

Mission Academy of Performing Arts @ Brava presents

Between Dirt & Sky

A musical inspired by the life of César Chávez

Friday, April 20 – 1pm (Student Matinee)

Friday, April 20 – 7pm

Saturday, April 21 – 3pm

Charles Eurydice Gray, playwright and librettist

Lisa Quoresimo, playwright, composer, and arranger

Directed by Marcelo Pereira

Performed by San Francisco Youth Theatre, Cuicacalli Escuela de Danza, and

Mariachi Juvenil La Misión

Production Design by San Francisco Running Crew



***25 years ago, our beloved leader Cesar Chavez passed away
50 years ago Cesar Chavez went on a Hunger Strike--25 day Fast for non-violence***

Inspired by the life of American civil rights leader Cesar Chavez, *Between Dirt & Sky* fuses the early events of the American farm labor movement with the personal struggles of those who lived it. Set on the cusp of great change and social upheaval, it is a highly theatrical piece that invites contemplation and discussion.

Though inspired by historical events, *Between Dirt & Sky* is a topically relevant story that offers insight into present day issues such as immigration, labor practices, equality and national identity. Neither history recitation nor eulogy, *Between Dirt & Sky* explores the psyche of a uniquely American leader whose story is inspirational to both those steeped in the lore of La Causa (the cause) and to those new to its discovery.

Between Dirt & Sky is the non-idealized telling of one man's journey from victim to activist. It is the story of a man who - like any other - struggles with his own limitations and desires.

Synopsis:

The night of his passing, American civil rights leader Cesar Chavez is troubled by dreams. He encounters his grandmother's spirit who guides him back to his childhood. Young Cesar learns of the hardships endured by migrant workers during the Great Depression, the bigotry of society and the heartache of loss when his family's farm is lost to foreclosure. The story follows his rise from a rebellious teen - a pachuco, or street tough to his rise as an organizer and the impact of his work on his family and relationships. In the end, it is the return of his grandmother's spirit, calming his fears about La Causa and his legacy. Cesar passes away as the movement goes forward.

Quotes:

"This is a show that needs to be seen by everyone."

Margaret Cruz - Lawyer, MAPA founding member and the "little giant of the Mission District"

"Thank you for making Cesar a real flesh and blood man."

Rita Chavez Medina - Chavez Family Vision board member, Activist and Cesar's sister

"Captures the emerging spirit of Chavez."

Martin Sheen - Emmy- and Golden Globe Award-winning actor and Activist

Bios:

Charles Eurydice Gray, playwright and librettist

Charles Eurydice Gray is a playwright, lyricist and fiction writer. During her career in theatre, she has had the pleasure of working with the good folks of the Pittsburgh Public Theater, Court Theatre of Chicago, Teatro Visión de San José and San Jose Repertory Theatre. Several of her short fictions have been published and acclaimed including: "Two People Wake" and "The Line." Chuck's feature writing has been published nationally as well as reprinted in journals and magazines.

Lisa Quoresimo, playwright, composer, and arranger

Lisa Quoresimo is a composer, playwright and director. Her most recent work, Siddhartha: The Bright Path has been produced to rave reviews across the U.S. and India. Lisa was the Co-

Founder and Artistic Director of Kairos Theatre Company in New York, where she produced and directed more than 30 productions, including Jimmy Tingle's *Uncommon Sense*, which went on to a Broadway production. Her works *Not My Heart's Desire* and *Antigone: A Fable Without Walls* were produced off-off Broadway. Lisa holds an M.A. from Carnegie Mellon University and received theatrical training at New York's Circle in the Square. She has taught at N.Y.U.'s Tisch School of the Arts and the Manhattan School of Music.

Marcelo Javier Pereira, director

Marcelo Javier Pereira co-founded the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company (BATCO) in 2014. Before founding BATCO, he helped produce two Off-Broadway productions, *The Black Book* by Phil Blechman and *Rogerandtom* by Julien Scwab. Recent acting credits include *Not Another Holiday Show!* (BATCO), *Home for "all of" the Holidays* (BATCO), *Skippyjon Jones* (Theatreworks USA), *Rent* (Syracuse Stage), *A New Brain* (SU Drama), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bathwater Productions). Directing credits include *Celebrate 12thNight Joyfully with Kathryn Crosby* (NYPL at Lincoln Center), *Cinderella* (African American Shakespeare Co.) *Not Another Holiday Show!* (BATCO), *La Posarela* (BATCO 2017 & Community Music Center 2015), *The Complete History of America* [Abridged] (Black Box Players) and *Too Many Tamales* (Marsh Youth Theatre). Marcelo is an alumnus of the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts.

Mission Academy of Performing Arts @ Brava (MAPA@Brava) trains youth ages 13–18 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 San Francisco Youth Theatre, offering students high quality performing instruction integrating drama, movement, and music. Each year, the youth programs of Mission Academy of Performing Arts collaborate to create a full-length production on Brava's Main Stage. The culminating spring performance is performed by students of San Francisco Youth Theatre, with dancing and music accompaniment by Cuicacalli Escuela De Danza and Mariachi Juvenil La Misión, and technical support and production design by Brava's San Francisco Running Crew.

MAPA is funded in part by California Arts Council, Department of Children Youth & Their Families, Grants for the Arts, Walter and Elise Haas Fund, Miranda Lux Foundation, and the San Francisco Arts Commission. The youth actor version of *Between Dirt & Sky* was first produced by the San Francisco Arts Education Project.

Tickets: \$13 adult; \$7 youth
brava.org