

LONESOMES

CONRADO & PAISLEY BLUE

BY OCTAVIO SOLIS

DIRECTED BY JACKIE APODACA



Conrado



Paisley Blue

WRITTEN IN AND FOR ISOLATION

VIRTUAL LIVE PERFORMANCES
FEBRUARY 27 & 28, 2021

ASHLAND
**NEW
PLAYS
FESTIVAL**

VIRTUAL ON DEMAND
MARCH 16–21, 2021

WELCOME!

On behalf of the board, staff, volunteers, and all who make ANPF a thriving, innovative and exciting theatrical experience, we welcome you to the 2021 ANPF season.

We are delighted you will be the first audience to view Octavio Solis's new play. Octavio has graciously allowed ANPF to launch our 29th year of providing new plays for the stage with his *Lonesomes*, a play about many of the feelings we are experiencing in our community and throughout the country right now. Certainly isolation is one in the emotions front and center in our current world.

ANPF has a very exciting season to present. In the spring, Kyle Haden will direct a play by Inda Craig-Galván and in the summer we will present an event to showcase emerging playwrights. The Fall Festival will be held October 20-24.

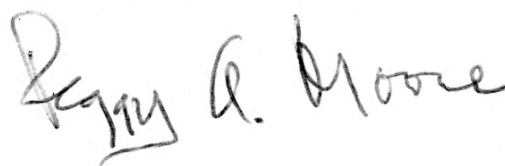
We do not know at what point in the year it will be safe to move from the virtual realm to in-person. We look forward to the time when it will be safe to share space with you. When it is, we will move in that direction.

We depend on a number of sources to be able to bring new works to the stage. Ticket sales represent about 20% of our revenue. The hard work of volunteer Michele Lansdowne, who writes a number of grant proposals throughout the year, has been yielding about 27%. Underwriting, script fees, and partnerships bring in about 10%. Memberships provide 43% of our revenue, so if you are not a member, we urge you to join. There are several levels of membership and each is important and of value to us.

Membership brings both tangible benefits (like discounted and free tickets) and intangible, in the form of our gratitude as well as the appreciation of hundreds of people who attend our events, who are challenged, educated, uplifted, entertained. And sometimes even changed.

We hope you'll consider joining us. Welcome.

PEGGY MOORE
Board President



LONESOMES

CONRADO & PAISLEY BLUE

BY OCTAVIO SOLIS

DIRECTED BY JACKIE APODACA

Setting: Two separate rooms. One an immaculate young woman's bedroom with red satin sheets and a garish light. The other is dark, dingy, and cramped, not so much a home as much as it is a place for forgetting.

CONRADO.....**ARMANDO DURÁN***

JESSE (PAISLEY BLUE).....**ISABEL PASK***

Written in and for isolation, *Lonesomes* includes companion pieces *Conrado* and *Paisley Blue*. In part one, a man dogged by his past sins is looking for companionship or maybe salvation. In part two we meet Pornhub worker, Jesse, who goes by the name of Paisley Blue. Jesse is looking for someone to make her feel wanted, or at least not so alone. These intimate, lyrical portraits of two people, separated by more than lockdowns and travel restrictions, show them grappling with the past and what it means for their future.

NOTE: Their stories include mature themes and may not be appropriate for younger audiences.

STAGE MANAGER.....J. CHING
ZOOM TECH.....KARA Q. LEWIS
ZOOM DESIGN.....SEAN O'SKEA

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*Appearing through an Agreement between ANPF and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

OCTAVIO SOLIS PLAYWRIGHT



Octavio Solis is a playwright and author whose works have been produced in theatres across the country since 1988. His fiction and short plays have appeared in the Louisville Review, Catamaran literary Reader, the Chicago Quarterly Review, Arroyo Literary Review, Huizache and Stone Gathering. His new book, *Retablos*, published by City Lights Books, recently won the 2019 Silver Indies Award for Book of the Year from Foreword Reviews. His latest plays are *Quixote Nuevo* (California Shakespeare Theatre 2018) and *Mother Road* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival 2019). A Thornton Wilder Fellow for the MacDowell Colony and a member

of the Dramatists Guild, Solis has been recently inducted into the Texas Institute of Letters. Octavio is also an ANPF Associate Artist.

PLAYWRIGHT PERSPECTIVE

I wrote the first monologue, *Conrado*, after the national election. The results should have elated me but didn't. Instead, I fell into a deeper funk as I waited for the other ugly shoe to drop. I knew this was indeed the winter of deep discontent and that the loneliest people would be those already quarantined by life and its cruel circumstances, long isolated by a different kind of social pandemic. These souls, I thought, would be uniquely suited to survive any long-term social distancing required of them.

But it was while I was terribly ill from Covid-19 that I wrote *Paisley Blue*. The corresponding monologue rose out of the same well of darkness as *Conrado*, but it emerged laced with even more black-hole delirium, an energy that felt like it came from the damned, because who knows heaven more than those who are denied it?

