

28th SEASON ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13





LA RUTA

by Ed Cardona, Jr.,
Directed by Tamilla Woodard
Set Design by Raul Abrego,
Costume Design by Emily
DeAngelis, Lighting Design
by Lucrecia Briceño, Sound
Design by Sam Kusnetz,
Projection Design by Dave
Tennent & Kate Freer, IMA,
Prop Design by Claire
Kavanah

Above: Annie Henk, Zoë Sophia Garcia, Gerardo Rodriguez, and Bobby Plasencia

Left: Brian D. Coats and Sheila Tapia

Cover: the set of LA RUTA

Photos © Lia Chang, 2013

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Working Theater is dedicated to producing new plays *for* and *about* working people.*

Our 28th Season ran from February to June 2013 and featured the development and production of several new plays, as well as other events aimed specifically at reaching our audience of working men and women.

*working people refers to the wage and salaried workers of modest means working in factories, stores, offices, hospitals, classrooms and other workplaces throughout America.

A note from the PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Working Theater's 2012/13 Season was without a doubt one of the most extraordinary seasons in our history. Several years back Working Theater held a day-long retreat with its board and staff to assess the Company's progress in achieving its mission: to create theater for and about working people and introduce audiences of working people (the doormen, postal workers, bus drivers, city employees and restaurant workers who make NYC run) to the intimate thrill and transformation of off-Broadway Theater. One of the goals that came out of the retreat was to figure out ways to bring theater directly to communities of working people. At around the same time we were introduced to a terrific writer, Ed Cardona Jr. when he submitted his play Pick Up Pots to the Theater. At the time Ed was interested in writing a trilogy of plays about undocumented workers in America. During our 25th Anniversary Season we produced a "First Stage Presentation" of the second play in his series, American Jornalero, which went on to a critically acclaimed run at Intar Theater. After the production of Jornalero I told Ed I wanted to commission the third play in the series which he had told me would be about people crossing the border to find work in America. When he submitted the first draft of the play, La Ruta, I noticed he wanted it set inside an actual 48' truck. I was definitely intrigued by the concept and it was especially attractive because I reasoned a truck could move to various neighborhoods enabling Working Theater to realize the very goal outlined at that original retreat.

Our season began in the summer of 2012 when we presented 3 short plays commissioned by IBEW Local 3 (Chris Erikson, Business Manager) about the historical and contemporary significance of the labor movement at IBEW's Youth Conference. The plays were written by the wonderful long-time Working Theater collaborator, playwright and TheaterWorks! instructor Joe Roland, and directed by one of the founders of Working Theater's Directors Salon the talented (and soon to be Yale Grad student in Directing) Luke Harlan. At the same time another fortuitous meeting took place. The amazing Program Officer of the Panta Rhea Foundation, Diana Cohn, suggested I meet with Susan Meiselas of the Magnum Foundation to explore possible collaborations. At the meeting I mentioned Ed's play in a truck and Susan, who has personally spent time documenting border crossing through her photography, got very excited about the idea. Her willingness to collaborate both on visual projections during the production and to create an exhibit focusing on the current debate on immigration reform outside the truck and the coming on board of one of my favorite directors, Tamilla Woodard made the wildly ambitious project feasible.

With the support of four community venue partners we presented *La Ruta* from April 10 – May 14 at the UFT Bronx Borough Office in the Bronx, The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in Manhattan, IBEW Local 3 Headquarters in Queens and at Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden in Staten Island. *La Ruta* was a hit with our audiences and received extensive positive coverage in the press for innovation, artistic quality, and

engagement with an increasingly important topic of national conversation. Since its New York engagement, several other theatres have expressed an interest in hosting a possible national tour of the production and conversations toward this goal are currently underway. The success of the local tour of *La Ruta* has confirmed our belief in the value of a continued initiative to bring our work directly into the home communities of our audience.

During the year we also continued our signature TheaterWorks! program which was offered to members of Local 32BJ (building service workers) and District Council 37 (municipal workers). In the class students learn to write and perform short plays about their lives at work. Final plays were presented, with a combination of students and professional actors in a staged-reading-style performance at the Clurman Theatre at Theatre Row.

