



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ROUND HOUSE THEATRE KICKS OFF SEASON WITH REGIONAL
PREMIERE & SPIRITED ADAPTATION OF *DON QUIXOTE***

QUIXOTE NUEVO

**FEATURING TEJANO MUSIC, BILINGUAL
WORDPLAY & PUPPETRY**

September 8 – October 3 in Reopened Round House Theatre

Bethesda, Md. (August 17, 2021) – Round House Theatre begins its 2021-2022 Season with *Quixote Nuevo*, written by celebrated playwright **Octavio Solis** and directed by **Lisa Portes**. *Quixote Nuevo* runs September 8 – October 3, 2021. Press night is Monday, September 13, 2021. **Please see below for complete program details and ticket information.**

“Make room for *Quixote Nuevo*,” raves *The Boston Globe*. Following a full season of virtual productions in 2020-2021, Round House Theatre reopens with the regional premiere of *Quixote Nuevo* by celebrated playwright **Octavio Solis**. This inspired contemporary adaptation reimagines Miguel de Cervantes’ beloved knight Don Quixote as a brilliant professor battling the onset of dementia whose fantasies take center stage in a Texas border town. Along with his trusty sidekick, this modern-day Quixote journeys through the desert, tilting at patrol drones instead of windmills as he searches for his long-lost love.

Acclaimed director **Lisa Portes** brings this bittersweet and riotously funny production to life on stage. “Since March 2020, death has really been chasing us as a nation,” says Portes. “It is a tremendous honor to bring this story to a community of people who are looking for transformation. I am excited and moved to work on this piece.”

Filled with lively Tejano music, bilingual wordplay, and puppetry, the highly theatrical season opener exemplifies Round House’s commitment to producing works that tell vital stories. “We can’t wait to welcome audiences back with a show filled with theatricality and magic,” says **Round House Theatre Artistic Director Ryan Rilette**. “*Quixote Nuevo* will remind audiences who have been hungry for live theatre’s return of all that’s great about our art form.”

The cast includes **Raúl Cardona** (*Zuit Suit* at Center Theatre Group), **Jyline Carranza** (*Miss You Like Hell* at Olney Theatre Center), **Ernie González, Jr.** (previously seen at La MaMa and Creative Place Theatre), **Adelina Mitchell** (*Gun & Powder* at Signature Theatre and *The Last Five Years* at Constellation Theatre Company), **Sarita Ocón** (*Quixote Nuevo* and *Everybody* at Cal Shakes), **Peter Pasco** (*Twenty50* at Denver Center for the Performing Arts and *Brain Problems* at Pico Playhouse), **Isabel Quintero** (*The Roommate* at Renaissance Theaterworks and *In the Heights* at Porchlight Music Theatre), **Lawrence Redmond** (*Miss You Like Hell* at Olney Theatre Center), and **Herbert Siguenza** (co-founder of Culture Clash; previously seen at Arena Stage and the Kennedy Center).

The all-Latinx cast is joined by a dynamic creative team that includes Dialect Coach **Cynthia DeCure**, Dramaturg and Round House Theatre Associate Artist for New Plays **Naysan Mojjani**, Scenic Designer **Milagros Ponce de León**, Costume and Puppet Designer **Helen Huang**, Lighting Designer **Alberto Segarra**, Composer and Sound Designer **David R. Molina**, and Resident Stage Manager **Che Wernsman**.

Tickets may be purchased by calling 240.644.1100 or ordered online at RoundHouseTheatre.org. Round House Theatre is located at 4545 East-West Highway, one block from Wisconsin Avenue and the Bethesda station on Metro's Red Line.

