

A photograph of a theater stage. The background is filled with heavy, vertical red curtains. A single spotlight is positioned in the center, casting a bright, circular glow on the dark wooden stage floor. The foreground shows the dark, curved rows of theater seats, which are mostly in shadow.

THE COLLEGE OF
WOOSTER

DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE & DANCE

2013–2014 *Performance Season*



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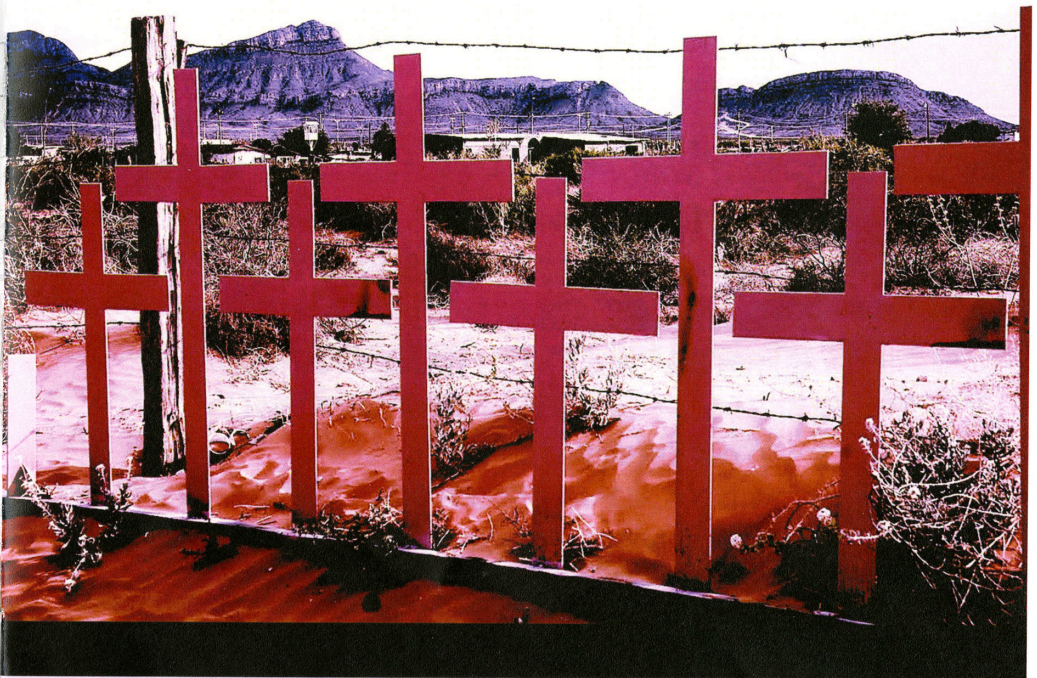
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The Department of Theatre and Dance presents
a Troublemaker Theatre/Teatro Travieso production

WOMEN OF CIUDAD JUÁREZ

written by Cristina Michaus

directed and translated by Jimmy A. Noriega



April 21, 22, & 23 | 8:15 pm | Freedlander Theatre

This production is part of an international tour across the U.S. and Canada that includes invited performances at: Yale University, Dartmouth College, McGill University, Cornell University, Ithaca College, Arizona State University, Davidson College, Bucknell University, Villanova University, Ohio Wesleyan University, and Cleveland Public Theatre.

FREEDLANDER THEATRE, APRIL 21, 22, AND 23, 2014

THE COLLEGE OF
WOOSTER

theatre and dance department

presents

Women of Ciudad Juárez

written by

CRISTINA MICHAUS

directed and translated by

JIMMY A. NORIEGA

Stage managed by BENJAMIN PFISTER

Lighting designed by KENT SPRAGUE

Costumes designed by STEPHANIE CASTREJON

Set and Sound designed by JIMMY A. NORIEGA

Poster designed by FRANK LOPEZ

Cast: MARISA ADAME, STEPHANIE CASTREJON,
JANNA HAYWOOD, SUMMIT J. STARR

Photography and recording devices are strictly prohibited inside the theatre.

Cell phones and pagers must be OFF during performances.

If you have an emergency, please leave your pager/phone
with the box office or house manager and they can assist you.

- There will be a talk back immediately following the production -



Cristina Michaus has over 30 years of experience in performing arts, media, film, theatre, radio, television, and activism. She is an actress, playwright, director, teacher, producer, and promoter of culture. She is the recipient of the Ariel Award for Best Actress in a Minor Role from the Mexican Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (with an additional two nominations); and she has received numerous awards as an actress, playwright, and director.

As a social activist and author of public policy, she has achieved recognition for over 12 years of work in the reporting of Femicide and Gender Violence. For this, she was named a spokeswoman for UNIFEM (the United Nations Development Fund for Women). As a video artist, her work has been seen in Mexico, Europe, South America, and Asia. She holds a degree in Arts from the Universidad Veracruzana and has taught in various schools and colleges. She has also produced and hosted her own programs on cultural and commercial radio. She supports projects that speak about issues of gender and promote a culture of nonviolence, for her native Mexico City, through the two art collectives that she founded: "Tenzin, s.c." and "Barriocinema y Barriocultura, a.c."



