

Victory Gardens is proud to be presenting REUNITE! in partnership with organizations dedicated to protecting human rights and promoting an equitable, inclusive world.

LUISA SOSA

Individual Membership Coordinator
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

BHARATHI PILLAI
Staff Attorney - ACLU

ANAR PARIKH
Civic Engagement Program Coordinator - Indo American Center

JENNIFER IDROVO
Neighborhood Network Director
Latinos Progresando



TOWN HALL: REUNITE! IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM



VICTORY GARDENS TOWN HALLS

Our Town Hall Series is a part of Victory Gardens' Public Programs Series, connecting our theater to the world beyond the stage and rehearsal room. Our Public Programs bridge ideas, provoke dialogue, and deepen the relationship between our audiences and our productions.



YOUR WORLD
ON STAGE



Victory Gardens Theater Presents

TOWN HALL: REUNITE!

July 18, 2018 - 7pm

An evening of original poetry, music, dance and performance pieces to give more visibility and voice to our citizens, residents, immigrants and refugees who are affected by those policies.

Artistic Curator: JESS McLEOD

Audience Development Manager: BECCA BROWNE

Producer: LAURA ALCALÁ BAKER

Associate Producer: CHARLIE WEIN

Lights & Sound: BEN ZEMAN

A NOTE FROM CHAY YEW, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

I am an immigrant.

What I am today is a testament to the belief, encouragement and support of many incredible citizens and the promises of this country written in its Constitution and art. I am proud to call the United States my home.

My story isn't unique. Many of us and all your descendants immigrated here, left family and friends to carve a better life on these shores. We live in an imperfect country that is constantly in search of refinement, of itself. A united States that has - in the past - often allowed for discourse, engagement and dialogue even when we disagreed with one another.

As our recent immigration and national policies continue to divide families and communities across the nation, we strongly feel the need to host an evening of performance and art to give more visibility and voice to those who are affected.

With Reunite! - Victory Gardens continues our commitment to providing public space for artists and community partners to respond and work together in the hopes of ensuring the United States continues to be a safe haven for everyone.

You are here tonight because you still believe we have a voice, that we are still a democracy, that you have hope and resilience, that you belong.

You are home.

LUIS ALFARO, EMCEE

LUIS ALFARO is happy to be back at Victory Gardens Theatre where he is a member of the Playwrights Ensemble, where he premiered *Oedipus el Rey* in 2012 and *Mojada* in 2013. His Chicago history goes back to the Latino Chicago Theatre Company production of *Bitter Homes and Gardens* in 1993, the Goodman Theatre with *Straight as a Line, Electricidad* and *The Book of Titus and Other Latino Bible Stories*. Alfaro is the first Mellon playwright-in-residence at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. He is the recipient of a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation fellowship, popularly known as a "genius grant", awarded to people who have demonstrated expertise and exceptional creativity in their respective fields. He is also a Joyce Foundation Fellow. This year he was awarded the PEN America/Laura Pels International Foundation for Theater Award, The United States Artist Fellowship, The Santa Monica Annenberg Artist-in-Residence, and the Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellowship.

TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCES

Luis Alfaro

"The Ineligibles" by Isaac Gomez
Performed by Karen Rodriguez

"Zoroni" by Rohina Malik
Performed by Arti Ishak & Lucia Thomas

Lucia Thomas & Sam Hyson - Chicago Folklore Ensemble

"When They Go Low: Ode to Patricia Okoumou"
Performed by Lawren Carter & Victor Musoni

"On Reptiles and Rivers" by Bilal Dardai

"Children of the Dead" by Melissa Castro Almandina

Molly Brennan

"Four Things I Was Looking Forward To" by José Rivera
Performed by Brandon Rivera

Victoria Chávez Peralta

"Memo" by Lily Padilla
Performed by Cruz Gonzalez-Cadel

Diana Lawrence

Beth and Ginger Lane

Growing Concerns Poetry Collective

"Kita y Fernanda" by Tanya Saracho
Performed by Krystal Ortiz

KAINA + After School Matters HiDef Dance Ensemble