LA RUTA
by Ed Cardona, Jr.,
Directed by Tamilla Woodard
Set Design by Raul Abrego,
Costume Design by Emily DeAngelis,
Lighting Design by Lucrecia Briceño,
Sound Design by Sam Kusnetz,
Projection Design by Dave Tennent & Kate Freer, IMA,
Prop Design by Claire Kavanah

Above: Annie Henk, Zoë Sophia Garcia, Gerardo Rodriguez, and Bobby Plasencia

Left: Brian D. Coats and Sheila Tapia

Cover: the set of LA RUTA

Photos © Lia Chang, 2013
Working Theater is dedicated to producing new plays for and about working people.*

Our 28th Season ran from February to June 2013 and featured the development and production of several new plays, as well as other events aimed specifically at reaching our audience of working men and women.

*working people refers to the wage and salaried workers of modest means working in factories, stores, offices, hospitals, classrooms and other workplaces throughout America.
A note from the PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Working Theater’s 2012/13 Season was without a doubt one of the most extraordinary seasons in our history. Several years back Working Theater held a day-long retreat with its board and staff to assess the Company’s progress in achieving its mission: to create theater for and about working people and introduce audiences of working people (the doormen, postal workers, bus drivers, city employees and restaurant workers who make NYC run) to the intimate thrill and transformation of off-Broadway Theater. One of the goals that came out of the retreat was to figure out ways to bring theater directly to communities of working people. At around the same time we were introduced to a terrific writer, Ed Cardona Jr. when he submitted his play *Pick Up Pots* to the Theater. At the time Ed was interested in writing a trilogy of plays about undocumented workers in America. During our 25th Anniversary Season we produced a “First Stage Presentation” of the second play in his series, *American Jornalero*, which went on to a critically acclaimed run at Intar Theater. After the production of *Jornalero* I told Ed I wanted to commission the third play in the series which he had told me would be about people crossing the border to find work in America. When he submitted the first draft of the play, *La Ruta*, I noticed he wanted it set inside an actual 48’ truck. I was definitely intrigued by the concept and it was especially attractive because I reasoned a truck could move to various neighborhoods enabling Working Theater to realize the very goal outlined at that original retreat.

Our season began in the summer of 2012 when we presented 3 short plays commissioned by IBEW Local 3 (Chris Erikson, Business Manager) about the historical and contemporary significance of the labor movement at IBEW’s Youth Conference. The plays were written by the wonderful long-time Working Theater collaborator, playwright and TheaterWorks! instructor Joe Roland, and directed by one of the founders of Working Theater’s Directors Salon the talented (and soon to be Yale Grad student in Directing) Luke Harlan. At the same time another fortuitous meeting took place. The amazing Program Officer of the Panta Rhea Foundation, Diana Cohn, suggested I meet with Susan Meiselas of the Magnum Foundation to explore possible collaborations. At the meeting I mentioned Ed’s play in a truck and Susan, who has personally spent time documenting border crossing through her photography, got very excited about the idea. Her willingness to collaborate both on visual projections during the production and to create an exhibit focusing on the current debate on immigration reform outside the truck and the coming on board of one of my favorite directors, Tamilla Woodard made the wildly ambitious project feasible.

With the support of four community venue partners we presented *La Ruta* from April 10 – May 14 at the UFT Bronx Borough Office in the Bronx, The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in Manhattan, IBEW Local 3 Headquarters in Queens and at Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden in Staten Island. *La Ruta* was a hit with our audiences and received extensive positive coverage in the press for innovation, artistic quality, and
engagement with an increasingly important topic of national conversation. Since its New York engagement, several other theatres have expressed an interest in hosting a possible national tour of the production and conversations toward this goal are currently underway. The success of the local tour of *La Ruta* has confirmed our belief in the value of a continued initiative to bring our work directly into the home communities of our audience.

During the year we also continued our signature TheaterWorks! program which was offered to members of Local 32BJ (building service workers) and District Council 37 (municipal workers). In the class students learn to write and perform short plays about their lives at work. Final plays were presented, with a combination of students and professional actors in a staged-reading-style performance at the Clurman Theatre at Theatre Row.