ARTIST INFORMATION

Octavio Solis (Playwright) is a playwright and director whose works *Mother Road*, *Quixote Nuevo*, *Hole in the Sky*, *Alicia's Miracle*, *Se Llama Cristina*, John Steinbeck's *The Pastures of Heaven*, *Ghosts of the River*, *Quixote*, *Lydia*, *June in a Box*, *Lethe*, *Marfa Lights*, *Gibraltar*, *The Ballad of Pancho and Lucy*, *The 7 Visions of Encarnación*, *Bethlehem*, *Dreamlandia*, *El Otro*, *Man of the Flesh*, *Prospect*, *El Paso Blue*, *Santos & Santos*, and *La Posada Mágica* have been mounted at California Shakespeare Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Yale Repertory Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Dallas Theater Center, Magic Theatre, The Alley Theater, Arena Stage, Hartford Stage, Huntington Theatre Company, Intersection for the Arts, South Coast Repertory Theatre, San Diego Repertory Theatre, San Jose Repertory Theatre, ShadowLight Productions, Venture Theatre in Philadelphia, Latino Chicago Theatre Company, Boston Court and Kitchen Dog Theatre, the New York Summer Play Festival, Teatro Vista in Chicago, El Teatro Campesino, Undermain Theatre in Dallas, Thick Description, Campo Santo, The Imua! Theatre Company in New York, and Cornerstone Theatre. His collaborative works include *Cloudlands*, with music by Adam Gwon; *Burning Dreams*, co-written with Julie Hebert and Gina Leishman; and *Shiner*, written with Erik Ehn. Notable achievements include an NEA 1995-97 Playwriting Fellowship, the Roger L. Stevens Award from the Kennedy Center, the Will Glickman Playwright Award, a production grant from the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays, the 1998 TCG/NEA Theatre Artists in Residence Grant, the 1998 McKnight Fellowship Grant from the Playwrights Center in Minneapolis, and the National Latino Playwriting Award for 2003. Octavio is the recipient of the 2000-2001 National Theatre Artists Residency Grant from Theatre Communications Group and the Pew Charitable Trust, the United States Artists Fellowship for 2011, and the 2014 PEN Center USA Award for Drama. He is a Thornton Wilder Fellow for the MacDowell Colony, New Dramatists alum, and member of the

Dramatists Guild. He is working on commissions for Arena Stage, La Jolla Playhouse, SF Playhouse, and South Coast Repertory Theatre.

Lisa Portes (Director) is honored to be making her Round House debut with *Quixote Nuevo*. Other DC area credits include *Miss You Like Hell* by Quiara Alegría Hudes and Erin McKeown at Olney Theatre; *Kudzu: A Southern Musical* by Doug Marlette, Jack Herrick, and Mike Craver, and *Eleanor: An American Love Story* by Jonathon Bolt, Tom Tierney, and John Forster at Ford's Theatre; and *How to Bake an Apple Pie and See the World* by Wendy McLeod and Michael Silversher at the Kennedy Center. A Chicago-based director, she has created work for Steppenwolf Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Victory Gardens, Timeline Theatre, American Blues, Silk Road Rising, Next Theatre, and Teatro Vista. Regionally, Lisa has directed projects for California Shakespeare Theatre, Guthrie Theatre, The Denver Center, Cincinnati Playhouse, Children's Theatre Company, and South Coast Rep. New York credits include productions at Playwrights Horizons and Soho Rep, and developmental work at New York Theatre Workshop, The Flea Theatre, and The Public Theatre. Recent projects include *The Thanksgiving Play* by Larissa Fasthorse at Cincinnati Playhouse; *Rightlynd* by Ike Holter at Victory Gardens; *I Come from Arizona* by Carlos Murillo at Children's Theatre Company; and *Native Gardens* by Karen Zacarías at The Denver Center. Lisa is a co-founder and current Advisory Committee member of the Latinx Theatre Commons. She serves on the Executive Board of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), the Board of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), and is a member of the Directors Circle of the Drama League. In 2016, she was honored with the Zelda Fichandler Award for Directors. Lisa heads the MFA Directing Program at The Theatre School at DePaul University in Chicago, where she lives with her husband, playwright Carlos Murillo and their two teenagers, Eva Rose and Carlos Alejandro. Upcoming projects include *Quixote Nuevo* at Denver Center Theatre and *Clean* by Christine Quintana at South Coast Rep. <https://www.lisaportes.com/>

Jesse J. Sanchez (Music Director) is a playwright, composer, and music director. He is a sought-after collaborator in theatre, opera, TV, and film. Jesse is currently in residence as Producing

