

**NEW
WORKS
FESTIVAL Y3**

**Between
Fresno
and Hell**

by Joseph D. Valdez
Directed by Danyé Brown
Scene Dock Theatre
April 5-7

USC School of Dramatic Arts 23/24

USC School of Dramatic Arts presents

NEW
WORKS
FESTIVAL Y3

Between Fresno and Hell

by **Joseph D. Valdez** *MFA Dramatic Writing Third Year*

With

Jordan Cooper **Landon Robinson**
Brandon Garcia **Kaia Seldman**
Lori Maass

Scenic Design

Takeshi Kata and **Alex Muir**

BFA Technical Direction Sophomore

Costume Design

Imogen Jeffords *She/They,*

BFA Theatrical Design Sophomore

Lighting Design

Benjamin Williams

BFA Theatrical Design First Year

Sound Design

Jane McKeever

Stage Manager

Lisa Toudic *She/Her,*

BA Theatre ME Education Senior

Technical Director

Duncan Mahoney

Directed by **Danyé Brown**

Scene Dock Theatre

April 5-7, 2024

CAST (In alphabetical order)



Jordan Cooper *She/Her,*
Nia -BFA Acting for Stage &
Screen Junior



Brandon Garcia *He/Him,*
Mike -Theatre Minor Senior



Lori Maass *She/They,*
Lil Mikey, Atani -BA Theatre
Emphasis in Acting Junior



Landon Robinson
He/Him, Jerome/J-Dubb -BFA
Acting for Stage & Screen Junior



Kaia Seldman *She/Her,*
Valentina -BA Theatre
Emphasis in Acting Sophomore

Between Fresno and Hell

ADDITIONAL *BETWEEN FRESNO AND HELL* PRODUCTION STAFF

Vocal/Dialect Coach **Jessica Toltzis** | *Movement Coach* **Sabina Zúñiga Varela**
Intimacy Director **Jaclyn Chantel** | *Fight Choreographer* **Jamie Cline** | *Production Deputies* **Alex Muir (Production)** and **Kaia Seldman (Performance)** | *Assistant Stage Manager* **Kenny Tapia-Ramos** | *Production Manager* **Rhea Mehta** | *Production and Stage Management Mentor* **Leia Crawford** | *Hair & Makeup Consultant* **Gary Domasin** | *Wardrobe Supervisor* **Kale Hinthorn** | *Costume Mentor* **Ann Closs-Farley** | *Lighting Mentor* **Claire Chrzan** | *Assistant Technical Director* **Alex Muir** | *Technical Crew* **Eman Ahmad, Erin Caparrelli, Tyler Gevas, Roxy Gevas, Luke Hohmann, Dylan Mandel, Montana Paxton, Eugene Reicher**

This performance contains a 15-minute intermission.

CONTENT WARNING

Please be advised this production contains depictions of child abuse, assault, cancer, adult language, mentions of suicide and also the use of haze and flashing lights.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

USC is built on the unceded land of the Tongva, Chumash and Kizh people. We at SDA acknowledge and honor the Tongva, Chumash and Kizh people/communities and wish to amplify that they are still here. We encourage everyone to find out whose ancestral land you live on and commit to our shared responsibility to be agents of change, and for each of us to consider our roles in reconciliation, decolonization and allyship.

NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC TEAM

I started writing *Between Fresno and Hell* during one of the worst fire seasons that I had ever experienced as a native Californian. It became a metaphor for my life because everything was on fire. The temperature consistently reached over 110 degrees, and the air was hard to breathe. COVID was spiking, and my wife was working 14-hour shifts 6 days a week as a first-year medical resident. My 18-month-old daughter got severely ill every other week. I drove back and forth between USC and Central California in an apparent apocalyptic hellscape. I couldn't help but think: *how did I get here?* When a friend of mine who had come to help our family was harassed at a gas station for wearing a mask, I rage-wrote the first words of this play. I spent the next two years trying to answer the question *how do you create a home in a place where you don't want to be?* That question transformed into *how do you build a home for your family when you've never had a home?* This play is the result of this exploration.

Thank you to all that made this production possible.

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The USC School of Dramatic Arts fosters the talents of artist-scholars who are dramatically different — who are willing to imagine the future of the entertainment industry and bring it to life. Through an interdisciplinary, entrepreneurial education students develop the skills necessary to discover their unique voice and are exposed to diverse styles and multiple media. Students and recent alumni are supported by the School's unique Professional Development Center which offers career services and professionalization opportunities to help students establish and sustain successful careers as creators, performers and cultural innovators. *For more information, visit dramaticarts.usc.edu.*

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