



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TOWN HALL THEATRE ANNOUNCES SECOND IN THEIR “NEW VOICES” SERIES-
“amémonos // let us love each other” BY LINDA MARIA GIRÓN**

FEBRUARY 18, 2022 – Playwright Linda Maria Girón’s piece, “**amemonos // let us love each other**” will be brought to the stage by Director Karina Gutiérrez. This lightly produced, two-weekend performance model will be the second in Town Hall’s **New Voices** series. New Voices will produce two brand new, never produced-on-stage plays by playwrights living in the seven Bay Area counties. New Voices will heavily feature plays written by traditionally under-represented and under-produced artists.

Untimely. Uncertain. Unrequited. Unemployed. In “amémonos // let us love each other” newly discarded graduate Karina Inés makes an inconvenient pilgrimage back home, Kari is surprised to find Abuela Eulalia exactly as she was six years prior. Trapped between lost languages, time & house keys, Kari and Eulalia are confronted with a choice; reckon with the ghost of a secret unrequited or lose each other in the haze of an uncertain future.

“*amémonos* is a play about what it means to exist in the hyphens of identity and love; to be first-second-third-gen; to be guatemalan-american; to be bi-ligual, bi-sexual, bi-gender; to be a dreamer between dreams.” says playwright **Linda Maria Girón**. “Growing up in the slowly gentrifying smog towns of Los Angeles and San Bernardino county, secretly queer, ambiguously latinx, I learned quickly how to live in smoke, how to hide, how to ration breathe for words. There is so much to be said about how the endemics of colonial trauma, ecological racism and medical poverty continue to impact the spiritual-mental-physical wellness of low-income BIPOC families across the United States. *amémonos* is just one exploration of that.”

“How do you placate the ghosts of woundings past? Can one ever truly return “home,” or is home a moment in time?” says director **Karina Gutiérrez** when describing the show.

“Amémonos follows Karina Inés on a journey of self-identification, self-determination, and self-affirmation as she navigates a life of complex and often concealed dualities. A newly minted Ph.D., Inés returns home to a Southern California in flames. Amid the smoggy terrain, betwixt haunting memories of unrequited love, and a family at a standstill, Karina must reconcile the past before proceeding forward.”

The New Voices series is a first for Town Hall Theatre. The series was created to give a wider-array of playwrights a chance to expose new and in-process works to an audience that may not otherwise be exposed to their stories. Productions in the series will include a facilitated talkback at each performance allowing the playwrights the chance to receive feedback from audiences in a constructive manner, while also giving audiences an insight into the theatre maker’s process.

The second season of the New Voices series is in the works, and we are accepting new submissions through April 15th 2022.

“amémonos // let us love each other” will perform on April 1st, 2nd & 8th, 9th. Tickets are \$25 and the April 9th performance will be Pay What You’d Like. Tickets and information can be found at TownHallTheatre.com

COVID PRECAUTIONS

Town Hall Theatre is prioritizing the health and safety of our artists, staff, and audiences above all else. We are keeping close watch on the number of COVID cases and hospitalizations and if we feel we cannot safely produce any of our works, we will move to a hybrid in-person and digital model or postpone to a later date.

Town Hall Theatre has joined Theatre Bay Area’s coalition on COVID protocols (<https://www.theatrebayarea.org/page/bayareasafe>). Town Hall’s full COVID policy (found at <https://www.townhalltheatre.com/covid19>) states:

Town Hall Theatre reserves the right to refuse service to anyone, and anyone violating this policy will be asked to leave the premises immediately.

MASKS UP AT ALL TIMES

- *Masks that cover the nose and mouth must be worn in Town Hall Theatre or during any in-door off-site Town Hall produced events or classes regardless of vaccination status. This includes but is not limited to rehearsals, performances, classes, or meetings. This policy applies to audiences, performers, staff, Teaching Artists, students, visitors, and volunteers.*
- *Masks may be temporarily lowered to consume food or drink, but then must be replaced while not actively consuming food and beverage.*
- *Town Hall will provide disposable masks to anyone who needs them.*

PROOF OF VACCINATION OR RECENT NEGATIVE COVID TEST IS REQUIRED

- *Anyone who has received a vaccination must present proof of vaccination in the form of a vaccine card or state-issued digital vaccine record (which may be obtained at <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/>).*
- *Anyone who has not received a vaccination must present a negative COVID test from the past 72 hours.*
- *Appropriate photo ID is required to match both COVID test results and/or vaccination records.*
- *Students under the age of 12 registered in classes will not be required to provide vaccination status or COVID test. No-contact (laser, infrared) temperature checks may be administered prior to any onsite, indoor activities.*

- *NO VISITORS* will be permitted within Town Hall during class times to minimize the possible exposure to students. Guardians should drop off and pick up their students at the door.
- Rapid tests will not fill the requirement for a recent negative COVID test. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test results will be the only results accepted.

