

COMPANY OF
angels



WELCOME TO THE VANTAGE POINT

> April 8 to
April 30

COMPANYOFANGELS.ORG



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

Los Angeles
County
Arts &
Culture



Welcome back to Company of Angels!



Three years ago, we closed our theater doors in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Like many other arts organizations, we continued presenting shows on-line. We did a lot of Zoom theater.

Angel City Improv was born in January 2020. I know, two months before the pandemic started. During our closure, Angel City Improv heroically presented many improv shows under the fierce leadership of Corinne Chooey. She and her team of talented artists gave free online comedy workshops, developed **Welcome to the Vantage Point** as a 2021 Hollywood Fringe Festival scholarship recipient, toured at the Long Beach Playhouse and Pack Theater, and built bridges by collaborating with other theaters and not-for-profit community service organizations.

Finally, after three years, we are bringing **Welcome to the Vantage Point** back to our own stage. It's a homecoming performance that we are excited to share with all of you.

At Company of Angels we strive to infuse the American theater canon with specific stories of the underrepresented communities who will soon make-up a majority of the nation's population. In addition to creating a theater that more accurately depicts the City and nation where we live, new voices from these under-represented communities provide yet another prism through which to explore the human experience. If we provide a space for these voices, we have an opportunity to animate and excite American theater, enrich its aesthetic and thereby expand our reach to a more diverse audience.

It's been a challenging time, but we are slowly making our way back to the "new normal" and a very changed theater landscape. A loud shout out to my colleagues at CoA, Nakasha Norwood, Lui Sanchez, Xavi Moreno and Julianna Stephanie Ojeda for keeping hope alive with their perseverance and dedication. Most importantly, I appreciate you for your support of live theater and the many artists who make up Company of Angels.

I hope you enjoy our of presentation of **Welcome to the Vantage Point** and come back to visit us again soon!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Armando Molina".

Armando Molina

Artistic Director, Company of Angels

Welcome to the Vantage Point

CREATIVE TEAM

CO-DIRECTORS

Sean Michael Boozer
Armando Molina

PRODUCERS

Corinne Chooy
Sean Michael Boozer
Nakasha Norwood
Elizabeth Covarrubias

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Justin Huen

STAGE MANAGER

Pam Noles

MARKETING DIRECTOR

Xavi Moreno

PHOTOGRAPHER

Danielle Tyas

CAST

Sean Michael Boozer
Corinne Chooy
Fernando Funes
Valentina Guerra
Bryan Ha
Eric Chad Ho
Sara Laskey
Rommel Rojas
Lorinda Hawkins Smith

PRODUCTION NOTES

The running time is approximately 90 minutes, without intermission.

SUPPORT

Production made possible by generous support from

Union Bank Foundation



Photo by Danielle Tyas

MEET THE ARTISTS

Sean Michael Boozer

Co-Director, *Welcome to the Vantage Point*



Sean Michael Boozer is an improviser, actor, writer and director from Phoenix, AZ, Graduate of The Second City's Directing Program.

He has had long running MainStage shows at The Second City and iOWest in Greene Boozer Elixir and stage has provided Fringe

Show and Improv Actor honors. Film and TV credits include Hulu's "The Dropout", Netflix's "The Politician", Shondaland's "Station 19", TV Land's "Teachers", Dr Dre's pilot, "Vital Signs" for AppleTV and Series Regular in the "Off The Grid" pilot, other network appearances include "Jimmy Kimmel Live", "The Shield", "General Hospital" and "LA Dragnet".

Corinne Chooley

Director ACI, Co-Producer, Performer



Corinne Chooley grew up in San Francisco where, at the age of eleven, she started acting professionally in musical theatre and commercials. She later moved to Los Angeles to study acting and began honing her craft in local theatre productions. One of Corinne's earliest on-camera

jobs was as a series regular in SABAN Entertainment's kids show, VR Troopers.

Recent Credits: The Missing (BET), Paulie Go! (1091 Films), The Young and the Restless (CBS), Code Black (CBS), RENO 911! (Comedy Central), Jimmy Kimmel Live (ABC), Akuma-shin (Sacred Fools)

corinnechooley.com

IG: @corinnechooley | @dizonfamily5

Fernando A. Funes

Performer



Fernando A. Funes is a writer-performer who produces shows in the LA/OC area including Duo It Again, Piñata Party, Dazed & Confused Poetry Club, and Cuñados, Cuñadas, y Carnales, a Latinx panel show. He is on the Pack House Improv team

Nuisance and Pack House Sketch team Moonshot. A member of Company of Angels, he also showruns at the Glendale Room and The Lyric Hyperion. His short film, "The American Dream" has been featured in over 43 film festivals, including the Philadelphia Latino Film Festival. He writes a poem for every day of the year. He's very excited about his first poetry collection, Working Class PTSD, or How I Learned to Code Switch + Love Poems. You can follow Fernando on IG @fernandoafunes.

