



The Chikahan Company presents, in association with PlayGround's  
Innovator Incubator, a developmental production of

# For My Lolo



**Written & Directed By**  
**Ely Sonny Orquiza**

**Music & Lyrics By**  
**Reed Flores**

**Potrero Stage**  
1695 18th St.  
San Francisco, CA 94107

**Nov. 13/14/15, 2022**



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**Cast**  
Danielle Mendoza

## *Production Credits*

<b>Stage Managers</b>	Liam Kirk, Crystal Liu
<b>Casting &amp; Graphics</b>	Krystle Piamonte
<b>Pre/Post-Speeches</b>	Alan S. Quismorio
<b>Audience Feedback Facilitator</b>	Ely Sonny Orquiza
<b>House Management &amp; Box Office</b>	PlayGround
<b>Production Manager</b>	Jacque Bugler
<b>Artistic Director, PlayGround</b>	Jim Kleinmann

*This is a developmental presentation of FOR MY LOLO for Innovators Showcase 2022. It was commissioned, developed, and produced by The Chikahan Company under PlayGround's Innovator Incubator with support from CASH Theatre Grant, a program of Theatre Bay Area.*





## Running Time

Approx. 70-75 min.  
(No intermission)

## Venue

Potrero Stage  
1695 18th St.  
San Francisco, CA 94107

## Livestream

Vimeo Live

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## Fiscal Sponsor



## Grant Support



CA\$H Theatre  
GRANT

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## Post-Show

Following the show will be an audience feedback session. This is a crucial step in the play development process and we encourage you to share your thoughts and impressions with us. If you're unable to stay or need more time to process your thoughts, please visit the following link to fill out our online form:

<https://forms.gle/jzWANB2s094Y5Ucd6>





# Land Acknowledgement

The Chikahan Company acknowledges that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As the past and present Indigenous stewards of this land and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost, nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. We recognize the historic injustice of the forcible removal of the Ohlone people from their ancestral lands, and that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the Ancestors, Elders and Relatives of the Ramaytush Community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples. We honor the storytellers of the Ohlone and are committed to supporting the traditional and contemporary evolution of the Native communities.

We encourage you to learn about the land you reside on, and to join us in advocating for the inherent sovereignty of Indigenous people. To learn about the legacy of the land you inhabit, visit [Native-Land.ca](https://www.native-land.ca)



# Order of Songs



“That’s what I’ll say”

“Happy”

“More”

“Welcome to the Jungle”

“Far Away”

“Who knew?”



# Biographies



## Danielle Mendoza *Soloist*

Danielle Mendoza (she/her/hers) is a Bay Area native and honored to be working with The Chikahan Company on this new and special developing show, *For My Lolo*. She is a Cal Poly San Luis Obispo graduate with a BA in Music. She most recently lived out her Queendom dreams and sailed the seas with Norwegian Cruise line as Anne Boleyn in the Broadway show, *SIX: The Musical*. Other credits: *The Secret Silk* (Princess Cruises), Kim in *Miss Saigon* (BBB), Basketcase/Princess in *Brat Pack* (FTR), and *Larry The Musical*.



@daniemendomusic

# Biographies



## Ely Sonny Orquiza Writer & Director

Ely Sonny Orquiza (he/him/his) is a multidisciplinary Queer Filipino artistic director, stage director, and arts educator and advocate based on the unceded territory of the Ramaytush Ohlone People colonially known as San Francisco Bay Area. Through theater and the performing arts Orquiza explores the role of the Asian diaspora, Asian American experience, ancestral ghosts, and the politics of Queer/ness for the American stage. He champions new works by Black, Indigenous and Artists of Color, examines previously untold folklore, and advocates for undiscovered works highlighting the narratives of People from the Global Majority. He believes in the remarkable power of equity and representation in storytelling to bridge the divide and differences amongst us.

Orquiza has been in various work at the Academy of Art University School of Acting, African-American Shakespeare Company, American Conservatory Theater, ARC Repertory Theatre, Bindlestiff Studio, Cal Shakes, Campo Santo, Crowded Fire Theater, Custom Made Theatre Co., East West Players, Leviathan Lab, Magic Theatre, New Conservatory Theatre Center, PianoFight, PlayGround, Playwright's Foundation, Playwright's Center of San Francisco, San Francisco Opera, Studio 52nd (Amsterdam) and Theatre Rhinoceros.



