



**Written By: Shannon R. Davis, Anne Kobari, Steven Flores,  
R. Réal Vargas Alanis, Freddy Gutierrez**

**August 19, 2022 at 7PM PST  
@ Theatre of Yugen  
2840 Mariposa St, San Francisco, CA 94110**

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**August 21, 2022 at 7PM PST  
@ Cal Shakes' Bruns Amphitheater  
100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda, CA 94563**



**Taquiza catered by Sexii Tacos at Cal Shakes**

*We would like to acknowledge the Ramaytush Ohlone people, who are the traditional custodians of this land. We pay our respects to the Ramaytush Ohlone elders, past, present, and future who call this place, the land that we sit upon, their home. We are proud to continue their tradition of coming together and growing as a community. We thank the Ramaytush Ohlone community for their stewardship and support, and we look forward to strengthening our ties as we continue our relationship of mutual respect and understanding. Support local land rematriation efforts: Pay the Yunakin Land Tax to support the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone: [www.ramaytush.org/donate.html](http://www.ramaytush.org/donate.html)*

**Produced and Presented by Theatre of Yugen in Association with In The Margin**

**SUPPORTED BY:**



## Director's Note

BRAIDED began as an idea in 2018, discussed over tea in the Mission. One of us, a descendant of a WWII Native Army Airforce decoder stationed in Japan; the other of interned Japanese Americans. We pondered - what if we are healing our ancestors' trauma and pain by sitting here and chatting over tea and scones? What if we could heal backwards through time, and right past hurt and injustices with our mere existence together? Bring them joy on the other side. What if we made a show about it?! Yugen wrote and secured an NEA grant to explore the idea. Rainin Foundation matched it! Yugen enlisted local Indigenous playwright/artists: Steven Flores, R. Réal Vargas Alanis, Freddy Gutierrez, and myself. After meeting Anne Yumi Kobori through participation in an "Undoing Racism" workshop, where Kobori discussed her family's internment during World War II, our writing quintet was formed. BRAIDED explores the intersections of the Native American and Japanese American experiences through storytelling, movement, sound, and absolute absurdity.

Four years and many covid delays later, I'm happy to finally share our staged reading of BRAIDED with you. Maybe one day we'll get that fully-staged, million dollar, Broadway production you'll hear dreamed up in our stage directions. But for now, your imaginations are our canvases. Our voices are your paints. Let's create some art together.

Shannon R. Davis



**Theatre of Yugen** is an innovative theatre ensemble that is rooted in Noh drama and Kyogen comedy, the oldest continuous theatre traditions of Japan. Fusing contemporary and classical materials, we create and offer intercultural theatrical experiences that engage and inspire diverse peoples in the San Francisco Bay Area and the world. [www.theatreofyugen.org](http://www.theatreofyugen.org)



**IN THE MARGIN** seeks to break patterns and cycles of harm individually, collectively, and globally to carve capacity for the ever-evolving forms of storytelling that inspire a radically inclusive, equitable, accessible, intersectional, and just future. For more information, visit [www.inthemargin.org](http://www.inthemargin.org)



**California Shakespeare Theater** Redefines the classical theater for the 21st Century, making works of extraordinary artistry that engage with our contemporary moment so we might learn about ourselves and each other in the fullness of our world. There are three pillars of our work: MAKE, LEARN, ENGAGE. <https://calshakes.org>

# Braided

## CAST

Steven Flores  
Anne Yumi Kobori  
R. Réal Vargas Alanis  
Ron Munekawa  
Aureen Almario  
Matt Kizer  
Freddy Guitierrez

NOLAN  
MEI DOI  
CEDAR  
OJICHAN  
SWEETGRASS  
TOBACCO  
BRIAN

## CREATIVE / PRODUCTION TEAM

Shannon R. Davis	Director / Lead Writer / Producer
Steven Flores	Lead Writer / Actor
Anne Yumi Kobori	Co-Writer / Actor
R. Réal Vargas Alanis	Co-Writer / Actor / Co-Producer / Associate Director
Freddy Guitierrez	Co-Writer / Consultant
Pano Roditis	Stage Manager
Dave Ragaza	Lighting Designer
Carlos Aguiree	Sound / Live Performer
Sonia Álvarez	Co-Producer
Roberto Hernandez	Graphics Design
Whitney M. Reed	Urban Window-Marketing Consultant
Eleanor Hobson	Social Media Coordinator
W. Fran Astorga	Program Design
Kyoko Yoshida	Co-Producer
Miwa Kaneko	Co-Producer

## Theatre of Yugen

Kyoko Yoshida	Co-Director
Miwa Kaneko	Co-Director
Shannon R. Davis	Artistic Associate
Grisel Torres	Interim Technical Director
Crystal Liu	Technical Staff
Saoirse Weaver	Technical Staff
Harrison Moye	Technical Consultant

Board of Directors: Haruko DeArth, President; Nina Bazan-Sakamoto, Secretary; Mariko Grady, Treasurer; Jock Walker; Kyoko Yoshida; Yuriko Doi

## In the Margin

R. Réal Vargas Alanis	Artistic Director
Sonia Álvarez	Artistic Producer
W. Fran Astorga	Core Leader
Amber B. Ball	Core Leader
Edgar Alamo	Core Leader

## CAL SHAKES

LeeAnn Dowd	Artistic Producer
Haley Miller	Production Manager
Jesse Guzman	Marketing and Communication Manager

### ***Special Thanks to:***

***Z Space, Ty Defoe, Joshua Zatkin-Steres, Yuriko Doi,  
Carla C. Correo, Nick Ishimaru, Lluís Valls, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley,  
Bindlestiff Studio, California Shakespeare Theater (Cal Shakes)***

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Thank you!