

The CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice
presents

HIDDEN HEROES

Recognition Awards and Dramatized Narratives Performance

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026

Virtual Performance

2 p.m.

HIDDEN HEROES

Judith Royer, C.S.J., Director
Ann Bronston, Assistant Director
Doris Baizley, Story Editor
Meg McSweeney, Production Manager

SEAN KENNEDY

Written by Mark C. Marino
Performed by Rob Nagle

LISA PIUMETTI FARLAND

FRANCESCA PIUMETTI

Written by Jami Brandli
Performed by Rose Portillo, Zilah Mendoza, and Mark C. Marino

CLAUDIO RODRIGUEZ

Written by Luis Selgas
Performed by Julian Armaya

LISA TANAKA

Written by Bonnie Banfield
Performed by Bonnie Banfield, Catharine Dada, and Mary O'Malley

AWARDS PRESENTATION

MaryAnne Huepper, C.S.J.
Director, CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice

HONOREES



Sean Kennedy joined Loyola Law School as the Kaplan and Feldman Executive Director of its Center for Juvenile Law and Policy (CJLP) in fall 2014. Prior to this appointment, Kennedy was the Federal Public Defender for the Central District of California from 2006 to 2014 and has also served as Chief of the Federal Public Defender Capital Habeas Unit. As an adjunct professor for more than 15 years, Kennedy has taught Appellate Advocacy and the Death Penalty Law Seminar at the Law School. He has coached the Byrne Trial Advocacy Team – himself a member of the Scott Moot Court Honors Board as a student.

Additionally, he serves on the board of Loyola's Advocacy Institute. In 2013, Kennedy was named Criminal Defense Attorney of the Year by the Los Angeles County Bar Association and received the Fidler Institute Award for Defense Lawyer of the Year from Loyola. He is a recipient of the Public Interest Award by Loyola's Public Interest Law Foundation. Prior to working in public defense, Kennedy was an associate at Talcott, Lightfoot, Vandeveld, Woehrle & Sadowsky, LLP, where he handled white collar criminal defense cases.



Lisa Piumetti Farland brought her spirit and talent to LMU as a recent LMU alumna in 1987. While at LMU, she studied sociology and business and was a campus tour guide, orientation leader, and an active member of Gryphon Circle and ASLMU. She has dedicated 33 years to the bluff, including working in student affairs for five years and undergraduate admission for 10 years, where she also served as director of orientation before transitioning to University Advancement in 2003. As executive director of Strategic Alumni

Engagement, Farland is responsible for leading an enthusiastic team that is dedicated to building lifelong relationships that connect alumni, parents and students to each other and LMU with a commitment to advancing LMU's mission. Since working at LMU, she has been a "road warrior" for admissions, a moderator for Belles, president of Staff Senate, and an integral part of the LMU experience for a multitude of alumni. She earned her master's degree in education from LMU in 1993. Her newest role at LMU is being a Lion parent to both her children.



Francesca Piumetti is the Associate Dean of Students and Chief Conduct Officer at Loyola Marymount University (LMU). She serves in the university's Office of Student Conduct & Community Responsibility, supporting a campus environment grounded in respect, integrity, accountability, and student development. Piumetti holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Master of Arts in Counseling, both from LMU. Her extensive experience in student affairs includes student conduct administration, campus community support, and university-wide initiatives



Claudio Rodriguez is the director of Chicano/a Latino/a Student Services in EIS and serves as a resident minister in Palm North Residence Hall where he supports staff and students spiritually. He brings more than 10 years of experience mentoring students, supervising staff, designing programs, and cultivating community relations. He has a demonstrated passion for supporting underserved student populations and is committed to their development and success. Claudio was born and raised in Mexico City and immigrated to the U.S. to pursue a college education. He is currently working on a doctorate in education focused on organization and leadership, mainly working with supporting the Latinx, Chicano, and Hispanic student populations. Claudio started working for LMU about three years ago and knows it was the best career decision because of LMU's Jesuit values and excellent community support.



