

"The only thing predictable about a Culture Clash show is that nothing is predictable." – The Mercury News

Chicano Performance Troupe Culture Clash Celebrates 40th Anniversary at The Soraya With New Show *May the 40th Be With You*

Guest performers include actors **Sabina Zúñiga Varela** and **Kirk Ward**, comedians **Frankie Quiñones**, **Marcella Arguello**, and **Rudy Moreno**, musical group **Los Tres Perdidos** with **Vanessa Calderon**, and more.

Sat May 4 at 8PM. Tickets start at \$39; Now available at TheSoraya.org.

(Los Angeles, CA) April 9, 2024 — Famed Chicano performance troupe **Culture Clash**, featuring Richard Montoya, Ric Salinas and Herbert Siguenza, proudly returns to The Soraya to celebrate the group's 40th Anniversary.

The event marks Culture Clash's second time in the Great Hall. The group previously performed *Vote or Die Laughing*, directed by Dan Guerrero, just ahead of the 2016 presidential election. A look back to that uproarious night, which brought together notable artists such as Santa Cecilia, Cristela Alonzo, Buyepongo, Pacifico Dance Company, and Marga Gomez, can be found [here](#).

On May 4, 2024, the troupe presents *May the 40th Be With You*, an all-new show in honor of 40 years of comedy that will serve up an explosive cocktail of humor and satirical outrage — once again ahead of an election!

"Their comedy can be rude, crude, witty, refined, pointed and highbrow, often within the same sketch," writes [The Mercury News](#). "Their shows are driven with broad strokes of sweeping yet topical satire penetrating their targets every moment they take the stage."

The eclectic group of California natives has profoundly explored the evolution of LatinX culture on stages and screens for four decades and is the [most-produced](#) Latino theater troupe in the

United States. But when founded in 1984 in San Francisco's Mission District — they were one of the first, if not only, Chicano comedy theater troupe in the U.S.

Some of their best-known plays include *The Mission* (1988), *A Bowl of Beings* (1991), *S.O.S—Comedy for These Urgent Times* (1992, written in response to the Los Angeles Riots), and *Mission Magic Mystery Tour* (2001), among others.

The trio also has a long-standing relationship with well-known comedian, actor, musician and activist, Cheech Marin, who in the early 1990s worked with Culture Clash to develop a show for Fox Television entitled Fox Television's "Culture Clash." The comedy sketch show ran from 1993 to 1995 and featured guest appearances from Edward James Olmos, Jimmy Smits, Dolores Huerta, and more.

In a recent conversation with The Soraya, Culture Clash founding member Ric Salinas said the historic anniversary performance, *May the 40th Be With You*, will dare audiences not to laugh out loud.

“Our big 4-0 will have our special guest stand-up comic friends who will complement our point of view as Chicano/Latino satirists and social commentators,” Salinas said. “We will have musical guests - we will perform comedic sketches - and we will offer individual testimonies of four decades touring the U.S. with our specific brand of comedy/satire. Music-rap-spoken word-a song and dance.”

The troupe is looking forward to celebrating its 40th anniversary with long-time fans, newcomers, and Cal State University Northridge (CSUN) students “offering a night to remember.

“(It’s) a very symbolic achievement to have survived all these years, taking no prisoners, never holding back, and representing our culture with glee and harsh commentary,” Salinas said. “As we’ve always done when we started on that Cinco de Mayo 1984!”

What’s in the repertoire of the new show? Salinas said the group always tackles current events, so this year’s crucial election will be fair game along with “what politically is happening in our own backyard here in Los Angeles.”

The legacy of Culture Clash lives at Cal State University Northridge (CSUN) both onstage as well as in the Special Collections and Archives in the University’s Oviatt Library, where a significant multi-volume set of their documents and letters live and breathe.

