

DIRECTORS LAB WEST

dream • create • inspire

SESSIONS ONLY

Saturday, May 30 - Saturday, June 6, 2026

SESSION ADDENDUMS

Directors Lab West 2026

Producing Steering Committee

Ernest A. Figueroa (DLW Co-founder)
Che'Rae Adams (DLW'00)
Janet Miller (DLW'03)
Debbie McMahon (DLW'14)
Emmett Murphy (DLW'17)

Associate Producers 2024

Shanna Beauchamp (DLW'23)
Susan Dalian (DLW'19)
Brian Fretté (DLW'23)
Carrie Klewin Lawrence (DLW'06)
Holly Rothchild (DLW'23)
Kristi Schultz (DLW'09)
Joann Yarrow (DLW'00)

Production Coordinator

Christopher Cid
323-505-6225

Production Apprentices

Kyla Druckman
Vivi Le
Phone Tha
Ben Wendel

directorslabwest@gmail.com

Lab Members

Hattie Claire Andres
Cherice Barton
Amanda Bird
Charles Burks
Ana Candida Carneiro
David Charles
Ben Chau-Chiu
Jessica Chen
Melissa Coleman-Reed
Tessa Corrie
Melissa Crum
Carlo D'Amore
Tom Dang
Ramanjaneyulu Doosari
Eric Garcia
Shiloh Goodin
Marrisa Herrera
Jaron Hollander
Rovin Jay
Kirsten Johansen
Evan Johnson
Bianca Jones
Aaron Lamb
Gabbi Mendelsohn
Eric Modyman
Odalys Nanin
Jennifer Onopa
Kwame Owusu
Francesca Patrón
Corey Podell
Markus Potter
Bo Powell
Melanie Queponds
Christopher Raymond
Juhanna Rogers
Jen Rowe
Logan Gabrielle Schulman
Stephanie Shroyer
Hui-Cheng Tseng
Shaheen Vaaz
Tamiko Washington
Fuchsia Wilt
Elizabeth Wong

Guest Artists

Lonnie Alcaraz
Luis Alfaro
John Achorn
Che'Rae Adams (DLW'00)
Tamadhur Al-Aqeel
Brent Blair
Carly DW Bones (DLW '16)
David Bridel
Martín Carrillo
José Cervantes
Hannah Chodos
Jeremy Cohen
Erin Crites
Lily Tung Crystal
Susan Dalian (DLW'19)
Cynthia Santos De Cure
Danny Feldman
Kate Freer
Rosanna Gamson
Jacques Heim
Sophia Hernández
Ping Ho
Robert Hupp
Tanya Kane-Parry (DLW '03)
Jessica Kubzansky
Angeline Larimer
Raul Vega Martinez
Danae McQueen
Michael Michetti
Dan O'Connor (DLW'08)
Janelle Dote Portman
Melanie Reese
Jon Lawrence Rivera
Trefoni Rizzi
Daniel Shoenman
Jenny Slattery
Daniel Stein
Jonathan Williams
Emmanuel Wilson
Hannah Wolf (DLW'19)
Annie Yee (DLW '19)

Monday, June 1

10:00 am – 11:30 am | Workshop | Pasadena Playhouse | Rehearsal Loft

SPEAK THE SPEECH, TRIPPINGLY ON THE TONGUE with Cynthia Santos De Cure

Whether it's helping the actor with breath support, connecting the breath to the thought, articulation, making sense of the text, embodying a dialect, or safely maneuver vocal extremes in performance; a vocal and dialect coach is a vital collaborator that can help the director fulfill the vision of the play. This workshop will offer a guide on how to use the skill sets of vocal and dialect coaches to meet the needs of a given production.

11:30 am– 12:00 pm | Process | Pasadena Playhouse | Carrie Hamilton Theater

BY THE SKIN OF THEIR TEETH: DIRECTORS IN PROCESS - INTRODUCTION

Using farce, burlesque and satire, Thornton Wilder explored themes of tenacity and resilience, as well as the moral failings of our species. What would you bring to the table? Join your fellow Labbies and watch them dream, create, inspire each other and above all explore.

**** 12 – 1:30 pm | Lunch ****

1:30 – 4:40 pm | Conversation | Pasadena Playhouse | Carrie Hamilton, Loft, CHT Lobby, Library, Main Lobby

UNDER THE BIG TOP: DESIGNER SPEED DATING

with Lonnie Alcaraz, Martín Carrillo, Kate Freer, Danae McQueen, Trefoni Rizzi

Where do designers get inspiration? Where does the interconnectivity of all the arts overlap with our theatrical creativity? How do you learn “designer speak?” What do designers want from directors? What are those questions you are afraid to ask? Ask them now! The designers are here and ready to tell it all!

