

**SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE THEATRE ARTS
PRESENTS**



2 ONE-ACT PLAYS FROM THE FILIPINX COMMUNITY

KASAMA

**BY THELMA
VIRATA DE CASTRO**

**DIRECTED BY
WILFRED PALOMA & RUFF YEAGER**

**MUSICAL DIRECTION BY
JADEN GUERRERO**

**MUSIC & LYRICS BY
EMILY RUTHERFORD**

Oct 20-23, 27-29 - 7:30pm
Oct 24 & 30 - 2pm

 **LINE FORMS
AT 7PM/1:30PM**

BLACK BOX THEATER IN THE NEW PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

**FOR MORE INFO VISIT
SWCTHEATRE.COM**

**900 OTAY LAKES ROAD,
CHULA VISTA, CA 91910**

**IN LOT 'O' (CORNER OF EAST H ST
AND OTAY LAKES ROAD)**



**COVID-19
NOTICE**

- LIMITED SEATING - LINE FORMS AT 7pm/1:30pm
- PROOF OF COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIRED AT DOOR
- MASK MUST BE WORN IN THEATER
- PLEASE ADHERE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES



FREE ADMISSION!

**WELCOME TO YOUR NEW
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER!**

The Theatre Arts Department of Southwestern College presents:

“Kasama” - Two one act plays from the Filipinx community

October 20 - 30, 2021

Black Box Theater in the Performing Arts Center

“The Fire In Me”

by Thelma Virata de Castro

“Hand Under Hand”

by Thelma Virata de Castro

Music and Lyrics by Emily Rutherford

Directed by Prof. Ruff Yeager & Wilfred Paloma*

Musical Direction by Jaden Guerrero

Scenic, Lighting, and Properties Design by Prof. Michael Buckley

Sound Design by Brandon Watterson

Costume Design by Jazmine Choi

Stage Manager - Tammy Ray

Asst. Stage Manager - Liz Andersen Sahl

Performing Arts Coordinator - Silvia Nogales

Performance Arts Assistant – Ximena Delgado

*Generous financial support for Mr. Paloma’s directing residency
provided by the Southwestern College Foundation

Cast of “The Fire In Me”

<i>Lark</i>	Annabelle Ramos
<i>Divina</i>	Gabrielle Flanders
<i>Mom</i>	Jaena-Mae Caguiat
<i>Dad</i>	Rio Moreno
<i>Chris</i>	Andres Legang
<i>Ms. Riza, Vangie, Voice A</i>	Martha Cuevas
<i>Evalina, Host, Voice C</i>	Jescel “May” Esteban
<i>Mari, Jinky, Kate, Voice D</i>	Zaynab Altoby
<i>Politician, Choir Member, Principal Amann, Father Mark, Voice B</i>	Seke Snoh
<i>Lola</i>	Julita Vasquez Biales

Cast of “Hand Under Hand”

<i>Marilyn</i>	Jaena-Mae Caguiat
<i>Jenna</i>	Annabelle Ramos
<i>Manny</i>	Jaden Guerrero
<i>Mrs. Smith</i>	Jescel “May” Esteban
<i>Vegas Dancers</i>	Zaynab Altoby
	Martha Cuevas
	Andres Lagang
	Rio Moreno
	Seke Snoh

Musical Numbers in “Hand Under Hand”:

“The Farmer in the Dell” (Trad.) *Jenna, Manny, Marilyn, Mrs. Smith*

“It Is Well With My Soul” (Trad.) *Manny, Marilyn*

“Spin The Wheel” *Mrs. Smith*

“Still Alive” *Jenna, Marilyn, Mrs. Smith*

“Treasure” *Jenna*

“Hand Under Hand” *Jenna, Manny, Marilyn, Mrs. Smith,*
Ensemble

The Band:

Keyboard Ken Han

Banduria, Ukulele Julita Vasquez Biales

Guitar Jaden Guerrero

Guest Speakers:

Saturday, 10/23

Amy Abrams MSW/MPH

Director of Education

Alzheimer's San Diego

Shiley Center for Education and Support

Sunday, 10/24

Anne S. Bautista, Esq.