We rounded out our 2013 programming with the Fourth Annual Directors Salon, presented from June 17 – 23, 2013. Emerging directors were provided with complimentary space in which to develop and showcase original work for industry peers and general audiences, and to network, address leaders in the field, and solidify their membership in a community of both emerging and established creative artists. A highlight of the extraordinary week of events put together by Directors Salon Curators, Luke Harlan, Rebecca Martinez, Dina Vovsi and Nicole Watson was the presentation of seven new short plays inspired by *Waiting for Lefty* directed by seven emerging directors whose names were picked from a hat at the opening reception for the Salon.

None of the success of this past season would have been possible without the support of you – our supporters, audience members, sponsors and funders. On behalf of everyone who was involved in Working Theater this year, a huge THANK YOU!

Mark Plesent Producing Artistic Director



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EVENTS SPECIAL CONSTITUENCIES INITIATIVE (SCI)

Our unique grassroots audience development program aims to make theater affordable and accessible to the working men and women of New York. Over the years we have used SCI to offer theater to a diverse cross-section of the working population, including postal workers, municipal employees, healthcare workers, building service workers, transport workers, domestic workers and taxi drivers.

In tandem with the touring production of LA RUTA, Working Theater hosted four community outreach events designed to introduce members of the local communities to the production and its relationship to the current dialogue on immigration reform. As part of this community outreach, the company provided working and immigrant populations with access to partially and fully subsidized tickets to a performance of LA RUTA. Each event was led by members of the production's creative team and Working Theater leadership and was hosted on site by one of the project's four community partner venues. In collaboration with these venues and with LA RUTA's production partner, the Magnum Foundation, Working Theater reached out to relevant populations and community groups in each borough. These groups subsequently brought their membership to the community gatherings and/or otherwise assisted in spreading the word about the project and subsidized ticketing opportunities.

Participating community groups in the Bronx included: the Bronx UFT, (who purchased 100 subsidized tickets which they provided free of charge to both Bronx PTA, student and teacher groups) PS 25, UFT Districts 1, 8 and 9, NY Communities for Change, and Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice. Participating Manhattan community groups included: Make the Road NY, Union Square International High School, Laundry Workers Center United, Professional Staff Congress and several of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine's educational and cultural outreach committees. In Queens, the company worked primarily with IBEW Local 3 - which provided 100 free tickets to the tenants of Electchester, its nearby membership housing complex, as well as to students of Empire State College's course on art and immigration. Working Theater also collaborated with its board treasurer Sony Salvador and Beth Tejada from Tides Center to reach out directly to the Filipino community living and working in Queens. The company worked in Staten Island primarily with El Centro del Inmigrante, which helped spread the word to local church and civic groups and ultimately brought a group of ten undocumented day laborers living in the community to the production. The community events collectively attracted nearly 100 people, and the ticket subsidies provided 320 people with an opportunity to experience the production at little or no cost.



Working Theater at the Local 3 IBEW YOUTH CONFERENCE

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union No. 3 (Chris Erikson, Business Manager) commissioned Working Theater TheaterWorks! Director **Joe Roland** to write educational plays for their Youth Conference in August 2012. **Luke Harlan** directed professional actors in the pieces.

The cast and director of Joe Roland's *Union, Man, Pie in the Sky*, and *She Got Game Show*. Clockwise L to R: Luke Harlan, Susan Louise O'Connor, Paul L. Coffey, Robert Arcaro, Maria Helan, and Carlo Albán

THEATERWORKS!

For our 28th Season, we hosted 2 sessions of our 16-week playwriting and performance class. One session was taught by director Joe White at DC37 and the other session by playwright Joe Roland at 32BJ SEIU. The classes culminated in free, staged reading style performances where the students were joined by professional actors and directors.

DC37 TheaterWorks!

Monday, February 25, 2013 at 7:00pm at The New Theater at 45th Street 354 West 45th Street, 2nd Floor

A Dress For Nancy

by Olga Bautina

Backwards

by Lynn Viear

Quick Thinking

by Roxana Tirado

Who's Your Doctor?

by YuLin Perkins

Twisted

by Claudine N. Harrison

Simple Life

by Hoi Pandher

The We Of Me

by deborah Spicciatie

Listen

by Elvie Moore, Jr.

Family Time

by Patricia S. Ward

Black And King

by Craig A. Joshua

Haunted

by Millie Cupeles

Dunham Town

by Dorcas Bethel

32BJ TheaterWorks!

