



# NEW VILLAGE ARTS

MEDIA ALERT

**New Village Arts Announces**

## ***The Thanksgiving Play***

**Written by Larissa FastHorse**

**Directed By Daniel Jáquez**

**Previews: October 4-11, 2024**

**October 4-November 3, 2024**

*For immediate release: September 5, 2024*

*Contact Olivia Pence, Manager of Marketing & Communications: [olivia@newvillagearts.org](mailto:olivia@newvillagearts.org)*

**Carlsbad, CA** – New Village Arts (NVA), North County’s cultural hub, is thrilled to announce the first play of our 2024-2025 season: THE THANKSGIVING PLAY, written by MacArthur Fellow Larissa FastHorse (Sicangu Lakota Nation). Acclaimed San Diego-based artist and founder of Camino 23 Daniel Jáquez will direct the production. In producing this show, we are honored to welcome our first Native American playwright to the Ray Charles Stage in the Conrad Prebys Theatre at the Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center. THE THANKSGIVING PLAY will run October 12th through November 3rd. Previews will happen on October 4-11th, with an Opening Night Reception on October 12th, 2024.

THE THANKSGIVING PLAY follows four well-meaning but misguided theatre and education professionals as they set out to create a Thanksgiving pageant at an elementary school—one that won't step on any toes. This rambunctious and sharp-edged comedy shines a spotlight on the contradictions of woke culture, dishing up the hypocrisies of modern America with a generous side of satire. Featuring cringeworthy (but entirely real) Thanksgiving songs sourced from social media, Larissa FastHorse's THE THANKSGIVING PLAY hilariously skewers political correctness, social awareness, and cultural stereotypes.



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We are thrilled to welcome director Daniel Jáquez to this production:

*“I’ve long admired Larissa FastHorse, her integrity, her wit, her clarity, her joy, and her approach to life in the arts. Her play provides an opportunity to laugh at oneself and at our valiant attempts to right some wrongs. In particular, the bad and the ugly of an enshrined USA holiday myth. As winners write the stories, Larissa says:*

*‘we actually have little access to the true history of this country. It has been intentionally erased from the educational system and popular culture.’ The hilarity lies in seeing well intentioned, ill-informed teachers try to deal with it in their own earnest ways.*

*It’s a play that invites us to laugh and to learn more about Native Americans and about the day some call National Day of Mourning. As I dive into the play, I’ll be curious about the parallels that I, a Mexican American, might discover. My Kentucky born-and-raised mother brought all aspects of the Americana Thanksgiving celebration with her to Mexico. I love turkey and all its traditional trimmings, and we never questioned why... though Macy’s had all the answers we needed at the time.”*

We are thrilled to introduce the talented creative team, led by Jáquez, each bringing their unique vision and expertise to this sharp and timely satire. Rebecca Moore will stage manage the production. Michael Wogulis will be scenic designer, bringing the classroom to life with Annelise Salazar as lighting designer. Sandra Ruiz will costume the production. Evan Eason will be sound designer, and Joseff Paz will be props designer as well as assistant stage manager. Fredy Gomez Cruz will do the fight choreography.

The show will feature some of San Diego’s best known comedic actors including Samantha Ginn, as the well-meaning (but somewhat clueless) school teacher Logan. Ginn has previously appeared in multiple shows at NVA (SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS, MEN ON BOATS, and more) and also heads up our theatrical programs for teens and young adults with neurodiversity. Joining Ginn will be NVA’s Board President Dr. AJ Knox as Caden, the history teacher eager to maintain historical accuracy. Knox has been seen in numerous facets of New Village Arts’ productions, including directing (SINGIN’ IN THE RAIN, THE 39 STEPS, and more), designing and sometimes performing. He was featured onstage last season in John Patrick Shanley’s DOUBT. Returning after their successful NVA debuts in THE 39 STEPS, Kenny Bordieri and Erica Marie Weisz complete the cast as Jaxton and Alicia respectively. Connor Boyd and Kay Marian McNellen are the two swings for the production.



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With rehearsals in full swing, the talented cast is already deeply engaged with the satirical brilliance of this play. Samantha Ginn, a dynamic force in the ensemble, shares her perspective on the play's relevance and humor:

*"I'll never forget the day Kristianne Kurner introduced me to THE THANKSGIVING PLAY. It was a fall day in 2022 and Kristianne had all of the staff at New Village Arts sit around a table and read the play before we were off on Thanksgiving break. She thought it would be a good staff bonding experience. Boy, was she right. We spent 90 minutes reading Larissa FastHorse's genius play. We were laughing so hard, tears were coming to our eyes. That became such a core memory for me at New Village Arts, that I proposed to Kristianne a year later that we do a staged reading of the play on the mainstage. Kristianne said "yes, and" of course. I had the pleasure of directing the staged reading and casting some of my favorite people around town to work with. We had an absolute blast reading the play and bringing the story to life. It was received so well by our audience, that Kristianne decided to put the play into the 23rd season. I am now beyond thrilled to be playing Logan in the production. The cast that's assembled is top notch and the director, Daniel Jáquez, is extremely smart. I can't wait to see what we all create together. We are all in need of more joy these days. So I can't wait to tap into a play that has a very poignant message, and yet, keeps us laughing the whole time while thinking about these important themes." - Samantha Ginn.*

