

CELEBRATING OUR 30TH BIRTHDAY!

WORD FOR WORD & Z SPACE PRESENT

Citizen

By Greg Sarris

Belonging is just the beginning.



DIRECTED BY
**Gendell
Hing-Hernández**

OCTOBER 18 TO
NOVEMBER 12, 2023



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I first discovered Greg Sarris through his book *How a Mountain Was Made*. In this collection, he masterfully weaves magical tales that create a mythical world where the boundaries between tangible magic and realistic wonder become indistinct. Similarly, "Citizen" blurs every line it touches—from sisterhood, family, migration, immigration, citizenship, cross-cultural entanglements, and family secrets, Sarris understands that we as humans contain multitudes and many contradictions.

What initially struck me about this story was its unapologetic portrayal of life's battered survivors. Folks who've had to hustle to survive coming face-to-face with those who dare to dream. Through the eyes of Salvador, we gain insight into the complex and intricately woven history that cyclically unfolds in the American West.

This narrative traverses our soil's Indigenous heritage, colonial history, Mexican roots, and our culturally intertwined identity, shaped by continuous migratory journeys across a border imposed by war and marked by unjust treaties. Many are compelled into migration, forging a multifaceted American identity that demands not only courage to navigate but also the self-determination and confidence to claim.

At the core of it all lies a common challenge faced by many Americans in the West—the sensation of being treated as strangers in their own homeland, a feeling that often leads to shame. Salvador envisions a future where he can find employment, establish a home, and share his life with a partner. It should be straightforward, for he is, after all, a U.S. citizen. However, my friends, as we will soon learn—*belonging is just the beginning*.

—Gendell Hing-Hernández, Director



Carlos Aguirre (MC Infinite), Desirée Alcocer, Patricio Becerril, Bianca Catalan, Imani Champion, Carolyn Dunn, Rebecca Ennals, Marie-Claire Erdynast, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, Edie Flores, Rodrigo Garcia, Isabel Gonzales, Sandra Hing, Amanda Hing-Hernández, Canelle Irmias, Miwa Kaneko & Kyoko Yoshida of Theatre of Yugen, Ras K'Dee, Jessie Annette Koehn, Joey Lariz, Litquake, Anna Maria Luera, Isabel Mendoza, Joe Moore, Regina Morones, Annika Raether, Armando Rodriguez, Francisco Rodriguez, Greg Sarris, Anakarina Swanson, Dan Wolf



ARTISTIC RISK

30 YEARS

Z SPACE + WORD FOR WORD

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Thank you for joining us for our 30th birthday season! It is appropriate that we celebrate this milestone with a story by Greg Sarris. Greg was among the first writers whose work we produced as full productions, rather than as simply staged readings in schools or libraries, where we first explored the theatrical creations that would become Word for Word Performing Arts Company's signature style. We had read Greg's groundbreaking short story collection, *Grand Avenue*, a collection of interlinked stories about marginalized people in modern day Santa Rosa and knew we had to bring them to the stage. Once Greg came to see our production of his story "Slaughterhouse," we became mutual fans and supporters of each other's work. And that respect has grown as we've seen what Greg and the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, the very generous sponsors of our season, have accomplished over the years. Please check out a partial list of those accomplishments in this program and on our website.

What I love most about Greg's writing is its complexity and honesty. He doesn't shy away from the messiness of life, nor does he offer any easy explanations of its messiness. He puts it out there, with all its contradictions, hard truths, and harshness and fills it with beauty and empathy.

This remains true with a story like "Citizen." Through Salvador's eyes we see a life that is not easy, yet still filled with beauty and hope. He is looking to understand who he is, looking for a place to belong. This year we've chosen stories that contain searches for a community of some kind. In a world today that is becoming more and more divided, we need community more than ever. We cherish the theater as our place of community, our place to belong. And for 30 years we've been honored to share that community with you.

