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Without whom this production would not be possible.

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# FULL CIRCLE PLAYERS

Full Circle Players'

## LAZARUS RISING: THE PLAY

Written by Matthew Johnson      Directed by Wendi Johnson

### PERFORMANCES

September 25, 2025  
September 27, 2025  
&  
October 3, 2025  
October 5, 2025

Full Circle Players

## MOJADA

A Medea in Los Angeles

Written by Luis Alfaro      Directed by Steve Llamas

### PERFORMANCES

September 26, 2025  
September 28, 2025  
&  
October 2, 2025  
October 4, 2025

**THE BOX**  
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## THE CAST LAZARUS RISING

EDEN SIDES	STACY
J.KAY WELDON	MICHAEL
SEJ PATEL	ZOMBIE MOTHER IN LAW
AARON GOMEZ	DAVEY
SOPHIA SIERRA	AMANDA
RAIN AURORA REAZA	ZOE
PIERRE VAN DER WESTHUIZEN	ROGER
JASON CREWSE	DAN
JULIAN CARRASCO	ZOMBIE BROTHER
DAMARIS VIZVETT	WOMAN CHASED BY ZOMBIES
NORA RAE	NAOMI
TYLER ST JEAN	JOHN/ZOMBIE COUSIN
ZOMBIE BRIGADE:	Ollie Tully, Tedy Setlak, Leilani Scott Young, Damian Arteaga, Sommer Hastings, Robert Vasquez, Jamie Jamison, Vivian Torres, Allylen Pena, Jazmine Haros

## THE CAST MOJADA

LOURDES CASTILLO	MEDEA
ANGEL NIEVES	JASON
ESTHER BANEAS GATICA	TITA
MYA ALVARADO	JOSEFINA
RAIN AURORA REAZA	ARMIDA
ISRA MARGARITA CONTRE-RAS	ACAN

## THE CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR LAZARUS RISING	Wendi Johnson
DIRECTOR OF MOJADA	Steve Llamas
STAGE MANAGER LAZARUS	Adrien Gibson
STAGE MANAGER MOJADA	David Hermosillo
INTIMACY DIRECTOR/fight choreographer	Wendi Johnson
LIGHT DESIGNER	Adrien Gibson
PROJECTIONIST	Sej Patel
COSTUME DESIGN MOJADA	Janette Valenzon

**INDIGENOUS DANZA & PRAYER MAESTROS:** Claudia Ce-Coatl Pacheco, maestros de KALLI TECPATL

## Land Acknowledgement:

We at Full Circle Players would like to respectfully acknowledge and recognize our responsibility to the original and current caretakers of this land, water, and air: the Cahuilla [ka-weeahh], Tongva [tong-va], and Serrano [se-ran-oh] peoples and all of their ancestors and descendants, past, present, and future. Today this meeting place is home to many Indigenous peoples from all over the world we are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these homelands.

## DIRECTORS NOTE—MOJADA—STEVE LLAMAS

Mojada drew me in because it threads the revitalization of our ancestral knowledges through the urgent realities of systems that continue to harm us today. This story exposes how colonialism never ended but has shapeshifted into new regimes of control. We feel it in the weaponization of law or the ignoring of the constitution as an instrument of oppression, in the imaginary border that tears apart families, and the demand that we erase ourselves to uphold a colonial order.

This play speaks to our moment of violent deportations and violence against our migrant communities, echoing fascist regimes. It reveals borders as colonial inventions that fracture families and criminalize survival. Its characters embody the daily negotiations of assimilation, showing how language, labor, and love are shaped by systemic injustices. At the same time, the story affirms cultural survival: ancestral myths, multiple identities, and communal memory travel with the characters, proving that heritage is not lost but carried and remade.

I am deeply grateful to my friends, family, and mentors who have supported me throughout this journey. Without the labor and inspiration of the strong women around me, I would not be who I am today.

Mojada asks what we sacrifice to belong and what we refuse to surrender. I invite you to witness a story of resilience and transformation and to imagine a world where no border or empire can keep us from the truth of our origins.

Free Palestine, free Congo, and all those we still need to know.

