

For Immediate Release

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Photos Available upon request



Loco Bloco and Paul S. Flores

PRESENT
On The Hill: I Am Alex Nieto
World Premiere
Written and directed by Paul S. Flores

SAN FRANCISCO, CA September 13th, 2016 - Loco Bloco, a non-profit performing arts organization, along with playwright Paul S. Flores announce their final full production of *On The Hill*, a play about the impact of the death of Alex Nieto. A preview performance of scenes from *On The Hill* on March 25th, 2016 sold out the Brava Theater Studio.

WHAT: **ON THE HILL: I AM ALEX NIETO** a play by Paul Flores

WHO: **Loco Bloco Ensemble and Actors**

WHEN: **Thursday, October 27th – Sunday October 30th**

WHERE: **Brava Theater Center
2781 24th St. San Francisco, CA 94110**

TIME: **Shows Start @ 7:30pm**

TICKETS: **Advance tickets \$13 / At Door \$20 visitbrava.org**

INFORMATION: **visit www.locobloco.org**

VIDEO LINK: **<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jSGy-BnX-U>**

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ABOUT THE PLAY

Directed by renowned playwright Paul Flores, *On the Hill* tells the story of the impact that the death of Alex Nieto – at the hands of the SFPD- has had on youth of color residing in SF neighborhoods - neighborhoods that are currently being gentrified. The project uses music, dance and theater as a powerful tool for communities divided by issues of police violence, racism, gentrification and economic disparity, to find ways to dialogue with each other, and discover opportunities for solutions, healing and unification. Through their interpretation of death and life, the young actors incorporate spoken word, bilingual theater, drum, dance and video projection to retell the story of the night Alex Nieto was murdered on Bernal Hill in March 2014. The production is co-directed by Eric Reid.

ABOUT THE CREATION

In July 2015, *On The Hill* project director Paul S. Flores and Loco Bloco's Musical Director, Pedro Gomez, facilitated story collection and interviews utilizing Native American and Latino cultural practices from individuals directly connected to Alex Nieto (including: his parents, siblings and friends) as well as people who did not know Alex personally but have been impacted by his death (including members of the Justice for Alex Coalition, law enforcement officers, local activists and residents of SF neighborhoods who relate to issues of police violence and gentrification due to their own experiences). Loco Bloco's youth-artists utilized documentary theater techniques to develop true stories into staged narratives. This courageous artistic practice teaches the critically important lessons of empathy, as well as teaching the humility necessary to unite communities divided by class, race and culture.

On March 26, 2016, the company presented preview scenes of *On The Hill* which left members of the community impressed by the power of the eclectic ensemble that portrayed the story. "One of the things the play has shown me how [Alex Nieto] has become a symbol for what is happening in this community," says Sue Kuyper, a local community cultural worker and preview audience member, "the loss of [Alex] is connected to the loss we feel for this community." Refugio and Elvira Nieto, Alex's parents, were also in attendance at the preview: "It surprises me always how much the cast knows about my son, Alex," said Refugio who noted how important it is for young people to know that in working together the community can grow. "The death of my son has woken up the community in order to unite... because if not, all our sons would be killed," said Elvira after being profoundly moved by the performance. "In the beginning It made me want to cry, reliving the memory of the loss of my son, but I am so grateful that these young people remember my son."

Immediately following the premiere Loco Bloco will be touring the show, beginning with a presentation at CCSF Mission Campus on November 3, 2016.

LOCO BLOCO'S MISSION is to promote San Francisco youth's healthy transition into adulthood by engaging them in the creation and performance of music, dance, and theater rooted in Afro-Latino traditions. Loco Bloco encourages its youth to use multicultural art forms as a tool for their own empowerment and as a catalyst to help them overcome discrimination and bring about change in their communities.

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