

Immediate release:
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Brava! for Women in the Arts presents
Vanessa Sanchez and La Mezcla in

Pachuquismo



Friday, October 18 & Saturday, October 19 at 8pm

Brava Theater Center
2781 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110
brava.org

[Click here to view a clip of Pachuquismo](#)

Brava presents the evening-length production, *Pachuquismo*, directed, choreographed and conceived by Vanessa Sanchez. *Pachuquismo* merges tap and zapateado (a dance form associated with Son Jarocho music from Veracruz). The combination of the two percussive styles of dance offer a unique and illuminating container to reflect Chicana and Pachuca culture as well as the history of the Zoot Suit Riots told from a female perspective. Featuring Chicana poly-rhythms, live music, and video, *Pachuquismo* explores the role of the Pachuca – the lesser explored female style makers of the Zoot Suit movement of the 1940's, while examining systemic racism and the struggles communities of color continue to face today. Sanchez is one of 31 artists from around the country to be chosen for the inaugural class of the Dance/USA Artist Fellows. This year, Sanchez was also selected by New England Foundation for the Arts National Dance Project to tour *Pachuquismo*. Her work has been called “complex” and “graceful”.

The story is told through all-female cast of dancers and musicians, using a layered rhythmic dialogue and folkloric music from Veracruz to mirror the cultural fusion of Mexican traditions and American societal norms. Elaborate tap footwork is paired with traditional instruments to create a new narrative around the Chicana experience. With the backdrop of the Zoot Suit Riots, the work acknowledges the significance of the Zoot Suit in the 1940's. By pulling the narrative out of the male-centered context,

Pachuquismo challenges gender roles and offers a more complete history of Mexican-American culture in the 1940s.

Dates / Times

Friday, October 18 at 8pm – this performance is followed by a reception that is free to all ticket holders
Saturday, October 19 at 8pm – pre-show reception and post-show Q & A

Tickets

\$35 orchestra

\$25 mezzanine

Available in advance at brava.org

Vanessa Sanchez is a Chicana Native dancer, educator and choreographer who focuses on community arts education and multi-cultural dance forms. Her work often takes percussive art forms out of their traditional context to create dialogue in a new setting, using percussion as the language to tell a story while fusing various dance styles to address the complexities of contemporary culture. She holds a degree in Dance and Education from San Francisco State University and continues to train with master dance and music artists in the Bay Area and beyond. As a dedicated and experienced arts educator in the Latinx community, she works to ensure accessibility to quality arts training and performances. Sanchez is a San Francisco Bay Area native and the Founding Artistic Director of the multi-disciplinary performance ensemble, La Mezcla. Her work has been shown on stages throughout the United States, Mexico and Portugal. Sanchez has held residencies at EastSide Arts Alliance, Dance Mission Theater and Brava! for Women in the Arts, is a 2019 Dance/USA Artist Fellow and the recipient of the New England Foundation for the Arts National Dance Production Grant. For more information, visit VanessaSanchez.net.

La Mezcla is a dance and music ensemble whose work focuses on cross-cultural rhythmic collaborations that are rooted in folkloric tradition and social justice. Made up of artists of color, the current work uses live music, percussion, tap dance and Mexican zapateado to explore cultural identity and systemic racism.

Founded by choreographer and educator Vanessa Sanchez, La Mezcla works to provide a platform for the traditions and untold stories of communities of color. La Mezcla has performed at events including CubaCaribe, Dance Brigade's SummerFeast, Brava Theater's Baile en la Calle and was featured in CSU Channel Island's "Pachuquisma Symposium."