

a word from the playwright

“A lot of my activism comes from my deep knowledge of being othered and how damaging that is. Not only as an immigrant but also as a person with pretty severe learning disabilities, ADHD. I know now that a lot of the things I went through as a child were exacerbated by the neurodivergent way I learn and take in information.

I am passionate about allowing people to exist “where they are” instead of trying to make them fit into boxes. I don’t believe in shaming anyone for the way they speak, for their unique writing, spelling, anything—shame and fear are damaging and a terrible way to limit creativity.”

from “An Interview with Dramatist Diana Burbano” by Janis Butler Holm, MayDay Magazine

recommended by

“A wryly, mournfully funny play about the delicate interconnections between humans and animals. A play about science, autism and the pressures of hyper-normalization in a culture that stresses ableism at nearly all costs. Written with affection, warmth and compassion.”

- *Caridad Svich, playwright (Red Bike) and screenwriter*

“*Sapience* is a beautifully written play that gives us a fascinating look into difference and how we as humans connect or miss connecting with each other based on the various ways we manage our differences, how communication can succeed or fail on the slimmest of edges. I was so moved by the light hand of Burbano that inspires deep meditations into the nature of our mortality and our creativity. Lovely work!”

- *Emma Goldman-Sherman, autistic, gender-dysphoric, queer, feminist playwright*

SAPIENCE

by **Diana Burbano**

Directed by **Vanessa Duron**

CAST

Elsa

Mariel León

AJ

Enrique Xavier Martinez

Wookie

Nancy Ross

Miri

Vanessa Duron

Jason

Alexander Guzman

CREATIVE AND TECHNICAL TEAM

Stage Manager

Jessamyn Foster

Scenic Designer

Adam Parrocha

Costume Designer

Faith A. James

Lighting Designer

Colby Freel

Sound Designer

Mason Pilevsky

Props Designer

Alyssa Kane

Technical Director

Robert Malave

Inclusion Specialist

Samantha Ginn

Artistic Mentor

Delicia Turner Sonnenberg

Assistant Stage Manager

Megan Ames

Scenic Painter

Julie Lorenz

Asst. Costume Designer/Swing ASM

Margaret Allen

Production Manager

Nicole Ries

Sapience was developed in part with Center Theatre Group’s L.A. Writers’ Workshop and as part of the PlayGround Festival of New Works, Jim Kleinmann, Artistic Director.

MOXIE Theatre

MOXIE Theatre's mission is to create more diverse and honest images of women+ for our culture. We do that by focusing on producing work written by women+ and providing opportunities to women+ in the theatre, an industry where women+ are still underrepresented in leadership and technical roles. Now in our 17th season, we welcome you to learn more about our mission, values and work as an anti-racist organization at moxietheatre.com.

This Land Doesn't Belong to MOXIE. Our theatre exists on the original unceded territory of the Kumeyaay people, referred to as Diegueños by the Spanish colonizers, a territory later occupied by Mexico. We acknowledge the Kumeyaay Nation spans the two countries that now form our border cities and acknowledge the Kumeyaay as the past, present and future caretakers of this land.

MOXIE BOARD 2021-2022

Shannon Sweeney, **President**

Vivienne Esrig, **Treasurer**

Jamie Fox, **Secretary**

Edith Benkov

Aurora Bewicke

Mayra L. Garcia

Sylvie Ngilla

THE MOXIES

Jennifer Eve Thorn

Callie Prendiville

Nicole Ries

Valentina Lunati

Vanessa Duron

Sara Varela

Chaunsa Oyos

Leilani Snow

Executive Artistic Director

Associate Artistic Director

Production Manager

Development Director

Director of Box Office & Sales

Marketing Manager

Accounting Associate

Box Office Attendant

director's note

To say that I am honored to be a part of something so special is the least I could say about this story. Sapience is a story full of compassion that really highlights connection and communication. In a world full of "social normatives" it is easy to forget that not everyone feels or communicates in the same manner. Sapience is a reminder of that. I've learned a lot in this process, I've learned to take a step back and really think about the language I use to communicate, I've learned that connection is not always in physical form, it is in small quiet moments of silence, it is in allowing a person to be who they are in complete openness without judgment. The human experience is not linear, it's circles and squares and magical and messy and not the same for everyone which is why life is so beautifully complicated. I hope that this production sparks thoughts in you and that you fall in love with the authenticity of the message. Thank you for taking this journey with us.

