



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

La Lengua Teatro en Español and Brava Theater presents an experimental public reading of

'LAS AZURDUY' [*las - Ah-soor-doo-ej*] by **Florencia Aroldi**

Saturday, November 20th

7 PM (PDT)/ 10 PM (EDT)/ 11 PM La Paz/ 12 AM Buenos Aires

EXPERIMENTAL STAGED READING OF THE FIRST COMMISSION BY LA LENGUA

In Spanish and Quechua with English and Spanish supertitles

ONE NIGHT ONLY: Saturday, November 20th at 7 pm San Francisco

Format: in-person and live-streamed.

TICKETS: through [Brava Theater](#). Proceeds from ticket sales go to making it possible for the full production of this and other works to have a future now that theaters reopen. If you plan to watch our work online with two or more people, please consider purchasing the appropriate amount of tickets.

Tickets for this event must be purchased in advance, they will not be available at the door. Only vaccinated persons may attend as patrons at this time.

Tickets scale:

- Online \$15 general admission- \$40 La Lengua supporter;
- In-person \$20 general admission- \$40 La Lengua supporter- \$50 La Lengua fan (Front row)

LOCATION:

IN PERSON: BRAVA THEATER's Cabaret: 2773 24th St, San Francisco, CA

ONLINE option: available only as live-streaming (no recordings will be available after the show).

FACEBOOK EVENT: <https://fb.me/e/12kprKEvm>

DONATIONS:

We accept donations through Brava Theater, as well as purchasing La Lengua merchandise on our website <http://www.lalengua.org>. Most of our first works have been made during the pandemic.

While we were fortunate to be awarded a CA\$H Performs grant from TBA Theater Bay Area at the

beginning of 2020, much of our productions have been supported by donations. Support us with a contribution and/ or by spreading our work to help us continue producing theater in Spanish in 2022.

To make a donation: 1) Enter <https://www.brava.org/>; 2) click the DONATE button to the upper right corner; 3) choose La Lengua Teatro en Español from the dropdown menu. Donations of all sizes are welcome

LOCATION: ONLINE available on-demand.

To listen to our production, all you have to do is enter <https://www.brava.org/> and click on 'Brava Presents' to find our show listed. Then register there to get your tickets and receive the access link.

La Lengua Teatro en Español is fiscally sponsored by Brava! for Women in the Arts.

La Lengua Teatro en Español is a resident theater company at BRAVA! for Women in the Arts.

ABOUT THE PLAY

Join La Lengua Teatro en Español for an experimental staged reading of Las Azurduy, their first-ever commissioned play. This work-in-progress will be presented in Spanish and Quechua (with English and Spanish supertitles) and will feature an all-female Latina ensemble in a piece that invokes the powerful figure of Juana Azurduy, a South-American woman warrior leader, whose courage, conviction, and spirit requires three characters to tell her feats. Las Azurduy is a story that celebrates the strength and power of female collective action.

Juana Azurduy's story is not as well-known story as it should be. She was a mestiza that behaved outside the parameters of what was expected from a woman in her time. She fought for her people's independence from the Spanish crown in colonial times in the South American Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata. Even though she and her troupes won key battles, her victories were mostly forgotten. Half of the South-American countries owe her to include her name in the pantheon of heroes as a Founding Mother. But she was erased from the glory; nowadays, nobody knows even what she looked like.

Cast: Deborah Cortez, Elena Estér, Virginia Blanco

Reader: Eugenia Arbol

Director: Rosa Navarrete

Playwright: Florencia Aroldi

Stage Management: Vanessa Ramos

Art & Graphic Design: Cecilia Bedregal Salinas

Original Music Composition and Direction: Melanie Kristel Camacho Lagos

Lighting and Sound Design: Rosa Navarrete

Supertitles Design and Operation: Laura Espino

Props and costumes: courtesy of Casa 0101 Theater

Marketing: La Lengua Teatro en Español, Brava Theater

Ticketing: Brava Theater

English translation: Benoît Monin

Quechua translation: Hans Enciso Choquehuanca, Elena Estér (asistant)

