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PRESS RELEASE

LATINA MOTHER/DAUGHTER DUO HIT THE ROAD TO FIND THE MEANING OF FAMILY – AND A HERD OF BUFFALO – IN *26 MILES*

TEATRO VISTA KICKS OFF 20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON, RETEAMS WITH RIVENDELL THEATRE ENSEMBLE FOR MIDWEST PREMIERE OF TONY AWARD WINNER QUIARA ALEGRIA HUDES' ROAD TRIP TALE, OCT. 16 – NOV. 21 AT CHICAGO DRAMATISTS



26 Miles features Sandra Marquez (in sunglasses) as Beatriz, and Ashley Neal as Olivia. Click [here](#) to download this and more hi-res photos.

CHICAGO, September 16, 2010 – An '83 Buick Regal may be an unlikely place to find out what family really means. But when Beatriz, a fiery Cuban mother with a warm heart, and her estranged, 15-year-old Jewish daughter Olivia depart at midnight for a spontaneous cross country road trip, neither is prepared for what lies ahead.

That's the starting point for Tony Award winner Quiara Alegria Hudes' *26 Miles*, a Thelma and Louise-like tale with a Latina tinge that reminds us that the best souvenirs on the road of life are the relationships we make along the way. And that sometimes all it takes to find yourself is the power of family...and a herd of buffalo.

Teatro Vista, Chicago's largest Equity Latino company, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, Chicago's only professional woman-centered theater company, are proud to open their 2010-2011 seasons by re-teaming to present the Midwest premiere of Hudes' *26 Miles*. Performances are October 16 through November 21 at Chicago Dramatists, 1105 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago. Single tickets are \$15-\$25. Tickets are now on sale online at teatrovista.org or rivendelltheatre.net, or by phone, **312.334.7728**.

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More about 26 Miles

The daughter of a Jewish father and Puerto Rican mother, Quiara Alergia Hudes grew up in West Philadelphia, and views her work as *“having to be of or for the community I came from.”* She is perhaps best known for writing the book for ***In the Heights***, winner of the 2008 Tony Award for Best Musical, Tony Nominated for Best Book, and winner of the Lucille Lortel Award and Outer Critics Circle Award. However, Chicago audiences might be more likely to recall Hudes’ Pulitzer Prize-nominated play ***Elliot, A Soldier’s Fugue***, co-produced by Teatro Vista and Rivendell in 2006 to much critical acclaim and box office success. The Chicago Sun-Times hailed the collaboration *“80 perfect minutes... ..an exceptionally fine play....in a first-rate production created jointly by Teatro Vista and the Rivendell Theatre Ensemble.... highly recommended”*

Regarding **26 Miles**, her dramatic follow-up to ***Elliot, A Soldier’s Fugue***, *The New York Times* hailed its 2009 New York debut *“...charming, spunky and ultimately heart-rending...(this) road trip from Paoli, Pa., to Yellowstone Park is transformative and restorative for both mother and daughter.”* **26 Miles** premiered at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, GA, was written with support from the Signature Theatre, Arlington, Virginia and was originally commissioned by South Coast Repertory with support from the Elizabeth George Foundation.

Fast forward to 2010, and Rivendell Artistic Director **Tara Mallen** will direct this second Teatro Vista/Rivendell collaboration on a Chicago debut of Hudes’ work. The **26 Miles** cast boasts such Chicago theater favorites as RTE member **Keith Kupferer** (Aaron, others), Teatro Vista ensemble member **Sandra Marquez** (Beatriz, the mother), RTE member **Ashley Neal** (Olivia, the daughter) and Teatro Vista Artistic Director **Eddie Torres** (Manuel, others).

The production team includes **Regina Garcia** (set), **Diane Fairchild** (lights), **Christine Pascual** (costumes), **Mikhail Fiksel** (sound), **Julie Silver** (props), **Jaclyn Holsey** (production stage manager), and **Patrick Fries** (production manager).

Performance Schedule

Previews of **26 Miles** are October 16 through 20: Saturday at 8 pm (*sold out*); Sunday at 7 pm; and Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 pm. **Press Opening is Thursday, October 21 at 7 pm.** Regular performances are October 22 through November 21: Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm; Sunday at 3 pm. Performances are at Chicago Dramatists, 1105 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago. Single tickets are \$15-\$25. Tickets are now on sale online at teatrovista.org or rivendelltheatre.net, or by phone, **312.334.7728**.

Even better, log onto teatrovista.org to secure the best seats at the lowest price for Teatro Vista’s 20th anniversary season by purchasing the company’s first-ever Flex Pass. For only \$75, Teatro Vista fans can enjoy **26 Miles**, plus the world premiere of Tanya Saracho’s ***El Nogalar*** at the Goodman Theatre next March, and the world premiere of Jennifer Barclay’s ***Freedom, NY*** next May at Theater Wit.

More about Quiara Alegria Hudes

Hudes' other plays include *Yemaya's Belly* (Clauder Prize) the children's musical *Barrio Grrr!* (book and lyrics, Helen Hayes nomination for Theater for Young Audiences), and *Water by the Spoonful*. She has just published a children's book about growing up in Philadelphia, *Welcome to My Neighborhood!*, also available in Spanish, *Bienvinidos a Mi Barrio!*

In fact, much of Hudes' writing, including *26 Miles*, comes out of family stories and is set in Philadelphia, at the intersection of its many ethnic and historic communities. Hudes' mother, a Puerto Rican spiritual leader in the Santeria and Buddhist traditions, encouraged her to become a writer, as did her Jewish father, a carpenter and artisan, and Puerto Rican stepfather, an entrepreneur. She received a B.A. in music composition from Yale and an M.F.A. in playwriting from Brown. She is a resident writer at New Dramatists and the Joyce Fellow at Chicago's Goodman Theatre.

About Teatro Vista

For 20 years, Teatro Vista has been at the forefront of the Latino theatre movement in the United States, building its reputation by sharing provocative Latino stories that reveal the power and frailty of our humanity. Today, Teatro Vista is Chicago's largest non-profit equity Latino theater company producing full scale, Latino oriented, theatrical productions in English. The company continues to examine and redefine the American landscape through the use of new, provocative and unique voices that reflect the Latino urban experience. For more information, visit teatrovista.org, or call **312.666.4659**.

Teatro Vista is the recipient of the NFA/Nescafé Clasico Grant, which is funded by the NALAC Fund for the Arts and Nescafé Clasico with support from the Ford Foundation and Southwest Airlines. Other NFA funders include: JPMorgan Chase, MetLife Foundation, Heineken USA and The City of San Antonio Cultural Collaborative.

About Rivendell Theatre Ensemble

Since 1994 Rivendell has given voice to theater's forgotten majority — women. As Chicago's only professional woman-centered theater company, Rivendell continues to develop relevant new stories in a fertile, nurturing environment. Today, Rivendell remains steadfast in its commitment to provide female theater artists with an ally, advocate and artistic home in Chicago and has developed a reputation, both locally and nationally, for developing exceptional, groundbreaking work with women at the core. For more information, visit rivendelltheatre.net

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