Vanessa Duron, Director

special thanks & acknowledgements

Many thanks to the following volunteers, community members, businesses and organizations who supported this production:

Missy Bradstreet, Jennifer Brawn Gittings, Mark Holmes, Jan Merutka, Scott Rygalski; Mesa College, SDSU, Source Intelligence. Our House Managers: Mike Carroll, Emerson Clarke, David Nguyen, Sheila Robinson. Want to get involved? Contact volunteer@moxietheatre.com.

special recognition



This production was made possible in part by a generous grant by The Parker Foundation. Celebrating 50 years of charitable grants totaling more than \$56 million, The Parker Foundation supports San Diego's non-profit organizations for the betterment of all San Diegans. Thank you!

playwright

DIANA BURBANO

is a Colombian immigrant, a playwright, an Equity actor, and a teaching artist at Breath of Fire Latina Theatre Ensemble and South Coast Repertory. Diana's play *Ghosts of Bogotá*, won the Nu Voices festival at Actors Theatre of Charlotte in 2019 where it will be produced in 2022. *Ghosts* was commissioned and debuted at Alter Theater in the

Bay Area in Feb 2020. *Fabulous Monsters*, a Kilroys selection, was to premiere at Playwrights Arena in 2020 (postponed). She is in the Geffen's Writers Lab in 20-21 and was in Center Theatre Group's 2018-19 Writers Workshop cohort. She is under or has completed commissions for Artists Repertory Theatre, Latino Theatre Company, Center Theatre Group, Lower Depths Ensemble and Livermore Shakespeare Festival. Diana recently played Leona in Brian Quijada's *Somewhere Over The Border* online at Arizona Theatre Company. You can also see her as Viv the Punk in the cult musical *Isle of Lesbos*. She is the current Dramatists Guild Rep for Southern California.



director

VANESSA DURON (DIRECTOR / MIRI)

is a local San Diego actor/director/writer and producer. She graduated from San Diego State University with a BA in theatre. Vanessa is a strong advocate for POC theatre and mental illness awareness. Vanessa has experience working as an artist at MOXIE, TuYo Theatre, Blindspot Collective, Trinity Theatre, Stagehouse Theatre and as an Assistant Producer for the Latinx New Play Festival at San



Diego REP, and Co-Producer for Recover-Me. She's both performed and directed at the San Diego County Fair and has written for and acted for an international theatre in Lima, Peru, Teatro Taripay Pacha. Vanessa is excited and humbled to be a part of a group of women who are empowering, brave and resilient.

inclusion specialist

SAMANTHA GINN

is an actor, director, and Inclusion Specialist. She is thrilled to be back at MOXIE! Currently, Sam is an Associate Artist at New Village Arts Theater. She created their improv and acting programs designed to include neurodiverse individuals on stage. She developed Mainstage Players, a program giving neurodiverse actors paid roles in professional productions, as well as Mindful Theater, an improv experience for seniors with Alzheimers. She has directed four productions with her students (*The Little Prince*, *Secret Superheroes*, *The Great Smelly*, *Small-Tooth Dog*, and *Stellaluna*).

As a Teaching Artist with La Jolla Playhouse, she integrates the arts into curriculum for special education classrooms across San Diego county. She is also a Teaching Artist and consultant to The Old Globe to help expand their sensory-accessible productions. Her mission is to make the world a more inclusive place through the arts.



partners



The Autism Society of San Diego serves as the voice and resource of the local autism community. Their mission is to improve the lives of all affected by autism by promoting meaningful participation and self-determination for autistic individuals and their families.

co-producer



Sapience is a co-production with TuYo Theatre, whose mission is to create and produce theatre in the San Diego area that tells stories from and by diverse Latinx perspectives.