Videographer: Christian Figueroa

Production: Virginia Blanco, Rosa Navarrete, Brava Theater

Artistic Direction: Virginia Blanco

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

FLORENCIA AROLDI is a playwright, director and cultural manager. She began her artistic training at the Vocational Institute of Art. Her play 'The Age of Machines' won the first prize at the "Vamos que Venimos" Teen Theater Festival, 'Clara's childhood' received the GETEA Prize for Best Children's Theater, Theater XXI. 'Ludovico y Ariadna' won second prize in the XIII National Dramaturgy contest organized by the National Theater Institute. 'La Telesíada, rezabaile nacional' was selected to participate in the "Vamos Que Venimos" Teen Theater Festival, performing at the Cervantes National Theater. Her works: 'Malvina', 'Camping Glamour' and 'Caprichosa', 'The Dish Fair', 'Candy Crush', 'Rio de la Plata', 'Cama Cucheta', 'Label me', 'Pestañeame', 'Parda la mejor', and 'Hoops of feather' were part of the Microteatro-BA. Florencia created the Leamos Teatro project and the Celosía 15/20 cycle at the Espacio IFT theater, programmed by Osvaldo Quiroga. 'Casta' participated in the cycle Estamos porque somos in Vera Vera theater, and 'Ágape' was part of the Off Shore Theater. She wrote the play 'Scalabrini', 'The (she) Oceanographers' and 'Lend me your dream'. Florencia published 'Molinete tenement', '10 theatrical pieces' and 'Celosía, theater by rooms 15/20', 'Ochava Theater by Cut', and in 2021 'Lintel 15/20'. Currently, she participates in numerous Forums and Book Fairs in different provinces of Argentina, and also she is the editor of the magazine Alerta Cultural and coordinates Dramaturgy Workshops. She is studying towards a diploma in Dramaturgy by Paco Urondo at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters UBA (University of Buenos Aires). www.florenciaaroldi.com/publicaciones-leamos-teatro

ABOUT LA LENGUA TEATRO EN ESPAÑOL

Founded in 2019 by Virginia Blanco, La Lengua Teatro en Español/La Lengua Theater is an emerging company that creates spaces for theater in Spanish, sharing its immense diversity and wealth, in order to empower the Spanish-speaking community in the San Francisco Bay Area. Its previous productions are performed readings of *Anna in the Tropics* by Nilo Cruz, and -during the pandemic- two virtual live streamings (*Death and the Maiden* by Ariel Dorfman, and *Beben* by Guillermo Calderón) and a radio play (*Adiós Robinson* by Julio Cortázar).

La Lengua has launched a segment of curatorship called 'La Lengua Te Muestra' (*La Lengua Shows You*) where they invite other companies and independent artists to perform as guests. It has also started its Clases & Seminarios education branch to promote theatre training in Spanish in the Bay Area. Our 2021-2022 season is out: we are happy to announce the upcoming premiere of our first commissioned play 'Las Azurduy', and our very first collaboration: an open call for submissions to playwrights from all the Americas, 'Decolonization Stories', in partnership with AlterTheater company. Learn more at www.lalengua.org.

ABOUT ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE AT BRAVA!

BRAVA! fosters the artistic expression of women, people of color, the LGBTQIA community, and other underrepresented artists. Through its residency program, BRAVA! supports the professional development and creative work of directors, actors, dancers, musicians, visual artists, and designers, providing space for creation, assistance with grant writing and fiscal sponsorship, and the support of BRAVA!'s marketing and technical staff. In return, these artists continue to generate

excellent art, mentor youth in BRAVA!'s education programs, and contribute to the artistic life of the 24th Street corridor in San Francisco. www.brava.org

ABOUT CASA 0101 THEATER:

CASA 0101 was founded by Josefina López, author of *Real Women Have Curves*, in 2000 to fulfill her vision of bringing art and live theater programs to the community she grew up in, Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, California). CASA 0101 operated for 11 years in its original location, an old converted bridal shop, and in September 2011 it moved into its new space. Main stage productions and exhibits by Angelenos artists are presented throughout the year at the CASA 0101 Theater. From its humble beginnings operating out of a converted store, CASA 0101 has established itself as a leading arts venue for the East Side of Los Angeles, presenting theater productions, film festivals, and other special events throughout the year. CASA 0101 also offers free arts education classes for youth throughout the year and low-cost classes for adults. <https://casa0101.org/>