We rounded out our 2013 programming with the Fourth Annual Directors Salon, presented from June 17 – 23, 2013. Emerging directors were provided with complimentary space in which to develop and showcase original work for industry peers and general audiences, and to network, address leaders in the field, and solidify their membership in a community of both emerging and established creative artists. A highlight of the extraordinary week of events put together by Directors Salon Curators, Luke Harlan, Rebecca Martinez, Dina Vovsi and Nicole Watson was the presentation of seven new short plays inspired by *Waiting for Lefty* directed by seven emerging directors whose names were picked from a hat at the opening reception for the Salon.

None of the success of this past season would have been possible without the support of you – our supporters, audience members, sponsors and funders. On behalf of everyone who was involved in Working Theater this year, a huge THANK YOU!

Mark Plesent
Producing Artistic Director
COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EVENTS
SPECIAL CONSTITUENCIES INITIATIVE (SCI)

Our unique grassroots audience development program aims to make theater affordable and accessible to the working men and women of New York. Over the years we have used SCI to offer theater to a diverse cross-section of the working population, including postal workers, municipal employees, healthcare workers, building service workers, transport workers, domestic workers and taxi drivers.

In tandem with the touring production of LA RUTA, Working Theater hosted four community outreach events designed to introduce members of the local communities to the production and its relationship to the current dialogue on immigration reform. As part of this community outreach, the company provided working and immigrant populations with access to partially and fully subsidized tickets to a performance of LA RUTA. Each event was led by members of the production’s creative team and Working Theater leadership and was hosted on site by one of the project’s four community partner venues. In collaboration with these venues and with LA RUTA’s production partner, the Magnum Foundation, Working Theater reached out to relevant populations and community groups in each borough. These groups subsequently brought their membership to the community gatherings and/or otherwise assisted in spreading the word about the project and subsidized ticketing opportunities.

Participating community groups in the Bronx included: the Bronx UFT, (who purchased 100 subsidized tickets which they provided free of charge to both Bronx PTA, student and teacher groups) PS 25, UFT Districts 1, 8 and 9, NY Communities for Change, and Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice. Participating Manhattan community groups included: Make the Road NY, Union Square International High School, Laundry Workers Center United, Professional Staff Congress and several of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine’s educational and cultural outreach committees. In Queens, the company worked primarily with IBEW Local 3 - which provided 100 free tickets to the tenants of Electchester, its nearby membership housing complex, as well as to students of Empire State College’s course on art and immigration. Working Theater also collaborated with its board treasurer Sony Salvador and Beth Tejada from Tides Center to reach out directly to the Filipino community living and working in Queens. The company worked in Staten Island primarily with El Centro del Inmigrante, which helped spread the word to local church and civic groups and ultimately brought a group of ten undocumented day laborers living in the community to the production. The community events collectively attracted nearly 100 people, and the ticket subsidies provided 320 people with an opportunity to experience the production at little or no cost.

Working Theater at the Local 3 IBEW YOUTH CONFERENCE

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union No. 3 (Chris Erikson, Business Manager) commissioned Working Theater TheaterWorks! Director Joe Roland to write educational plays for their Youth Conference in August 2012. Luke Harlan directed professional actors in the pieces.

The cast and director of Joe Roland’s Union, Man, Pie in the Sky, and She Got Game Show. Clockwise L to R: Luke Harlan, Susan Louise O’Connor, Paul L. Coffey, Robert Arcaro, Maria Helan, and Carlo Albán
THEATERWORKS!

For our 28th Season, we hosted 2 sessions of our 16-week playwriting and performance class. One session was taught by director Joe White at DC37 and the other session by playwright Joe Roland at 32BJ SEIU. The classes culminated in free, staged reading style performances where the students were joined by professional actors and directors.

DC37 TheaterWorks!
Monday, February 25, 2013 at 7:00pm
at The New Theater at 45th Street
354 West 45th Street, 2nd Floor

A Dress For Nancy
by Olga Bautina

Backwards
by Lynn Viear

Quick Thinking
by Roxana Tirado

Who’s Your Doctor?
by YuLin Perkins

Twisted
by Claudine N. Harrison

Simple Life
by Hoi Pandher

The We Of Me
by deborah Spicciatie

Listen
by Elvie Moore, Jr.

