

FINE ARTS CENTER THEATRE COMPANY
Scott RC Levy, Producing Artistic Director
Presents

WIDE OPEN SPACES

By
Xochitl Portillo



FEATURING

Christina Pittaluga as the Narrator

Steve Emily as Jack

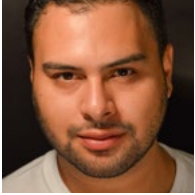
Manny B. Gomez as José

Elise Santora as Celeste

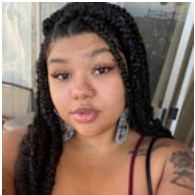
Directed by
Scott RC Levy



Steve Emily was last heard in Episode 3 of this series, and last seen in the FAC production of *Tiny Beautiful Things*. In addition, Steve has appeared at the FAC as an actor in *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Fuddy Meers*, and many more. He also directed the FAC production of *The Producers*. Regional credits include working with such companies as Theatreworks (Colorado Springs), The Edge (Denver, CO), Steppenwolf (Chicago, IL), Lookingglass (Chicago, IL), and many others. Steve is also a playwright whose most recent work *The Tap* premiered at the Millibo Art Theatre in Colorado Springs. Steve has also been seen in numerous commercials and the television series *In Plain Sight* and *America's Most Wanted*.



Manny B. Gomez is new to Colorado Springs and has found a great fit into the Latino theatre market in this area. His latest role was Detective Olivera in Theatre D'Arts *Puerto Rican Nocturne* in Spring 2020, only performed once due to COVID-19. Since then, he has been actively working for online based projects, his latest work being cast as Rene in La Casita Grande's new play *Split Screen* written by Jon Marcantoni. Manny is thrilled to dive into this special radio play project. Manny is a graduate of the University of North Texas holding a B.A. in Theatre Performance; his most notable role in college as Pietro in *The Angelina Project* written by Frank Canino. As an independent actor, filmmaker, and Performing Arts Educator, alongside working professionally in the Entertainment industry, he aspires to one day also establish a Performing Arts Education Center for low-income communities.



Christina Pittaluga is an actor, writer, producer, creative director and multimedia artist born and raised in Denver. In 2014, she joined The Black Actors Guild. Although she started as an intern, her ideas, quick wit and hard work earned her the title of Director of Creative Content with the Guild. She has been blessed to experience the art scenes of both Colorado and New York City. She continues to use her knowledge of theatre and styling to enhance the artistic opportunities given to her.



Elise Santora is a Henry award nominee for her role in *Curious Incident of the Dog...* and received the Henry award for Outstanding Actress in a Play as Ofelia in *Anna in the Tropics* at the FAC. She guest-starred in the ABC series *For Life* and CBS's hit *Bull* and nominated for an Indie Series Award for her role in *FabuLess* (webseries). Other TV appearances: NBC's *The Manifest*, *New Amsterdam*, *Shades of Blue* and the Netflix series' *IronFist* and *Orange is the New Black*. Broadway credits: *In The Heights* (Lin-Manuel Miranda), *The Capeman* (Paul Simon) and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

XOCHITL PORTILLO (WRITER OF *WIDE OPEN SPACES*)

Xochitl Portillo is a poet, playwright, actress and screenwriter currently living in Santa Fe, NM by way of her hometown, Denver. Her work has been most recently featured in FAC's 3x3 project, a short film entitled, *Huerfano*. As a young woman of mixed Indigenous Mexican and White/European descent, she strives to create work that finds a bind between both blood lines and to develop stories of individuals who have their own complex, untold truths. Thank you to the community members of Colorado Springs who brought this play to life and gave me their own, relived truths to share with the world.

ABOUT THIS PLAY

JOSÉ VICTOR ALVARADO was a real life Colorado Springs legend. He and his wife organized the city's first formal celebration of Mexican culture, "La Fiesta Bonita" in 1955. José was also the director of the Boys and Girls Club of Colorado Springs and ran his own fitness center for many years. This piece is dedicated in honor of his name, his incredible legacy, and his wonderful family who have upheld that cultural honor in his place.

Each character in this play is based on a real, former, or current resident of Colorado Springs. It is thanks to their stories that this play was made possible. All except José have had their names changed for anonymity.

OF SPACIOUS SKIES STAFF

THE WRITERS

Mêlisa Annis

Jonathan Andujar, Mickey Burdick, Marisa D. Hebert, Jessica Kahkoska, Xochitl Portillo, Jess Weaver

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Scott RC Levy & Nathan Halvorson — Episode Directors

Jacob Keough-Mishler — Sound Designer, Engineer & Mixer

Bob Morsch — Assistant Sound Designer

Stephanie & Jay McGuffin — Composers, *Of Spacious Skies* Theme Music

Kate L. Ferdinandi, Morgan Gatson & Terri Harrison — Production Management

Christina Shoemaker — Theatre Company Assistant

FOR THE VISUAL VERISON

Christopher L. Sheley — Production Design and Art Direction

Holly A. Rawls — Associate Art Director and Video Editing



COLORADO SPRINGS

Fine Arts Center

at COLORADO COLLEGE