

el teatro campesino presents



LA PASTORELA



NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 17, 2023
EL TEATRO CAMPESINO PLAYHOUSE

THE CAST OF **LA PASTORELA**

HERMITAÑO	Mauricio Sámano
SATANÁS	Cristal Gonzalez Avila
SAN MIGUEL	Rosa Aranda
LUZBEL	Leticia Candelaria
GILA	Sammy Cardoza
BARTOLA	Sylvia Sahagun González
CUCHARA	Kassandra Zarate
PARRANDA	Sandra Hernandez Arretche
BATO	Anthony Gutierrez
MELISA/MARIA	Samantha Varela
JOSE	Bacilio Santoyo
ANGELS	Samantha Gutierrez Teresa Rodriguez Camila Zenteno-Ramos Sofia Zenteno-Ramos Victoria Zenteno Ramos
DEVILS	Adam Luna Ricardo Ibarra Tammy Xinaxtli Tizoc Ramirez-Marquez Stella Ramos
MUSICOS	Chas Croslin Dyllon Jacobson Daniel E. Valdez Emiliano Valdez



@ELTEATROCAMPESINO

WWW.ELTEATROCAMPESINO.COM

PRODUCTION TEAM OF

LA PASTORELA

WRITER/ADAPTOR	Luis Valdez
DIRECTOR	Kinan Valdez*
MUSICAL DIRECTOR	Daniel E. Valdez
VOCAL CONSULTANT	Daniel Valdez
MUSICAL CONSULTANT	Emiliano Valdez
SCENIC DESIGN	Joe Cardinalli
LIGHTING DESIGN	Paul Skelton
PROJECTIONS DESIGN	Dante Carballo
“HELL’S MOUTH” ARTISAN	Christy Sandoval
ORIGINAL COSTUME DESIGNS	Lupe Valdez
NEW COSTUME DESIGNS	Zoa Lopez
MAKE UP DESIGNS	Stella Ramos
PROPERTIES	Sylvia Sahagun González
CHOREOGRAPHER	Janet Johns
FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER	Michael Chemers
PRODUCER	Christy Sandoval
STAGE MANAGER	David Alvarez
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Elizabeth Atilano
COSTUME ASSISTANT	Katie Hipol Garcia
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR	Ryan Terry
PROJECTIONS OPERATOR	Noe DeLeon
FIGHT/DANCE CAPTAIN	Tizoc Ramirez Marquez
CARPENTER	Ron Pratt
RUNNING CREW	Sean Aten Julian Moreno Bacilio Santoyo
HOUSE MANAGER	Gloria Gutierrez
BOX OFFICE	Louisa Muñoz
TIENDITA	Graciela Serna Nutter
CONCESSIONS	Corina Martinez

*The Director is a Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union



@ELTEATROCAMPESINO

WWW.ELTEATROCAMPESINO.COM

LA PASTORELA

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Ramona Hill
Sean True

Alicia Zenteno-Ramos
Holdaway Construction

Juan Zenteno
Lakin Valdez

MIL GRACIAS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORTORS

the David &
Lucile Packard
FOUNDATION



It is the mission of El Teatro Campesino to make teatro a creator of vibrant community

STAFF

Business Manager
Executive Director
Executive Producer
Facilities Manager
Creative Associate

Louisa Muñoz
Christy Sandoval
Phil Esparza
David Alvarez
Graciela Serna Nutter

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marilyn Abad-Cardinalli
Joe Cardinalli
Jose Delgado
Phillip Esparza
Anita Garcia

Anahuac Valdez
Kinan Valdez
Luis Valdez
Lupe Valdez
Richard Vasquez



Images of the Virgin

Exhibition on view
December 1 – January 14
107 B The Alameda
San Juan Bautista, CA
831-623-ARTE



@ELTEATROCAMPESINO

WWW.ELTEATROCAMPESINO.COM

A MESSAGE FROM FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR LUIS VALDEZ

Bienvenidos! Once again, on behalf of the entire creative family of El Teatro Campesino, I welcome you to our joyous, biennial production of La Pastorela during this 2023 holiday season.

As always, our Christmas play is a labor of love, involving the young and the old, veterans and newcomers, professional actors and nonprofessionals, in a gesture of spirit, tradition and faith by and for our community.

We began performing La Pastorela in the streets of San Juan Bautista in 1977. The cold winter nights had always put both our audience and actors through an ordeal, but the steady rain of December 1980 finally washed us out completely. Miraculously, the late Monsignor Amancio Rodriguez, then pastor of the Mission, came to our rescue by opening the doors of the Old Basilica and allowing the Shepherds to come inside.

