciously donated and restored by a few of our own members.

Try our wide variety of cocktails, wine, beer, and small bites.

Open Tuesday-Saturday, 4:30pm-9:00pm

Berkeley City Club | 2315 Durant Ave, Berkeley, CA 94704 | www.berkeleycityclub.com

The Berkeley City Club is a historic hotel, private social club, and event venue. It has been accepted into the National Register of Historic Places and is a member of the Historic Hotels of America. In 1927, a small group of women hired Julia Morgan to design and supervise the construction of a center around women's activities. Miss Morgan's "Little Castle" opened in November 1930 as the Berkeley Women's City Club, which became a center for social, cultural, recreational, and family activities in the East Bay.

For more information, please visit

berkeleycityclub.com.

What Some of Our Central Workers Are up To:

L. Duarte can be seen in Those Women Productions' *House of Desires*, July 20–Aug 14 at La Val's Subterranean. Reservations & info: ThoseWomenProductions.com or 510.761.5656

Caleb Cabrera is performing in *References to Salvador Dalí Make Me Hot* with Custom Made Theatre Co, July 1–24. Reservations & info: CustomMade.org or 415.798.2682

Carolina Morones, Radhika Rao and **Jeunée Simon** are all performing in *The Real Sappho* at Cutting Ball Theater, June 24–July 10. Reservations & info: CuttingBall.com or 415.525.1205

Kimberly Ridgeway is directing *A Nice Family Gathering* at the Altarena Playhouse, Oct 21–Nov 20. Reservations & info: Altarena.org or 510.523.1553

Michael Gene Sullivan (a recent recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship) is busy, as always. He's performing in *Ragtime* at TheatreWorks, June 2–June 26. Reservations & info: TheatreWorks.org. He's also co-writing *Back To The Way Things Were* at the SF Mime Troupe where **Norman Gee** is being directed by **Velina Brown**, July 2–Sept 5. Info: sfmt.org. And his Ukrainian translation of *1984* at Theatre on Podil in Kyiv, temporarily halted by the Russian invasion, has resumed production.

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1990 N. California Blvd., Suite 300
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Phone: (415) 597-7800
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Dreaming in Cuban

written by **Cristina Garcia**

directed by **Gary Graves**

World Premiere #68: from the Central Works Writers Workshop

The Ensemble

(in order of appearance)

Mary Ann Rodgers Celia del Pino
Steve Ortiz Jorge del Pino/Lt. Rojas/Announcers
Anna Maria Luera Lourdes Puente
Thea Rodgers Pilar Puente
Natalia Delgado Felicia del Pino
Eric Esquivel-Gutierrez Ivanito/Max

Natalia Rivera Ramos stage manager
Michael Berg wigs
Tammy Berlin costume design
Gary Graves light design
Liora Jacob/Louel Señores lighting assistants
Gregory Scharpen operator /sound design
Debbie Shelley properties design
Victor Rios / Ipsheeta Furtado / Vanessa Ramos box office/front of house
Jan Zvaifler producing director

Kevin Clarke poster/mailer/brochure design
David Hyry & Associates public relations
VarnerPR community engagement
Robbie Sweeny photography
Kendra Lee Oberhauser program design

Erica Nietfeld production sponsor

The action takes place in seaside Cuba, Brooklyn, and all the spaces in-between, in imagination and memory 1979-80.

The play runs 110 minutes with a 10-minute intermission.

Special thanks to **Daniela Cervantes** for her contribution to the development of this production.

This production is also made possible with the generous support of the **Berkeley Civic Arts Grants Program**, and the **Fleishhacker** and **RHE Foundations**.

Central Works recognizes that our performance space is positioned on Huchuin territory, unceded land of the Lisjan Ohlone people. Our community has benefited from this land, and we owe the Ohlone people a collective debt.

We donate annually to the Sogorea Te' Land Trust.

Bios

TAMMY BERLIN (costume design) began her theater career in Chicago where she was the Artistic Director of Transient Theatre and Heroes Inc. Ensemble and The Managing Director of The Playwrights' Center. After moving to the Bay Area she switched her focus to costume design. Most recently she has designed shows for Bay Area Children's Theatre, Playground, 42nd Street Moon, Broadway By the Bay, St. Mary's College, Marin Shakespeare, and Berkeley Playhouse, as well as films for Flying Moose Productions, Videosyncrasy and EyeQ Films. She is the resident costume designer for Central Works.

