Mission Statement
Cornerstone Theater Company is a multi-ethnic, ensemble-based theater company. We commission and produce new plays, both original works and contemporary adaptations of classics, which combine the artistry of professional and community collaborators. By making theater with and for people of many ages, cultures and levels of theatrical experience, Cornerstone builds bridges between and within diverse communities in our home city of Los Angeles and nationwide.

Values Statement
We believe society can flourish when its members know and respect one another, and we value theater made in that spirit. We value art that is contemporary, community-specific, responsive, multilingual, innovative, challenging, and joyful. We value theater that directly reflects the audience. We value the artist in everyone.

Cornerstone Institute
The Cornerstone Institute offers multidisciplinary professional training in community-based theater using Cornerstone Theater Company's unique collaborative methodology. Institute participants include individuals interested in the intersection of theater and community. Participants learn through both intensive training and the hands-on creation of community-specific productions, which combine their own artistry with that of experienced professionals and community collaborators.
Director’s Note

I’ve been thinking a lot about love lately. The great thing about love is it comes in various forms, although at times it can feel like a mirage – in one moment, very real and then … gone. But what remains is the memory of the experience and how it affected your life.

It’s strange to think that a mere 16 months ago, I had never heard of Holtville. Yet in such a brief time, my heart has been forever engraved with the names and experiences I have shared with so many of you. My time here has been rich, and I have grown to love this town and the residents who live here. You have welcomed all of us into your lives, and we have been moved by your generosity and spirit.

What first drew us to Holtville was the love and pride the residents feel for their town. Although there are many different perspectives about what is best for the future of Holtville, what remains constant is the complicated and deep connection residents feel about this desert community. Playwright Alison Carey discovered the rich history that surrounds the area, revealing a trail of individuals who fought to create and preserve this town. At one rehearsal, I was discussing a speech with two community actors, and we discovered that the teachers, bankers, strikers, farmers, etc. we were referencing in the script were the actors’ great-great-grandparents - the very people who helped build this town. As we traced out their family tree, the three of us realized that the play was a road map leading directly back to the actors’ own lives.

Throughout this process, I continually have been drawn to a section in the play where Hippolyta, played by long-time Holtville resident Elvira Alvarado, states:

“This town was once a dream and nothing more,  
Then work and will combined to make it real.  
I wonder at our next steps, Theseus,  
And what new dream that Holtville needs from us,  
Who are we now and what is it we want,  
And what can we all do to make our future.”

Being in Holtville has truly been a dream, and one from which I hope to never wake.

Laurie Woolery
Cornerstone Theater Company

Staff
Michael John Garcés - Artistic Director
Shay Wafer - Managing Director
Paula Donnelly - Institute Director
Kerry Farmer - Production Manager
Antonia Grace Glenn - Interim Development Director
Rachel Jendrzejewski - Communications Manager
Brenda Killian - Education Coordinator
Nico Lang - Director of Community Partnerships & Audience Engagement
Lee Lawlor - Business Manager
Gregory Pacificar - Development Assistant
Debra Piver - Education Director
Laurie Woolery - Associate Artistic Director
Eli Isaacs, Quincy Surasmith - Interns

Ensemble
Michelle Blair
Paula Donnelly
Peter Howard
Geoff Korf
Page Leong
Debra Piver
Shay Wafer

Juliette Carrillo,
Michael John Garcés
Lynn Jeffries
Shishir Kurup
alejandra navarro
Bahi Turpin
Laurie Woolery

Alison Carey & Bill Rauch, Founders

Board of Directors
Celeste Allyne, Stuart Berton, Diane Burbie Vice Chair, Joyce Campbell, Juliette Carrillo, José Delgado Chair, Kerry English, Suzanne (Rusty) Flinton, Michael John Garcés, Nasreen Haroon, Tom Jacobson, Melody Kanschat, Patricia Mock, Jon Neustadter, Debra J. T. Padilla, Bill Pullman, Graciella Sanchez, John Spokes, Shay Wafer, Angela Weimer

CORNERSTONE THEATER COMPANY
presents

A Holtville Night’s Dream
adapted by ALISON CAREY
and people of Holtville, California
from William Shakespeare
Directed by LAURIE WOOLERY

Scenic Design SARA RYUNG CLEMENT
Costume Design ELIZABETH A. COX
Lighting Design LONNIE RAFAEL ALCARAZ
Sound Design PAUL JAMES PRENDERGAST
Shadow Puppet Design LYNN JEFFRIES
Stage Manager ALEJANDRA NAVARRO

A Holtville Night’s Dream was originally commissioned by Cornerstone Theater Company and Playwrights Circle members Amy Aquino & Drew McCoy.

