

The CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice presents:

Hidden Heroes Recognition Awards and Dramatized Narratives Presentation



So that all may be one

Sunday, October 24, 2021
2PM via Virtual Platform

“CSJ” refers to “Congregation of St. Joseph” and is the set of initials used by the Sisters of Joseph of Orange for identification.



Loyola Marymount University
**CSJ Center for
Reconciliation
and Justice**

HIDDEN HEROES 2021

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF ORANGE, DIRECTIONAL STATEMENT – The Company

Abby Magallanes by Heather Gottlieb

Abby Magallanes - Cecille Forsyth Rios

Woman - Bonnie Banfield

Antonio Felix by Catharine Dada

Antonio Felix - Carlos Alvarado

Elena Meloni by Julianne Homokay *with excerpts from a poem by Paulette Kelly*

Elena Meloni - Julianne Homokay

Woman's voice - Catharine Dada

Linda Whitfield by Bonnie Banfield with lyrics from Purple Rain by Prince

Linda Whitfield - Bonnie Banfield

Voice of lyrics - Carlos Alvarado

Alicia Partnoy – by Beth Ruscio *with poems by Alicia Partnoy translated by Gail Wronsky*

Alicia Partnoy - Rose Portillo

Reader of translation - Beth Ruscio

CODA by The Company

AWARD RECIPIENTS – BIOGRAPHIES



Antonio Felix
Director of PLACE Corps and CAST, School of Education, LMU

Antonio is a South Central Los Angeles native and proud son of Mexican immigrant parents. Antonio currently serves as the Director of the Loyola Marymount University (LMU) School of Education PLACE Corps (Partners in Los Angeles Catholic Education) – a nationally recognized Catholic teacher service program housed within LMU’s Center for Catholic Education. Antonio oversees the PLACE Corps’ mission to place novice teachers in primarily under-resourced schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Diocese of Orange and Diocese of San Bernardino through the program’s three pillars of professional development, community living, and spiritual growth. Antonio is also the Director of CAST (Catholic Archdiocesan School Teachers) – a master of arts and preliminary teaching credential program designed for current full-time Catholic school educators from the (Arch) Dioceses of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Fresno, Orange, and San Bernardino.

As the director of the Catholic teacher preparation programs at LMU, Antonio critically utilizes his intersectional identity and positionality as a first-generation, bilingual, Mexican-American, Catholic, who was raised in poverty to pursue and promote educational equity and justice. In his role, Antonio strives to empower his graduate fellows by increasing their self-confidence in their work, their belief that they could question injustices in their context, and that they indeed have the capacity to address them.

Prior to joining LMU, Antonio served Nativity Catholic School, located in the Vermont-Slauson community of South Central Los Angeles, in many capacities – first as a junior high math and science teacher, later as the director of marketing and development, and eventually as principal.

Antonio earned his master’s degree in Elementary Education along with a California Teaching Credential from LMU, and was awarded the LMU School of Education Bilingual Educator Outstanding Graduate Award. Antonio returned to LMU and earned a second master’s degree in Catholic School Administration and a California Administrative Services Credential. Antonio is currently pursuing a doctorate in Educational Leadership for Social Justice at LMU.

Antonio is a proud husband and father of three. He and his wife Angelica enjoy going on hikes with their three children, Amy, Alejandro, and Adrian. Antonio is the second youngest of 10 children and is one of five educators in the family. He credits his love for teaching and learning to his parents, Tereso and Concepcion Felix, his first and favorite teachers. Antonio often shares that he carries with him characteristics from all his siblings, his role models and mentors, who have always stressed the importance of the commitment to faith, service, and life-long learning.



Abigail Magallanes
Leimert Park Community Fridge Organizer, LMU Class of 2021

Abigail is a Los Angeles native with a passion for social justice and mutual aid efforts. She co-founded the Leimert Park Community Fridge in the summer of 2020 as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Abigail realized the pandemic further jeopardized the Black and brown communities of her hometown and decided to do something about it. She recently graduated from LMU with a degree in Urban Studies after a 7-year-long journey as a first-generation college student.