—JoAnne Winter, Word for Word Artistic Director

In Memoriam

Word for Word remembers
Constance Ruth Bernstein
January 12, 1938—May 30, 2023

Earlier this year, Word for Word lost a true friend and long-time supporter. Originally from Charlotte, North Carolina, Connie led an adventurous and full life, studying at University of Wisconsin-Madison, working as a journalist and as a coach in non-verbal communication, founding a legal consulting firm,



and starting a jewelry business which supported Palestinian children and other of causes close to her heart. A world traveler, her curiosity and enthusiasm created friendships wherever she went. We will miss her indomitable spirit and steadfast dedication to the arts and Word for Word. This performance of *Citizen* is dedicated to her memory. She lives on in our hearts.





Citizen

By Greg Sarris

Directed by Gendell Hing-Hernández+

CAST

L. Duarte: Eldine

Lisa Hori-Garcia*+: Candy, Ensemble

Rudy Guerrero*: Al, Ensemble

Ixtlán*: Ernesto, Marco

Christian Jimenez: Salvador

Carolina Morones: Ofelia, Ensemble

Ryan Tasker*+: Mike, Ensemble

This performance lasts approximately
90 minutes with no intermission.

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permission of the author.
"Citizen" was first published in
ZYZZYVA issue #110, Fall 2017

PRODUCTION

Scenic Designer: Mikiko Uesugi**

Lighting Designer: Brittany Mellerson

Composer & Sound Designer: David Molina

Associate Sound Designer: Matt Stines

Costume Designer: Nolan Miranda

Assistant Costume Designer: Armando Breiz

Prop Designer: Leah Hammond

Dramaturg & EDI Consultant: W. Fran Astorga

Co-Voice & Text Coach: Stephanie Hunt+

Co-Voice & Text Coach: JoAnne Winter+

Assistant Voice & Text Coach: Tiffany Cartagena

Production Manager: Jim Cave+

Stage Manager: Karen Runk*

Assistant Stage Manager: Theodore Cordano

Lead Production Technician: Daniel Hall

Lead Electrician: Mary Clare Blake-Booth

Scenic Painter: Vola Ruben

Casting: Casting Collective

Press Agent: David Hyry & Associates

Promotional & Production Photography: Robbie Sweeny



Word for Word's 2023 season is generously sponsored
by Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria.

Citizen is made possible with support provided by:



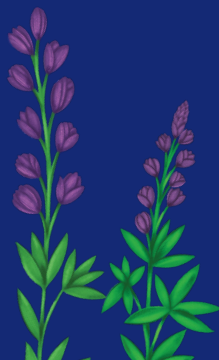
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*Member, Actors' Equity Association **Member, United Scenic Artists

+Member, Word for Word Core Company





DRAMATURG NOTES



Citizen presents many themes due to the grappling environments and circumstances the author, Greg Sarris, has crafted for his characters. In *Citizen*, we meet the protagonist, Salvador, who embodies the delicate relationships between cultural identity, nationality, and migration. Throughout Salvador's journey, we learn through his perspective as a natural born U.S. citizen who is returning to the United States as a young adult after being raised in Suchitlán, Colima, Mexico. He consistently finds himself at a crossroads as he discovers how his life in Santa Rosa, California is new, exciting, and dangerous. There's a constant balancing act between obligation and safety as the characters delve into satiating their personal needs. Salvador learns that in the absence of nurture, a feeding hand can easily become an exploiting one—especially when familial obligations are overcome by the pursuit of freedom, lust, and the next high.

To learn more about the world of *Citizen* visit zspace.org/citizen-dramaturgy or follow this QR code.

—W. Fran Astorga, Dramaturg for *Citizen*



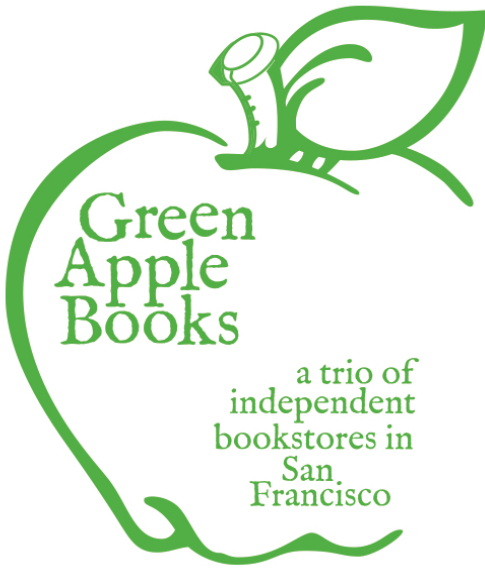
At Z Space and Word for Word, we acknowledge that our space resides on the sacred and ancestral land of the Ramaytush Ohlone people.