CAST & CREW BIOS:

DEBORAH CORTEZ (Ensemble) was born in Argentina but spent most of her youth in Peru. Deborah emigrated to the US in late 1998. Her theatre work goes back to 1996 with her debut on the Stage in *Peter Pan*, playing Captain Hook's ship keeper. Deborah is a Bay Area actress, singer, producer, and director. She's worked in many plays as well as films and commercials. Some of her recent works are Josefa (*Convoy 31000*), Lucy (*Strange Ladies*), Theseus (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Olivia (*Twelfth Night*), Jean (*Dead Man Cell Phone*), and many more. Film credits include *No Quiero Verte*, *One Long Day*, *Drops of Sunshine*, *Drunk Theatre*, among others. She was also the official voice and narrator in our radio plays (*Adiós Robinson*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*). Deborah's Producing credits are *Drunk Theatre -Bread and Butter* and *Titus Andronicus* with Theatre Lunatico, in which she is a Core Member. She is also a company member of La Lengua Teatro en Español and MACT (Mexican American Conservatory Theatre). Deborah is currently training at The Meisner Technique Studio in SF with Jim Jarrett. More info: deborahcortez.com

ELENA ESTÉR (Ensemble/ Quechua Assistant Translator) Thrilled to return to La Lengua after having acted in its virtual production of *Beben* and also in its inaugural staged reading of *Ana en el Trópico*. She is an indigenous Andean woman who happened to be born in NYC. She was last seen on stage as Yinoelle in the world premiere of *Don't Eat the Mangos* by Ricardo Pérez González directed by David Mendizábal at the Magic Theatre. Other favorite roles: Olivia in the TBA Recommended production of *Ageless* (Quantum Dragon Theatre), Carla in Custom Made Theatre's *In the Heights*, and Veronica in *The Motherfucker with the Hat*. She was awarded Best Actress in two film festivals for her leading role in the film *My Culture*. Elena studies dance and is also a champion salsa dancer/instructor who has performed internationally. Passionate about languages and traveling, this multi-lingual actress is reacquiring her native language Quechua and also speaks Spanish, English, Portuguese, French, basic Mandarin, and just beginning German.

VIRGINIA BLANCO (Ensemble/ Producer/ Artistic Director) Actor and theater-maker. Originally from Argentina, she was a founding member of *Drakma Grupo Teatral*. Back in her country, she has performed in both classic and contemporary plays. Regional credits include *Orinda Starlight Village Players*, (Ex *Ubuntu*) *Oakland Theater Project*, *Shelton Theatre*, *TheatreFirst*, *Theatre of Yugen*, and *The Cutting Ball Theater*, along with several staged readings with *Brava Studio Sessions* and *3 Girls Theatre*. She was *Catita* in the radio play *A Solid Home* at MACT Mexican American Conservatory Theatre, *Paulina* in the live-streaming of *La Muerte y la Doncella* (Death and the Maiden), and *Nora St. John* in the radio play *Adiós Robinson* at La Lengua. Her local acting training is from *Studio ACT*, *Berkeley REP Theatre School*, and *Shakespeare & Company*. Virginia was nominated by *BroadwayWorld SF* for Best Leading Actress in a Play for the role of Young Woman in *Knives in Hens* at *Anton's Well Theater Company* (2019). She studied Communications at the University of

Buenos Aires (UBA) and has worked as a journalist and editor for several written media platforms. She is an artist in residence at Brava Theater and was recently granted with the TBA Arts Leadership residency in partnership with AlterTheater. More about her on www.virginiablanca.com

