

NextStop
theatre company

Presents

IN THE HEIGHTS

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA
BOOK BY QUIARA ALEGRÍA HUDES
CONCEIVED BY LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA
DIRECTED BY ELENA VELASCO



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Music and Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda

Book by Quiara Alegria Hudes

Conceived by Lin-Manuel Miranda

Directed by Elena Velasco

May 12 - June 11, 2023

Development of *In The Heights* was supported by the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center during a residency at the Music Theater Conference of 2005. Initially developed by Back House Productions.

Originally Produced on Broadway by Kevin McCollum, Jeffrey Seller,
Jill Furman Willis, Sander Jacobs, Goodman/Grossman, Peter Fine, Everett/Skipper

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The Cast

Oscar Salvador, Jr. - Usnavi
Ixchel Hernandez - Nina
Kaylen Morgan - Benny
Graciela Rey - Vanessa
Bruni Herring - Abuela Claudia
Alex Lopez - Kevin
Janice Rivera - Camila
Cristian Bustillos - Sonny
Odette Gutierrez del Arroyo - Daniela
Stellamaris Orellana - Carla
Kiana King - Graffiti Pete
Chris Rios - Piragua Guy
Scean Aaron - Ensemble
Magdalen (Gigi) Cammaroto - Ensemble
Natalia Fyfe - Ensemble
Cam Powell - Ensemble
Byron Escobar - Swing
Sally Ann Flores - Swing
Sophia Inserra - Swing
Alexandra Lopez - Swing

Band

Jake Null - Conductor/Keys
Delorean Fullington - Bass
Dana Gardner - Woodwinds
Tyler Mire - Trumpet
John Guido Vitullo - Percussion

Creative Team

Elena Velasco - Director
Stefan Sittig - Choreographer
Marci Shegogue - Vocal Director
Bobby McCoy - Music Coordinator
Bianca Peña - Assistant Director
Mariana C. Fernandez - Scenic Designer
Katie McCreary - Lighting Designer
Ilyana Rose-Davila - Costume Designer
Kevin Alexander - Sound Designer
America Michelle Flores - Props Designer
Fe Miranda - Stage Manager
Hansin Arvind - Assistant Stage Manager
Sofia Carolina Quinteiro - Assistant Stage Manager
Zachary Tomney - Sound Mixer
Tom O'Reilly - Lead Carpenter
Reed Simiele - Lead Electrician
Suzy Alden, Sarah Usary, Tina Thayer - Scenic Artists

IN THE HEIGHTS is approximately 2.5 hours
with an Intermission.

STAFF

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Audience Advisories:

Use of some strong language
and sexual innuendo.

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fireworks sounds are used in
this production.



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The Cast



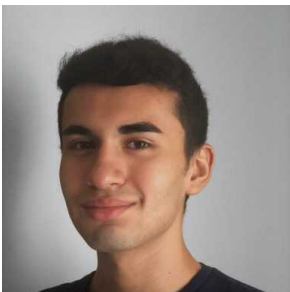
Scean Aaron (Ensemble, u/s Benny & Piragua Guy) [he/him] This is Scean's third trip to the barrio, but his NextStop debut! Local credits include: Keegan Theatre: *Shakespeare In Love*; Synetic Theatre: *The Madness of Poe*, *The Tempest*; Toby's Dinner Theatre: *In The Heights*, *Hairspray*, *Ragtime*. Regional credits include: Signature Theatre: *Jelly's Last Jam*, *The Scottsboro Boys*; Olney Theatre Center/Roundhouse: *In The Heights*. Scean is also a proud teaching artist.