Elena Meloni
Founder and Executive Director, New Star Family Justice Center

Elena is the Founder and Director of the New Star Family Justice Center, a non-profit, Domestic Violence agency. A native of Italy, Elena came to the US with her family as a teenager. She studied Horticulture/Landscaping at Ohio State University and later worked in the banking industry for many years. Through the one-stop Family Justice Center, Elena reaches out to families experiencing domestic violence and provides access to an array of services for victims and survivors. For families whose children are in the foster care system she works with DCFS to reunite them with their families or find culturally appropriate foster homes. As an active member in the community in Southern California, she also serves on the Board of the South Coast Interfaith Council. Elena is a wife and mother of three boys.



Alicia Partnoy

Author and Professor Emeritus, Modern Languages and Literatures, Belarmine College of Liberal Art, LMU

Alicia is a poet, memoirist, scholar, and human rights activist in addition to author, translator or editor of twelve books and the chapbook *Ecos lógicos y otros poemares*. Alicia is better known for *The Little School: Tales of Disappearance and Survival*, which was evidence in the trials against the genocide perpetrators who terrorized Argentina in the 70's. Her most recent book, co-written with Dr. Martina Ramirez, is the testimony of

her transgender friend: *Happier as a Woman: Transforming Friendships, Transforming Lives*. The 2020-2021 Daum Professor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, Alicia presides over Proyecto VOS-Voices of Survivors.



Linda Whitfield

Assistant Dean for Career Development, Loyola Law School

Linda '92 has long championed diversity at LMU Loyola Law School, where in her role as Senior Assistant Dean for Student Services and Dean of Students she has presided over an expansion of programming to promote inclusion at the law school. It is no surprise that the National Association for Law Student Affairs Professionals (NALSAP) has recognized her efforts by honoring her with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award for 2020. Most recently, Linda spearheaded the launch of LLS' Black Lives Matter website

section on the Diversity portal she helped create. This is fitting with the NALSAP's criteria for recognizing honorees as leaders who are:

- actively engaged in promoting equity, diversity and inclusivity in their law school community;
- demonstrates an awareness of unconscious bias and the importance of cultural competency;
- demonstrates a commitment to identify and eliminate unfair bias, stereotypes and barriers to academic and professional success; and
- implements diversity-related programming to ensure that students graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary for a diverse society.

A graduate of the law school's JD Day Program, first-generation college student and Black Law Student Association (BLSA) board member, Linda draws on her personal experiences to support students of all backgrounds in achieving their goals.

After receiving her law degree, Linda became a practicing attorney at the Los Angeles office of international law firm Perkins Coie LLP and then the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Later, upon relocating to Atlanta, Linda took a break from the legal profession to become a special education teacher — informed by a son who has autism. She also completed a library science degree and worked at Legal Aid in Atlanta.

Linda often states the law school's public service mission aligns with her values. "I returned because of my desire to help others and to work at a place where creativity, emotional intelligence and leadership skills would be recognized and valued. I am an idea person, and in this role, I have the opportunity and, in fact, I am encouraged to innovate to meet goals and objectives."

While overseeing the law school's Career Development Office, Linda played a key role in implementing the Resident Associate Program, which helps LLS graduates secure yearlong positions at small or mid-size firms that don't typically hire new attorneys.

Among her long list of accomplishments, Linda has reformed and updated the law school's disability accommodation and access processes to be more efficient, transparent and supportive of students. Linda has fostered inclusion for transgender students through education workshops for the community and through myriad policy updates providing for gender neutral bathroom signage and student name changes on official documents. Additionally, she has amplified the law school's support for first-generation students, creating robust, cross-team programs to make those efforts more visible and accessible to students.

COMPANY – BIOGRAPHIES



Carlos Alvarado (Actor) is a Salvadoran born actor, writer and producer who immigrated to the US at the peak of the Salvadoran civil war in 1981 with his surviving family. Carlos has played various roles on television, film and theatre. He has been working as an actor and a writer in Los Angeles since 1990. Last seen on *Animal Kingdom*, *NCIS Los Angeles* and various films. After being a musician, photographer, restaurateur and a film editor for many years, Carlos decided acting would become his new trade. He speaks English, Spanish, and Italian. Carlos divides his time between Europe, Central America and the US.



