



For Immediate Release

Media Contact:

Candi Martinez Carthen

spreadlovemedi@gmail.com 415.505.5559

Photos & Cast Interviews Available Upon Request

WORLD PREMIERE OF PAUL S. FLORES' *PILGRIM STREET* AT SAN FRANCISCO'S Z SPACE SEPTEMBER 13 - 16, 2018

Presented by Youth Speaks, Directed by Sean San Jose

San Francisco, CA -- Written by renowned playwright, **Paul S. Flores**, and presented by **Youth Speaks**, *Pilgrim Street* will premiere at San Francisco's **Z Space** on Thursday, September 13th through Sunday, September 16th 2018.

This riveting new work from Paul S. Flores, follows the struggle to reunite families in Stockton, California who have been separated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), foster care, and the school to prison pipeline.

Based on the testimonies of Fathers and Families of San Joaquin (FFSJ) re-entry program participants, trauma center clients and staff members, "Pilgrim Street" imagines Stockton in the near future as family members attempt to recover connection to their loved ones in and out of the system without getting arrested or deported.

In a gritty post-agricultural Stockton community known as "Pilgrim Street" 20 years in the future, "Ninyo" is an underground fixer who searches for lost children by hacking the biometric data archives of a fictional tech company GrupeTech, and solicits the help of The Mayor to create a plan to recover and transform Stockton's children from victims to leaders of the future. As a theater maker, Flores intends to build community around "Pilgrim Street" throughout the state to help reduce trauma and recidivism in Stockton and California.

Executive Director of FFSJ, Samuel Nunez states, "Given the current landscape, the division and turmoil our country is experiencing between irreconcilable worldviews, Stockton represents a microcosm of this reality. The diversity in backgrounds, life experiences, socioeconomic status, could conceivably come together with a cooperative and unified voice to rewrite our future and discourse. From pain to power and tragedy to triumph, if it can happen in Stockton it can happen anywhere. This production will paint a picture of this pain, but even more, the possibilities."

Pilgrim Street is a theater art project intersecting criminalization, immigration, and citizenship at a time when vulnerable communities are looking for solutions and strategies to protect themselves from violence at the hands of hostile state policies.

Supported by The San Francisco Arts Commission, and the Gerbode, Hewlett Theater Commissioning Award.

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Youth Speaks

Written by Paul S. Flores

Directed by Sean San Jose

Developed and Produced by Youth Speaks, Paul S. Flores, & Z Space

Dates & Times:

Thursday, September 13th 8:00pm

Friday, September 14th 8:00pm

Saturday, September 15th 8:00pm

Matinees:

Friday, September 14th 2:00pm (Special Free Performance for Bay Area Youth, rsvp only)

Sunday, September 16th 2:00pm

Location:

Z Space Theater

450 Florida Street, San Francisco, CA 94110

G/A Tickets:

\$5 Youth under 21 & seniors

\$15 Groups 10 or more

\$25 Adult

Available online at: <http://www.zspace.org/pilgrimstreet> or by calling 415.626.0453

Schools or community organizations interested in complimentary tickets please email:

production@youthspeaks.org

About Youth Speaks:

Founded in 1996, Youth Speaks is one of the world's leading presenter of Spoken Word performance, education, and youth development programs. Youth Speaks has long championed a national and increasingly global movement of young people stepping proudly onto stages, declaring themselves present.

About Paul Flores:

Paul S. Flores is a published poet, performance artist and playwright. He was raised in Chula Vista, CA and spent much of his youth in Tijuana, Mexico. Flores' PEN Award winning novel *Along The Border Lies* reflects this experience. In 1995, Flores moved to San Francisco to complete the MFA Creative Writing Program at San Francisco State University. Flores co-founded the Latino poetry performance group Los Delicados: Poetas del Sol along with Darren J. De Leon and Norman Zelaya. His spoken word poem "Brown Dreams" from Def Poetry on HBO has been viewed on YouTube 100,000 times, and continues to inform and influence young people all over the United States. Flores' playwright credits include: *On The Hill: I Am Alex Nieto*, *PLACAS*, *You're Gonna Cry*, *REPRESENTA!* and more.

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