Monday, March 11, 2013 at 7:00pm at the Clurman Theatre at Theatre Row 410 West 42nd Street

Boyz in the Woods

by Pete Mergel

Sick Day

by Michael D. O'Hara

Rock Down to Chasidic Avenue

by Mike Mordechai Einhorn

Falling Up

by Pete Mergel

Ironclad

by Julian Pimiento

Summer with Stroyko

by Michael D. O'Hara

Worth the Wait

by El Flores

When the Heart Decides

by Emmanuel Sefa

Backstage

by Michaela Boren

Directed by **Joe White** and **David Smilow** with **Carlo Albán**, **Tina Chilip**, **Samuel Ray Gates**, **Nedra McClyde**, and **Nicole Quinn** Stage Manager: **Kimberley Oria**

Directed by Joe Roland
with David King, Susan Louise O'Connor,
and Johnny Zito
Stage Manager: Rebecca Martinez

MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION

Working Theater in collaboration with Magnum Foundation presents the World Premiere of



by **ED CARDONA**, JR.

directed by TAMILLA WOODARD

with Brian D. Coats, Zoë Sophia Garcia, Zuleyma Guevara, Annie Henk, Bobby Plasencia, Jacob Alden Roa, Gerardo Rodriguez, and Sheila Tapia

Set Design: Raul Abrego | Costume Design: Emily DeAngelis

Lighting Design: Lucrecia Briceño I Projection Design: Dave Tennent, IMA & Kate Freer, IMA

Sound Design: Sam Kusnetz | Props Design: Claire M. Kavanah

Production Stage Manager: Michael Aaron Jones | Assistant Stage Manager: Sarah Levine

Production Supervisor: Production Core / James E. Cleveland

Associate Production Supervisor: Jared Goldstein | Production Manager: Ron Grimshaw Assistant Production Manager: Casey Rowe | Wardrobe Supervisor: Anna Slocum

Casting Director: **Stephanie Klapper** | Press Representation: **Dan DeMello**Assistant Director: **Darya Gerasimenko** | Fight Direction: **UnkleDave's Fight-House**Photographs used in the production are from the renowned **Magnum Photos Archive**

Venue Partners

April 10 – 14, 2013

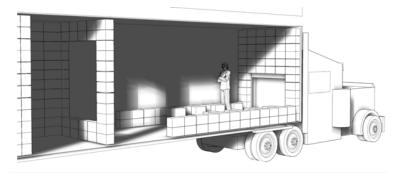
April 16 – 29, 2013

May 1 - 5, 2013

May 8 – 12, 2013

UFT Bronx Borough Office
The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine
IBEW Local 3 Headquarters
Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden

Commissioned by Working Theater in 2011, *La Ruta* is an immersive theatrical experience that follows the journey of several undocumented immigrants as they cross the border into the U.S. to make a better life for themselves and their family. The play is staged inside the trailer and cab of an actual 48' truck with the audience experiencing the journey alongside the characters, surrounded by the harsh reality of their environment and the poignant narrative unfolding within.



Preliminary Sketch by Raul Abrego



Working Theater in collaboration with Magnum Foundation presents





by **ED CARDONA JR.**directed by **TAMILLA WOODARD**

April 10 - May 12, 2013

Welcome to the land of opportunity...

Flyer Design by Xander Hollenbeck

PRESS for LARUTA

The New York Times

"Congress is preparing to consider a sweeping reform of the nation's immigration system, but one shift in the terms of the public debate is already being signaled: News organizations have recently declared that they will find alternatives to the term "illegal immigrants." The point is that although the immigrants may be in the country illegally, they themselves are not illegal. That's also the message of "La Ruta," a



vivid and compelling new drama by Ed Cardona Jr. ("American Jornalero"), presented by Working Theater in collaboration with the Magnum Foundation. Expect no discussion of policy: the play's urgent advocacy is to remind us, in very human terms, that each person vilified as a lawbreaker is, most often, merely frantic enough to risk everything for a better life. Timeliness is only the first of this work's many virtues." - Daniel M. Gold

SHOW BUSINESS

The Performing Arts Magazine Since 1941

"LA RUTA is a unique experience that is as important as it is transforming. Working theater has inspirationally gone above and beyond harnessing the power of theater for change" - **Sarah Lucie**



"LA RUTA is adventure theater at its best... everyone should rush to get the limited amount of tickets available for this smashing production... you're in for an unforgettable experience." **- Mark Rifkin**

Nation.