Music Supervisor for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, a Tony Award-winning organization that stands as one of the preeminent destinations for American regional theatre. He has music directed in professional theaters across the country, including Round House Theatre, Denver Center, Hartford Stage, Alley Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, American Conservatory Theater, Huntington Theatre Company, Arizona Theatre Company, Theatreworks Silicon Valley, and many more. He served as music assistant on the first national tour of *Hamilton* and the world premiere of *The Prince of Egypt* at Theatreworks SV. Over the course of his career, he has worked with Stephen Schwartz, Alex Lacamoire, Greg Anthony Rassen, Paul Scott Goodman, AnnMarie Milazzo, Michael Starobin, Dominick Ammendum, and countless others. His works have been heard nationally at O’Neill Music Theatre Conference, FOGG Theatre SF, Arizona Theatre Company, Huntington Theatre Company, Hartford Stage, Alley Theatre, and University of Texas at Austin, among others. His writing works have been performed or developed coast to coast at the Boston Lyric Opera, New York Theatre Barn, Arizona Theatre Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Choreography Lab, The 24 Hour Plays: Viral Monologues, The Green Room 42, Arizona State University, and The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts. He has contributed as a songwriter in multiple writing rooms for Netflix and is currently developing a new musical with the band Chicago, commissioned by the Arizona Theatre Company, in partnership with BMG Music Group. Jesse received the 2021 National Alliance for Musical Theatre Frank Young Development Grant for his musical, *Sueños*. In 2018, he was recognized on the “People to Watch” list by *American Theatre* magazine and nominated for an educator Grammy in 2014. Other notable achievements include being a finalist for his plays and musicals at the National Alliance for Musical Theatre Conference and a semi-finalist for the O’Neill National Music Theater Conference and Bay Area Playwrights Festival. www.jessejsanchez.com

CAST INFORMATION (ALPHABETICAL)

Raúl Cardona (Papa Calaca/Trucker/Vivaldo/Viedma/Cardenio) is excited to be making his East Coast debut at Round House Theatre with *Quixote Nuevo*. His theatrical credits include *Zoot Suit* at Center Theatre Group; *August 29th* at Los Angeles Theatre Center; *Trumpus Caesar* and

Brown Buffalo at Company of Angels; *Zoot Suit*, *Restless Spirits*, *Corridos Remix*, *Mummified Deer* and *Bandido! The American Melodrama of Tiburcio Vasquez* at San Diego Repertory Theatre; and *Zoot Suit*, *La Pastorela*, *La Virgen Del Tepeyac* and *Mundo Mata* at El Teatro Campesino. National touring credits include *Selena Forever* and *Veteranos: A Legacy of Valor*. Film and television credits include Bob Dylan's *Shadow Kingdom*, Quentin Tarantino's *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*, and *Mayans M.C.*

Jyline Carranza (Antonia/Inez Castillo) is excited to make her debut at Round House Theatre! She graduated in May 2021 with a bachelor's degree in music from the Catholic University of America. Previous credits include *Miss You Like Hell* at Olney Theatre Center; *Be More Chill* at Monumental Theatre Company; and *9 to 5* at the Catholic University of America.

Ernie González, Jr. (Sancho Panza/Manny Diaz) is ecstatic to make his Round House Theatre debut in an Octavio Solis play! Ernie has performed in theatres across the country, including La MaMa, Creative Place Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Second City Chicago – BrownCo, Victory Gardens Theater, Porthouse Theatre, and Odyssey Theatre. As a company member at Ohio Shakespeare Festival, he has performed as numerous Shakespearean clowns, including Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Touchstone in *As You Like It*, both Dromios in *The Comedy of Errors*, and Costard in *Love's Labour's Lost*, to name a few. Select TV credits include *Euphoria* on HBO, *Indebted* on NBC, *Carol's Second Act* and *Training Day* on CBS, *One Day at a Time* and *Grace and Frankie* on Netflix, *Alone Together* on Freeform, and *No Tomorrow* on The CW, as well as national commercials for Sonic, Rite Aid, Lowes, and Nopalina.

www.AllAboutErnie.com

Adelina Mitchell (Rosario/Juana) is thrilled to make her Round House Theatre debut with *Quixote Nuevo!* DC credits include *Gun & Powder* at Signature Theatre; *The Last Five Years* and *Little Shop of Horrors* at Constellation Theatre Company; *Head Over Heels* at Monumental Theatre Company; and *Sesame Street Sing-Along* at the Kennedy Center. Adelina is a graduate of George Mason University. www.adelinamitchell.com | @adelinamitchell