## COMPANY BIOS CONTINUED

**JASON CREWSE (Dan, Lazarus)** Jason Crewse is thrilled to once again be performing for Full Circle Players. A Theatre Major from CBU and IFL Nominee, Jason's recent credits include The Women of Lockerbie (Vagabond Menifee), The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 (Ramona Hillside Players), The Tempest (Shakespeare in the Park with Full Circle Players), Night of the Living Dead (Riverside Community Players), and Nevermore: The Tales and Poems of Edgar Allen Poe (Redlands Footlighters). He started his Theatre journey in 5th grade when he played The Prince in The Princess and the Pea, and has been in love with the stage ever since. He would like to thank his wife and children for all their love and support and without whom none of this would be possible.

**J.KAY WELDON (Michael, Lazarus)** J Kay Weldon is an accomplished actor whose work spans stage, film, and television. Trained in both classical and contemporary performance, Weldon is celebrated for his versatility and ability to bring depth and authenticity to every role. His stage credits include dramatic leads, sharp-witted comic turns, and ensemble work that highlights his collaborative spirit. On screen, he has appeared in a variety of independent projects, earning recognition for his compelling presence and nuanced performances. Weldon is honored to share this production with audiences and grateful for the opportunity to continue telling stories that inspire, challenge, an entertain.

**RAIN AURORA REAZA (Zoe, Lazarus and Armida, Mojada)** Rain Aurora Reaza is thrilled to be making her Full Circle Players debut in two beautiful productions! She graduated with a acting degree from Cal Poly Pomona and is hoping to pursue an MFA in dance. Some of her favorite past credits include Candy Star (One Flew Over the Cuckoo's), Ana (The Clean House), Celia (As You Like It) and Sarah Weddington (Roe). When not on stage Rain is a substitute teacher, choreographer, stage manager, and dance coach and recently completed an internship with Inland Valley Repertory Theatre. She hopes this production brings as much joy and emotional impact on the audience as it did to her. She would like to thank her cast, crew, and loved ones for their endless support and encouragement and invites all of you to catch her technical director debut this winter at Riverside Community Players' production of Alice in Wonderland. Instagram @themrainydays

**ANGEL NIEVES (Jason, Mojada)** Ángel Nieves is honored to tell the story of Luis Alfaro's Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles and help bring its impactful themes to life. He is endlessly grateful to his loved ones, whose encouragement fuels every artistic leap. Ángel's past works include co song-writing for La Mujer Dormida, (IN)visible Me, Blu, and Napoli. When he's not on stage, you can often find him filling the world with his music as City Pigeon, blending heartfelt lyrics with soul-stirring melodies. He can be found @\_citypigeon

**ESTHER GATICA (Tita, Mojada)** Esther is a bilingual Honduran playwright, actress, director, and translator. She's a graduate of Teatro Prometeo from Miami Dade College. She obtained a BFA from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in Theatre Arts. She's taught and performed with/at: Miami Hispanic International Theatre Festival, Syracuse Stage, Breath of Fire Latina theatre ensemble, the Gluck Foundation, and Fort Worth Fringe. Esther is a recent graduate from the University of California, Riverside with an MFA in playwriting. She has been selected as "Best of" before as part of Playground LA and recently as a semi finalist for the BAPF. She works as a writer, program manager, and newsletter creator for the local IE social justice focused newspaper Black Voice News and is a founding board member for World Builders Incubator. Follow her work on Instagram at @esteyg

**NORA RAE (Naomie, Lazarus)** is celebrating her return to Full Circle Players. Most recently, Nora was seen in RICHARD III at Shakespeare in the Vines. Nora has also been cast in MERRY WIVES of WINDSOR with Full Circle Players in 2021, and has also been cast in School of Rock and Lion King; here, in the IE. Nora loves basketball and wants the world to know that kindness doesn't mean I won't punch you.

## COMPANY BIOS

**WENDI JOHNSON: (DIRECTOR/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR (Lazarus Rising)** is the Founding Artistic Director of Full Circle Players. She is also the Director of Theatre at Henry J. Kaiser High School. She holds a Master's Degree in directing from Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, Chicago, a masters in Shakespearean Studies and a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre acting emphasis from Cal State San Bernardino. She is an award winning director, actor, intimacy director, fight choreographer, and theatre educator. Some directing credits include: *Henry V*, *Chicago*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Major Barbara*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Bright Star*, *Electra*, *The Crucible*, *Cymbeline*, *Sweeney Todd*, Wendi is an advocate for the arts in the community, She has a deep passion for equity in access to theatre. **She is a member of the Riverside Non-Profit Organization, Riverside directors consortium, CETA, Thespians. She is a proud grandma, mom, and wife.**

**STEVE LLAMAS(YA-MA-SSS) (DIRECTOR MOJADA)** is a versatile artist and cultural scholar, originally from warehouse-infested Fontana, California. He earned his BA in Theatre Arts with a minor in Chicana/Latinx Studies from UC San Diego in 2023.

