



aluna
theatre

FEBRUARY 7-25, 2024

The Theatre Centre

1115 Queen Street West

*Somewhere between memory and dream
two strangers meet on a lonely beach*



On the Other Side of the Sea

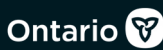
Winner of the Casa de las Américas Prize



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Production Credits



An Aluna Theatre Production

On the Other Side of the Sea

Written by

Jorgelina Cerritos

Director

Soheil Parsa

Assistant Director

Maria Paula Carreño-Martínez *

Scenographer

Trevor Schwellnus

Costume Designer

Niloufar Ziaee

Sound Designer

Thomas Ryder Payne

Cast

Beatriz Pizano

Carlos Gonzalez-Vio

Stage Manager

Flávia F. Martin

Producer

María Escolán

Production Manager

Charissa Wilcox

Translators

Dr. Margaret Stanton

and Anna Donko

**as Metcalf Foundation Intern*

*Originally produced in the English language in Ithaca, NY
by The Cherry Arts, Inc., Samuel Buggeln, Artistic Director*

The show runs approximately 75 minutes

Artistic Director's Note



The production represents the first time Aluna will produce a work by a Latin American artist not residing in Canada. For over twenty years Aluna has been producing new works from the TransAmerican diasporic artists who live here. We are thrilled to be producing a play from El Salvador. Although *On the Other Side of the Sea* was written over ten years ago, the disconnection, fragmentation and the characters' urge for authenticity continues to resonate deeply today. What I love most about the play is the message of hope, and of daring to throw yourself into the ocean to find new beginnings.

-Beatriz Pizano, Aluna Theatre's Artistic Director

Director's Note

The themes, poetic beauty, and unique theatrical style attracted me to want to explore this play. In this extraordinary work, Jorgelina Cerritos explores the concept of human loneliness and the lost or forgotten identity. The play is also about hope. The characters constantly oscillate between dream and reality and yearn for rebirth and renewal.

-Soheil Parsa, Director

Thank You

ToThe Theatre Centre for brilliant hosting - Aislinn, liza, Audrey, Navid, Xanath, Liza, Yoan, Sara, Emily, Josh, Angelo, Aidan, Hilary - Thanks!

Opening Night Reception Sponsor: Hazel Nohemy Hernández Torres, Consul of El Salvador in Toronto

Aluna friends and family: Augusto Bitter, Simon Casanova, Kristina McNamee, Brandon Valdivia, Irma Villafuerte, Jessica Zepeda

Biographies | Cast



Beatriz Pizano | Dorotea

Beatriz Pizano (Dorotea) is an award-winning actor/director and playwright. She is Artistic Director of Aluna. 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 as playwright and director. She is the first Latinx actress to win a Toronto Critics award and a Dora for her performance in *Blood Wedding*. Beatriz has appeared in *Alien Creature* (TPM), *Dividing Lines* (Aluna Theatre), *Four Sisters* (by Susanna Fournier) Paradigm Productions/Luminato Festival, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, (Aluna Theatre/Modern Times). In the last year, she directed *Children of Fire* (by Anna Chatterton and Shahrzad Arshadi) Nightwood Theatre, RUTAS festival and *Rubble* (by Suvendrini Lena) Aluna/TPM.



Carlos Gonzalez-Vio | Fisherman

Carlos is a Canadian actor born to Uruguayan parents. He grew up between Mississauga and Montevideo. He took his first theatre classes in 2001, at Equity Showcase Theatre on Dufferin St. He first appeared with Aluna in 2008's *Madre*, written and directed by Bea Pizano, designed by Trevor Schwellnus, and has since been blessed over the years with many days and nights spent on and off the stage with these two real ones. In 2011, Carlos was cast in *Hallaj*, directed and co-written by Soheil Parsa. He has had the privilege of working with Soheil three other times since then - including 2015/2017's *Blood Wedding(s)*, and 2016's *The Death of the King*, at Buddies in Bad Times, and The Theatre Centre, respectively. Carlos was also a proud member of ARC theatre company from 2013-2022.

Biographies | Creative Team



Jorgelina Cerritos | Playwright

Jorgelina Cerritos is a Salvadoran playwright, actor, and university professor. She has written over 30 plays, many of which have been published, staged, and translated in El Salvador and abroad. Cerritos is the recipient of numerous national and international playwriting awards including the prestigious Casa de las Américas Literary Award for drama (2010), the George Woodyard Latin American Theater Award (2011), and the Biennial Prize for Women's Playwriting (2012). She was also recognized with the title of Grand Master in playwriting for young audiences, and in playwriting for adults by the Ministry of Culture in El Salvador (2004 & 2013 respectively). In 2018 she created Didascalía, an ongoing playwriting training program; she currently leads Didascalía with the support of Los del Quinto Piso Theatre, a collective with whom she has maintained a stage presence in El Salvador since 2007.



