



arts on the horizon  
Theatre for children 0-6 years old in Northern Virginia

**PRESENTS**

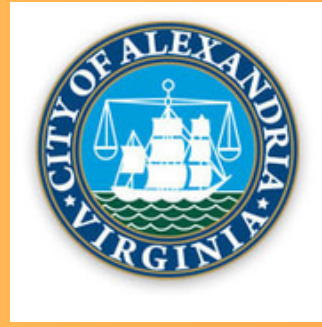
**Arco Iris**



**WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY  
ELENA VELASCO**

**JUNE 9-25, 2023**

**Arco Iris is funded in part by  
The City of Alexandria, The Morgan  
Fund at Seattle Foundation,  
The National Endowment for the Arts,  
The Virginia Commission for the Arts**



## **About Arts on the Horizon:**

**Arts on the Horizon is a professional, non-profit theatre company with a unique and specific focus of providing performances and education programs for young people ages 0 to 6 years old.**

**We were the first theatre company in the country to focus our work solely on this age range. Arts on the Horizon values intelligent, innovative, and original work for very young audiences that is accessible, affordable, inspiring and joyful. We believe the arts play an important role in children's lives. The results can be seen in their development of critical thinking skills, self-confidence, and independence.**

**Each nonverbal production Arts on the Horizon commissions incorporates elements that connect to various child developmental milestones. Knowing that a young child's brain develops as they explore the world around them through sight, touch, and sound, Arts on the Horizon intentionally creates a sensory-rich environment with each production, utilizing vibrant imagery, music, sound effects, movement, and tactile moments where children are able to interact with the different objects used in the performance. Often, we incorporate repetitive physical movement in our storytelling, as new experiences repeated a number of times help children make connections, which shape the way they think, feel, behave, and learn now and in the future. Additionally, Arts on the Horizon's productions demonstrate and model the importance of cooperation and creativity, empathy among the characters, conflict resolution through teamwork, and the excitement of exploring new places and engaging in new activities.**

**Each arts education program includes creative drama exercises which focus on refining and developing fine and gross motor skills, expanding vocabulary and problem-solving skills, and serving as a catalyst for creative play outside of class. All classes and camps focus on creative expression; tactile, kinesthetic, and auditory learning skills; developmentally appropriate movement; and storytelling.**

**Whether your children attend a performance or take one of our classes, we are here to foster them in a safe, creative environment that promotes the positive. We're not in the business to produce better actors but to help nurture better human beings.**

# ARTISTIC TEAM

*Elena Velasco (Creator, Director, and Sound Designer)*

Elena Velasco (she/ella) is a theatre artist whose work encompasses performance, production, education, and activism. During her career she has devoted her time equally between performance and residency work in the Washington, DC and Greater Boston regions. An associate member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), her directing and choreography credits include Central Square Theater, Convergence Theatre, GALA Hispanic Theatre, 1st Stage, NextStop Theatre, Synetic Theater, Adventure Theatre, Keegan Theatre, Imagination Stage, Mead Theatre Lab, Young Playwrights' Theater, Capital Fringe, Source Theatre, Discovery Theater, and Kennedy Center's New Visions New Voices Festival.

Ms. Velasco's artistry is driven by her commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and access, exemplified by her work as Artistic Director and Co founder of Convergence Theatre, a small, nomadic performance collective centered on social justice and grounded in consensus-organized processes. A dedicated educator, Ms. Velasco teaches and creates theatre through the lens of community engagement in higher ed, K-12 and bilingual creative youth programs. She currently serves as a board member for Educational Theatre Company, a committee member for AATE's Leaders of Color Institute and new chair of their Professional Theatre Network, and has been a featured speaker for Boston Conservatory at Berklee, George Mason University, Hollins University, Montgomery College, and TheatreWashington. Ms. Velasco is the theatre production coordinator and an associate theatre professor at Bowie State University.

SDCF 2023 Barbara Whitman Award recipient.

MFA in Directing, Catholic University.

[www.elenavelasco.net](http://www.elenavelasco.net)



*Cecilia Cackley (Set/Props Designer)* is a puppeteer,

playwright and teaching artist based in Washington DC. As a co-founder of Wit's End Puppets, she previously helped design props and puppets for *Under the Canopy* and *Space Bop* at Arts on the Horizon.

You can find more of her work at [www.ceciliacackley.com](http://www.ceciliacackley.com).