In 2004 the group donated its notes, posters, playbills, artwork, draft scripts, and other materials to CSUN, saying that as they continue to create and perform, the trio will add materials to the archive. In an interview with the [LA Times in 2004](#), Culture Clash co-founder Herbert Siguenza said Culture Clash chose CSUN because of its long history of Chicano studies.

“We think a lot of Rudy Acuna and the Chicano studies department,” Siguenza said in a statement, noting that Professor Rodolfo Acuna helped establish CSUN's [Chicano Studies department](#). “We have a good rapport there.”

For more information and interview requests, please contact:

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- ACCESS YOUR PRESS KIT [HERE](#).

About Culture Clash:

Cinco de Mayo 2024 marks the company's 40th year anniversary as the most prominent Chicano/Latino performance troupe in the country. Their works range from sketch comedy, satire and drama, to earning "Best Production of the Year" Ovation Award for their critically acclaimed play, *Chavez Ravine* both at the Mark Taper Forum and Kirk Douglas Theatre. And adaptations of Aristophanes' *The Birds*, *Peace* and *Frogs* (Sapos) and also co-writing Frank Loesser's long-lost musical *Señor Discretion Himself* based on a story by the late Budd Schulberg, plus a dozen more plays.

Bowl of Beings was featured in PBS' "Grand Performances" TV series, as well as "Culture Clash Comedy TV Show" on FOX-TV, produced, written and starring Richard Montoya, Ric Salinas, Herbert Siguenza.

Their work gives immediate dramatic voice and expression to people in a certain time and place. It is theater of the moment, written and performed first for the people and communities on which it is based, and secondly for a broader audience. Culture Clash uses "performance collage" to bring history, geography, "urban excavation," "forensic poetry" and storytelling together in a contemporary, movable theater narrative through a Chicano point of view--what Guillermo Gomez-Peña describes as "reverse anthropology."

Confirmed Guests:

Actors

Sabina Zúñiga Varela
Kirk Ward

Comedians

Frankie Quiñones
Marcella Arguello
Rudy Moreno

Music

Los Tres Perdidos
Vanessa Calderon
Michael Roth

About the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for The Performing Arts (The Soraya) is an award-winning, state-of-the-art 1,700-seat theatre designed and built by HGA Architects and Engineers and opened in January 2011 as the Valley Performing Arts Center (VPAC). Through a transformative gift by Younes and Soraya Nazarian the venue was renamed as The Soraya in 2017. Vibrant programming has served to establish The Soraya as the intellectual and cultural heart of the San Fernando Valley and its 1.8 million residents, and as one of the top arts and culture venues in Southern California. Since its inaugural season, The Soraya has presented over 500 artists and companies across the genres of music, dance, theater and film and is a highly in demand location for filming and rental events.

The Soraya's 2023/2024 Season boldly advances the expansive sound of orchestras both traditional and contemporary; the freestyle vibe of jazz; an array of dance luminaries, and a cultural bounty drawn from the musical well of global voices. The Soraya continues its vigorous commitment to innovating, excelling, and amplifying access by offering a wide variety of performances that reflect Los Angeles' many distinctive communities and featuring new and original work and artists from the local region as well as nationally and around the world.

Located on the vibrant campus of California State University Northridge (CSUN), The Soraya and the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication share an integral link that enhances student access and opportunities in the arts and performing arts. A \$5 million contribution from record producer and former California Lieutenant Governor Mike Curb was pivotal in ensuring the completion and opening of The Soraya in 2011. For his founding support and in acknowledgment of the integral relationship between the Mike Curb College and The Soraya, Mike Curb is recognized as one of The Soraya's Cornerstone Benefactors. This partnership fosters academic and artistic excellence, elevating the talents and the future growth of CSUN's students through master classes, student tickets, concerts of student ensembles, and students appearing alongside renowned artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Aida Cuevas, and Martha Graham Dance Company.

What: Culture Clash
May the 40th Be With You

When: Sat May 4 | 8PM

Tickets: \$39-\$89

Where: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330

Website: www.TheSoraya.org

Ticket Office: 818-677-3000

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