

Curriculum Vitae
NICOLAS R. VALDEZ

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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MAJOR ARTISTIC | RESEARCH INTERESTS

I have witnessed first-hand how poverty, over policing, and limited access to services can affect marginalized communities of color. This experience has led the focus of my work as an artist in the following areas: Epidemiology of Drug Use, Public Health, Crime and Deviance, Minority Groups, U.S./Mexico Relations, Ethnomusicology, Latino Arts & Culture specifically relating to “Border Identity”

ARTISTIC POSITIONS

- 1990 - ***Independent Interdisciplinary Performance Artist***
I began to perform on the accordion at age 8 and at the age of 10 I performed in my first on stage theatre production with Valerio Longoria Jr. I've received various grants and awards from the National Performance Network, The National Endowment for the Arts, and Westaf for the research and development of my current project, Conjunto Blues. An interdisciplinary performance, the project combines ethnomusicology, theater, music, poetry, documentary footage and video mapping in the exploration of regional South Texas Conjunto music as an expression of cultural liberation and resistance. Conjunto Blues premiered in Denver, CO at Su Teatro as part of the Pablo Neruda Poetry Festival in 2013 and toured Arizona in the fall of 2015 through collaborations with Borderlands Theater, Performance in the Borderlands and the University of Arizona.
- 3/12 - 8/12 ***Interview Specialist, University of Southern California, College of Social Work***
Interviewer specialist for the NIDA funded project: "At Risk Hispanic Gangs: Long-Term Consequences for HIV, Hepatitis, and STI" at the University of Houston Graduate School of Social Work. Conducted over 100 3-hour interviews with young adult men in the field office as well as Bexar County and Texas State Jails. My expertise in the use of the Natural History Interview methodology resulted in the collection of high quality data that has contributed to the modeling of drug, partner, employment and incarceration trajectories. The retrospective nature of this data requires the interviewer to build a dialogue with the respondent to anchor specific memories that helped them recall behaviors they were engaged in during each month of each of the 15 year retrospective.
- 9/09 - 9/11 ***Technical Assistant II, UH- Center for Drug and Social Policy Research***
Interviewer specialist for the NIDA funded project: "At Risk Hispanic Gangs: Long-Term Consequences for HIV, Hepatitis, and STI" at the University of Houston Graduate School of Social Work. Conducted over 100 3-hour interviews with young adult men in

the field office as well as Bexar County and Texas State Jails. My expertise in the use of the Natural History Interview methodology resulted in the collection of high quality data that has contributed to the modeling of drug, partner, employment and incarceration trajectories. The retrospective nature of this data requires the interviewer to build a dialogue with the respondent to anchor specific memories that helped them recall behaviors they were engaged in during each month of each of the 15-year retrospective.

- 9/08 - 12/08 **Field Organizer, Prop 7- Californians for Clean Energy**
Assisted in the 2008 California State elections for Proposition 7, a clean energy act, in the San Francisco Bay Area. Hosted public meetings, engaged community organization, registered voters, phone banking and various other responsibilities.
- 2/07-8/07 **Program Assistant, Teatro Vision de San Jose (San Jose, CA)**
A non-profit Latino Theater production company. Duties were divided between general office assistance and co-coordinator of an intensive community engagement program. Facilitated participatory theater workshops with immigrant communities in the San Jose, CA region utilizing Augusto Boal's Theater of the Oppressed methodology.
- 7/06- 2/07 **Executive Assistant, Redefining Progress (Oakland, CA)**
A non-profit Environmental Justice organization that focuses on sustainability, economics, environmental indicators and education. Responsible for inter-staff communications, scheduling, board meetings, and specific administrative support for the Executive Director.
- 9/05- 3/06 **Executive Assistant, The David & Lucile Packard Foundation (Los Altos, CA)**
Assisted Antonio Gonzalez (President- William C. Velasquez Institute and Packard Foundation Visiting Scholar) research successful Latino policy advocacy campaigns as well as produce a weekly talk-radio show on KPFK Pacifica Radio. This work served as a prequel to the 1st Annual National Latino Congreso, now in its ninth year.

SPECIAL SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Risk Reduction Specialist, Protocol Based Prevention Counseling (pre and post-test STD/HIV counseling), Certified Phlebotomist, Certified YMCA Youth worker, CPR Certified, Administrative experience; Excellent writing skills (English); Proficient Spanish; Computer literate (Word, Excel, Outlook, Nvivo), Popular Education facilitator, Production skills including video editing, lighting & sound engineering and video mapping

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Texas Folk Life Apprenticeship Grant recipient 1997
Jump-Start Performance Co. Apprenticeship 2001-02
National Performance Network grant recipient for the touring production of 'Pocho' 2007
Future Aesthetics Artist Regrant (FAAR) 2009
Winner of Best Short Film, Su Teatro XicanIndie Film Festival 2012
Winner of "Best Cinematography", "Best Musical Score", "Audience Choice" and "Best Film-Runner-Up" at 48 Hour Film Festival 2012
National Endowment for the Arts and National Performance Network grant recipient for the research and production of 'Conjunto Blues' 2012-15
NPN Documentation and Storytelling Fund grant recipient 2021
Winner of Grand Festival in the Arts, Berkeley Film & Video Festival 2021

