Program Notes

Octavio Solis is a poet-dramatist whose educational upbringing in the Western canon of literature is intertwined with his Tex-Mex roots. He takes classical myths, finding parallels in his own cultural experience, and fashions a unique and personal universe that is at once visceral and engaging. All the characters are cued into some spiritual/poetic plane—each one carries some extra power beyond normal human energy. And it is Octavio’s poetic language that invites us, the audience, to explore each character’s inner state of being which exists beyond the physical.

El Paso Blue is a blue “corrido” - a comic and tragic tale of the healing, unifying, deadly and destructive power of love. Everything in this play bleeds for revenge, cries out for justice, and demands why Fate is playing this cruel sport with us all. Everyone in El Paso Blue is grappling with Fate; each character bumps into it or fights against it and all come away bruised. Al’s quest for Sylvia (echoing Menenius’ search for Helen) takes him through what is forbidden (and what is denied to us) in love. A fatal love born from the symbiosis between America and Mexico, and the threat of violence that emerges when borders of the heart collide.

Es un engaño
Del corazón
Que todo hacemos
Con razón
Aunque los dos
Nos toque mal
El Golpe siempre
Pega igual.

Pero para mi
Sera peor
A mi
El Golpe de tu Amor
Me pegará
Con su calor
Me dejará
Nada mas que
El Golpe del Amor.

— El Paso Blue

El Paso Blue was originally commissioned by Intersection for the Arts in San Francisco, California, and performed there on May 18, 1994.

This production is dedicated to the memory of Octavio Paz (1914-1998)

Special Thanks to:
Gary Bocz and Camille Settle for their generous donation of hair color and styling for Sylvia.

School of Drama
Executive Director
Sarah Nash Gates

Faculty
Professors: Robert Dahlstrom, Barry Witham
Associate Professors: Robyn Hunt, Steve Pearson, William Forrester
Assistant Professors: Sarah Bryant-Bertall, M.L. Geiger, Jack Wolcott

Senior Lecturer: Mark Jenkins, Mark Harrison
Lecturers: Tom Burke, Yoko Kurahashi, Shanga Parker, Judith Shahn, Terry Donovan Smith, Debora Trout

Part-time Faculty
David Boushey, Scott Hafso, Catherine Madden, Karen Orah, Scott Weidlin, Laura Worthen

Retired, Emeritus Faculty and Former Program Heads

Staff
Kris Bain, marketing and pr manager
Bob Boehler, stage technician
Nacho Bravo, master electrician
Malcolm Brown, stage technician
Sue Bruns, office assistant
Alex Danilchik, stage technician
Josie Gardner, costume shop manager
Arlene Hamilton, administrator
Kathy Holliday, advisor
Dorothy Kerst, graduate programs
Laurie L. Kurutz, costume
Celeste Kummerer, computer technician
Scott Perkins, fiscal technician
Anne Stewart, production manager
Joanne Tall, secretary
Rebecca Traber, office assistant
Alan Weidlin, scene shop manager
Nancee Vaeth, costumer

* Deceased

GARY
BOCZ
Bocz
salon

1523 6th Ave, Seattle, WA
206.624.9134

CAMILLE SETTLE
Hair Stylist

By Octavio Solis

University of Washington
58th Season
419th Production
May 27th - June 7th, 1998

The Penthouse Theatre
El Corazon
CAST
(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

DUANE
  Michael Eberhardt

JEFÉ
  Mario Hernandez

AL
  Michael Lopez
  Tikka Sears

SYLVIE
  Stasha Surdyke

MUSICIAN
  Michael “Hawkeye” Herman

THE PLAY WILL BE PERFORMED WITHOUT AN INTERMISSION

THE PLACE:
A personal rendering of El Paso, Texas and surrounding environs

THE TIME:
The Present

THE MUSIC:
Blues, Roadhouse, Tejano
and something obliquely resembling all three

El Paso Blue
By Octavio Solis
Music by Michael “Hawkeye” Herman
Directed by Tialoc A. Rivas

Set Designer
  Christopher L. Brown

Costume Designer
  Kristin A. Hubbard

Lighting Designer
  JR Drew

Sound Design
  Tialoc A. Rivas

Musical Director
  Michael “Hawkeye” Herman

Stage Manager
  Amy Lucas

Technical Coordinator
  Jim Nash

Prop Coordinator
  Taryn Darr

RECOMMENDED READING

Santos & Santos and an interview with Octavio Solis
American Theatre Magazine, November 1995

Drink Cultura: Chicanoismo by José Antonio Burciaga
Joshua Odell Editions, Santa Barbara © 1993

The Labyrinth of Solitude by Octavio Paz
Translated by Lysander Kemp
Grove Press, Inc. © 1961

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Mickle Maher, Jude Domski, Teri Minton, Kerry Skalsky,
M. Burke Walker, Tim Bond, Pace Ebbeisen, Mystery Bridgers, Jamie
Katz, Olga Sanchez, Jaime Avelar - Guzman, Seattle Children’s Theatre,
Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre Company,
A Contemporary Theatre, and Seattle Opera

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Assistant Director
  Megan R. Campbell
  Sierra Samuel

Assistant Musical Director
  Susan Chan
  Angela Ziska

Assistant Stage Manager
  Joshua Roberts

Assistant Costume Designer
  Kerry Skalsky

Assistant Lighting Designer
  Richard E.T. White

Advisor
  Laura Worthen

Dialect Coach
  Bill Forrester
  Deb Trout

Faculty Design Advisors
  Sam Anderson, Donna Bergman,
  Taryn Darr, Naomi Mercer,
  Elizabeth Oppong, Mark Shogren,
  Andrew Westhoff, Samuel Wirsching,
  Wiley Young

Running Crew
  Drama 210, 290, 413
  and 101 students

Set Construction
  Drama 211 and 291 students

Costume Construction
  Kit Schultz, April Thompson

House Management

Production Office Staff
  Chazz Rose, Kerry Skalsky

Tickets
  UW Arts Ticket Office

ABOUT THE PLAYRIGHT

Octavio Solis is a playwright and director presently living in San Francisco. His produced works include Man of the Flesh, Prospect,
El Paso Blue, Santos & Santos, La Posada Magica, and the workshop
production of Dreamlandia. They have been mounted in theatres across
the country. Solis has received numerous awards including an NEA
1995-97 Playwriting Fellowship, the Roger L. Stevens award from the
Kennedy Center for Santos & Santos, the Will Glickman Playwright
Award for the same work, and a major production grant from the
Kennedy Center Fund for New Plays for Dreamlandia which will
premiere at the Dallas Theatre Center in Fall 1998. A member of
Dramatists Guild and New Dramatists, Solis is currently completing
his short film, The Nark.