Sarita Ocón (Dr. Campos/Dulcinea) is thrilled to be part of *Quixote Nuevo* at Round House Theatre. Regional credits include the world premiere of *Quixote Nuevo*, *Everybody*, *The War of the Roses*, and *Twelfth Night* at Cal Shakes; *Men on Boats* at American Conservatory Theater; *The River Bride* at Arizona Theatre Company; *Quixote Nuevo* at Huntington Theatre; *The Copper Children* at Oregon Shakespeare Festival; *The Crucible*, *Leaving Eden*, and *The Life of Galileo* at PlayMakers Repertory; *PLACAS* at Puerto Rican Traveling Theater, Los Angeles Theatre Center, GALA Hispanic Theatre, South Coast Rep, and Su Teatro; and *Ghosts of the River* at Brava Theater and Teatro Visión. Awards and notable achievements include a TCG Fox Foundation Resident Actor Fellowship, Center for Cultural Innovation *Investing in Artists* Award, California Arts Council *Local Impact* Award, and RHE Charitable Foundation Artistic Fellowship.

Peter Pasco (Bruno Castillo/Terrified Boy/Yard Sale Guy/Young Quijano)

Isabel Quintero (Magdalena/Perla) is beyond delighted to make her debut with Round House Theatre's production of *Quixote Nuevo*. Regional credits include *The Roommate* at Renaissance Theaterworks. Chicago credits include *In the Heights* at Porchlight Music Theater; *Yasmina's Necklace*, *The Sins of Sor Juana*, *Boleros for the Disenchanted*, and *Blood Wedding/Al Son que Me Toques Lorca* at Goodman Theatre; *Living Large in a Mini Kind of Way*, *Quita Mitos* at Teatro Luna; *Yerma*, *Sarita*, and *Detroya* at Halcyon Theatre. Isabel self-produced *La Osa Menor*, an album project she began in 2011 with singer/musician Gonzalo Córdova, based on her father's Spanish poetry and set to Córdova's original Latin and Colombian music. It was performed with storytelling and guest musicians at Steppenwolf's 1700 Theater. She will continue to workshop it into a full musical. <https://www.laosamenoralbum.com/>

Lawrence Redmond (Padre Perez/Big Man with Belt/Border Patrolman) is humbled to join this company of great artists at Round House Theatre. A born and bred Washingtonian, his mother, Juana Mercedes Betancourt was in the Cuban Diplomatic Corps and served in the Organization

of American States. He is ecstatic to be reunited with Director Lisa M. Portes and Jyline Carranza, who he previously worked with in *Miss You Like Hell* at Olney Theatre Center.

Herbert Siguenza (Don Quixote/Jose Quijano) is thrilled to be making his debut at Round House Theatre. Herbert is a founding member of Culture Clash, the California-based Chicano performance group. Since 1984, Culture Clash has performed original plays in the nation's top regional theatres, including Arena Stage, the Kennedy Center, the Mark Taper Forum, Huntington Stage, Berkeley Rep, Yale Rep, and Alley Theatre. He is currently Playwright in Residence at the San Diego Repertory Theatre through the Andrew W. Mellon National Playwright Residency Program. Herbert's playwrighting credits include *A Weekend with Pablo Picasso* and adaptations of classics including *El Henry*, *Manifest Destinitis*, and *Bad Hombres/Good Wives*. Film credits include *Larry Crowne*, directed by Tom Hanks, and Pixar's Oscar-winning animation *Coco*.

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Quixote Nuevo

By Octavio Solis

Directed by Lisa M. Portes

CAST LIST:

Raúl Cardona as Papa Calaca/Trucker/Vivaldo/Viedma/Cardenio*

Jyline Carranza as Antonia/Inez Castillo*

Ernie González, Jr. as Sancho Panza/Manny Diaz*

Adelina Mitchell as Rosario/Juana*

Sarita Ocón as Dr. Campos/Dulcinea*

Peter Pasco as Bruno Castillo/Terrified Boy/Yard Sale Guy/Young Quijano*

Isabel Quintero as Magdalena/Perla*

Lawrence Redmond as Padre Perez/Big Man with Belt/Border Patrolman

Herbert Siguenza as Don Quixote/Jose Quijano

**Round House Theatre debut*

WHERE:

Round House Theatre, 4545 East-West Highway in Bethesda (one block from Wisconsin Avenue and Metro's Bethesda station). For directions, parking, and public transportation info, visit

RoundHouseTheatre.org/Your-Visit/Getting-Here.

