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ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR  
JOHN LEGUIZAMO-PENNEDED WORLD-PREMIERE DRAMA

# ***THE OTHER AMERICANS***

By JOHN LEGUIZAMO

Directed by RUBEN SANTIAGO-HUDSON

In Association with THE PUBLIC THEATER

(Washington, DC) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater announced today the cast and creative team for ***The Other Americans***. Written and starring Emmy Award-winning actor, comedian, and producer **John Leguizamo**, this highly-anticipated new play will run **October 18 – November 24, 2024**, on Arena Stage's **Fichandler Stage**, directed by Tony Award-winning actor, writer, and director **Ruben Santiago-Hudson**. Press Night will be held on **Friday, November 1**. For information and tickets, please visit [arenastage.org/americans](http://arenastage.org/americans).

*The Other Americans* follows **Leguizamo** as Nelson Castro, a Colombian-Puerto Rican laundromat owner determined to give his family a better life—but at what cost? When his son returns home from a mental wellness facility, Nelson's world unravels. Committed to protecting his family and business, he tackles racial and identity challenges to achieve his dream, proving his success. In this gripping tale of resilience, Nelson must navigate morality's murky waters to salvage his future.

"This story is important because it *is* an American story," said **Santiago-Hudson**. "That's where the title comes from. So often, the Latin community is treated like the *other* community when in fact, there is no concern or problem that people face in life that doesn't happen in the Castro house."

"Writing in the tradition of the great American family drama, John Leguizamo has crafted an exquisite story of the hope and cost of manifesting the American Dream," said Arena Stage Artistic Director **Hana S. Sharif**. "We have never seen a family like the Castros on our stage before, and this phenomenal ensemble invites us into the joy, complexity, and humanity of family in the face of tragedy. *The Other Americans* is a treatise on love."

“Choosing to be a part of this production was a no-brainer,” continued **Santiago-Hudson**. “John Leguizamo is the fiercest advocate for inclusion and diversity I have ever known. I am grateful to be here, hoping to bring DC audiences one of finest productions that Arena Stage has ever had.”

Joining **Leguizamo** on stage will be a cast of TV, film, and theater veterans, including **Luna Lauren Velez** (Showtime’s *Dexter*) as Patti, **Bradley James Tejeda** (Broadway’s *The Inheritance*) as Eddie, **Sarah Nina Hayon** (Berkeley Rep’s *English*) as Veronica, **Rosa Arredondo** (CBS’s *So Help Me Todd*, Arena’s *Guys and Dolls*) as Norma, **Trey Santiago-Hudson** (Second Stage’s *Toros*) as Nick, and **Rebecca Jimenez** (The Public Theater’s *The Comedy of Errors*) as Toni. The company also includes **Juan Francisco Villa** (Center Theatre Group’s *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord*) as the understudy for Nelson, **Johnny Anthony** (Arena Stage’s *Sanctuary City*) as the understudy for Eddie/Nicky, and **Odette Gutiérrez del Arroyo** (NextStop Theatre’s *In the Heights*) as the understudy for Toni/Veronica.

**Santiago-Hudson** leads a celebrated creative team, including Tony Award-nominated set designer **Arnulfo Maldonado** (Broadway’s *A Strange Loop*, Arena’s *American Prophet*), costume designer **Kara Harmon** (Goodman Theatre’s *The Penelopiad*, Arena Stage’s *Nina Simone: Four Women*), Tony Award-nominated lighting designer **Jen Schriever** (Broadway’s *Death of a Salesman*), Tony Award-nominated sound designer **Justin Ellington** (Broadway and Arena’s *Jaja African Hair Braiding*), hair designer **LaShawn Melton** (Arena’s *Tempestuous Elements*), associate director **Timothy Johnson** (The Old Globe’s *Destiny of Desire*), fight director **Thomas Schall** (Broadway’s *Cabaret*, Arena’s *August Wilson’s Jitney*), and intimacy coordinator **Ann James** (Broadway’s *The Heart of Rock and Roll*). Dramaturgy is by **Jack Moore**. New York casting is by **Caparelliotis Casting / David Caparelliotis and Joseph Gery**. DC casting is by **Raiyon Hunter**. Rounding out the team are stage manager **James Latus** and assistant stage manager **Ana Muñoz**.