"LA RUTA works because of its creative staging and superb acting—and it succeeds because it makes the audience physically uncomfortable and mentally estranged from a topic we all think we know something about. It reminds the

audience that their silence around immigration might make them complicit in an unjust system. Even as we quickly learn to despise the smugglers and their co-conspirators, we remember that there are policies behind these stories that often mark the difference between life and death." - Aura Bogado



"An immersive experience that's as timely as it is powerful." - Mark Kennedy

Photos © Lia Chang, 2013

LA RUTA by Ed Cardona, Jr., Directed by Tamilla Woodard. Set Design by Raul Abrego, Costume Design by Emily DeAngelis, Lighting Design by Lucrecia Briceño, Sound Design by Sam Kusnetz, Projection Design by Dave Tennent & Kate Freer, IMA, Prop Design by Claire Kavanah Above: Annie Henk, Zoë Sophia Garcia, Gerardo Rodriguez, and Bobby Plasencia | Opposite above (L to R): Annie Henk, Zoë Sophia Garcia, Gerardo Rodriguez, Sheila Tapia, Bobby Plasencia | Annie Henk, Zoë Sophia Garcia, Gerardo Rodriguez, and Bobby Plasencia





SPECIAL THANKS to **Theatrical Teamsters Local 817** for donated trucking, the **New York State AFL-CIO** for donated flyer printing, **IATSE Local 1** for donated program printing, Jose Vargas, Janet Guevara, Nicholas Cruz, Loriann Sanchez, Elliot Vigo, Gil Rivera, and everyone at the **UFT Bronx Borough Office**; Lisa Schubert, Isadora Wilkenfeld, Keith C. Hinkson, Ray Guyette, and everyone at **The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine**; Chris Erikson, Jodi Grace, Joe Doceti, and everyone at the **IBEW Local 3 Headquarters**; Larry Anderson, Jaclyn Alderete, Cynthia Taylor, and everyone at the **Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Gardens**.

Below (clockwise, starting top left): Annie Henk, Zoë Sophia Garcia, Gerardo Rodriguez | Zoë Sophia Garcia (foreground), Jacob Alden Roa & Sheila Tapia (background) | Annie Henk, Zoë Sophia Garcia, Gerardo Rodriguez, Sheila Tapia, Bobby Plasencia | Annie Henk, Zoë Sophia Garcia, Gerardo Rodriguez, Sheila Tapia, Bobby Plasencia | Brian D. Coats & Sheila Tapia

Photos © Lia Chang, 2013











4th Annual DIRECTORS SALON

This unique Working Theater program evolved out of a need for a community and support network for emerging directors in New York City. The Salon was developed by directors Luke Harlan, Dina Vovsi, and Nicole A. Watson in 2010. It is now an annual week of events that gives emerging directors the chance to showcase their work, meet with other directors and theater artists, hear from leaders in the fields of directing and arts management, and, most importantly, a platform to actually direct.



Above: The directors, actors, playwrights, and Directors Salon curators before the final performance of 7 NEW PLAYS Inspired by WAITING FOR LEFTY

Middle, Left: The directors and actors before the Presentation of DIRECTOR-DRIVEN PROJECTS





Right: Jennifer Wright Cook, Ellen Rusconi, and Susan Bernfield

Below (L to R)
Directors Salon
Curators Luke
Harlan, Dina
Vovsi, and
Nicole A.
Watson, and
Production
Manager
Rebecca
Martinez









PANELS

The Salon offered 2 nights of panels for emerging directors to meet with leaders in the field.

Our **Directors Panel** featured

Tamilla Woodard, Nelson Eusebio III, Ken Rus Schmoll, and Daniella Topol

Our Artistic Director and Industry Panel featured

Susan Bernfield (Artistic Director, New Georges), Jennifer Cook (Executive Director, The Field), Ellen Rusconi (Stage Directors and Choreographers Society), and our own Mark Plesent

Presentation of DIRECTOR-DRIVEN PROJECTS

Out of countless submissions, these pieces were selected as a diverse representation of emerging director-driven work. A talkback with the three directors followed the performances.

