



CONTRA TIEMPO

ACTIVIST DANCE THEATER



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CONTRA-TIEMPO is a Los Angeles-based Activist Dance Theater company founded by Ana-Maria Alvarez. For over 15 years, the company has been dedicated to transforming the world through dance. Through their unique and dynamic dance theater work, both on and off stage, CONTRA-TIEMPO builds community, facilitates dialogue, and moves us to imagine what is possible in the world. What sets CONTRA-TIEMPO apart is the unique relationship to their own community. Each company member lives, expresses, and struggles within the varied and infinitely complex political and personal landscapes that Alvarez seeks to address through the work.

Alvarez's MFA thesis work at UCLA explored the abstraction of Latine dance, as a way to express social resistance in the context of the U.S. immigration battle. This work became the impetus for founding CONTRA-TIEMPO Activist Dance Theater in 2005. CONTRA-TIEMPO's most recent work, "¡AZÚCAR!", was commissioned by NC State Live in Raleigh, alongside a duet by 2020 Doris Duke Artist, Alvarez and Grammy award-winning pianist and composer Arturo O'Farrill, called "Togetherverses". "Togetherverses" received additional commissioning support from UCLA Center for the Art of Performance and will make its Los Angeles premiere November 2023. Alvarez and CONTRA-TIEMPO were also invited to represent the best of American Contemporary Dance Abroad through The Obama Administration's U.S. Department of State cultural exchange program, produced by BAM, DanceMotionUSA. In the Fall of 2022, Alvarez was invited to join the UC San Diego Theatre and Dance Department as a tenured faculty member where she is imagining and designing a new future for embodied performance and practice at UCSD.

CURRENT REPERTORY

AVAILABLE FOR TOURING! [CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)

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¡AZÚCAR! - 2023

“¡AZÚCAR!” is a courageous naming/confrontation and intentional obliteration of the undercurrent and often unspoken anti-Blackness in latinidad, embodied through the practice and sharing of our Afro-Latinx ancestral movement and vibrational technologies. We explore ancestral wisdoms about a plant that once aided in our healing, used as a way to sweeten medicinal concoctions, now extracted, refined and used as weaponized poison. The cast and creative team of brilliant collaborators, rooted in and inspired by the sacred feminine, are building the work from personal narratives of food, labor, community and explorations of 'familying' and healing as practices and brave choices.

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JOYUS JUSTUS- 2018

Whenever humans have survived immense hardship and injustice, prevailing with their humanity intact, the presence of joy or, the knowingness and celebration of our true beauty and power has always been at the root. "joyUS justUS" reclaims the dominant deficit-based narrative of people of color in this country as being underprivileged, voiceless, powerless, and victimized, and flips it on its head by embodying stories of joy. These stories, from the artists and community participants of South Los Angeles, are personal truths about the power of hope, faith, and family, the strength of the villages that have raised our children and the wealth that lives in our collective histories of struggle and resistance.

A group of seven women are standing in a line, facing forward. They are wearing traditional Mexican clothing, including colorful skirts and headbands. The woman on the far left is holding a large bunch of pineapples. The background is a rustic stone wall.

PAST REPERTORY

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR [WEBSITE](#)

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AGUA FURIOSA - 2016

SHE WHO: FRIDA, MAMI & ME - 2016


FULL STILL HUNGRY - 2011

PLASTICO - 2008

I DREAM AMERICA - 2007

AGAINST THE TIMES - 2005

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY



CONTRA-TIEMPO seeks to change the way that artists exist and function within communities. For them, community engagement and artistic production are inextricably linked. They cannot exist outside of the communities that they inhabit. The experiences, cultural creations, and “we-stories” of their communities are the inspiration and motivation for their art-making. And it is their duty as artists to share their creative power to help grow the creative and social power of their communities.

CONTRA-TIEMPO believes that art and action are two sides of the same coin, as they both require the ability to imagine new possibilities and then create what does not yet exist. Both operate in the “in-between”. By engaging communities as participants and witnesses of arts experiences tied to their beautiful humanity, they endeavor to simultaneously awaken their sense of themselves as artists and as social change agents.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFERINGS

JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

Q&A with Artistic Director and/or Company Members
Digital Performance
Streaming of Past Performances
Choreographic Lab: Building the Movement through Movement
Sabor Session
Grooves
Art as Social Action
Improvisation
Ancestral Technologies of the Afro-latine diaspora

Members of CONTRA-TIEMPO have a manifold of dance experiences, each of which is rooted in black and Latine dance. These forms, including salsa, house, breaking, rueda de casino, contemporary, rumba, hip hop and more, are the foundation for CONTRA-TIEMPO's movement style. These styles and any combination thereof are integrated into the classes that we teach.

