

arvada  center  
BLACK BOX THEATRE



The   
River  
  
Bride



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## A NOTE FROM PHILIP C. SNEED

ARVADA CENTER PRESIDENT AND CEO

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### MONSTERS, MYTH, AND MEANING

One day, while watching the Animal Planet channel's reality show, *River Monsters*, playwright Marisela Treviño Orta learned of the botos – legendary river dolphins who can change into human form. These encantado (“enchanted one”, in Portuguese), seek to seduce and impregnate human females – but they have only three days to accomplish this, before returning to their solitary river world. This fascinating bit of folklore inspired the play you are seeing.

Stories such as this one appear to exist in another world, a world of heightened reality, of fantastical creatures and improbable – if not impossible – events. We use many names for these stories – fairy tales, myths, tall tales, fables, legends, folktales, etc. – and while those who have studied such things can no doubt tell us the distinctions among them, they all have at least one element in common: a desire to tell us a truth by feeding us a falsehood. We grow up with such stories, and as we mature we tend to leave them behind – they're for children, after all. Grownups don't have time for such things – we want our stories to be real, whatever that means to each of us.

Some of you may have seen *Into the Woods*, the musical playing in our Main Stage Theatre through October 9 (if you haven't seen it, I highly recommend that you do so!). Like *The River Bride*, this Stephen Sondheim musical is based on the kinds of stories described above – and we

all know most of the characters – Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, Cinderella, Jack (of beanstalk fame), as well as a few new ones.

What are Orta and Sondheim up to, giving us these works based on childish stories and impossible folktales? They're very different works, this play and that musical – but they're both trying to get at some essential truths, some meaning about our lives, through myth, through metaphor, through monsters of the river. It's great fun to enter into these stories and give ourselves over to the unreality of it all. And they can take us to some dark places – which of course is often where the truth can be found.

In closing, I'd like to acknowledge an important artist involved in this production – its director, Jamie Ann Romero. Some of you may remember Jamie from her work as an actor on our stages – including a heartbreaking Juliet in a Colorado Shakespeare Festival production of *Romeo and Juliet* which we presented in our Amphitheatre (which was directed by our Artistic Director, Lynne Collins), and roles in *The Great Gatsby* and a Shakespeare comedy, *Twelfth Night*. Jamie originated the role of Belmira in *The River Bride* for its world premiere at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in 2016, and I can think of no one better to bring this beautiful play to life on our stage.

I hope you enjoy the production – thanks for supporting live theatre here at the Arvada Center!

Philip C. Sneed  
President and CEO

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## A NOTE FROM JAMIE ANN ROMERO

DIRECTOR OF *THE RIVER BRIDE*

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“In the Amazon time stands still, as if this river wrapped its long body around it and contracted. The only time here is once, once upon a time somewhere between dream, between myth, between the shores of reality, and folklore.”

These are the opening lines of Marisela Treviño Orta’s *The River Bride*. These words invite us to dive into the magic of a darkened theater as it transports us deep into the Amazon. There we’ll find a loving family, two sisters, and “a man fished from June waters just three days before a wedding.”

My journey with *The River Bride* began in 2016 when I was a part of its World Premiere at The Oregon Shakespeare Festival. At the time, I had never encountered anything like this play in my career. I was immediately struck by this beautiful, riveting, and heartbreaking love story wrapped up in a folk tale surrounded by the dangerous beauty of the Amazon. Marisela has crafted a cautionary tale that asks the question: What happens when we’re brave in love and what happens

when we’re not? How often do we turn away from what we want because we’re too afraid to reach out and grab it?

I think anyone who has experienced love in their life and its many, beautiful, and painful facets is going to find themselves somewhere within this story. I hope our audiences leave the theater reminded of the power of love and their ability to choose it, accept it, and believe it. I hope you leave our darkened theater, our piece of the Amazon, with a sense of magic.



# The River Bride

SEP 30 - NOV 6, 2022  
Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities

By  
Marisela Treviño Orta

Director  
Jamie Ann Romero

Choreographer  
Nile H. Russell

Lighting Design  
Kate Bashore

Costume Design  
David J. Castellano

Scenic Design  
David J. Castellano

Sound Design  
Jason Ducat

Voice & Text Coach  
Mare Trevathan

Stage Manager  
Christine Rose Moore\*

Assistant Stage Manager  
Melissa J Michelson\*

Artistic Director  
Lynne Collins

The "River Bride" was developed in residency with AlterTheater Ensemble, San Rafael, California.

