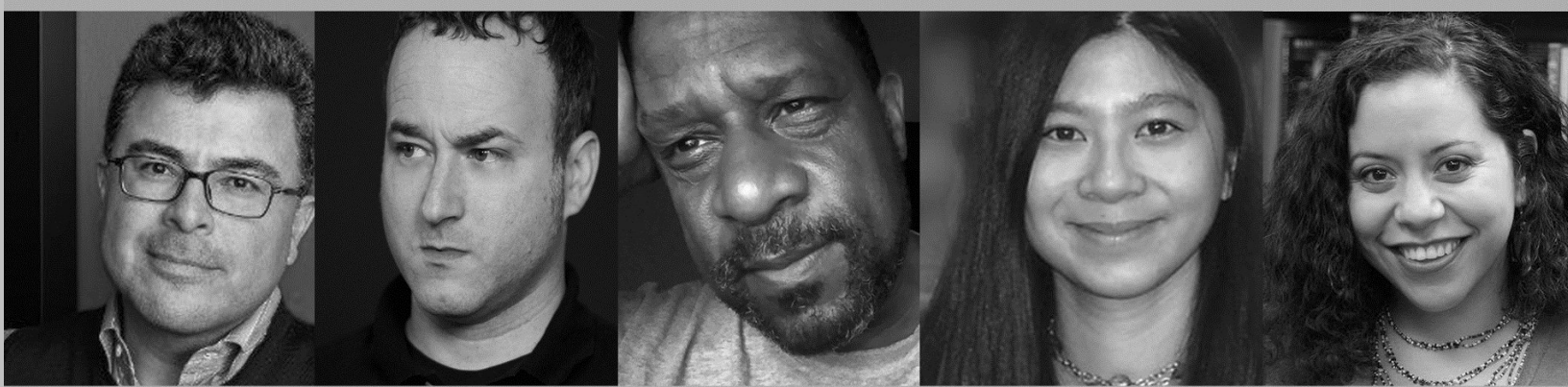


Poetry/ Metaphor or Misappropriation?

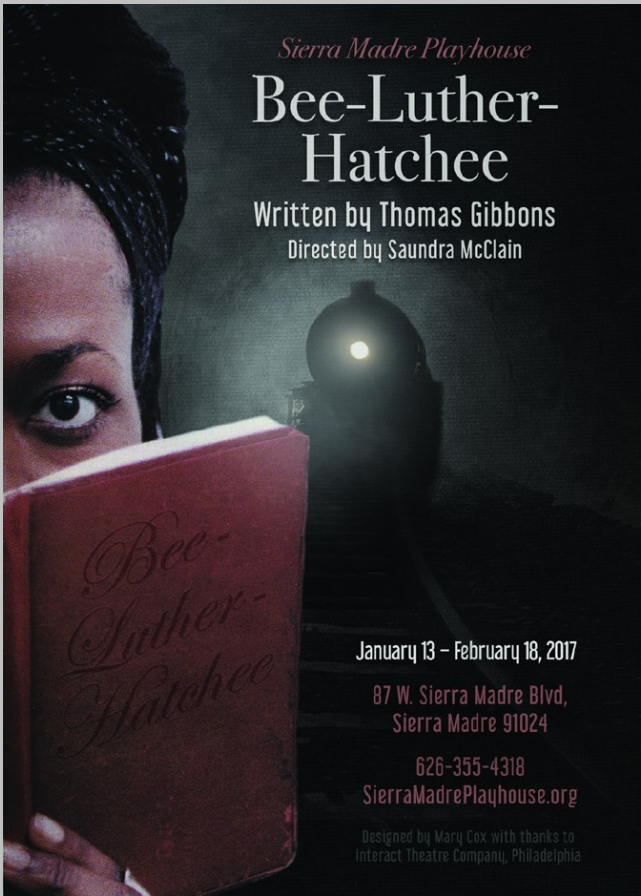


Adolfo Guzman-Lopez Rick Lupert James Maverick Teresa Mei Chuc Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo

Thursday, February 16, 2017
7pm
Sierra Madre Public Library



Fifth in a series of Five Panel Discussions



The play *Bee-luther-hatchee* by Thomas Gibbons is a story of writers and writing, stories that deserve to be told, and the issue of who is best to tell them. The play provokes discussion on race, identity, and the power of writing. **Sierra Madre Playhouse** is presenting these panels in the community to provide a broader stage for discussion of issues raised in Gibbons' play. Storytellers working across several genres including fiction writing, journalism, social media, drama and poetry will focus on the challenges of creating authentic voices and the danger of cultural appropriation. These issues reach beyond the theater and by holding these panels we hope to provide room for discussion that perhaps can lead to dialogue. We are at a unique time in history and discussion of these themes and the power of writing seems crucial to supporting civil discourse in a time of increasing polarization.

