

# PLAYBILL

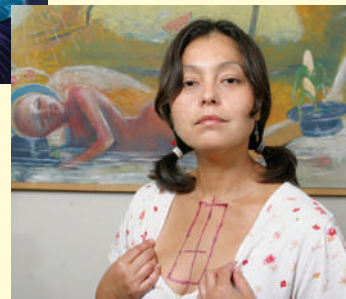
## MARÍA ALEJANDRA “LARTISTA” IBARRA

December 26, 1975 – October 16, 2021

The teatro community of San Antonio was dealt a serious blow when Maria Alejandra Ibarra—songwriter, poet, playwright, director, arts educator and performer—passed away on October 16, 2021. A graduate of South San High School, she is survived by her husband Michael Marks and her son, Solstíz “Sol” Ibarra-Campos who often performed with her on stage. María was known for tackling challenging subjects and creating space for diverse voices not usually seen on mainstream stages. She began producing shows in D.I.Y. spaces after graduating from Incarnate Word University with a B.A. in Theatre. Along with Eli Rios, Sol’s father, María was founder of the MadMedia/Reset Collective that produced performance parties on a homemade stage in their backyard (now Sala Diaz) during First Friday art walks in the late 90s. A highlight of their career was their Bay Area tour of *What Are You Doing Tonight?* at the *Teatro Campesino* in San Juan Bautista. In one of her most personal



works, María wrote and directed *Scars* in 2010 at the Esperanza exposing her early battles with cancer. Throughout her career she directed and originated many roles that challenged traditional Chicana values with plays like *Jotos del Barrio* (2014) and *Miss America* (2009) by Jesus Alonzo



María wrote, directed & starred in *Scars*.

and *Empanada* (2006) by Anel Flores—all staged at the Esperanza among other venues. At the heart of María’s art was activism and social justice with stories of immigrants, environmentalism, Mexican-American culture, indigenous practices, social commentary, bilingualism, feminism and LGBTQ+ experiences. As a bilingual artist, María shined in her work with groups such as Teatro Audaz. As a teacher, she impacted the lives of youth at the *San Antonio YMCA*, *Jump-Start Performance Company* and at *Edison High School* where she was Theatre director for 11 years. She also worked with *Grupo Animo*, the *Guadalupe Theatre’s Youth Teatro Troupe*. María leaves a lasting legacy of activism for justice with the many artists, actors and activists together to mourn her loss and celebrate her life with unending accolades. The Esperanza staff, board and Buena gente are saddened that María is no longer with us, but we believe that her creative spirit and passion for social justice work will live on as her legacy in the work that we all vow to continue. Our condolences to her family, friends and community of artists and activists. ¡María Lartista Ibarra, presente!

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### Gracias to vendors, volunteers, shoppers, staff, board, and Buena gente who brought back the 32nd annual Peace Market/El Mercadito de 2021



¡Chiquito pero bonito! Such a pleasure to feel our gente around us at the Esperanza Center in la tiendita, spilling out to the tents on Evergreen and into the patio. It was a great success, thanks to all! ¡Adelante con 2022!