



LIVE ▾

TICKETS: BRAVA.ORG



Mission Academy of Performing Arts @ Brava Presents

UNMASKED: THE COVID CHRONICLES



▾ Details

Youth Stories from the Pandemic

Screening
Friday, April 29, 2022

7pm at Brava Theater

▾ Chat

BRAVA

Directed by Keith Carames

Written & Performed by students from James Lick Middle School in collaboration with Young Thespians Theatre Lab

Production Design by San Francisco Running Crew

With Guest Director Kristen Jones and Music Direction by Lindsay Radar of the San Francisco Opera Guild

Original Music by Ben Welte



Mute



Stop Video



Participants

MISSION
ACADEMY OF
PERFORMING
ARTS @BRAVA

SFOATCO
SAN FRANCISCO OPERA AND THEATRE COMPANY



BRAVA
THEATER CENTER
270 74TH ST NEW YORK
BRAVA.ORG

Mission Academy of Performing Arts @ Brava presents

UNMASKED: THE COVID CHRONICLES

STORIES FROM THE PANDEMIC

The Cast

Thistle Schiefer
Kara Gibbons
Gabriella Trujillo
Gloria Moran
Ella Gollihur
Arabella Hunterson
Noemi Noyola
Wallace "Ace" Miner
Ruby Steinberg
Classic Shulman
Serafin Riley-Hernandez
Maggie Berthiaume
Arlo Raglin

Special Guest Actors

Sedrick Cabrera
Aidaa Peerzada

Director

Keith Carames

Special Guest Director Musicals

Kristen Jones

Pianist and Music Director

Lindsay Radar

Playwright in Residence

Sedrick Cabrera

Playwriting Consultant

Susan Stauter

Acting Coaches

Curt Branom
Ruby Day

Student Playwrights

Zachary Schwartz
Kara Gibbons
Gloria Moran
Serafin Riley-Hernandez
Maxine Burns
Thistle Schleifer
Maggie Berthiaume

**Mission Academy of Performing
Arts @ Brava Director**

Melvign Badiola

**San Francisco Running Crew
Lighting Design Teaching Artist
Student Lighting Designers**

Dave Ragaza
Cinders Park
Oliver Provenzano

**Sound Design Teaching Artist
Student Sound Designers**

David Molina
BenWelte
Milan Hitch

**Scenic Design Teaching Artist
Student Scenic Designers**

Sarah Phykitt
Sadie Moffat
Inez Standen-Bloom
Gwendoyrn Tupy
Lindsay Kim

Production Assistant

Niku Radan

Cinematographer

George S. Rosenthal

Post Production Sound Designer

George S. Rosenthal

Editor

Alanna Taubert

Camera Operator

Daniel Mulvey

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

KEITH CARAMES

We almost didn't have a show this year. Its very existence - an actual triumph. In the fall of 2020, the Covid Curtain dropped. Like all other performing arts teachers, I was suddenly faced with modifying years of pedagogy, adapting tried and true lessons, and reenvisioning my personal approach as an artist and a teacher.

Working online with young actors was challenging; the subtleties of performance evaporated. The turn of a head, the blink of an eye, the pressure of someone's hand upon your shoulder - all gone. The capturing of immediate happy accidents, the exchange of breath and sweat were all now out of reach. Suddenly everything was fed through a machine. Theatrical metabolic change only happens when we are in each other's presence. Online theatre class is not to be confused with movie making. Camera angles, swirling musical scores, varied exotic locations - these were all luxuries we did not have. Looking at each other through small screens, we were faced with a new set of realities. We tried our best.

Once back in the classroom, mask mandates prevented us from using our entire instrument. How could I assess an actor's emotional commitment if I could not even see their face? Like a painter brutally robbed of his brushes, we had to paint with our hands, to reimagine theatricality. I coexisted with the constant question of how to remove the mask? How could we take away the obstacle standing between actor and audience? How could we maintain the immediacy of true theatre? How could we use our most powerful tool - the act of storytelling - to create a Quintillian evening to both teach and to please.

We were forced by the crucible of Covid to create something new; we relied on our own stories. We didn't need a conventional script. Locked in the Covid chrysalis of 2020, we emerged transformed, eager to share our new work.

Tonight's special event is the proud accomplishment of not only our students who served as playwrights, actors and technicians, but also the partners and teaching artists who joined us on our journey from page to stage. Everyone from the Mission Academy of Performing Arts, to Susan Stauter Artistic Director Emeritus SFUSD, from the managing team of the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company, to the creative collaborators from the San Francisco Opera Guild, from our acting coaches at the Pacific Singers and Actors Workshop to our film crew at TheComplexSF - everyone played a significant role in what we are about to witness on the big screen at the gorgeous Brava Theater.

Each and every one of us has Covid stories to tell; a hundred years from now, will anyone believe what we all had to endure? Our presentation documents our collective experience and serves as a living testament to the power of creative perseverance, courage, and magic. Thank you for joining us tonight to celebrate *Unmasked: The Covid Chronicles*. The Arts Education Master Plan is alive and well in San Francisco.

PROGRAM NOTE

SUSAN STAUTER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR EMERITUS SFUSD

We tell each other stories. Over and over we recount the events of our lives, repeating narratives that have been cherished and handed down to us - funny things, cautionary tales, long, winding, mysterious yarns that never grow old and sometimes transform in the telling. We know the stories so well, we can finish them for each other and we encourage each other to "tell the one about..." and "remember the time when..."