Valentina Guerra

Performer



Valentina Guerra is a recent graduate of Upright Citizens Brigade (UCB) and is excited to be performing with Angel City Improv. A native New Yorker, she studied aerospace engineering at MIT before switching careers to become an actor. TV credits include Quantum Leap (NBC), CSI: Vegas (CBS), American

Housewife (ABC), and 13 Reasons Why (Netflix). Theater credits include "twenty50" at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, and "Las Mujeres del Mar" and "Waiting" with Playwrights' Arena. Instagram/Twitter: @beingvalentina.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Bryan Ha

Performer



Bryan Ha (he/him) is a multi-faceted Asian-American performer and storyteller who's excited to be making his debut with Company of Angels through this show. Improv is a selfless giving art-form, and he wants 'Welcome to the Vantage Point' to be a present to his community of Monterey Park and the San

Gabriel Valley. He is grateful for working with each cast members, for CoA giving him the opportunity to perform, and for his friends and family who came to see him perform. Along with content creation and performing, Bryan also hosts a biweekly improv session within the parks of Monterey Park and SGV.

Eric Chad Ho

Performer



Eric Chad Ho peaked when he starred in his 6th grade musical, playing the titular character in the western Tumbleweeds. Now, he is thrilled to be a part of Welcome to the Vantage Point, do 2prov with Kim&Eric, and perform weekly at Mach Improv. He is

also the Interim Treasurer and Regional SoCal Lead for nonprofit Queer Crush (@queercrushclimbing).

Sara Laskey

Performer



Sara Laskey is a physician, clown, tech strategist, actor and improviser. She is a graduate of Ringling Bros. Clown College, The Second City, Northwestern University and CWRU School of Medicine. Sara is a recent transplant from Ohio to L.A. Since arriving she has spent

time studying at The Pack Theatre, UCB and Impro as well as exploring the wonders of SoCal.

Sara is profoundly grateful to work with the Company of Angels and her castmates on Welcome to the Vantage point. And particularly happy that her emergency medicine skills have not been required.

@sara.laskey

Rommel Rojas

Performer



Rommel Rojas was born and raised in Davao, Philippines. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communication. When the opportunity arose, he moved to the US in 2004. He attended UCB and Elizabeth Mestnik Acting Studio for his training. He is a Meisner trained actor. He loves hiking. He has hiked the Half

Dome twice and did notable trails in Japan, South Korea, and Spain. His favorite color is green.

Instagram/TikTok: @mrrommelrojas

MEET THE ARTISTS

Lorinda Hawkins Smith

Performer



Lorinda is a multi-hyphenate artist. Her stand up comedy has received awards from the City of Hawthorne and the Burbank Comedy (Covid) Festival. She started doing Improv with ComedySportz and took Comedy Writing at Second City Hollywood.

Her Horror Comedy, “The Virus” has 9 wins in the film festival circuit. Her PSA spoof “Domestic Violence: What Is It?” earned an honorable shout-out in the 2022 Green Screen Film Festival. lorindahawkinssmith.com

Justin Huen

Technical Director

Justin Huen is an American actor, born and raised in Los Angeles, while his ethnic roots tie him back to China, Ireland, and Latin America.

He attended Alhambra High School, where his main interest was playing football. For years after, he juggled jobs as a carpenter, HV/AC field technician, and designing window displays for The Gap, until he realized the work was not fulfilling. So he returned to school, enrolling at Rio Hondo Junior College in Whittier, California, where he first began performing as an actor in theatre.

In 2004, he made his network television debut as ‘Chase Allsworth’ in an episode of NYPD Blue.

He continues to work as a professional actor, award-winning set and lighting designer, and director in theatre, television, and film.

