



For Immediate Release

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Brava! For Women in the Arts presents

Las Chicas de Esta Noche: Living La Vida Evicted

Starring **Lulu Ramirez, Persia, Vicky Jimenez and Mitzy Lee**

Conceived by **Rene Yanez**

WHO: Brava! For Women in the Arts, Rene Yanez, Las Chicas de Esta Noche

WHAT: Las Chicas de Esta Noche: Living La Vida Evicted, a drag show about displacement

WHERE: Brava Theater Center, 2781-24th Street at York, San Francisco, CA 94110

WHEN: October 24, 2014, 8pm

TICKETS: \$15-20

About the performance

In ***Las Chicas de Esta Noche: Living La Vida Evicted***, **Las Chicas** tell the story of working at the historical and noted Esta Noche Club, which resided at 16th Street in San Francisco's Mission District for 34 years. After Esta Noche's forced eviction, these talented bilingual chicas find themselves by themselves. This is the tale of their displacement.

Telling the lead story with song and dance is **Lulu Ramirez**, who demonstrates how bilingual drag shows are twice as much fun. Also on the marquee is **Persia**. Known for surprising the audience, Persia stands with platforms at seven feet tall. Hip and beautiful, Persia can be seen on Youtube in her video "Google, Google, Apps, Apps", which deals with evictions and technology. Rounding up the show is **Vicky Jimenez** who mesmerizes audiences by doing a reverse drag show from a woman to a man in transition. This show originated from producer **Rene Yanez** and performed for the Friday Night Series, July 2014 at DeYoung Museum in Golden Gate Park, where a 600 person audience gave Las Chicas a standing ovation. Please join us October 24 for a Spanglish drag extravaganza that deals with displacement, in a designer dress with high heels and a lot of soul.

About Las Chicas:

Lulu Ramirez started dressing in drag for fun 15 years ago which led to her 7 year career as the sassy sexy bilingual ringleader behind Esta Noche's Friday and Saturday night drag shows. Lulu is one of San Francisco's best loved drag queens and she is in demand all over the Bay Area at Oakland's Bench and Bar, Club 21, The Café, Mezannine, Blancoire and numerous charity functions

Persia was born from the burgeoning creative mind of a child in South Central Los Angeles. With degrees from the University of California, Santa Cruz and the San Francisco Art Institute in one hand, and a few pairs of heels in the other, she set out to conquer and revolutionize the drag community. Persia began performing weekly at Esta Noche, the recently closed Latino gay bar in San Francisco. Whilst performing at events around the Bay Area, in Los Angeles, and Mexico—including a few quinceañeras—Persia has also curated art shows, done stand-up, appeared on a few television shows, modeled, and has represented SFMOMA by transforming into Matisse's "Woman with a Hat."

Vicky Jimenez says she was "born" at Esta Noche 5 years ago. Since then she became one of the club's favorite chicas and the star of Esta Noche's weekly Sunday night spectacular. Vicky can now be seen in the Bay Area at Club OMG. She is proud to 100% Latina!

Mitzy Lee is from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and has been performing for 29 years all together and at Esta Noche for 27 years. Mitzy loves performing en La Mission.

About René Yañez

René Yañez is a widely recognized artist, curator and producer who has been a strong role model and vital cultural force in the San Francisco arts community. As a curator and mentor, Yañez has galvanized a large community of Latino and Chicano artists and their allies from all communities. The list of artists he supported at early stages of their careers reads like a who's who of internationally recognized Latino artists, including Rupert García, Guillermo Gómez-Peña, Ester Hernández, Yolanda López, Carmen Lomas-Garza, Enrique Chagoya, Amalia Mesa-Bains, Gronk, and ASCO. Active as both a visual and performance arts curator and artist, Yañez co-founded the successful Chicano performance trio Culture Clash. He has curated numerous exhibitions including Chicano Visions: American Painters on the Verge, an art exhibit featuring works by Chicano artists from around the United States that toured the US for five years. A founder and former Artistic Director of Galeria de la Raza, Yañez was one of the first curators to introduce the contemporary concept of Mexico's Day of the Dead to the United States with Rooms for the Dead and Labyrinth for the Dead at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Since the early 1970s, René Yañez's Day of the Dead celebrations, with co-director Ralph Maradiaga, were marked by increasingly large exhibitions, ceremonies, processions, and school-based activities and quickly spread beyond the Mission District, encompassing various communities in the Bay Area, California, the American Southwest and Mexico. Throughout his decades of work in the arts, René has remained a stalwart supporter of grass-roots organizations and community artists, collaborating with organizations such as SomArts, Oakland Museum of California, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Kearny Street Workshop, Mission Cultural Center and the San Francisco Arts



Commission. In 1998, he received the “Special Trustees Award in Cultural Leadership” from the San Francisco Foundation for his long standing contribution to the cultural life of the Bay Area. He is currently Director of Special Projects for SOMA Arts.

Brava! for Women In The Arts

Brava! For Women in the Arts celebrates its 26th year as a professional arts organization dedicated to cultivating the artistic expression of women, youth, LGBT, people of color and other unheard voices through the ownership and operation of Brava Theater Center. BRAVA producing history includes award-winning premieres by Diana Son, Eve Ensler, Debbie Swisher, Reno, Cherylene Lee, Suzan-Lori Parks, Culture Clash, Joan Holden, Anne Galjour, Elizabeth Summers, Kate Rigg, Dan Guerrero, and Mabou Mines, as well as works by internationally known playwrights like Jesusa Rodriguez and Liliana Felipe of Mexico, Jorge Drexler of Uruguay, and Ojos de Brujo and Ismael Serrano of Spain. BRAVA’s current artistic programming includes 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 multi-faceted arts venues in the Bay Area. BRAVA’s resident youth programs include the long standing SF Running crew which pairs youth with professional mentors and hands on opportunities for technical theatre training; Cuicacalli Escuela de Danza, traditional and contemporary dance training for youth, Famooly Productions Salsa Band workshops and Loco Bloco dance and drum ensemble. 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.