Doris Baizley (Script Editor and Playwright) teaches in the LMU Department of Theatre Arts. Her published plays *MRS. CALIFORNIA*, *SHILOH RULES*, and *A CHRISTMAS CAROL* were developed and premiered at the Mark Taper Forum, ACT Seattle, and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Her documentary and community-based plays include *SISTERS OF PEACE*, about four activist CSJ Sisters, *ONE DAY SARAH HOUSE: LIVING AND DREAMING IN HOSPICE*, winner of the Santa Barbara Independent Award for best original script; *PH*REAKS: THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES* (co-written with Victoria Ann Lewis); and *SEX STING*, based on an FBI internet case, listed as one of the LA Weekly's 10 best original plays in

2013. As story editor for documentary films, she has worked with Anne Makepeace on "*We Still Live Here! As Nutayanean*" and *Tribal Justice* winner of the American Indian Film Festival documentary award, both seen on the PBS series *POV*. Doris continues to work with Judith Royer, CSJ on dramatized narrative projects, most recently *SPIRIT MOVES: The Lives and Work of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange*.



Bonnie Banfield (Writer/Actor) is a Playwright, Actor and founding member of LA Theatre Works. *The Circle*, a video presentation she worked on with Theatre Workers Project last year, during the pandemic, was recently chosen as an official selection for the Monologues and Poetry International Film Fest 2020. A lyrical blend of spoken word and movement, written by men from California State Prison, Los Angeles County's Progressive Programming Facility, and performed by formerly incarcerated artists, *The Circle* was also presented as part of the inaugural Baltimore Micro Film Fest, and screened as part of the Opening Night of the Social Justice Film Festival in Seattle. She is very happy to have the opportunity to return to Hidden Heroes 2021.



Catharine Dada (Writer) received her Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of Kent, Canterbury, UK. The focus of her research was on modern experiences of spirituality in Western Theatre. She received her first degree in Theatre from LMU and subsequently trained as a classical actress at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School in England. Catharine has acted in several productions for the Royal Shakespeare Company - performing at theaters at Stratford and at the Barbican in London, as well as playing leading roles in many repertory theaters throughout the UK.

She was Artistic Director of the Sacred Performance Project - her company's work has been seen at festivals at Paris in Italy, and at Canterbury and Oxford in the UK. Catharine holds an MA (Hons) in the Study of Mysticism and Religious Experience also from the University of Kent at Canterbury, UK. Her first full length text was published by Routledge, Study of Religion Series, entitled *Rethinking Religion in the Theatre of Grotowski*, Oxford, UK: Routledge, 2017.



Cecilia Forsyth-Rios (Actor) is a Theatre Arts alum from LMU. Born and raised in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, she experienced many hot sunny tropical days filled with music and art. Her parents saw her affinity for the arts and did nothing but support any crazy and wild adventure she wanted to dive into. Cecilia completed her first 2 years of university at Ithaca College, pursuing a B.F.A. in Acting, and completed her undergraduate degree at LMU. Only two months after moving to Los Angeles, Hurricane Maria devastated the island of Puerto Rico. Cecilia authored *Silence: Stories of One Nation, Under God, Indivisible, with Liberties and Justice for None*, as a way of mending her wounds from the trauma.



Heather Ann Gottlieb (Writer/Actor) is an award-winning actor, playwright, and poet. Her work can be seen in film, television, immersive theatre, and slam-poetry competitions around Los Angeles. Her feminist comedy podcast, *Dirty Girl*, was chosen to launch WhoHaha's podcast network in 2018. She co-created and co-produces *Queenfest*, an annual International Women's Day variety show benefiting organizations focused on helping women. Heather Ann is currently partnered with Creating Creators, a filmmaking program that brings creative professionals into classrooms to help students develop short films.



