



***Braided Sorrow***

By Marisela Treviño Orta

Directed by Natalie Villamonte Zito

*Please be advised that this performance includes the use of theatrical fog/haze, explicit language, staged violence and sexual assault, and references to violence against women.*

February 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 2023 - 8:00pm

February 5, 2023 - 2:00pm

David Thayer Theatre, UI Theatre Building

In the Mexican border city of Juárez, Alma has newly arrived to take a job in an American-owned factory in order to help her family survive by sending money back to her parents and helping to provide for her brother and pregnant sister-in-law. At sixteen years old, Alma is shocked by the dangers of the city—the femicides and disappearances—lurking outside the factory’s walls, until she is visited by La Llorona. In Marisela Treviño Orta’s (MFA '18) poetic *Braided Sorrow*, Alma is set on a treacherous journey calling on her bravery to end the unnatural nightmares of Juárez.

*A special thanks to Maria Bruno, Adam Robinson, and Katryn Duarte.*

## Spanish Translation Guide

"¿Qué estás haciendo?" What are you doing?  
"¿Estás segura?" Are you sure?  
"Dolor es" Pain is  
"maquila/maquiladora" factory  
"Doña" high class lady/Mrs.  
"mocosa" snot face  
"entiendes?" understand?  
"La Fábula de la Sirena y los Borrachos"  
The Fable of the Mermaid and the Drunkards  
"pueblo" town  
"chisme" gossip  
"Como que" How so?/how come?  
"Fíjate" Notice  
"Que sí" Well, yes  
"¿Que pasó" What happened?  
"Una espina" a cactus needle  
"Cuidate" Be careful  
"en una maquiladora" in a factory  
"gringos" White Americans/U.S. citizen  
"¿Te acuerdas" Remember  
"madre de Dios" Mother of God  
"N'ombre" No way man  
"niñita" Little girl  
"Pues" Well  
"Gracias a Dios" Thank the Lord  
"camiseta" blouse  
"familia" family  
"¡Eso! Feliz cumpleaños" There you go!  
Happy birthday  
"frijoles" Beans  
"Nos vemos" We'll see each other later  
"Que le vaya bien" Hope things go well  
"¿Tia?" Auntie?  
"Sí mi'jita" Yes, my daughter  
"te juro" I swear to you  
"tortas" Mexican hot sandwich  
"Caparúsita" Little Red Riding Hood  
"Dále" Do it!  
"que bonito" How lovely  
"cabrón" Bastard/dumbass  
"pinché día" fucking day

"pendéjo" Dickhead/asshole  
"Órale" Exclamation expressing approval  
"Hola, nena" Hi baby  
"Cálmate" Calm yourself  
"Oye, mojada" Hey, wet one  
"altares" altars  
"Soy yo" It's me  
"pinché dinero" fucking money  
"corazón" heart  
"La Virgen" The Virgin (Mary)  
"¿Te cortaste?" Did you cut yourself  
"Déjala" Leave her alone  
"Madre purísima" Purest of all Mothers  
"No sé" I don't know  
"comadre" best friend  
"No llores" Don't cry  
"la migra" Immigration officers  
"Los Hermanos Grimm" The Brothers Grimm  
"trenza" braid  
"Esa" This one  
"Pelona" Bald female/no hair

## **BRAIDED SORROW**

**BY MARISELA TREVIÑO ORTA**

**DIRECTED BY NATALIE VILLAMONTE ZITO**

### **CAST**



**Alma | SARA ALVIDREZ\***

Sara Alvidrez is a second-year Theatre Arts major from Illinois. Her previous performances at the University of Iowa include *Smile Medicine* (Angel) and *I Saw You/New Person* (Lucille). Most recently, she assistant directed the gallery performance *rockabye*. Sara is incredibly honored to be a part of this production and highly encourages audience members to check out the dramaturgical display located in the lobby. She would also like to extend the utmost gratitude

to the cast and creative team for their efforts. And lastly, a special s/o to her roommates Sydney and Mia for tolerating her theatrical shenanigans.



