

Michael John Garcés is the artistic director of Cornerstone Theater Company, a community-engaged ensemble where he most recently directed the musical *Making Paradise* by Tom Jacobson, Shishir Kurup and Deborah Wicks La Puma, and **3 Truths** by Naomi Iizuka. For Cornerstone he also wrote *Los Illegals*, created in collaboration with communities of day laborers and domestic workers. *Los Illegals* was subsequently performed at Teatro Bravo in Arizona, and will be published in this summer's issue of *Theatre Magazine* (Yale School of Drama/Duke University Press).

Other plays he has written include *THE WEB, points of departure and customs* (INTAR), *Acts of Mercy* (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater), and his solo performance piece, *agua ardiente* (The American Place); short plays include *hymn in three parts* (Chalk Rep), *inhabited* (Red Fern Theatre Co.), *tostitos* (Ensemble Studio Theatre Marathon of One-Act Plays) *on edge and the ride* (Humana Festival), *audiovideo* (Drama League/Directors Project) and *sandlot ball and catch* (Mile Square). He wrote the text for composer Alexandra Vrebalov's oratorio *Stations*, recently performed at the NOMUS Festival in Novi Sad, Serbia. Michael is a proud alum of New Dramatists.

Michael has also directed plays at theaters across the country and internationally, such as The Guthrie Theatre, The Walker Arts Center, REDCAT, A Contemporary Theater, Hartford Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville - Humana Festival, The Children's Theatre Company, Yale Repertory Theatre, Huntington Theatre Company, The Geva Theatre, Sna Jtz'ibajom in Chiapas, and, in New York, New York Theatre Workshop, Second Stage, INTAR, The Cherry Lane, The Atlantic Theater Company, The Puerto Rican Travelling Theater, HERE Arts Center, Playwrights Horizons and Repertorio Español. Recent directing credits include, most recently, *Oedipus El Rey* by Luis Alfaro at the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company and *Funnyhouse of a Negro* by Adrienne Kennedy at CalArts. He is currently developing and directing writer and performer Marc Bamuthi Joseph in his new piece, *red black and GREEN: a blues* which will open at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco in October, and which is scheduled to be presented at venues across the country, including the NExt Wave Festival at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in 2012.

Michael is a recipient of the Princess Grace Statue, the Alan Schneider Director Award, a TCG/New Generations Grant, a National Association of Latino Arts and Culture Grant, and "The Nonprofit Excellence Award" from the Center for Nonprofit Management, and is a Southern California Leadership Network Fellow.

He is on the executive board of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, and on the Ovation Review Committee for the Los Angeles Stage Alliance. He has served as a U.S. delegate to the 30th World Congress of the International Theatre Institute (UNESCO) in Tampico, México, and as a panelist for The National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, Colorado Council on the Arts, The Los Angeles County Arts Commission, The City of Pasadena, The City of Santa Monica, The Herb Alpert Foundation and many other organizations. He has taught workshops on directing and community engaged theater at the International Theater Festival in Bogotá, Colombia, and participated in several convenings of the Hemispheric Institute.

Recently featured in a cover story, he was named by *American Theatre Magazine* as one of 25 artists who will have a significant impact on the field in the next quarter century.