NATALIA DELGADO (Felicia) was born and raised in the heart of Los Angeles, and has always been around incredibly creative and innovative people. Her background in Theatre has only increased her passion and curiosity to delve deep into truthful storytelling. Whether she's on or off stage, she commands the room with her infectious charm and giving spirit. Previous roles include Mercutio (*Romeo and Juliet*), Blondie (*Zoot Suit*), Camila (*In the Heights*), and many more. She has also been featured in various Staged Readings and Original Works through Latinx Mafia and Theatres in the surrounding Bay Area such as Shotgun Players, A.C.T, Monday Night Playground, and Theatre Cultura. Natalia will be receiving her M.A and Credentials in Education with an emphasis in Teaching this summer and is planning to teach 2nd Grade English this Fall! She dedicates this piece to her abuela, Maria Aducinda Rebollo and her familia tambien. Enjoy!

ERIC ESQUIVEL-GUTIERREZ (Ivanito/Max) is an Oakland Actor, Teaching Artist and Health Educator. He is excited to be joining Central Works in his first mainstage show post-2020 shutdowns. During that time, he was a part of San Francisco Youth Theatre's production of *The Afterlife* as "Eddie." Eric's most recent project includes working with The Custom Made Theatre's production of *The Re-Education of Fernando Morales* as "Adult Fernando." For the past ten years he has worked and acted with various theatre companies throughout the Bay Area. When he is not on stage, Eric works with Kaiser Permanente Educational Theatre using art to deliver preventative health information to schools and communities throughout the United States.

CRISTINA GARCÍA (playwright) is the author of eight novels: *Dreaming in Cuban*, *The Agüero Sisters*, *Monkey Hunting*, *A Handbook to Luck*, *The Lady Matador's Hotel*, *King of Cuba*, *Here in Berlin*, and the forthcoming *Vanishing Maps* (Knopf, 2023). Her work has been nominated for a National Book Award and translated into fifteen languages. She's thrilled to be working on her third play—with a stellar cast and production team!—at Central Works, where she's currently playwright-in-residence. Previous productions with Central Works: *King of Cuba* and *The Lady Matador's Hotel*. Please visit her at: www.cristinagarcianovelist.com

GARY GRAVES (director) has been a resident playwright and company co-director at Central Works since 1998. He has been a part of developing 68 world premiere productions with the company, many of which he has either written and/or directed. Some of the other productions he has directed for the company include *The Lady Matador's Hotel*, *Bamboozled*, *King of Cuba*, *Chekhov's WARD 6*, *Into the Beautiful North*, and *Machiavelli's The Prince*. He directed the company's first collaboratively developed script, *Roux*, at the Berkeley City Club in 1997. He also leads the Central Works Playwriting Program, and he teaches playwriting year-round at the Berkeley Rep School of Theater.

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Vicki Oliveira *	Carol Lee Shanks	Danica Truchlikova
Sara Orem	Katherine Gael & John Shepherd	Linda Vallee *
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Cynthia & Michael Ott *	Tami Rowan & Alan Shindel *	Gretchen vonDuering *
Mike Palmer *	Gae Shulman	John & Helen Wadman
Rebecca Parlette-Edwards	Suzanne Siebert	Linda & Sandy Wagner
Louis Parnell	Lawrence Siegel	Dorothy Walker *
John Pernick	Jeunee Simon *	Robert Wasserman *
Henri Picciotto *	Harriet Simpson	Walt Watman *
Jessica & Jack Powell *	Laura Singer	Margo Webster
Leighton Fong & Anna Presler in honor of Linda Schieber *	Ann Singer	James Weller *
Madeline Puccioni	Nick Skarlotos	Kristi Wessenberg
Celia Ramsay & Kent Rasmussen	Jeanne Smith *	Catherine & Richard West
Jonathan & Jane Raymond	Harold Smith *	Susan & Tom Weston *
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Terry Rillera *	Andrew Stacklin	Diane Wilson
Pascale Roger-McKeeever *	Hossain & Joann Steck-Bayat	Adrian Eifenbaum & Joanne Winter
Pamela Rose	Bonnie Stiles	Holly & Richard Winter
Martha Roush *	Donna Straff *	Linda Wrxall
Marko Rukonic	Laura Boxer & Hedy Straus	Rochelle Wald & Sara Wynne
Deborah Ruth	Joan Sullivan *	Hildred Yost
Dana Sack *	Velina & Michael Gene Sullivan *	Lois Yuen
Lesli-Jo Sawada *	Betsey Tabraham	Jenny Zentner *
Linda & William Schieber *	James Taul	Steve Downes & Liz Zweifler

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We can't do what we do without you.

Please support our commitment to new plays.

Interested in sponsoring a production?