**La Llorona | KATHLEEN M. GUERRERO**

Kathleen M. Guerrero is a second-year MFA Acting Candidate from Crystal City, Texas. She is a recent graduate of The University of Texas at Austin's Theatre and Dance Department. Her recent credits include *The Bacchae* directed by Sarah Gazdowicz, *England's Splendid Daughters* by Ann Kreitman, *This Is Life* by Frances Garnett and Kathleen Guerrero, *La Ruta* by Issac Gomez, *Three to Five Days* by Olivia Clement, and much more. She would like to thank her friends,

family, and faculty for helping her get to where she is now. Gracias por todo!

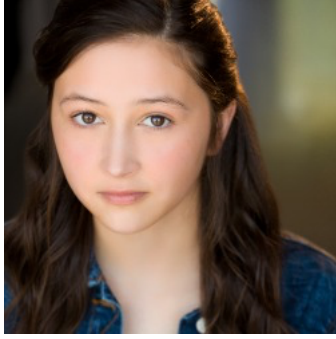


**Carlos | ORLANDO LOPEZ**

Orlando Lopez (he/him/his) is a graduate Acting student at the University of Iowa. Hailing from Hialeah, a suburb of Miami, Orlando completed his BFA in Acting from the University of Central Florida. After receiving his BFA, he worked with the Cherokee Historical Association (Unto These Hills 2019 & 2021), Warner Bros./Rail Events (Polar Express: Ft. Lauderdale), Juggernaut Theatre (*Miami Motel Stories*), and Riverside Theatre (*Henry V*). He thanks his parents and

his friends for their endless support.

\*Undergraduate student. UI Theatre is dedicated to providing hands-on theatre experience for both undergraduate and graduate students.



**Yadria | MADELINE "MADDIE" RODRIGUEZ\***

Madeline Rodriguez (she/her/hers) is a freshman majoring in Theater and Ethics & Public Policy. Originally from Georgetown, Texas, her work and training includes Zach Scott Theater (Austin), Zilker Theater (Austin), Georgetown Palace Theater (Georgetown), and various commercial and independent film projects. In her first semester she played the role of Maria in *Mother:Knife*. She is deeply honored to work on such a meaningful piece alongside this talented cast and creative team. She dedicates this performance to her family from San Luis Potosí.



**Socorro | NAT PAYAN\***

Nat Payan (they/he) is a third-year Theatre Arts student at the University of Iowa. This is their second production at the University of Iowa - their first being *CO/OP* as Carter. In the past, Nat has worked with other theatres including History Boy Theatre Company (*Young Frankenstein*, *Schoolhouse Rock!*) and Greene County Community Players (*Clue: The Musical*, *Bigfoot Monologues*). Nat has loved every single second of this amazing process, and they feel incredibly honored to be involved in delivering such an important message that hits so close to home. They'd also like to thank their castmates and crew for everything they've done to make this show happen.



**Eulalia | DAJZANÉ MEADOWS-SANDERLIN**

Dajzané Meadows-Sanderlin is a second-year MFA actor at the University of Iowa. She received her B.A. in Theater with a concentration in Acting from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. Her most recent productions include *The Bacchae: A Tragedy in One Act* (from Kneehigh Theatre), *BLKS*, *Gwenevere*, and *Three to Five Days*. Dajzané would like to thank the cast and crew for this wonderful process and her family and friends for their support and love!



**Señor Fillmore/Chorus | JOHAN AVILA\***

Hello there, I'm a pizza chef from NYC, pursuing Computer Science at the University of Iowa. I enjoy all forms of arts, including writing, sketching, painting, and of course, theater. During the summers, I work as a camp counselor teaching kids how to make all sorts of food. Inspired by *Little Shop of Horrors* to take on theater, I hope to be able to do more productions once I graduate! I don't want to be a big star, I'd simply be more than happy doing more local productions and seeing where it takes me.