TuYo is committed to professional artistic rigor, forging authentic connections, developing community artists, and furthering the discourses that affect our community.

cast

MARIEL LEÓN (ELSA)

is delighted to be making her MOXIE debut in *Sapience*. Past credits: *Shockheaded Peter* (Cygnet Theatre); *The Fantasticks*, *On Air*, *The Heir Apparent* (Scripps Ranch Theatre); *The Children's Hour* (Palomar College); *Bodas de Sangre* (Grossmont College); *Nonsense* (Pickwick Players); *Don Quixote*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (City Ballet); *Mary Poppins*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Music Man* (CCT). Mariel is a proud UCLA Bruin and USD Torero.



ENRIQUE XAVIER MARTINEZ (AJ)

studied with Samantha Ginn's program Options For All from November 2018 to June 2020. He was also an actor in the Options For All Film and Media Program: *WAD OF LIES*. He graduated from Mission Bay Senior High. He was also a star performer at Chuck-E-Cheese in Lemon Grove. This is his first production. Thanks to his supportive family and Sam for giving him this opportunity. Instagram: @e_x_m_art_room

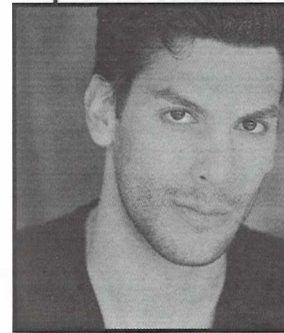


NANCY ROSS (WOOKIE)

is thrilled to be returning for her third production at MOXIE Theatre. She was last seen in MOXIE's production of *Red Bike* and *Voyeurs De Venus*, *Men on Boats* at New Village Arts, and as Violet Karl in *Violet the Musical* at the Coronado Playhouse.

When Nancy isn't on stage, she sports a variety of hats... Miss Fancy Nancy teaches her exciting new dance course for children, *The Movers and Groovers*. Miss Fancy, the clown, performs her original children's music with *A Funny Name* band. And finally, Fancy Bush, her sequins-clad alter ego, can be seen performing with *Baby Bushka - A Kate Bush experience of your dreams!*

Nancy feels deep gratitude for the arts, and the community it cultivates. Follow the shenanigans on IG: @noodler



ALEXANDER GUZMAN (JASON)

is delighted to be returning back to the stage. His favorite acting credits include: *Native Gardens* (Old Globe Theatre), *Bachelorette* (Backyard Renaissance Theatre), *Homos, or everyone in America* (Diversionary Theatre), *Awake and Sing* (New Village Arts), *The Normal Heart*, *Lydia* (ion Theatre), *Self Conchas* (TuYo Theatre), *Move Over*, *Mrs Markham* (Scripps Ranch Theatre), *Seminar*, *The Taming of the Shrew* (InnerMission Productions), *The Lion in Winter* (Moonlight Stage Productions), *ENRON* (MOXIE Theatre), and *Angels in America: Part 1 & 2* (Palomar College). Thank you to everyone that supports live theatre. Instagram: _alexguzman_

Bring a group to MOXIE! Groups of 10+ **save 20%**

Contact our box office for details!

(858) 598-7620 | boxoffice@moxietheatre.com

the creative and technical team

JESSAMYN FOSTER (STAGE MANAGER)

is thrilled to be back at MOXIE! She has a BFA in Stage Management from Boston University and a MA in Arts Administration from University of Kentucky. Jessamyn has lived in San Diego for the past ten years and has stage managed many productions including MOXIE Theatre's *Fade*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Ironbound*, *The Kid Thing*, *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* and *The (curious case of the) Watson Intelligence*, SWC's *Bring it On!* and *The Arsonists*, The Roustabout's *No Way Back* and *Roosevelt: Charge The Bear*, California Youth Conservatory's *Into the Woods*, *Billy Elliott*, and *The Wiz*, Leigh Scarritt Productions' *Brooklyn!* and Innermissions's *Gideon's Knot*. She has also worked with the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre & Actors and Playwrights Initiative (Kalamazoo, MI), Huntington Theatre & Boston Lyric Opera (Boston, MA), the Big Apple Circus (touring division), Harbor Playhouse (Corpus Christi, TX), Little Theatre of Norfolk, Generic Theatre & Virginia Opera (Norfolk, VA) and Yokosuka International Players (Yokosuka, Japan). She is currently the Production and Operations Manager for the San Diego Youth Symphony.

