

POSTCARDS FROM THE BORDER

Oscar Cásares, an acclaimed novelist from the Rio Grande Valley, wanted to tell his 10-year-old daughter, Elena, about his experience of growing up on the Texas-Mexico border. To tell her this story, Cásares and photographer Joel Salcido traveled the length of the Rio Grande, from El Paso and Juarez to Brownsville and Matamoros, to share his roots and the subtle and profound details of those who live there. Originally appearing as an essay in Texas Monthly, these postcards and the human stories they reveal come to life in a new stage production with music composed and performed by singer-songwriter Carrie Rodriguez along with her 5-piece band. Narrated by Cásares, the performance includes Salcido's stirring images and documentary footage by Luke Jacobs that immerse the audience in the life and culture of the Texas-Mexico border. Collectively, these talented artists use their diverse talents to showcase the often overlooked stories of generations of families at the edge of our country. This is the story of the border more people need to hear.

World premiere dates are January 24th and 25th at the McCullough Theatre at the University of Texas at Austin.



CARRIE RODRIGUEZ, a composer, violinist, and singer from Austin, Texas, finds beauty in the cross-pollination of diverse musical traditions. As a singer-songwriter, she has released five solo studio albums, including *Lola*, which was hailed as “the perfect bicultural album” and was included in NPR’s Best Albums of 2016, as well as Rolling Stone’s Best Country Albums of the Year. Carrie has performed on stages across North America and Europe and has appeared on programs such as PBS’s *Austin City Limits*, *The Tonight Show*, and NPR’s *Tiny Desk Concerts*. In 2017, she founded *Laboratorio*, a highly acclaimed concert series at Austin’s State Theatre that celebrates Latine culture through music, visual art, and storytelling. Her most recent work as a composer/lyricist was for the original musical *¡Americano!*, which had a six-week run off Broadway at New York City’s New World Stages in 2022 and earned her a nomination for a 2022 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Music. This year, Rodriguez is enjoying her time as the Songwriter in Residence at the University of Texas at Austin. Carrie lives in Austin with her husband and frequent artistic collaborator, Luke Jacobs, and their 9-year-old son, Cruz.

BOB BURSEY (he/him) is the Executive & Artistic Director of Texas Performing Arts at the University of Texas at Austin. One of the largest scale university arts centers in the U.S., Texas Performing Arts welcomes more than 400,000 attendees each year to the full spectrum of live performance, from experimental projects to mainstream productions. From 2012-2019 Bursey was Executive Director of the Fisher Center at Bard. He received a 2019 Tony Award recognizing one of the many new productions developed there. Bursey was the Producing Director of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company from 2003-2012, a time that included the founding of New York Live Arts as a permanent home for the company. He began his career working backstage for touring artists and venues such as Pina Bausch and the American Dance Festival. He is an Associate Professor of Practice at UT Austin and full member of the Broadway League.



Postcards From The Border was commissioned by and developed in residence at Texas Performing Arts at The University of Texas at Austin and made possible with funding by the New England Foundation for the Arts’ National Theater Project, with lead funding from the Mellon Foundation and additional support from the Doris Duke Foundation.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT:

[Postcards from the Border One Sheet — Laboratorio Arts](#)

Phyllis Oyama, Producer
phyllis.oyama@gmail.com
 510- 684-0594

Mike Leahy, Concerted Efforts
mike@concertedefforts.com
 617-969-0810