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**Officer/Chorus/Carlos understudy | LUIS AVALOS\***

Luis Avalos is a first-year student at the University of Iowa from Tama, Iowa. He is currently pursuing his degree in Communication Studies and Theatre Arts on the musical theatre track. While at the University of Iowa, he has also performed as the Confectioner in *rockabye*. Some of his favorite past productions include *Into the Woods*, *Noises Off!*, and *M\*A\*S\*H*. He would like to thank the cast and production team for giving him this opportunity and for the journey that they

shared with this show.



**Chorus | JASON VERNON\***

Jason Vernon is in his first year at the University of Iowa with a major in Theatre Arts and minor in Spanish. This is Jason's second production with the University of Iowa Theatre Department; he was first seen in *The Bacchae* last fall. Jason is honored to work with such a brilliant cast and crew to bring such an important story to life.



**Chorus | ANDREW LINDSAY\***

Andrew Lindsay is a second-year student at the University of Iowa studying Communication Studies and Theater Arts on the Musical Theater track. This is Andrew's fourth production at the University and has previously participated in the shows *Gwenevere*, *And Then*, and *Journey to the Lovely Empire*. Andrew continues to strive for excellence in the theater arts by embracing his God-given talent as an actor. Andrew would like to thank his family, friends, and mentors for

their everlasting support as he reaches for the stars!



**Blanca Gomez/Chorus | SAVANNAH MAZAS\***

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**BRAIDED SORROW**  
**BY MARISELA TREVIÑO ORTA**  
**DIRECTED BY NATALIE VILLAMONTE ZITO**  
**CREATIVE TEAM**



**Director | NATALIE VILLAMONTE ZITO**

Natalie is in her final semester as an MFA Directing candidate and is honored to be able to share this poignantly important story. She is an NYC-based theatre artist; most recent Off-Off Broadway directing credits: *The Trial of Mrs. Surratt*, *The Laramie Project Cycle*, *The Insanity of Mary Girard* and Jean Anouilh's *Antigone*. Ulowa directing credits: *Basically Children*, *Letters from Cuba*, *Three to Five Days*, *Wild Wonderful*, *Candyland*, and *Ghost Limb*. Natalie is a proud member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society and is

one of the founders of The Wandering Theatre Company. This play is dedicated to the missing and murdered women of Juárez, México and to all the people seeking asylum in our borderlands.



**Stage Manager | JORDAN "J.J." JONES**

Jordan "J.J." Jones is a second-year MFA stage management student from Clarksville, Tennessee. She has previously worked on *Media Clown*, *IT'S LIKE RIDING A BIKE*, *Gwenevere*, and *Smile Medicine* here at the University of Iowa. Before joining the graduate program at the University of Iowa, she worked in Alabama, Tennessee, Minnesota, Nebraska, Massachusetts, and Virginia.

She has been greatly impacted by the efforts of this cast and crew to tell this very important story, and she hopes that you enjoy and learn from our production. Thank you!



**Assistant Stage Manager | SAVANHA MOORE**

Savanha Moore (she/her) is a Theatrical Artist and Production Stage Manager from Southern California. She is happy to be continuing her education at the University of Iowa as a first-year Stage Management MFA candidate. Savanha has always wanted to tell stories that serve a greater purpose and that makes way for the change she would like to see in the world. She is incredibly grateful to be a part of this team and to be a part of telling this

story. Thank you to the cast and crew and creative team for their incredible work throughout this process, and for creating space for this story. She thanks those who have always supported her on this journey and encouraged her to take that leap of faith; without your support none of this would be possible. Her recent show credits include *Mother:Knife* (MacVey Theatre), HBO House of the Dragon Activation (SDCC 2022), *Untitled Baby Play* (IAMA Theatre), *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Geffen Playhouse). She thanks you for coming and enjoying live theatre; enjoy the show!