We deeply respect and honor their enduring connection to this land.

Please consider visiting ramaytush.org/donate.html to make a donation to the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone.

Together, we can ensure that this sacred space thrives in harmony with its past, present, and future.

Thank you for being a part of our journey toward reconciliation, healing, and unity.



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BIOGRAPHIES

AUTHOR & DIRECTOR

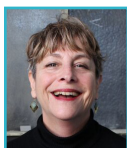


Greg Sarris (Author) holds a PhD in Modern Thought and Literature from Stanford University and worked as a full professor of English at UCLA, teaching American and Native American Literature and Creative Writing from 1989 until 2001. The author of many books, including *Keeping Slug Woman Alive: A Holistic Approach to American Indian Texts* (University of California Press: 1993), *Grand Avenue* (Hyperion: 1994—highly acclaimed and awarded collection of short stories adapted for an HBO Miniseries of the same name, co-executive produced by Robert Redford), and *Watermelon Nights* (Hyperion: 1999), Greg's most recent books include the award-winning *How a Mountain was Made* (Heyday: 2017) and *Becoming Story, a Journey among Seasons, Places Trees, and Ancestors* (Heyday: 2022). He is serving his 16th consecutive term as Chairman of his tribe, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, formerly known as the Federated Coast Miwok. On December 27, 2000, President Clinton signed a bill restoring the Federated Coast Miwok as a recognized American Indian tribe, making the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria the last tribe in the United States to be restored by an Act of Congress. In July 2013, he raised money to build a resort and casino for his tribe; and today, the casino resort is among the five most successful Indian casinos in the nation. Greg is also the executive producer of *I Am A Noise*, a documentary film about Joan Baez. He has been appointed Chair to the Board of Trustees for the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, served as Co-Chair of Smithsonian Campaign, and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2023 Greg was appointed to the UC Board of Regents by Governor Gavin Newsome. Greg now lives and works in his beloved Sonoma County.



Gendell Hing-Hernández (Director) was born in Havana, Cuba, and has actively worked as a bilingual actor, director, and producer in the Bay Area since 1997. He is currently a Word for Word Core Company member and has worked as an actor for Word for Word, Campo Santo, Magic Theatre, Berkeley Rep, TheatreWorks, San Jose Rep, Center Rep, New Pickle Circus, and many others. Productions include *Lucia Berlin*, *Sorry Fugu*, *Oil*, *Around The World in 80 Days*, *The Cook*, *Blood Wedding*, *Oedipus El Rey*, and *References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot*. He has been a company member of Theater of Yugen, Red Ladder Theater Company, Alphabet Rockers, and The Felonious Collective. His directing includes works with Word for Word, Felonious, Quixotic Players, Teatro del Juglar, The NY Hip-Hop Theater Festival, Oakland Public Theatre, Berkeley Rep's School of Theatre, and the Pacific Alliance Stage Company. He has also been an Event Manager and Producer for Word for Word, Felonious: One Love Hip Hop, Theater Of Yugen, and The Cuban-American Cultural Institute. His work on Greg Sarris' *How a Mountain was Made* led him to *Citizen*. Hing-Hernández is stage-combat-certified, first-aid-certified, and a movement specialist. He won the Best Fight Choreography Award for *R&J* and Best Ensemble Award for his work in Magic's Theatre's production of *Oedipus: El Rey*.

