



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Press release and production photos for download:

[www.monarchthemusical.com/press-release](http://www.monarchthemusical.com/press-release)

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**Direct from Mexico! Returning to LA for a limited engagement!**  
***Monarch: A Mexican-American Musical***  
**by Alfonso Molina & Mayu Molina Lehmann**

**Five performances only!**

**Tickets at: [www.MonarchTheMusical.com](http://www.MonarchTheMusical.com)**  
**The Los Angeles Theatre Center (LATC)**

November 2022, Los Angeles, CA. Chiltepin Entertainment LLC presents a limited engagement of the new musical ***Monarch: A Mexican-American Musical*** by Mexican composer Alfonso Molina and playwright Mayu Molina Lehmann. After successful performances in LA earlier this year retelling the undocumented immigrant journey in a positive light, ***Monarch*** returns, this time to the Los Angeles Theatre Center (LATC) from December 9 — 11. Performances will be in English.

In an interview with Mexico's Reforma newspaper, Alfonso Molina, educated at the Manhattan School of Music, said: "How is it possible that we don't have a musical that tells our story in the US?" His sister Mayu Molina Lehmann, a writer, agreed. The siblings then embarked on this journey to tell stories they knew well, having grown up on the border between Mexico and the US. The musical is told from the perspective of Mexican immigrants, highlighting the challenges they face, while presenting them in a positive light and their contributions to the US.

***Monarch*** tells the story of beloved handyman Luis who, thanks to his hard work, runs a successful workshop for 20 years. Ana, his daughter, arrived in the US as a child and has grown up in the shadows, as have many of the thousands of "Dreamers" in this country. Their relatively calm lives are disrupted when Luis becomes the relentless focus of ICE officer Castelo. Fearing for his future, Luis seeks sanctuary in a local church where memories abound of the Monarch sanctuary in Mexico where he met his wife. Like the Monarch butterfly, Luis is determined to follow his fate-defining journey.

## **ABOUT THE CAST**

The 12-member cast of Mexican professional performers is led by acclaimed actors Horacio Castelo, Carmen Gozz, Marco Salazar, and Maria Ayuso.

**Horacio Castelo**, renowned Mexican actor of TV, film, and theater, has worked extensively in TV for Televisa, appeared in 50+ feature films in Mexico, and most recently played the villain Lolo Lozada in the international Emmy Award winning Netflix series, *El Vato*. Instagram @elhoracio

**Carmen Gozz** is an actress, singer and vocal coach. She has performed on TV, movies, and multiple Mexican and other international stages in musical theater. Most recently, she starred in the film *La Noche*. Instagram @hey.carmen

**Marco Salazar** is active in Mexico City's vibrant musical theater scene, having performed in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Sound of Music*, *Chicago*, *Rent*, *Moulin Rouge*, *Grease*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Bésame Mucho* and the Mexican national tour of *Cats*. Instagram @markikus

**Maria Ayuso** has performed in multiple international tours and is currently a member of the South America *Nick Jr. Live Tour*. She performed in the musical *La Llorona*, *The Sound of Music* and is currently cast in *12 Princesas en Pugna*, a production with 11-years of an uninterrupted run. Instagram @Maria.AyusoH

The cast also features: Jose Juan Hernández, Ana Regina Cuarón, Tony Corrales, Diego Cortés, Triana Marina, Diego Tenorio, Bernardo Figueroa, and introducing Alex Esquenazi.

## **ABOUT THE CREATORS**

**Mayu Molina Lehmann** (book and lyrics) hails from Sonora, Mexico. **Lehmann** spent her academic years studying in France, Chile, and her native Sonora. She is the author of the bilingual book *A New Life for Candy / Una Nueva Vida para Candy* (available on Amazon), and a young adult novel *La Hija del Candidato*. **Monarch** is her first work for the stage. **Lehmann** worked at the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington, D.C. and later as an interpreter helping immigrant families integrate into the school system. She is a member of Congregation Action Network a non-profit organization supporting immigrants' rights and was part of a team that created courses for recently arrived immigrants. **Lehmann** graduated with honors from Tec de Monterrey with a BA in Spanish Literature and Latin American studies. She is trilingual speaking Spanish, English, and French.

**Alfonso Molina** (music, lyrics, book) was born in Sonora, Mexico and has written several pieces encompassing Hispanic themes. **Molina** is a recipient of the 2022 Sistema Nacional de Creadores de Arte (SNCA), Mexico's most prestigious arts' grant which is bestowed who have rendered outstanding services through their work to the creative identity of Mexico. Earlier this year, he received the distinctive honor of being hand-picked by Mexico's most revered living composer, Arturo Márquez, to premiere one of his pieces alongside him. **Molina** obtained his Master of Music in Composition at the Manhattan School of Music. He received a Doctorate of Musical Arts (D.M.A.) from the University of Arizona. In 2019 **Molina** received a scholarship from the Carolina Foundation to study Musical Visual Arts at Cataluña's Superior School of Music (ESMUC) in Barcelona, Spain. His work has received multiple awards, including from ASCAP, The Boston Metro Opera (BMO), the National Fund for Culture and Arts of Mexico (FONCA-CONACYT) among others ([www.alfonsomolina.com](http://www.alfonsomolina.com)).

***Monarch: A Mexican-American Musical*** runs **December 9, 2022** through **December 11, 2022**, with only 5 performances taking place on **Friday** at **8 p.m.**, **Saturday** at **2 p.m. & 8 p.m.**, and **Sunday** at **2 p.m. & 6 p.m.**

General admission to all performances is **\$40**, with **\$20** tickets available to seniors and students with valid ID. Appropriate for ages 6 and up.

**The Los Angeles Theatre Center** is located at **514 S Spring St, Los Angeles, CA 90013**. \$5 Parking w/Theatre Validation is only available at Joe's Parking (530 Spring Street) Please make sure to bring your parking stub to the theatre.

To purchase tickets and for more information visit: [www.MonarchTheMusical.com](http://www.MonarchTheMusical.com)

## **Calendar listing for Monarch: A Mexican-American Musical**

### **Monarch: A Mexican-American Musical by Alfonso Molina & Mayu Molina Lehmann**

Venue: The Los Angeles Theatre Center (LATC)  
514 S. Spring Street. Los Angeles, CA 90013

Dates: Friday, December 9 through Sunday, December 11, 2022  
Press opening Friday, December 9 at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: Online at [www.MonarchTheMusical.com](http://www.MonarchTheMusical.com)

Prices: General audience \$40  
Seniors, veterans, & students \$20

#### Performance schedule:

Friday, December 9, at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 10, at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 11, at 2:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

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