1:30 PM - 1:45 PM	INTRO	15 Min - CARRIE HAMILTON THEATER- ALL
1:50 PM - 2:20 PM	Session 1	30 min - LIBRARY - Round Robin all spaces
2:25 PM - 2:55 PM	Session 2	30 min - CHT LOBBY - Round Robin all spaces
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Session 3	30 min - CARRIE HAMILTON THEATER -Round Robin all spaces
3:35 PM - 4:05 PM	Session 4	30 min - REHEARSAL LOFT - Round Robin all spaces
4:10 PM - 4:40 PM	Session 5	30 min - MAIN LOBBY - Round Robin all spaces

**** 4:40 – 5:00 pm | Break ****

5:00 – 6:30 pm | Discussion | Pasadena Playhouse | Carrie Hamilton Theater

UNDER THE BIG TOP: DESIGN AND TELL DESIGNER SPEED DATING - DEBRIEF

**** 6:30 – 8:00 pm | Dinner ****

8:00 – 10 pm | Panel | Pasadena Playhouse | Carrie Hamilton Theater

FROM MIMES TO MEMES: NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT

**with Che'Rae Adams and Susan Dalian from PlayPenn,
Jeremy Cohen and Hanna Wolf from Ojai Playwright's Conference,
Angeline Larimer from Propel New Works, and Daniel Shoenman from Inkwell.**

New Play Development is the backbone of the future of the American Theater. Join this panel of those on the frontlines, including leaders from the country's leading new play development programs.

CYNTHIA SANTOS De CURE is a bilingual actor, voice, and dialect designer/coach. She is an Associate Professor Adjunct of Acting at the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale University, certified teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework® and Knight-Thompson Speechwork. A native Spanish-speaker who grew up in Puerto Rico, her work centers on culturally inclusive pedagogies in actor training, specifically voice and speech, including Latina/o/x/e identity, linguistic identity, bilingual Shakespeare, and accents of Spanish. Some voice and dialect credits include: *Quixote Nuevo* (Oregon Shakespeare Fest., SCR, Seattle Rep, Portland Stage, Denver Center, Roundhouse); *Notes on Killing...*; *Wish You Were Here*, *Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles*, *El Huracán*, *Today Is My Birthday* (Yale Rep); *Espejos/Clean* (Milwaukee Rep); *La Tempestad*, *La Broa* (Trinity Rep); *Wolf at the Door* (OSOLO); *Real Women Have Curves* (Alley Theatre); *Laughs in Spanish* (Denver Center & Hartford Stage); *Native Gardens*, *Two Trains Running* (Hartford Stage); *Hot Wing King* (Hartford Stage, Baltimore Center Stage) *Cymbeline* (NY Classical -Off Broadway); *Scenes with Cranes* (REDCAT/CalArts), *In The Heights* (Marriott Theater, Phoenix Theatre, Chance Theater). She is a member of SAG-AFTRA and Actors' Equity, some acting credits include: *Richard III*, *The Tempest* (Elm Shakespeare), *Long Road Today* (South Coast Rep), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Exonerated* (Long Beach Shakespeare), *The Mambo Kings*, *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*, *Days of Our Lives*. As playwright, her play *Miss Quince*, had its premiere at the John Lions New Play Festival in 2012 and has had readings in Dallas, Chicago and New York. Her bilingual co-adaptation with Tatiana Pandiani of *Bodas de Sangre* (Blood Wedding) was produced at DGSD (Yale Drama) in 2021. An associate SDC member, some of her directing work includes *The Tempest*, *Twelfth Night* (LB Shakespeare), *Roosters*, *Yerma*, *Silent Sky* (CSU Stanislaus). A VASTA, ATHE member, she serves on the steering committee of the Latinx Theatre Commons and Fornés Institute. A Yale Whitney Humanities Fellow (2024-25) and Public Voices Fellow (OpEd Project 2021-22); her publications include, chapter- "La Voz de Shakespeare" (in *Shakespeare and Latinidad* by Boffone/Della Gatta); and co-editor of the award-winning, *Scenes for Latinx Actors* (Smith and Kraus) and *Latinx Actor Training*, (Routledge). She is currently co-editing a second volume of the scene book and most recently co-championed the successful Actor Training Laboratorio sponsored by the Latinx Theatre Commons. Cynthia earned her BA in acting from USC, and an MFA in acting from CSULA.

