

Dámaso Rodríguez

(818) 679-8852 • email: damasobrodriguez@gmail.com
Director – Producer

Affiliations

- Artists Repertory Theatre Artistic Director, 2013 – 2021 (over 60 productions)
- The Pasadena Playhouse Associate Artistic Director, 2007 – 2010
- Furious Theatre Company Co-Founding Artistic Director, 2001 – 2012 (25 productions)
- Arts Consulting Group Vice President, 2021 – present
- Member: Stage Directors & Choreographers Society

Awards & Recognition

Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award; Back Stage Garland Award; LA Weekly Theatre Award; NAACP Theatre Award; Pasadena Arts Council's Gold Crown Award; 2012 Zelda Fichandler Award Finalist; Knowledge Universe Rising Star Award; and dozens of Critics' Recommendations from Los Angeles Times, LA Weekly, Back Stage and other media.

Current Directing Projects

Magellanica (five-part audio drama series) by E.M. Lewis, *The Berlin Diaries* (audio drama) by Andrea Stolowitz, *The Vertical City* (audio drama) by Diana Burbano, *Today is My Birthday* (audio drama) by Susan Soon He Stanton, *The Great Divide* (a new play) by E.M. Lewis in development at Artists Rep/Oregon Shakespeare Festival, *Jacinta* (a paper theatre short film) by Blanca Forzán.

Select List of Past Theatre Productions (Over 100 Credits)

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

***Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare**

“What is truly stunning in this production is not only its ability to give so much new to such a well-worn play, but also that it kept this theater critic—who has seen this play more times than I can count—hoping beyond belief that things would end up differently this time.” – Oregon Artswatch

***1200-seat outdoor Elizabethan stage**

Artists Repertory Theatre

***Wolf Play* by Hansol Jung – World Premiere**

“Jung tightly layers scenes over each other (director Dámaso Rodríguez makes it look effortless) and pushes the action forward, while also world-building in the wake. As *Wolf Play* hits its climax, the foundation snaps into focus, and snares you in a trap you didn't realize you walked into, even as the cast explains what's going to happen.” – Portland Mercury

***National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere**

Actors Theatre of Louisville

***We, the Invisibles* by Susan Soon He Stanton – World Premiere**

“The riveting docudrama is an intricate ensemble work brilliantly directed by Dámaso Rodríguez.”
– LEO Weekly

***2018 Humana Festival of New American Plays**

Artists Repertory Theatre

***Magellanica* by E.M. Lewis – World Premiere**

“Full of intoxicating images and intense emotions...it's a seamless fusion of spectacle and intimacy...so impressive as a work of visual art that it would be easy to sit back and solely savor its technical achievements.” – Willamette Week

***Five-and-a-half-hour multi-media epic performance**

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***Cuba Libre* by Carlos Lacámara & Jorge Gómez – World Premiere Musical**

“...sharp direction and choreography, spiffy design and projections, exhilarating dancing, incendiary music and, crucially, crack timing.” – Oregon Artswatch

***Produced in association with Broadway producer Susan Dietz**

Artists Repertory Theatre

***The Skin of Our Teeth* by Thornton Wilder – Rare Revival**

“Hilarious, imaginative, creative, satirical and exciting ... fearlessly rendered by Artists Repertory Theatre, this laugh-a-second, multi-millennia mindbender shouldn't be missed...” - The Oregonian

***Featuring a professional ensemble of 14 supported by more than 150 community guest stars**

Artists Repertory Theatre

***The Big Meal* by Dan LeFranc – West Coast Premiere**

“Crisp, clean, technically perfect, and drawing sensational performances from its actors, *The Big Meal* fulfills its promise as a Portland theater milestone.” – The Oregonian

***Inaugural production as Artists Rep’s artistic director**

Pasadena Playhouse

***The Heiress* by Ruth & Augustus Goetz – Starring Richard Chamberlain**

“With this fine, funny take on a venerable drama, director Dámaso Rodríguez proves that tragedy works best in counterpoint. Mr. Rodríguez’s direction, so confident as to be invisible, highlights what’s interesting and graceful in the play’s every nuance.” – Stage and Cinema