EUGENIA ARBOL (Stage directions reader) was born in Buenos Aires and now resides in San Francisco. She is a graduate of the Dramatic Art National Conservatory from Argentina, where she performed and directed extensively. Among her theatre work we can mention “The Darkness of the reason” by Ricardo Monti, “Óbito” by Javier Daulte, “Malinche” by Norberto Presta, “The Strongest” based on homonymous play of A. Strindberg, “No Exit” by J.P. Sartre; “Look Back in Anger” by J. Osborne; “Cariño Malo” by Inés Margarita Stranger, “The Birds” by Aristophanes and “The Pelican” by A. Strindberg. Among her TV work we can mention “My Mother Loves Me” by A. Doria; “Where Are You Love of My Life That I Can’t Find You” by J.J. Jusid; “Made For Each Other” –TV Comedy- by A. Martin; “Unconquerable Heart”, Channel 9; “The Sheik”, Channel 13; “Beyond Horizon” by J. Montero.

ROSA NAVARRETE (Director) is a Peruvian immigrant and storyteller raised in Los Angeles. She writes, acts, and directs in SoCal and works on independent films and theater projects. Rosa recently directed Feliz - An American Play written by Michael J. Mejia, as her first cinematic/ zoom/ theater hybrid production via The Wayward Artist. Her short play Chabuca, Susana, Mami & Me was part of the 2021 Chicanas, Cholas, y Chisme Virtual Play Festival, and she’s a Co-creator of an independent series titled ELLAY that will be going to festivals later this year. In 2020, Rosa was part of the inaugural cohort for the Black, Indigenous, People of Color Sci-Fi Screenwriting Lab with Justice for my Sister (www.justiceformysister.com). Upcoming directing projects are Puta written by Patricia Zamorano, and Sippin’ written by Gilbert Salazar. She’s honored to direct the stage reading of Las Azurduy by Florencia Aroldi. This is Rosa’s first time working with La Lengua Teatro en Español, and it’s been absolutely wonderful. | More info: www.rosastory.com

MELANIE CAMACHO LAGOS (Music Composer and Director) Born in La Paz, Bolivia, she is a pianist, composer, arranger, researcher and teacher. Her work focuses on tango, and the research and interpretation of Latin American music, thus conducting research on Bolivian Indigenous music applied to the piano, as well as different specialties in tango and Composition. She began her piano studies in the classical area of the Plurinational Conservatory of Music of La Paz city. She has a music degree with an emphasis on Interpretive Practices from the Federal University of Latin American Integration (Foz de Iguazú- Brazil, 2018). Her teachers were Irene Porzio Zabala, Beatriz Moreira, Josías Maschulat, Marcelo Correia, Fabio Torres. She trained at workshops and masterclasses with distinguished teachers, such as Martín Sued, Hernán Posetti, Anat Cohen, Marcelo Gonçalves, Almir Cortes, Cliff Corman, Paulo Meirelles, Daniel “ Pipi ” Piazzolla, Diego Schissi, Gaston Arce. Melanie participated in various festivals within Bolivia and abroad, such as the Sesc sem fronteiras festival (2015), the Cascavel Music Festival (Brazil 2018), the Arica Chile Tango Festival 2013, the Peru Tango Festival in different versions. She toured Argentina with the San Luis Tango orchestra (2019), participated in the 12th Bolivian and Latin American Music Festival for piano (2020), among others. She has recorded 4 discs with the Orquesta Silencio Cromático, Silencio Cromático (2014), YUNTA (2018), Las Rosas de Gardel (2019), and Prepárense (2020) in which some of her compositions and arrangements were included. She participated as a pianist and arranger in the album CERTEZAS (2020) by the Bolivian singer-songwriter Sibah. Melanie is currently a pianist, composer, and arranger in Silencio Cromático, she is vice-president of the national section Fladem Bolivia, Latin American forum for music education, a duet pianist with the artist Sibah and LSD Tango. She is a teacher at the Plurinational Conservatory of Music, Qhipa meeting and along with private lessons.