Joining her, AJ Knox, whose performance is sure to leave a lasting impression, weighs in on what makes this production a must-see event:

*"I participated in NVA's staged reading of THE THANKSGIVING PLAY in 2023, where I worked with Samantha Ginn. I'm so excited to join her on stage for this fully-realized production! THE THANKSGIVING PLAY is above all, a very funny play full of relatable, flawed, misguided characters who think they're doing their best... but we'll let the audience be the judge. It also has a lot to say about the state of contemporary theatre in America, and the responsibility artists and theatre-makers have when choosing what stories to tell. I'm excited to help bring this provocative satire to life at NVA." - Dr. AJ Knox.*



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Season 23 sponsors include Prebys Foundation, Jazzercise, Peace Thru Arts, County of San Diego, City of Carlsbad Cultural Arts Office, Phillip & Co Real Estate, and Visit Carlsbad. Sponsorship opportunities are available upon request.

Don't miss your chance to experience THE THANKSGIVING PLAY, a razor-sharp comedy that will leave you laughing and thinking long after the curtain falls.

## **COMPANY of *The Thanksgiving Play***

<b>Kenny Bordieri</b>	Jaxton
<b>Samantha Ginn</b>	Logan
<b>AJ Knox</b>	Caden
<b>Erica Marie Weisz</b>	Alicia
<b>Kay Marian McNellen</b>	Female Swing
<b>Connor Boyd</b>	Male Swing

## **CREATIVES of *The Thanksgiving Play***

<b>Daniel Jáquez</b>	Director
<b>Rebecca Moore</b>	Stage Manager
<b>Michael Wogulis</b>	Scenic Designer
<b>Sandra Ruiz</b>	Costume Designer
<b>Annelise Salazar</b>	Lighting Designer
<b>Evan Eason</b>	Sound Designer
<b>Fredy Gomez Cruz</b>	Fight Choreographer
<b>Joseff Paz</b>	Assistant Stage Manager & Props Designer

## **THE THANKSGIVING PLAY**

Written by Larissa FastHorse

Directed by Daniel Jáquez

Previews: October 4-11, 2024

Opening Night: October 12, 2024

October 4 - November 3, 2024

**SAN DIEGO PREMIERE**



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## New Village Arts 23rd Season 2024-2025

### **8-TRACK: THE SOUNDS OF THE '70S**

Created by Rick Seeber

Directed by Gerilyn Brault

Music Direction by EY Washington

Choreography by Joy Newbegin

Previews: August 16-23, 2024

Opening Night: August 24, 2024

August 16 - September 15, 2024

**SAN DIEGO PREMIERE**

### **THE THANKSGIVING PLAY**

Written by Larissa FastHorse

Directed by Daniel Jáquez

Featuring Samantha Ginn as Logan

Previews: October 4-11, 2024

Opening Night: October 12, 2024

October 4 - November 3, 2024

**SAN DIEGO PREMIERE**

### **MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET: A LIVE MUSICAL RADIO PLAY**

Adapted by Lance Arthur Smith

Original Songs and Arrangements by Jon Lorenz

Directed by Faith Carrion and Kay Marian McNellen

Previews: November 22-29, 2024

Opening Night: November 30, 2024

November 22 - December 24, 2024

### **THE HALF LIFE OF MARIE CURIE**

Written by Lauren Gunderson

Directed by Kym Pappas

Previews: January 24-31, 2025

Opening Night: February 1, 2025

January 24 - February 23, 2025



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## **SAN DIEGO PREMIERE**

### **Sandra Delgado's LA HAVANA MADRID**

Written by Sandra Delgado

Directed by Juliana Frey-Méndez

Previews: March 21-28, 2025

Opening Night: March 29, 2025

March 21 - April 27, 2025

## **SAN DIEGO PREMIERE**

### **Performance Days and Times**

Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 2:00pm

Thursday, Friday and Saturday Evenings at 7:30pm

### **Tickets and Subscriptions**

Subscriptions for the season range from \$135 to \$297.

Single Tickets are on sale now.

Single tickets range from \$35 to \$60 for plays and \$40 to \$70 for musicals.

### **About New Village Arts**

Celebrating 23 years of award-winning professional theatre and thriving education and outreach programs, New Village Arts (NVA) has truly become the cultural hub of North County San Diego. NVA attracts more than 30,000 patrons each year to experience professional theatre, music and art events in the heart of Carlsbad Village. In addition to full seasons of plays and musicals featuring some of the best artistic talent in Southern California, NVA hosts talkback discussions and other supplementary events designed to create conversation and cultivate community. New this year, the White Family Next Stage in the Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center presents a series of music, comedy, and spoken word events throughout the year. NVA offers robust theatre programs in partnership with local schools and strongly believes that theatre and arts experiences should be accessible to all people, becoming a recognized leader in equity, diversity, and inclusion in San Diego. NVA has been fortunate to receive support from the City of Carlsbad and other local businesses, who recognize the importance of a resident professional theatre company as a crucial component of an inclusive and creative community. In turn NVA



# NEW VILLAGE ARTS

prioritizes serving its community by presenting works that respect its diversity, engaging every citizen with relevant and inspiring stories.

New Village Arts is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization listed under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS.

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