Cristian Bustillos (Sonny) [he/him] is Incredibly excited to be making his debut at NextStop Theatre With Such a Powerful Show! Regional credits: *Rocky Horror Show*, *Rock of Ages* - Ensemble (WAC) *A Don't Hug Me Christmas Carol* - Kanute (StageCoach). Community credits: *Newsies* - Jack Kelly "Watch Award Best Show Winner 2022"(TAP) - *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* - Monroe u/s Jackson (DS) *How to Succeed* - Pierrepont Finch (SP), *Bright star*, *AIDA* - Ensemble (RCP) *Sister Act* - TJ , Oklahoma! - Ali Hakim (PWLT) *Secret Garden* - Ensemble, *She Loves Me* - Kodaly, *My Fair Lady* - Freddy. He would like to thank the cast, crew and friends and my darling Ron! Esto va dedicado para mi Mamá Namy y Mamá Blanca que Dios la tenga en su Gloria "Paciencia y Fe", en especial para mi Familia Elvin, Erika, Fabiola y Dylan... "Fighting!" disfruten el espectáculo ! No pare que sigue ...! (Enjoy the Show!)



Magdalen (Gigi) Cammaroto (Ensemble, Yolanda, u/s Daniela & Camila) [she/her] is a recent graduate of Georgetown University's Theatre & Performance Studies program. This past autumn, she made her professional debut as Elizabeth in NextStop's production of *Frankenstein*. She is beyond thrilled to be back for *In The Heights*! Gigi would like to thank not only the artists that offered their hearts to build this world, but you, lovely audience member, for bringing your own pieces of home to the theater today.



Byron Escobar (Swing) [he/him] is making his NextStop debut! He was previously in *Suddenly Last Summer* as George at Catholic University and can be seen in an upcoming stage reading this May for Keegan Theatre in *Waiting for Manilow* as Nick. He is currently pursuing a B.A. Drama at the Catholic University of America and he would like to thank Elena & Evan for the opportunity and his family for their love and support!



Sally Ann Flores (Swing) [she/her] is honored to be supporting Nextstop Theatre's *In The Heights*. Sally was last seen onstage as Tuca in Keegan Theatre's *The Wilting Point*. Favorite roles include: Zempfira Stage: *Annie* (Miss Hannigan); Castaways Repertory Theatre: *South Pacific* (Bloody Mary), *Hello Dolly* (Irene Molloy); Chalice Theatre: *Alix in Wonderland* (Queen of Hearts); Recent roles include Silhouette Stages: *Cinderella* (Ensemble) and The Little Theatre of Alexandria: *Bright Star* (Ensemble). Thank you to Elena and the entire production team and cast for letting me be in the room where it happens. Love to Kieth and Melody. Alabanza!



Natalia Fyfe (Ensemble u/s Nina, Vanessa, Carla) [she/her] is overjoyed to be making her NextStop debut with the show that inspired her to pursue theatre in 2010. Previous D.C. area credits include: *This Girl Laughs*, *This Girl Cries*, *This Girl Does Nothing* (Albienne) with Theater Alliance, *La Llamada de Sylvia Méndez: Separate is Never Equal* (u/s All Tracks) at GALA Hispanic Theatre, *21 Days to Save a Life* (Zoey Reed) with Prince William Little Theatre, and the workshop of *VOLVER* (Tita Álvarez) with MetroStage + Quintango. Natalia has also performed at The Guthrie, The Southern Theater, and Stages Theatre Co. in Minneapolis. TRAINING: George Mason University B.F.A. MT #youknow // Gracias a mi gente por todo y pa'lante! @nataliaafyfe



Odette Gutiérrez del Arroyo (Daniela) [she/her] ¡Wepa! Odette is thrilled to be making her NextStop debut with such a personal and meaningful show! Favorite credits include Anita in *West Side Story*, Serena in *Legally Blonde*, Catherine in *Pippin* and Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz*. Other credits include *Something Rotten* (LTA), *Sister Act* (LTA), and *Chicago*. When not on stage, you can find Odette practicing medicine with her B.S. in Neuroscience and M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies. She would like to thank her husband and son, Jake and Luca, for their unwavering support in her passion for the arts! Odette would also like to thank her parents from the bottom of her heart for keeping their *Boricua* culture, language, and spirit so alive in their household growing up. She dedicates her performances to the rest of her *gente* in Puerto Rico, who could not be here! ¡Que disfruten!



