



estlosangeles.org

A Prayer Ain't Nothin' But
Written and initiated by Joe Luis Cedillo

OUR NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



OUR SPONSORS





Tracey A. Leigh, Artistic Director

The Board

Angela Bullock
Patrick Hurley
Tracey A. Leigh
Michael C. Mahon, Co-Chair
Susie Tanner
Debra Stricklin
Michael Tomlinson

Advisory Board

Don Cummings
Peter Doms
William Duffy
Jenny O'Hara

Winterfest 2026 Production Staff

Jacob Surovsky - Winterfest 2026 Literary Manager
Lizzy Ross - Graphic Design
Christopher Reiling - Technical Director/Production Support
Isadora Swann - Production Assistant

Supporters and Volunteers

A tremendous "Thank you!" to ALL of our supporters and volunteers, without whom this festival would not be possible.

EST/LA, located at Atwater Village Theatre, acknowledges our presence on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded homelands of the Tongva, Chumash, and Kizh people, who resided here and stewarded this land before the city of Los Angeles was formed,



Tracey A. Leigh, Artistic Director

A Prayer Ain't Nothin' But Written and initiated by Joe Luis Cedillo*

CAST

Three Chainz

Alexander Adrian Gibson

Sister Juana

Karina Castillo⁺

Gabbie

Joe Luis Cedillo*

Stage Directions

Genia Michaela^{**}

SETTING

Somewhere on Ramona Boulevard and Peck Road

TIME

Last Week

- * EST/LA Member or Associate Member EST/LA
- + Proud member of Actors Equity Association
- NW NewWest Member
- IP Ignite Project Member
- PU Playwrights Unit Member



Tracey A. Leigh, Artistic Director



About the Playwright

Joe Luis Cedillo—Is a left-handed Chicano playwright, director & actor specializing in new plays, devised work, site-specific & intersectional performance. He's a Cancer survivor and former Marine Corps Paratrooper. LA Credits include: Mark Taper Forum, Casa 0101, Watts Village Theatre Company, Playground LA, Chalk Rep, MET Theater, Highways Performance Space, The Edge of the World Theater Festival and Hollywood Fringe. Two-time Runner-Up for the Kennedy Center's Latino Playwriting Award, and performed on a flat bed truck with Luis Valdez. Former Artistic Director of El Teatro Campesino, current Associate Artistic Director at Texas State's Black and Latino Playwright's Celebration, former Literary Manager/Production Dramaturg for Houston's Alley Theatre. Recently a Finalist for the Many Voices Fellowship and member of EST/LA's Playwright's Unit. His plays include: NOCHE Y MOURNING; TEXTBOOKS & FENCES; 7, 8IGHT, 9... ; and THIS IS NOT A PICTURE OF CLAUDE CAHUN.

Special Thanks

Special Thanks to the everyone with Sunday Best and the Playwrights Unit for their notes and thoughtful feedback.



Tracey A. Leigh, Artistic Director



Alexander Gibson (THREE CHAINZ) is an Actor and Social Media Personality out of Los Angeles California who has made his way through the industry starting as a dedicated production assistant and growing to be a SAG-Aftra Member. All while learning to navigate the world after serving 11 years in prison. Alexander has found himself with multiple speaking roles and is clearly determined to continue to elevate and inspire others to do the same. Film Credits: Die like a man, horchata with oat milk, Splash City. TV Credits: “The Curse” (Showtime), “Swat”, “Mayans”, “This Fool” “American Gigolo”



Karina Noelle Castillo (SISTER JUANA) is a Los Angeles–based actor, writer, director, producer, and entrepreneur whose career bridges performance and production. Beginning as an actor, Karina developed a deep understanding of character and emotion, which continues to shape her approach to storytelling both in front of and behind the camera. Her work on series such as Lincoln Lawyer, Matlock, and The Good Doctor reflects her range and commitment to nuanced, grounded performances.

As her career evolved, Karina expanded her creative focus to include writing, directing, and producing, driven by a desire to tell stories that reflect the diversity and complexity of real life. This evolution led her to co-found Courtyard Entertainment, a production company dedicated to creating inclusive, visually compelling, and emotionally resonant content across film, television, and new media.

Through Courtyard, Karina produces projects that highlight underrepresented voices and authentic narratives. She is the producer of the podcast SEEN, which spotlights women behind the lens in film and photography, exploring their creative practices and professional experiences in a historically male-dominated industry.

Karina’s work has been recognized by the Mexican-American Cultural Education Foundation (MACEF), where she received the Filmmaker Production Grant, and by the ScreenCraft Film Fund, where she advanced as a Second Rounder.

Currently, Karina is developing new projects under Courtyard Entertainment. With a career that spans acting, directing, writing, and producing, she continues to build a creative legacy rooted in authenticity, collaboration, and the belief that powerful stories can create lasting impact.



Genia Michaela (Stage Directions) has appeared on Broadway, in film and TV in diverse genres from comedy to drama to action, etc. She is a trained Opera singer, a SCUBA divemaster, and played D1 ice hockey. She is a Master teacher and has taught everything from Shakespeare to skating technique to Mathematics to Latin. Michaela holds a MFA in screenwriting and is an alumna of U North Carolina School of the Arts, MIT, and Yale.