ADAM PARROCHA (SCENIC DESIGNER)

received his Master of Fine Arts Degree in Design and Technology for the Theatre (Scenic Design) from San Diego State University. Scenic designs for the School of Theatre, Television, and Film include *She Kills Monsters*, *Más*, *Despierta!* and the production design for the films *Sucker for Love* and *Number Games*. Integrated media designs include *Dog Sees God* and *Chess in Concert*. Selected scenic design: *The Mental State* (Palomar College), *Lend Me a Tenor* (Vanguard Theatre) for which he was nominated for an ACT Aubrey Award Award for Outstanding Scenic Design and *Sapience* (MOXIE).

Interested in renting MOXIE for your next show or event?

Visit moxietheatre.com/rentals for more information.

FAITH A. JAMES (COSTUME DESIGNER)

has her MFA in Design & Technology from the School of Theatre, TV and Film at San Diego State University. Her Puppet and Costume design experiences range from *Lying With Badgers* produced by Native Voices at the Atrium; *Azul* at Diversionary Theatre; *The Niceties* at MOXIE Theatre; *Beehive: The Sixties Musical* at New Village Arts; and a specialization in wire bending at Trinidad & Tobago Carnival. She has worked as a craft artisan at The Old Globe and LA Opera.

COLBY FREEL (LIGHTING DESIGNER)

is a lighting designer with experience working in many areas of entertainment including plays, musicals, ballet, contemporary dance, concerts, and architecture. Colby received his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre: Design and Technical Theatre from the Department of Theater and Film at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in Spring of 2019. He is currently a third year MFA student studying Lighting Design at the School of Theatre, Television and Film at San Diego State University. His most recent production credits include lighting design for *Into the Woods* at Grossmont College Theatre and Associate Lighting Design for *A Christmas Carol* at Cygnet Theatre.

MASON PILEVSKY (SOUND DESIGN)

(pronoun: xie) is thrilled to return to MOXIE. Previous MOXIE credits include *I and You*, *The Niceties*, and *Handbagged*. Other San Diego theatre credits include *One in Two* (Diversionary Theatre), *American Buffalo* (Backyard Renaissance), and *Hir* (Cygnet Theatre). Mason is a graduate of San Diego State University and is currently earning xie's Masters in Clinical Counseling at Alliant International University. Mason is proud to represent the neurodiverse community on this exciting production.

ALYSSA KANE (PROPS DESIGNER)

(she/her/hers) is proud to be working with MOXIE once again. She is a queer woman who works as a scenic and props designer throughout San Diego. Recent projects include *Azul* (Diversionary), *The Mineola Twins* (MOXIE) and *The Aristocats* (Classical Academy). Alyssa is an

operational board member at Scripps Ranch Theatre. By day she works at the San Diego River Park Foundation. She is also a performer and founding member of a burlesque and variety troupe in Southeast Alaska. www.AlyssaKaneScenicDesign.com

ROBERT MALAVE (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR)

is a San Diego resident Artist and technician. This is Robby's first time as technical director with MOXIE.

MEGAN AMES (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER)

MOXIE credits include: *Red Bike, Dance Nation, HERLAND, Voyeurs de Venus, The Madros*. Other theatres: *Henry IV (USD); Mother of Exiles, The Ruby in Us, What You Are, Life After (The Old Globe); How High the Moon (WOW Festival); The Moors (Diversionary); Outside Mullingar, Accomplice (Scripps Ranch Theatre)*. Education: B.A. in Design Technology for Theatre at SDSU.

Let's hear it for Designing Women+!