Lisa Tanaka is the senior administrative coordinator for the department of Communication Studies and a trusted operations and administrative professional at Loyola Marymount University, where she ensures that complex processes run efficiently and that students, faculty, and leadership are supported at every level. She takes pride in her ability to lead with integrity, communicate with clarity, and handle high-stakes details with professionalism and care. At LMU, she's grown into a role that's not only operationally vital but also deeply human — supporting the university's mission while creating a positive experience for everyone she works with.

COMPANY



Julian Armaya (actor, “Claudio Rodriguez”) is an accomplished bilingual actor, writer, director, singer, dancer, choreographer, and producer, born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. His first play, *Mio*, recently premiered at the Brown & Out short play festival in Hollywood. Theatre credits includes *Re-Born Again*, *Homeboys: A Musical*, and *The Prince of Egypt* at Casa O101, *Cuarto Dorado* at the Hollywood Fringe Festival, *In The Heights* for Chance Theatre, and *Native Garden* at the Pasadena Playhouse. He danced in *The Pearl Fishers* for Los Angeles Opera, and was a featured dancer in Sara Bareilles’ “Gravity” music video. He sang with Gloria Trevi at the Kia Forum, and has sung under the direction of Placido Domingo, Ricky Minor, and Damien Sneed. A graduate of Skidmore College, he has received additional training from Identity School of Acting, Ballet Folklorico, Trisha Brown Dance and opera coach John Davies. On television he has appeared on *Night Court* and *The Mindy Project*. Social media: @mr.armaya.



Bonnie Banfield (playwright and Narrator in “Lisa Tanaka”) is a Playwright, Actor, Director and founding member of LA Theatre Works. Her work includes creating and editing theatre pieces composed of work generated in collaboration with people who have been formerly incarcerated. She is also a “veteran” of LMU’s Hidden Heroes Project, this being her sixth year. Bonnie is so happy to have become part of the on-going “company” of artists working together to bring to light the stories of these truly amazing people. “I relish the opportunity to get to know the people who are working behind the scenes to create a better world.”



Jami Brandi (playwright “Francesca Piumetti/Lisa Piumetti”) is the winner of the Jane Chambers Award and the Stanley Drama Award for her play, *The Magician’s Sister*. Other plays include: *The Caregiver’s Guide*, *M-Theory*, *Technicolor Life*, *The Romeo and Juliet Senior Citizens Project—A Comedy*, *O: A Rhapsody in Divorce*, and *BLISS (or Emily Post is Dead!)*—named on The Kilroys List and a LA Times Critics’ Choice. Her work has been produced/developed at New Dramatists, New York Theatre Workshop, Kitchen Dog Theater, Women’s Voices Theater Festival, Center Theatre Group, UC Santa Barbara’s LAUNCH PAD, Moxie Theatre, and Outside In Theatre, among other venues. www.jamibrandli.com



Catharine Dada (actor, Pat Oliver in “Lisa Tanaka”) 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. She has performed with the Royal Shakespeare Company at its theaters at Stratford and at the Barbican in London, as well as playing leading roles in repertory theaters throughout the United Kingdom. As Artistic Director of the Sacred Performance Project, her work was 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 from the University of Kent at Canterbury. She is proud to be a Program Officer for Project Welcome Home Troops, teaching an evidence-based form of breathing meditation to Veterans with PTSD. She is the author of *Rethinking Religion in the Theatre of Grotowski*.



Mark C. Marino (playwright “Sean Kennedy” and Every Voice in “The Piumetti Sisters”) is an author and scholar of digital literature. His works include *Salt Immortal Sea* (with John Murray, Joellyn Rock, and Ken Joseph), *Marginalia in the Library of Babel*, *a show of hands*, *Living Will*, and a collection of interactive children’s stories called *Mrs. Wobbles and the Tangerine House*. He is an Associate Professor (Teaching) of Writing at the University of Southern California where he directs the Humanities and Critical Code Studies Lab, a research group dedicated to humanities approaches to the exploration of computer source code. Other research interests include: digital literature, netprov, fake news, social media, immersive theater, and other emergent media forms. He is also the Director of Communication of the Electronic Literature Organization.



