

# WE THANK YOU!



*Bullying: Beyond the Schoolyard*

*(Teens and Adults Speak Out)*



December, 2010

“You don’t teach us what to think, you teach us HOW to think.”

Eilish Thompson,  
Youth Ensemble  
Member

Original Art by  
Teatro V!da  
Youth Ensemble  
Member,

*Narelle Thomas, age 17*

The Teatro V!da Youth Ensemble continue to amaze and inspire their peers and audiences with their multi-disciplinary talents.

We look forward to our upcoming paperback publication,

***Bullying: Beyond the Schoolyard***  
*(Teens and Adults Speak Out),*

which will feature acclaimed authors, like Judith Ortiz-Cofer, youth, and new writers from Springfield to the West Coast. The cover will feature art by Narelle Thomas, a Teatro V!da member since 2008.

Ensemble members are busy planning literary and music events, featuring excerpts from the book. Please see flyer on the last page of this newsletter for their first Open Mic event.

**Now, about YOU!**

All that we are able to accomplish is due to the in-kind-support, funding, gifts, and the countless hours that have been donated by our volunteers, artists, community organizations, community leaders, youth and their family members.

Special thanks to our Co-Founders, **The Latino Breakfast Club**, and especially H. Edgar Alejandro, who believed in the Teatro V!da



and mobilized his LBC partners, City Councilor, José Tosado; Dr. Henry East-Trou; and Jorge Castellano, who immediately got on board and activated the launch of our growing legacy.

We believe in the power of naming. We believe in the power of unity among all people.

We believe in the power of collective action.

Your names are the stars we suspend across the holiday sky...please read on...

*“For the first time in my life I feel connected to others. More importantly, I finally feel connected to myself.”*

-Gabriel Cifuentes, age 14  
Ensemble Member



Digital art by artistic associate, Kayla Creamer



**YOU are part of all we do.**

Beginning on the next page we list the names of all who have been part of Teatro V!da, and in some way have contributed to our success, since our founding in 2007. **If your name is missing, please send it to us, so that we may include you on our website.** Any oversight is unintentional, and is the result of the countless supporters who champion us. Keeping up with everyone is a lovely problem to have, and one that we hope you will help us resolve.

Each name is a reminder that when we work in unity for the good of all, anything is possible. We thank you, we honor you, and we continue to be grateful for your presence in our lives and unfolding vision.



Art by Narelle Thomas, 2nd year youth member. Narelle’s vision is to open an arts for wellness center in Springfield. *(She joined Teatro V!da wanting to become a fashion model.)*



Some of our members facilitating a theater workshop for youth at the SHA Sullivan Development.

Please go to the next pages, find your **name**, and **reflect** on how **you** are an **activator** of the **Teatro V!da** legacy.

*“We know now that we can open people’s minds and touch their hearts. Now let’s take it to the next level.”*

*~Emmy Cepeda, youth ensemble member, to her fellow cast members during a performance debrief.*



## Making a Donation

Your gift of \$50 or more will go towards supporting a new anti-bullying play production for grades K through 4, *El primer cocotaso y la creación del mar/ The First Upside Your Head and the Creation of the Sea*, to be performed in both English and Spanish.

With your support, the play will be available for local and regional touring in the Fall of 2011.

Please consider making your tax-deductible donation on our website:

[www.teatrovida.com/donate.html](http://www.teatrovida.com/donate.html)

We have safe PayPal transactions, or you may send a check or money order. All information provided on the website.

## **Volunteers, Supporters and Partners**

Judge William Abrashkin  
Mujahid Aleem  
Gianna Allentuck  
H. Edgar Alejandro  
Carmen Alvarez  
Warren Amerman  
María Luisa Arroyo  
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Leslie Edinson  
Anne Eisenman  
Tom Eisenman  
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Marjorie J. Hurst  
Aurie Irizarry  
Rina Irizarry  
Daniel Jáquez  
Julie Jaron  
Sasha Jimenez  
Sonia Jimenez  
Eric Johnson  
Alison Jones  
Jeff Keck  
Matthew King  
Haydee Lamberty-Rodriguez  
Madeline Landau  
Maria and George LePage  
Nicole le Roux  
James Lescault  
Julie Lichtenberg  
James Lightfoot  
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Natalia Eugenia Muñoz  
Beverly Naidus  
Norma Nunnally  
Raquel Obregon  
James O'Connor  
Nina Olf  
Sara Orr  
Julia Ortíz  
Vanessa Otero  
Awilda Oxios

Vanessa Pabón  
Priscilla Paige  
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Pam Racine  
Hillary Rathbun  
Chris Rohmann  
Naomi Rosenblatt  
Anne Richmond  
Dr. Ana Rivera-Passalacqua  
Anita “La Zuky” Rivera  
Carmen Rivera  
Gladys and Hector Rivera  
Melody Rivera  
Jeanette Rodriguez  
Julissa Rodriguez  
Rosa Rodriguez  
Dr. Angela Rola  
Elizabeth Román  
Timothy Rooke  
Victor Rosario  
Naomi Rosenblatt  
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Maryam Sullivan  
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Bernice and Leroy Thomas  
Patricia and David Thompson  
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José Tosado  
Iris Yolanda Van-Derdys  
Sirdeaner Walker  
Jeffrey Welch  
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Kimberly Williams  
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 The Valley Advocate  
 The Women's Times