Ixchel Hernández (Nina) [she/her] is a Salvadoran-American actress, singer-songwriter, stand-up comic and storyteller based in the DC area. Acting credits include Constellation Theatre Company: *Incognito*; *We Happy Few*: *La Llorona*; Imagination Stage: *Oyeme*, *the Beautiful*, *Linda y Libre*; Restoration Stage: *The Very Last Days of the First Colored Circus*; The Bushwick Starr: *Big Green Theater*. Ixchel is an alum of Studio Acting Conservatory. She has performed and featured her music, stand-up and storytelling for Spit Dat in Residence at Woolly Mammoth, The Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum, Rhizome DC, 7DrumCity, Comedy Loft, Callback Comedy, Improbable Comedy, Grassroots Comedy, Busboys and Poets, and as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for The Constituents DC.



Bruni Herring (Abuela Claudia) [she/her] For the past three years, “paciencia y fe” is what kept Bruni hopeful that she would be a part of this production. Growing up in Washington Heights and telling the story of her barrio is a dream come true. Bruni has been an educator with Fairfax County for 17 years and spends her free time with family. She enjoys performing whenever possible. She is a proud graduate of the “Fame”, LaGuardia High School of Music and Art in New York City where she studied vocal music. She holds a degree in Speech Communications and Drama from Marymount College, Tarrytown, NY. Some favorite past roles are Motormouth Maybelle, *Hairspray* (CFTC and RCP), Narrator *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (CFTC) and Justice Charlier *Rock of Ages* (RCP) Bruni thanks her family and friends for all their love and support.



Sophia Inserra (Swing) [she/her] This is Sophia's debut DC professional staged performance. She is a recent BFA graduate from George Mason University where she studied Theater with a minor in Social Justice. Post-graduation, she was a part of a stage-reading for *Volver/Return* with MetroStage created by our very own choreographer, Stefan Sittig. In addition to performing, she also works as a Senior Teaching Artist at Acting for Young People, a theater program of the Mason Community Arts Academy. Keep up with her future projects on instagram @s.inserra.



Kiana King (Graffiti Pete) [she/her] is ecstatic to be a part of the *In The Heights* community, telling such an important story. This musical means the world to her as it was a huge influence on her passion and pursuit for theatre. Kiana is from the San Francisco Bay Area, California and received her BFA in musical theatre from CSU Fullerton. She recently worked with Workhouse Performing Arts in *Xanadu* as Erato/dance captain. Additional favorite roles include Lucy (*You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*) and Pepper Walker (*Cry-Baby: the Musical*). When she is not onstage, she enjoys teaching acting technique through Acting for Young People affiliated elementary schools throughout Fairfax county! She would like to thank her significant other Ryan for being her rock and for always uplifting her to pursue her passions.



Alex Lopez (Kevin) [he/him] is happy to make his debut at NextStop Theatre. His select credits include *Lady Godiva*, and *Club de Caballeros* at Teatro de la Luna; *El Bosque De Mis Libros* at GALA theatre; *Techagau* at Ansia Teatro; *Fabulation* at Port City Playhouse; *A Streetcar Named Desire* at The Arlington Players; and *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train* at The Hard Bargain Players. Alex also appeared in original plays from emerging and local playwrights, *She Sings Light* (Capital Fringe Festival, Curated Series); *The Regulars* (SCT Productions); and *The Jacquin Family in the Petrified Forest* (Source Festival). His voice work is often featured in the online Spanish language course *Fluencia.com*. Alex is an alum of the University of Puerto Rico and The Theatre Lab School of the Dramatic Arts.



Alexandra Lopez (Swing) [sher/her] is a rising senior Musical Theatre major at CUA and is thrilled to be making her NextStop debut! Selected credits include: Clear Space Theatre: *9 to 5*, *Grease*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, CUA: *Carrie*, *Anything Goes*, *Children of Eden*. She would like to thank her friends and family for always supporting her career, as well as the cast and crew of *In The Heights* for welcoming her so lovingly. Special thank you to Mama, Papa, y Andres.



Kaylen Morgan (Benny) [he/him] is making his NextStop debut, and couldn't be more excited! Kaylen attended Columbus State University for Theatre Ed, and Business. He also trained at AMDA; The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in NYC. Some favorite credits include: (Judah) in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream-coat*, (Robertson Ay) *Mary Poppins*, (Bob Crachit) *A Christmas Carol*, (Warner) *Legally Blonde*, (Rocky) *Damn Yankees*, (Brad) *Rocky Horror*, and many more. He is so grateful to his friends and family for their love and support. He would also like to thank everyone in this cast for making this show such a rewarding experience. *paciencia y fe!* Instagram: kaylen08.