Family Time
by Patricia S. Ward

Black And King
by Craig A. Joshua

Haunted
by Millie Cupeles

Dunham Town
by Dorcas Bethel

Directed by Joe White and David Smilow
with Carlo Albán, Tina Chilip, Samuel Ray Gates, Nedra McClyde, and Nicole Quinn
Stage Manager: Kimberley Oria

32BJ TheaterWorks!
Monday, March 11, 2013 at 7:00pm
at the Clurman Theatre at Theatre Row
410 West 42nd Street

Boyz in the Woods
by Pete Mergel

Sick Day
by Michael D. O’Hara

Rock Down to Chasidic Avenue
by Mike Mordechai Einhorn

Falling Up
by Pete Mergel

Ironclad
by Julian Pimiento

Summer with Stroyko
by Michael D. O’Hara

Worth the Wait
by El Flores

When the Heart Decides
by Emmanuel Sefa

Backstage
by Michaela Boren

Directed by Joe Roland
with David King, Susan Louise O’Connor, and Johnny Zito
Stage Manager: Rebecca Martinez
MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION

Working Theater in collaboration with Magnum Foundation
presents the World Premiere of

LA RUTA

by ED CARDONA, JR.
directed by TAMILLA WOODARD

with Brian D. Coats, Zoë Sophia Garcia, Zuleyma Guevara, Annie Henk, Bobby Plasencia, Jacob Alden Roa, Gerardo Rodriguez, and Sheila Tapia

Set Design: Raul Abrego  I  Costume Design: Emily DeAngelis
Lighting Design: Lucrecia Briceño  I  Projection Design: Dave Tennent, IMA & Kate Freer, IMA
Sound Design: Sam Kusnetz  I  Props Design: Claire M. Kavanah

Production Stage Manager: Michael Aaron Jones  I  Assistant Stage Manager: Sarah Levine
Production Supervisor: Production Core / James E. Cleveland
Associate Production Supervisor: Jared Goldstein  I  Production Manager: Ron Grimshaw
Assistant Production Manager: Casey Rowe  I  Wardrobe Supervisor: Anna Slocum

Casting Director: Stephanie Klapper  I  Press Representation: Dan DeMello
Assistant Director: Darya Gerasimenko  I  Fight Direction: UnkleDave's Fight-House
Photographs used in the production are from the renowned Magnum Photos Archive

Venue Partners

April 10 – 14, 2013  UFT Bronx Borough Office
April 16 – 29, 2013  The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine
May 1 – 5, 2013  IBEW Local 3 Headquarters
May 8 – 12, 2013  Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden

Commissioned by Working Theater in 2011, La Ruta is an immersive theatrical experience that follows the journey of several undocumented immigrants as they cross the border into the U.S. to make a better life for themselves and their family. The play is staged inside the trailer and cab of an actual 48’ truck with the audience experiencing the journey alongside the characters, surrounded by the harsh reality of their environment and the poignant narrative unfolding within.

Preliminary Sketch by Raul Abrego
La Ruta
by Ed Cardona Jr.
directed by Tamilla Woodard
April 10 - May 12, 2013
Welcome to the land of opportunity...
PRESS for LA RUTA

The New York Times

“Congress is preparing to consider a sweeping reform of the nation’s immigration system, but one shift in the terms of the public debate is already being signaled: News organizations have recently declared that they will find alternatives to the term “illegal immigrants.” The point is that although the immigrants may be in the country illegally, they themselves are not illegal. That’s also the message of “La Ruta,” a vivid and compelling new drama by Ed Cardona Jr. (“American Jornalero”), presented by Working Theater in collaboration with the Magnum Foundation. Expect no discussion of policy: the play’s urgent advocacy is to remind us, in very human terms, that each person vilified as a lawbreaker is, most often, merely frantic enough to risk everything for a better life. Timeliness is only the first of this work’s many virtues.” - Daniel M. Gold

SHOW BUSINESS
The Performing Arts Magazine Since 1941

“LA RUTA is a unique experience that is as important as it is transforming. Working theater has inspirationally gone above and beyond harnessing the power of theater for change” - Sarah Lucie

“LA RUTA is adventure theater at its best... everyone should rush to get the limited amount of tickets available for this smashing production... you’re in for an unforgettable experience.” - Mark Rifkin

“This Week in New York
The Insider's Guide to the City Since 2001

“The Nation.