# ARTISTIC TEAM (CONT.)



Ilyana Rose-Davila (*Stage Manager & Costume Designer*) is a local DMV theatre artist who wears many hats and mastered many theatre disciplines including stage management, costume design, acting, directing, and producing. Her most recent stage managing credits include: *La Valentina* (GALA Hispanic Theatre) *La Revoltosa* (GALA), assistant stage manager for *On Your Feet! En Espanol* at GALA (Nominated for 12 Helen Hayes Awards including Best Production in a Musical) and *The House of the Lagoon* (GALA). Additional local children's theatre credits include: *The Magical Pinata* (Keegan Theatre). Her costume credits include: *In the Heights* (NextStop Theatre) and *Titus Andronicus* (Teatro Milagro, Mexico City). Ilyana has a BFA in Theatre from Eckerd College.



Andres Jovel (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is excited to be working with Arts on the Horizon. Andres is a recent graduate of the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts (NCDA) where he appeared as Doctor Watson in Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville* and Arlecchino in *The Imaginary Autopsee*. Andres also appeared in Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and as the title character in *Oedipus the King*. Andres most recently performed in NCDA's productions of John Ciarani's *Almost, Maine* and Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice*.



Marcus A. Smith (*Assistant Sound Designer*) is a young artist, producer, disc jockey, as well as a studio and live sound engineer. He originally attended school in San Jose, California where he learned most of the intricate knowledge of sound and refined his knowledge at Bowie State University. Marcus has had several live sound performances as a disc jockey, one being at Santana Row in San Jose, CA. He also has live sound experience for theater plays working with Artistic Synergy of Baltimore and Bowie State University. Marcus also has studio engineer experience working at the Miami, FL studio, AudioVision and at the recording studio at Bowie State University.

# CAST



Diana Gonzalez-Ramirez (*Actor 2*)

Diana González-Ramirez (she/her) is a Salvadoran theatre artist who has worked all over the DMV. Her most recent credits include Belle/Caroline/Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come in *A Christmas Carol* (Chesapeake Shakespeare Company), Rosita/Doña Rosa/Tia Chole in *La Llamada de Sylvia Mendez: Separate is Never Equal* (GALA Hispanic Theatre) and Josefina in *Mojada* (1st Stage).



Audra Jacobs (*Iris*)

Audra Jacobs (they/them) is a DC based theatre practitioner. They graduated with their B.S in theatre from Bowie State University in 2022. Audra is the Connectivity Director at 1st Stage. Previous directing credits include *Sad Loved Ones Who Have Work In The Morning* for BSU's 2022 10-Minute Play Festival. Previous performance credits include *Fairy Tales in the Sun* (Jing-Jing/Goddess U/S) at Adventure Theatre, *Romeo and Juliet* (Romeo) with the Rude Mechanicals, and the world premiere of *Spirit Seekers* (Ensley) with Dark Horse Theatre Company. Create theatre carefully, purposefully.



Camilo Linares (*Actor 3*)

Camilo (he/him/his) is excited to be back after performing in *Birds of a Feather* and *Drumming with Dishes!* He originally from Bogotá, Colombia and currently resides in the Washington DC area where he works as an actor, photographer, videographer, editor, musician, and teaching artist. Selected credits: *The Day You Begin* at The Kennedy Center, *Tia Julia y el escribidor*, *Picasso* at GALA Hispanic Theatre, *THEORY* at Mosaic Theater Company, and *Óyeme, the beautiful* at Imagination Stage. Camilo received his Associate of Arts degree in Theatre Performance from Montgomery College and is a graduate of the British American Drama Academy. He was a Dreamer and none of this would be possible without DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and perseverance. "You either make progress or excuses." Learn more at [camilolinaires.com](http://camilolinaires.com).

# CAST (CONT.)



*Amber Smithers (Actor 2 & 3 Understudy)*

Amber Smithers (she/hers) is a D.C. theatre practitioner specializing in harm reduction who has worked with several local theatres. She is currently working as an Emerging Artist with Arts On The Horizon. In 2021-2022, Smithers worked with Synetic Theatre on Cinderella (u/s) and was part of the National Players Tour 73, the first all-black National Players Tour, where she played Beatrice/Borachio in *Much Ado About Nothing*. If you want to know more about her work follow her on Instagram at @bambieambie.