ABOUT THE PLAY:

“Make room for *Quixote Nuevo*,” raves *The Boston Globe*. This inspired adaptation—set to the spirited sounds of Tejano music—reimagines Cervantes’ beloved knight Don Quixote as a brilliant, bilingual professor whose fantasies take center stage in a Texas border town. Along with his trusty sidekick, this modern-day Quixote journeys through the desert, tilting at patrol drones instead of windmills as he searches for long-lost love. With humor and pageantry, *Quixote Nuevo* breathes new life into one of literature’s most vibrant characters to ask the classic question: when times are tough, how do we keep dreaming?

DATES AND TIMES:

Quixote Nuevo runs from September 8 to October 3, 2021. Performances are Tuesday through Thursday at 7:30 pm, Friday and Saturdays at 8:00 pm, and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:00 pm.

TICKETS:

Tickets can be purchased by calling 240.644.1100 or ordering online at RoundHouseTheatre.org. Available ticket discounts include:

- Free Play – free tickets for students ages 13 through college:
Round House Theatre’s Free Play initiative ties into our greater strategy to develop theatre audiences of tomorrow by providing rich, meaningful arts experiences today. For more information, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/FreePlay or email Education@RoundHouseTheatre.org.
- On the House – community ticket access program: Round House’s next step to remove barriers that can make it difficult for some members of our community to experience our work is On the House, which provides complimentary group tickets to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and community-serving organizations with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor. For more information, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/OnThe-House or email Community@RoundHouseTheatre.org.

- Pay-What-You-Can performances: Wednesday, September 8 at 2 pm, and Saturday, September 11 at 2:00 pm. PWYC tickets go on sale online or by phone only (no walk-up sales) beginning one week before the first performance of each show. The patron decides the admission price. Limit of two tickets per order. PWYC tickets are subject to availability.
- Blue Star Theatre Program: Active duty military personnel, veterans, and their immediate family qualify for a \$10 discount off the single ticket price. Learn more at RoundHouseTheatre.org/On-Stage/Tickets.
- 2-For-1 Tuesday: For our Tuesday, September 21 and 28 performances, all seats are buy one, get one free. 2-for-1 Tuesday tickets are available online or by phone (240.644.1100) with promo code TWOFORONE beginning one week before the first performance of each show. Discounts may not be combined. Not valid on previously purchased tickets.
- Group Sales: Groups of 10 or more can save 10% off the single ticket price and are exempt from single ticket fees. These tickets must be reserved and purchased in advance by calling 240.644.1100 or emailing GroupSales@RoundHouseTheatre.org.

ROUND HOUSE THEATRE VACCINE AND MASK REQUIREMENTS

Patrons must present a photo ID and show proof that they meet the CDC definition of being fully vaccinated* at the time of entry to into the theatre. Patrons may display proof of vaccination with a physical or digital copy of their vaccination card. (Round House is currently investigating additional digital options for providing proof of vaccination and will communicate any updates with patrons).

Masks will also be required for all guests, regardless of vaccination status, except while eating or drinking in the lobby café area.

Guests who are exempt from vaccination (including children under 12, people with certain medical conditions preventing vaccination, or those with closely held religious beliefs that

prevent vaccination) must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 48 hours of the performance start time.

NOTE: This policy is in effect through December 2021, although we will review current circumstances and CDC and local government recommendations in October to determine whether the mandate may be lifted or extended.

Additional health and safety information may be found at RoundHouseTheatre.org/Safety.

**"Fully vaccinated" means that either 14 days have passed since receiving the second dose of FDA or WHO authorized double-dose vaccines or that 14 days have passed since receiving the sole dose of FDA or WHO authorized single-dose vaccines.*

ABOUT ROUND HOUSE THEATRE

Round House Theatre is one of the leading professional theatres in the Washington, DC area, producing a season of new plays, modern classics, and musicals for more than 40,000 patrons each year at our theatre in Bethesda. Round House has been nominated for 197 Helen Hayes Awards and has won 37, including four Outstanding Resident Play Awards and the Charles MacArthur Award for Original New Play in 2016. Round House's lifelong learning and education programs serve more than 5,000 students each year at its Education Center in Silver Spring, in schools throughout Montgomery County, and at our Bethesda theatre. Cornerstone programs include Free Play, which provides free tickets for students age 13-college, the Teen Performance Company, which culminates in the student-produced Sarah Metzger Memorial Play, Summer Camp for students in grades K-12, and a full slate of classes for adults and youth.

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