For more information about our class offerings, see our [Engagement offerings](#)



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***“more than a hip isolating dance ensemble...
CONTRA-TIEMPO pushes boundaries”***

– The Washington Post

For more press, click [here](#).



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(On Alvarez) "A legit choreographic wunderkind with technical skills and theoretical foundations anchored in deep humanity..."

For more press, click [here](#).

– CLTure

"The ensemble's work is a brash re-imagining of traditional forms that feels urgent and very much alive."

— CLTure



For more press, click [here](#).

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“an edgy examination of the complexity of resistance and struggle for Latinos in the United States and a joyous celebration of community”

– San Francisco Bay Guardian



For more press, click [here](#).


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TESTIMONIALS

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"When I was young, I had lots of hope; a copious amount of hope in 'reserve'... As I have aged, my reserve of hope has been significantly diminished. Participating in CONTRA-TIEMPO (joyUS justUS) replenished my hope and went a long way to restore my faith in the humanity of mankind."

- Community Member from the joyUS justUS Community Altar

"It was beautifully danced, designed, and directed, and such a wonderful embodiment of community, joy, resilience, resistance, humanity, and hope."

- Daria Yudacufski, Executive Director of USC Visions and Voices

"Beyond the physical attributes of the show, the work was multi-layered and carried such important messages."

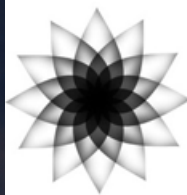
- Denise Ringler, Director of Arts Engagement, Appalachian State University

"I think Ella [Agua Furiosa] wants us to speak out, to dance out, to let our lights shine without fear, and know that Ella nos apoyara."

- Veronica Chavez

PAST PERFORMANCES

Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival-Becket, MA
Hopkins Center for the Arts - Hanover, NH
The Wallis - Beverly Hills, CA
Arizona State University Gammage - Tempe, AZ
Skirball Cultural Center - Los Angeles, CA
US State Department - San Salvador, El Salvador
The Getty Museum - Los Angeles, CA
CenterStage at RCC, Reston, VA
Wesleyan University - Middletown, CT
Dance Place - Washington D.C
Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Rose Lehman Arts Center
(HACC) - Harrisburg, PA
Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts - Miami, FL (2015, 2019)
Carpenter Center, California State University - Long Beach, CA
UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance - Los Angeles, CA (2018,
Bovard Auditorium, USC's Visions & Voices - Los Angeles, CA
Luckman Fine Arts Complex, Los Angeles, CA
Lincoln Center, New York, NY
House of Culture, Plovdiv, Bulgaria
Kravis Center, West Palm Beach, FL
California State University Fresno, Fresno, CA
Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, FL
Samford University Wright Center, Birmingham, AL
The Joyce Theater - New York, NY
Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art - Bentonville, AR
National Hispanic Cultural Center - Albuquerque, NM
Flickinger Center - Alamogordo, NM
University Fine Arts Center - UMass Amherst, MA
Ford Theatres - Los Angeles, CA
Appalachian State University - Boone, NC
Coker College - Hartsville, SC
Blumenthal Performing Arts Center - Charlotte, NC
Cape Fear Community College - Wilmington, NC
NCSU Center Stage - Raleigh, NC (2017, 2019)
Sewanee University - Sewanee, TN
The Orpheum Theater - Memphis, TN
Bowie Fine Arts Center - Midland, TX (2017, 2019)
St. Mark's Church at the Bowery - New York, NY
Peace Center for the Performing Arts - Greenville, SC
Taos Center for the Arts - Taos, NM
National Hispanic Center - Albuquerque, NM
NC A&T University - Greensboro, NC
Teatro Sucre - Quito, Ecuador
El Centro Civico - Guayaquil, Ecuador
Centro Boliviano Americano - Santa Cruz, Bolivia
Centro Cultural Gabriela Mistral (GAM) - Santiago de Chile
Teatro del Lago - Frutillar, Chile
Modlin Center for the Arts - Richmond, VA
Carpenter Center for the Arts - Long Beach, CA
Grand Performances - Los Angeles, CA
Arts Bank Theater - Philadelphia, PA
Myrna Loy Center for the Arts - Helena, MT
University of North Carolina Wilmington - Wilmington, NC
El Teatro Favorito - Centro La Habana, Cuba
Teatro de Cutumba - Santiago de Cuba
The Arts Brewery - Seattle, CA
The Carolina Theater - Greensboro, NC
UCLA Kaufman Hall Garden Theater - Los Angeles, CA
Teatro Francisco Arrivi - San Juan, Puerto Rico
Festival Internacional de Teatro en Los Angeles (Tecate & Mexicali,
MEXICO)



**LOTUS
ARTS
MANAGEMENT**

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