Soheil Parsa | Director

Soheil Parsa is an Iranian-Canadian theatre artist based in Toronto. He 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. Soheil's work has been shown in Canada as well as internationally and has been recognized with numerous awards and nominations. Selected past works include 'Blood Wedding' and 'The House of Bernarda Alba' (Modern Times Stage Company and Aluna Theatre), 'The Chairs', 'The Cherry Orchard', 'Waiting for Godot,' 'Macbeth', 'Hamlet', 'Aurash', and 'The Death of the King' (Modern Times Stage Company), 'Wildfire' and 'Monster' (Factory Theatre).

Biographies | Creative Team



Trevor Schwellnus | Scenographer

Trevor designs sets, lights, and video for performances with independent groups. He was born on unceded Algonquin land. One of his chief obsessions is the intersection of design, dramaturgy, and cross-cultural art-making. He directed & designed *Dividing Lines*, *What I learned from a decade of fear*, and *Nohayquiensepa* with Aluna Theatre (where he is Artistic Producer).

Other design credits: *Monster*, *Here are the Fragments*, *Out the Window*, *Blood Wedding*, *Alien Creature*, *Our Fathers Sons*, *Lovers and Little Brothers*, *Marine Life*, *White Girls in Moccasins*, *Of A Monstrous Child*, *The Silicone Diaries*, *The Sheep and the Whale*, among many. He redesigned Toronto's Dora Award statuette in 2019, and has 6 Dora Awards (of 18 nominations).



Thomas Ryder Payne | Sound Designer

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, Theatre Centre, YPT, Crows, Why Not, Modern Times, BIBT, Theatre Gargantua, Nightwood, Toronto Dance Theatre, NAC, Centaur, Theatre Calgary, GCTC, RMTC and many others. Thomas has received 6 Dora awards.

Biographies | Creative Team



Niloufar Ziaee | Costume Designer

Niloufar, a filmmaker and multidisciplinary artist from Iran, has embraced Canada as her home since 2016. With a Fashion Design degree from George Brown College, she seamlessly navigates roles in art direction, costume design, set dressing, and painting across diverse mediums. Passionate about collective storytelling, Nilou brings new worlds to audiences. Her work, featured at the Miss Eco International Competition in Egypt, reflects a blend of creativity and technical expertise. Nilou's collaborative spirit shines in productions like *English* (Soulpepper Theatre), *NO Save Points*, *Trojan Girls* (Outside The March Theatre), *Anahita's Republic* (Bustle and Beast Theatre), and *Children Of Fire* (Nightwood Theatre). Her artistic journey leaves an indelible mark on Canada's creative landscape.



Flávia F. Martin | Stage Manager

Flávia F. Martin (she/her) is a Portuguese Stage and Assistant Stage Manager based in Tkaronto. Recent credits include *A Carnival of Munch* (George Brown College), *Comedy of Errors* and *Million Dollar Quartet* (The Grove Theatre), *New* (Necessary Angel), *Rubble* (co-production between Aluna Theatre and Theatre Passe Muraille), *Two Sided Mirror* (Mixed Company Theatre), *Beautiful Renegades* (Peggy Baker's Dance Projects), *Cacao| A Venezuelan Lament* (Victoria Mata Productions), *Light: A Tribute to Toni Morrison* (Luminato Festival), *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Modern Times and Aluna Theatre), *Songs for a New World* (Randolph College For the Performing Arts), and *Lätt Lût* (Teatro de Creación Remota).

Biographies | Creative Team



Maria Maula Carreño | Assistant Director

Maria Paula Carreño-Martínez (she, ella) is an award winning actor, performance art creator, and communicator of diverse ancestry, born on the Andes mountains in Bacatá and residing in Tkaronto. Her performance creations have been showcased at Buddies in Bad Times, The Al Green Theatre, three editions of CAMINOS by Aluna Theatre, The Harbourfront Centre, Theatre Erindale, The Fairview Library Theatre, The AluCine Film Festival, and she has been in a number of voice, film and T.V. projects in Canada, Colombia, and France. Maria Paula also produces theatre and cultural events, and is working towards becoming a dramaturg and director. She is passionate about mental health, connecting communities, and having fiestas.