*Bri Houtman (Iris Understudy)*

Bri (they/she) is a recently graduated actor based in the DMV area who is thrilled for their first show with Arts on the Horizon! They received their B.A. from the George Washington University in Theater and Criminal Justice. Credits include: Rorschach Theater: *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy*; *Really* (Lucy Westenra); *Endangered Species Theater Project*: *Hamlet* (Ophelia) & *Becky's New Car* (Kenni); *Faction of Fools*: *Love Like Tuesday* (Jill); and *We Happy Few* *Iphigenia* (Eriphyle). Coming this October: *We Happy Few*: *Kill the Ripper* (Pudding).



*Arianna Del Pino (Iris & Actor 3 Understudy)*

Arianna is a DMV based artist who specializes in musical theater. She is very excited to be working with Arts on the Horizon!

# ARTS ON THE HORIZON'S 2022-23 SEASON EMERGING ARTIST FELLOWS

Amber Smithers

Andres Jovel

Marcus Smith

Nathan Leituala

Arts on the Horizon's 2022-23 season Emerging Artist Fellowship program is funded in part by an Aurand Harris Theatre Grant from the Children's Theatre Foundation of America.

Aurand Harris Grants and Fellowships are made possible through an endowment established by the late Aurand Harris and administered by the Children's Theatre Foundation of America. Aurand Harris, one of this nation's most published and performed playwrights for children and youth, enormously enriched the literature of American children's theatre. Plays such as "Androcles and the Lion," translated into 10 languages, "The Arkansaw Bear." "The Toby Show." "Rags to Riches." and "To Ride a Blue Horse." are but a few of his plays that fill stages in this country and abroad. Harris's writings, informed by his studies in Kansas and at Northwestern University and by his teaching initially, in the Gary, IN school system, and subsequently, for over thirty years at Grace School in New York, have captured the spirit and interests of children for generations. Harris had a deep concern for artists, particularly playwrights, who devote their careers to creating quality theatre for young audiences, and for theatres who produce theatre for children. Through his foresight and generosity, the Children's Theatre Foundation of America has been able to establish Aurand Harris Fellowships for artists serving young people and grants for small and mid-sized theatres throughout America. We congratulate Arts on the Horizon for being an Aurand Harris 2022- 2023 Grant recipient.

## **Board of Directors:**

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Irene Hamilton · Elizabeth Hoyland · Kim Mann

## **Company Members:**

Justin Bell · Natalie Cutcher · Kate Debelack

Pablo Guillen · Irene Hamilton · David Kilpatrick · Kylene Page

Ryan Sellers · Alicia Sells · E-hui Woo

## **Special thanks**

Building Momentum · Jordanna Hernandez · Graciela Rey

Synetic Theatre · Keegan Theatre · Maria & Diego Dávila zenteno

## **Music Credits**

SOTO, HECTOR. "EMBRUJO DE CARNAVAL," HECTOR SOTO, EL MAESTRO DEL CHARANGO, 1987.

PINARES, JEHÚ J. CANCIONES CRISTIANAS ANDINES. "INSTRUMENTAL EN CHARANGO Y ZAMPOÑA," 2023.

ALTIPLANOS. "CHARANGO SOLO," PANPIPES OF THE ANDES, AURTAC MEDEA GMBH, CH, 2015.

BARRAZA, FABIANA. "DIÁLOGO DE QUENAS Y ZAMPOÑAS," ANDARIEGA, 2021.



# HOW TO SUPPORT AOTH



## DONATE

Help support the creation of world-premiere productions, accessible arts education programs, and a more sustainable future for Arts on the Horizon.

Donations are accepted by front of house staff and online by visiting our website.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE TODAY](#)  
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## VOLUNTEER

Join the AOTH team of volunteers! If you're interested in volunteer opportunities, visit our Work With Us page and sign up to volunteer at the bottom of the page. We look forward to hearing from you!

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## WISHLISTS

Help Fill Our Shelves!

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## summer camps

**JUNE 20 - AUGUST 18 , 2023**

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**MONDAY-FRIDAY**

**9AM-12PM**

Using the medium of creative play, our camps enhance language skills, fine and gross motor skills, and social and emotional development. Each weekly session has a different theme that will be explored through music, movement, stories, games, crafts, and more!

Camps for age groups 3-5 & 5-7

**Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church**



**2001 Sherwood Hall Ln,  
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