World Premiere produced by Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Artistic Director Bill Rauch

Executive Director Cynthia Rider

"The River Bride" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)



The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.



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## ACTORS

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Katie Rodriguez



Stephanie Saltis



Philip Ambrose



Brandon Billings



Matt Zambrano



Gabriella Cavallero



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## CAST

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HELENA . . . . . Katie Rodriguez\*  
BELMIRA . . . . . Stephanie Saltis  
MOISES . . . . . Philip Ambrose\*  
DUARTE . . . . . Brandon Billings  
SR. COSTA . . . . . Matt Zambrano\*  
SRA. COSTA . . . . . Gabriella Cavallero\*

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TIME  
Once Upon A Time

PLACE  
A small Brazilian village along  
the Amazon River

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*THE RIVER BRIDE* will be performed in one act with no intermission.

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## ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

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**PHILIP AMBROSE\*** (Moises, Portuguese consultant) is happy to have made the trip from NYC to debut at the Arvada Center and to be working on this play again after understudying the role of Duarte at the formerly active Halcyon Theatre. Other Chicago credits: *End of the Rainbow* (Porchlight Music Theatre); *Creatives*, book co-written by novelist Irvine Welsh (The Edge Theatre). Training: M.A., London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art; The Karl Bury Studio.

**BRANDON BILLINGS** (Duarte) is a Colorado native and is ecstatic in making his Arvada Center debut in this season. Some of his other credits include: *Fireflies*, *The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong*, and *Crosswords* (Vintage Theatre); *A Gift to Remember* (Broomfield Community Players). Training: B.A. in Theatre; Adams State University. @billings\_97

**GABRIELLA CAVALLERO\*** (Sra. Costa) appeared at the Arvada Center in *Cabaret* and *The Women*. 26 seasons at DCPA Theatre Company, including: *Just Like Us*, *Living Out*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*; *Water by the Spoonful*, *Elliot: A Soldier's Fugue*, and *26 Miles* (Curious Theatre Company); *Bull in a China Shop* (Benchmark Theatre.) Dialect and Text coach: Arvada Center, DCPA Theatre Company, BETC, and Curious Theatre Company. She has narrated over 1200 audio books (National Library Service and Audible). M.F.A. National Theatre Conservatory.

**KATIE RODRIGUEZ\*** (Helena) is thrilled to be making her Arvada Center debut. Favorite credits include: *Anna in the Tropics*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Frankenstein*, *Argonautika*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, *A Christmas Carol* (A Noise Within); *When We Were Young and Unafraid* (Camarillo Skyway Playhouse); *Dog Sees God* (Renberg Theatre); *Alice in Wonderland* (Chance Theatre); *Hamlet* (TE San Pedro Rep). Training: B.F.A., AMDA. The Groundlings School. Thanks always to Mom and Dad! katieerodri.com, @myfairkttt

**STEPHANIE SALTIS** (Belmira) is very excited to be making her debut at the Arvada Center. Other credits include: Georgia in *Blackademics* (Vintage Theatre); Cecily in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Breckenridge Backstage Theatre); Viola/Feste in *Twelfth Night*, *Julius Caesar* (ColoradoShakespeare Festival's Violence Prevention Tour.); and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Odyssey*, and the OP of *Pericles* (CSF). She also just recently graduated with a B.F.A. in Acting from The University of Colorado Boulder. StephanieSaltis.com

**MATT ZAMBRANO\*** (Sr. Costa) is thrilled to be making his Arvada Center debut. Most recently he appeared in *Native Gardens* and *Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood* (Creede Repertory Theatre). Other credits: *The Santaland Diaries*, *The Liar* (DCPA Theatre Company); *Man of La Mancha* (Orlando Rep.); *The Comedy of Errors* (Shakespeare Theater of D.C.); *The Foreigner* (Milwaukee Rep.); Ensemble (Broken Box Mime Theater); *The Story Pirates: Podcast!*. Training: National Theatre Conservatory. www.MattZambrano.com