Official Selection, 13th Annual OC Film Fiesta, 2021
Winner of Premio Xochipilli, Su Teatro XicanIndie FilmFest, 2022
Official Selection, San Diego Latino Film Festival, 2023
Music to Life's Musician Changemaker Accelerator Academy 2023

ORIGINAL PERFORMANCES

Borderland Rogues: The Story of
Los San Patricios '22

Conjunto Blues – Film Version Premier '20

Conjunto Blues, Encuentro de las Americas '17

Conjunto Blues – World Premier '13

Recuerdos: Soul of San Anto '10,'13,'14

Mi Bandera es la Tierra '07, '08

Alarma! '07

What Are You Doing Tonight? '06

Galeria de la Raza Pocho/a '05

Epcot El Alamall '03

The Museum of Fetishized Identities '02

The Price is Life '01

!Pocho/a! '99

Dance of the Jaguar '96

Tlaxcalli- Flour or Maíz '95

I Have Hopes '94

THEATER CREDITS

Crystal City 1969

The Magical Piñata '19

Más '13, '14

ROLES

Ensemble

Purple Monkey King

Maestro

COMMUNITY PARTNER | PRESENTER

Tobin Center for the Performing Arts

Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center/ Teatro Vivo

Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center/ LATC

Su Teatro de Denver

Say Si Muertitos Fest/ Blessing of our Beginnings

Talento Bilingue de Houston/ La Peña

Galeria de la Raza/Sara Shelton Mann

MadMedia/Teatro Campesino/MACLA/

MadMedia/MACLA/La Peña

Guillermo Gomez Peña-Pocha Nostra/ Jump-Start
Performance Co.

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Performance Co.

MadMedia/ YMCA Arts H.Y.P.E.

MadMedia/ Jump-Start Performance Co.

Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center/ Grupo Animo

Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center/ Grupo Animo

Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center/ Grupo Animo

COMMUNITY PARTNER | PRESENTER

Cara Mia Theater/ Guadalupe Cultural Arts

Magik Theater

Borderlands Theater

Enrique's Journey '14	Various	Su Teatro/ LATC Encuentro
Carmen De La Calle '11, '12	Don Cairo	La Colectiva-SA/ Cameo Theater
El Padre: The Story of Hidalgo's Revolution '11	Narrator	Say Si/ Teatro Alas
That's Not Fair: Emma Tenayuca's Struggle for Justice '10	Grandpa	Say Si/ Teatro Alas
El Corrido de Chuy '09, '10	Gabriel	Say Si/ Teatro Alas
Electricidad '06	Orestes	Teatro Visión
Zoot Suit '04	Rudy Reyna	El Teatro Campesino 25 th Ann. National Tour
Posada Magica '03	Refugio	Guadalupe Cultural Arts
Max the Monster '98	Various	MadMedia/Jump-Start
Yo, Casimiro Flores '97	Mad Dog Sanchez	Guadalupe Cultural Arts
Milagritos '97	Various	Jump-Start

UNIVERSITY DRAMA

ROLES

COMMUNITY PARTNER | PRESENTER

Eddie-Pos '02	Various	St. Mary's University/ MadMedia
The Bacchae '99	Various	University Wisconsin- Madison
Water Station '98	Various	University Wisconsin- Madison
Voces del Barrio '95	Various	Our Lady of the Lake University

DRAMATIC READINGS

ROLES

COMMUNITY PARTNER | PRESENTER

Carmen De La Calle '14	Don Cairo	Dallas Latino Cultural Center
Blu '13	Blu	Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center
Who the Hell was Manuel Palafox '06	Various/ Musician	San Francisco Mime Troupe/Marsh Theatre/ Culture Clash
Sol Que Tu Eres '02	Orfeo	Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center
Cameo Land '02	Various	Jump-Start
En el Corazon del Barrio '96	Various	Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center

Gallery Theater

ROLES

COMMUNITY PARTNER | PRESENTER

Vaquero y Cowboy '01-'04,'12-'13	Vaquero	Witte Museum
Panther Cave '01-'04	Shaman	Witte Museum
Tasura '01-'04	Tasura	Witte Museum

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHER

Seeking Common Ground- Latinx and Latin American Theater and Performance <i>Theater</i> - Volume 49, Number 1	Pg. 215-218 Pg. 67-68	Methuen Drama Duke, Yale School of Drama
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AUDIO/VOICE RECORDINGS

ARTIST | PRODUCER

Tierra Sin Fin '17	Accordion, Vocals, Percussion	Los Nahuatlantos
Jámas Inquietos '18	Accordion, Vocals, Percussion	Los Nahuatlantos
HEB Body Adventure	Spanish Voice-Over	Witte Museum

TRAINING AND OTHER SKILLS

UW-Madison Drama Study, 2yrs; Grupo Animo founding member (GCAC youth theater company) '93-'98; Jump-Start Apprenticeship '01-'02; YMCA Youth worker (certified) '01-'03; Accordionist 25 yrs., '97); Percussionist 10 yrs.; proficient Spanish speaker; performance poet; popular education facilitator; movement workshop with Sara Shelton Mann, '07; performance workshop with Guillermo Gomez-Peña, '01, '02; NALAC Leadership Institute Alumni '16

EDUCATION

1997 Bilingual Bicultural & Radio Television Film Magnet Programs | Brackenridge High School
1998- 2000 Theater Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Available Upon Request