Stories ground us; they tie us to the past and prepare us for the future. We are healed and inspired by the metaphors. Frightened by Covid, forced into isolation, our stories sustained us. Just as our ancestors told stories while huddled around campfires, our own families told tales while huddled around the Xbox. And we found strength in the telling. The young and the old are joined in our search for the eternal binding narrative.

The work we now view is the result of honoring and valorizing the stories of our young who, during the most difficult, painful, and confusing time of their lives, were able to create something of such joy and beauty and hope. Listen carefully - these are the emerging voices of the future, and these are their unmasked stories! Congratulations to all involved in this important educational endeavor.



Unmasked was filmed on location at Brava Theater Center
2781 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110
March 2022

SPECIAL THANKS

Marcelo Pereira

Al Flores

The San Francisco Opera Guild

Caroline Altman

John Morris

Afie Royo

SFUSD Arts Department Performing Arts Supervisor, Ron Machado

SFUSD Arts Department Director, Sam Bass

Susan Stauter

The Complex, SF

James Lick Middle School Principal, Ruby Detie

James Lick Middle School Vice Principals Kiara Herrera and Cephus Johnson

JLMS Staff and Students and their families

Cairah Brown

Ruby Steinberg

Glade Cuentos

Wyatt Drennan

Curt Branom

Ruby Day

Bentley Upper School

San Francisco Department of Children, Youth & Their Families

Mission Academy of Performing Arts @ Brava, along with this production of *Unmasked*, were funded in part by the SF Department of Children, Youth, & Their Families.



ABOUT MAPA@BRAVA

Mission Academy of Performing

Arts @ Brava (MAPA@Brava) trains youth in theatrical production and

performance. Students can choose

from an array of programs, including San Francisco Running Crew, Brava's

hands-on training program in theater production, design, and management; Cuicacalli Escuela de Danza, which

explores the traditions of Mexican Baile Folklorico, hip hop, and modern dance styles; Mariachi Juvenil La Misión,

where students learn mariachi-style music through individual coaching and classes; and Young Thesians Theatre Lab, offering students high quality

performing instruction integrating drama, movement, and music. Learn more about MAPA@Brava and apply to the program [here](#).



San Francisco Bay Area Theatre

Company unites artists and audiences through live theatre that is reflective of the authentic perspective and history of the San Francisco Bay Area. The non-profit organization supports artists through

creative development, full productions, and mentorship that aspire to engage a new generation of live theatre supporters. SFBATCO is a partner organization of Mission Academy of Performing Arts @ Brava.



Rodney Earl Jackson Jr. - Artistic Director

Adam Maggio - Managing Director

Christine Chung - Director of Operations & Design

Aidaa Peerzada - Literary Manager & Outreach Coordinator

Claudio Andres Silva Restrepo - Technical Director

Darian Gemora - Email Marketing Manager

sfbatco.org

@sfbatco

Brava! for Women in the Arts

Brava! for Women in the Arts was founded in San Francisco's Mission District in 1986 to champion, celebrate, and create space for the voices of women, people of color, LGBTQIA+, and underrepresented communities. For over three decades, Brava has produced vibrant, culturally diverse, provocative work by prominent San Francisco feminists, community leaders, activists, and artists. Brava's producing history includes award-winning new work by Artists in Residence Rhodessa Jones & Cultural Odyssey, Marga Gomez, Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe, and Cherríe Moraga; the world premieres of *The Mathematics of Love* by Cherríe Moraga, and the Off-Broadway hit *Mighty Real: A Fabulous Sylvester Musical*, as well as the annual events *Baile en la Calle: The Mural Dances* and the San Francisco *Son Jarocho Festival*. Brava's current artistic programming encompasses traditional and contemporary music festivals, a variety of film festivals, contemporary and experimental theatrical productions, international comedy shows, lectures, and professional dance productions—making Brava one of the most eclectic and multifaceted arts venues in the Bay Area. Brava's resident youth programs include the long-standing SF Running Crew, pairing youth with professional mentors and hands-on opportunities for technical theater training; Cuicacalli Escuela de Danza, traditional and contemporary dance training for youth; Mariachi teaching students to make beautiful music mariachi style; and Young Thespians Theatre Lab, offering high quality instruction integrating drama, dance, music, and stagecraft. Brava is committed to providing affordable space for artistic development and presentation and quality professional arts training for underserved youth in the San Francisco community.

Staff

Anastacia Powers Cuellar, *Executive Director*
Gabby Lozano, *Operations Manager*
Annette Muller, *Marketing Director*
Theresa Pasion, *Development Manager*
Xela Vargas, *Social Media Strategy Intern*
Drea Schwartz, *Technical Director*
Carlie Algas, *Theater Technician*
Alba Lluch, *Production Manager*
Angelica Rodriguez, *Venue Manager*
Marco Flores, *Facilities Manager*
Melvign Badiola, *Education Director*
Niku Radan, *Youth Program Coordinator*

Board of Directors

Frankie Burton (President); Lauren Ryerson (Co-President), Ben Quiñones (Treasurer); Nora García-Zepeda, MD; Liliana Herrera; Anastacia Powers Cuellar; Marcus Trigueros; Anna Westendorf.

Support

Brava receives funding from the Budding Artist Foundation, California Arts Council, City & County of San Francisco, Creative Work Fund, Department of Children, Youth, & Their Families, Fleishhacker Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts, Kenneth Rainin Foundation, San Francisco Arts Commission, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, Violet World Foundation, Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation, and the Zellerbach Family Foundation.

Individual donors play a key role in supporting innovative new work, while also supporting the next generation of art and audiences through education and outreach programs. Visit brava.org to find out more and give today.

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