***Los Angeles Times Critic’s Choice**

Pasadena Playhouse

***The Little Foxes* by Lillian Hellman – Starring Kelly McGillis & Julia Duffy**

“...riveting revival of one of the iconic works of the American stage...Rodríguez is in sync with the scripter's agenda, guiding a superbly balanced ensemble through every nuance of the subsequent disintegration of the bottom-feeding Hubbard clan...” – Variety

***Los Angeles Times Critic’s Choice**

Intiman Theatre

***Paradise Lost* by Clifford Odets – Rare Revival**

“Paradise Lost” is a fascinating, pulsating slab of theatrical history in Intiman Theatre's gutsy, vigorously performed resurrection.” – Seattle Times

Pasadena Playhouse

Orson’s Shadow* by Austin Pendleton – Starring Sharon Lawrence

“In addition to his brisk pacing and evocative stage pictures, helmer Dámaso Rodríguez fearlessly encourages his Herculean figures to strut their stuff full-tilt.” – Variety

***Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award winner for Featured Performance**

A Noise Within Classical Repertory

***The Eccentricities of a Nightingale* by Tennessee Williams – Rare Revival**

"Dámaso Rodríguez dances the entire production through the play's musicality on a stage lit beautifully by James P. Taylor in the soft gauziness that Williams' "romantic clichés" demand.” – LA Weekly

***Los Angeles Times Critic’s Choice**

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***Blithe Spirit* by Noël Coward – Starring Scott Lowell**

"Noël Coward's deathless "improbable farce" about a second marriage sent haywire by the first wife's ghost receives an engrossing account, agreeably quirky, reliably stylish." – Los Angeles Times

***Los Angeles Times Critic's Choice**

Furious Theatre Company at the Pasadena Playhouse Carrie Hamilton Theatre

***Grace* by Craig Wright – Los Angeles Premiere**

"Edgy, raucous and uncompromising ... with admirable clarity, director Dámaso Rodríguez steers his skilled cast through Wright's dense ruminations." – Los Angeles Times

***Three Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards including Best Production & Direction**

The Theatre at Boston Court

***The Pain and the Itch* by Bruce Norris – Los Angeles Premiere**

"One of the most thrilling and adventurous productions of the year." – Back Stage

***Three Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award nominations including Best Production**

Furious Theatre Company at the Pasadena Playhouse Carrie Hamilton Theatre

***Hunter Gatherers* by Peter Sinn Nachtrieb – Los Angeles Premiere**

"Dámaso Rodríguez's relentlessly paced staging builds suspense with the visceral engagement of a cinematic thriller and draws nicely realized characters from the entire cast." – Los Angeles Times

***Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award winner for Ensemble Performance**

Developmental Workshops (Partial List)

The Undesirables (A New Musical) by Hansol Jung & Brian Quijada – Seattle Rep

Mi Cuba by Caridad Svich – American Conservatory Theatre

The Thanksgiving Play by Larissa FastHorse – Artists Rep

The Hombres by Tony Meneses – South Coast Rep

Big Money (A New Musical) by Kyle Jarrow & Nathan Leigh – Pasadena Playhouse

Writing Credits

The Fair Maid of the West Parts 1 & 2 (written w/James Leary) – Furious Theatre

All There Is: Love Stories from StoryCorps by Dave Isay (written w/Scott Lowell) – Pasadena Playhouse

Lore Drop (written w/Calista Rodríguez & Diana Burbano) – Portland Actors Conservatory

Honors & Distinctions

Theatre Communications Group (TCG) Young Leader of Color; TCG Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Leadership U Mentor; TCG Fox Foundation Actor Fellowship Host Theatre Artistic Director; Andrew W. Mellon Foundation National Playwright Residency Program Host Theatre Artistic Director; Guest Artist: Ibero-American Theatre Forum (hosted by Spain's Ministry of Culture in the Canary Islands); Edgerton Foundation Visiting Theatre Artist: Occidental College; TCG Delegate: Havana International Theatre Festival; Award Panelist: Oregon Governor's Arts Awards; Portland State University Andries Deinum Prize for Visionaries and Provocateurs, McKnight National Playwright Residency, National Endowment for the Arts (three-time panelist)

Teaching Experience

Guest Instructor: Occidental College, Columbia College Hollywood, Portland Actors Conservatory, Texas A&M University, University of Portland, Willamette University, Portland State University, University of Evansville