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## CREATIVE TEAM

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**JAMIE ANN ROMERO** (Director) is a New York based actor and director from Denver, Colorado. She most recently directed Sandy Ruskin's adaptation of the classic comedy *Clue* at the Little Theatre of the Rockies. As an actor she has worked across the country and internationally including at the Arvada Center in *Twelfth Night* and *The Great Gatsby*. Most recent acting credits include; the National Broadway Tour of *The Play That Goes Wrong* and on television in Marvel's *The Punisher*. She is immensely grateful to the Arvada Center for welcoming her home. She also extends her gratitude to you, the audience, for your continued support of live theater. She holds a BA in Theatre from UNOCo.

**NILE H. RUSSELL** (Choreographer) is originally from Baltimore, MD. He received a B.A. in Dance from Connecticut College, under the guidance of Dan Wagoner, Lan Lan Wang, Jeff Rebudal, Robyne Watkin, David Dorfman, Eddie Taketa, and Jeremy Nelson. In New York he danced with Silver-Brown Dance, LeeSaar The Company, Luis Lara Malvacias, Stefanie Nelson Dance Group, Naganuma Dance, and co-founded CaN Dance. In 2009, Nile joined Pilobolus Dance Theater and later became Dance Captain of the touring company.

**KATE BASHORE** (Lighting Design) Arvada Center: *Kinky Boots*; *Elf - The Musical*; *Million Dollar Quartet*; *A Christmas Carol - The Musical*. Regional: *Alabama Story* (Clarence Brown Theatre). Design credits: *The Three Musketeers* (Classical Theatre of Harlem); *Street Children* (New Ohio Theatre); *Tiny Beautiful Things* (BETC); *Cabaret*; *Sister Act* (Town Hall Arts Center). In addition to her design work, Kate serves as the Director of Dance Production at University of Colorado Boulder. M.F.A: University of Tennessee - Knoxville. [www.katebashoredesigns.com](http://www.katebashoredesigns.com)

**DAVID J. CASTELLANO** (Scenic and Costume Designer) is designing for the Arvada Center for the first time. Broadway: *Frogs*, *Twentieth Century*, *The Boy From Oz*, *Little Shop of Horrors*. Other credits: *The Book of Will*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Colorado Shakespeare Festival); *The Addams Family* (Wright State University); *Spring Awakening* (Phoenix Theatre); *Dutchman* (Tempe Center for The Arts); *Octopus* (Stray Cat Theatre); *Detroit '67* (Black Theatre Troupe); *Once On This Island* (Town Hall Arts Center). Training: M.F.A from Ohio University and B.F.A from The University of Evansville.

**JASON DUCAT** (Sound Designer) Jason returns to the Arvada Center where he has designed 15 shows including *The Liar*, *Animal Farm*, *Small Mouth Sounds* and *Murder on The Orient Express*. Other credits: *Passover*, *Detroit '67*, *The Cake*, *Venus in Fur*, *The Brothers Size* (Curious Theatre Company); *Twelfth Night*, *Goodnight Moon*, *Human Error*, *Two Degrees*, *Lord of the Flies* (DCPA Theatre Company); *As You Like It*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Henry V*, *Henry IV*, *The Tempest* (Colorado Shakespeare Festival); *Constellations* (THEATREWORKS), *The Little Mermaid* and *Peter Pan* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre).





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## CREATIVE TEAM

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**MARE TREVATHAN** (Voice & Text Coach) is working with the Arvada Center for the first time! She's been a Voice & Text Coach at Colorado Shakespeare Festival, teaches Voice Over at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, and is the narrator of over 750 audiobooks. This spring, Mare's directing the premiere of *The Lady M Project* with Local Theater Company. (*The River Bride* director Jamie Ann Romero is among the actors who helped develop the play!)  
[www.maretrevathan.com](http://www.maretrevathan.com)

**CHRISTINE ROSE MOORE\*** (Stage Manager) returns for her 6th season. Center Favorites: *Christie Con* (virtual), *Stick Fly*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Plaza Suite*, *Sense and Sensibility*. Other favorites: *In the Heights*, *Clybourne Park*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Les Miserables*, *Of Mice and Men* (Pioneer Theatre Company); *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Gypsy*, *Mousetrap*, *Singin' in the Rain* (Arts Center of Coastal Carolina); *Richard III*, *All's Well that Ends Well* (Colorado Shakespeare Festival); *Pygmalion*, *Annapurna* (Peterborough Players). Training: University of Utah.