Born into the complex narrative of American assimilation, Steve found a deep sense of identity within the evolving Chicana Movement. His work centers on revitalizing and reconnecting with ancestral mythologies, histories, and knowledge as pathways to collective liberation. This approach explores how reclaiming ancestral narratives can catalyze broader social and political transformation. Through art education, community support, and anti-colonial practices, Steve envisions a world without borders.

Steve's theatrical journey spans acting, sound design, playwriting, directing, and collaboration. He sees storytelling as a potent tool for social change, engaging with *Népanla*, the in-between place where multiple identities meet and transform, to embrace the complexities of our experiences.

Steve's latest adaptation of the Mexica/Aztec legend La Mujer Dormida reclaims the story of Iztaccihuatl and Popocatepetl as a poetic act of resistance against empire, patriarchy, and generational harm.

**DAVID HERMOSILLO (STAGE MANAGER MOJADA)** is thrilled to return to Full Circle Players as the Stage Manager of Luis Alfaro's Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles. A proud Latino and Inland Empire native, he is a graduate of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, where he studied Theatre Arts. While his background includes numerous onstage performances, David has also stage managed or assisted on productions such as Legally Blonde: The Musical, Heathers: The Musical, I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change, and The Skin of Our Teeth. Beyond the stage, he works as Development Associate at Independent Shakespeare Co.—producers of LA's Shakespeare in the Park—and as a Guest Talent Coordinator at the Disneyland Resort, welcoming guest performing groups and supporting their shows. He extends heartfelt thanks to his family, friends this fantastic cast for their unwavering support, and to the audience for celebrating the arts with us tonight.

**SEJ PATEL (Mother in Law Lazarus Rising)** Sej Patel makes her debut with Full Circle Players. She has a vast background creatively that includes on stage, technical design and production magic! She serves as a volunteer on two boards in Chino and hopes to add Full Circle Players soon. Keeping theatre alive is needed! She does her part by creating promotional marketing for many theaters in the Inland Empire! Her acting credit includes Heidi (Fuddy Meers - CCT), Cara (The Elephant in the Room - EE), Aunt Letty (Magician's Nephew – RCP) and Maria (The Man of La Mancha – RCP). Her production credit includes Technical Director, Assistant Director, Sound Design & Projection Design. In December, she will have her directorial debut of A Christmas Carol, steam punk style, at RCP! Theatre for all is not only a statement, but words to live by! Full Circle Players is the epitome of these words. She is honored to have this opportunity to further hone her skills and earn from the best in a safe environment for A-L-L

**EDEN SIDES (Stacy Lazarus)** Eden Sides is an Inland Empire actor and marketing girlie who has a B.A. in Theatre from California Baptist University. She is ecstatic to be making her debut performance with Full Circle Players. When she's not acting, Eden works at an escape room, enjoys reading cozy books, hares content about theatre and immersive experiences on @sideseden on Instagram and TikTok, and is newly into Kpop. Some of her previous roles include: Courtyard Shakespeare Festival: Luce/Nell/Officer, The Comedy of Errors. Redlands Footlighters Theatre: Dr. Watson and Others, A Sherlock Carol. Courtyard Shakespeare Festival: Chorus, Romeo and Juliet. California Baptist University: Susannah Gibber, Joyful Noise. New Threads Theatre Company: Aloy, Artificial Vow. Mythos Society: Clover Varian, Tavern Tales at Koroneburg Renaissance Festival.

## COMPANY BIOS CONTINUED

**JULIAN CARRASCO: (ZOMBIE BROTHER/LAZARUS)** Julian is thrilled to work with Full Circle Players once again. He has played in shows such as Skin of Our Teeth, Let Me Down Easy, As You Like It, Breathing Corpses. Southern California Shakespeare Festival's productions of Titus Andronicus, King Lear, and Macbeth. And Full Circle Players' productions of Comedy of Errors, Electra, and The Tempest. And Romeo and Juliet. Julian would like to thank his family and friends for their

**LOURDES CASTILLO (Medea, Mojada)** Lourdes is a second-year MFA actor at UC Irvine from South Central LA and is excited to be making her debut with Full Circle Players Theater in Mojada. She is grateful to Steve, David, Wendi, and the entire cast and crew of Mojada and Lazarus Rising for their artistry and collaboration. This past summer, she finished her second year teaching Theater Studies for the Summer Youth Conservatory at the Latino Theater Company, where she is an alumna. She is excited for Latine audiences to experience the world of the play as much as the cast has loved bringing it to life.