The In-Between

written & directed by Kareem Fahmy

originally developed as part of Noor Theatre's MYTH PROJECT with Leila Buck (Fatima), Stephen Graybill (Parker), Sevan Greene (Nabil), Mark Junek (Benjamin), and Rasha Zamamiri (Epsa)

Transcripts: Sarah Foster directed by Katherine Brook

text recorded and assembled by Liza Birkenmeier, sound design by Erik Lawson with Alex Spieth, Brighid Greene, and Nicolas Norena

Si Nos Dejan: If They Let Us directed by Shana Solomon

devised by the company

with Juan Carlos Diaz*, Catherine Gasta, Megumi Katayama, Monica Walter Palmieri, Johary Ramos*, Lakeisha Randle, Maria Riboli*, Douglas Taurel*, and Natasha Waisfeld*

* Member, Actors Equity Association

7 NEW PLAYS INSPIRED BY Clifford Odets' WAITING FOR LEFTY

The culmination of the Salon week is the night of brand new plays by some of the hottest playwrights in New York, and all the directors were chosen out of a hat at the Kick-Off Party.

McRib by Chad Beckim, directed by Sherri Kronfeld
The Bullet Test by Cándido Tirado, directed by Alex Mallory
The Underside of Jackfruit and Papaya by Keith Josef Adkins, directed by Darya Gerasimenko
My Interpretation of the Play by Halley Feiffer, directed by Shay Roman
¿Dónde Está Juan? by Alladin Ullah, directed by Christopher Schilder
Walking Out by Mfoniso Udofia, directed by Emerie Snyder
Ten Page Manifesto by Mike Lew, directed by Eugene Ma

with Jorge Chapa, Annie Henk*, Bianca Jones*, Mia Katigbak*, Kathleen Littlefield, Michael Oberholtzer*, Jose Joaquin Perez*, Johnny Rivera, Arie Bianca Thompson*, and William Watkins*

* Member, Actors Equity Association

ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY



L to R: Richard Ianuzzi, Jose Vargas, Mark Plesent, Michael Mulgrew, Bill Henning, Vinny Alvarez

Working Theater's 2013 Annual Awards Ceremony honored:

Michael Mulgrew President.

United Federation of Teachers (UFT)

for bridging the gap between the arts, labor and community on **Monday May 13**th, **2013**

at Sardi's Restaurant

and featured cocktails, dinner and dessert, and a special performance of excerpts from

Alladin Ullah's Dishwasher Dreams

VIP Tables

Belluck & Fox • UFT

Patron Tables

32BJ SEIU • AFT National Latino Caucus • Glenwood Management Corporation Newmark Holding • UFT

Tickets and Ads

Thomas Acosta • Joseph Benincasa, The Actors Fund of America • Alan Sachs, Administrative Services Only • American Federation of Musicians Local 802 • Robert Arcaro • Dorothee Benz • CIGNA • Council of School Supervisors • CWA Local 1104 • CWA Local 1180 • Audrey Iszard, DC 37 Retirees Association • Christine O'Connor Burns, EmblemHealth • Thomas Canty, Empire BlueCross BlueShield • Express Scripts, Inc. • Frank Goldsmith • Connie Grappo • Healthplex • IATSE Local 751 Treasurers and Ticket Sellers Union • Christopher Erickson, IBEW Local 3 • Jonathan and Patricia Kay • Levy Ratner, P. C. • MagnaCare • Barbara McCabe Raisch, National Labor Management Conference • Santos Crespo, NYC Board of Education Employees, Local 372 • New York City Central Labor Council • Richard Ianuzzi, New York State United Teachers • New York State AFL-CIO • OPEIU • George Bueno, OPEIU Local 153 • Schultheis & Panettieri, LLP • The Segal Company • Eleanor Tilson • Anthony Wells, SSEU Local 371 • Uniformed Sanitationmen's Association, Local 831 • Robert Haupin, United Healthcare • Winston Benefits • Stanley and Dorothy Wolpert











