



The

House of Bernarda Alba



by Federico García Lorca

Directed by Soheil Parsa
Translation by David Johnston

Featuring

Lara Arabian
Theresa Cutknife
Liz Der
Soo Garay
Nyiri Karakas
Beatriz Pizano
Monica Rodriguez Knox
Rhoma Spencer

Lighting / Set Design
Trevor Schwellnus

Costume Design
Angela Thomas

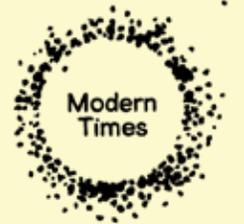
Sound Design
Thomas Ryder Payne

Production Coordinator
Samantha Vu

Stage Manager
Sarah O'Brien



aluna
theatre



Modern
Times

A Co-Production of Aluna Theatre and Modern Times Stage Company



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buddies
IN BAD TIMES THEATRE

Photo Credit: Nyiri Karakas and Beatriz Pizano | Photo by John Lauener
Graphic Design by Victor Terzis

Cast

Beatriz Pizano as Bernarda Alba
Nyiri Karakas as Adela
Theresa Cutknife as Amelia
Monica Rodriguez Knox as Magdalena
Lara Arabian as Angustias
Liz Der as Martirio
Soo Garay as Maid/Prudencia/María Josefa
Rhoma Spencer as Poncia

The House of Bernarda Alba

By Federico Garcia Lorca
Translation David Johnston

The House of Bernarda Alba is the last play by Spanish playwright Federico Garcia Lorca, who completed it in 1936, just a couple of months before he would be assassinated for his political views and his homosexuality by Franco's forces. The play tells the story of a tyrannical mother, Bernarda Alba, who cruelly exercises her dominance over the lives of her five daughters and deters them from their fulfillment as human beings. In The House of Bernarda Alba, Lorca explores the force of oppression, the conflict between individual freedom, individual desires and societal conventions and conformity, and the clash between modernity and tradition, or, more precisely, the destructive nature of decaying traditions. Lorca's vast artistic imagination, his unique theatrical style that confronts naturalism, and his compelling female characters mark him as one of the most extraordinary playwrights of the 20th century. His insights into the human condition and into human struggles have lost none of their power.

Creative Team

Soheil Parsa	Director
Sarah O'Brien	Stage Manager
Patrick Lynn	Production Manager/Technical Director
Trevor Schweltnus	Scenographer
Thomas Ryder Payne	Sound Designer and Composer
Angela Thomas	Costume Designer
Negar Nemati	Costume Design Assistant
Flavia Martin	Apprentice SM
Beth Airton	Interim ASM
Jennifer Otter-Leaney	Marketing Manager
Renato Baldin	Communication Strategist
Samantha Vu	Production Coordinator
Gia Nahmens	Producer
Red Eye Media	Publicist

Cover page photography John Lauener | Graphic Design: Victor Terzis

Aluna Theatre engages under the terms of the CTA

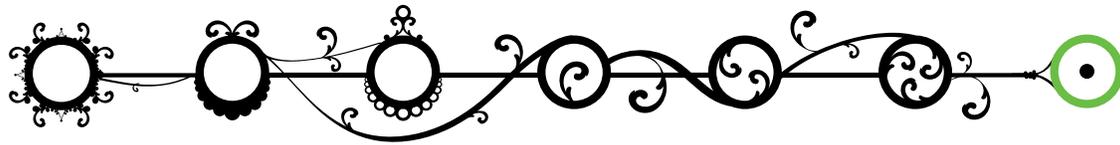
Government Funders

director:



Soheil Parsa

Soheil Parsa is the co-founder and former artistic director of Modern Times Stage Company and has directed over forty productions for the company since its inception in 1989. His work has been recognized with numerous awards and nominations. In 2021, Soheil received the Barbara Hamilton Memorial Award and the Canadian Association for Theatre Research Honorary Member Award for his unique contribution to Canadian theatre in the past thirty-two years.



Cast:



Beatriz Pizano

Beatriz Pizano (Actor/ Director/Playwright) is the founder and Artistic Director of Aluna Theatre.

She has received a number of prestigious awards including the John Hirsch Prize, the Chalmers Fellowship, the K.M. Hunter award and numerous Dora awards and nominations. She is the first Latinx actress to win a Toronto Critics award and a Dora for her performance in *Blood Wedding*. In 2019 she was named one of TD's 10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadians. Most recently Beatriz has appeared in the acclaimed productions of *Alien Creature* (TPM), *Dividing Lines* (Aluna Theatre), and *Four Sisters* (Paradigm Productions/Luminato).



