

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 26, 2022
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Brava presents

PACHUQUÍSMO

Created, Choreographed & Directed by **Vanessa Sanchez**
Performed by San Francisco-based **La Mezcla**

Saturday, March 26, 7:30pm
Sunday, March 27, 7:30pm

Brava Theater Center
2781 24th Street
San Francisco, CA 94110

brava.org



Join Brava! for Women in the Arts for the return of Vanessa Sanchez and La Mezcla's multidisciplinary performance *Pachuquismo*, a rhythmic remembrance of las Pachucas and their stylized power of rebellious resistance, LIVE on our main stage! Returning after two sold-out shows, *Pachuquismo* unveils the forgotten history of Mexican-American female youth during the era of the Zoot Suit Riots and explores the struggles that communities of color continue to face today.

Recipient of the Isadora Duncan Award for Outstanding Production, the work overlays tap dance with Mexican zapateado, features a live band that brings together Jazz with traditional Son Jarocho music from Veracruz, Mexico and explores the Chicana experience through percussive conversations. With the all-female cast donning full zoot suits, *Pachuquismo* pulls the narrative of the Zoot Suit Riots out of the male-centered context and portrays the experiences of las pachucas of the 1940's through movement,

spoken word and video. *Pachuquismo* is funded by the New England Foundation for the Arts and was featured on the Joyce Theater "JoyceStream" in 2020.

BIOGRAPHIES

Vanessa Sanchez is a Chicana-Native dancer, choreographer and educator who focuses on community arts and traditional dance forms to emphasize voices and experiences of Latina, Chicana, and Indigenous womxn and youth. Based in San Francisco, she is a 2019 Dance/USA Artist Fellow and the founding Artistic Director of La Mezcla, a rhythmic ensemble that explores historical narratives and challenges social injustice through tap dance, Mexican zapateado and Afro-Caribbean rhythms. Sanchez's work is deeply rooted in community engagement, creating rhythmic choreography to tell stories of collective resistance, and producing accessible and engaging arts events for BIPOC communities. She created the Tap dance and Son Jarocho production "*Pachuquismo*, which received a New England Foundation for the Arts NDP grant and the Isadora Duncan Award for Outstanding Production. Sanchez is currently a Dance Lecturer at UC Santa Cruz and received a Hewlett 50 Arts Commission grant for her upcoming work "Ghostly Labor," a percussive piece that explores the exploitation of female labor in the US-Mexico Borderlands, set to premiere in 2023.

La Mezcla is a polyrhythmic, multidisciplinary San Francisco-based dance and music ensemble rooted in Chicana, Latina and Indigenous traditions and social justice. Founded in 2015 by Vanessa Sanchez, their work brings together Tap dance, Son Jarocho and Afro-Caribbean rhythms to bring the often unseen histories and experiences of communities of color to stages, streets and fields. La Mezcla has been featured on the KQED Arts series "If Cities Could Dance" and The Lincoln Center's "Virtual Concerts for Kids." Their show *Pachuquismo*, an all female Tap dance and Son Jarocho performance about the Zoot Suit Riots, received the NEFA National Dance Production grant and is set to tour through 2022. Their new work "Ghostly Labor," explores the legacy of labor and the joy of collective resistance in the US-Mexico borderlands.

VIDEO LINKS

Pachuquismo Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/438058119>

KQED Arts "If Cities Could Dance," Featuring Vanessa Sanchez and La Mezcla:
https://youtu.be/U_vm9EU0YBU

Press Quotes:

"The women of La Mezcla are really culture keepers. Vanessa is bringing these two different dance styles together that share these African diaspora elements, reflecting her Mexican-American identity. It's beautiful and ingenious."

Kelly Whalen, La Mezcla's Percussive Mission, Mission Local May 2020, written by Andrew Gilbert

Link to article: <https://missionlocal.org/2020/05/la-mezclas-percussive-mission/>

“In their selections from “Pachuquismo” look for something that feels like flamenco meets tap, hip-hop, and street theater, and then melds it all into performance art and poetry in service of social justice. It’s quite memorable.”

Dancers Dancing, Chelsea News Dec 2020, Written by Mary Gregory

Article link: <http://www.chelseanewsny.com/home/dancers-dancing-GB1416190>

See more Press on the show and La Mezcla here: <https://vanessasanchez.net/press/>

TICKETS

\$32 orchestra

\$22 mezzanine

brava.org

Brava has undertaken appropriate modifications to comply with current health and safety protocols provided by the San Francisco Department of Public Health. These measures include requiring proof of full vaccination, a booster shot for all eligible in-person ticket holders, mandatory face covering that completely covers nose and mouth, secured with ear loops or head strap (gaiters and bandanas are not acceptable), increased cleaning before performances, and a no-touch or low-touch experience. Click [here](#) for Brava’s full Covid Protocol.

ABOUT PRESENTER BRAVA! FOR WOMEN IN THE ARTS

Brava! for Women in the Arts celebrates over 30 years as a professional arts organization, and 20 years of owning and operating Brava Theater Center. Brava’s recent producing history includes award-winning new work by Rhodessa Jones & Cultural Odyssey, Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe & Black Artists Contemporary Cultural Experience, Marga Gomez, and Lisa Mezzacappa, as well as world premieres by Cherríe Moraga, Marisela Orta, and Lisa Marie Rollins; the Bay Area premieres of *Solitude* by Evelina Fernandez & Latino Theatre Company, the Off-Broadway hit *Mighty Real: A Fabulous Sylvester Musical*, the monthly podcast series *Indómitas*, as well as the annual events *Baile en la Calle: The Mural Dances* and the San Francisco *Son Jarocho Festival*. Brava’s current artistic programming includes traditional and contemporary music festivals, a variety of film festivals, contemporary and experimental theatrical productions, international comedy shows, lectures, and professional dance productions—making Brava one of the most eclectic and multifaceted arts venues in the Bay Area.

Brava Theater Center provides affordable space for artistic development and presentation. Comprised of a main stage with world-class lighting and sound, a second stage that doubles as a rehearsal studio, a street level cabaret space for arts and community, and a contemporary lobby/gallery showcasing visual art, Brava has become synonymous with thought-provoking shows that spotlight artists from around the Bay Area and beyond.