Legal Support and Strategy Director

Casa Cornelia Law Center

Friday, 10/29

Ricky Castro, Detective Sergeant

San Diego Police Department

Domestic Violence Unit

Crew:

Liz Anderson

Parker Claudio

Annie Durant

James Hardesty

Franco Hernandez

Luis Carlos Lozano

Alex Molina

Leah Sides

Maria Uribe

Message from the Playwright

Kasama began with the voice of one person who wanted to share a personal story about domestic violence. That story led me to an immigration attorney who helped survivors obtain legal status. The attorney referred me to some of her Filipinx clients, who shared their experiences of pain and resilience. “The Fire in Me” is a fictional work based on these and other community member interviews. During my research for “Fire”, an AARP volunteer suggested I write about caregiving. “Hand Under Hand” was based on caregiver stories from the Filipinx and Asian American Pacific Islander communities. Emily Rutherford’s music and lyrics deepened and enriched the play. I am grateful to Professor Ruff Yeager for the opportunity to share these two one-act plays with you in this performance, entitled *Kasama*. It’s an honor for *Kasama* to be the inaugural production in Southwestern College’s new Performing Arts Center. Together with co-director Professor Wilfred Paloma and musical director Jaden Guerrero, Professor Yeager has guided this diverse and talented cast to perform with heart and compassion. Thank you to the cast, crew, band, creative team, and the Southwestern College administration and Governing Board for making this production possible. The plays were developed with support from The San Diego Foundation, California Humanities, AARP California, and the San Diego Public Library, and the talents and resources of Asian Story Theater, MaArte Theatre Collective, and many individual artists. Vital community partners, including Philippine Consulate, San Diego County, Access Inc., and Silayan Filipina, shared their expertise and filled our audiences. Although the plays explore challenging issues, I hope you feel the spirit of “kasama,” which in Filipino can mean “included,” “come with,” “companion,” and “together.” The message of that first brave voice endures: You are not alone.

Thelma Virata de Castro - *Playwright*

Thelma Virata de Castro is a playwright, dramaturg, teaching artist, and community builder. Her plays have been performed by Playwrights Project, Asian Story Theater, The Old Globe, New Village Arts, OnStage Playhouse, Logan Squared Productions, and others. She serves as San Diego Dramatists Guild Co-Ambassador and on the board of San Diego Writers, Ink. Her work has received a William Male Foundation Artist Grant, a Rising Arts Leaders Virgil Yalong Quick Grant, The San Diego Foundation Creative Catalyst Fellowship, and California Humanities grants. *The San Diego Union-Tribune* included her in its list of Phenomenal San Diego Women: Creators and Performers.

Emily Rutherford - *Music and Lyrics for “Hand Under Hand”*

Emily Rutherford is a Filipino American composer and music educator. Her music has been performed throughout the U.S. as well as internationally, and her works include choral, orchestral, and chamber music, art song, and musical theater. She holds a BA in Composition from Westmont College and a Master of Arts in Teaching from the Longy School of Music of Bard College. Currently, she teaches K-8 General and Instrumental music at a public charter school in Golden, Colorado.

CAST/CREW

Zaynab Altoby - *Mari, Jinky, Kate, Voice D / Vegas Dancer*

Zaynab Altoby is beginning her journey growing as an actor. She found her love for theatre at an early age and has since been in every school play. One of her most recent roles was Snoopy in a production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Zaynab is a sophomore at SWC and is majoring in criminal justice. She loves learning about musical theatre and watching shows in her free time. She enjoys dance, too. Zaynab is very excited to start growing her experience as an actor and is thankful for her mom for her never ending support.

Liz Andersen - *Asst. Stage Manager*

This is Liz Andersen's second year at Southwestern College. They have been doing theater for several years both onstage and behind the scenes. Liz is currently a film major and has done several short films. They hope to continue working in both fields, creating and sharing stories to inspire their audiences. Liz would like to dedicate this show to their car because it should've died a long time ago.

Jaena-Mae Caguiat - *Mom / Marilyn*

Jaena-Mae Caguiat is excited to be a part of her first production here at Southwestern College, participating in the storytelling of issues within the Fil-Am community. Her previous credits include SUHSD VAPA Musical Theatre Institute (*West Side Story, Miss Saigon*), Olympian High School (*Grease*), OnStage Playhouse (*Broadcast*), and SDSU's AB Samahan FCN (2014-2017).

Martha Cuevas - Ms. Riza, Vangie, Voice A / Vegas Dancer

This is Martha Cuevas' third production at Southwestern College in KASAMA (Ms. Riza, Vangie, and Voice A). Favorite roles include Rainstorm in *Superhero Planet*, Guard #1 in *Separateland*, and Narrator #1 in *Romeo and Juliet: Dr. Seuss Parody*. Martha loves to draw, voice acting, and enjoys singing. Her favorite thing about THEATRE is making new friends and getting to know them well to work together in a production. A shout out to my family and friends for getting me out of my comfort zone to perform on stage and giving me the chance to do this.

