



Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana
2014-2015: Celebrating 25 years of Innovative Latino Arts & Culture

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press images: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/120981565@N06/sets/72157649680678701/>

Clips: http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcFpW2tJE_BYqqsFZkhO_YtBWM00GkE1

MACLA presents !SER! - A Theater Performance
Best Original Music and Best Musical Direction at the 2014 LA Weekly Theater Awards
Written and Performed by Karen Anzoategui / Directed by Marcos Nájera

CALENDAR LISTING

!SER! — A Theater Performance
Written and Directed by Karen Anzoategui
Directed by Marcos Nájera
Friday, January 23 & Saturday, January 24, 2015, 8:00 pm
Sunday, January 25, 2015, 2:00 pm
MACLA, Castellano Playhouse, 510 South 1st Street, San José, CA 95113

Tickets: \$15 advance online / \$20 at the door / \$10 student with ID
sermacla.eventbrite.com / (408) 998-ARTE
Information: www.maclaarte.org/performing-arts



December 9, 2014 (San José, CA)—MACLA/ Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana presents the popular and award-winning *!Ser!*, a theater performance by acclaimed genderqueer performer and art activist Karen Anzoategui.

¡Ser! is a riveting and hilarious personal narrative about a queer Latina's strained relationship with two homes: Los Angeles and Buenos Aires. Spending years in both of The Americas, Karen dreams of a pilgrimage to meet soccer idol Diego Maradona and see him play. A strained upbringing and American migration amidst major moments in Argentine history leaves Karen with some interesting role models: an over-sexed Argentinean English teacher and a mute that communicates via horn. Watch Karen remove negative influences to find community and love in pursuit of a ¡GOL!

This unique theatrical experience includes live music, soccer tricks, some James Brown dancing, and Karen's charismatic and engaging storytelling. Soccer fanaticism, sexual identity, political repression and economic collapse are all a part of a transnational Latino experience that doesn't get more real, fun, and poignant than this.

Selected Reviews

LA Times/November 26, 2013: "This deeply personal coming-of-age account from writer-performer Karen Anzoategui reveals a ripely burgeoning talent. Using soccer as overarching metaphor for multiple cultural, familial and sexual conflicts, Anzoategui exudes a purposeful energy ...combining a breathless acerbity that recalls a young Lea DeLaria with a piquant vulnerability entirely her own, Anzoategui gives the zigzagging saga, which takes in Buenos



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Aires, East L.A., her combative parents and emerging orientation an uncommon mix of hilarity and gravitas.”

LA Weekly/November 21, 2013: “Anzoategui's narration and strong impersonations come both accompanied by and interspersed with lively and lovely calypsos, marimbas and blues from the band CAVA and Walter Miranda, in collaboration with Louie Pérez of Los Lobos....under Marcos Nájera's direction, Anzoategui's performance avoids every pitfall of bitterness and stridency, while being fully spirited throughout.”

About the Artists

Karen Anzoategui is a genderqueer writer/performer and art activist in Los Angeles. Karen is most known for the solo show, *¡Ser! a Queer Transnational Tale*, a finalist for the 2012 Downtown Urban Theatre Festival in New York City., Karen's second full length solo show, *Catholic School Daze*, is in its seventh year and is work-shopping at universities, with an interactive component that transforms the audience into participants and involves local area outreach to LGBTQ counseling centers, therapists, social workers and community healers. Other performance credits include: *ProClivities*, directed by Virginia Grise at Highways Theatre, *Henry V & The Changeling* with Independent Shakespeare Co., and *Sissy*, written and produced by Ricardo Bracho. Visit www.karenanzoategui.com.

Marcos Nájera is a teaching artist with Center Theatre Group's Target Young Audiences Program. A recipient of CTG's Dana Fellowship and an Oregon Shakespeare Festival Directing Assistantship, he is also an East LA Rep company member and education director, a teaching artist for Guillermo Gomez Peña and a long-time artistic associate of Anna Deavere Smith. He holds two degrees from Stanford University in its Stanford Teacher Education Program and a certificate from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education's Mind, Brain and Education Institute. His current one-man show is called *Neuroplasticity: The Brown Brain*.

About the Performance

This performance of *¡Ser!* was organized by MACLA. MACLA is a NPN Partner of the National Performance Network (NPN). This project is made possible in part by support from the NPN Performance Residency Program. Major contributors of NPN include the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency), the MetLife Foundation and the Nathan Cummings Foundation. Major contributors of NPN include the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency), the MetLife Foundation and the Nathan Cummings Foundation.

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About MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana

MACLA is an inclusive contemporary arts space grounded in the Chicana/o experience that incubates new visual, literary and performance art in order to engage people in civic dialogue and community transformation. MACLA is located at 510 South First Street, San José, CA 95113. For more information about MACLA call (408) 998-ARTE or see www.maclaarte.org. MACLA celebrates its 25th anniversary with the 2014-2015 season. Visit the website for updates on anniversary special events.

Image credit: Pablo Aguilar

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