JACKIE APODACA DIRECTOR



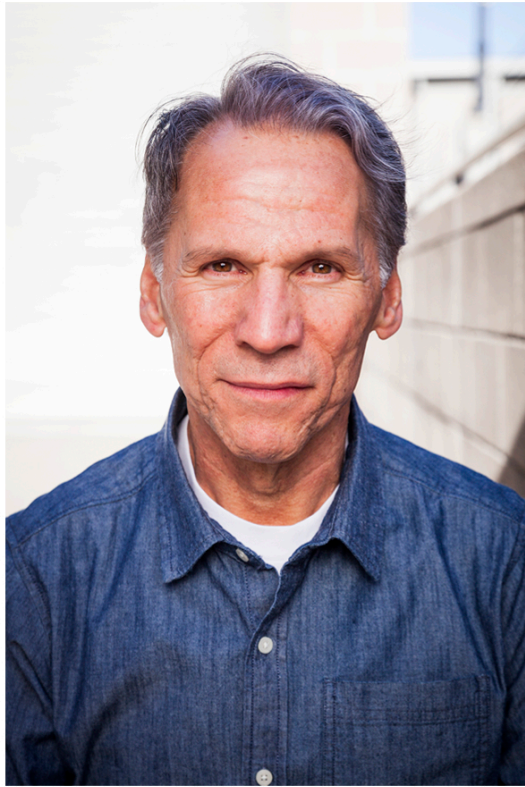
A professor of theatre and the head of Performance at Southern Oregon University, Jackie is ANPF's artistic director. She has worked as an actor, director, and producer in theatre, film, and media, with companies such as Roundabout Theatre Company, Denver Center Theatre Company, National Geographic, Modern Media (Head of Production), Venice Theatre Works (Associate Artistic Director), and Shakespeare Santa Barbara (Producing Director). Jackie is the author of the book *Answers from the Working Actor* published by Routledge in 2018, and spent more than a decade at Backstage Newspaper, where she was a Contributing Editor. She earned her MFA

from the National Theatre Conservatory at the Denver Center Theatre Company and her BFA from UC Santa Barbara. Locally, she facilitates Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Acting Trainee Program and is a former board member of the Ashland Independent Film Festival. Jackie joined ANPF in 2016 as Associate Artistic Director, serving as casting director and regularly acting and directing for the company. She directed *The Night Climber*; *Go. Please. Go.*; *Constellations*; and *The Bottle Tree*; and, played roles such as Kit in *EdanEv*, the title role in *Sofonisba*, and Beth in *Cold Spring*.

"Working with an artist like Octavio is a rare gift," says Jackie, "He is collaborative, inventive, generous and just so kind. And his work is *actually* haunting.

**His characters are following me around,
demanding attention."**

ARMANDO DURÁN CONRADO



Armando Durán has been a member of the repertory acting company at Oregon Shakespeare Festival for over 20 years, where his roles have included Mark Antony in *Antony and Cleopatra*; Don Quixote in *Don Quixote*; García Lorca in *Lorca in a Green Dress*; Julius Caesar in *Julius Caesar*; and Eddie Carbone in *A View from the Bridge*. He has appeared in productions at Seattle Repertory Theatre, Yale Repertory Theatre, Folger Theatre, Guthrie Theater, and South Coast Repertory. His numerous audiobook titles include *Avenue of Mysteries* by John Irving and *Love in The Time of Cholera* by Gabriel García Márquez.

He is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association and SAG-AFTRA.

ISABEL PASK PAISLEY BLUE



Isabel Pask is a New York-based actor and writer from Dallas, Texas. Regional theatre credits include Santa Cruz Shakespeare, Shakespeare Theatre of NJ, Chautauqua Theater Company, Quantum Theatre, and Art House Productions. She is a contributing artist for the femme-millennial company CNT Productions, where she just released her short film *This is Not a Love Letter*, which was featured in *Ms. Magazine*, *Glamour*, and *USA Today*. Isabel is also a member of the theatrical ensemble *The Bellwether Project*, having recently performed with them in *Ars Nova's All New Talent Festival*. She is represented by D.G.R.W. Inc.

Isabel has a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University and a certificate in classical acting from London Academy of Dramatic Arts.

THANK YOU ANPF MEMBERS!

Since 1992, ANPF has promoted opportunities for playwrights and new plays. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you for the confidence in us. We sincerely hope you feel that your investment in ANPF has been rewarding. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining with over 200 of your fellow theatre-lovers to support our work.

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**This list is current as of February 22, 2021.*

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HATS OFF TO OUR READERS

We are nearing the half-way point in the reading process that leads to the Fall Festival! Many thanks to our passionate, dedicated volunteer readers:

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Samantha Baird
Jane Bardin
Laura Barry
Sol Blechman
Barbara Bobes
Be Boulay
Tristan Cameron
Brandy Carson
Candice Chapman*
Jim Coleman
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Peter Stone
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Logan Tiedt
Karen Toloui
Jill Weier
Joseph Whitney
Kate Wolf-Pizor
Norma Wright
Sarah Wright
Willi Zilkey

THANK YOU

**Group leader*

A LOOK AHEAD: 2021 SEASON



LONESOMES

CONRADO & PAISLEY BLUE

By Octavio Solis

Directed by Jackie Apodaca

FEBRUARY 27 & 28



BERTH BREACH/BREECH BIRTH

By Ina Craig-Galván

Directed by Kyle Haden

APRIL 24 & 25



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