Jescel "May" Esteban - Evalina, Host, Voice C / Mrs. Smith

Jescel "May" started her theater experience in 1996 with Tanghalang Pilipino (Cultural Center of the Philippines). Performances include, "*Noli Me Tangere*," "*El Filibusterismo*," "*Ilustrado*," "*Aguinaldo, 1898*," and "*Walang Sugat*." Her love for theater gave her the opportunity to perform in Brisbane and Sydney, Australia and continued when she moved to San Diego. She worked with Teatro Pilipino in the restaging of "*Noli Me Tangere*," in 2015 (Los Angeles) and portrayed "*Sisa*" in 2016 (Cerritos). She has worked with Asian Story Theatre's, "*Halo-Halo*," MaArte Theater Collective's, "*How To Ride A Jeepney*" and portrayed Mrs. Smith in Asian Story Theater, AARP California and MaArte Theater Collective collaboration on the staged reading of the "docutheater" musical "*Hand Under Hand*." She completed her education as a *Doctor of Medicine and Medical Technologist* at *University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines* and is currently working as a *Registered Environmental Health Specialist*, County of San Diego.

Gabrielle Flanders - *Divina*

Gabrielle Flanders is in her third production at Southwestern College, playing *Divina* in *Hand Under Hand*. She is currently taking classes for a Theatre Arts major from SWC and plans to transfer to a four-year university. She is thankful for the support from her family and friends to pursue her dreams, and grateful for the cast and crew of *Kasama* for continuing to inspire her.

Jaden Guerrero - *Musical Director, Manny*

Jaden Guerrero is an Actor, Singer and local Musician in San Diego. Jaden has had the privilege of playing several lead roles for Southwestern College, some of his credits include (Romeo) *Romeo & Juliet*, (Sid) *Waiting for Lefty*, (Randal) *Bring it On: The Musical*, and (George Gibbs) *Our Town*. This is Jaden's first production as a Musical Director, and Actor for a play that recognizes the AAPI Community. He wants to thank his family, friends, the playwright Thelma Virata de Castro, Co-Director Wilfred Paloma, and most of all, Ruff Yeager for the honor of representing a cultural story that is close to him and his community. He hopes you enjoy the show. *Kasama!*

Ken Han - *Keyboard*

Ken is a local music producer and musician in San Diego, and this is his first year at Southwestern College. Ken wanted to experience a different art form outside of his realm. He was very blessed and thankful for the opportunity that came his way, and was able to gain new perspectives and learn new valuable lessons. Lastly, Ken wants to let everyone know that he just might take his dream keyboard, the Nord, back home.

Andres Legang - Chris / Vegas Dancer

Andres is grateful to be performing again and proud to be representing his Filipino culture. He wants to help the world believe in promoting the creative endeavors of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) artists and letting them feature their stories. Asian Theatre Credits: M. Butterfly (South Coast Repertory), The Poetry Play, Colored (MaArte Theatre Collective), Agila (SD Fringe Festival).

**Favorites: Jesus Christ Superstar, Spring Awakening (Muir Musical), Lucky Stiff (Stagehouse Theatre). Andres recently won a dance film contest for #DanceAgainstAsianHate, donating \$250 towards the Asian American Advocacy Fund in Georgia. andreslagang.com instagram: y0dna91

Rio Moreno - Dad / Vegas Dancer

Rio Moreno is extremely excited to help tell the stories of our strong Filipino community. This is Rio's Junior year and *Kasama* is his second time performing here at Southwestern College. Rio would like to thank all the kind people in his life for making him who he is today.

Annabelle Ramos - Lark / Jenna

Annabelle Ramos is an aspiring actress and singer songwriter. *Kasama* will be her second production with Southwestern, the first being *Superhero Planet* as Glacier. She would like to thank her family, Lola Zeny and sister Ariel, as well as her friends Sammie and Queen, for their support. She is also deeply grateful to Director Ruff for his investment and faith in her.

Seke Snoh - *Politician, Choir Member, Principal Amann, Father Mark, Voice B / Vegas Dancer*

Seke Snoh is a second semester student at Southwestern College. He is a combat veteran that spent five years in the Army. Seke has been acting for three years, and has been featured in a handful of short films. This will be his first appearance in a stage show. Seke enjoys history very much. He hopes to teach history as a profession in the future as well as pursue a rich fulfilling career as an actor.

Julita Vasquez Biares - *Banduria, Ukulele, Lola*

Julita Vasquez Biares, a mother of two sons who are serving in the U. S. Navy, and a "LOLA" to her four brilliant grandchildren, she sends her Warmest Greetings to Everyone!

Julita is a Doctor of Education graduate. She holds California Teaching Credentials in Multiple Subjects, Single Subject in Filipino, and Music Education. She was awarded The Most Outstanding Teacher of The Philippines, which inspired her to teach in San Diego Unified School District. As a retired teacher, she volunteered in the After School Programs teaching Filipino Language and Culture with Music Integration. She also has organized Music Ensembles for both children and professionals, and she actively participates in community organizations and events. Currently, she's taking up Theatre Arts at Southwestern College. Her adage: "Education is life. It is a continuous process."