Zilah Mendoza (actor, Francesca Piumetti) was most recently seen on stage in Los Angeles in Evelina Fernández’s *Antigone: In the Language of Kings* at the Getty Villa’s Outdoor Theater in a production co-produced with Latino Theater Company. She has originated lead roles in other plays, including Ana in Lisa Loomer’s *Living Out* (Mark Taper Forum, Second Stage Theater), Matilde in Sarah Ruhl’s Pulitzer Prize-nominated *The Clean House* (Yale Repertory Theatre), the titular role in Luis Alfaro’s *Electricidad* (Mark Taper Forum) and Perla in Juliette Carrillo’s *Plumas Negras* (Cornerstone Theater Company). Her performances have garnered awards including an

Obie, a Garland and a Lortel nod in N.Y.C. for her work in *Living Out*, as well as numerous Backstage Awards for her work in Los Angeles. She has had recurring and guest-starring roles on television in *Modern Family*, *The King of Queens*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *MAD TV*, *Law & Order*, *Medium* and *24*. She is the Associate Artistic Director of the Mentor Artists Playwrights Project (MAPP), a nonprofit arts-based literacy program working in North America.



Rob Nagle (actor, “Sean Kennedy”). Theater includes: Antaeus Theatre Company, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Fountain Theatre, Laguna Playhouse, New World Stages, Pasadena Playhouse, Portland Center Stage, Road Theatre Company, Rogue Machine, Skylight Theatre Company, South Coast Repertory, Mark Taper Forum, Troubadour Theater Company. Film includes: *The Wolf and the Lamb*, *Alien Vacation*, *Bad Samaritan*, *New Year's Eve*. Television includes: *SWAT Exiles*, *Good American Family*, *Suits LA*, *Good Trouble*, *NCIS: Los Angeles*, *Batwoman*, *Criminal Minds*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Dynasty*. Training: Northwestern University. @nagdoggie www.rob nagle.com



Mary O'Malley (actor, “Lisa Tanaka”) is a graduate of LMU, RADA and King's College of London. She is a member of Screen Actors Guild and Interact Theater Company. Her short plays have been performed in Los Angeles, Hollywood, New York and London. This is her tenth year performing with Hidden Heroes. Mary performs regularly in the Pulitzer Prize Winners Reading Series with Interact Theater Company and the LA Public Library. When she's not acting and writing, she does voice over work. She's been featured in “Ninjago Top 10 Countdown” and Korbel's “Make It Gold” campaign.



Rose Portillo (actor, “Lisa Piumetti”) is an accomplished actor/writer/director/educator and visual artist whose stage and film career began with a lead role in Luis Valdez's *Zoot Suit*, (original LA production, Broadway production, and the film). She is Associate Director of About...Productions, now celebrating 24 years of creating original works, and founded the company's Young Theaterworks which serves students in Continuation/Options High Schools primarily in East Los Angeles. Since appearing in Theresa Chavez's solo play, *L.A. Real*, she has directly partnered with Chavez, the company's Artistic Director, on more than nine

critically acclaimed productions. As an actor, Rose has extensive credits in regional theater, film and television. She has directed in Los Angeles and at the Mixed Blood Theater in Minneapolis, and an adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* for Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles' award-winning Will Power to Youth. Rose has received writing commissions from Center Theatre Group's P.L.A.Y., Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles, and California Institute of the Arts' Community Arts Program, and has been Writer-in-Residence at the William Inge Center for the Arts. A respected educator, Rose is Faculty member at Pomona College in Claremont, where she directs "Theater for (and with) Young Audiences". Along with Theresa Chavez, Rose has been honored by Playwrights 'Arena with the Lee Melville Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Los Angeles Theatre Community.



Luis Selgas (playwright, "Claudio Rodriguez"), LMU '09, wears a few hats as an actor, writer, producer, and founder of The Focused Actor. He's currently developing his feature screenplay *Sorry, Charlie*. Luis is always grateful to be a part of Hidden Heroes, which has been a particularly meaningful way to stay connected to LMU and the amazing community of Lions.