Cornerstone Theater Company is supported in part by the Exemplar Program, a program of Americans for the Arts in collaboration with the Larsen Allen Public Service Group, funded by the Ford Foundation. This project is made possible in part by the Annenberg Foundation, the California Community Foundation, the Nathan Cummings Foundation, the Educational Foundation of America, the Edith Meiser Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Shubert Foundation, the Wallace Foundation and numerous individuals. Cornerstone is a member of Theatre Communications Group, the national service organization for the American theater, and LA Stage Alliance, which promotes, represents and supports the performing arts in Los Angeles.
Cast (in order of appearance)

Irma Garcia....................Musician
Carlos Madrigal................Musician
Rosario Martinez................Musician
Sylvia Pineda....................Musician
Sal Ruiz.........................Theseus
Elvira Alvarado................Hippolyta
Lorena Grijalva................Comadre
Maria Madrigal................Comadre
Rosario Martínez...............Comadre
Iris Muniz.......................Comadre
Angela Peralta................Comadre
Fausto Grijalva................Egeus
Adriana Burns...............Violeta
David Burns................Demetrius
Julian Daniel....................Lysander
Yesenia De La Torre........Hermia
Trudy Gaddis................Helena
Samantha Alvarado..............Flute, a stalk of broccoli
Brandon Cutts................Philistine, a head of lettuce
Emily Hansen................Quince, a melon
Edward Schwer................Starveling, an ear of corn
J.D. Schwer.....................Snout, a tiny bale of alfalfa
Asia Marie Torres..............Snug, cotton
Christopher Wolfe..........Bottom, a carrot
Autumn Knight..............Puck
Anna Victoria
Pérez Martínez........Brillante, a mirage
Kari Pope..............................Radiance, a mirage
Elise Payot......................Fulgurante, a mirage
Yessica Puentes..............Bright, a mirage
Erica Thornburg..............Sizzle, a mirage
Rocio Villegas......................Luminosa, a mirage
Andi Allen.....................Titania
Vic Treviño......................Oberon
Johnny Barajas.............Archiunto, Oberon’s posse
Víctor Jara.....................Sold, Oberon’s posse
Kate Duffly......................Puppeter, Helga
Francisco Garcia...........Puppeter, Oberon
Kayla Garcia..................Puppeter, Mr. V
Lynn Jeffries..............Puppeter, Chief
Alexis Pachecof..............Narrator, an onion
Kristin Marlow..............Visionary
Megan Marlow..............Visionary
Perri Allen......................Visionary
Cheyenne Star Castillo.......Visionary
Cynthia Marie Castillo.......Visionary
Clarissa Castro...............Visionary
Sage Alia Clemenco........Visionary
Daniela Gaona..............Visionary
Rebecca Gaona..............Visionary
Taiza Grijalva...............Visionary
Grace Gu......................Visionary
Angela James...............Visionary
Alejandra Peralta.........Visionary
Jenny Schwer...............Visionary
Mariah Tumbaga........Visionary
Laurie Woolery...............Director, Associate Artistic Director
Christopher Wolfe........Bottom
Jenny Schwer (Parade) has just completed her long tour of the Pine School kindergarten where she participated in several class programs.
Byrd Shuler (Co-Company Manager) hails from Minneapolis, MN where she is a “performing artist, etc.” She is honored to be working with Cornerstone and the brilliant artists in Holtville.
Motoko Tamura (Master Electrician) recently graduated from UCI with a BA in Drama. This is her fourth show with Cornerstone and first show with the Institute. She appreciates this wonderful opportunity to be a part of the collaboration with the Holtville community.
Erica L. Thornburg (Sizzle) has been in dance for 7 years. She plays three instruments: piano, flute, and guitar. She is currently the Holtville Carrot Festival Queen.
Asia Marie Torres (Snug) is 13 years old and will be in the eighth grade. She plays clarinet and has two brothers. She has been in a lot of school plays.
Vic Treviño (Oberon) is an Assistant Professor of Drama at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas. He would like to thank cast, crew, Cornerstone, and the Holtville Community!
Mariah Tumbaga (Visionary) is going into the 6th grade. She plays soccer and was 1st runner up for the Carrot Festival Jr. Princess. She’s been in GATE for three years and has been in dance recitals.
Rocio Villegas (Luminosa) likes to dance, sing, and work with people. She dances a lot to any song. She usually sings karaoke with her dad. She likes helping people and working with kids.
Shay Wafer (House Manager/Managing Director) has worked in the field for 24 years. She previously served as the Managing Director for LA Theatre Works and the St. Louis Black Repertory Company.
Maren Ward (Assistant Director) lives in Minneapolis, MN where she works as an actor and director with Bedlam Theatre (which she co-founded in 1993) and several other local companies. Thank you Holtville! And Cornerstone!
Jeffrey Wells (Co-Company Manager) is proud to be working in Holtville this summer with such a talented, open-hearted group of people.
Christopher Wolfe (Bottom) is a writer, performer, and director. He is grateful to be taking part in this production. Thanks and love to the Cornerstone Institute staff and students.
Angela Peralta (Comadre) es madre de dos hijos, Salvador y Alejandra, y está casada con Alejandro. Trabajó 15 años en los files. También trabajaba en Valley Inn y Barbara Worth, pero ahora trabaja solo para Valley Inn.