Alternating with La Virgen del Tepeyac, which we began performing in 1971, we staged La Pastorela inside the warm comfort of the Mission every other year. As much as we loved performing the show in the streets, our indoor productions of La Pastorela allowed it to be seen by thousands of children and senior citizens who could never have braved the elements of so many cold and wet Decembers.

Our Christmas plays have now returned to the cradle that gave them birth, our own popular theater in the Mission village. In spirit of the Christ child born in a manger, La Pastorela is being reborn in our humble packing-shed playhouse with all the creativity, vibrancy and cariño that our 57 year old El Teatro Campesino family can provide.

Thanks to the unflagging hard work of our indefatigable Staff, Board of Directors, Core Company, and Volunteers - and the generosity of our funders, sponsors and supporters - El Teatro continues on its spiritual journey, not unlike the scruffy shepherds of La Pastorela in search of the blessings of the Divine Child.

In keeping with our Teatro aesthetic as “theatre of the sphere,” we thus invite you sit back and enjoy the simple but exquisite beauty of the original Christmas story in our re-designed “theater in the round.” May the joys of La Pastorela and the blessings of the Santo Niño be with you and your family this Christmas season.

Peace on Earth, Good Will to All!



@ELTEATROCAMPESINO

WWW.ELTEATROCAMPESINO.COM

SCENE BY SCENE SYNOPSIS

LA PASTORELA

ACT I, SCENE 1

The Pastores (Shepherds) herding their flocks through the desert, enter singing. Their song is an invocation to the universality of God: all creation is beholden to Him, the Creator. As they ready themselves for their nightly rest Gila, a young shepherdess, senses something unique in the air.

El Hermitaño (Hermit), a faithful man who has dedicated his life to spiritual purification, has lived alone in a cave for twenty years awaiting the arrival of the messiah as predicted by the prophets. He offers his nightly prayer: that God keep his spirit pure and protect humanity from the demonic influence.

Luzbel (Lucifer) and their minions burst forth from the depths of Hell. They have sensed that the event they have feared most has taken place; the Christ Child has been born on earth to Mary and Joseph. This is the Messiah, Luzbel's prophesied enemy; filled with rage and fear, Luzbel orders Satanás (Satan) to search the earth and find this Child.

San Miguel (The Archangel St. Michael) and the angels appear to Gila, announcing the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem (Belén). The Angels bid her to journey there with the shepherds and pay homage to the Son of God.

Satanás returns to Luzbel. They have found the Christ Child in Belén, born in a manger. Luzbel is enraged. Through the messiah's birth they have lost their empire, the earth. Luzbel cries out in grief that they and their entourage of devils are condemned to everlasting torment in the depths of hell. The devils protest their fate. They beg Luzbel to return to earth where they will wage war against Christ and the forces of good. Luzbel orders them forth and the war begins.

ACT I, SCENE 2

El Hermitaño awakens filled with the nightmare of the devil's plan to wage war on Christ and the forces of good. Is it true, he asks himself, that the Messiah has been born? Isolated for twenty years, he has no one to tell him if it is true or not. And worse, if it is true and Luzbel has declared war, who is he to warn? Suddenly, he hears voices. He spies the Pastores' camp as they awaken. At last there is someone to talk to about the birth of Jesus - maybe they have heard!

El Hermitaño enters the Pastores' camp. At first they are frightened by the appearance of the eccentric old man. But when he explains who he is and begs news of the Christ Child; they offer to feed him and invite him to join their band and travel with them.

Gila runs in and announces the birth of the Messiah. Full of joy, the Pastores are convinced they must journey to Belén. But as they prepare to leave, the shepherd Bartola becomes the first one to feel the tricks of the devils and doesn't want to go. To inspire Bartola, the other Pastores sing and finally pull her out of the spell. With the help of San Miguel and the angels, the journey of the Pastores begins.



@ELTEATROCAMPESINO

WWW.ELTEATROCAMPESINO.COM

SCENE BY SCENE SYNOPSIS

LA PASTORELA

ACT II, SCENE 1

At the next rest stop, the shepherd Cuchara is sent out to tend the sheep while the others eat and rest. Happy that soon they will see the Christ Child, the Pastores sing and dance. Demons dance into their circle and introduce Satanás who presents himself disguised as a fellow traveler. Satanás announces they are there to lead them to a place where there are treasures of incalculable riches. When their true intentions are revealed, the Pastores refuse the offer. Satanás reveals himself and punishes the pastores by turning them into a flock of docile sheep.

ACT II, SCENE 2

The next moment, Cuchara returns. Amazed at finding a whole new flock of sheep, she admires them, amused at how some resemble her fellow Pastores. Satanás, who had disguised himself as a black sheep, jumps up and terrifies Cuchara, but then calms her down, telling her that she is more than a shepherd. Playing upon her insecurities, Satanás promises Cuchara that all of the sheep will be hers if she will do Satanás' bidding. Cuchara greedily accepts under the devil's spell. The angels appear as a divine magical note is blown on a conch shell. Cuchara has an epiphany instantly breaking Satanás' spell over the Pastores. Thwarted, Satanás and the devils disappear into the dark.