#### **CAST BIOGRAPHIES (in order of appearance)**

**John Leguizamo** (*Nelson*)’s Broadway credits include *Latin History for Morons* (Tony Award and Tony nomination), *Ghetto Klown* (Drama Desk Award, Outer Critics Circle Award), *Freak* (Emmy Award, Drama Desk Award, Tony nominations), *Sexaholix...A Love Story* (Tony nomination). Select film: *The Infiltrator*; *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar* (Golden Globe nomination, ALMA Award); *Moulin Rouge!*; *American Ultra*; *John Wick*; *Chef*; *Summer of Sam*; *Ice Age* series; *The Lincoln Lawyer*; *Romeo + Juliet*. TV: *When They See Us*, *Waco* (Emmy Award nomination), *Bloodline*, *The Kill Point*, *ER*, *My Name Is Earl*, *The Brothers García*, *House of Buggin’*, *Miami Vice*. Books: *Pimps*, *Hos*, *Playa Hatas*, and *All the Rest of My Hollywood Friends: My Life*; *Ghetto Klown* (Eisner Award nomination). He co-wrote the new musical *Kiss My Aztec* with Tony Taccone. John’s directorial debut *Critical Thinking* (with Michael Kenneth Williams) premiered in 2020. Awards: two Obie, three Drama Desk, three Outer Critics Circle, one Emmy, and six Cable ACE awards.

**Luna Lauren Velez** (*Patti*) is thrilled to be making her Arena Stage debut under the direction of Ruben Santiago-Hudson. Their first collaboration was *The Happiest Song Plays Last* at Second Stage. Other credits include Broadway’s *Into the Woods*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* at The Old Globe, and *Water by the Spoonful* at the Mark Taper Forum. Most recently, Luna co-starred alongside Jeff Daniels in Season 2 of Amazon’s *American Rust*. She starred as Captain Maria LaGuerta on Showtime’s Emmy Award-

winning series *Dexter*. Luna reprised her role as Rio Morales in the critically acclaimed *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* and appeared opposite Samuel L. Jackson in *Shaft*. Luna's breakout performance in the cult classic film *I Like It Like That* earned her an Independent Spirit Award nomination. Familia Siempre. Instagram: @lunalaurenvelez

**Bradley James Tejada (Eddie)** is making his Arena Stage debut. He is a native Tejano from the Harlandale district of San Antonio, Texas. He trained at the University of the Incarnate Word (BA Theatre Arts, 2013) and then at the Yale School of Drama (MFA Acting, 2016). He has just finished his first season as a company member at the 89th annual Oregon Shakespeare Festival where he played Will in *Born With Teeth* and Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing*. On Broadway in 2019, he played Young Man 1 (Adam/Leo) in Matthew Lopez's *The Inheritance*, and then reprised the role three years later post-pandemic at the Geffen Playhouse for its West Coast LA premiere and the Audible production. Off-Broadway: *The Night of the Iguana* by Tennessee Williams (Signature Theatre, La Femme Theatre Co., Fight Coordinator). Regional: *El Coqui Espectacular* by Matt Barbot, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by David Greenspan (Two River Theatre); Ralph in *The Lord of the Flies* (Nebraska Repertory Theatre:); Biron in *Love's Labor's Lost* (St. Louis Shakespeare Festival); and company member of the Tennessee Williams Festival St. Louis since 2019: *The Glass Menagerie*; *The Rose Tattoo*; and *Suddenly, Last Summer*. TV/Film: CBS's *Blue Bloods* and *FBI*; Comedy Central's *Alternatino*; and Apocalyptic Artists Ensemble's *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare.

**Sarah Nina Hayon (Veronica / u/s Patti/Norma)** is a bi-coastal actress and a three-time Drama Desk Award nominee. Passionate about new plays, she has developed many works on and off Broadway. Recent Theater Highlights: *English* (Berkeley Rep, Mina Morita), *Richard III* (The Public's Shakespeare in the Park, Robert O'Hara), *Wintertime* (Berkeley Rep, Les Waters), *Seascape* (A.C.T., Pam MacKinnon, BACC nomination), *Sweat* (A.C.T., Loretta Greco), *Swimmers* (Marin Theatre, Mike Donahue, TBA Award). TV/Film: *The Other Two*, *Fairyland*, *FBI*, *For Life*, *13 Reasons Why*, *Succession*, Danny DeVito's *Curmudgeons*, *The Surrogate*. She is a proud graduate of NYU's Tisch and a member of LAByrnth Theater Company.

**Rosa Arredondo (Norma)** is a multi-hyphenate and native New Yorker. Her most recent TV credits include Francey Jones on CBS's *So Help Me Todd* and Sheriff Valenti on *Roswell, New Mexico*. Other credits include Ava Duvernay's *When They See Us* and *Mare of Easttown* with Kate Winslet as well as recurring and guest roles on *Ordinary Joe*, *Quantico*, *Gone*, *The Equalizer*, *Blue Bloods*, *The Good Wife*, *Blindspot*, and *Blacklist*. Her theater credits include the Broadway revival of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Arena Stage's *Guys and Dolls*, Sea Dog Theater's *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*, and her one-woman show *I Walked Across the Ocean Floor* at Royal Family Productions. Some film credits include *Still Alice*, *The Secret Art of Human Flight*, *Pinball*, and *Babygirl*.