Stellamaris Orellana (Carla) [she/her] is a junior musical theatre major at The Catholic University of America and is so excited to be in her first professional theatre production! Some favorite past roles include Anita in *West Side Story* (Upper Room Theatre), dance captain/ensemble in *The Wedding Singer* (CUA Centerstage), Ensemble in *Mamma Mia* (Imagination Stage Istage Performance Ensemble), Ensemble in *Seussical* (Adventure Theatre MTC academy), The Witch in *Into the Woods* (Highwood Theatre). She will also be participating in Overtures this summer at Signature Theatre. She thanks her family and friends for their continuous support, the amazing cast, crew, and the directing team who made this show possible. No me digas... se que te gusto!!!



Cam Powell (Ensemble) [he/they] is a Northern Virginia native who is ecstatic to make his NextStop debut. *In The Heights* was the first stage production Cam saw on Broadway and he comments that it is “extremely cathartic to be performing this particular show in [his] home state”. His recent roles include Tiny Tom (*Urinetown*), Albert (Disney’s *Newsies*), and Grunt (*Firebringer*). He hopes you enjoy this production of *In The Heights* and hopes it’s as magical as it was for him all those years ago.



Graciela Rey (Vanessa) [she/her] is a Cuban-American artist and is so excited to be a part of this production! DC area credits include: *On Your Feet! ¡En español!* (GALA Hispanic Theatre), *Beauty and the Beast* (Olney Theatre Center) *Vanishing Girl* (Flying V Theatre), *Fitting In* (Arts on the Horizon), *Paper Dreams* and *The Snow Queen* (Imagination Stage), *Make Way for Ducklings* (Adventure Theatre), *¡Nails! A Happy, Gay, Latinx Play* and *Klecksography* (Rorschach Theatre). **REGIONAL:** *Athena* (Gloucester Stage Company). Graciela has a BA in Musical Theatre from American University. Find her online at www.Gracielarey.com and @graci_rey.



Chris Rios (Piragua Guy) [he/him] is a DMV based recording artist/actor who is returning to the Nextstop stage. Credits include Riverside Center: *Ghost: The Musical* (Willy Lopez), *West Side Story* (Pepe). Keegan Theatre: *Dr. Wonderful* (Newton). NextStop Theatre: *Lucky Stiff* (EMC/ensemble), Adventure Theatre: *Luchadora* (Father/Mascara Rosa). Creative Cauldron: *Madeline’s Christmas* (Harsha, Mr. Brun). Lorton Workhouse Theatre: *Carrie: the musical* (Tommy Ross), *Avenue Q* (Princeton), *Rocky Horror* (Eddie/phantom). Imagination Stage: *Robin Hood* (Friar Tuck u/s), *Oyeme the Beautiful* (Esteban). The In Series Opera & more: *Cri-Cri the Singing Cricket* (Francisco); Arena Stage: *Native Gardens* (Landscaper/supervisor). ArtsCentic: *Sister Act* (Pablo), *La Cage Aux Folles* (Etienne). Podcast series: *Unfiltered*. Stream his debut single “For The Rest Of My Life” as C T Rios available on all streaming platforms now! Much love to friends and family for their support! IG: chris.rios.9



Janice Rivera (Camila) [she/her] Previous roles: Cookie, *Rumors*; Carmen, *The Nance*; Camila, *In The Heights* (LTA); Aldonza, *Man of La Mancha* (MCP); Lucille, *Parade*; and Judas Iscariot in *Jesus Christ Superstar* both WATCH nominations (SMP); Cathy, *The Last Five Years* (SCT); Mrs. Walker, *The Who’s Tommy* (LTA). She can also be found behind the scenes as a Sound Designer. Janice is a video editor/director/producer for Offbook Productions. Gracias to Elena and Stefan for the opportunity to reprise this role and reconnect to my roots in Puerto Rico!