The Hurston Fellowship is made possible through the generous support of Dea & Osborn Hurston. Thanks to their leadership and support, **MOXIE** is able to partner with **SDSU** every season to select one outstanding woman+ in the field of theatre design for a paid, professional design position. This gives women+ a leg up in the world of professional theatre design which is still lacking in equal opportunities for women+.

To learn how you can get involved in providing more opportunities for women+ in theatre contact valentina@moxietheatre.com.

MOXIE Theatre

6663 El Cajon Blvd, Suite N
San Diego, CA 92115
(858) 598 7620

Web: moxietheatre.com
Facebook: @MOXIETheatre
Instagram: @moxietheatre
Twitter: @MOXIETheatreCo

MOXIE Theatre is a registered 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization
Federal Tax ID # 20-1080613

DONOR RECOGNITION

We are truly grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their generous support of MOXIE.

This list includes donations over \$50 received between 1/01/2021–12/31/2021

POWER PLAYERS (\$10,000+)

Denise & Lon Bevers
Canis Lupus Productions
Commission for Arts & Culture, City of San Diego
The Parker Foundation

VISIONARIES (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Anonymous (1)
Beth A. Goodman
Susan & Douglas McLeod
Wendy Nash

ANGELS (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Anonymous (1)
Weston Anson
In honor of the Asian Women's Shelter, SF
Joann Baca
Sandra Baule
Edith Benkov
Karen & Jim Brailean
Diana Denoyer
In honor of Silvia & Paul Esrig
Vivienne Esrig
The Jewish Community Center
Jean & Gordon Kelly
Patricia R. Low & Mark W. Majette
Sue Marberry & Kay Chandler
Lynn McAlister & Constance Carroll
Ann McDonald
Navigation Realty
Carol Rainey
Prasanth Rao-Kathi
Elaine & Mark Regan
Jeanette Rigopoulos
Barbara Rose & Char Katz
Arthur N. Rupe Foundation
The Jay and Julie Sarno Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation

Sempra Energy Foundation
Felicia Shaw
Jocelyn Shannon
Maureen Steiner
Diane Sweeney
Jen Thomas & Tim Luey
Chris & Julia Tollafield

MUSES (\$500-\$999)

Anonymous (2)
Carolyn Bertussi
Amy Besnoy & Michelle Fischthal
John Brooks
Rita Chenoweth
Fengar Gael
Trina Kaplan
Aline N. King
Margaret Law
Laura Levine & Peter Politzer
John & Patrica Martin
Marilyn & Arthur Neumann
Diane Ratigan
Stephen Seaborg
The Neil Senturia & Barbara Bry Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation
Tatiana Suarez-Pico
The Sweeney Family
Paula Tallal
Laurie & Janet Worthington

ADVOCATES (\$100-\$499)

Anonymous (13)
Avram Insurance Agency
Aurora Bewicke
Lois Bloom
Jennifer Brookover
Susan Cayleff
Rick & Olivia Chatham
Elizabeth Corrow
Sidney Cousins
Evelyn Cruz
Ana De Vedia
Peter Engstrom

Silvia & Paul Esrig
Astrid Falkenberg
Enid Farrell
Gingy & Bud Ferguson
Russell Ginns
Jo Anne Glover
Rhona Gold
Fred and Lisa Goldberg
Louis Goldich
Deana Gordon
Margaret Graham
Pat Hansen
Judith Hansen
Anne Hoiberg
Judith Hora
Tom Kilroy
Diane Kramer
Debra Lenke
Rachel LeVine
Christine Lindgren
Debby Martelet
Harold & Beverly Martyn
Keith Mautner & Kristi Stone
Liz Morrison
Joani Nelson
Linda S. Onnen
George & Hilda Porter
Barbara Potts & Nancy Gordon
William Purves
Deborah M. Ratliff, MD
Rosina Reynolds
Linda & Stuart Robinson
John & Mary Ann Rodarte
Emily N. Smith
Marion So
Jean Spafford
Wendy Tayer
Nancy Taylor
Lynne Thrope
Karen Walter
Debra Wanger
Marisa Wegrzyn
Leora Zalman