VANESSA RAMOS (Stage Manager) was the very first stage manager of La Lengua, in our inaugural reading of *Anna in the Tropics*. She believes that the arts, in all forms of expression, are an important part of everyday life and shares a great passion for music, theater, and dance. She spends much of her time advocating for the arts and the power that these have to improve lives, effect social change, and build community. Over the last few years, she worked with many Bay Area theatre companies in various capacities. Some recent credits include New Conservatory Theatre Center, American Conservatory Theater, Ballet San Jose, Central Works Theater, Those Women Productions, Indra's Net Theater, Anton's Well Theater, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Performing Arts Academy of Marin, and Diablo Valley Ballet. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley where she studied 'Music' and 'Theater and Performance Studies.' She received her Orff Training at The San Francisco School, and is a member of NCAOSA, the Northern California American Orff-Schulwerk Association. She is currently a graduate student at Drexel University studying Arts Administration.

CECILIA BEDREGAL SALINAS (Art & Graphic Designer) Born in La Paz, Bolivia, she studied Graphic Design and Audiovisual Communication at the "San Pablo" Bolivian Catholic University, and Art at the "Hernando Siles National Academy of Fine Arts". Her training allowed her to participate as an illustrator in various projects, and as a designer in the editorial design area and advertising design, especially applying her knowledge in drawing, painting, digital illustration and editorial design. She currently works as a freelance designer on various independent projects as well as in an advertising agency.

LAURA ESPINO (Supertitles Designer and Operator) Laura Espino is a Mexican actor and teacher. Born to Mexican immigrants in San Francisco, she is a San Francisco native and a teacher in the San Francisco Unified School District, teaching in Spanish and English. Currently, she teaches freshmen at the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of The Arts. As a casting professional, she has cast projects at Golden Thread Productions, Marin Theatre, Playwrights Foundation and SF Playhouse. As an actor, her credits include work with Theatreworks, The Magic Theatre, Playground, California Shakespeare Theatre, and Playwrights Festival. She is a proud company member of TheatreFirst in Berkeley and also a Theatre Bay Area Award Finalist. As an MLA Candidate at Stanford University, Laura is a fierce advocate for interdisciplinary art. She lives in San Francisco with her partner and two (soon to be three!) kids.

CHRISTIAN FIGUEROA (Videographer) is a Salvadoran video producer and filmmaker currently based in San Francisco, California, with a broad portfolio in documentary, nonprofit, and commercial media production. He has been working collaboratively with civil war survivors in El Salvador for the last decade, and he is working to complete a documentary focused on women's experiences during and after the war. Christian holds an MFA in Cinema Production from San Francisco State University and was a 2019 BAVC MediaMaker Fellow. He worked as a volunteer imparting documentary film workshops in El Salvador, and most recently as an educator teaching video production to low-income youth in San Francisco, California. www.figueroafilms.com

HANS ENCISO CHOQUEHUANCA (Quechua Translator/ Pronunciation Trainer) is a graduate in Literature from San Marcos University in Peru, is a professor of Quechua educated in the study and instruction of the Quechua language at the Yachay Wasi Academy of Quechua. At this institution, directed by Demétrio Túpac Yupanqui, Hans served as assistant of translations into Quechua of works such as *The Second Part of The Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote of La Mancha* and also served as the host for the Quechua-Spanish bilingual program "Rimayninchis-Nuestra Palabra-Our Word." Currently, he is the principal professor at both the Demétrio Túpac Yupanqui Cultural Association and at the Hamut'ay Wasi Quechua language school. Hans has been a speaker at various events on literature and Andean culture.

BENOÎT MONIN (English translation) is an actor and improviser who co-founded improv duo Chatterbox as well as La Compagnie Carmina, which performs French theater with English supertitles. A company member with Oakland Theater Project and RagTag Improv, Benoît has also performed with Stanford Rep, Theater Rhinoceros, Half Moon Bay Shakespeare, Ragged Wing Ensemble, Shelton Theater, Inferno Theatre, Generation Theater, and Coastal Rep. He was nominated for Outstanding Performance in a Featured Role (TBA Awards, 2018) and Best Featured Actor in a Play (Broadway World SF, 2019), Benoît trained with BATS Improv, American Conservatory Theater, and Shakespeare & Company. www.benoitmonin.com

LA LENGUA ONLINE: CONNECT, FOLLOW, AND SUPPORT US!

Website: www.lalengua.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lalenguatheater/>

Instagram: @lalenguatheater

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4F-VukNCntrur_fv4gQllg

Twitter: @lalenguatheater