

# InsideOUT

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Denver Center  
Theatre Company  
KENT THOMPSON  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



**AMERICAN  
NIGHT**  
THE BALLAD OF  
JUAN JOSÉ

*American Night*  
By Richard Montoya  
Developed by Culture Clash  
and Jo Bonney

2011/12  
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# InsideOUT

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# Synopsis

Juan José is studying the night before his naturalization test to become a United States citizen, and his dreams take him on a rollercoaster ride through American history. He finds himself at the 1848 signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ends the Mexican-American War and grants the land from California to Texas to the United States. He meets Lewis, Clark and Sacagawea on their exploration of the northwest. In 1918 West Texas he joins an African American nurse, a Ku Klux Klan member and some special visitors from across the Rio Grande. He visits a World War II internment camp for Japanese Americans. A lively town hall meeting brings together 1930s union leader Harry Bridges, some Tea Partiers and several immigration officials. Swirling through visions of Fidel Castro and George Washington, Juan José ends up on a Japanese version of the game show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* Finally, after floating adrift on the Gulf Stream, he arrives at his naturalization test. ■

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# TIMELINE

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- 1519-1521: Cortés conquers Aztec Mexico
- 1776: American Declaration of Independence
- 1776-1781: American Revolutionary War
- 1787: Constitution of the United States of America
- 1789-1797: Presidency of George Washington
- 1803: Louisiana Purchase
- 1804-1806: Lewis and Clark's expedition
- 1830: *Book of Mormon* published
- 1836: Siege of the Alamo
- 1845-1849: Presidency of James Knox Polk
- 1846-1847: Donner Party
- 1846-1848: Mexican-American War
- 1848: Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- 1848: *Communist Manifesto* published
- 1865: Ku Klux Klan founded
- 1876: Battle of Little Big Horn
- 1901-1909: Presidency of Teddy Roosevelt
- 1910-1920: Mexican Revolution
- 1918: Spanish Flu pandemic
- 1933-1945: Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt
- 1934: West Coast Waterfront Strike
- 1939-1945: World War II
- 1941: Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor
- 1942-1945: Japanese American relocation camps
- 1942-1964: Bracero Program
- 1947-1956: Jackie Robinson plays for the Brooklyn Dodgers
- 1952: Church of Scientology incorporated
- 1955: Murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till
- 1959: Fidel Castro rises to power in Cuba
- 1965: Malcolm X assassinated

1968: Assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr.  
1969: Woodstock Music Festival  
1994: North American Free Trade Agreement  
1998: “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?” debuts  
2001: September 11 terrorist attack  
2008: Polygamous religious compound searched  
2008: Emergence of the Tea Party  
2008: Death of Marcelo Lucero  
2009: Inauguration of President Barack Obama  
2009: N1H1 flu pandemic  
2009: Underwear bomber  
2010: President Obama signs health care reform into law  
2010: Ground Zero mosque controversy

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# NATURALIZATION TEST

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**T**he U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office administers a naturalization test to persons applying for United States citizenship. There are 100 possible questions, from which ten are drawn for each person's test. Some questions have more than one possible answer; any is considered correct. At least six correct answers constitute a passing score. Questions are drawn from three categories: government, history and integrated civics. Naturalization tests may include questions such as these:

What is the name of the President of the United States now?

What is one reason colonists came to America?

The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

Who makes federal laws?

Who signs bills to become laws?

How many amendments does the Constitution have?

Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.

What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?

What is the economic system in the United States?

What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?

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# LEWIS, CLARK AND SACAGAWEA

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Facing renewed war with Great Britain and therefore seeking both an American ally and much-needed funds, French emperor Napoleon sold the Louisiana Purchase to the United States in 1803. This vaguely defined real estate included the port of New Orleans and the massive Mississippi River valley stretching from the Gulf of Mexico into the unknown center of the North American continent (including all or part of present-day Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana, as well as small parts of the Canadian provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan).

President Thomas Jefferson decided to send an expedition of explorers into the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase and beyond, into Oregon Territory (which did not become part of the United States until 1846). Their mission was to follow the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains, cross the Continental Divide and then follow the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean.

Captain Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809) had served in the American military along the frontier until appointed to the position of private secretary by his friend Thomas Jefferson, newly elected president of the United States. Jefferson then chose Lewis to lead the expedition; Lewis invited Captain William Clark (1770-1838), whose older brother George had been a general in the American Revolution, to join him as joint commander.