María Escolán | Producer

María Escolán is a theatre artist and producer from El Salvador living in Toronto. Recent workshop showings of her work in development *La Mujer Fragmentada* have taken place in Toronto with Aluna Theatre's CAMINOS Festival, in San Salvador with Asociación Cultural del Azoro, in Victoria BC with Intrepid Theatre's UNO Fest, and in Vancouver, BC with *rice & beans* theatre. Past collaborations include live translation performance in *Pequeños Territorios en Reconstrucción* with Teatro Línea de Sombra, Assistant Directing/Performance with Nightwood Theatre's *Children of Fire* at Aluna Theatre's Rutas Festival 2022 in Toronto. María holds a BFA Degree in Theatre Performance from the School for Contemporary Arts, Simon Fraser University and a BA Degree in Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Social Justice from the University of British Columbia.

Biographies | Creative Team



Charissa Wilcox | Production Manager

Charissa spent the last couple decades working at the Iconic Queer Canadian Art Organization, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre (BIBT) as the Head of Production. Throughout her freelance career she has worked with such companies as Aluna Theatre, Tapestry, Modern Times, New Harlem Productions and Nightwood Theatre. Charissa is also the Artistic Producer and co-founder of FLYING SOLO and the lead designer and fabricator of FLYING SOLO's cutting edge circus apparatuses.



Tushar Dalvi | Marketing Coordinator

Tushar Tukaram Dalvi is a seasoned theatre practitioner from Mumbai, now residing in Toronto. He has been acting on stage since 2006 and worked with noteworthy theatre directors in Mumbai. In 2016, he founded Rangaai Theatre Company which specialises in creating immersive and sensory-based theatrical experiences for intimate and alternate spaces. His work tells compelling stories reflecting contemporary social issues by interweaving fiction, various mediums, and interactive elements. His flagship production, Darkroom V4.0 - An Immersive Sensory Experience, has been performed over 220 times at 30+ venues in 6 cities and 2 countries.

Biographies | Creative Team



Emily Jung | Communications Support

Emily Jung (she/her) is an interdisciplinary artist & artsworker working with themes around labour (and rest), multilingual arts, social media, feminism, climate change, and aging. Most recently, she worked as Associate Technical Artist for Hypothetical Baby by Rachel Cairns. Her visual art can be seen on Instagram [@minmilyjung](https://www.instagram.com/minmilyjung). She is the Director of Communications at The Theatre Centre.



Victor Terzis | Graphic Designer

An artist who enjoys creating and communicating using Graphic Design, Digital Art, Motion Design and Classical Animation. Past graphic work for Aluna Theatre includes The House of Bernarda, Rutas 2022 Festival and Caminos 2023. www.victorterzis.com | www.instagram.com/nvictus_terzis/



Jeremy Mimmagh | Photographer

Jeremy Mimmagh works as a filmmaker, photographer, and projection & sound designer for performance. He is an artistic associate at adelheid and has collaborated on sound and/or projection design with some of Canada's most provocative and thoughtful creators including bluemouth inc., DA Hoskins, Peggy Baker, James Kudelka, Kate Hilliard, Peter Chin, Sashar Zarif, Roshanek Jaberri, Ian Kamau and Laurence Lemieux. His still collections have been exhibited nationally and internationally. Film credits include short films: a settling haze, elsewhere, present absence/absent presence (co-created with Heidi Strauss), From Gentle Ashes, and Floating Construct (co-created with Peter Chin), Espaço featuring Pulga Muchochoma (in collaboration with Art Spin), as well as on a collection of short films based on Fides Krucker's in this body. His documentary work includes Body and Soul featuring dance artist Natasha Powell, and a feature-length dance documentary called Jamaican (co-created with Peter Chin).

Team Credits



Crew

Yoan Holder (TD)
Aidan Shepherd (House Tech)
Frank Incer
Peter Velocci
Kim Schaedlich
Lochlan Cox

Carpenters

Curtis Whittaker
Mitch Ayre

Painter

Hilda Chu

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Carla Beatriz Da Silva Melo
Keith Barker
Lara Arabian
Lilia Leon
Michelle Polak
Paulie McDermid
Renato Baldin
Robert Hay
Suvendrini Lena

About Aluna Theatre

The artistic mission of Aluna Theatre is to embrace 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.

We accomplish this by producing shows and festivals featuring the work of emerging and established artists, and by supporting the development of new works and the artists who create them - through residencies and internships.

We welcome into our circle of support and celebration the TransAmerican artists living and working here, who represent the breadth of cultures and languages from across the Americas.



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