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### **Costume Designer | ABIGAIL MANSFIELD COLEMAN**

Abigail Mansfield Coleman is a third-year MFA student in Costume Design, Makeup Design, and Masks and Puppetry. She has designed 50 productions across the Carolinas, Georgia, and here in Iowa, including *Into the Woods* (3 times!), *Tuck Everlasting* (2018 KCATCF Region IV Costume Design Nomination), and *Exit the King* (2017 KCATCF Region IV Nomination). Her most recent costume design at the University of Iowa was the 2022 spring musical, *String*, and *The Weir* and *Henry V* at Riverside Theatre.



### **Video Designer | KENNETH COLLINS**

Kenneth Collins is a writer, director, designer, and performer who works in contemporary theatre, film, and installation. He is best known for his work with Temporary Distortion, a non-profit theatre company he formed in New York City in 2000 whose mission is to create experimental performance that is accessible to all. Since 2012, Collins has been dedicated to studying meditation and compassion-based practices with a variety of teachers as part of his focus on integrating the contemplative arts into contemporary performance.

[www.kennethcollins.art](http://www.kennethcollins.art)



### **Sound Designer | COLTEN LANGFITT**

Colten is a NYC-based Audio/Video Technician, Mixer, Engineer, and Designer. He is currently the Video Engineer for *Without You*, a musical written by and starring Anthony Rapp. Various projects include Off-Broadway: *Hound Dog* (Ars Nova), *Weightless* (WP Theatre); Ulowa: *Small Hours*, *Hit the Wall*, *Blackberry: A Burial*; Other: *Natasha*, *Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812* (Hangar Theatre), *Dance Nation* (Theatre Cedar Rapids), *Godspell* (Festival 56). Proud member of the TSDCA.

[coltenlangfitt.com](http://coltenlangfitt.com)



### **Dramaturg | MEG MECHELKE**

Meg Mechelke is a recent graduate of the University of Iowa with degrees in English/Creative Writing and Theatre Arts. Previous credits in the department include *rockabye*, *I Saw You/New Person*, *Queer Horror Festival*, *Symphony*, and New Play Festival 2022.

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### **Intimacy Director | OWEN BRIGHTMAN**

Owen Brightman is a graduate of the University of Iowa Theatre Arts program, Class of 2020. Having received his BFA with a focus in acting, he has been nurturing a career in intimacy choreography and coordination in recent years. After serving as Assistant Intimacy Director for the University's 2022 spring season, he took on the role of Intimacy Director the following semester. University credits include *The Children's Hour*, *Mother:Knife*, *rockabye*, *BLKS*, and others. Community credits include *The Kornilov Affair* at Willow Creek Theatre Company and *The Play That Goes Wrong* at CC Stoplight Players Community Theatre.



### **Scenic Designer | ALEX CASILLAS**



### **Assistant Scenic Designer | DOROTHY CRAVEN\***



### **Assistant Costume Designer | ANNELIES KNIGHT\***

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**IOWA**

Theatre Arts

Lighting Designer | VICTOR MALDONADO

**IOWA**

Theatre Arts

Assistant Lighting Designer | JEFFREY OAKLEY

**IOWA**

Theatre Arts

Fight Director | PAUL KALINA

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**MEET THE CREW**

Deck Crew Captain/Automation Operator	Jalen Johnson*
Wardrobe Crew Captain	Emma Dowding*
Light Board Operator	Gabby Johnson*
QLab Operator/Sound Board Operator	Demi Makeig*
Media Board Operator	Tyler Salow*
Microphone Wrangler/Deck Crew	Asha Keller*
Follow Spot/Deck Crew	Jade Anderson*
Deck Crew/Props	Chloe Ancell*
Wardrobe Crew	Hannah Shade*, John Stinson*, Molly Costello*

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