In early 1804, Lewis, Clark and company left St. Louis, Missouri, following the Missouri River to North Dakota, where they wintered. Lewis and Clark engaged a French Canadian trapper named Toussaint Charbonneau as an interpreter, with the understanding that his wife Sacagawea would accompany the expedition to interpret when they encountered various Native American tribes. The daughter of a Shoshone chief, Sacagawea (born in 1888 or 1890) had been kidnapped as a child and later sold to Charbonneau in North Dakota. She gave birth to her first child, Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, soon before the expedition began; she carried her infant son on a cradleboard as they traveled. The presence of a woman and infant in the party helped proclaim the peaceful intentions of the band of explorers. As the group bartered with a Shoshone tribe for horses, they discovered that the chief was Sacagawea's brother, who had become chief upon their father's death. In 1805 the party successfully crossed the Rocky Mountains and canoed the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean. In November 1805 Lewis and Clark thus became the first white Americans to cross the North American

continent to the Pacific. Abandoning the original plan to return by ship, they again crossed overland, reaching St. Louis in September 1806.

After their famous expedition, Meriwether Lewis became governor of Louisiana Territory; William Clark served as superintendent of Indian affairs at St. Louis. Lewis died in Tennessee in 1809, probably from self-inflicted gunshots; his gravesite is now part of the Meriwether Lewis State Park. Sacagawea's end is unknown. She had a daughter in 1810, and some evidence indicates that she died in an epidemic in 1812; however, oral traditions among the Native Americans assert that Sacagawea returned to her Shoshone tribe and lived until 1884. Clark became the legal guardian of both her children in 1813. Clark fought in the War of 1812; afterward, he continued his work with Indian affairs. Clark died in St. Louis in 1838. In 2000 the United States began minting dollar coins featuring Sacagawea carrying her infant son.

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# THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

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**T**he Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized in New York in 1830 by Joseph Smith (1805-1844). Smith's religious experiences in the 1820s had led him to compile the *Book of Mormon*, describing a tribe of people (the Lamanites) who had immigrated to the Western Hemisphere from Jerusalem and the Christian gospel revealed by Jesus Christ to these New World disciples. The community of Mormons that developed around Smith moved to Ohio, then Missouri, then Illinois, where Smith was murdered by an opponent of the church in 1844. In 1846-1847, new Mormon leader Brigham Young (1801-1877) led the migration of most church members beyond the borders of the United States to the Salt Lake Valley, where they founded Salt Lake City and many other communities. Over several years, more and more Mormon pioneers chose to embark on the dangerous months-long trek west to Utah. Young became the first territorial governor of Utah in 1851 and founded the University of Utah in 1850 and Brigham Young University in 1875; he also sent Mormon missionaries to Europe, Asia and South America.

Missions are an integral part of Mormonism, which includes a mandate to proclaim the restored gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of all nations. Traditionally missionaries, young men around age 20 who serve for two years, go forth in pairs to serve an assigned geographic area, finding and teaching interested people about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Throughout Mormon history, more than one million missionaries have served; there are currently about 50,000 missionaries working worldwide. Twenty years ago the Mormon Church began deploying Spanish-speaking missionaries; Latinos, believed to be descended from the Lamanites, constitute the fastest growing demographic of Mormon converts. Since 2000, the number of Spanish-speaking LDS congregations has grown by 90%.

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# THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR

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**M**any Americans settled in the Mexican territory of Texas in the 1820s and took part in the Texas Revolution in 1835-1836. One of the most-remembered battles of Texas's war of independence occurred at the Alamo in San Antonio. Mexican forces led by General Santa Ana laid siege to the fort from February 23 to March 6, 1836. The Texan forces did not surrender, but only two men out of 200 survived. Cries of "Remember the Alamo" spurred Texans to victory over Santa Ana in the Battle of San Jacinto in April 1836; Santa Ana signed the Treaty of Velasco, granting Texan independence. The new Republic of Texas received official recognition from the United States and several other countries, but Mexico refused, declaring that Santa Ana did not have the authority to sign treaties. In 1845 the United States annexed Texas, which became the 28th state. Still considering Texas a Mexican territory, the Mexican government removed its ambassador from Washington, D.C., and cut off diplomatic relations with the United States. Both governments had troops stationed in Texas, and each government considered the other country's military presence there an invasion of its own territory. Tension between the United States and Mexico boiled over, resulting in the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848.