“LA RUTA works because of its creative staging and superb acting—and it succeeds because it makes the audience physically uncomfortable and mentally estranged from a topic we all think we know something about. It reminds the audience that their silence around immigration might make them complicit in an unjust system. Even as we quickly learn to despise the smugglers and their co-conspirators, we remember that there are policies behind these stories that often mark the difference between life and death.” - Aura Bogado

“An immersive experience that's as timely as it is powerful.” - Mark Kennedy

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SPECIAL THANKS to Theatrical Teamsters Local 817 for donated trucking, the New York State AFL-CIO for donated flyer printing, IATSE Local 1 for donated program printing, Jose Vargas, Janet Guevara, Nicholas Cruz, Loriann Sanchez, Elliot Vigo, Gil Rivera, and everyone at the UFT Bronx Borough Office; Lisa Schubert, Isadora Wilkenfeld, Keith C. Hinkson, Ray Guyette, and everyone at The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine; Chris Erikson, Jodi Grace, Joe Doceti, and everyone at the IBEW Local 3 Headquarters; Larry Anderson, Jaclyn Alderete, Cynthia Taylor, and everyone at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Gardens.


Photos © Lia Chang, 2013
4th Annual DIRECTORS SALON

This unique Working Theater program evolved out of a need for a community and support network for emerging directors in New York City. The Salon was developed by directors Luke Harlan, Dina Vovsi, and Nicole A. Watson in 2010. It is now an annual week of events that gives emerging directors the chance to showcase their work, meet with other directors and theater artists, hear from leaders in the fields of directing and arts management, and, most importantly, a platform to actually direct.
PANELS
The Salon offered 2 nights of panels for emerging directors to meet with leaders in the field.

Our Directors Panel featured
Tamilla Woodard, Nelson Eusebio III, Ken Rus Schmoll, and Daniella Topol

Our Artistic Director and Industry Panel featured
Susan Bernfield (Artistic Director, New Georges), Jennifer Cook (Executive Director, The Field),
Ellen Rusconi (Stage Directors and Choreographers Society), and our own Mark Plesent

Presentation of DIRECTOR-DRIVEN PROJECTS
Out of countless submissions, these pieces were selected as a diverse representation of emerging
director-driven work. A talkback with the three directors followed the performances.

The In-Between
written & directed by Kareem Fahmy
originally developed as part of Noor Theatre's MYTH PROJECT
with Leila Buck (Fatima), Stephen Graybill (Parker), Sevan Greene (Nabil),
Mark Junek (Benjamin), and Rasha Zamamiri (Epsa)

Transcripts: Sarah Foster
directed by Katherine Brook
text recorded and assembled by Liza Birkenmeier, sound design by Erik Lawson
with Alex Spieth, Brighid Greene, and Nicolas Norena

Si Nos Dejan: If They Let Us
directed by Shana Solomon
devised by the company
with Juan Carlos Diaz*, Catherine Gasta, Megumi Katayama, Monica Walter Palmieri,
Johary Ramos*, Lakeisha Randle, Maria Riboli*, Douglas Taurel*, and Natasha Waisfeld*
* Member, Actors Equity Association

7 NEW PLAYS INSPIRED BY Clifford Odets' WAITING FOR LEFTY
The culmination of the Salon week is the night of brand new plays by some of the hottest playwrights
in New York, and all the directors were chosen out of a hat at the Kick-Off Party.

McRib by Chad Beckim, directed by Sherri Kronfeld
The Bullet Test by Cándido Tirado, directed by Alex Mallory
The Underside of Jackfruit and Papaya by Keith Josef Adkins, directed by Darya Gerasimenko
My Interpretation of the Play by Halley Feiffer, directed by Shay Roman
¿Dónde Está Juan? by Alladin Ullah, directed by Christopher Schilder
Walking Out by Mfoniso Udofia, directed by Emerie Snyder
Ten Page Manifesto by Mike Lew, directed by Eugene Ma

with Jorge Chapa, Annie Henk*, Bianca Jones*, Mia Katigbak*, Kathleen Littlefield,
Michael Oberholtzer*, Jose Joaquin Perez*, Johnny Rivera,
Arie Bianca Thompson*, and William Watkins*
* Member, Actors Equity Association
Working Theater’s 2013 Annual Awards Ceremony honored:

**Michael Mulgrew**
President, United Federation of Teachers (UFT) for bridging the gap between the arts, labor and community on **Monday May 13th, 2013** at Sardi’s Restaurant

and featured cocktails, dinner and dessert, and a special performance of excerpts from **Alladin Ullah’s Dishwasher Dreams**

**VIP Tables**
Belluck & Fox • UFT

**Patron Tables**
32BJ SEIU • AFT National Latino Caucus • Glenwood Management Corporation
Newmark Holding • UFT

**Tickets and Ads**
Thomas Acosta • Joseph Benincasa, The Actors Fund of America • Alan Sachs, Administrative Services Only • American Federation of Musicians Local 802 • Robert Arcaro • Dorothee Benz • CIGNA • Council of School Supervisors • CWA Local 1104 • CWA Local 1180 • Audrey Iszard, DC 37 Retirees Association • Christine O’Connor Burns, EmblemHealth • Thomas Canty, Empire BlueCross BlueShield • Express Scripts, Inc. • Frank Goldsmith • Connie Grappo • Healthplex • IATSE Local 751 Treasurers and Ticket Sellers Union • Christopher Erickson, IBEW Local 3 • Jonathan and Patricia Kay • Levy Ratner, P. C. • MagnaCare • Barbara McCabe Raisch, National Labor Management Conference • Santos Crespo, NYC Board of Education Employees, Local 372 • New York City Central Labor Council • Richard Ianuzzi, New York State United Teachers • New York State AFL-CIO • OPEIU • George Bueno, OPEIU Local 153 • Schultheis & Panettieri, LLP • The Segal Company • Eleanor Tilson • Anthony Wells, SSEE Local 371 • Uniformed Sanitationmen’s Association, Local 831 • Robert Haupin, United Healthcare • Winston Benefits • Stanley and Dorothy Wolpert
FINANCIALS
The Working Theater Co., Inc
July 2012 to June 2013

INCOME

Foundation Contributions $95,800.00
Government Contributions $68,460.00
Individual Contributions $29,208.00
Corporate Contributions $27,050.00
Board Contributions $20,400.00
Benefit Income $38,450.00
Box Office $24,436.00
Contracted Services $18,729.00
Union Contributions $14,600.00
Advertising $7,900.00
Misc. Earned Income $1,968.92

EXPENSES

Administrative / Office Expenses $23,732.72
Production Expenses $70,769.69
PR & Marketing Expenses $34,518.99
Artistic Personnel Salaries & Fees $115,166.22
Administrative Personnel Salaries & Fees $73,225.75
Production Personnel Salaries & Fees $47,317.97
SUPPORTERS

Working Theater is extremely grateful to all of the individuals, foundations, and companies that have supported our 28th Season!

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Nicholas Betito: General Manager  
Adam J. Thompson: Development Consultant  
Dina Vovsi: Literary Manager / La Ruta Marketing Consultant  
Joe Roland and Joseph White: Directors of Educational Programs  
Luke Harlan, Dina Vovsi, and Nicole A. Watson: Directors Salon Curators  
Rebecca Martinez: Directors Salon Production Manager  
Darya Gerasimenko: La Ruta Community Outreach Intern  
Susan Wilson: Group Sales Volunteer

SPECIAL THANKS

to our friends and volunteers who donated their time and resources this season:
Lee Alderson, Rodger Belknap, Michaela Boren, Connie Coddington,  
Rebecca Martinez, Zachary Moody, Karen Rothstein, Illana Stein

Working Theater is a member of the Alliance of Resident Theatres / New York, the service organization for New York City’s non-profit off- and off-off-Broadway theatres, and Theatre Communications Group

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with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature  
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Right: Annie Henk, Bobby Plasencia, Zoë Sophia Garcia, Sheila Tapia, Gerardo Rodríguez

Below: Annie Henk, Sheila Tapia, Gerardo Rodríguez, Zoë Sophia Garcia, Brian D. Coats

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