[www.elysonnyorquiza.org](http://www.elysonnyorquiza.org)

# Biographies



## Reed Flores *Composer & Lyricist*

Reed Flores (he/him/his) is a Queer CHamoru and Filipino guy that directs and writes silly little plays. He has worked around the country, most recently with TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Seattle Rep, Actors Theatre of Louisville, and Breaking Wave Theatre Company. Locally, Reed has been at Bindlestiff Studio, The Pear, New Conservatory Theatre Center, and more. Reed is also a co-founder of Wayward Voices, an initiative to produce new work by and for BIPOC artists. Reed's plays and processes take painful realities and abstract them in a way we can confront them and embrace them — more than likely, these plays end up very Queer, and very brown. And in those plays, there's a ton of magic and adventure to be had.



[www.reedflores.com](http://www.reedflores.com)



# About The Chikahan Company

Founded in 2021 by its three Co-Artistic Directors Ely Sonny Orquiza, Krystle Piamonte, and Alan S. Quismorio, The Chikahan Company (ChikaCo) is a young Bay Area-based theatre company that focuses on Filipino stories.

## Mission

To explore Filipino history, politics, psychology, and diaspora through the craft of theatre and the performing arts. ChikaCo strives to develop the unique voice of and uplift the robust Filipino narratives and artistries, and advocate its influence to the American theatre.

## Vision

To reclaim and to reveal the multifaceted experiences of the Filipino community in the San Francisco Bay Area. To amplify the complex and dynamic narratives that have long been pushed to the margins and to actively challenge the stereotypes about our *kababayan* (people), our *kuwento* (story), and our *kasaysayan* (history).

## What does Chikahan mean?

*Chika* is Filipino slang for either something that is not entirely true (gossip, rumors, etc.) or new information that friends are expecting to hear from you. *Chikahan* is the term for the conversation or chit-chat involving the *chika*.

Through our work, ChikaCo invites audiences and artists to conversations about the perceptions and issues of the Filipino experience, to dispel what's not entirely true and to present authenticity as a way to introduce our languages, culture, history, and stories into the mainstream.



Logo Design by LeRoid David

# Company Members

Ely Sonny Orquiza	Co-Founder / Co-Artistic Director / New Play Development / Grants
Krystle Piamonte	Co-Founder / Co-Artistic Director / Casting Director / Social Media
Alan S. Quismorio	Co-Founder / Co-Artistic Director / Interim Managing Director
Marissa L. Ampon	Company Member

## Connect with us



[www.ChikahanCompany.com](http://www.ChikahanCompany.com)



[ChikahanCompany@gmail.com](mailto:ChikahanCompany@gmail.com)



[@ChikahanCompany](#)



[@ChikahanCompany](#)



[eepurl.com/hHgNE9](http://eepurl.com/hHgNE9)

# Donate

The Chikahan Company is a fiscally-sponsored project of PlayGround, a California nonprofit corporation (federal ID 94-3336399). All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

If you are moved or inspired by our work, please consider making a donation to help ChikaCo continue our storytelling and provide more opportunities for Filipino/a/x artists in the San Francisco Bay Area.



[tinyurl.com/chikacodonate](https://tinyurl.com/chikacodonate)

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## Special Thanks



Jim Kleinmann • Savannah Green • Melissa Hillman •  
Sean Fenton • Mina Morita • Crowded Fire Theater •  
Angela Dee Alforque • Hector Zavala • Louel Señores  
• Tasi Alabastro • Analog Theatre • City Street Artists  
• Juneteenth Theatre Justice Project • Latinx Mafia •  
Native Writers' Theater • Oakland Public Theatre •  
Poltergeist Theatre Project • Theatre Cultura • The  
David Family • Helena Piamonte • Jens Schewe • The  
Orquiza Family • The Quismorio Family • AAPI  
Youth Theater • Theatre Rhinoceros