Nyiri Karakas

Nyiri Karakas is a Canadian-Armenian performing artist. She trained at East 15 Acting School. Stage: Helena in *Midsummer Nights Dream* (Shakespeare's Bash'd), Melanthe in *The Penelopiad* (Hart House Theatre), Orlando in *As You Like It* (Bard in the Park), and Joyce in *Top Girls* (Alumnae Theatre). Film/TV: Chiara Marchetti in *Tiny Pretty Things* (Netflix). "In the time of your life, live - so that in that good time there shall be no ugliness or death for yourself or for any life your life touches" (William Saroyan).

Cast:



Theresa Cutknife

Theresa Cutknife (she/her) is a Nehiyaw and Puerto Rican actor, writer, curator, storyteller, and producer from Maskwacis, Alberta located on Treaty 6 Territory and is a member of the Samson Cree Nation. Theresa is an alumni of The Centre for Indigenous Theatre and has had the pleasure of working with companies such as Native Earth Performing Arts, Punctuate Theatre, Common Boots Theatre, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, and Young People's Theatre.



Monica
Rodriguez Knox

Monica Rodriguez Knox, an actress of Spanish-Portuguese descent, is thrilled to be playing the role of Magdalena in the House of Bernarda Alba. Monica has appeared in several tv & film productions including most recently The Mayor of Kingstown (Paramount), Baby in a Manger (Brain Power Studio) and Taken Home (Paper Frame Pictures). She is delighted to return to the stage having last performed in Betrayal by Harold Pinter (Red Sandcastle) for which she also co-produced. Monica is proud and honoured to be working with Aluna Theatre and Modern Times Stage Company.



Lara Arabian

Lara is a trilingual Toronto-based artist by way of Beirut, Lebanon, upstate NY, and Paris, France. Lara has worked with companies across Canada including Citadel, Modern Times, Aluna, Cahoots, Théâtre français de Toronto, Nightswimming, Pandemic Theatre, Neptune, Theatre Passe Muraille and Studio 180. Recent TV/Film credits include: Ghostwriter, Kim's Convenience, Ghostwriter, The Handmaid's Tale, Murdoch Mysteries, Taken, Dark Matter. She completed her acting training at the Banff/Citadel Professional Theatre Program. As a writer, she's been a member of the Banff Playwrights Unit and this past spring her 10-episode radio drama, Convictions premiered across Ontario on Radio-Canada (French CBC). Lara has received Dora nominations as both an actor and a writer.

Cast:



Rhoma Spencer

Actor, Playcreator, Director and Comedian is a veteran Theatre Practitioner practicing in Toronto since 2001.

Acting credits include: Solitudes (ALUNA Theatre), Jean and Dinah (Lordstreet Theatre) Mad Miss, Fallen Angel and the Devil Concubine (TA/bcurrent), Stori Ya (bcurrent) and two seasons of the groundbreaking Afri-Canadian sitcom, Da Kink in my Hair for Global TV.

Film: Sound of Tears (Short) which received an African Academy Award for Best Narrative Short (Diaspora). The Apartment (TV series Pilot for CCN TV6, Trinidad). Scarborough (Comfy Films). Rhoma wishes to thank her immediate family and circle, Sherva, Tara, Judith and Michelle. She is presently working on her Co-Pro Docu- Film, A Pile of Dirt commissioned by Regent Park Film Festival, and is set to headline her own comedy show at the 3rd Annual Black Women In Comedy Laff Fest this June in NYC.



Soo Garay

Soo Garay's accomplished career has taken her across Canada, the U.S. and Europe, touring on stage and shooting in some unforgettable locations. She has been called "Mesmerizing" by John Kaplin, "Magical" by Chris Dupuis, "Magnetic" by Richard Ouzounian, and "Graceful" by H.J. Kirchhoff. Soo is proud to be part of this production and thankful to be back on stage after these years of isolation. www.soogaray.net



Liz Der

Liz is a mixed-race performer and theater maker based in Tkaronto. She is particularly interested in how theatre can be used to unpack personal and cultural complexities of identity and belonging. Liz is a recent graduate of the 2021 Soulpepper Academy.

Past performance credits include: Mi Casa de Incienso (Mala Theatre/ Soulpepper Queer Youth Cabaret), mientras tanto // 缺口 (Mala Theatre/ Rhubarb Festival), Fearless (fu-GEN Theatre), Shadow Girls (Pencil Kit Productions), and Crave (Pure Carbon Theatre). She has also participated in new play development workshops at Tarragon Theatre and Common Boots Theatre.