Armando Molina

*Artistic Director, Company of Angels
Co-Director, Welcome to the Vantage Point*

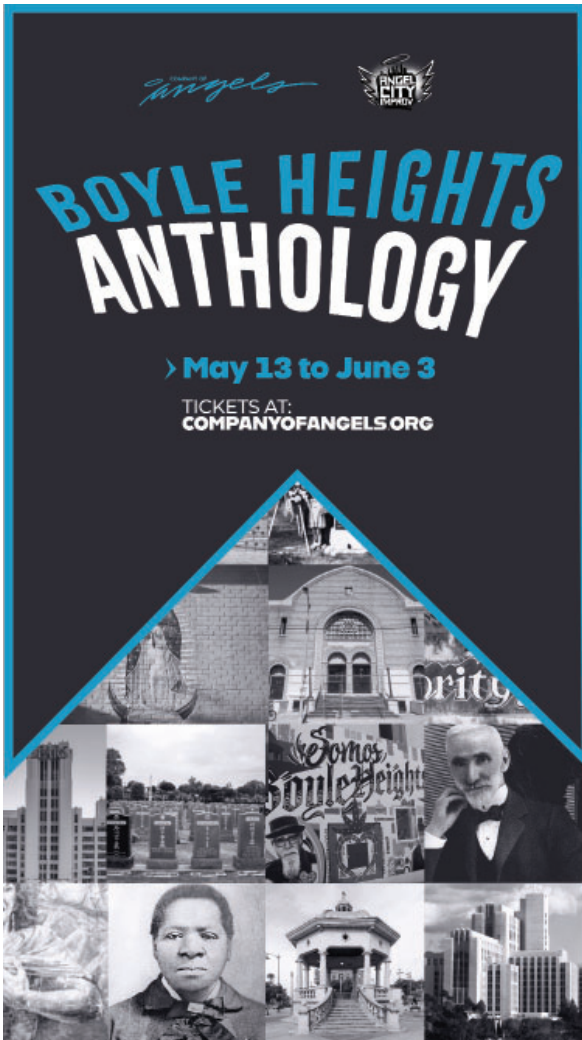
Armando is the Artistic Director of Company of Angels. His theater directing credits include productions at The Fountain Theater, South Coast Repertory, Borderlands Theater, TheaterWorks. Mixed Blood Theater, PCPA Theaterfest and Teatro Vision.

Pam Noles

Stage Manager

Pam Noles is a former cop reporter and features columnist whose work has appeared in outlets ranging from the Los Angeles Times to Dark Horse Comics. She’s now a stage manager, occasional costume designer, and often performs in local storytelling shows. She lives on Twitter @BGFCentral. Do not ever ask her why Grendel should’ve kicked Batman’s ass during that crossover unless you have a lot of time on your hands.

UP NEXT



WORLD PREMIERE

Boyle Height Anthology is an exciting, new devised narrative show which explores the rich culture and lived experiences of the Boyle Heights community through improvised characters from beyond the grave. A completely made-up experience, audience members will meet the residents of Evergreen Cemetery at the beginning of each show.

From there, we will ask for a simple suggestion from you, our audience, and our talented cast will create stories about their characters' lives in the moment.

Featuring David Brice, Berenice Diaz, JJ Joo, Sherrick O'Quinn, Moises Rodriguez, Raul Martinez Vega, Leah Zhang and Willa Zheng.

Production includes Director, Robert Covarrubias, Technical Director, Justin Huen and Producer, Corinne Chooey.

The show runs from Saturday, May 11-June 3. Saturdays only at 8pm; Running time is approximately 60 minutes. General admission is \$15.

Visit www.companyofangels.org or scan QR code for tickets and more information.



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WAYS TO GIVE



Company of Angels depends on the generosity of donors like you.

For more than 60 years we've had the privilege of sharing the wonder of storytelling together. We've persevered through the fire of 1988 that destroyed our theatre, the L.A. Riots, the 2008 recession, and gentrification forcing us to move from theatre to theatre. None of those events has stopped us like Covid-19 has.

During this unprecedented time, young people across our region are experiencing the world in new and unexpected ways. CoA is continuing to provide high-quality arts education experiences through distance learning and online creative writing programs that support our students in processing today and healing for tomorrow.

CoA is embracing this moment as a time to evolve in the ways we support our community. We are building adapted distance learning initiatives and new play development opportunities that will broaden our reach and continue to inspire our community to realize the power of their voices.

In this frightening time— If you believe, as we do, that the power of theatre can provide precious light in times of fear and darkness, we need your help. If your family has been enriched by the stories CoA brings to the stage, please help ensure they will be there for future audiences. Your gift to the Company of Angels fuels truly life-changing support for our artists, who in turn connect us to our humanity, our complexity, and our communities

Supporting great theater doesn't have to be complicated! Gifts to Company of Angels can be made by cash, check, or credit card. Monthly giving plans can be arranged for gifts of any size.

Visit www.companyofangels.org
or scan QR code for more
information.

