

SDA PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE 2020/21

March 11 & 13, 2021

SDA Virtual Stage

USC School of Dramatic Arts

presents

Sacrifice Zone: Los Angeles

Created and curated by Paula Cizmar and Michael Bodie

Directed by Fran de Leon

Lead Writers

Christina Carrafiell, Adi Eshman,
Matilda Corley Schulman

Writer/interviewers

Christina Carrafiell, Grafton Doyle,
John Reyes Doyle, Adi Eshman,
Carlyn Flint, Jelina Liu, Jaime Lopez,
Juan Lobo, Zharia O'Neal, Katrina
D. RiChard, Dolores Rodriguez,
Matilda Corley Schulman, Cole Slater,
Alejandra Villanueva

CAST OF CHARACTERS *(in order of appearance)*

Shaina Franks
Peren Yesilyurt
Jenny Weiske
Maria Barseghian
Tara Lederman
Gabriela Bonet
Bianca Pompa

Special appearances by

Marlene Forte, Crissy Guerrero,
Edgar Landa, Claudia Dolph,
Nicole Appleby, Bob Bailey,
David Jacobs

TIME

Now.

PLACE

The University Park neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Sacrifice Zone: Los Angeles will be performed without an intermission.

SCENIC/COSTUME DESIGN

Wendy Hui

LIGHTING DESIGN/ANIMATIONS

Jade Wolff

SOUND DESIGN

Naveen Bhatia

STAGE MANAGER

Isabella Gomez

VIRTUAL TECH LEAD

Dom Vacca

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Emi Yoshino

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER

Morgan Whittam

ASSISTANT SCENIC DESIGNER

Lizzy Lourenco

MEDIA ARTS + PRACTICE TEAM

Emily Billow, Tia Kemp,
Jelina Liu, Cole Slater

PRODUCTION STAFF

Virtual House Manager Elsbeth Collins | Staff Tech Lead Christopher Paci

SPECIAL THANKS

William Warriner, USC Arts in Action; Hugo Garcia, People Not Pozos/Esperanza Community Housing; members of the University Park community; Andy Lipkis, Tree People; Aaron Eshman; Dr. Jill Johnston; Laura Flanagan; Arkay Foundation; Will and Company; Colin & Kieran Cox; The Kaboodle; Jordana Benone; Candy and Shelley; and the CF Ladies.

NOTE FROM THE PROJECT CREATOR (Paula Cizmar)

Often when we think about climate change, we assume this is something happening somewhere else or in the far distant future. But in places like Los Angeles, the effects of climate change are having consequences right now. In our own backyard. One way to keep our focus on the present-tense reality of this issue is to change the language we use, to change our approach—to start thinking about climate change in terms of environmental justice. *The Sacrifice Zone* team has used that as a starting point. Our team of collaborators—including residents from the neighboring community as well as students and faculty from various USC schools and departments—have come together to tell a story about what is happening in our city and what we must do to protect it. We're operating on a few basic assumptions:

- Los Angeles is actually a hub for environmental problems AND solutions;
- Environmental problems affect low-income neighborhoods disproportionately;
- Not only does low income play a part in environmental IN-justice, but race also is a factor.

We know that everything on the planet is interconnected, and so we ask: How do we allow some parts of our city to be sacrificed so that the rest of us will be comfortable? If some of us are not safe from the health risks of environmental pollution, are any of us safe?

We hope that our project sheds some light on these issues. This performance is Phase One of a multi-phased project funded by USC's Arts in Action. Over the course of the next year, we will be continuing our research, expanding our multimedia/theatre-making, and adding an interactive website. Check out the beginnings of the work at www.sacrifice-zone.com. We invite you to continue your exploration with us.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

These are not my stories. These are not the stories of the actors who perform. These stories belong to the residents of South LA: the girls soccer teams who play against a backdrop of pumpjacks, the mothers who protest against derricks in their backyards, and the earth itself which faces a constant assault of chemical injections and violent drilling. We are merely the artists, using our shared platform to amplify the voices to whom these stories truly belong, whose health and rights to environmental justice must cease to be marginalized. No one should ever live in a sacrifice zone.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Fran de Leon is Co-Artistic Director of Will & Company, an ensemble member of Critical Mass Performance Group, and serves on the Advisory Board of Fil-Am Arts. Her one person show, *Faces of America*, toured to 500+ venues across 49 states, including keynote performances for the United Nations Associations, California and New York. Recent credits: "Valor," a documentary of her research and process in writing a play about Filipino-American veterans of WWII (Center Theater Group's Digital Stage); "The Fantastic Kim Sisters," audio podcast (East West Players), Assistant Director for critically acclaimed production of Lauren Yee's *The Great Leap*, (Pasadena Playhouse).