

SPECIAL Thanks

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Professor Tobias Higbie and Gaspar Rivera Salgado of the UCLA Labor Center for their help in compiling the historical archives of UNITE HERE Local 11

UCLA Labor Center Intern Danielle Wilson for her many talents and commitment to detail in gathering documents and oral histories

Videographer Tony Mendoza of UNITE HERE Local 11 for his support and contributions throughout this project

Virgina Espina for her expertise in conducting in-depth interviews

Volunteer interviewers Mar Preston and Karen Brodtkin and note-taker Sam Martinez

And most especially the women and men of UNITE HERE Local 11 who shared their personal stories of winning fundamental changes in Los Angeles and beyond for fair wages, respect and a voice for working people on their jobs.

Nestor Pereira, MaryAnne Huepper, CSJ and Bob Caro, SJ

University Hall 2000 • 1 LMU Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90045
310.568.6696 • csjcenter@lmu.edu • www.lmu.edu/csjcenter

The CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice presents:

Changing Lives, Changing L.A. Hotel Workers Rising!



Friday, October 7, 2016

4:30 PM - Reception, Dunning Courtyard, Burns Building, LMU

5:30 PM Murphy Hall, Burns Building, LMU

LMU|LA
CSJ Center for
Reconciliation and Justice



Changing Lives, Changing L.A. Hotel Workers Rising!

Stories from UNITE HERE Local 11 Oral History Interviews

Interviews compiled and dramatized by:

Vivian Rothstein
Doris Baizley
Rose Portillo

Director:

Judith Royer, CSJ

Cast:

Joyce Guy	Emma Worthington , and other Voices
Marc Valera	Manuel Roman , and other Voices
Marco Rodriguez	Ignacio Ruiz , and other Voices
Michael Manuel	Tom Walsh , and other Voices
Rose Portillo	Regla Soto , and other Voices
Melinna Bobadilla	Soledad Garcia , and other Voices

Script Translators:

Melinna Bobadilla and Edna Lozano

Readers:

Christine Avila
Victor Manso

Stage/Production Managers

Parisa Loftis
Izaura Avitia
Elli Butler

Visuals/Sound Design

Parisa Loftis



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.

STORYTELLERS

Bios

SOLEDAD GARCIA Soledad is a former room attendant at the Viceroy Hotel in Santa Monica where she became a leader of her co-workers in winning living wages and union representation. She is now a lead organizer for Local 11 helping other workers win rights on the job in Long Beach and training new worker leaders to organize in their workplace and community.

MANUEL ROMAN Manuel's interest in Chicano Studies in college led him to involvement with the labor movement. Through the AFL-CIO Union Summer program, Manuel was trained as an organizer and joined the staff of Local 11. Manuel has worked with farmworkers, warehouse workers, and now is a director of hotel campaigns, including the recent successful campaign at the Doubletree (formerly the New Otani Hotel) in downtown L.A.

IGNACIO RUIZ Ignacio has worked for nearly 40 years in various positions at the Century Plaza Hotel. He has been a leader of his co-workers in helping win workplace benefits including a voice in decision-making at the hotel. Ignacio took a leave of absence from his job to help farmworkers organize for improved conditions in the fields and is a chief shop steward and Local 11 Executive Board member.

REGLA SOTO Regla has worked as a room attendant for over 30 years at the Westin Hotel. She participated in a 7 day hunger strike of hotel workers to win a living wage for 2,000 hotel workers on Century Blvd. After winning the living wage, Regla went on to help win union benefits at her hotel. Regla is now a chief shop steward representing her hotel co-workers.

TOM WALSH As a student activist and worker in the hospitality industry, Tom became a supporter of the hotel workers union, HERE. In 1988 he moved to L.A. to help revitalize the union in the LAX area by reaching out to members and potential members in and around Lennox to initiate new organizing efforts. Tom has helped lead many campaigns for good jobs in the region and is currently the elected president of UNITE HERE Local 11.

EMMA WORTHINGTON Emma worked for over 30 years in food services at the L.A. Airport while being an outspoken union leader. She has staffed political campaigns in Santa Monica to win the Living Wage and to help elect worker-friendly politicians. Emma now works for the union helping to resolve grievances that members may have at their workplace and serves on the union Executive Board.

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CHRISTINE AVILA is an award winning actress who was in the Original Cast of ZOOT SUIT, Mark Taper Forum and LA POSADA MAJICA at South Coast Rep. Most recently, Christine appeared in the reading of the musical, AMERICAN MARIACHI by Jose Cruz Gonzalez for Denver Center Theatre Co. and in MADRES by Stephanie Walker for ANTAEUS Theatre Company. TV/Film Credits: ABUELA, PRETTY LITTLE LIARS, SWITCHED at BIRTH, BOSCH, HOUSE, and LIAR , LIAR. She is a graduate of UCLA and studied with Sandy Meisner at The Neighborhood Playhouse, New York. Educator: UCSB – Dept of Chicano Studies; LMU, UCLA & USC – Dept of Theatre Arts. Christine received the Teacher of the Year Award from UCLA Extension for her work at Fred C Nelles School for Boys. Website: www.christineavila.com. Representation: Arthur Toretzky --- AMT Artists.