Team:



Sarah O'Brien

Sarah is truly thrilled to be joining Modern Times and Aluna Theatre with such a fantastic team for this production. Recent credits include *She Spreads* with Dead Roads Collective, *(dix)* with Fall For Dance North, several presentations for Canada's National Ballet School, and *Cymbeline* with George Brown Theatre School. Upcoming projects include an outdoor production of *The Hobbit* for Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre, *The First Stone* for New Harlem Productions, and an upcoming fall outing with ProArte Danza. Many thanks to the makers of highly effective COVID vaccines, and as always, thank you to Duncan for being so great, and for all of the technical, logistical, and emotional support.



Patrick Lynn

Patrick Lynn (they/them) is a performance professional hailing from Fredericton, NB. After moving to Toronto in 2017 to pursue their BFA, Performance: Production at X University, they have worked in a variety of roles including as a stage manager, production manager, company manager, and as an independent producer for both performance and film. Select credits include: *A Room Without a View* (short film), 2022, producer, Purple Pen Productions; Production Manager, *Old Man and the River*, WeeFestival (2021); Producer, *Perspectives, Virtually Accessible* (2021); Production Manager, *Mass Exodus 2021*, X School of Fashion (2021); Stage Manager, Theatre New Brunswick Theatre School (2016-2018).



Trevor Schwellnus

Trevor Schwellnus is an Interdisciplinary artist and Scenographer who designs sets, lights, and video for performances with independent artists and companies. As Artistic Producer at Aluna Theatre, his work includes *The Solitudes*, *Dividing Lines*, and *Nohayquiensepa* (No one knows). With Modern Times: *Blood Wedding*, *Cherry Orchard*, *The Sheep and the Whale*. With Buddies: *Gertrude & Alice*, *Of A Monstrous Child: A Gaga Musical*, *The Silicone Diaries*, and others. He redesigned Toronto's Dora Award statuette in 2019, and has 6 Dora Awards.



Thomas Ryder
Payne

Thomas Ryder Payne is a composer and sound designer for theatre, dance and film. Selected past theatre work includes designs for Stratford, Shaw, Mirvish, Soulpepper, CanStage, Tarragon, Factory, TPM, YPT, Crows, Modern Times, Aluna, BIBT, Nightwood, Toronto Dance Theatre, NAC, Theatre Calgary, GCTC, RMTC and many others. Thomas has received 4 Dora awards and 25 nominations

Team:



Angela Thomas

Angela's career spans twenty five years, designing and building costumes and environments for independent theatre, opera, spectacle, dance, community and educational projects. She has worked extensively with Soheil Parsa and Modern Times Stage, Shadowland Theatre, Theatre Gargantua, Topological Theatre and Kensington Carnival. Other highlights include Tapestry New Opera Works, Toronto Masque Theatre and R. Murray Schafer's Patria Music Projects with Jerrard and Diana Smith. 'Blood Wedding', with Modern Times Stage, won Angela her first Dora Mavor Moore Award for Costumes after 9 previous nominations. Angela currently works in television and film costumes.

It is such an honour to be involved with this lovely production of 'The House of Bernarda Alba', Aluna Theatre and Modern Times Stage.

Thank you especially to Negar Nemati for her incredible talent, support and generosity.



Negar Nemati

Negar is a Costume Designer with more than ten years of experience. After studying Theatre in Tehran University of Fine Arts, she developed her skills under the supervision of Iranian well-known theatre director Ali Rafie. Through the years, Negar has gained the knowledge and experience to design memorable characters both in theatre and movie industry.

The most recent Movie she has costume designed "A Hero" by Asghar Farhadi won the second highest prize, Grand Prix, at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival.

Negar has been awarded Best Costume Design in 2018 for the Berlinale nominated movie "Pig", in "The 20th Celebration of Iranian Cinema". In 2016, she was awarded for Best Costume Design for the movie "A Dragon Arrives" from "Iranian Film Critics Guild".

As theatre costume designer, she has worked in the prestigious theatres both in Iran and Germany. Based in Canada since 2016, Negar has been a member of CAFTCAD and IATSE 873. She has been costume designing short movies in Canada and has worked in several roles in costume department at IATSE productions.

Team:



Flàvia F. Martin

Flàvia F. Martin (Apprentice Stage Manager) is ecstatic to be working with Modern Times and Aluna Theatre once again where her previous production includes *The Cherry Orchard*. She recently stage managed *Songs for a New World* at Randolph College For the Performing Arts. Other credits include *Lätt Lútf* with Teatro de Creación Remota and *Never In The Room* with Mixed Company Theatre.



