

Day of the Dead meets Election Day

Culture Clash uploads [new video](#) for *VOTE OR DIE LAUGHING*

A Post-Modern Political Vaudeville

With special guests La Santa Cecilia, Cristela Alonzo, Buyepongo, Pacifico Dance Company, Marga Gomez and more. Directed by Dan Guerrero.

Tuesday, November 1 at 8:00pm



(Los Angeles, CA) August 9, 2016 - The boys of Culture Clash are taking over Valley Performing Arts Center with *VOTE OR DIE LAUGHING: A Post-Modern Political Vaudeville* on Tuesday, November 1 at 8:00pm. Culture Clash will be celebrating Día de los Muertos, mixing in observations about America's most important election and special appearances from La Santa Cecilia, Cristela Alonzo, Buyepongo, Pacifico Dance Company, Marga Gomez and more.

Culture Clash's Richard Montoya gives audiences a taste of what's to come on November 1 with this [new video](#) just posted to VPAC's Facebook page.

"We'll all need to let off some steam by November 1, and political satirists Culture Clash will help us do just that," said VPAC's Executive Director, Thor Steingraber. "With VPAC being on one of the nation's largest Hispanic-serving university campuses, there arose an opportunity to celebrate L.A.'s deep connection with Día de los Muertos in conjunction with this year's election season. We've pulled together a party-worthy line up of comedians, musicians, and dancers who will do their part to get out the vote."

About Culture Clash

Culture Clash is Richard Montoya, Ric Salinas and Herbert Sigüenza. The Latino/Chicano comedy and theatre group was born on Cinco de Mayo, 1984 at René Yáñez's Galeria de la Raza in San Francisco, California. Originally composed of six members, this innovative troupe gained a place in the national spotlight with their 1988 play, *The Mission*. Counting influences such as Charlie Chaplin, Bertolt Brecht, Cantinflas, and the Marx Brothers, Culture Clash have brought their blend of social and political satire to prominent venues including New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Miami's Colony Theatre, and Los Angeles' Mark Taper Forum; to their television specials and comedy series; to their movies and short films; to their artwork and visual style; and most recently, to the publication of their collected works--*Culture Clash: Life, Death and Revolutionary Comedy* (1998) and *Culture Clash in AmeriCCa: Four Plays* (2003).

In 2015, Culture Clash rung in their 30th anniversary with *Chavez Ravine: An L.A. Revival*, which ran at the Kirk Douglas Theater in Culver City. The production was a revival of their 2003 play, *Chavez Ravine*, which was a hit with audiences at the Mark Taper Forum and became the highest-grossing Taper play that season. Despite their long history, Montoya, Salinas and Sigüenza have not mellowed their signature political and social satire. In an interview with the *Los Angeles Times*, Salinas said, "We've sharpened our satirical fangs and have more bite now than ever before."

Ticket Information:

Single tickets, ranging from \$38 - \$80 are available now. For ticket and subscription information, visit ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org or call (818) 677-3000. Valley Performing Arts Center is located on the campus of California State University, Northridge (CSUN), 18111 Nordhoff Street Northridge, CA 91330-8448, at the corner of Nordhoff and Lindley.

About the Special Guests:

La Santa Cecilia is an LA-based, Grammy Award-winning band which exemplifies the modern-day creative hybrid of Latin culture, rock and world music. This six-member group draws inspiration from all over the world, utilizing Pan-American rhythms like cumbia, bossa nova, rumba, bolero, tango, jazz, rock and klezmer music. Their unique sound and the experience of their colorful, passionate performance leaves fans and new listeners mesmerized.

Cristela Alonzo is the creator and star of the ABC sitcom, *Cristela* and is the first Mexican American woman to create, produce, write and star in her own US network show. Her stand-up comedy performances have appeared on Comedy Central, *Conan*, *Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson*, *Gabriel Iglesias Presents Stand Up Revolution*, Showtime and *Last Comic Standing*. In 2014 she released her comedy album, *Some of the Hits*.

Although they are from East Los Angeles, **Buyepongo** has deep roots in South and Central America, drawing heavily from the Latino musical culture. Taking their cues from traditional "roots" music of Colombia, Haiti, Belize, Honduras and the Dominican Republic, Buyepongo create a very vibrant polyrhythmic sound. The group's pulse and power is built around the drum and guacharaca giving them an upbeat tropical flare, creating their own genre of music: "Buyangú."

Pacifico Dance Company is dedicated to the performance and preservation of traditional Mexican Dance through the reconstruction of choreography and dance training. It is committed to a youth outreach dance program to help instill pride of heritage and promote cultural understanding among the diverse communities of Southern California. The company also incorporates Mexican folklore, religion, and current themes that can be presented through dance fusion to further the appreciation and understanding of present day Mexico.

Marga Gomez is known for her work in solo performance and stand up comedy and for being one of the first openly lesbian performers in the nation. She has appeared on LOGO's *One Night Stand Up*, Showtime's *Latino Laugh Festival*, Comedy Central's *Out There* and HBO's *Comic Relief* at the invitation of Robin Williams who called her "Amazing... a lesbian Lenny Bruce." She has been a guest on leading comedy podcasts Marc Maron's *WTF*, *The Keith and The Girl Show* and Kevin Allison's *Risk*. Her comic style has been described as "deliciously cheeky and incendiary" by the *New York Times* and "salaciously surreal" by the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Calendar Listing for VOTE OR DIE LAUGHING

Venue: Valley Performing Arts Center
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330

Date: Tuesday, November 1 at 8:00pm

Tickets: **Price:** \$38 - \$80
In Person: VPAC Ticket Office, located in the VPAC Courtyard
By Phone: (818) 677-3000
Online: ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org

Press Contacts: Tim Choy, Niki Blumberg, Davidson & Choy Publicity

323-954-7510 | t.choy@dcpublicity.com; n.blumberg@dcpublicity.com
Gary W. Murphy, Public Relations Consultant
310-914-0178 | gmurphypr@gmail.com

Photos:

Click here for photos from the 2016-17 Season:

<http://www.valleyperformingartscenter.org/press/press-photos/>