# Acknowledgements

**PlayGround**, a leading playwright incubator, provides unique development opportunities for some of this country's best new playwrights, including the monthly Monday Night PlayGround staged reading series, annual PlayGround Festival of New Works, full-length play commissions and support for the production of new plays by local playwrights through the New Play Production Fund. To date, PlayGround has supported over 300 early career playwrights, developing and staging more than 1,000 of their original short plays through the Monday Night PlayGround staged reading series and the PlayGround Festival. PlayGround has also commissioned 90 new full-length plays by 60 of these writers through its Commissioning Initiative and, through the innovative New Play Production Fund, has directly facilitated the premiere of 34 plays at theatres of every size, including three that have gone on to NYC and other major theater communities. Most recently, PlayGround renovated and relaunched the former Thick House Theater in San Francisco's Potrero Hill as Potrero Stage, a state-of-the-art center for new plays, home to PlayGround's expanding artistic programs, including the Innovator Incubator and Solo Performance Festival, and some of the Bay Area's most distinguished new play developers and producers. In 2020, PlayGround responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, shelter-in-place orders and theater closures by launching the nation's first fully-digital new play festival, the PlayGround Zoom Fest, which featured more than 30 play performances and staged readings over six weeks and engaged more than 250 local theatre artists and 14,000 viewers. Today, PlayGround produces more than 100 live and simulcast events per year, in the Bay Area, Los Angeles, New York and now Chicago, all admission-free.

Over the past twenty-eight years, PlayGround has served to identify some of the most important new local voices for the theatre. PlayGround's alumni have gone on to win local, national, and international honors for their short and full-length work, recognized by the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, Glickman Awards (including 4 of the last 5 award winners), Bay Area Playwrights Festival, The Lark's Playwrights' Week, and New York International Fringe Festival, among others. PlayGround received the 2009 Paine Knickerbocker Award for outstanding contributions to Bay Area theatre, 3 BATCC Awards for Best Original Script for PlayGround commissions, a 2014 National Theatre Company Grant from the American Theatre Wing (founder of the Tony Awards®), and a 2016 Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. Visit <https://playground-sf.org> for more information.





# Acknowledgements

**PlayGround's Innovator Incubator** is a multi-year intensive incubation program to support theatrical innovation and the launch of new innovative theatrical production companies. PlayGround will competitively select up to 2 new projects/teams per year to join the returning cohort, providing each with access to a suite of services and resources in support of their initial development, first production, and strategic plan for post-incubation sustainability. At the conclusion of each year, all Innovator Incubator companies are invited to apply for a slot in the yearly Innovators Showcase, a multi-week festival of new and innovative productions and works in development. Participants for the Showcase are selected from competitive applications to receive free performance space and technical support to produce their vision: be it full length production, developmental reading, or symposium/workshop.

**Potrero Stage** is a 99-seat state-of-the-art performance space located in the heart of San Francisco's Potrero Hill neighborhood, operated by PlayGround, and serving as home to some of the Bay Area's leading new play developers and producers, including PlayGround, Crowded Fire, Golden Thread, and Playwrights Foundation, among others. For more information or to inquire about rentals, email [info@potrerostage.org](mailto:info@potrerostage.org) or call (415) 992-6677. <http://potrerostage.org>

**Theatre Bay Area's CASH Theatre Grant Program** — short for *Creative Assistance for the Small (Organization) and Hungry (Artist)* — provides vital financial support to individual theatre artists and small theatre companies in the San Francisco Bay Area. Founded in 1999, these grants support a range of creative projects artists and companies need, from capacity-building projects to fully-produced public performances.

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**"I AM BROWN, I AM TOGETHER, I AM BEAUTIFUL"**

-Al Robles, *Rappin' with Ten Thousand Carabaos in the Dark*



# Tribute

Is there something you wish you could say to your lolo/a or grandparent(s)? Please feel free to use the space below to share your message.

**For My** \_\_\_\_\_ ,



**Sincerely,** \_\_\_\_\_

## Maraming Salamat

Thank you for attending our developmental production of *For My Lolo* and engaging with us either in-person or virtually. Your presence and support in our work is deeply appreciated.

