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Binational Arts Residency 2018

February 18-27, 2018
Phoenix, Tucson, Douglas (AZ) / Agua Prieta (Sonora)
For a full list of residency activities visit:
www.binationalartsresidency.com



Dancer and Choreographer Ana Maria Alvarez Featured in Binational Arts Residency in Arizona and U.S.-Mexico Border Communities

Phoenix, AZ – The Binational Arts Residency connects cultural communities in Arizona and Sonora through art and performance. Bringing together a production team of Arizona and Sonora artists, arts and culture organizations, and community groups, it presents artistic experiences that create dialogue about understandings of history, place and identity in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. The Residency focuses on the strong leadership of women in the arts. “The Binational Arts Residency features the catalytic cultural work of women from multiracial backgrounds who facilitate some of the region’s most impactful artistic work, says Mary Stephens, director of ASU Performance in the Borderlands. “heir practices, whether artistic, cultural or political, respond to social issues facing our region and our humanity. In a cultural moment when supporting women’s leadership is of critical importance, it is a privilege to work with so many dynamic women.”

This year, the Binational Arts Residency is thrilled to welcome Los Angeles-based dancer and choreographer Ana Maria Alvarez for an eight-day engagement in four Arizona and U.S.-Mexico border communities. Alvarez is the co-founder of the Los Angeles dance theater company [CONTRA-TIEMPO](#). Known for dynamic movement and combining multiple genres in her pieces, Alvarez has caught the attention of audiences and the dance community for her cutting-edge works. Alvarez is also a teaching artist who combines art making with activism and politics.

As part of her residency, Alvarez will present performances, artist and youth workshops, public dialogues and a variety of programs in four cities: Phoenix, Douglas, Agua Prieta (Mexico) and Tucson. She will work closely with artists, cultural workers, and students in these communities to build dialogue around the question: *How do our bodies respond to borders?* The Binational Residency also welcomes two award-winning artists, choreographer Liz Lerman and Arizona Mojave poet Natalie Diaz, who will collaborate with Alvarez on a variety of public engagements.

The 2018 Residency is produced by Arizona State University's Performance in the Borderlands, in partnership with Border Arts Corridor, CALA Alliance, Fomento a la Cultura, the Department of Mexican American Studies at the University of Arizona, Projecting All Voices (ASU), Rising Youth Theatre, and Savvy Pen Productions.

M. Jenea Sanchez: “As a producing organization, we engage in this work of bringing our binational community together in a shared space because our narrative of loss, hope and vision for the future is

rooted in the complexities of our harsh, exquisite and fluctuating desert landscape, through art, the borderlands are humanized and approachable. Art manifests as a celebration of our steadfast interdependence and as an opportunity to remember that, according to history, barriers are temporary.”

Casandra Hernandez: “Ana Maria Alvarez is a bold and passionate voice in contemporary dance –an artist who continuously explores the complex political and cultural landscapes that we inhabit through our bodies, that live *in* our bodies,” says Casandra Hernández Faham, Executive Director of CALA Alliance. “We are excited to work with Ana Maria Alvarez and the powerful group of women artists and arts leaders organizing the Binational Arts Residency to create spaces of connection in Phoenix about what it means to tell stories with our bodies at this particular cultural moment.”

Michelle Tellez: “We are excited to host Ana Maria at both the University and in a community-embedded space in Tucson where she will be able to engage the academic, activist and arts community directly.”

FEATURED PUBLIC EVENTS: For a full list of residency activities visit www.binationalartsresidency.com

February 18: Phoenix

6:00 PM: Meet-the-Artist dinner at the Phoenix Hostel & Cultural Center

February 19: Phoenix

6:30 PM: Community Conversation with Mujeres del Sol at Luna Culture Lab

February 20: Phoenix

6:00 PM: Women's Performance Workshop with Ana Maria Alvarez and Liz Lerman

February 21: Phoenix

5:00 PM: Ana Maria Alvarez and Natalie Diaz: *Conversations about Water* at Rio Salado Audubon Center

February 24: Douglas/Agua Prieta

4:00 PM: Binational Border Performance: Shared Spaces: An Evening of Dance, Music and Poetry at the US/MEX Border (Just West of Port of Entry, Chiricahua Road and International Avenue)

February 27: Tucson

5:30 PM: Dance and Activism Workshop at The Global Justice Center

About the Artist

Ana Maria Alvarez is skilled dancer, prolific choreographer and masterful teaching artist who has achieved multiple accolades for her dynamic works. Alvarez received a BA in Dance and Politics from Oberlin College and a MFA in Choreography from UCLA's Department of World Arts and Cultures. There, her thesis work explored the abstraction of “Latin Dance,” specifically Salsa, as a way to express social resistance within the U.S. immigration battle and became the impetus for founding CONTRA-TIEMPO Urban Latin Dance Theater in 2005. Alvarez is a two-time grantee of NEFA National Dance Project (2014, 2016), six-time grantee of National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures, five-time grantee of the Center for Creative Innovation, and the recipient of the 2015 Engaging Dance Audiences Grant administered by DanceUSA. She has been awarded and recognized for her work, including the prestigious Mujeres Destacadas award in 2012 by LA Opinion and, most recently, she earned a 2016 Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival Rainbow Award for her work *Agua Furiosa*.

About the Binational Arts Residency

The Binational Arts Residency began with the idea of connecting cultural communities in the Sonoran Desert with issues of social justice, history, and identity through art and performance. Over the course of residencies, artists, cultural workers, and students collaborate to create artistic workshops, performances, and public talks in their communities with the intent of building dialogue around social issues. Each residency also includes an artistic collaboration at the U.S.-Mexico border. The Binational Arts Residency has featured the work of artists Ana Teresa Fernandez (2015) and Yadira De la Riva (2016) in Phoenix, Douglas/Agua Prieta, Tucson, Tohono O'odham Nation and Ambos Nogales.

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