### **Youth Ensemble Members Past and Present: (12-24)**

Eiliane M. Alvelo  
 Diego Angarita-Horowitz  
 Andrea Besancon  
 \*Charlie Brewer  
 Shayla Burge  
 Alex Casanova  
 Emmy Cepeda  
 \*Graham Churchill  
 Gabriel Cifuentes  
 Julian Darku  
 \*Daniel Denton Thompson  
 Reina Diaz  
 Carolyn Durán  
 Carina Gonzalez  
 Cassandra Gonzalez  
 Gianna Guido  
 Yashira M. Guzman  
 Felicia Harvey  
 Krystal Harvey  
 Rina Irizarry  
 Jenaya Issac  
 Jasmine Jimenez  
 Kevin Korsah  
 Nicole LeRoux  
 Andres López  
 Sharrie López  
 Claudia Lora  
 Veronica Machuca-Santana  
 Rosalin Iris Martinez  
 Keila Matos

Dana Murray  
 \*Laura Nunelly  
 Amandaly Olivares  
 Armando Olivares  
 Paris Ortiz  
 Carlos David Palacio  
 Alisha Raye-Estrada  
 Brian Reyes  
 Jessica Reyes  
 José Reyes  
 Daniel Robert  
 Xavier Robles  
 Belky Rodriguez  
 Benjamin Rodriguez  
 Francesca Rodriguez  
 Gabriela Rodriguez  
 Carlos G. Rosario  
 Rafael Alexander Roque  
 Yusef Sadiq  
 Yolanda Scavron  
 Ivette Terrero  
 Narelle Thomas  
 Eilish Thompson  
 Kifaya Timage Turé  
 Jeremy Turgeon  
 Ashli Vaughn  
 Glorimar Rosette Vargas  
 James A. Villalobos  
 Ischially Volmar  
 Joshua Williams  
 \*Joshua Wolfsun  
 \*Amherst Youth Artistic Associates

### **Adult Artists:**

Warren Amerman  
 María Luisa Arroyo  
 Janis Astor Del-Valle  
 Owen Brown  
 Taylor Ho Bynum  
 Brendaliz Cepeda  
 Freddy Chapellequin  
 Kayla Creamer  
 Damian Curtis  
 Sandra María Esteves  
 Lorena Garay  
 Wali Ghiam  
 Abraham Gomez-Delgado  
 Ahmed Gonzalez  
 Rene Gonzalez  
 Fred Ho  
 Eugenio Huanca  
 Daniel Jáquez  
 Julie Lichtenberg  
 Waleska Lugo-DeJesus  
 Heshima Moja  
 Iris Morales  
 Natalia Eugenia Muñoz  
 Ray Natal  
 Malika Ndlovu  
 (continued on next page)

**Adult Artists (continued)**

- James O'Connor
- Jesus Págan
- Mary Patierno
- Lydia Pérez
- Victor Rosario
- Abdou Sarr
- Tom Schneeloch
- Kevin Sharpe
- Craig Sinclair
- Victor "Papo" Sterling Duprey
- Mirtha Quiroz



Ensemble members train their Amherst peers in our "Street Beat" theater workshop at the Amherst Media television studio.



Performance at the Springfield Museums by Artistic Associates, Lorena Garay and Eugenio Huanca.

**Open Mic information on next page.**

**Cultural Memory and History**

Since our founding, Amherst Media, (a.k.a. ACTV), under the direction of Jim Lescault, has kept a digital video and photographic archive of our classes, events and performances. Amherst Media understands and values the importance of documenting Springfield's First and Only Latin@ Theater. The Amherst Media staff, consistently present with professionalism and humor, have co-produced several performances, including *Rumors of a New Day*, which premiered at CityStage this past September.

You may view parts of the archive online:  
<http://www.actvamherst.com/Series>  
 (click Teatro V!da on the menu)



Brendaliz Cepeda (left), is a new generation Bomba dancer of the famous Cepeda family of Puerto Rico. Brendaliz is pictured with Bomba scholar and dancer, Lydia Pérez, in rehearsal for our recent performance of "Rumors of a New Day." Lydia is the Founder and Director of Rhode Island's Puerto Rican Institute for Arts and Advocacy.

★ **2011 will herald a new day for Springfield. A time of peace, prosperity, health and unity among all people for the common good.**

We Believe. Action Makes it Happen.

*Magdalena Gomez*

Co-founder and Artistic Director

TEATRO VIDA AND  
THE SPRINGFIELD CITY LIBRARY PRESENT:  
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**YOUTH OPEN MIC**

AGES 12-24 WELCOME

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**SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2011**

1:00 P.M. - 4 P.M.

OPEN MIC SIGN-UP AT 1:00 P.M.

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