

CAST INFORMATION

For Immediate Release

DATE: January 2022

CONTACT: Kori Radloff, korir@rosetheater.org, 402-502-4641

Carmela Full of Wishes Cast Information



Mireya Luna
Carmela

Mireya Luna (*Carmela*)

Mireya Luna is a theatre artist from Houston, Texas. Mireya has most recently appeared as Viola in *Twelfth Night* with The University of Texas' Shakespeare and Dramaturgy, Maria/Lisa in *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* and Ariel in *The Tempest* with UT's Performance as a Public Practice Graduate Student Alliance. When she isn't on stage, Mireya enjoys writing, baking and relaxing with yoga. Mireya is very grateful to The Rose Theater and her family for all the support and for making dreams come true!



Isaiah Ruiz
Big Brother

Isaiah Ruiz (*Big Brother*)

Isaiah is thrilled to be making his Rose Theater debut. Isaiah is the new Director of Community Connections for The Rose. He is from Chino, California, where he has built a career as an award-winning performer and director. Some of his favorite past roles include Fester in *The Addams Family*, the title role in *Shrek* and Bernardo in *West Side Story*. Isaiah has studied Communications and Theater Arts at a few different colleges and attended The Young Americans College of the Performing Arts where he had the opportunity to teach and perform around the country. For fun Isaiah loves to read, cook, and hang out with friends! Isaiah is extremely grateful to be able to play in a space full of Latinx creators and hopes you enjoy the show as much as he has!



Tatiana Sandoval
Mami

Tatiana Sandoval (*Mami*)

Tatiana is thrilled to be a part of her first production at The Rose Theater. After graduating from the University of Northern Iowa last spring with a B.A in Theatre, she is excited to dive back into the world of storytelling in *Carmela Full of Wishes*. Her favorite past roles in undergrad include Helga in *Cabaret* and the roles of Adventurer, Scientist, and Astronaut in the all immersive experience and devised theatre for youth production of *To Touch the Moon*. Tatiana's favorite part of theatre has always been the community that is built within each project and she is grateful that The Rose Theater has welcomed her in with open arms and an open heart. She sends out immense gratitude to everyone who helped her expand her love and knowledge of theatre and those who continue showing their support.

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at The Rose Theater

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Emmanuel
(Manny) Oñate
Papi

Emmanuel (Manny) Oñate (*Papi*)

Manny graduated from Creighton University with a degree in Musical Theatre in 2019. Since then he has been working at RESPECT writing, directing and acting in plays primarily for students. Manny also works as a Legal Assistant at Immigrant Legal Center. Manny has been involved in a number of productions in the Omaha area, some of which include *EPIC!* at GPTC, *Dairy Maid Right* at Shelterbelt, *Madagascar* and *Newsies* at The Rose, and *Sweat* at Omaha Community Playhouse, which he received the Elaine Jabenis Cameo Award.

Manny is excited to be back at The Rose and to be performing such a beautiful script with such a talented cast and team.



Anna Skidis Vargas
Director

Anna Skidis Vargas (*Director*)

Anna Skidis Vargas is a director, actor and playwright who subverts stereotypes through myth, spirituality, and humor with a focus on Latinx and mixed identity stories. Skidis Vargas holds an M.F.A. in Directing from the University of Texas at Austin (UT), and a B.A. in Performance from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She is part of the 2018-21 Rising Leaders of Color cohort with TCG, and is the Founding Artistic Director of Theatre Nuevo. Skidis Vargas has directed for Mustard Seed Theatre and Theatre Nuevo (St. Louis, MO), First Stage (Milwaukee, WI), Texas State University, UT Austin, St. Edward's University (Austin, TX) and has upcoming productions at Cape Fear Regional Theatre (Fayetteville, NC), and Children's Theatre of Madison (WI). She is absolutely thrilled to to be making her debut here at The Rose with Alvaro Saar Rios' incredible adaptation of *Carmela Full of Wishes!* skidisvargas.com