Call us at 510.558.1381

Your tax-deductible donations may be made online at centralworks.org,

or made by cash or check (payable to Central Works) and left in the

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PO Box 9771, Berkeley, CA 94709

Central Works is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation

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ANNA MARIA LUERA (Lourdes) is making her debut with Central Works. She is a mother, partner, theatre artist and cultural worker. She is a familia company member with Campo Santo Theatre, where she performed in Ben Fisher's *Candlestick* and Roger Guenveur Smith's *Casa de Spirits*. Anna is the co-creator of the Rysing Womyn's project, a theatre project that uses ritual theatre, poetry, storytelling and political education to tell stories of young women of color. She was, also, a performing artist with the Love Balm for my SpiritChild Project, choreo-play based on testimonies from Bay Area mothers whose children were lost to systemic violence. She is currently the Director of Artist Leadership at The Center for Cultural Power. Her best work is with her family, Big Tommy and her beautiful sun, Little Tommy. [*"sun" is intended*]

STEVE ORTIZ (Jorge et al) received a BA in theater from San Francisco State University and attended the British American Drama Academy Graduate program in London. Mr. Ortiz has worked with the Asian American Theater Company, the African American Shakespeare Company, The San Francisco Theatre Company, Thick Description, Luminarias, Darvag Theater, Teatro de la Esperanza, Teatro Campesino, Teatro Sabor, Teatro Vagon. Mr. Ortiz last appeared in Central Works' production of Cristina Garcia's theatrical adaptation of her novel *The Lady Matador's Hotel*.

MARY ANN RODGERS (Celia) is honored to be making her debut with Central Works. She has had several experiences with other plays that use her childhood language, acting in a bilingual *Much Ado About Nothing* (Symmetry Theatre) and directing *Native Gardens* (Symmetry) and *Anna in the Tropics* (Ross Valley Players, TBA Recommended). A huge Shakespeare fan, she has worked with Napa Valley Shakespeare Company, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival (company member), and SPARC Theater (form. Livermore Shakespeare Festival, Associate Artist). Mary Ann has been recognized by the BATCC for both her acting and directing work. She's also a member of Latinx Mafia - a collaborative resource for Latine theater artists and the people who want to work with them. Most recently, Mary Ann directed *A Small Fire* by Adam Bock for Shotgun Players. She's married to actor/designer Malcolm Rodgers. They are the proud parents of actor/writer Thea Rodgers.

THEA RODGERS (Pilar) is an actor and writer who attended Emerson for a BS in neither. After starting her career at an award-winning trailer house and moonlighting as a producer's assistant, Thea made the transition to creative work as an actor and a writer, working in theaters around Los Angeles and Mexico and placing in script competitions such as Acclaim, the Page Awards, and the A-List. Most recently, she signed on to develop a web novel with Tapas Media and was thrilled to write for the fourth season of the Emmy-winning interactive scripted show *Artificial: Factions* on Twitch. In her spare time you can find her talking about space at the Griffith Observatory.

GREGORY SCHARPEN (sound design) has designed for Central Works for over 25 years, and his work has appeared in productions by Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Shotgun Players, Theatre Rhino, TheatreFIRST, and many others. Included among other hats he's been known to wear are film editor (the Emmy-winning series *Have You Heard From Johannesburg*; *The Whistleblower Of My-Lai* featuring the Kronos Quartet; and the forthcoming films *Town Destroyer* and *Source Of Uncertainty*) and radio broadcaster (numerous programs on KALX 90.7fm). Under the shrug-inducing moniker Thomas Carnacki, he concocts, records and performs "experimental" (read: unlistenable) music, including recent releases *Illiminal* on cd and *The Museum Of Lost Species* on lp. He is the recipient of a Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award, a Golden Eagle CINE Award, and – most significantly – one of the very infrequently-bestowed Jolly Trephination Awards for Total Textual Immersion.

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DEBBIE SHELLEY (property design) is very proud to be part of Central Works production team for *Dreaming in Cuban*. In addition, she has designed props for other Bay Area theatres including Contra Costa Musical Theatre, Diablo Theatre Company, Stars 2000, St. Mary's College, Town Hall Theatre Company, Center Stage Theatre Company, Berkeley Playhouse, Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre, and New Conservatory Theatre Center. Recognitions: Contra Costa Musical Theatre Company's The Clay and Miriam Englar Award, recipient of an honorary Shellie award for special contribution to the performing arts, and a TBA awards finalist. Debbie would like to give special thanks to her family for their encouragement and support.



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RHEINHEIMER & ASSOCIATES

ERIC RHEINHEIMER, E.A.
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646 BOULEVARD WAY (510) 893-3601
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Photo by Lisa Keating