**Trey Santiago-Hudson (Nicky)** is thrilled to be making his debut at Arena Stage with this premiere of *The Other Americans!* A proud graduate of the Acting Department at Binghamton University, Trey has also studied acting at Stella Adler and Oregon Shakespeare. Off-Broadway credits include *Toros* (Second Stage Theater) and *Awake* (The Barrow Group). TV credits include *New Amsterdam* (NBC), *The Walking Dead: Dead City* (AMC), and *Shrinking* (Apple TV+). Film credits include *You Hurt My Feelings* (A24) and *Vineyards* (fam4 Media).

**Rebecca Jimenez** (*Toni*) is an actor and writer from Miami, Florida. Off-Broadway: *Comedy of Errors* (The Public Theater's Mobile Unit), *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (WP/Second Stage). NY Theater: *Superstitions* (New Ohio), *Sketchy Eastern European Show* (The Players Theatre). She has developed work with New York Theatre Workshop, Roundabout Theater Company, Page 73, Playwrights Horizons, Ojai, Playwrights Realm, and others. Her plays have been performed around New York City. BFA from SUNY Purchase.

**Juan Francisco Villa** (*u/s Nelson*) is a Colombian-American native New Yorker who made his DC debut in his award-winning solo show *Empanada for a Dream* at 1st Stage. Juan co-directed *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train* and *columbinus* at 1st Stage and was awarded Helen Hayes Awards for them. Juan worked at The Public Theater (NYC) and graced the stages of Steppenwolf, the Goodman, and Teatro Vista in Chicago. He took his talents to LA where he worked with Oscar winner José Rivera at the Geffen Playhouse and was part of a sold-out run as Pablo Fu\*\*ing Escobar in *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* at the Kirk Douglas. You will catch him in the new season of Ryan Murphy's *Monsters: The Menendez Brothers* with Javier Bardem. He had recurring roles on *Blue Bloods* (CBS) and *General Hospital* (ABC). He's used his voice acting talents to work with Ethan Hawke, Judy Reyes, Toni Collette, Dania Ramirez, Minnie Driver, Danny DeVito, and Aubrey Plaza. He is a company member of IAMA and the Playwrights Unit. He is a graduate of the Maggie Flanigan Studio (NYC). Instagram: @juanempanadavilla

**Johnny Anthony** (*u/s Eddie/Nicky*) is a NYC-based actor who is thrilled to be back at Arena Stage! Johnny graduated from Pace University, as well as completed the Uta Hagen Institute's Core Summer Intensive at the prestigious HB Studio. Regional theater credits include B/Henry (*u/s*) in *Sanctuary City* at Arena Stage, L.C. Harold Dawson in *A Few Good Men* at Cumberland Theatre, Kyle in the NYC premiere of *Tom*, Officer Rizzo in the NYC premiere of *When the Hen Crows*, and Terry Malloy in *On the Waterfront*. On camera, Johnny can be seen in *West Side Story* (dir. Steven Spielberg), *American Horror Story: Delicate*, *Law & Order*, as well as various short films and commercials. Website: [www.johnnyanthony.com](http://www.johnnyanthony.com) Instagram: @thejohnnyanthony

**Odette Gutiérrez del Arroyo** (*u/s Veronica/Toni*) is thrilled to be making her Arena Stage debut! Recent credits include Janet Van De Graaff in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Workhouse Arts Center), Daniela in *In the Heights* (NextStop Theatre), and Aggie in *Finn the Musical* workshop (The Kennedy Center). Other credits: Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods* (The Arlington Players), Anita in *West Side Story* (Columbus Children's Theatre), Vivienne in *Legally Blonde* (Off the Lake Productions). When not performing, you can find Odette practicing medicine as a Physician Assistant in the DMV area and most importantly, being a mommy to her 3-year-old son, Luca. Odette wishes to thank her husband, Jake, for his unwavering love and support! Instagram: @odette\_gutierrezdelarroyo

## **PRODUCTION INFORMATION**

### **THE OTHER AMERICANS**

**By John Leguizamo**

**Directed by Ruben Santiago-Hudson**

**In Association with The Public Theater**

**In the Fichandler Stage | October 18 – November 24, 2024**

**ABOUT:** Emmy Award winner John Leguizamo stars as Nelson Castro, a Colombian-Puerto Rican laundromat owner grappling with a failing business and buried secrets. When his son Nick returns from a mental wellness facility after a traumatic incident, Nelson's world unravels. Committed to protecting his family and business, he tackles racial and identity challenges to achieve his dream, proving his success. In this gripping tale of resilience, Nelson must navigate morality's murky waters to salvage his future. Will he emerge victorious, or will his past consume everything he holds dear?