KATHERINE FREER is a multimedia artist, creative technologist, filmmaker, organizer, and educator whose artistic practice lives at the intersection of story, technology, and civic engagement. Her work has been presented at internationally renowned stages, museums, universities, and music festivals, including BAM, Lincoln Center, the Apollo Theater, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Coachella, as well as community centers on Native/Indigenous reservations and workshops at Correctional Facilities. She has been recognized with awards, grants, and residencies including the 2024 New England Foundation for the Arts Nation Theatre Project Creation and Touring Grant, 2022 MacDowell Fellowship, 2021 Cordillera Film Festival (official selection), 2021 Harlem Film Festival (official selection), 2021 Virginia Dares Cinematic Arts Awards for DECOLONIZING Films and Media Projects (winner), 2019 San Francisco Dance Film Festival (official selection) 2019 Drama Desk (nominee), 2019 Lucille Lortel (nominee), 2019 Prague Quadrennial (official selection), 2016 Wearhacks NYC (winner), 2015 Helen Hayes (nominee), 2013 Innovative Theater Award (nominee), 2008 People's Choice Award (nominee). Recent Credits Include: *Peculiar Patriot* (New York Theatre Workshop), *Reconstructing* (Under the Radar), *We Are Your Robots* (Theatre for a New Audience), *Sunset Baby* (Signature Theatre), *Number Our Days* (Perelman Performing Arts Center), *La Bohème* (Pacific Symphony), *Family Ball* (Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston), *Dream Machine* (Lincoln Center), *Lizard Boy* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *The Little Mermaid* (The Munny), and *Rent* (Theatre Under the Stars). She is a proud member of Wingspace Theatrical Design and United Scenic Artists Local USA 829, a core collaborator with All My Relations Collective, a collaborating artist with The TEAM, Head of the Integrated Media Program at the University of Texas at Austin, and the Associate Director of Texas Immersive Institute

ROSANNA GAMSON studied composition with Hanya Holm, Bessie Schonberg, and Phyllis Lamhut and earned a BFA and MFA in Dance from NYU TSOA. She performed internationally as a member of Andrew de Groat & Dancers, and in dances by Yvonne Rainer, workshop performances of Robert Wilson, and in many others' projects. She studied with poets Charles Simic, Louise Glück, and Tom Lux, and my poetry has appeared in literary journals such as Poetry Magazine and the Bellingham Review. She is on the faculty teaching composition at CalArts's School of Dance, where she serves as Dean. In Los Angeles, she founded RGWW to create a multi-lingual, multimedia body of dance theater work rooted in the cultural multiplicity of LA and grounded in a humanist perspective. RGWW has garnered support from foundations and public funding organizations, including National Performance Network, National Dance Project, and ongoing funding from the City of LA Dept. of Cultural Affairs and LA County Dept. of Arts & Culture. RGWW has toured in The Americas since 2002, in Europe since 2012, and Asia since 2023. Her most recent work, *BLUE*, premiered at the Feng Dance International Gala in Tainan, Taiwan. Her next project is "Our Fragile Eternity" inspired by Walter Benjamin's writing, 19th-century spirit photography, and Kabbalah.

Wednesday, June 3

10:00 am – 11:30 am | Workshop | Boston Court Pasadena | MainStage

DRIVING THE CLOWN CAR with David Bridel

Hang on to your hats! This workshop will examine the fundamentals of clowning, as a community practice as well as an art form with its many principles guiding artistic experiment and adventure.

**** 11:30 am – 1:00 pm | Lunch ****

LUIS' LOBBY LUNCH - A Conversation with Luis Alfaro - 12 pm -1:00 pm

1 – 3 pm | Conversation | Boston Court Pasadena | MainStage

WALKING THE TIGHTROPE with Jessica Kubzansky

Jessica Kubzansky, Artistic Director of Boston Court Pasadena, an award-winning director working nationally, will discuss the unexpected twists and winds that led her to the surprising places she finds herself in right this minute.

