

The Bad Hombres are Back!



VOTE OR DIE LAUGHING

A Post-Modern Political Vaudeville

**Culture Clash joins special guests La Santa Cecilia, Cristela Alonzo, Buyepongo, Pacifico Dance Company, Marga Gomez and more
Directed by Dan Guerrero**

Día de los Muertos —Tuesday, November 1 at 8:00 pm

(Los Angeles, CA) October 20, 2016 - With less than three weeks to Election Day, the 2016 presidential campaign continues to be both harrowing and hilarious. Perhaps there is no better time than right now to send in the clowns of political satire — Culture Clash! The boys are coming back to VPAC on November 1 to celebrate Día de los Muertos with some of the most daring artists of our time. Culture Clash's Richard Montoya, Ric Salinas and Herbert Sigüenza join friends La Santa Cecilia, Cristela Alonzo, Pacifico Dance Company, Buyepongo, Marga Gomez and more for *VOTE OR DIE LAUGHING: A Post-Modern Political Vaudeville* on Tuesday, November 1 at 8:00pm.

"This event is going to be a one-of-a-kind fusion of politics and culture," said VPAC's Executive Director, Thor Steingraber. "We had a feeling this election year might be one to remember and we wanted to program an unforgettable and timely special event that our growing audience would not forget. With Culture Clash and Dan Guerrero we assembled a stellar roster of musicians, dancers, and comedians for *VOTE OR DIE LAUGHING*. It's so important to stress the importance of democracy, especially on a college campus, and *VOTE OR DIE LAUGHING* will be a fantastic culmination to the many voter registration events being held this month at CSUN."

About Culture Clash

No subject is off limits for Culture Clash. From Black Lives Matter to the NRA, to the recent Presidential debates - all will be fair game for these American Clowns of satire. Culture Clash is Richard Montoya, Ric

Salinas and Herbert Sigüenza. The award winning Latino/Chicano performance trio was born on Cinco de Mayo, 1984 at The Historic Mission District's Galeria de la Raza in San Francisco, California. The legendary 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 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 many anthologies of published plays.

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

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Photos: Click here for photos from the 2016-17 Season:
<http://www.valleyperformingartscenter.org/press/press-photos/>