Mariely Corona Pérez (Picante) es muy imaginaria, sonriente y divertida. Ella y los otros espejísmos bonitos son como una familia. Puede volar y bailar. Le gusta su papel porque no es difícil y crea que fuera el mejor papel para ella. Aunque el papel no sea muy grande es muy lindo.

Sylvia Pineda (Musician) has recently received her Holtville High diploma. She was actively involved in her high school chorus, shields, cheer squad, yellow ribbon, and pep club. She enjoys entertaining and working with people with the desire of becoming a physical therapist.

Debra Piver (Education Director) is happy to be here hanging out with beautiful Institute students and the lovely people of Holtville. Have a great show!

Kari Pope (Radiance) is excited to be a part of the Cornerstone Institute. After her Holtville adventure, she will spend a year working at the Glencree Centre for Reconciliation in Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

Tim Pracher-Dix (Electrics Technician/Light Board Operator) has thoroughly enjoyed learning about all the amazing people of Holtville. Toda la gente de Holtville son muy amables y quiere darles muchísimas gracias.

Paul James Prendergast (Sound Designer) has composed music and designed sound on over 20 Cornerstone shows. His work has also been featured at theme parks, in museums, on films, recordings and in music venues nationwide.

Yessica Puentes (Bright) is 15 years old and junior at Holtville High School. She enjoys spending time with family and dancing.

Elise Puyot (Fulgurante) loves to sing, and dance, and play basketball. She has 1 brother and sister and 1 nephew. She has never been in a play before and can’t wait to perform.

Sal Ruiz (Theseus) was born November 27, 1978 in Brawley, California, the third of four children. He comes from a hard-working single mother who raised her children by working two jobs alone.

Eddie Schwer (Starveling) is looking forward to starting his Freshman year at Holtville High. He enjoys rock climbing, skateboarding, and airsoft.

J.D. Schwer (Snout) is looking forward to the 5th grade this year. He enjoys climbing trees, rock climbing, riding his bike, and video games.

Original Music
“El Amor Que He Soñado” ……………………… Carlos Madrigal
“Señor Sol” ………………………………………. Juan Gabriel

Production Staff
Maren Ward…………………………………….. Assistant Director
Michael John Garcés……………………………. Dramaturg
Marisa Fritzemeier……………………………… Assistant Stage Manager
Autumn Knight………………………………….. Movement Associate
Jim Knipple……………………………………….. Script Assistant
Bill Honigstein…………………………………. Technical Director
Eli Isaacs………………………………………….. Set Construction
Bill Honigstein, Kerry Farmer, Eric Cueto, Michelle Burce, Julian Gonzales…………………………. Costume Design Assistant
Blanca Gutiérrez………………………………… Scenic/Props Associate
Anne Irigoyen, Rosaura Medina, Victoria Osuna, Sarah Hansen…………………………………….. Costume Construction
Motoko Tamura………………………………….. Master Electrician
Timothy Pracher-Dix…………………………… Electrics Technician/Light Board Operator
Rachel Jendrzewski…………………………….. Prop Master
Michelle Burce…………………………………… Scenic/Props Associate
Kate Duffy, Francisco Garcia………………………… Additional Puppet Design & Construction
Julian Gonzales…………………………………….. Stagehand
Shay Wafer……………………………………….. House Manager
Carli Gaugh…………..………………………… Producing Associate: Publicity & Publications
Jovoni Lewis……………………………………….. Producing Associate: Box Office
Sage Alia Clemenco…………………………….. Youth Coordinator
Grace Gu………………………………………… Community Engagement Associate
Simón Silva………………………………………… Artwork (Estrellas y Flores)
Michelle Matthews/Vagrant Design……….. Graphic Design
Todd Krainin……………………………………… Production Photos
Gregory Pacificar……………………………… Videography

The running time is approximately 75 minutes with no intermission.
The Legend of the Ghost Ship