**CAST:**

Nelson: John Leguizamo\*  
Patti: Luna Lauren Velez\*  
Eddie: Bradley James Tejeda\*  
Veronica / u/s Patti/Norma: Sarah Nina Hayon\*  
Norma: Rosa Arredondo\*  
Nicky: Trey Santiago-Hudson\*  
Toni: Rebecca Jimenez\*  
u/s Nelson: Juan Francisco Villa\*  
u/s Eddie/Nicky: Johnny Anthony\*  
u/s Veronica/Toni: Odette Gutiérrez del Arroyo

**CREATIVE:**

Playwright: John Leguizamo\*  
Director: Ruben Santiago-Hudson  
Set Designer: Arnulfo Maldonado  
Costume Designer: Kara Harmon  
Lighting Designer: Jen Schriever  
Sound Designer: Justin Ellington  
Associate Director: Timothy Johnson  
Fight Director: Thomas Schall  
Intimacy Coordinator: Ann James  
Dramaturg: Jack Moore  
New York Casting: Caparelliotis Casting / David Caparelliotis and Joseph Gery  
DC Casting: Raiyon Hunter  
Stage Manager: James Latus\*  
Assistant Stage Manager: Ana Muñoz\*

\*Members of Actors' Equity Association

*The Other Americans* is sponsored by **Decker Anstrom and Sherry Hiemstra**.

**PLAN YOUR VISIT**

**TICKETS:** Tickets are \$59-99 plus applicable fees. Ticket prices and availability are subject to change. Arena Stage's many savings programs include "pay your age" tickets for those aged 35 and under; military, first responder, and educator discounts; student discounts; and "Southwest Nights" for those living and working in the District's Southwest neighborhood. To learn more, visit [arenastage.org/savingsprograms](http://arenastage.org/savingsprograms).

Tickets are available at [arenastage.org](https://arenastage.org). Tickets may also be purchased by phone at 202-488-3300, or in person through the Sales Office at 1101 Sixth Street, SW, D.C., Tuesday-Sunday, 12-8 p.m.

Group Sales Hotline for 10+ Tickets: 202-488-4380

**PERFORMANCE DATES:**

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Weekday matinees at 12 p.m. on November 6, November 8, and November 20

**Early Curtains:** Sunday, November 10 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, November 23 at 1 p.m.

**Southwest Nights:** Thursday, October 24 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, October 27 at 2 p.m.

**Audio-Described Performance:** Saturday, November 9 at 2 p.m.

**ASL-Interpreted Performance:** Saturday, November 16 at 8 p.m.

**Mask-Required Performances:** Tuesday, October 29 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 23 at 1:00 p.m.

**Closed Captioning:** GalaPro begins Saturday, November 2

**Industry Night:** Sunday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m.

**Pride Night:** Wednesday, October 23 at 7:30 p.m.

**HBCU/Divine Nine Night:** Thursday, November 7 at 8 p.m.

**Post-Show Conversations**

Connect with the show beyond the performance at a post-show conversation on November 6, November 8, and November 20 following the 12 p.m. matinee performances; and on November 12 following the 7:30 p.m. performance.

**TRAVEL:** Limited parking is available in Arena Stage's on-site garage for \$18 to \$30, including drive-up valet parking for \$30. Call 202-488-3300 to purchase in advance. For more information on transportation and other parking options around the Mead Center, visit [arenastage.org/transportation](https://arenastage.org/transportation).

**SAFETY:** Arena Stage recommends but does not require that patrons wear facial masks in our theater except in our occasional mask-required performance. These conditions are subject to change, and Arena continues to consult with medical professionals, monitor government best practice recommendations, and engage in industry trainings to ensure the health and safety of our patrons, artists, and staff. For up-to-date information, visit [arenastage.org/safety](https://arenastage.org/safety).

**For complete 2024/25 Season details, visit [arenastage.org/season](https://arenastage.org/season).**

*The first racially integrated theater in our nation's capital and a pioneer of the regional theater movement, Arena Stage was founded on August 16, 1950, in Washington, D.C., by Zelda Fichandler, Tom Fichandler, and Edward Mangum. Today—nearly 75 years later—Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. We produce plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep, and dangerous in the American spirit, and present diverse and groundbreaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Consistently contributing to the American theatrical lexicon*

*by commissioning and developing new plays, Arena Stage impacts the lives of over 10,000 students annually through its work in community engagement and serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. [arenastage.org](http://arenastage.org)*

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