



RENAISSANCE CITY REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS

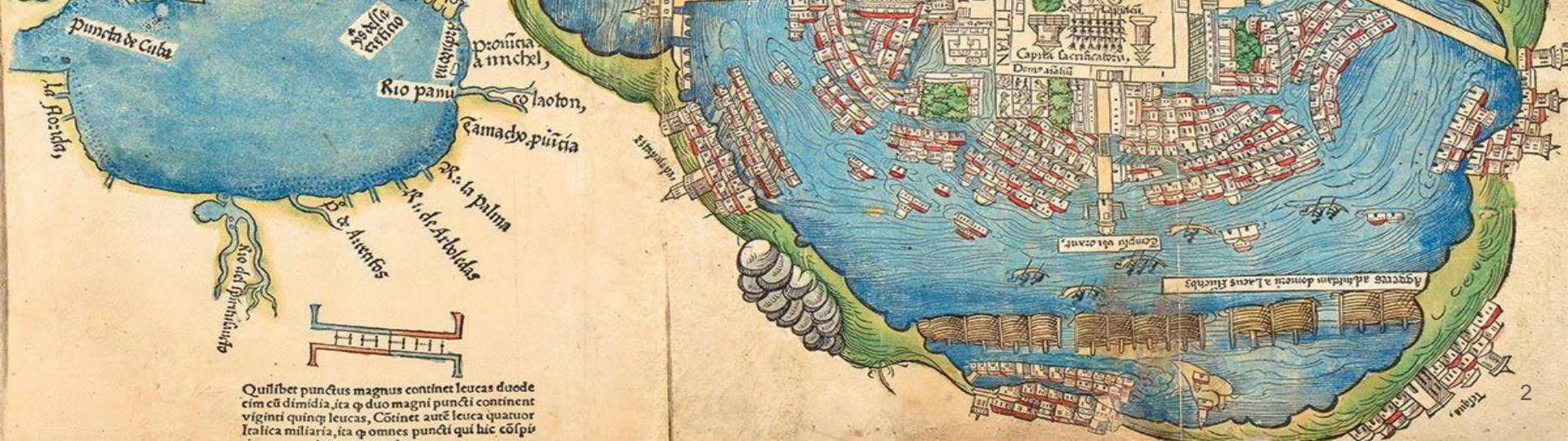
MARTIAL CHANT

BY SOFÍA MÉNDEZ RAMÍREZ
DIRECTED BY OSCAR QUIROZ

VIRTUAL LOBBY DISPLAY & DRAMATURGY BY OLIVIA KIEFER

Res fuerat quondam prestans, & Gloria summa
Orbis subiectus Cesaris Imperio,
Hic longe prestat, cuius nunc Orbis Eous,
Et Nouus, atq; alter panditur Auspitijs.

MARTIAL CHANT: THE CHANT OF A WARRIOR



ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



Sofía Méndez Ramírez was born in Mexico City in 1999. Deeply connected to nature and a lover of animals of all kinds, she is passionate about all forms of art, especially writing and theater. At thirteen, with a teacher's encouragement, she transitioned from journaling to fiction and discovered her love for theater, both acting and writing. She has spoken at two major book fairs in Mexico City and received an honorable mention in the 2022 Frostic Awards at Western Michigan University. Sofía recently earned her MFA in Creative Writing from Western Michigan University and is currently awaiting the publication of a play (*Abuelita Likes Blue*) in Kinsman's Quarterly and a short story (*Nadir Tears*) on the Humans of the World website.

“I’d like the audience to reflect on their role in society. I want to encourage them to feel empowered to speak. More broadly, I want them to reflect on what “voice” means to them.”

Q: WHAT DO YOU WANT THE AUDIENCE TO TAKE AWAY FROM THIS STORY?

“[Reflect on] how their interactions with others are influenced by social factors and childhood trauma, and how their bodies have hidden certain experiences.”

– **Sofía Méndez Ramírez**



BODY-TERRITORY FEMINISM

“The concept was first introduced by the Maya-Xinka communitarian feminist **Lorena Cabnal** (2010) to refer to the gendered *interconnections* between Indigenous *bodies and lands* as pivotal sites, battlefields or “territories” of colonial control, extraction, and exploitation and anticolonial resistance.”

If a body is already seen as submissive or “less than” just because of its geographical location and perceived gender, how does one combat the conquering of oneself?



FEMICIDE IN MEXICO

Mexico has one of the highest rates of femicide in the world with 3% of murder victims classified as femicide.

According to Visions of Humanity, the violence against women comes from deeply rooted machismo and social-norms that perpetuate violence against women.

“The two violent crime sub-indicators of the Mexico Peace Index most associated with violence against women are sexual assault and family violence. The official rates of these two sub-indicators have more than doubled in the past decade.”

7 in 10 women over the age of 15 report experiencing some sort of **violence** in their lifetime.

“While femicides are usually included in female homicide figures, not all female homicides can be considered femicides. The murder of a woman or girl is considered gender-based and included in femicide statistics when one of seven criteria is met, including evidence of sexual violence prior to the victim’s death; a sentimental, affective or trusting relationship with the perpetrator; or the victim’s body being displayed in public. At present, about one in four female killings in Mexico is classified as a femicide.”



TAKING UP SPACE THROUGH ART

“Pairs of women's red shoes, put on display by Mexican visual artist Elina Chauvet to protest against femicide, gender-based violence. Chauvet's installation was held at Zocalo square in Mexico City on Jan. 11, 2020.”



“Elina Chauvet’s red shoes are worldly. They’ve been in Milan, Italy, and Grand Rapids, Michigan. Not just one pair, but hundreds — red boots, red heels, red toddler shoes. They’re not there to see the sights, but to take up space. Especially when the women or girls who would have worn them no longer take up any space, except in the lives of their loved ones.”

– Joshua Barajas for *PBS*



SCAN ME



“Cruces X Rosas is a Civil Association that promotes women's rights in Latin America, with content that facilitates the deconstruction of our community, denormalizing the violence that is observed in different areas of our lives.”



SCAN ME



Haven is a sexual assault counselling and safe haven for women. It is located in Pontiac, Michigan.

Mission: Empower survivors to heal and engage all individuals and communities to address and prevent sexual assault and intimate partner violence.



Tell us about a moment you felt you found
your voice.

OR

Tell us about a moment your voice was
taken from you.

<https://forms.gle/ZaALtYRP3AqA4PgG9>