



Crowded Fire Theater

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Press Page: www.crowdedfire.org/press/

**Crowded Fire Theater presents the West Coast Premiere of
Isaac Gómez's
THE DISPLACED**

September 10-October 2, 2021

at the POTRERO STAGE

1695 18th St, San Francisco

(press opening Friday, September 17)

San Francisco, CA; August 20, 2021 - Crowded Fire Theater (CFT) Announcing Crowded Fire's return to in-person theatre with the West Coast Premiere of THE DISPLACED by Isaac Gómez, directed by CFT Artistic Director Mina Morita, with Associate Director Karina Gutiérrez, and featuring Jordan Maria Don and Troy Rockett. Crowded Fire is thrilled to welcome our community of theater lovers back in-person to the Potrero Stage with this visceral, gleeful, terror-filled feast exploring gentrification and displacement.

Marisa and Lev, a couple whose rocky relationship is already clouded by ghosts of the past, are moving into a historic Chicago apartment when a dark and mysterious message appears. Soon, the couple is united in -- and divided by -- terror, as the previous tenants make their pain known. Gomez's funny, razor-sharp script questions who is complicit in an act that leaves deep scars on homes and communities.

From Directors Mina Morita and Karina Gutiérrez, "There's this feeling when you're able to lose yourself in a horror show, your adrenaline pumping and breathless laughter shaking loose. We keep talking about how this play is a feast, a gleeful, terror-filled, feast for the senses. We could not imagine a better way to come back to live theater, to get our hearts pumping in unison again in response to what's up on stage. At the same time, the themes of displacement and gentrification are still very much present in the Bay area. Every media-frenzied 'exodus from San Francisco!!' that we've seen in our lifetime ends up feeling like a gold rush, with outsiders swooping in to snap up the best house and apartment deals they can find. For those of us still trying to hang on, despite diminished employment opportunities -- or for those of us swooping in, trying to make the most of the moment -- this show's themes are going to be important to talk about right now."

Directors Morita and Gutiérrez will lead this two-hander featuring Jordan Maria Don as Marisa and Troy Rockett as Lev. Designers and the creative team include Carlos Aceves (scenic design), Alice Ruiz (costume design), Stephanie Anne Johnson (lighting design), Christopher Saucedo (sound design), Jenny Cedillos (props design), Devon LaBelle (special effects design), Maya Herbsman

(intimacy choreography), Carla Pantoja (fight choreography), Toni Guidry (stage manager), and Mylo Cardona (assistant stage manager).

Producing in the time of COVID means that public safety is at the top of our mind. In addition to the city-regulated mask mandates, we have additional spacing, limited capacities, and vaccine requirements. A video-on-demand option will be available for those who find themselves unable to join in person. In addition, all tickets for this production will be pay-what-you-can, recognizing the many ways that the extended shutdown has financially impacted our community. View our full COVID safety plan [here](#).

THE DISPLACED runs at the Potrero Stage, 1695 18th Street in San Francisco September 10 through October 2 (press opening Friday, September 17). Cast photos available at <http://www.crowdedfire.org/press/> and <http://www.crowdedfire.org/displaced/>

BIOS:

Isaac Gómez (playwright, he/him) is an award-winning Chicago and Los Angeles based playwright and screenwriter originally from El Paso, Texas/Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. He is currently under commission with LCT3, Steppenwolf Theater Company, South Coast Repertory, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, and IAMA Theatre Company. His plays have been produced and/or developed by Audible Theater, Steppenwolf Theater Company, Primary Stages, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Goodman Theatre, the Alley Theatre, and many others. He is the recipient of the 2018 Dramatists Guild Lanford Wilson Award, the 2017 Jeffrey Melnick New Playwright Award at Primary Stages, an inaugural 3Arts “Make A Wave” grantee. His television credits include the Netflix Original Series Narcos: Mexico, Kings of America on Netflix, and is currently working on upcoming Apple TV+ Limited Series The Last Thing He Told Me. On the feature side, he is currently under development with a full-length feature at Focus Features. He enjoys good bowls of menudo on Sundays (con bolillos not tortillas, porfis) and can slay a game of millennial loteria. He is represented by The Gersh Agency, ReDefine Entertainment, and Granderson Des Rochers, LLP.