Julianne Homokay (Writer/Actor) began her career as a performer following a bachelor's in Theatre from Point Park University. After a year in the Pittsburgh cast of *NUNSENSE*, many silly theme park shows, dinner theatre gigs too scary to mention, and a stint in a hen suit, Julianne turned to writing, completing an MFA at UNLV. Credits include Venus Theatre, Mill Mountain Theatre, Fulton Theatre (with composer Ron Barnett), American Theatre of Actors, the Blank, the William Inge Center, Ensemble Studio Theatre, John F. Kennedy Center, SkyPilot Theatre, North by South Theatre LA, Whitefire Theatre, the GLO Festival, several oral history projects for the CSJ Center at LMU, and Playhouse on the Square, where her play *ALL SAINTS IN THE OLD COLONY*

won six Ostrander Awards, including Best Original Script. Julianne is published by Original Works, Meriwether, McGraw-Hill, and Arizona State University. Her television career includes seven years in production on *The Late Show with Craig Ferguson* and an appearance on the *Late Show with David Letterman*. Currently, she is represented by the Robert A. Freedman Dramatic Agency and is a nationally certified Emergency Medical Technician working at a Los Angeles ambulance company.



MaryAnne Huepper, CSJ (Award Presenter) Director at LMU's CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice and a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. She has served in the field of education in diverse roles: as an elementary teacher, principal, high school teacher, college administrator, adjunct instructor for Marymount College and the University of San Francisco. MaryAnne served the Diocese of Orange as an instructor for the Pastoral Ministry Institute and the Deaconate Program and as a member of the Commission for Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs. Before coming to LMU she was Director of the Center for Spiritual Development* in Orange. MaryAnne also served at St. Joseph Health (now Providence St. Joseph Health**), as a trustee in two

hospitals and as a board member of a hospital foundation. MaryAnne continues to provide presentations for programs of ministry formation namely, the Art of Spiritual Direction (CSD*) and Living the Legacy (PSJH**). MaryAnne has undergraduate degrees in Art History and Religious Studies from Loyola Marymount University and a Master's degree in Sacred Theology and Religious Studies from Katholieke Universiteit (Leuven, Belgium).



Frank Jansen (Music) has been a professional musician for over 50 years. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Composition from California State University at San Bernardino. He has a Master's from Santa Clara University where he received his degree in Liturgical Music Composition. He writes in a wide variety of styles including Sacred, Gospel, Rock, Country, Jazz and Classical. These works include choral music, piano music, String Quartets, Woodwind Quintets, and a Symphony. He was the founder, keyboardist, composer, recording engineer, and producer for the original Rock band "Bonedust." In 2013, the band won an L.A. Music Award for Musical Group of the Year. Frank has performed as a keyboardist with noteworthy artists such as: Grammy Award Winner Jay

Migliori, Latin Grammy nominee Dr. Bobby Rodriguez, Nathan East, James East, Burleigh Drummond, Ricky Lawsen, Ted Perlman, and renowned studio artists Steve Hoffstader, Gary Herbig.

He has served in parish ministry for over 35 years. In addition, his professional music career spans over a course of over 50 years. Frank tours extensively as an accompanist for his wife, Vallimar Jansen. He has been an educator for over 29 years in the El Monte City School District in Los Angeles County. He directs the Performing Arts department and teaches Band, Choir, Piano, and Theatre.



Rose Portillo (Actor) is a 40-year *Veterana* of theater, film and television. Her career began with a lead role in Luis Valdez's *Zoot Suit* creating the role of Della (original L.A. production, Broadway, and film), and more recently appeared in its LA revival as Mama Reyna. Other highlights in a long career include starring in the award-winning film *...and the earth did not swallow him* based on the ground-breaking novel by Tomás Rivera; performing in the San Francisco Symphony's production *PEER GYNT*, conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas; performing at Disney Hall with the LA Philharmonic in the 2-character play *MOTHER GOOSE*, and performing the lead role in Cherrie Moraga's *THE MATHEMATICS OF LOVE* at Brava Theater in San Francisco. Her voice-over work

includes narrating the award-winning documentary *Ruben Salazar: Man in the Middle* by Phillip Rodriguez. She is currently gaining notoriety for her role in a Subaru commercial and her voice will appear in an upcoming Disney feature animation.

Honors include: The Los Angeles Womens Theater Festival's *Maverick Award*; *La Opinion's* *Mujeres Destacadas Award*; Playwrights' Arena *Lee Melville Award for outstanding contributions to the L.A. Theater Community*; Recognitions by the City of Los Angeles for various artistic contributions. Rose's home and visual art work have been also been featured in the LA Times, local television, and on the podcast *Home: Stories From LA*.



