

Press Release
September 21, 2010

For Immediate Release
Contact: Emmanuel Deleage or Mark Krauss
(323) 263-7684

Detained in the Desert

A play by Josefina Lopez in response to the anti immigrant atmosphere in Arizona and the rise in violence against Latinos fueled by extremist media

Los Angeles, CA - CASA 0101 announces the premiere of a new play by award-winning playwright and co-screenwriter of the hit HBO movie *Real Women Have Curves*, Josefina Lopez. *Detained in the Desert* (directed by Hector Rodriguez) is a satirical drama set in Arizona and explores Arizona's controversial Senate Bill 1070, considered one of the toughest on immigration in decades.

Detained in the Desert parallels Sandi Sanchez (a 2nd generation Latina) and Lou Becker (a Hate Talk radio host) - two people on opposite sides of the immigration debate. Sandi is arrested as an "illegal" by an Arizona policeman after refusing to show her identification in protest. Lou personally experiences the fallout of his actions when he is kidnapped by three masked figures. Through a series of deceptions and mishaps, Sandi's and Lou's paths converge in the Sonoran Desert where they come to understand the true severity of the plight of undocumented immigrants.

The immigration debate is a subject close to Lopez's heart. At age 5, she and her family immigrated to the United States from Mexico. For 13 years thereafter she lived in the US without documentation. During these difficult times she tried to stay invisible, fearing that even parking enforcement officers had the authority to deport her and her family. She eventually benefited from the 1987 Simpson-Rodino Amnesty bill which legalized thousands of undocumented immigrants.

Detained in the Desert opens October 1st and runs through October 24th (12 performances only), Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 5 pm. Casa 0101 is located at 2009 E. First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90033, in Boyle Heights. Tickets are \$15.00 general admission and \$12.00 Students and Seniors with I.D., and \$10 for Boyle Heights residents with ID. For ticket reservations and group discounts call 323-263-7684 or reserve online at www.Casa0101.org.

CASA 0101 is dedicated to providing vital arts, cultural and educational programs to Boyle Heights, thereby nurturing the future storytellers of Los Angeles who will someday transform the world. CASA 0101 is located in Boyle Heights at 2009 E. First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90033 and is a 501 C 3 non-profit organization.

Hector Rodriguez is a graduate of USC and is a resident director at CASA 0101. He has directed *The Cleaning Lady*, *P.M.S - The Pinche Mentiroso Sisters*, *Ride to the Eastside* and three other plays by Josefina Lopez. He also co-directed *8 Ways to Say I Love My Life and Mean It!* which won the 2009 Imagen Award for Best Live Theatrical Production.

###