

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 blues "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 Sylvie (echoing Menelaus' search for Helen) takes us 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 Sylvie.

GARY	CAMILLE SETTLE
BOCZ	Hair Stylist
s a l o n	1523 6th Ave, Seattle, WA 206.624.9134

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-Bertail, M.L. Geiger, Jack Wolcott

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

PART-TIME FACULTY

David Boushey, Scott Hafso, Catherine Madden,
Karen Omahen, Scott Weldin, Laura Worthen

RETIRED, EMERITUS FACULTY AND FORMER PROGRAM HEADS

John Ashby Conway*, Jack Clay, Betty Comtois, James Crider, Alanson
B. Davis, Gregory Falls*, Vanick Galstaun, Robert Gray, Agnes Haaga,
Donal (Dan) Harrington*, Robert Hobbs,
Paul Hostetler, Glenn Hughes*, Robert Loper, Warren Lounsbury*,
Michael Quinn*, Duncan Ross*, Geraldine Siks, Jack Sydow,
Aurora Valentinetti

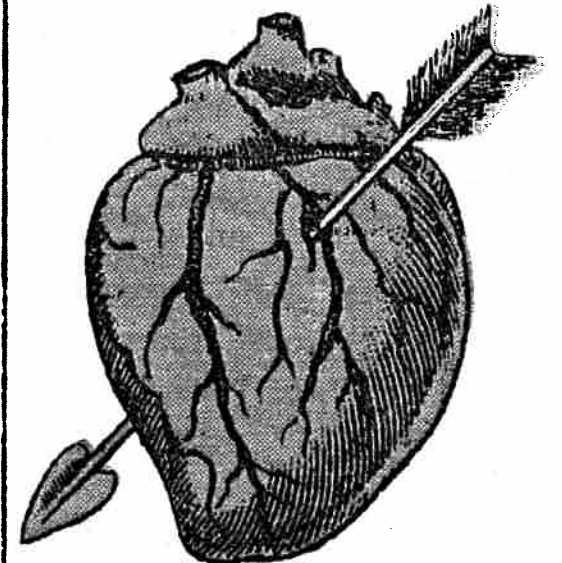
STAFF

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, *costumer*
Cecile Kummerer, *computer technician*
Scott Perkins, *fiscal technician*
Anne Stewart, *production manager*
Joanne Tall, *secretary*
Rebecca Traber, *office assistant*
Alan Weldin, *scene shop manager*
Nanci Vaeth, *costumer*

* Deceased

El Paso Blue

27



EL CORAZON

By Octavio Solis



The Penthouse Theatre
58th Season
419th Production
May 27th - June 7th, 1998

CAST
(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

DUANE *Michael Eberhardt*
JEFE *Mario Hernandez*
AL *Michael Lopez*
CHINA *Tikka Sears*
SYLVIE *Stasha Surdyke*

MUSICIAN *Michael "Hawkeye" Herman*

El Paso Blue
By Octavio Solis
Music by Michael "Hawkeye" Herman
Directed by Tlaloc A. Rivas

Set Designer *Christopher L. Brown*
Costume Designer *Kristin A. Hubbard*
Lighting Designer *JR Drew*
Sound Design *Tlaloc A. Rivas*
Musical Director *Michael "Hawkeye" Herman*
Stage Manager *Amy Lucas*
Technical Coordinator *Jim Nash*
Prop Coordinator *Taryn Darr*

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Assistant Director *Megan R. Campbell*
Assistant Musical Director *Sierra Samuel*
Assistant Stage Manager *Susan Chan*
Assistant Costume Designer *Angela Ziska*
Assistant Lighting Designer *Joshua Roberts*
Fight Consultant *Kerry Skalsky*
Advisor *Richard E.T. White*
Dialect Coach *Laura Worthen*
Faculty Design Advisors *Bill Forrester, M. L. Geiger,
Deb Trout*

Running Crew *Sam Anderson, Donna Bergman,
Taryn Darr, Naomi Mercer,
Elizabeth Oppong, Mark Shogren,
Andrew Westhoff, Samuel Wirsching,
Wiley Young*

Set Construction *Drama 210, 290, 413
and 101 students*

Costume Construction *Drama 211 and 291 students*
House Management *Kit Schultze, April Thompson*
Production Office Staff *Chazz Rose, Kerry Skalsky*
Tickets *UW Arts Ticket Office*

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

Presented by special arrangements with
The Gersh Agency.

RECOMMENDED READING

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

Drink Cultura: Chicanismo 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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

José Carrasquillo, Rex Carlton, Kristi Carlson, Jeannie Park,
Sarah Nash Gates, Valerie Curtis-Newton, Mark Harrison, Chazz Rose,
Mickle Maher, Jude Domski, Teri Minton, Kerry Skalsky,
M. Burke Walker, Tim Bond, Pace Ebbesen, 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

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

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 Fosada 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*.