The Pastores' resolve is momentarily weakened as Cuchara tells them of her encounter with Satanás. Gila encourages the Pastores to continue on to Belén. Under the guidance of the Angels the Pastores continue on to Belén.

ACT III, SCENE 1

During this leg of the journey, Gila and Bato fall in love. When the Pastores stop to rest, they wonder whether there will be a wedding before their trip is over. After a beautiful serenade, Bato asks Gila to marry him. She accepts with joy, but, alas, the romance quickly takes a bad turn. Bato, following his future mother-in-law's lead, demands that she cook him a meal. Gila is furious and disillusioned. Heartbroken, she storms off in a huff as some strange music is heard in the distance. This time, Satanás returns as traveling royalty with the devils. They cast a spell on the Pastores to lure them away from the camp. Even Bato is entranced and deserts Gila.

Alone with El Hermitaño, Satanás weaves a web of dark magic; they begin to tell him that his life of penance is wasted. To serve god well, El Hermitaño should find someone to cook, like a wife. Satanás sets the two on a collision course. Gila returns to find the Pastores acting strange and Bato in the grasp of two demons. Gila confronts Bato and he says harsh words to her leaving her heartbroken. Under Satanás spell, El Hermitaño finds a distraught Gila and her cooking provokes his lust for food and he tries to snatch her cooking pot. The other Pastores now full of wrath, try to attack El Hermitaño. As he is dashing away, San Miguel breaks the spell again. All are convinced that their strange behavior is the devil's work. Fearful and concerned, they hurry again on the road to Belén.



@ELTEATROCAMPESINO

WWW.ELTEATROCAMPESINO.COM

SCENE BY SCENE SYNOPSIS

LA PASTORELA

ACT IV, SCENE 1

Aware of all that is now at stake, Luzbel takes over. Luzbel confronts the Pastores and recounts the tragic life that will be Christ's, even to the reenactment of the scene on the cross and his dying cry - "oh father, why have you forsaken me?" Luzbel exhorts the Pastores to listen to them. "The messiah offers nothing to you but the suffering of his own life," Luzbel states. Reaching into a chest of sparkling jewels, Luzbel scatters samples of "the good life" among the Pastores. At first the pastores resist but then they resign themselves to the temptation and start to turn away from Belén to follow Luzbel. Gila implores the Pastores not to abandon the journey and in desperation calls out to God and San Miguel for help.

ACT IV, SCENE 2

San Miguel and the angel army appear to save the Pastores descending from heaven in full angelic force, armed to fight the greatest battle of all eternity, the battle for the soul of humanity. The two armies face off. With San Miguel stand a phalanx of angels, who await their leader's command. Grouped about Luzbel, their mob of demons strain to do battle and destroy the forces of good.

San Miguel warns Luzbel that she is there with her heavenly forces to defend the Pastores and that fate is on the side of good. Luzbel declares that once and for all, they will battle San Miguel for the kingdom of earth and the reign of evil in the souls of all humanity.

San Miguel's forces line up to engage the demons as Luzbel orders his forces to attack. The whole world goes to war. The angels and devils fight intensely with both sides suffering losses. Satanás charges into the fray, but the angels disarm Satanás and defeat them with the help of San Miguel.

Luzbel steps in and advances upon San Miguel. Weapons are drawn and both engage in a fight. After disarming Luzbel, San Miguel opens up the cosmic portal for the two to fight in the cosmos. San Miguel defeats Luzbel with grace and divine power, the evil Luzbel, falls in ultimate defeat. San Miguel exiles Luzbel from the earth and they and the wounded devil army retreat to the abyss. With newfound strength, San Miguel sings a prayer in gratitude to the Mother and Father in heaven. Led by San Miguel and the angels, the Pastores continue their journey to Belén, singing their praises to heaven.

ACT V, SCENE 1

At last they reach the manger where the Christ Child lies in state. One by one, the Pastores offer their humble gifts and ask forgiveness for their trespasses and they place their gifts of love in gratitude for the gift of faith at his feet as Mary and Joseph acknowledge them in his name. El Hermitaño, with no worldly goods of his own, offers a happy little dance of joy and the animal skin cape off his back to the Redeemer.

Luzbel and their demons appear, entering the manger en masse. But have no fear, for they return as themselves, actors of El Teatro Campesino, to affirm their faith in God and to wish everyone "Merry Christmas, Peace on Earth, and Goodwill to All." "Feliz Navidad!"



@ELTEATROCAMPESINO

WWW.ELTEATROCAMPESINO.COM