**MELISSA J MICHELSON\*** (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited for another season at the Arvada Center. Previous Arvada Center credits: 2020 & 2022 Black Box Repertory Seasons, the return of *Small Mouth Sounds*, and *Sylvia*. Other favorites: *Gypsy*, *Jersey Boys* (Theatre Aspen), *Tarzan*, *Shrek* (Berkshire Theatre Group); *Will Rodgers Follies* (Goodspeed Musicals); *Love's Labour's Lost*, *The Great Gatsby*, *West Side Story* (Orlando Shakespeare Theater); *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, (Butterfly Effect Theatre of Colorado); Four years working with actors with disabilities (Magic Moments Inc.) B.A. Theatre; Colorado State University.

**MARISELA TREVIÑO ORTA** (Playwright) Orta's plays include *Heart Shaped Nebula*, *Somewhere*, *Wolf at the Door* and *The River Bride*, which premiered in 2016 at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and has had subsequent productions at Arizona Theatre Company, Stages Repertory Theatre, and a 2021 production at American Players Theatre. Her work has been presented by ACT Young Conservatory, the Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Brava Theater, Camino Real Productions, Halcyon Theatre, Kitchen Dog Theater, Marin Theatre Company, Milagro, Nashville Children's Theatre Company, New Jersey Repertory Company, Shotgun Players, Su Teatro and Those Women Productions. Recently her Audible-commissioned audio play *Nightfall* launched on their platform.

Marisela is an alum of the Playwrights Foundation Resident Playwright Initiative (2008-2011), Goodman Theatre Playwrights Unit (2018-2019), and Playwrights' Center Core Writer program (2018-2021). Currently she is a member of the Latino Theatre Company's Circle of Imaginistas who are under commission to create new work. She is the recipient of the 2006 Chicano/Latino Literary Award in Drama, 2009 PEN Center USA Literary Award in Drama, 2013 National Latino Playwriting Award, and 2019 Alliance Keneda National Graduate Playwriting Award Finalist. Marisela has an MFA in Poetry from the University of San Francisco and an MFA in Playwriting from the Iowa Playwrights Workshop.



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## ARVADA CENTER ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

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Philip C. Sneed, President and CEO

Clark Johnson, Chief Operating Officer

Teresa YoKell, Vice President of  
Advancement

### ADMINISTRATION & FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Andy Terek, Director of Finance  
Alma Vazquez, Senior Accountant  
Sara DeHerrera, Administrative Coordinator  
Libby Zambrano, Human Resources Manager

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Hannah Cline, ACES Event Sales Coord.  
Erick Delgado, Event Supervisor  
Event Assistants:  
Ashtyn Makonese, Devon Makonese

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Teresa Cirrincione, Asst. Education Director  
Julie Payne, FRYs/Theatre Ed. Coordinator  
Christina Noel-Adcock, Dance Coordinator  
Molly Berger, School Programs Coordinator  
Emily Lindvall, School Programs Associate  
Bebe Alexander, Ceramics Coordinator

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Amber Gale, Box Office Manager  
Michelle Peterson, Volunteer Services &  
Accessibility Mgr.  
Krishna Lund-Brown, Asst. House Manager  
Audience Services Representatives:  
Victoria Gardner, Rebecka Lovisone,  
Gabriel Morales, Lorene Peters,  
Jeff Smith  
Daniel Eltzroth, Senior Audience Services  
Representative

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Patty Carrico, Interim Facilities Manager  
David Crespin, Maintenance, Leadworker

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Audience Services  
Sarah Kolb, Digital Communications Mgr.  
Pierce Murphy, Creative Content Designer  
Collin Sanders, Videographer

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Collin Parson, Director of Galleries & Curator  
Emily Grace King, Galleries Exhibition Manager  
& Associate Curator