FINANCIALS

The Working Theater Co., Inc July 2012 to June 2013

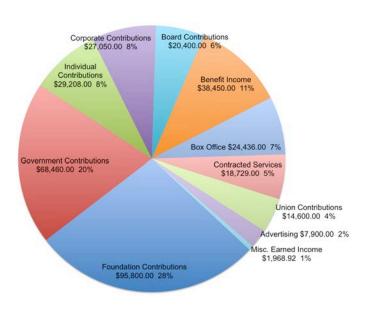
INCOME

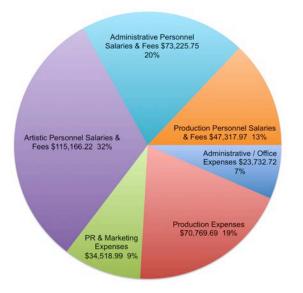
Foundation Contributions	
	\$95,800.00
Government Contributions	
	\$68,460.00
Individual Contributions	***
Cornerate Contributions	\$29,208.00
Corporate Contributions	\$27,050.00
Board Contributions	Ψ21,030.00
	\$20,400.00
Benefit Income	. ,
	\$38,450.00
Box Office	
	\$24,436.00
Contracted Services	
	\$18,729.00
Union Contributions	
Advantiation	\$14,600.00
Advertising	\$7,900.00
Misc. Earned Income	Ψ1,300.00
	\$1,968.92
	, ,



Administrative / Office Expenses		
	\$23,732.72	
Production Expenses		
	\$70,769.69	
PR & Marketing Expenses		
	\$34,518.99	
Artistic Personnel Salaries & Fees		
;	\$115,166.22	
Administrative Personnel Salaries & Fees		
	\$73,225.75	
Production Personnel Salaries & Fees		

\$47,317.97







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Working Theater is extremely grateful to all of the individuals, foundations, and companies that have supported our 28th Season!

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Rebecca Martinez: Directors Salon Production Manager **Darya Gerasimenko**: *La Ruta* Community Outreach Intern

Susan Wilson: Group Sales Volunteer

SPECIAL THANKS

to our friends and volunteers who donated their time and resources this season: Lee Alderson, Rodger Belknap, Michaela Boren, Connie Coddington, Rebecca Martinez, Zachary Moody, Karen Rothstein, Illana Stein

Working Theater is a member of the **Alliance of Resident Theatres / New York**, the service organization for New York City's non-profit off- and off-off-Broadway theatres, and **Theatre Communications Group**

Working Theater's programs are sponsored in part by public funds from:

The New York State Council on the Arts
with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature
The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
in partnership with the City Council

Major institutional funding provided by
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation New York Theater Program,
in partnership with the New York Foundation for the Arts



2013 subsidized rehearsal studio space provided by the **A.R.T./New York Creative Space Grant**, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation



LA RUTA

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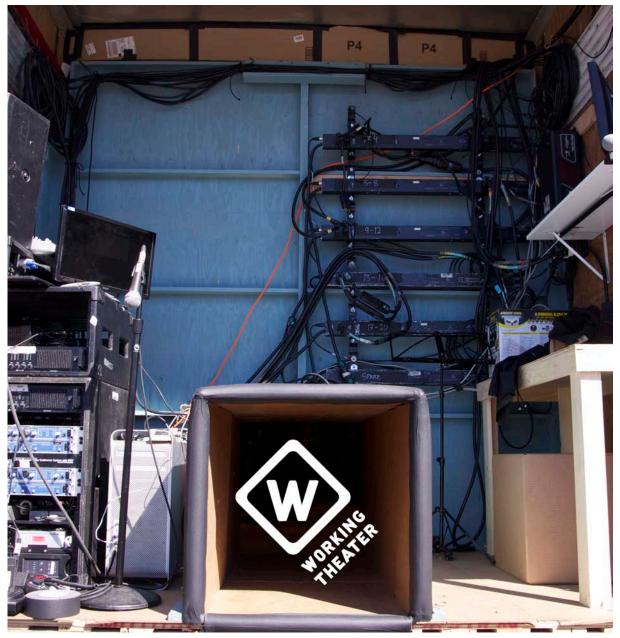
Right: Annie Henk, Bobby Plasencia, Zoë Sophia Garcia, Sheila Tapia, Gerardo Rodriguez

Below: Annie Henk, Sheila Tapia, Gerardo Rodriguez, Zoë Sophia Garcia, Brian D. Coats

Photos © Lia Chang, 2013







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Photo by Rodger Belknap