**** 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm | Break ****

3:30 – 5 pm | Process | Boston Court Pasadena | MainStage

BY THE SKIN OF THEIR TEETH: DIRECTORS IN PROCESS #2

Using farce, burlesque and satire, Thornton Wilder explored themes of tenacity and resilience, as well as the moral failings of our species. What would you bring to the table? Join your fellow Labbies and watch them dream, create, inspire each other and above all, explore.

5 - 6:30 pm | Discussion | Boston Court Pasadena | MainStage

ROUNDTABLE #2: DECISIVE, ENCOURAGING, IMPACTFUL, ACTION

Join your fellow Labbies for an open discussion in and around this year's theme. Be prepared for anything.

**** 6:30 - 8:00 pm | Dinner ****

8:00 pm | Performance | Pasadena Playhouse

BRIGADOON a new adaptation by Alexandra Silber

Lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner, Music by Frederick Loewe

Original dances created by Agnes DeMille

Directed by Katie Spelman

Two American travelers lose their way in the Scottish Highlands and stumble upon Brigadoon—a mysterious village that appears for just one day every hundred years. With its lush score, live orchestra, sweeping choreography, and a newly adapted book, this beloved classic is a heart-stirring journey into a world where time stands still, and love defies all logic. Featuring the Lerner & Loewe Broadway standards “*Almost Like Being In Love*” and “*The Heather on the Hill*,” let yourself be swept away by one of the most romantic musicals ever written, as timeless as the legend itself.

PASADENA PLAYHOUSE

39 South El Molino Drive Pasadena, CA 91101

PASADENA PLAYHOUSE, the official State Theater of California and recipient of the 2023 Regional Theatre Tony Award, and is internationally recognized for its significant role in the development of American theater. Since 2016, the theater has been under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman. Pasadena Playhouse's productions and community programs are centered on its founding idea of being a living force in its community, making theater for everyone. Today, the Playhouse continues to advance the American theater and serves as a hub for the top theatermakers of our time.

PARKING is conveniently located directly across from the theatre in the Playhouse Plaza Parking Structure. Pasadena Playhouse does not validate parking. For additional information regarding parking rates and hours, please call 626 229 7564. Pasadena Playhouse located at 39 South El Molino, Pasadena, CA 91101

DIRECTORS LAB *WEST*

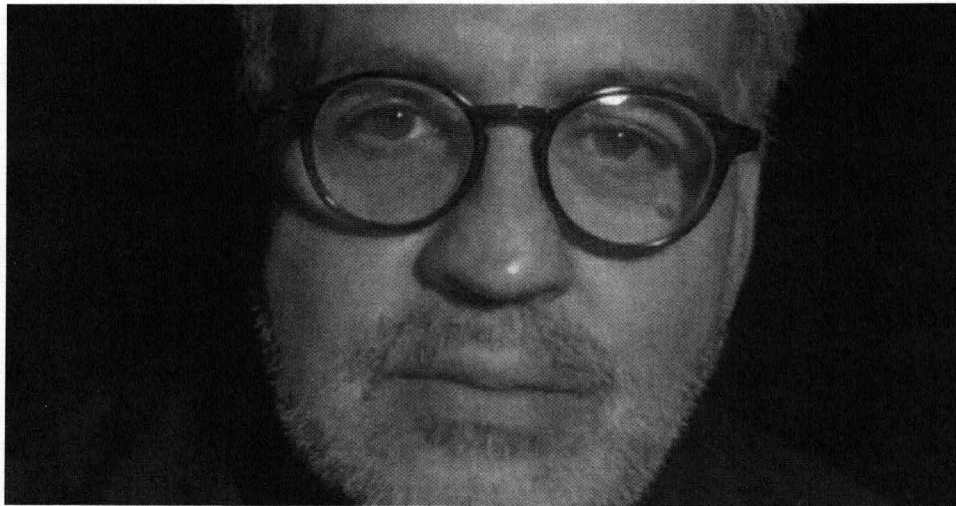
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Directors Lab West 2026

"ADDED SESSION"

LUIS' LOBBY LUNCH

**A Conversation with
award-winning Playwright Luis Alfaro**



LUIS ALFARO is a Chicano playwright born and raised blocks from USC in the Pico-Union district of downtown Los Angeles. Luis is the recipient of a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, popularly known as a "genius grant," awarded to people who have demonstrated expertise and exceptional creativity in their respective fields.

**On Wednesday, June 3, 2026
from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm**

**BOSTON COURT PASADENA
-LOBBY-
70 N. Mentor, Pasadena CA**

**BRING YOUR BAG LUNCH
and don't miss a moment**