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS



JoAnne Winter (Artistic Director, Word for Word; Co-Voice and Text Coach) is thrilled and astonished to be celebrating 30 years of Word for Word! In 1993, Winter co-founded Word for Word Performing Arts Company with Susan Harloe and the amazing Charter Group—her sisters. With them, she has had the pleasure of helping to produce many, many productions, readings, and student projects. In 2019/2020 she and Word for Word welcomed the new Core Company members, who are continuing the Word for Word way, while informing and expanding it. The thrill continues! Thank you to all who have made the work of this company possible over the years. And special love and gratitude to Ben, Jack and Adrian.



Vanessa Flores Chacko (Associate Artistic Director, Word for Word) is a writer, director, and producer with a passion for combining storytelling, play, and collaboration. Holding an MFA in Writing from California College of the Arts, she values the profound relationships she has cultivated with fellow artists and continuously seeks to inspire her community and foster connections through art-making and theater. She is a Word for Word Core Company member and the Founder/Creative Director of Other Hand Media. Vanessa has extensive experience in production and administration, having worked with several Bay Area organizations like Playwrights Foundation, American Conservatory Theater, and Z Space.

CAST



L. Duarte (Eldine) (they/them) is an actor, director, and playwright whose recent projects include *August: Osage County* (San Jose Stage Company); *Julius Caesar* (PacRep); *The Review* (Theatre Rhinoceros); *Helen!* (Theatre of Yugen); *Into the Beautiful North* and *The King of Cuba* (Central Works). They have also worked with Willows Theatre Co, Berkeley Rep., Crowded Fire, Playwrights Foundation, Bay Area Children's Theatre, and various others. Duarte is a graduate of UCLA and UCSC and has trained with A.C.T. and Shakespeare & Co. Duarte is a founding member of Latinx Mafia, a Bay Area collective of Latinx Teatristas, who work to ensure Latinx stories are valued and accurately represented. latinxmafia.com



Lisa Hori-Garcia (Candy, Ensemble) is thrilled to be back performing in Chairman Sarris's powerful piece, *Citizen*. Over the years, Lisa has performed in multiple Word for Word productions including Chairman Sarris's beautiful *Stories from Sonoma Mountain* and was most recently seen in *Home* by George Saunders, which toured France in May 2023. Lisa is an actress, director, and teaching artist who regularly works between Denver, Colorado, and San Francisco. Most recently, she was in the world premiere, immersive theatrical production of David Byrne's *Theater of the Mind* at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Lisa received her BA from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, and her MFA in Acting from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, California. She is a member of AEA and SAG/AFTRA and is proud to be a Word for Word Core Company member. lisahorigarcia.com



Rudy Guerrero (Al, Ensemble) is an actor whose previous Word for Word credits include *Stories by Emma Donoghue* and *Colm Toibin*, *Food Stories* by T.C.Boyle, and *Stories by Tobias Wolff*. Other theater credits include performances at 42nd St. Moon, American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Central Works, Connecticut Repertory Theater, Foothill Music Theater, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, Magic Theatre, Marin Shakespeare Company, Marin Theatre Company, Playground, Playwrights Foundation, SF Playhouse, Theatre Rhinoceros, and TheatreWorks. Rudy has a BFA in Musical Theater from the Boston Conservatory and an MFA in Acting from the American Conservatory Theater. rudygurero.com



Ixtlán (Ernesto, Marco) is an actor and artist from Northern California. He studied in Los Angeles, New York, New Mexico, and in the school of life. Él va con Dios. @Flowersfromouterspace



Christian Jimenez (Salvador) is an actor, playwright, and graduate of the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts Theatre Department. He is a San Francisco native excited to make his debut with Word for Word. He was most recently seen in Sausalito Shakes' *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, SFBATCO's *Sign My Name To Freedom*, and Young People's Teen Musical Theatre Company's *Legally Blonde*. Represented by JE Talent.