David R. Molina
*Composer &
Musical Direction*

David R. Molina (*Composer & Musical Direction*)

David R. Molina is a musician, sound artist/designer/engineer, and instrument inventor. He works nationally and internationally in the performing arts, multimedia, and film productions. His work focuses on social justice and working with marginalized community members. Recent credits include: Regional: King Lear (STL Shakespeare Festival), Quixote Nuevo (Hartford Stage, Huntington Theater, The Alley, Round House), Mojada (Rep of St. Louis, CTG, OSF), Two Trains Running (Seattle Rep, Arena Stage), Macbeth (Next Chapter Podcasts, Play On! Shakes). Resident Artist: Brava Theater, NAKA Dance Theater, Human Shakes. Awards: LA Ovation, Creative Capital Grant, Wattis Fund, InterMusic SF MGP, San Francisco Arts Commission Grant. Instrument design and multimedia art: SFMOMA, The Broad, Oakland Museum of California, McLoughlin Gallery. Music collaborations: Tau (Berlin), Emanative (UK), El Paso (Peru), The Pyramids. Molina's bands: Impuritan, Ghosts and Strings, Transient. www.drmsound.com

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Alvaro Saar Rios
*Playwright/
Adaptor*

Alvaro Saar Rios (*Playwright/Adaptor*)

Alvaro Saar Rios is a Texican playwright living in Chicago. His plays have been performed in New York City, Mexico City, Hawaii, Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee and all over Texas. He has received playwriting commissions from various organizations, including Kennedy Center, Chicago Children's Theatre, First Stage, Houston Grand Opera, Honolulu Theatre for Youth, Michigan's Purple Rose Theatre Company, The Zoological Society of Milwaukee and Omaha's Rose Theater. His award-winning play *Luchadora!* is published by Dramatic Publishing Inc. Other plays include *On The Wings of a Mariposa*, *The History of Mexicans in 10 Minutes*, *The Day the Music Came Back* and *Unmuted*, a virtual musical he co-created with composer Deborah Wicks La Puma. Alvaro is a Resident Playwright at Chicago Dramatists and Playwright-In-Residence at Milwaukee's First Stage. A proud veteran of the US Army, Saar Rios used to drive M1A1 tanks. Alvaro holds an MFA in Writing for the Stage and Screen from Northwestern University and teaches playwriting at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



Matt de la Peña
Author

Matt de la Peña (*Author*)

Matt de la Peña is the New York Times Bestselling, Newbery Medal-winning author of seven young adult novels (including *Mexican WhiteBoy*, *We Were Here*, and *Superman: Dawnbreaker*) and six picture books (including *Milo Imagines the World* and *Last Stop on Market Street*). In 2016 he was awarded the NCTE Intellectual Freedom Award. Matt received his MFA in creative writing from San Diego State University and his BA from the University of the Pacific where he attended school on a full basketball scholarship. In 2019 Matt was given an honorary doctorate from UOP. de la Peña currently lives in Southern California. He teaches creative writing and visits schools and colleges throughout the country.



Christian Robinson
Illustrator

Christian Robinson (*Illustrator*)

Christian Robinson was born in Hollywood, California. He grew up in a small one-bedroom apartment with his brother, two cousins, aunt, and grandmother. Drawing became a way to make space for himself and to create the kind of world he wanted to see. He studied animation at the California Institute of the Arts and would later work with the Sesame Workshop and Pixar Animation Studios before becoming an illustrator of books for children. His books include *Gaston and Antoinette*, written by Kelly DiPucchio, and the #1 New York Times bestseller *Last Stop on Market Street*, written by Matt de la Peña, which was awarded a Caldecott Honor, a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor, and the Newbery Medal. He presently lives in northern California with his rescue greyhound Baldwin and several houseplants. He looks forward to one day seeing the aurora borealis. Visit him online at TheArtofFun.com.

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