For hundreds of years, people have told stories of seeing half-buried remains of ancient ships in the sands of the California desert. Travelers claimed to have spotted the disintegrating vessels in many places, including near El Centro, Mexicali, and on the land now covered by the Salton Sea. While no one has ever been able to find any of these mysterious ships again, there is some chance they are more than a desert mirage: as recently as 400 years ago, much of the Imperial Valley was covered by the giant, freshwater Lake Cahuilla. It’s not impossible that ships from other parts of the world came and got trapped here, leaving only their timbers—and maybe some treasure and ghosts—behind.
Grace Gu (Visionary/Community Engagement Associate) is thankful for this learning experience, her friends, and family. Blanca Gutiérrez (Costume Design Assistant) is excited to work on her fourth institute and seventh production with Cornerstone. When she is not doing theater she enjoys traveling and cooking. Emily Hansen (Quince) is 13 years old. Though she has acted other roles besides Quince, she is still nervous, but very honored to be playing a melon. Larissa Hansen (Shiny) has been in three plays at church. She also sang a song in one of them. She loves to act and dance, sometimes sing but not that much. Bill Honigstein (Technical Director) is excited to work on his third Institute. While not working with Cornerstone he is the lead carpenter in the Cal State Northridge Scene Shop. Eli Isaacs (Production Management Intern) is thrilled to be able to help out with A Holtville Night's Dream. He has enjoyed all of his days in Holtville immensely and hopes you enjoy the show. Angela James (Visionary) is a ten-year-old who lives in Holtville. She is going into the fifth grade, is a good student, and loves to sing and dance. Victor Jara (Scald) likes to skate and rap. He started rapping in 2003. He likes cereal. Lynn Jeffries (Shadow Puppet Designer/Chief) designs sets, costumes, and puppets, and lives in Los Angeles. She has been working with Cornerstone since 1986. Rachel Jendrzejewski (Prop Master) is finagling props professionally for the first time, though occasionally she’s been known to hunt down gas pumps and breakaway dishes for the sake of art. She adores the Carrot Capitol! Autumn Knight (Puck/Movement Associate) is a performance/installation/improv/artist and educator from Houston, TX. Jim Knipple (Script Assistant) is an MFA Directing student at UC Irvine and the Founding Artistic Director the Run of the Mill Theater in Baltimore, MD. His 7th wedding anniversary is next month. Jovoni P. Lewis (Producing Associate) is currently pursuing an MFA at UC Irvine. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to participate in Cornerstone’s Institute and is looking forward to utilizing these skills for her future endeavors. Peace and blessings!

**Biographies**

Lonnie Rafael Alcaraz (Lighting Designer) is a professor at UC Irvine as well as a professional lighting designer. He is delighted to be designing his third Institute production and his sixth production with Cornerstone, where he is an Associate Artist.

Andi Allen (Titania) is a local mother, artist, and businesswoman. Andi is a graduate of the Holtville School System and USD. Previous acting experience includes Dates and Mates and Where’s the Mayor? under the direction of Mr. Jack Kelly.

Perri Allen (Visionary) is an active and happy first grader at Pine School. She has performed many times with school groups and enjoys her friends, art, and swimming.

Elvira Alvarado (Hippolyta) is the oldest of 11 children. She is married and has 5 children: Victor, Rosie, Henry, Emanuel and Erica. She has 8 grandchildren: Asia, David, Esteban, Larissa, Henry Jr., Lorenzo, Elijah, and Annysah. She named her house Silverado Ranch.

Samantha Alvarado (Flute) is very athletic; her favorite sport is soccer. She plays the clarinet in her school band. She was in one play called American Revolution and she was Betsy Ross!!!

Johnny Barajas (Ardiente) is a student at I.V.C. He ran across Cornerstone Theater’s booth at the Carrot Festival. Not having any acting experience, he thought it would be fun.

Michelle Burce (Scene/Props Associate) studies Drama in Seattle. Her focus is directing and design. Most recently, she did All in the Timing. She hopes to start a company one day.

Adriana Burns (Violeta) is a mother of four, married for 16 years, and a teacher for 6 years. She was inspired to join the play because of her talented children. She looks forward to sharing this experience with her students.

Ashlin Burns (Sparkle) enjoys an active life. She is a student in Gear Up Math Academy, an academic traveler with People to People Ambassador Program, a two-time participant in the National Cheer Competition, a gymnast, and is on the swim team. She enjoys dancing and singing.

David Burns (Demetrius) plays football, baseball and wrestles for HHS. He’s a good singer, hopes to be in chorus, and has a great personality. Thank you to his great family! Mom, Dad, and three little sisters.