Carolina Morones (Ofelia, Ensemble) is a multidisciplinary performer, educator, and community organizer focused on telling stories that empower through poetry and movement. Recently, she played the role of Marina in *Pericles, Prince of Tyre* (SF Shakes). In 2020 she was the Movement Director and Cultural Consultant for Octavio Solis' *Retablos: Life on the Border* (Word for Word). Carolina currently teaches for American Conservatory Theater, Word for Word's Youth Arts program and is the Education & Engagement Consultant for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. She is a recipient of the 2023 Creative Work Fund Award, as playwright of *Querida Sor Juana: The Death of the Phoenix of Mexico* in collaboration with SF Shakespeare Festival.



Ryan Tasker (Mike, Ensemble) is a Word for Word Core Company member and has appeared in their productions of *Retablos*, *You Know When the Men Are Gone*, and *Three on a Party*. He has also acted and directed for Word for Word's *Off the Page* series, with some favorites being Joan Didion's *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* and Chekhov's *The Lady With the Dog*. He has also worked with Marin Theatre Company, American Conservatory Theater, the SF Shakespeare Festival, Aurora Theatre Company, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Shotgun Players, and the Livermore Shakespeare Festival, among others.

PRODUCTION



Mikiko Uesugi (Scenic Designer) has designed several productions for Word for Word, including *Home* by George Saunders, *Stories By Tobias Wolff*, *Immortal Heart* by Amy Tan, and *Four Adverbs* by Daniel Handler. Recent theater credits include *The Nightingale & Erwartung* for West Edge Opera; *Colonialism is Terrible, but Pho is Delicious* and *Wives* for Aurora Theater Company; and *Monument, or Four Sisters (A Sloth Play)* for Magic Theatre. She has also designed for Shotgun Players, Crowded Fire, Theater Works, A.C.T. MFA Program, and Berkeley Repertory Theatre, among others. She is a resident artist at Golden Thread Productions, a recipient of the NEA/TCG Career Development Program for Designers, and The Isadora Duncan Dance Award.

Brittany Mellerson (Lighting Designer) is a graduate of Point Park University's Conservatory Program, with a BFA in Theatrical Lighting & Sound Design. Brittany is the Resident Lighting Designer for Lamplighters Music Theatre & SF PlayGround. She serves as the Production & Technical Director of BAMBD CDC and Lower Bottom Playaz. Recent credits include lighting design for LMT's commissioned new work, *By, George!*, PlayGround's *Best of PlayGround Festival*, Awesome Theatre's feature film *THEM*, and lighting and sound design for The Pear's *Mountaintop* and *Sunset Baby*. Throughout the pandemic, she has committed to further source and produce equitable employment avenues within the Bay Area for Black designers and technicians.

David R. Molina (Composer and Sound Designer) is a San Francisco-based composer, multi-instrumentalist, sound artist/engineer, and instrument inventor. He creates music for interdisciplinary and performing arts productions that focus on social justice or working with marginalized communities. He has worked on national Quixote Nuevo productions since its creation in 2018. Recent shows include *The XIXTH* at The Old Globe, *Hotter Than Egypt* at DCPA, and *12th Night* at St Louis Shakespeare Festival and touring with La Mezcla dance company. His multimedia concert *The Long Walk Home: A Mayan Family's Journey In Search of Refuge* will premiere at Brava Theater on December 8 & 9, 2023. Awards include: LA Ovation, Creative Capital, St. Louis Theater Circle, Colorado Henry Award, Zellerbach Grant, MAP Fund, and the SF Arts Commission. His multimedia collaborations have been shown at SFMOMA, The Broad, Oakland Museum of California, de Young Museum, and McLoughlin Gallery. His bands are Impuritan, Ghosts and Strings, and Transient.