DORIS BAIZLEY is a founding member of LA Theaterworks. Her plays *Mrs. California*, *Shiloh Rules*, *Tears of Rage*, and *A Christmas Carol* have been produced in many U.S. regional theaters. Recent documentary plays are: *One Day/Sarah House*, winner of a 2009 Santa Barbara Independent Press Award for playwriting; and *SEX STING*, winner of the first Guthrie Theater/Playwrights' Center Two-Headed Challenge grant. With Judith Royer at Loyola Marymount University she has collaborated on group projects including: *ON THE FRONT LINE: 3 Generations of Soldiers' Voices*, *HIDDEN HEROES: In Service to the World*, and "Voices of Justice," a documentary play-writing program. She is story editor for the documentary films: *Emile Norman, by His Own Design* (PSS, 2010) and *We Still Live Here! As Nutayanean*, winner of the 2011 Full Frame Documentary Festival Inspiration Award and the 2011 Telluride Moving Mountains Award, (PBS, 2011).

MELINNA BOBADILLA (SAG-AFTRA), is a bilingual actor, singer and voice over artist who holds a M.A. in Theater & Education from New York University. She recently landed the role of *Lidia* in the upcoming digital media series *GENTEfied*,

PANELISTS

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MIKE BONIN Currently serving as the City Councilmember representing District 11, Mike Bonin has a long history as a community activist and has been instrumental in supporting hotel housekeepers on Century Blvd. and throughout the city.

CHERYL GRILLS A graduate of Yale University with a doctorate from UCLA, Professor Grills joined LMU's Psychology Department in 1987. Dr. Grills is a clinical psychologist by training with a current emphasis in Community Psychology and a strong commitment to social justice.

ALBERTO RAMIREZ As a student leader at LMU, Alberto Ramirez was a founder of SLEJ, Students and Labor for Economic Justice in 2005. After graduating he worked as an organizer with LAANE (L.A. Alliance for a New Economy), earned a Masters in urban planning from UCLA in 2013, and is currently a job developer with Women in Non Traditional Employment Roles (WINTER) YouthBuild.

SHAKEEL SYED On behalf of the Muslim communities, Shakeel Syed served as a member of the clergy advocating for the rights of hotel workers on Century Blvd. He is Executive Director of OCCORD, a community/labor alliance in Orange County, and the Vice President of the ACLU Board of Directors.

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organizing in Los Angeles. Some of the most important advances for low wage workers were achieved through that organizing including the L.A. and Century Blvd. Living Wage Laws and raising of the city's Minimum Wage. Today's performance draws from six of those interviews.

JUDITH ROYER, CSJ is Director for LMU's CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice and Professor of Theatre at LMU. She has worked as producer, director and dramaturg with new play development programs sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, 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 other community-based groups. Royer is a founding member of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE); former chair of that organization's Playwrights Program and its current New Plays Production Coordinator; Past-Chair for the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival's Region VII Playwrights Program; recipient of the 2008 ATHE Outstanding Teacher of Theatre in Higher Education, Kennedy Center Gold Medallion for contributions to new plays and playwrights and the 2012 Milan Stitt Award for her work as a playwriting mentor and teacher. She is the recipient of the 2016 Rains Award for Excellence in Service.

MARC VALERA is a Los Angeles-based actor whose work has been on television, commercials, film, and theaters across the country. He is a proud graduate of Loyola Marymount University and the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

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executive produced by and starring America Ferrera. In addition to being an on-camera artist, Melinna is proud to have honed her skills on the stage, after having performed in theaters across LA, the SF Bay area, New York City and abroad in Spain, India, and Cuba. She is proud of her creative roots as an ensemble member of Luis Valdez's (*La Bamba*, *Zoot Suit*) renowned company *El Teatro Campesino* and had the opportunity to perform in their 2015 collaboration with Center Theatre Group, *The Popol Vuh: Heart of Heaven*, at downtown Los Angeles's Grand Park. She is a resident voice over/dubbing artist with Voxx Studios and will be dubbing the lead role of Celia Cruz in the Telemundo bio-series, *Celia*. Her first feature, *SF Noir: The Other Barrio*, in which she stars opposite Richard Montoya, continues to screen at festivals throughout the US. Favorite stage credits include playing Gloria in *Orange is the New Musical* at LATC, *Sonia Flew* (NY), *Bless Me Ultima*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Carpa de los Rasquachis*, & HOLA/ACE award-winning *De Fuente Ovejuna a Ciudad Juarez*, which premiered in New York and toured throughout Spain.