Judith Royer, CSJ (Director) is the Director of the CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice and Professor Emeritus of Theatre at Loyola Marymount University. She has worked as producer, director and dramaturg with new play development programs sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, California Council for the Humanities, Playwrights Theatre, The Mark Taper Forum, Southern Repertory Theatre, Theatre Gallery in Los Angeles, of which she was founder and former artistic director, and a series of Oral Histories/Documentary Theatre projects with seniors, cancer survivors, veterans and clients from agencies dealing with issues such as homelessness, human trafficking, immigration and restorative justice. Judith is a founding

member of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE); former chair of that organization's Playwrights Program; former coordinator for the New Plays Production; and member of the respondent's workshop training team for the Region XIII Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.



Beth Ruscio (Writer/Actor), daughter of actors, is part of a working-class family of artists, writers, educators and performers. Beth is also a published poet, winner of the Brick Road Poetry Prize—her debut collection *SPEAKING PARTS* was published in Fall 2020. Her poetry has been Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net nominated and won finalist honors for several prizes and awards, including The Wilder Prize, The Sunken Garden Prize, The Tupelo Quarterly Prize, The Ruth Stone Poetry Award, and The Two Sylvias Prize. Beth has been a featured poet in online publications *Cultural Weekly* and *Cathexis Northwest Press*, with other recent work published in *Tupelo Quarterly*, *Tulane Review*, *Spillway*, *Malpais Review*, *High Shelf*, and in the anthologies *Dark Ink: Poetry*

Inspired by Horror; *Beyond the Lyric Moment*; *1001 Nights*; and *Conducting a Life: Maria Irene Fornes*. Beth is a contributing writer to the forthcoming Padua Playwrights Press publication, *Outlaw Theatre*. She is an accomplished award-winning actress on stage— *A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE* (*South Coast Repertory*-Robby Award nomination); *SAVAGE IN LIMBO* (Drama Critics' Circle Award); *THE DREAMCOAST* (Taper, Too); *THE SHAPER* (*Humana Festival*) and fifteen New Works Festivals at the Mark Taper Forum; on film—*Dreamland*; *In Order of Appearance* (Method Fest Best Actress); *28 Days*; on television—(*Emmy winning on HBO*) *The Positively True Adventures of the Alleged Texas Cheerleader-Murdering Mom*; *Nip/Tuck*; *Six Feet Under*; *The Marshal*; *Wiseguy* and the rom-com podcast *Deck The Halls*. She's been a longtime mentor at Otis College of Art and Design, an avid cook, and shares her life with the gifted playwright, teacher, and husband Leon Martell.



Eva Peterson (Production Manager) is a Marketing major and Theatre minor at LMU from Asheville, North Carolina. This year, she has the pleasure of being the Research Assistant for the CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice and is thrilled to be a part of the Hidden Heroes presentation once again. Eva has worked professionally on film and TV projects in the Southeast region (*The Boss*, *Dead Silent...*) and is an experienced video editor and social media manager.



Become a partner
in the mission
of reconciliation
and justice



CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice - Mission Statement

The CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice offers a forum for dialogue, a place of education and a resource for reflective action, to promote unity among all persons and with God. The Center gives tangible witness to the presence and tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange at Loyola Marymount University and in a wounded world in need of compassion and healing.

CSJ Social Justice Scholarship

The Center develops its annual programming with a focus on social justice issues, often intersecting the power of the arts. This year, we have officially launched an official scholarship drive. The scholarship will be awarded to students whose academic and extracurricular activities focus on social justice.

For more information on how to support the CSJ Center, please visit our website at www.lmu.edu/csjcenter Tena Yatroussis, Director of Development, at tena.yatroussis@lmu.edu or 310.338.1952.

SPECIAL THANKS

CSJ Center Hidden Heroes Recognition Committee:

Doris Baizley	Stefani Mejia	Fred Puza
Katherine Brown	Wayne Negrete, SJ	Judith Royer, CSJ
John Flaherty	Alyssa Perez	Leticia Vidal
MaryAnne Huepper, CSJ		

With gratitude to our LMU awardees for sharing their lives and work with us, and the wonderful artists, writers and actors who are telling them.

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Dean Michelle D. Young

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