Matt Stines (Assistant Sound Designer) (whatever pronouns you wish) is grateful to return to Z Space/Word for Word. He makes sounds and musics in a variety of contexts and has taught theater sound design at SF State, St Mary's College, and Sonoma State. He plays: drums in Quilted Spleen, all sorts of things in Fullgrownmin, all and nothing in S T A I N S. mikestains.com

Nolan Miranda (Costume Designer) (he/him) is thrilled to be back at Z Space! He is a graduate of The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising with a degree in Fashion & Costume Design. He has been costuming San Francisco productions since 2009. Recent notable design work include: *The Red Shades: A Trans Super Hero Rock Opera* (Z Space), *Shoshana in December* (Custom Made Theatre Co.), and *Baskerville* (Hillbarn Theatre & Conservatory). Nolan was born and raised in the Philippines and has lived in the Bay Area since 2000. In addition, he is a co-founder and owner of Bab Boi, a catering company specializing in playful Filipino eats. Instagram: @nolanmiranda

Armando Breiz (Assistant Costume Designer) (he/him) is a born and raised San Franciscan who has been assisting in costume design for the past six years for the Riordan High School Drama program and most recently Hillbarn Theatre in Foster City. In addition to his love for creativity through costuming, he is the co-owner and chef of Bab Boi, a catering company specializing in playful Filipino eats.

Leah Hammond (Prop Designer) has worn many theatrical hats over the past 20-odd years but gets especially excited about props. They have worked at theaters around the Bay Area, including Aurora Theatre, SF Playhouse, Magic Theatre, Bay Area Musicals, CCSF's Diego Rivera Theatre, Center REP, and more. Favorite projects include set design & scenic painting for *Cradle Will Rock* (Diego Rivera Theatre) and *Be More Chill* (Tomorrow Youth Rep); props for *Road to Mecca* (Rooke Theatre) and *Paradise Blue* (Aurora Theatre); and production tech for *Don't Eat the Mangos* and *Nassim* (Magic Theatre). Leah has also dabbled in acting, including playing Universanaut in *Disinsemination*, Lenny in *Rumors*, multiple 24-hour play festivals, and a very cute five-year-old tortoise in *Tortoise and the Hare*.

W. Fran Astorga (Dramaturg and EDI Consultant) (they/them) is an artist residing on land stewarded by the Yelamu, Ramaytush Ohlone (San Francisco, CA). Their artistic works center the well-being of the community and artistic excellence by working to decolonize approaches, practices, and procedures that negatively impact folk from marginalized communities. Their art leans into the experimental and immersive to inspire curiosity, engagement, action, and joy. Fran's writing has recently (2021 -2023) been featured by B Street Theater, the National New PlayNetwork, Latinx Theater Commons, Cutting Ball Theater, Native Writers Lab, Theatre Magazine, and Howround Theater Commons. Fran serves as a resident playwright and producer for the Desert Playwrights' Retreat (2022/2023) and is a founder of In The Margin, an arts and advocacy organization.

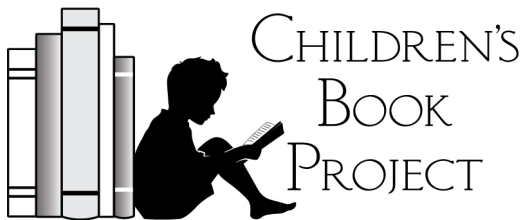
Stephanie Hunt (Co-Voice and Text Coach) is a Word for Word Core Company member. She has acted in and directed numerous stories with Word for Word, including works by authors Upton Sinclair, Virginia Woolf, Angela Carter, Rudyard Kipling, Andrew Sean Greer, Zona Gale, Tobias Wolff, Colm Tóibín, and Edward P. Jones. As a voice and text coach, she has worked on Word for Word's *Olive Kitteridge*, *Anniversary*, and the Word for Word/California Shakespeare Theatre co-production of John Steinbeck's *The Pastures of Heaven*, adapted for the stage by Octavio Solis. She teaches acting and voice at University of San Francisco and at Stanford University.

Tiffany Cartagena (Assistant Vocal and Text Coach) is an actor and recent graduate of Stanford University's Theater and Performance Studies department. Her training background includes voice/speech work and costume design. Previously, she worked as an assistant costume designer on *The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin* at SF Playhouse, and she interned at the costume design office for Broadway's *Hamilton* in New York City. She is very excited to be working on *Citizen* as her first production with Word for Word!

Jim Cave (Production Manager) has worked with Word for Word for over 20 years as a lighting designer, director, and production manager. Most recently, he co-directed *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* with Delia MacDougall and *Retablos* with Sheila Balter. Jim is a Core Company member of Word for Word.