Oscar Salvador, Jr. (Usnavi) [he/him] is grateful to be making his NextStop Theatre debut with a role that is very dear to him. He's so excited to be a part of such a phenomenal group of people! Some previous roles include Usnavi in *In The Heights* (MNTITS) and Thorin Oakenshield in *The Hobbit* (RCDT). He would like to thank his parents for all of their never-ending support, his sister for all of the advice she's given him all his life, his best friends for being there no matter what, and his goddaughter for being the most adorable thing in the world. Shout out to his OG Familias, you know who you are!



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Creative Team

Hansin Arvind (Assistant Stage Manager) [he/him] is delighted to be working with NextStop Theatre for *In The Heights*. Recent credits include *Volver* (Stage Manager) with MetroStage Theater and *The Hero of Everything* (Zapper) with InterAct Story Theatre. He received a BA in Theatre with a concentration in performance from George Mason University.

Mariana C. Fernandez (Set Design and Scenic Artist) [she/her] a native of Cordoba, Argentina was raised in Buenos Aires. She finished the MFA in set design at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where she had the opportunity to work as set designer and scenic artist for several shows. In addition to the University of Massachusetts, she has worked at First Stage, Imagination Stage, Synetic Theatre, GALA Hispanic Theater, Folger Theater, Studio Theater, Miniature Theatre of Chester, SpookyAction Theatre, The Shakespeare Theatre, Signature Theatre, Atlas Performing Arts Center, and the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland. She was nominated for a Helen Hayes Award in 2003. She received the Mark Joseph Award at Baltimore School For the Arts where she has taught since 2008 and the Theatre BroadwayWorld Washington DC Award for Best Set Design - Small Professional Theatre -*Like Water for Chocolate* - GALA Hispanic Theatre.

America Michelle Flores (Props Designer) [she/her/they] is honored to be making her professional theatre debut as props designer for NextStop's *In The Heights*. Though usually found on stage rather than off, America has learned so much while exploring the tech side this time around. You can watch her make her Capital Fringe debut as Cherry for the new original play, *Onion Skin*, this coming July. When not involved in the theatre world, America enjoys kicking butt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. She would like to thank her parents for their endless support and help, Evan for the opportunity and keeping in touch, and Elena for trusting her from the very beginning. Follow America's adventures at flow.page/americanichelle

Katie McCreary (Lighting Designer) [she/her] is excited to be back at NextStop, having designed for *Pride and Prejudice* and *Freaky Friday*. This season, in addition to NextStop, Katie has designed for Chesapeake Shakespeare Company (company member), Peabody Opera Theatre and Preparatory Dance, Catholic University of America, Word Dance, and Johns Hopkins Theatre. She is a company member with Rorschach Theatre. Katie is Director of Development and Curriculum Development and a proud Teaching Artist for Educational Theatre Company and a recipient of the "40 Under 40" award from Arlington Leadership Center for Excellence.

Fe Miranda (Stage Manager) [they/them] is excited to be making their NextStop debut with such a special show! Fe's previous works include *Head Over Heels*, *Just Like Us*, and *1,001 Plays* (Mason Players, George Mason University). Fe is currently the Production Assistant at the Center for the Arts at George Mason University and the Education Assistant at GALA Hispanic Theatre. Fe has a BA in Music with a minor in Arts Management from George Mason University. Fe would like to thank their parents for their continual love and support!

Bianca Peña (Assistant Director) [she/her/ella] is a first generation Mexican-American artist born & raised in San Antonio, Texas. She is happily based in the DMV area & recently graduated from GMU where she received her B.F.A. in Theatre. Bianca is also currently serving as the Media Relations Fellow at Arena Stage. Most recently, she performed in Gala Hispanic Theater's *La llamada de Sylvia Méndez: Separate Is Never Equal*. Educational: *The Boy Detective Fails* (Caroline Argo), *Just Like Us* (Elissa/Zulema). She is honored to have worked with such creative and brilliant people and is thrilled to see this story come to life. ¡Alabanza! IG: @__biancapena

Sofia Carolina Quinteiro (Assistant Stage Manager) [she/they/ella] is a DMV based stage manager, technician, and director. Their most recent professional undertaking was stage managing *Freaky Friday* at NextStop in December of 2022. She hopes that you all feel the love and joy that has gone into this production from all parties involved. It has been an absolute honor to bring this show to life with both her local theatre community and her local fellow latine community.