**ARRON GOMEZ: (DAVEY/LAZARUS)** Aaron is a recent graduate of UC Irvine, getting his Bachelor's in Drama. Aaron was last seen as Mercutio in FCP's tour of Romeo and Juliet. Some of his previous work include Heels Swing in UC Irvine's La Belle et la Bête, Ensemble in The Bacchae, and Julio Cesar in Ashes of Light. He is so excited to share this deep and moving story with you all, and hope you all enjoy the show!

**PIERRE VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: (ROGER/LAZARUS)** Pierre van der Westhuizen as Roger Pierre van der Westhuizen appears in Matthew Johnson's new original play Lazarus Rising, bringing his trademark presence and depth to this exciting premiere. Earlier this season, he played Lord Capulet in Shakespeare in the Park's Romeo and Juliet and the Emperor in La Mujer Dormida, continuing to showcase his versatility across both classical and contemporary works. Fresh from portraying Aslan in The Chronicles of Narnia, Pierre excels in roles that demand strength and complexity. This marks his fourth collaboration with Full Circle Players, where he has also performed as King Claudius and the Ghost in Hamlet, and as Exeter in Henry V. With more than 15 years of stage experience and training in voice, stage combat, and pyrotechnics, Pierre combines commanding authority with emotional nuance to deliver memorable performances. You can find Pierre on Instagram: @ConanTheProgrammer.

### **DAMARIS VIZVETT (Woman Chased By Zombies Lazarus)**

Damaris Vizvett is an actress and singer based in Riverside, California. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre Performance from Cal State Los Angeles. Damaris is absolutely thrilled to be a part in this amazing cast! This will be her 3rd production with Full Circle Players. Damaris was last seen at The Redlands Theatre Festival for their 2025 Summer Repertory Season. There she played Renebelle in Radio Gals and Ensemble in Young Frankenstein. Through the years, some of her favorite roles include Nostradamus in Something Rotten (2023 CSULA), and Lady Macbeth in Shakespeare's Macbeth (2024 CSULA). Damaris dedicates all performances this year to her late mother, Jessica, I love you mom, I know you are up there singing too. Damaris also sends her love to her friends and family for their endless support. I truly couldn't do any of this without you.

### **MYA ALVARADO (Josefina, Mojada)**

Mya is a recent graduate from Cal Poly Pomona, where she studied Theatre with an acting emphasis. Her favorite roles include Medea in Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles, #7 in The Wolves, and Emma in Stupid F\*cking Bird. She is excited to be working with Full Circle Players for the first time and thanks her family and friends for the love and support.

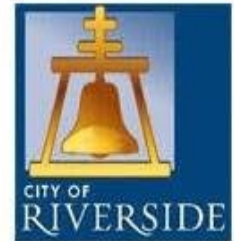
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### **DIRECTORS NOTE—LAZARUS RISING—WENDI JOHNSON**

First off, I love horror. I always have. I am drawn to the need of humans to survive in a world based, it often seems, on destruction. I am always astounded and in awe how humans will reach for one another to connect, even when maybe they should go it alone. I also have come to love zombies and the zombie genre. Started officially by George Romero with Night of the Living Dead, zombie films are a representation of human consumption and loss and greed. George Romero used the over consumption and civil rights issues of the day as a cornerstone to his movie. The absurdist representation of humanity destroying itself, holding on to things and societal norms into themselves.

Lazarus to is more than about gore and jump scares. Each character is longing and consumed by an internal demon they cannot let go of. This is so true today, I think even more so than when Romero brought us Night of the Living Dead.

Lazarus Rising reminds me to be present and to enjoy life in its simplest form, connection to family, listening to one another, put the phone down and go outside—talk to your neighbors, see the tree, and appreciate this amazing life.

Yes, zombies are a fun scare and we have a few really good moments of terror for you!

But, I hope you also see the story of seven people trying desperately to survive in a world that has literally gone mad.

Much love, friend and peace