CONTENT ADVISORY FOR THIS PRODUCTION

"amémonos//let us love each other" contains adult language and viewer discretion is advised.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Linda Maria Girón (they/them, *elle*) is a queer Guatemalan-american playwright, actor and visual artist. Born and raised on unceded Serrano land, colonially known as Los Angeles, Linda currently resides and works in the Bay Area, unceded Ramaytush Ohlone land. Original works include: *amémonos // let us love each other* (Crowded Fire Theater, 2021), *Memoria del Silencio en el País de la Eterna Primavera* (Latinx Mafia, 2021; Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, 2018) and *white iris* (PianoFight ShortLived, 2018). Devised/collaborative works: *Decolonize Your Sex Life* (Cutting Ball Variety Pack, 2019), *Port Stories* (Idiot String, 2019) and *3GT Investigates: BirthRights* (3GirlsTheatre, 2018.) Awards and residencies include: the Roselyn Schneider Eisner Prize and *Michael Mansfield and Randy Sweringen Social Justice Award* (UC Berkeley, 2017), Artist-in-Residence at Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts (2018), Bay Area Playwrights' Festival Finalist for *Memoria del Silencio* (Playwrights' Foundation 2019), Shotgun Players' *Artistic Directing M.A.D. Fellowship* (2019) and Crowded Fire Theater's *R&D Lab Cohort* (2020-21). www.lindamgiron.com

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Karina Gutiérrez (she/her) is a Bay Area-based actor, director, dramaturg, and scholar. She has previously directed projects for Bay Area Children's Theatre, The Playwright's Foundation, Crowded Fire Theatre, and Stanford University. Gutiérrez's upcoming projects include: *To the Bone* by Lisa Ramirez (Santa Clara University, and *Dream Hou\$e* by Eliana Pipes (Shotgun Players). She is currently an Assistant Professor of History, Historiography, and Performance Studies at Santa Clara University. Like her artistic practice, her scholarly work concentrates on the intersection of politics and performance, social justice, with a focus on new Latinx works.

ABOUT THE DRAMATURG

Caro Asercion (they/them) is a dramaturg, literary manager, producer, and multidisciplinary artist based in the San Francisco Bay Area on unceded Lisjan Ohlone land. They have supported new play development at A.C.T., Magic, Custom Made, Crowded Fire, and other organizations around the Bay Area and beyond. They're thrilled to make their Town Hall debut in such fine company!

ABOUT THE VOLUNTEER PRODUCER

Lisa Anne Morrison (she, her) made her way back home to the Bay Area after working professionally as an actor in Los Angeles for many years. She is a CalArts graduate who found her love of new plays while producing and acting as a member of L.A.'s Theatre of NOTE. Some favorite Bay Area acting credits are "All's Well that Ends Well," "Othello" (Cal Shakes), "Intimate Apparel," "Shakespeare in Hollywood" (TheatreWorks). She was last seen in Netflix' "13 Reasons Why." Lisa is a long-time teaching artist with CoachArt, a non-profit that pairs artists and athletes with chronically ill children and produced the Bay Area edition of the annual Coach Art Fundraising Gala where close to \$1million was raised in a single evening. Lisa serves as the DEIB chair for Stanley Middle School and is on the district DEIB committee. The New Voices series is an exciting way to combine Lisa's passion for theatre and promoting diversity in our community.

ABOUT THE NEW VOICES SERIES

In an effort to use Town Hall's platform to raise up local artists, they have created the New Voices series starting in the 2021-2022 season. This is a series of small-scale productions that feature local playwrights whose unproduced work is still in the final steps of the workshopping phase. This offers playwrights the chance to get structured audience feedback and hear their work aloud. For Town Hall's audiences it's a chance to be exposed to new local artists. The primary focus of this program is to benefit local playwrights, especially those who belong to traditionally under-represented and under-produced groups.

ABOUT TOWN HALL THEATRE

Established in 1944 as the Dramateurs, Town Hall Theatre Company is the oldest continuously active theatre in Contra Costa County. Town Hall Theatre (THT) was awarded Best Theatre Troupe 2016 by Diablo Magazine, Best of The East Bay, and is the past recipient of numerous Shellie Awards, and Theatre Bay Area Awards. THT is also home to an extensive children's educational program, twice voted the Best Children's Theatre Company by Bay Area Parent Magazine. THT's home is the historic Town Hall Theatre building located at 3535 School Street in Lafayette which is owned by the Lafayette Improvement Association (LIA).

CALENDAR Information for "amémonos // let us love each other"

WHO: Town Hall Theatre Company

WHAT: "amémonos // let us love each other"

Directed by Karina Gutiérrez

Written by Linda Maria Girón

CAST: Alejandra Maria Rivas, Alexander Espinosa Pieb, Carla Gallardo, Jeanette Sarmiento, and Jovita Molina.

DATES: April 1, 2 & 8, 9 at 8PM

WHERE: Town Hall Theatre

TICKETS: \$25. April 9th is a Pay-What-You'd-Like performance

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