JOYCE GUY is an actress, solo performer, playwright, choreographer and director. Screen credits include *Moneyball*, *The Green Hornet*, and *The Santa Clause*. Television roles include *How to Get Away With Murder*, *Aquarius*, *The Mentalist*, *2 Broke Girls*, *Enlightened*, *Parenthood*, *Brooklyn 99*, *Hart of Dixie*, *General Hospital*, *Days of Our Lives*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *The West Wing*, *Boston Legal* to name a few. Her solo theater works have been performed at LACE, LATC, Watts Towers, Highways, the Dance Place in Washington, DC, the L.A. Festival, 2100 Square Feet, Theater 150 in Ojai, CA, the New Los Angeles Theater Center and St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery, NY. Joyce has directed a number of theatrical productions, solo performers and produced and directed her first film, *Dancing Like Home* about her journey to Casamance, Senegal West Africa. Joyce is a member of the Television Academy, International Documentary Association (IDA); and a founding member and officer of the Black Association of Documentary Filmmakers West (BADWest) in Los Angeles.

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VICTOR MANSO Victor began his acting career at the National Youth Theatre of Venezuela. He also studied at the Barcelona Film School (ECIB) in Spain (where he focused on Directing, Writing and Cinematography) and is a graduate of the Stella Adler Studio Acting in New York's conservatory program. He has performed in three different countries with Theatre credits such as SUBURBIA (Eric Bogosian), RUMORS (Neil Simon) and TV credits such as JANE, THE VIRGIN (The CW), RIZZOLI & ISLES (TNT) and SCORPION (CBS). He is also a singer/songwriter.

MICHAEL MANUEL was most recently seen in *Cymbeline* at Yale Repertory Theatre. Michael has worked in regional theatres across the country including the Mark Taper Forum, South Coast Rep, Berkley Rep, Shakespeare Theatre DC, Cornerstone, Ojai Playwrights Conference, A Noise Within (Dramalogue and LA Critics Circle awards), Geffen Playhouse, Upright Citizens Brigade, About Productions, Interact Theatre Company (LA Weekly and Ovation awards), Empty Space, Group Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Pasadena Playhouse, Main Street Players, Parson's Nose, and Impro Theatre. Michael is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama.

ROSE PORTILLO is an accomplished Theater Artist: actor, writer, director, educator. Rose has numerous theater, film and television acting credits. Her career began with a lead role in Luis Valdez's *Zoot Suit* (original L.A. production, Broadway, and film). Other highlights 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, and in *Mother Goose* at Disney Hall with the LA Philharmonic. She recently performed lead roles in Cherrie Moraga's *The Mathematics of Love* at Stanford and Nathan Birnbaum's *The Accountant* for Padua Playwrights' Festival. Her voice-over work includes narrating the award-winning documentary *Ruben Salazar: Man in the Middle*

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by Phillip Rodriguez. As Associate Director of LA's acclaimed theater company About...Productions (1992-2015), Rose partnered with Theresa Chavez on more than 9 critically acclaimed theater productions as co-author/co-director and actor.

MARCO RODRIGUEZ is a graduate of the University of Southern California, he made his professional theatre debut in as El Pachuco in the original Mark Taper Forum production of ZOOT SUIT, a role he reprised at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago. Other regional theatre credits include, WAIT UNTIL DARK at the Pennsylvania Stage Company, LA POSADA MAGICA at South Coast Repertory Theatre and DEATH AND THE MAIDEN at the San Diego Repertory Theatre. Film credits include DUE DATE, COBRA, INTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE CROW, A MAN APART and the Academy Award winning MILLION DOLLAR BABY. THE MENTALIST, CSI, COLD CASE, SEINFELD and EASTBOUND & DOWN are among his numerous t.v. guest appearances. In addition, he was also a founding member of the East Los Angeles Classic Theatre an educational program exposing at-risk youth and underserved minority communities to the classical theatre experience. Marco has also participated as a teaching-artist with About Productions, the acclaimed theater company whose innovative educational programs introduce youth to the importance of writing and the power of communication through artistic expression and live performance.

VIVIAN ROTHSTEIN worked on the staff of UNITE HERE Local 11 and the L.A. Alliance for a New Economy for nearly 20 years, building community coalitions in support of worker justice. In 2013 she began archiving the organizations' activist histories in cooperation with the UCLA Research Library and UCLA Labor Center. In the process, over 30 oral histories were recorded with leaders and staff of Local 11 documenting the history of immigrant and service worker labor