Mina Morita (director, she/her) A celebrated new plays director, she has worked at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Magic Theatre, Center REpertory Company, American Conservatory Theater, Campo Santo, Shotgun Players, Playwrights Foundation, TheatreFirst, Ferocious Lotus, Bay Area Children’s Theatre, Berkeley Playhouse, and Crowded Fire with such creators as Anna Deavere Smith, Star Finch, J.C. Lee, Christopher Chen, Lauren Gunderson, Philip Kan Gotanda, Young Jean Lee, Idris Goodwin, Susan Soon He Stanton, Lloyd Suh, Dave Harris, Amelia Roper, Adam Chanzit, Sean San Jose, Min Kahng, Wes Nisker, and Dustin Chinn. She is a recipient of Theatre Bay Area’s [TBA] Outstanding Direction of a Musical in 2014 and nominated by TBA for Outstanding Direction of a Play in 2017, as well as Shellie Awards Best Director in 2018.

Previously, she served as the Artistic Associate at Berkeley Repertory Theatre and its center for the creation and development of new work, The Ground Floor. She has also served as Board President of Shotgun Players; as a 2014 Lincoln Center Director’s Lab participant; as one of the founding members of Bay Area Children’s Theatre; as panelist with the Zellerbach Family

Foundation, San Francisco Arts Commission, and Hewlett Foundation; panelist for the Getty Leadership Summit; lead facilitator for the Lotus Playwriting Retreat with Playwriting Australia; and Guest Artist at UC Berkeley and Stanford University. In 2016, TBA awarded her the 40@40 distinction for her impact on Bay Area Theater. In 2015, Mina was honored to share her story on TEDx, and in 2016, she was chosen as one of the YBCA100, for “asking questions and making provocations that will shape the future of culture.”

Karina Gutiérrez (associate director, she/her) is a Bay Area-based actor, director, dramaturg, and scholar. She has previously directed projects for Bay Area Children’s Theatre, The Playwright’s Foundation, and Stanford University. Gutiérrez’s upcoming projects include: *To the Bone* by Lisa Ramirez (Santa Clara University, and *Dream Hou\$e* by Eliana Pipes (Shotgun Players). She is currently an Assistant Professor of Multicultural Theatre History and Performance Studies at Santa Clara University. Like her artistic practice, her scholarly work concentrates on the intersection of politics and performance, social justice, with a focus on new Latinx works.

CAST:

Jordan Maria Don (Marisa, she/her) is a California based actor, director and collaborator who splits her time between Los Angeles and the Bay Area. She has worked both on and off stage with San Francisco Playhouse, foolsFURY, Ragged Wing Ensemble, Crowded Fire Theater, TheaterFIRST and is a familia member with Campo Santo and Latinx Mafia. With a particular interest in new works, she is drawn to collaborative, ensemble centered processes grounded in ritual, ceremony and community. When not on stage or on set, she works in the business of communication, empathy and human connection, carrying her dramatic training into the professional and educational world. Jordan is deeply dedicated to self-actualization and living her full truth, she makes sure to dedicate time to her guitar, dance, travel, health, and fitness. She holds a B.A. in Sociology and Theater from the University of California, Berkeley and has trained with American Conservatory Theater. She is a proud Xicana from East Los Angeles where her heart remains with her Don and Martinez familia. She dedicates this work to her brother, Christopher Paul Don, whose spirit has been with her every step of the way.

Troy Rockett (Lev, he/they) is a multidisciplinary artist and theatre maker based in Oakland, CA. Troy works across the mediums of poetry, performance and visual art to interrogate notions of self and relationship. He has a Master’s in English Literature and Creative Writing, and is a VONA Voices Fellow, an Astraea Lesbian Writer’s Fund recipient, and a 2021 Titan Award winner with Theatre Bay Area. His interest in a career in acting was sparked during a film and production intensive with Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project. Since then he has partnered with the innovative and ritualistic spaces of Bay Area’s black box theaters to deepen his commitment to radical storytelling. Outside of being thrilled to be part of the great vision and leadership at Crowded Fire Theater, Troy’s play, *Bold Fade*, is being developed by 3Girls Theatre Company. Finally, he is a company member with Queer Cat Productions where he is producing the company’s first commissioned artist.

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For Calendar Editors:

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directed by Mina Morita and Karina Gutiérrez

September 10-October 2 (Press Opening September 17)

Potrero Stage, 1695 18th Street, San Francisco

PERFORMANCES:

Wed-Sat 8 PM with Special Opening Night Performance on Friday, September 17, 8PM
and Sunday Matinees at 2pm on September 19 and 26.

(no performance Sunday, September 12)

Tickets: Pay-What-You-Can

Tickets: Visit www.crowdedfire.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

Box Office by phone (415) 523-0034 ext 1

www.crowdedfire.org or (415) 523-0034 ext 0

Cast photos available at <http://www.crowdedfire.org/press/> and
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