



CULTURE CLASH

Culture Clash marks its 25th anniversary in 2009 as the most prominent Chicano/Latino performance troupe in the country, with a body of work ranging from sketch comedy to original dramas, to adaptations of Aristophanes. Founded on May 5, 1984, (Cinco de Mayo) in San Francisco's historic Mission District, Culture Clash is Richard Montoya, Ric Salinas and Herbert Siguenza.

Now based in Los Angeles, the trio's work gives immediate dramatic voice and expression to people in a certain time and place. It is theater of the moment, written and performed first for the people and communities on which it is based. Culture Clash uses "performance collage" to bring history, geography, "urban excavation," "forensic poetry" and storytelling together in a contemporary, movable theater narrative through a Chicano point of view – what Guillermo Gomez-Pena describes as "reverse anthropology."

This year, the group will have two world premieres: "Peace," at the Getty Villa beginning September 10, 2009, and "Palestine, New Mexico" at the L.A.'s Mark Taper Forum this winter. And on October 30, they celebrate their silver anniversary with a special evening of performance and music as part of UCLA Live at Royce Hall.

Culture Clash also has been selected to contribute an original play to Oregon Shakespeare Festival's "American Revolutions: the United States History Cycle," premiering in 2010.

The company has recently completed their cycle of California plays: "Chavez Ravine", "Zorro in Hell" and "Water & Power." Culture Clash's theatrical work also includes "The Mission," "A Bowl of Beings," "S.O.S.-Comedy for These Urgent Times," "Unplugged," "Capra Clash," "Radio Mambo: Culture Clash Invades Miami," "Bordertown," "The Birds," "Nuyorican Stories," "Anthology," "Mission Magic Mystery Tour," "Anthems: Culture Clash in the District," "Señor Discretion Himself," and "Culture Clash in AmeriCCa."

Culture Clash's work has been produced by the nation's leading theaters, including the Mark Taper Forum, Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, La Jolla Playhouse, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, The Huntington Theater in Boston, The Alley Theatre in Houston, South Coast Repertory, Seattle Repertory, and The Goodman Theatre in Chicago, among others.

The company also launched a Chicano sketch TV show: "Culture Clash," which aired on several Fox syndication markets, and produced interactive video installations for Cheech Marin's "Chicano Now - American Expressions" national touring art show, which toured for more than five years.

Culture Clash is the recipient of numerous awards, commissions and grants, including a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Helen Hayes Award, the Latino Spirit Award, the Los Angeles Hispanic Media Award, the Nosotros Golden Eagle Award for Outstanding Theater Group, The Liberty Hill Foundation award, and dozens of city and state proclamations and commendations.

The trio has three books of compilations: "Culture Clash: Life, Death and Revolutionary Comedy," "Culture Clash in AmeriCCa," and "Oh Wild West: The California Plays," with TCG Books. Audio versions of "Radio Mambo", "Bordertown" and "Chavez Ravine" have been produced by and are available through Los Angeles Theatre Works (www.latw.org.)