Approximately 11,000 American soldiers died during the war, mostly from yellow fever, dysentery and other diseases. Considering that the American military force involved in the Mexican-American War was only around 100,000 strong, the rate of mortality was the worst of any American war. In addition, technological advances in the 1830s made the Mexican-American War the first to be photographed and widely publicized in the mass media. A few prominent Americans, including Henry David Thoreau and Frederick Douglass, spoke against the war. Saint Patrick's Battalion (the San Patricios) was a unit of a few hundred immigrants who deserted or defected from the U.S. Army to fight on the side of their fellow Catholics in the Mexican military. Decades later, former President Ulysses S. Grant, who had fought in the Mexican-American War as a young man, declared it "the most unjust war ever undertaken by a stronger nation against a weaker one."

By late 1847, American forces had captured Mexico City. Santa Ana (who had been elected president in December 1846) resigned, and the new Mexican government began peace negotiations with American representative Nicholas Trist (1800-1874). Trist had been appointed by President James Polk in April 1847, although disagreements led Polk to order Trist's return to Washington, D.C. that

October. Trist boldly refused orders to leave Mexico and continued to negotiate peace with the Mexican government's representatives, including Don Bernardo Couto and Don Luis Gonzaga Cuevas. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed at the Cathedral of Guadalupe in the city of Hidalgo, north of Mexico City, on February 2, 1848. Polk accepted the treaty on its own merits, but fired Trist anyway and refused to pay his wages past October 1847.

In the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico was forced to recognize Texas as part of the United States and to cede further territory, including all of California, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico, as well as the Oklahoma Panhandle and parts of Colorado and Wyoming – in other words, all territory north of the Rio Grande and south of Oregon, from America's previously acquired Louisiana Territory to the Pacific Ocean. The United States thus achieved its "Manifest Destiny," the expansionist belief in the nation's divine right to stretch across the North American continent, acquiring and settling all territory between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean. In return for these territories, the United States gave Mexico \$15 million and promised citizenship and protection to the Mexican people living in these ceded territories.

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# THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION

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**T**he Mexican Revolution (1910-1920) was sparked by revolt against President Porfirio Díaz, who had taken office in 1876 and initially declared that no president should serve consecutive terms. However, he violated his own policy and won successive elections, gradually becoming the dictator he'd warned against. When Díaz ran for re-election to the presidency in 1910, he faced serious competition from Francisco Madero and even had Madero jailed on election day. Díaz was declared the winner by a landslide, but this obvious lie was for many Mexicans the last straw and the impetus for the Mexican Revolution. Pancho Villa (1878-1923) and Emiliano Zapata (1879-1919) led peasant armies against Díaz's federal army, Villa in the north and Zapata in the south. Madero called for a new election in late 1911, which he won easily; however, he was assassinated in 1913. General Victoriano Huerta then took power, although incoming American president Woodrow Wilson refused to recognize Huerta's government. With the secret support of the United States, Venustiano Carranza led the opposition to Huerta; Villa, Zapata and Alvaro Obregón fought with him. However, when Carranza became president in 1914, Villa opposed him. In the winter of 1914-1915, Villa and Zapata's troops entered and occupied Mexico City; later in 1915, Obregón defeated Villa.

Incensed that the United States had officially recognized Carranza's government, Villa led a raid into New Mexico in 1916, killing 16 Americans. To fight Villa, President Wilson sent American troops under General John "Blackjack" Pershing (who would lead the American Expeditionary Forces sent to Europe in World War I the following year). However, the Mexican government protested the entry of American troops into Mexico; Pershing was thus unable to pursue and capture Villa. Carranza's supporters ambushed and assassinated Zapata in 1919. The next year, Carranza himself was overthrown and assassinated; his former general Obregón assumed the presidency. Obregón and Villa soon reached an agreement in 1920, effectively ending the war.

Villa was assassinated in 1923, presumably to prevent his running for president. More than two million people died in the Mexican Revolution.

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# HARRY BRIDGES

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An Australian immigrant, Harry Bridges (1901-1990) reached San Francisco in 1920, helped form the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and led the union for more than 40 years. In 1934 he represented the union in negotiations surrounding the 83-day West Coast Waterfront Strike. Tensions were highest in San Francisco on Bloody Thursday, July 5, as police shot tear gas canisters and charged the crowd; three longshoremen were shot and two died. Thousands marched in the following day's funeral procession, and the San Francisco Labor Council called for a general strike, immobilizing the city for four days. San Francisco's mayor declared a state of emergency, and general strikes were threatened in Portland and Seattle. After the strike, all west coast ports of the United States (including Alaska and Hawaii) were unionized and working conditions improved. ILWU continues to commemorate Bloody Thursday by shutting down all west coast ports every year on July 5.