Samantha Vu

Samantha Vu is a multidisciplinary artist, creator and producer living in Toronto. She is thrilled to be working with Modern Times and Aluna Theatre for *The House of Bernarda Alba*. Samantha has had the very fortunate luck to have worked on productions with The Theatre Centre, Red Betty Theatre, Cahoots Theatre, Nightwood Theatre, Tarragon Theatre, Modern Times Stage Company, Toronto Fringe and more.

Check her out at www.samanthaavu.com and follow her @sam.vuu



Gia Nahmens

Gia has been working as a stage/production manager/administrator in Canada for the past fifteen years. She is a graduate from the University of British Columbia with a Major in Theatre and a Minor in Spanish Literature. She Immigrated to Canada from Venezuela in 2003. Gia has worked extensively as a Stage Manager for productions like: *Tony N' Tinas Wedding* (Hoarse Raven Theatre), *Wild Rose* (Fringe 2008/Bumpershoot 2009), *The Honeymoon* (Pick of the Fringe: Vancouver 2009), *The Talking Stick Festival* (2010&2011), *BUG* (Toronto 2020 Production/High Performance Rodeo, Calgary 2019).

While working as a Stage Manager she realized she could start training in administration and production and dove into working with Left Right Minds Initiatives as a production assistant. This work allowed her to understand the 'backstage' of a production. In Toronto she has been working with the Venezuelan community; stage managing, producing and touring Monique Mojicas "*Chocolate Woman Dreams the Milky Way*"; and assisting company management for "*Arrabal*", Head of Administration at Modern Times Stage Company and General Manager for Aluna Theatre. Gia now lives/works in Kingston, Ontario.

Team:

**Sewists**

Sandra Mandic
Jane A. Smythe
Lise St Germaine

Scenic Cutter

Janelle Stewart

Set design assistant

Barbara Morrone-Sanchez

Head Scenic Painter

Fernanda Souza

Scenic Painters

Charlotte Felix
Tatianna Ferreira
Chynah Philadelphia
Breanna Provan
Aryana Rizvi
Meghan Teague

Carpenter

Mitchell Ayres

Male Chorus:

Mendel Charleus
Pdraigh MacDonald
Sepehr Reybod
Lucas Carravetta
Benjamin Liddell

Head Technician

Samira Banhashemi

House Technicians

Rachel Shaen
Zev Shoag
Matty Armour
Aidan Shepherd
Adam Bromley
Theo Belc
Laura Philipps
Seven MacLennan-Nobrega
Carlos Varela

The House of Bernarda Alba team thanks:

Brefny Caribou
Chris Clifford
David Hoekstra
Rosalba Martinni
Paulie McDermid
Sara Moodie
Azita Parsa
Jahan-Yar Parsa
J.T. Pickering
Simon Rossiter
Arun Srinivasan
Crow's Theatre
Anne Webster

Thank you

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.



aluna
theatre

Modern Times Stage Company was founded in the belief that individual voices experiences and backgrounds can fit in a common vision and create theatre that expresses the essence of a shared human spirit. As artists we believe that human identity is a multi-layered, so our theatrical aesthetics draw from many styles of theatre. Within this diversity, we seek beauty in simplicity and truth in the vulnerability. Our process and award-winning productions are rooted in this unique approach, resulting in a timeless, placeless expression of reality. Since 1989, Modern Times has explored stories from across the globe producing adapted, translated and original works for audiences in Canada and Internationally.

Aluna Theatre embraces the myriad of voices, cultures, and stories of our population, which are transforming the landscape of Canadian theatre. In our plays, works in translation, and international co-creations, people are complex individuals who exist beyond the restrictions of cultural labels. We encourage new hybrids of theatre evolved from a rich collaboration of experiences, performance traditions and media by engaging both emerging and established theatre professionals. Our work reaches out to diverse audiences in Canada and abroad. We build liaisons that promote art as a way to empower, and a way to share with each other and the world the idea of living in harmony.

Staff

Artistic Director - Rouvan Silogix

Producer - Peter Farbridge

Producer - Gia Nahmens

Marketing Manager - Jennifer Otter-Leaney

MT Board of Directors

President - Charles C Smith

Treasurer - Richard Shimoda

Lili Nabavi

Diana Manole

Erin C Jones

Sophie Else

Moderntimesstage.com/
info@moderntimesstage.com

Staff

Artistic Director - Beatriz Pizano

Artistic Producer - Trevor Schwellnus

Social Media Strategist - Renato Baldin

Podcast Producer - Camila Diaz-Varela

Podcast Producer - Monica Garrido

Board of Directors

Chair - Melissa Prado

Vice-Chair - Edgar Valderrama

Secretary - Carla Melo

Treasurer - Paulie McDermid

Ric Knowles

Natalie Alvarez

Robert Hay

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