

## Contact

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# PORTLAND STAGE

25A Forest Avenue  
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## Press Release

**PORTLAND, MAINE • January 13, 2023 • FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Press Room Photos:** Available January 18, Dress Rehearsal Photos Added January 26

**PORTLAND STAGE WORLD-PREMIERE IS AN EXPLORATION OF FAMILY, BELONGING, and BRIDGING CULTURES SET IN MAINE, WRITTEN BY RICHARD BLANCO and VANESSA GARCIA**

**Reviewers are invited to attend *Sweet Goats and Blueberry Señoritas* on opening night, January 27, 2023 at 7:30pm.**

Portland, Maine - Portland Stage Company's first commissioned play, *Sweet Goats and Blueberry Señoritas*, is a moving and layered story of home, family, and forgiveness. Told with humor and emotion, this play by Richard Blanco and Vanessa Garcia explores the universal themes of love, loss, and community through the rich motifs of food, baking, and the symbols that keep us connected throughout time.

Richard Blanco is known for his poetry, most notably for reading his poem, *One Today*, at President Obama's second inauguration. He is an advocate, memoirist, educator, speaker, and holds degrees in civil engineering and creative writing from Florida International University. In addition, he has received honorary doctorates from Macalester College, the University of Rhode Island, the University of Southern Maine, and Colby College. Richard has also served as artist-in-residence at Colby College, and has taught at Georgetown University, Wesleyan University, American University, and many literary centers throughout the country.

Vanessa Garcia is a screenwriter, novelist, playwright, and journalist. Her debut novel, *White Light*, was named one of the Best Books of 2015 by NPR and won an International Latino Book Award. Her plays have been produced in Edinburgh, Miami, Amsterdam, Los Angeles, New York, and other cities around the world. Her writing has appeared in *The LA Times*, *The Miami Herald*, *The Guardian*, *The Washington Post*, *Narrative.ly*, *American Theatre Magazine*, *The Huffington Post*, *ESPN*, and numerous other publications. She holds a PhD from the University of California Irvine, an MFA from the University of Miami, and a BA from Barnard College, Columbia University.

The play's protagonist, Beatriz, is a Cuban-American baker living in Maine, supported by a tight group of friends who have become her family. Her relationship with her mother is broken and complicated despite her uncle's attempts to reconnect them. The story weaves together past and present, Maine and Miami, world history and community with a powerful, heartfelt, interactive conclusion.

Director Sally Wood, (director of many Mainstage productions including *papermaker*, *Love/Sick*, *String Around My Finger*, *Half-Light*, and *Almost, Maine* in 2019), has brought together a Cuban-American cast who immediately formed a family of their own. Together they bring to life characters at once entirely unique and universally relatable. Co-writer Richard Blanco has said they represent the people and community in Bethel, Maine where he has lived for fifteen years: full of personality, accepting, and real.

Portland Stage is pleased to announce it has been approved by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to receive a Grants for Arts Projects award of \$15,000. This grant will support *Sweet Goats and Blueberry Señoritas*. This grant is one of 1,251 Grants for Arts Projects awards totaling nearly \$28.8 million that were announced by the NEA as part of its first round of fiscal year 2023 grants.

“The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support arts projects in communities nationwide,” said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. “Projects such as this one with Portland Stage strengthen arts and cultural ecosystems, provide equitable opportunities for arts participation and practice, and contribute to the health of our communities and our economy.”

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## Cast & Artists

**BEATRIZ** Ashley Alvarez\*

**Tio Eme** JL Rey\*

**Marilyn** Jezabel Montero \*

**Georgette** Karen Ball

**Maynard** Kevin O'Leary\*

**BLAKE** Dustin Tucker\*

**DIRECTOR** Sally Wood

**SCENIC DESIGNER** Anita Stewart\*\*

**COSTUME DESIGNER** Lily Prentice

**LIGHTING DESIGNER** SeifAllah Salotto-Cristobal

**SOUND DESIGNER** Seth Asa Sengel

**STAGE MANAGER** Meg Lydon\*

\*member Actors Equity Association \*\*member United Scenic Artists

## Quick Info

**Live In-Theater Dates:** Currently running January 25 - February 12, 2023

**Digital Streaming Dates:** February 8 - 26, 2023

**Run Time:** 1.5 Hours, No Intermission

**Box Office Hours:** Tuesday through Saturday • Noon to 5 pm and 2 hours before performance time

**Box Office Phone:** 207.774.0465

**Box Office Email:** [boxoffice@portlandstage.org](mailto:boxoffice@portlandstage.org)

**Tickets Online:** [portlandstage.org/show/sweet-goats-and-blueberry-senoritas-2023/](http://portlandstage.org/show/sweet-goats-and-blueberry-senoritas-2023/)

**In-Person:** \$20-\$63. Discounts for seniors 65+ and students.

**PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN TICKETS AVAILABLE:** Find rules and restrictions on the website.

**Digital Streaming:** \$25 online, or call the box office for Pay-What-You-Can.

**RUSH35 Tickets:** \$15 at the door for registered participants ages 35 and under.

## About PSC

### 49th Season

Portland Stage offers Mainstage performances, New Works, and Education programs. The 2022-23 Mainstage season includes seven Mainstage productions, staged readings of its commissions, and Studio Series productions. PS promotes and celebrates the creation of new plays with an environment that supports the region's playwrights, builds bridges between its theater and national writers, and develops awareness of theater with three exciting initiatives: the Clauder Competition, the Little Festival of the Unexpected, and From Away, a festival in collaboration with the International Writing Program (IWP) at the University of Iowa. This year, Portland Stage also celebrates its 13th season of the Susie Konkel Theater for Kids and the 100,000 student experiences it has provided in the last decade through its education programs. Subscriptions to Portland Stage are available, and subscribers gain insider access, significant savings, and flexibility. PS is committed to accessibility and is currently planning a renovation to meet this commitment as well as offering ticketing options and expanded community engagement. Visit [portlandstage.org](http://portlandstage.org) to learn more.