Karen Runk (Stage Manager) moved to SF with the intention of only staying for a few months...Well over two decades later she's still here! This is largely due to the talented folks at the SF Mime Troupe and thanks to Golden Thread Productions where she has been a Resident Artist since 2018 (aka the before times) - but mostly it's due to rent control! Runk has also stage managed with Golden Thread Productions, Magic Theatre, SF Shakespeare Festival, Intersection for the Arts, African American Shakespeare Company and SF Mime Troupe.

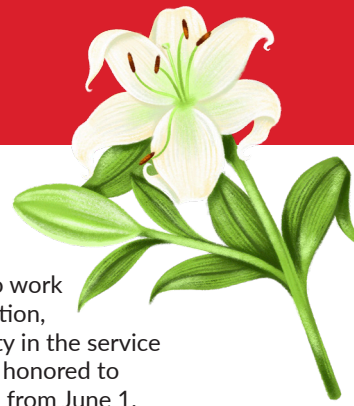
Theodore Cordano (Assistant Stage Manager) is a recent graduate from Loyola University New Orleans with a BA in Theater Arts. He is excited to work on his third show with Z Space and Word for Word as the Assistant Stage Manager. He also works as a stagehand with IATSE Local 16 and as a video editor in his spare time. He would love to thank his family for the all the love and support and would also love to thank Z Space and Word for Word for the opportunity.



Word for Word is proud to support the Children's Book Project, which provides books to children, advancing equity in literacy, learning, and life. Bring a new or gently used children's book to donate during the run of the show, and receive a non-alcoholic drink (one drink per donor). Learn more at childrensbookproject.org/give-books/



THANK YOU

from Z Space and Word for Word





We are so grateful to all our donors who have made gifts of all sizes. Thanks to your generosity, we continue to work towards our mission of empowering artistic risk, collaboration, and camaraderie amongst artists, audience, and community in the service of creating, developing, and presenting new work. We are honored to list the donors below who have contributed \$100 or more from June 1, 2022, through September 1, 2023.



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A special thanks to our supporters who contribute under \$100 annually AND make up the largest segment of our donor family. There truly is no gift too small and every bit helps to empower artistic risk and keep our mission alive. THANK YOU!

ESTATE & LEGACY GIFTS

We are grateful to the following individuals for generously remembering Z Space and Word for Word in their estate plans:

Gail Sinquefield

Z Space is grateful to have been the beneficiary of legacy gifts from the estates of:

Lauren Alexander
Constance Bernstein
The Nina Kivelson Auerbach Trust
Cherylene Lee
The Patty Wolfe Philanthropic Fund

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Support Z Space & Word for Word's dynamic programming!

To make a gift, please contact Development & Marketing Coordinator Jessie Wong at jwong@zspace.org or 415.508.5970.

Prefer to donate by check? Please make it payable to Z Space and mail it to:
499 Alabama St. #450
San Francisco, CA 94110.



We are looking for friends!

Friends of Word for Word is a group of volunteers who serve as ambassadors and help with fundraising, cast meals, party planning, hosting, and more! If you're interested in being a part of this unique group, please reach out to Associate Artistic Director Vanessa Flores Chacko at vflores@zspace.org to learn more!



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About Word for Word

Co-founded by Susan Harloe and JoAnne Winter, Word for Word's mission is to tell great stories with elegant theatricality, taking exciting works of fiction from the page to the stage. We believe in the power of the short story to provide solace, compassion, and insight into our daily lives.

Word for Word Core Company

The Word for Word Core Company is a group of talented theater professionals as well as avid readers. The Core Company works with the artistic leadership of Word for Word in the planning and creation of a season through attendance at monthly company meetings and annual retreats. Company members read and suggest stories for production, help with fundraising, and contribute to audience growth and engagement.

