

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Cristina Garcia – Playwright Adrian Alexander Alea – Director Greg Landau – Sound designer, Music Supervisor, Composer Omar Sosa – Composer

Cristina García

Cristina García is the author of seven novels, anthologies, poetry, non-fiction, and children's books. Her work has been nominated for a National Book Award and translated into fourteen languages. She's currently a playwright-in-residence at Central Works Theater in Berkeley. www.cristinagarcianovelist.com

Adrian A. Alea

Adrian A. Alea is a creative producer and director passionately raising the social consciousness of humanity through story-telling in commercial and non-profit industries of Theater, Live Events, Music Videos, and Film. As a co-founder of ALIALEA PRODUCTIONS, he recently produced two short films for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's digital platform the 'O!' ("ASH LAND" and "YOU GO GIRL") which are official selections at the Academy Award qualifying Pan African Film Festival and the Brooklyn Film Festival. In December, Adrian will also be the Associate Director for ANNIE LIVE! presented on NBC.

Credits: HERCULES (Assoc. Dir, Disney Theatricals and Public Theater's Public Works), Up, Up, and Away (Fordham University), Henry VIII translated by Caridad Svich (Play On, Classic Stage Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival), Fucking A (Yale University), STAND by Caridad Svich (Dramatist Guild, with

Daphne Rubin-Vega), The Spanking Machine by Marga Gomez (Brava Theater Center, Syracuse Stage), JLo's All I Have Las Vegas Residency & Ain't Your Mama music video (Management Associate).

He holds a BA from Columbia University and MS from Northwestern University. Website: <u>adrianalea.com</u>

Greg Landau

Greg Landau is a San Francisco Bay Area music producer, educator, and music historian with a doctorate from UC San Diego's prestigious School of Communication. Over the last 30 years, he has produced eight Grammy-nominated CDs and among the over 100 CDs, numerous film soundtracks, books on audio and podcasts.. He has worked with renowned artists in the U.S, and Latin America, including Carlos "Patato" Valdez, Maldita Vecindad, Jerry Gonzalez, Kepa Junkera, Juan de Marcos Gonzalez, Susan Baca, Bobi Cespedes, Dr. Loco, Pete Seeger, and frequent collaborator, Omar Sosa. He just produced and co-wrote the theme song for the United Nations "World Oceans Day" with Cuban singer violinist, Yiliian Canizares. www.greglandau.com

Omar Sosa

Six-time GRAMMY-nominated Cuban composer and pianist **Omar Sosa** is one of the most versatile jazz artists on the scene today. He fuses a wide range of jazz, world music, and electronic elements with his native Afro-Cuban roots to create a fresh and original urban sound – all with a Latin jazz heart. Omar Sosa's musical trajectory has taken him from Camagüey and Havana to touring in Angola, the Congo, Ethiopia, and Nicaragua in the 1980s; to a sojourn in the African-descent communities of Ecuador in the early 1990s; to an extended presence on the San Francisco Bay Area Latin jazz scene; to his current engagement with artists from France, Cuba, Brazil, and several North, West, and East African nations. He fuses a wide range of jazz, world music, and electronic elements with his native Afro-Cuban roots to create a fresh and original urban sound – all with a Latin jazz heart. Howard Reich of the *Chicago Tribune* recently commented that "Cuban pianists often tower over their peers. But within this elite class of pianists, few have been more stylistically adventurous than **Omar Sosa**. Though deeply schooled in jazz improvisation techniques, Sosa always has pushed beyond jazz orthodoxy.

Mr. Sosa received a lifetime achievement award from the **Smithsonian Associates** in Washington, DC in 2003 for his contribution to the development of Latin jazz in the United States. Over the years, Omar has been nominated six times for a **GRAMMY** and twice for the **BBC Radio 3 World Music Awards**. In 2003 he received the Afro-Caribbean Jazz Album of the Year Award from the Jazz Journalists Association in NYC for his recording *Sentir*; and a nomination from the Jazz Journalists Association for Latin Jazz Album of the Year in 2005 for his recording *Mulatos*, featuring **Paquito D'Rivera**. In 2008, Omar Sosa was commissioned by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco and the Oakland East Bay Symphony to compose a major work for symphony orchestra (*From Our Mother*), supported by a grant from the **Rockefeller Foundation**. In 2009, Omar was invited by the city of Girona, Spain and the Festival de Músicas Religiosas y del Mundo de Girona to write another work for symphony orchestra (*Oda Africana*).