Alison Carey (Playwright) is a co-founder of Cornerstone and has been doing plays with communities around the country for over 20 years. She has always liked carrots and likes them even more now.
Cheyenne Star Castillo (Visionary) likes to sing and dance. She is very outgoing and enjoys spending time with her cousins and family.

Cynthia Maria Castillo (Visionary) is very friendly with others. She enjoys playing with her cousins and she loves swimming.

Clarissa Castro (Visionary) is in the first grade. She likes to dance, model, sing, and play T-Ball.

Sage Alia Clemenco (Visionary/Youth Coordinator) is honored to have been part of A Holtville Night’s Dream. She is returning home to New York, her lovely roommate Melissa and their kind of cat Guston.

Sara Ryung Clement (Scenic Designer) received her M.F.A. in Design from the Yale School of Drama in 2005 and promptly moved back to California—the land of great people, great weather, and great tacos.

Elizabeth A. Cox (Costume Designer) is happy to be working on her fifth project with Cornerstone. Her design work has also been seen in the greater Los Angeles area, Kansas, Ohio, and New York City.

Brando “the Shark” Cutts (Philostrate) has appeared in 19 of Shakespeare’s works. Some of his favorites include Enobarbus in Antony and Cleopatra, the porter in Macbeth, and Silvius in As You Like It. Brando studies Drama at UC Irvine.

Julian Daniel (Lysander) likes music and playing the guitar. He has a really good heart, makes conversation easily, and has no problem playing guitar for anyone.

Yesenia De La Torre (Hermia) plays softball in the summer and is the commissioner of publicity for ASB at her high school. She was also a cheerleader and in the pep club. She thanks Brando and Jim for discovering her at a baseball game.

Paula Donnelly (Institute Director) is grateful to all the folks in Holtville who helped make this play! Go Vikings!

Kate Duffy (Puppeteer/Helga) is a Ph.D. student in Performance Studies at UC Berkeley. She has worked as a puppeteer with Bread & Puppet, Lunatique Fantastique, and Wise Fool. She is thrilled at this opportunity to work with Cornerstone Theater Company.

Kerry Farmer (Production Manager) is very happy to be in Holtville with his Cornerstone pals doing what he loves. He has two adorable children, Kristy Lynn and Ronald Richard.

Devaney Flores (Shimmer) has taken Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Music, Art, and Drama. Over the past few years, singing has become her passion. She’s up for any challenge. Bring it on!

Vanessa Fregoso (Lucent) likes to dance and sing. She will be a freshman this year. She likes playing basketball and softball. She also likes to write poems when she’s bored.

Marisa Fritzemeier (Assistant Stage Manager) received her BFA in Theatre from Emporia State University. After an exciting time in Holtville, she plans to return home to spend some much needed time with her family.

Trudy Gaddis (Helena) is a freshman at Holtville High School. She’s really glad she could be in this play.

Daniela Gaona (Visionary) is 7 years old and attends Finley Elementary. She likes to read, play rope, and help around the house. She wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up.

Rebecca Gaona (Visionary) is 11 years old. She likes to draw, color, swim, and get involved. Her favorite book is Island of the Blue Dolphins. When she grows up she wants to be a dentist.

Michael John Garcés (Dramaturg/Artistic Director) is a writer, director, and performer. He’s had an amazing summer getting to know the people and places of Holtville.

Francisco Garcia (Puppeteer/Berserk) appeared as Officer Hernandez in Cornerstone’s Los Illegals and constructed puppets for Cornerstone’s Beyond The Beyond: The Gay FutureWorld! He is currently a graduate student at Cal State University and is excited to be continuing his work for Cornerstone.

Irma Garcia (Musician) is 17 years old. She was born in Brawley, but has lived in Holtville since she was 6 years old. She really enjoys living in Holtville because it’s a very calm city. She loves to sing and is really enjoying this play.

Kayla Garcia (Puppeteer/Mr. V) is a senior at Holtville High and has been the captain for the flag corps for band for two years. She is in chorus and enjoys performing and entertaining audiences.

Carli Gaughf (Producing Associate) has been surrounded by kindness and creativity since coming to Holtville. She hopes to direct community-based theater with her neighbors in Queens.

Fausto Grijalva (Egeus) has been active in his church for many years, serving the Lord. He’s been happily married for eleven years and has one daughter. Fausto owns a bicycle sales rep. business and rides and races his bike six days a week.

Lorena Grijalva (Comadre) is a wife and mother of a nine-year-old. She’s lived in Holtville for almost two years and enjoys the small community.

Taiza Grijalva (Visionary) is nine years old, almost ten. She’s going to the fifth grade. She likes to read and swim in her pool.