Ilyana Rose-Dávila (Costume Designer) is ecstatic to be working with NextStop for the first time and on her favorite musical! Ilyana is a DC area theatre artist who wears many hats including stage managing, costume design, acting, directing and producing. Her most recent costume design credits include: *Titus Andronicus* (Teatro Milagro, México City), *Pretty Pieces* by Charles Robertson (Bininger Theatre, Eckerd College) and *Akazukin-Chan: A Kabuki-Style Little Red Riding Hood* (Miller Auditorium, Eckerd College). Ilyana has a BFA in Theatre and East Asian Studies from Eckerd College. She would like to thank NextStop Theatre for this opportunity, *a sus padres y a su prima María Dávila por toda la ayuda que han dado.*

Marci Shegogue (Vocal Director) [she/her] has been a Music Director for hundreds of professional, community and educational theatre productions in the DC area over the past 40 years. In addition to being a freelance contractor, she is the Managing Director and Board President of The Free Theatre, a tuition-free student-led teen theatre company, and the Resident Music Director for Free Range Humans, a professional immersive theater company in Frederick, MD. Marci has worked extensively with educational arts programs, including American University, University of MD, Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery College, Imagination Stage, and Levine School of Music. Favorite recent productions include: *Once* (American University), *Little Women* (Univ of MD and Montgomery College), *Jekyll and Hyde* (Free Range Humans) *Anastasia* (Quince Orchard HS) and *Footloose* (The Free Theatre). Marci is also a collaborative accompanist, audition coach, musical mentor and freelance musician.

Stefan Sittig (Choreographer) [he/him] has a multi-disciplined theater background as an award-winning director, choreographer, fight director, and educator. Half-Uruguayan and raised in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, his work has been seen in 100+ productions, including Off-Broadway, internationally, and in the DC area at The Kennedy Center, Studio Theatre, Signature Theatre, Olney Theatre, MetroStage (where he is an Artistic Associate), The ATLAS, Washington Savoyards, Open Circle Theatre, 1st Stage, Adventure Theatre, Workhouse Arts Center and at various regional theatres and colleges/universities. The production of *Xanadu* that he directed and choreographed last season received a Helen Hayes Award nomination and 12 Broadway World Award nominations including for Best Direction and Best Choreography. He is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, is on the faculty at George Mason University and he holds an MFA in Theatre from Virginia Commonwealth University and a BA in Drama and English Literature from The University of Virginia. www.stefansittig.com

Elena Velasco (Director) [she/her/ella] is a theatre artist whose work encompasses performance, activism and education. She has created and taught theatre through the lens of community engagement with a focus on Title 1 and migrant populations. An associate member of SDC, her directing and choreography credits include Convergence Theatre, Synetic Theater, GALA Hispanic Theatre, 1st Stage, Keegan Theatre, Adventure Theatre, Imagination Stage, Young Playwrights' Theater, Source Theatre, Kennedy Center's New Visions New Voices Festival, and Central Square Theatre in Greater Boston. She has also choreographed for Avant Bard, Theatre J, Mosaic Theatre Company, and Keegan Theatre. As a performer, she has appeared at the Kennedy Center, Theatre Alliance, NextStop Theatre, Discovery Theatre, Imagination Stage, and in several films, commercials, and TV shows. Ms. Velasco is the Artistic Director/Founder of Convergence Theatre and an associate professor of theatre arts for Bowie State University. A commissioned playwright and theatre researcher, she has contributed to publications for Routledge and Intellect Books, and has served on panels for Boston Conservatory, George Mason University, Montgomery College, Theatre Washington and the Women's Theatre Festival of North Carolina. She is the 2023 recipient of the SDCF Barbara Whitman Director's Award. *MFA in Directing, Catholic University*. Upcoming: *Arco Iris*, Arts on the Horizon, June-July 2023. www.elenavelasco.net



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