### PERFORMING ARTS

Lynne Collins, Artistic Director of Plays  
Lisa Hoffman, Artistic Associate  
Jacob Kenworthy, Dir. of Production  
Elizabeth Jamison, Production Manager  
Brian Mallgrave, Director of Scenic Design  
Korri Marshall, Lead Scenic Artist  
Grant Evenson, Audio Director  
Jon Olson, Lighting Director  
Lucy Imel, Master Electrician  
Melissa Green, Properties Shop Manager  
Jalana Sloatman, Asst. Prop Shop Mgr.  
Sarah Stark, Costume Shop Manager  
Crystal McKenzie, Asst. Costume Shop Mgr.  
Samantha R De La Fuente- Meche,  
Costume Shop Lead  
Nick Cimyotte, Technical Director  
David Cimyotte, House Foreman  
Tim Krueger, Shop Foreman  
Ally Lacey-Kachelmeier, Lead Carpenter  
JC Williams, Black Box Lead Stage Hand

### PHILANTHROPY

Jarrold Markman, Annual Giving Manager  
Kathy Blegen-Huntley, Corporate  
Relations Manager  
Leslie Simon, Content and Grant Writer  
Sophia Koop, Donor Stewardship &  
Database Coordinator  
Kayley Hill, Development Assistant

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## SPECIAL THANKS

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# THE RIVER BRIDE

## PRODUCTION STAFF

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Philip C. Sneed, President and CEO

### ARTISTIC

Lynne Collins, Artistic Director  
Lisa Hoffman, Artistic Associate  
Brian Mallgrave, Director of Scenic Design  
Philip Ambrose, Portuguese Consultant

### PRODUCTION

Jacob Kenworthy, Director of Production  
Elizabeth Jamison, Production Manager  
Christine Rose Moore\*, Production Stage  
Manager  
Melissa J Michelson\*, Asst Stage Manager  
Cal Meakins, Covid Safety Manager

### SCENE SHOP

Nick Cimyotte, Technical Director  
David Cimyotte, House Foreman  
Tim Krueger, Shop Foreman  
Korri Marshall, Lead Scenic Artist  
Ally Lacey-Kachelmeier, Lead Carpenter  
S. Layne Ely, Scenic Carpenter/  
Scenic Painter  
Matt Granelli, Scenic Carpenter  
Taber Lathrop, Scenic Carpenter  
Kenneth Stark, Scenic Carpenter  
Joel Adam Chavez, Scenic Artist  
J.C. Williams, Black Box Lead Stage Hand

### PROP SHOP

Melissa Green, Prop Shop Manager  
Jalana Sloatman, Assistant Prop Shop  
Manager  
Ryan Rouillard, Props Artisan

### COSTUME SHOP AND WARDROBE

Sarah Stark, Costume Shop Manager  
Crystal McKenzie, Assistant Costume  
Shop Manager  
Samantha R. De La Fuente-Meche,  
Costume Shop Lead  
Jessie Page, Wardrobe Supervisor  
Anneke Ciup, Wardrobe Supervisor  
Jonathan Kimbell, Stitcher  
Faylo Kennedy, Stitcher  
Olivia Murrow, Costume Crafts  
Megan O'Connor, Wig Master  
Nicole Watts, Costume Design Assistant/  
Artisan

### ELECTRICS

Jon Olson, Lighting Director  
Lucy Imel, Master Electrician  
Riley Nicole, Master Electrician  
Calli Lavarney, Electrician  
Connor Baker, Electrician

### SOUND

Grant Evenson, Audio Director  
Morgan McCauley, Audio Engineer

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ON THIS PRODUCTION, the Arvada Center Theatre's production staff and crew have created or coordinated all elements of set, lighting, props, sound, and costumes.

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**Save the Date!**

**April 15**

★ ★ 2 0 2 3 ★ ★

From ballgowns to ballcaps, we hope to see your creative attire for a grand-slam evening including cocktails, dinner, and the ball-tossing, base-sliding, high-energy musical, *Damn Yankees*. Mark your calendars to join us at the 2nd annual Arts for All Gala on Saturday, April 15, 2023. You will enjoy a baseball-themed evening celebrating a great American musical and raising funds for arts education programming, as well as our theatre and gallery offerings.

Help us hit a fundraising homerun!

**TICKETS ON SALE SEPTEMBER 23**