James Evert Jones (who often performs under the name **James Maverick**) has curated and hosted poetry readings and events in the Los Angeles area for over 25 years. As a poet, his work has been published in the anthologies *Onyx: Spoken Word* and the upcoming *Voices from Leimert Park Vol. 2*. James currently heads the *Expressions Literary Arts* program in Los Angeles, CA.

Teresa Mei Chuc was born in Saigon and immigrated to the U.S. under political asylum with her mother and brother shortly after the Vietnam War. Nominated for a Pushcart Prize in 2012 & 2016, she is author of two full-length collections of poetry, *Red Thread* (Fithian Press, 2012) and *Keeper of the Winds* (FootHills Publishing, 2014), and her work is forthcoming in the anthology, *Inheriting the War: Poetry and Prose by Descendants of Vietnam Veterans and Refugees* (W.W. Norton). Her newest chapbook of poetry is *How One Loses Notes and Sounds* (Word Palace Press, 2016), and she is editing the poetry anthology, *Nuclear Impact: Broken Atoms in Our Hands*. She is founder and Editor-in-Chief of *Shabda Press*, a member of *Coast to Coast Poetry Press Collective*. Teresa has a Masters in Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Goddard College in Vermont and teaches literature and writing at a public high school in

Adolfo Guzman-Lopez has been a reporter at KPCC Public Radio of Southern California since 2000 and in that time has covered many different types of stories including elections, transportation, fires, and the arts. His most memorable stories are the on-site reports at the 2007 May Day Melee protests at L.A.'s MacArthur Park, a fatal apartment collapse that shed light on L.A.'s dearth of housing inspectors, University of California students coping with hunger, South Gate overcoming political corruption, the 25th anniversary of L.A.'s seminal 1977 punk rock scene, social work interns helping students from military families cope, political dirty tricks funded by public funds in the Inglewood Unified School District, a profile of prominent L.A. poet Wanda Coleman, and a feature about Adolfo's name appearing on the TV show "The Simpsons". Adolfo's awards include the 2006 L.A. Press Club's Radio Journalist of the Year and a regional Edward R. Murrow honor. 2017 is Adolfo's 21st year in public radio news. He was hired in 1996 by KPBS-FM in San Diego as a producer for the daily news talk show *These Days*. While a student at UCSD he met Adrian Arancibia and Miguel Angel Soria, and in 1994 the *Taco Shop Poets* were born. Inspired by the Puerto Rican poet Jesus Papoleto Melendez, they wanted to combine the spoken word with jazz, and perform "for the people" in taco shops, coffee-houses, etc. Mikey Figgins joined them on bass and Kevin Green on drums. They toured around California and the United States until the group disbanded in 2004. He lives in Long Beach with his wife and kids.

Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo is the author of *Posada: Offerings of Witness and Refuge* (Sundress Publications 2016), a 2016-2017 Steinbeck Fellow, former Poets & Writers California Writers Exchange winner and Barbara Deming Memorial Fund grantee. She's received residencies from Hedgebrook and Ragdale Foundation and is a member of the Macondo Writers' Workshop. Her work is published in *Acentos Review*, *CALYX*, *crazyhorse*, and *The James Franco Review* among others. A short dramatization of her poem "Our Lady of the Water Gallons," directed by Jesús Salvador Treviño, can be viewed at latinopia.com. She is a cofounder of *Women Who Submit* and the curator of *HITCHED*.

Rick Lupert has been involved with L.A. poetry since 1990. He is the recipient of the 2014 Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center Distinguished Service Award and was a co-director of the Valley Contemporary Poets for 2 years. He created the Poetry Super Highway (<http://poetrysuperhighway.com/>) and hosted the weekly Cobalt Cafe reading for almost 21 years. His first spoken word album "Rick Lupert Live and Dead" featuring 25 studio and live tracks was released in March, 2016. He's authored 20 collections of poetry, including "Donut Famine", "Professor Clown on Parade", "Romancing the Blarney Stone", "Making Love to the 50 Foot Woman", "The Gettysburg Undress" (Rothco Press) and "Nothing in New England is New", and edited the anthologies "Ekphrastia Gone Wild", "A Poet's Haggadah" and the noir anthology "The Night Goes on All Night. He also writes and draws (with Brendan Constantine) the daily web comic "Cat and Banana" and writes the Jewish Poetry column "From the Lupertverse" for <http://www.JewishJournal.com/>. He is regularly featured at venues all over the world. <http://poetrysuperhighway.com/> , <http://facebook.com/rickpoet>, <http://www.catandbanana.com/>, <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/ricklupert>