A Note from Cristina Michaus

With this play, *Mujeres de Ciudad Juárez*, and my video, *Juárez Desierto de Esperanza*, I started a campaign to spread awareness about, and to try to stop, the crimes against the women and girls of Ciudad Juárez. After eleven years of continuous work, over 200 performances of the play, 1500 distributed copies of the video, around 100 media interviews, two cultural festivals which I coordinated, and over 300 forums in which I appeared as a speaker, I managed to gather 2600 signatures which were delivered to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women at the United Nations in New York. This work generated a wave of international concern about the violence against women in Juárez. Along with me, thousands of people pressured the Mexican Government and its legislators into action. Unfortunately, the situation in Juárez was only the beginning of the wave of violence that is now widespread throughout Mexico. Today, the murders continue, the number of victims is impossible to calculate, and the law is completely inadequate to stop these crimes. The Mexican Government has chosen to try to put out the fire with fire, and now the fire seems totally out of control. It's perplexing to think that the safest large city in the United States (El Paso) and the most dangerous district of the Americas (Juárez) are only separated by a small bridge. In Mexico, it is no longer about trying to find those responsible for the crimes, but instead about trying to save what remains. It is frightening to think that Mexico is first in the world in the production of child pornography. It is important to know that the "backyard" is on fire and that among the causes, we have to ask: how much garbage do we deposit there? I am just an actress, a mother, an ordinary woman who decided one day to do something for her country... and could not.

- Mexico, January 2014

Director's Note

Ciudad Juárez lies on the U.S.-Mexico border just south of El Paso, Texas. Home to hundreds of factories, the city represents the oppressive and exploitative side of neoliberal reform and free market trade. Often cited as the most dangerous city in the world, Juárez attracts impoverished individuals in search of work. Since 1993, hundreds of women have been brutally raped, tortured, and murdered in the industrial city. Those responsible for the murders have dismembered, burned, and left the women's bodies unmarked in the desert in an attempt to evade police and ensure that the victims cannot be identified. It is no coincidence that these crimes escalated when NAFTA went into effect in 1994, calling into question our own country's role in creating an atmosphere where these atrocities take place: one where cheap labor and profit are more important than social welfare and human rights. It is also important to note that the crimes taking place against women south of our border are not an isolated case, but part of a widespread crisis that occurs in every culture and country across the globe.

Michaus uses the theatre as a space to examine, reflect on, and speak about the femicides taking place in Juárez, and she does so without apology. Her play is not just poignant and heartbreaking; it is a call for action. Showing multiple female perspectives of life in Juárez—from mothers and daughters, to factory workers and prostitutes—the play speaks out against all forms of violence against the female body and psyche. It weaves emotionally between horror and heartbreak, fragility and vulgarity, and anger and activism. I first directed *Mujeres de Ciudad Juárez* in 2011—in the original Spanish—at Cornell University and in Quito, Ecuador. The audience responses ranged from sadness and sympathy, to shock and disbelief. The play has haunted me since then. I feel an obligation to tell these women's stories and I hope that this English translation helps bring attention to what is happening in Juárez. Cristina Michaus is an example of the way we can use our art and passion to try to make positive change in this world. As a group, the actresses and I have worked as Troublemaker Theatre/ Teatro Travieso to take this message to campuses in the U.S. and Canada. We have been honored by these special invitations to perform at such prestigious institutions, but more important for us is the fact that these women's stories and names have been heard in all these spaces (perhaps for the first and only time). We have been humbled and horrified by our research into this play and it is our sincerest hope that this production helps open up and inspire dialogue about what is happening to the women of Juárez.

Staff

Production Stage Managers

Benjamin Pfister

Scent Shop Manager

Jody LS Tidwell

Scene Shop Assistants

Larissa Branovacki

Olivia Brown

Warner Brownfield

Danielle Gagnon

Chelsea Gillespie

Abigail Helvering

Noah Hibbard

Madeline Horvat

Maria Janasz

Sidney Martin

Michael Osthimer

Benjamin Pfister

Audrey Platt

Kent Sprague

Summit Starr

Dylan Summers

Ruby Summers

Sarah Van Oss

Leah Zavaleta

Trent Ziemer

Ushers

Greta Hayer

Celestia Lang

Dakota Ailing Judy **Box Office**

Manager

Raphael Gunn

House Manager

Dakota Ailing Judy

Box Office Staff

Parisa Ahmadi

Larissa Branovacki

Celeste Endlich

Amber Ford

Jonathan Katz

Michael Mays

Kelsey Schreck

Faculty

Kim Tritt, Chair

Shirley Huston-Findley (on leave)

Jimmy A. Noriega

Dale Seeds

Petition:

To help us bring about change in Juárez, please sign and spread awareness about our two petitions. You can find links to them by visiting: www.facebook.com/luarezPetition

Sponsors:

This production and the lecture by Cristina Michaus sponsored by: Department of Comparative Literature; Department of English; Department of History; Department of Political Science; Department of Psychology; Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Department of Spanish; Department of Theatre and Dance; International Relations Program; Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program; The Cultural Events Committee; Center for Diversity and Global Engagement; The Office of the President.

Tour:

This production is part of an international tour across the U.S. and Canada that includes invited performances at: Yale University, Dartmouth College, McGill University, Cornell University, Ithaca College, Arizona State University, Davidson College, Bucknell University, Villanova University, Ohio Wesleyan University, and Cleveland Public Theatre.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this show possible!



The Kennedy Center

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David and Alice Rubenstein.

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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

