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### **San Diego Theatres Unite for World Premiere Play Exploring Neurodiversity**

MOXIE and TuYo Theatres present the **World Premiere** live co-production of the new play ***Sapience* by Diana Burbano** from **January 26 - February 20, 2022, with a Press Opening on January 28, 2022**, at MOXIE Theatre. MOXIE will require proof of vaccination, masks and is reducing audience capacity to 50% for this production. ***Sapience*** is an imaginative play that explores how we communicate and invites audiences to experience theatre in a new way. The production marks director **Vanessa Duron's MOXIE directorial debut, who is also stepping into the role of Miri in the production.** Alongside Duron will be MOXIE Founding Artistic Director, Delicia Turner Sonnenberg, as Artistic Mentor on the production, and Inclusion Specialist, Samantha Ginn, who will provide additional support to Neurodiverse members of the cast and help create a completely sensory-friendly experience for the entire run of the production. MOXIE and TuYo are also proud to partner with Autism Society San Diego who will be participating in post-show workshops following each performance.

*Sapience* explores the story of Elsa, a Latinx Primatologist, who has a secret that's becoming harder to keep since she's been working with an orangutan named Wookie. Elsa hopes to prove she can train Wookie to speak a human language, but when Elsa's teenage nephew, A.J., who is on the Autism spectrum, also develops a relationship with Wookie, Elsa's worldview explodes. ***Sapience*** explores communication through the lens of verbal vs. non-verbal, human vs. animal, and Spanish vs. English in a groundbreaking and imaginative story about how we communicate and seek to be understood.

Following each performance, audiences will be invited to participate in an educational workshop designed in close collaboration with ***Sapience*** production partners at Autism Society San Diego. The workshop will build upon the themes of the show and allow guests to foster an appreciation for how community and culture are strengthened by different ways of thinking and enriched when we lift the voices of Neurodiverse individuals, Latinx people, and Spanish-speaking people.

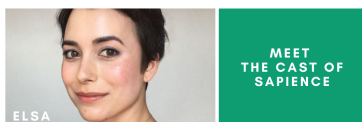
All post-show workshops, like performances, will be sensory-friendly, a unique occurrence because most theatres schedule only one or two sensory-friendly performances per production. This experience will give neurotypical guests insight into the access needs of Neurodiverse individuals and the Neurodiverse population the opportunity to participate conveniently and multiple times if they choose. It will also be an opportunity for MOXIE Theatre to build the expertise and infrastructure needed for sensory-friendly performances, which they have committed to continue offering during future productions.



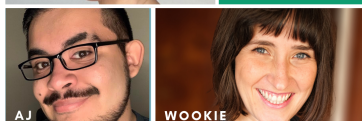
**Diana Burbano (Playwright)** is a Colombian immigrant, a playwright, an Equity actor, and a teaching artist at Breath of Fire Latina Theatre Ensemble and South Coast Repertory. Diana's play *Ghosts of Bogota*, won the Nu Voices festival at Actors Theatre of Charlotte in 2019 where it will be produced in 2022. *Ghosts* was commissioned and debuted at Alter Theater in the Bay Area in Feb 2020. *Fabulous Monsters*, a Kilroys selection, was to premiere at Playwrights Arena in 2020 (postponed). She is in the Geffen's Writers Lab in 20-21 and was in Center Theatre Group's 2018-19 Writers Workshop cohort. She is under or has completed commissions for Artists Repertory Theatre, Latino Theatre Company, Center Theatre Group, Lower Depths Ensemble and Livermore Shakespeare Festival. Diana recently played Leona in Brian Quijada's *Somewhere Over The Border* online at Arizona Theatre Company. You can also see her as Viv the Punk in the cult musical *Isle of Lesbos*. She is the current Dramatists Guild Rep for Southern California.



**Vanessa Duron (Director/Miri)** is a local San Diego actor/director/writer and producer. She graduated from San Diego State University with a BA in theatre. Vanessa is a strong advocate for POC theatre and mental illness awareness. Vanessa has experience working as an artist at MOXIE Theatre, Tuyo Theatre, Blindspot Collective, Trinity Theatre, Stagehouse Theatre and as an Assistant Producer for the Latinx New Play Festival at the San Diego REP and Co-Producer for *Recover-Me*. She's both performed and directed at the San Diego County Fair and has written for and acted for an international theatre in Lima, Peru, Teatro Taripay Pacha. Vanessa is also a proud member of Amigos del REP. Vanessa is excited and humbled to be a part of a group of women who are empowering, brave and resilient.



The cast for ***Sapience*** includes Mariel León as Elsa, Enrique Xavier Martinez as AJ, Nancy Ross as Wookie, Vanessa Duron as Miri, and Alexander Guzman as Jason.



The ***Sapience*** creative team includes Production Stage Management by Jessamyn Foster, Scenic Design by Adam Parrocha, Costume Design by Faith A. James, Lighting Design by Colby Freel, Sound Design by Mason Pilevsky, Props Design by Alyssa Kane, Assistant Stage Management by Megan Ames, and Technical Direction by Robert Malave and Scenic Painting by Julie Lorenz.





## FACTS

- WHO:** MOXIE Theatre [www.moxietheatre.com](http://www.moxietheatre.com) or Box Office: 858-598-7620  
TuYo Theatre [www.tuyotheatre.org](http://www.tuyotheatre.org)  
Autism Society San Diego [www.autismsocietysandiego.org](http://www.autismsocietysandiego.org)
- WHAT:** A sensory-friendly World Premiere production of **Sapience** by Diana Burbano
- WHEN:** January 26 - February 20, 2022, Wed\*-Thurs @7:30PM, Fri-Sat @8pm, Sun @2pm  
\*Please note there is only one Wednesday performance during the production on Jan 26
- WHERE:** MOXIE Theatre 6663 El Cajon Blvd Suite N, San Diego, CA 92115
- HOW:** Proof of Vaccination against COVID-19 OR Proof of a Negative Covid-19 PCR Test before entering the theatre. Additionally, masks are required for ALL guests as now recommended by San Diego County and the CDC.
- PRICING:** \$37- General Adult - \$35 - General Senior  
\$15- Rush Tickets - 1 Hour Before Performance - Limited Availability  
Please contact MOXIE to inquire about pricing.



MOXIE Theatre's mission is to create more diverse and honest images of women+ for our culture using the intimate art of theatre.



TuYo Theatre's mission is to create and produce theatre in the San Diego area that tells stories from and by diverse Latinx perspectives.



The Autism Society San Diego serves as the voice and resource of the local autism community. The Society members include autistic individuals and their parents, relatives, friends, advocates, medical professionals and educators throughout San Diego County and beyond.

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