Core Company Members

JoAnne Winter,* Co-Founder and Artistic Director
Vanessa Flores Chacko, Associate Artistic Director
Rotimi Agbabiaka
Sheila Balter*
Molly Benson
Jim Cave
Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe
Jeri Lynn Cohen* (1959-2021)
Paul Finocchiaro
Rosie Hallett
Gendell Hing-Hernández

Lisa Hori-Garcia
Stephanie Hunt*
Amy Kossow,* Literary Manager
Delia MacDougall*
Joel Mullennix
Wendy Radford*
Brian Rivera
Nancy Shelby*
Patricia Silver*
Ryan Tasker
Joan Walton (Emeritus)

*Charter Member, meeting monthly since Word for Word's founding in 1993

Word for Word's Author Council

Greg Sarris, Honorary President
Julia Alvarez
T.C. Boyle
Sandra Cisneros
Siobhan Fallon
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Amy Tan
Tobias Wolff



About Z Space

Z Space is a non-profit theater company located in the heart of San Francisco's Mission District. We produce our own works, foster and subsidize the development of other creative artists with our Subspace program, and serve as a presenting home to a wide variety of performing arts organizations through our curated rental program. Operating out of an old can-making factory, we now activate two performance venues, an 83-seat intimate theater (Z Below) and a 236-seat flexible theater space (The Steindler Stage), with a warehouse aesthetic and an adventurous edge. Z Space is also home to Word for Word, our resident theater company that brings works of fiction to the stage in their own unique style.

Z Space Staff

Leadership Team

Shafer Mazow
Executive Director

Nikki Meñez
Curatorial Director

JoAnne Winter
Artistic Director, Word For Word
Director, Youth Arts

Vanessa Flores Chacko
Associate Artistic Director, Word
For Word

Staff

Hillary Bray
Director of Development

Andrew Burmester
Director of Marketing

Clara Fulks
Audience Experience Manager

Daniel Hall
Lead Production Technician

Neil Higgins
Business Manager

Colm McNally
Director of Technical and Production

Lance O'Dell
Lead Facilities Technician

Amy Prosser
Youth Arts Program Coordinator

Jessie Wong
Development & Marketing
Coordinator

Z Board

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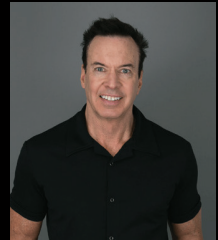
Dan Shuwarger

Gary Stanford, Jr., Vice President

Word for Word thanks the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria for being our 2023 Season Sponsor!



Word for Word thanks the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria for being our 2023 Season Sponsor! The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR) and their Tribal Chairman, Greg Sarris, have been a part of Word for Word, almost from its inception. In 1994 we produced a story from Greg's book *Grand Avenue*, a novel about contemporary, urban American Indians and other marginalized people who live in Santa Rosa and Sonoma County. This led to many more wonderful collaborations over the years, most recently between our arts education program, Youth Arts, and FIGR's youth summer camp programs. Last summer was our sixth providing arts programming for the Native youth of Sonoma County!



Greg Sarris,
Author and Chairman
of Federated Indians
of Graton Rancheria



FIGR's organic garden
L-R: Heather Knoll and
Michael Zigler.
Photo: Jenna Brager

Greg Sarris was instrumental in helping his people, the Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo of Northern California, gain federal recognition. On Dec 27, 2000, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria became the last tribe in the United States to be restored by an act of Congress. FIGR went on to use the opportunity and reparations from that recognition to create the Graton Resort and Casino in Rohnert Park. In addition to providing programs and services to Tribal Citizens to realize their dreams of self-sufficiency, the resort itself has a forward thinking design, with sustainability in mind. The employees receive some of the best pay and benefits for service workers in the county, and the Tribe has created an organic garden onsite at the resort that feeds local elders.

To learn more about FIGR's generosity to their community, their good works in the broader world, and Word for Word's partnership with them, please visit zspace.org/figr-sponsorship.

A special thanks to Landis Communications. landispr.com

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We would like to celebrate the memory of Neal Sofman, longtime friend of Word for Word, legendary bookseller, founder of A Clean Well Lighted Place for Books, and co-owner of Bookshop West Portal. Thank you, friend!



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