Decades ahead in racial integration, Bridges made ILWU membership open to anyone regardless of race, nationality or belief. In his more than 40 years as leader of the ILWU, Bridges never took a salary higher than that of the highest-paid member of his union. Never a member of the Communist Party, Bridges nonetheless declared himself a Marxist. Throughout the 1930s and into the 1950s, the FBI attempted multiple times to have Bridges deported on grounds that he was an undesirable alien and a Communist. During World War II he promoted a no-strike policy to keep up productivity for the American and Soviet war effort against Nazi Germany. In the Cold War that followed, however, Bridges' Communist leanings rekindled the American government's efforts to deport him. In 1958 Bridges married Noriko Sawada, a Japanese American who had been in a Californian internment camp as a young woman during World War II. Their Nevada marriage license had initially been denied due to Ms. Sawada's ethnicity; a few months later, Nevada repealed its laws against mixed-race marriages.

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# MANZANAR WAR RELOCATION CENTER

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In February 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which authorized the Secretary of War to establish military areas and to remove from those areas anyone who might threaten the war effort. Though the order did not specify any ethnicity, its effect was to relocate anyone of Japanese ancestry from the west coast. No Japanese Americans were charged with espionage, but the attack on Pearl Harbor had caused widespread distrust of Japanese Americans' loyalty to their new country. Without knowing where they were going or for how long, Japanese American citizens and Japanese resident aliens received only a few days notice to make arrangements for or dispose of all personal property they could not carry; they were then transported under military guard to 17 temporary assembly centers. By November 1942, ten internment camps had been built, and the relocation of 110,000-120,000 Japanese citizens and residents was complete. The ten camps were located in seven states: California (Manzanar and Tule Lake), Idaho (Minidoka), Wyoming (Heart Mountain), Colorado (Granada), Utah (Topaz), Arizona (Gila River and Poston) and Arkansas (Jerome and Rohwer).

The Manzanar War Relocation Center was located in southern California's Owens Valley, between the Sierra Nevada and the Inyo Mountains. ("Manzanar" is Spanish for "apple orchard.") By September 1942, Camp Manzanar was home to more than 10,000 Japanese Americans. Two-thirds of them were American citizens; many others had lived in the United States for decades. Each 20x25-foot room was shared by eight people; between 200 and 400 people shared each mess hall, laundry room, restroom and shower facility. Summer temperatures reached 110 degrees Fahrenheit; winter temperatures plunged below freezing.

The 500-acre housing section (fenced and guarded by military police) was surrounded by 5,500 acres including agricultural fields, a reservoir, a sewage treatment facility and military police housing. Many internees worked in the fields; others manufactured goods for the use of the internees or the military; still others were teachers, doctors, mess-hall workers, police and firefighters. The new residents of Manzanar also organized temples and churches, youth clubs, sports and other recreational programs. Many helped create a consumer cooperative that ran a general store and a bank and published the *Manzanar Free Press* (initially entirely in English, then with a committee-approved Japanese-language supplement for the first-generation immigrants who were more at ease with Japanese than English).

The internment of Japanese Americans inspired resistance both within and outside the Japanese community. Tensions broke out inside Camp

Manzanar; two people were killed and ten injured by military police during the Manzanar Riot in December 1942. Immediately upon hearing of executive order 9066, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) mobilized. This Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) organization works for peace and justice in the United States and around the world and had previously worked to ease resentment and promote understanding between the American and Japanese cultures in the wake of the Japanese exclusion clause in the Immigration Act of 1924.

Its members provided much support to the Japanese Americans during their internment, starting at the 17 temporary facilities before the ten camps were even built. These Quakers frequently visited the camps, and some even lived in the camps for a time. Several had served as missionaries in Japan and used their language skills to assist the elder Japanese Americans, who often had minimal English fluency. The AFSC and other organizations began programs to remove Japanese Americans from the camps to schools or communities in the Midwest or in eastern states, where they could continue their studies or look for work.

About 5,000 Japanese Americans were serving the U.S. Army at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. The next month, however, the Selective Services reclassified Japanese Americans as enemy aliens and stopped drafting them. In 1943 Manzanar internees were asked to answer a loyalty questionnaire: would they serve in combat, and would they swear unqualified allegiance to the United States? Many said they would not, because they were not allowed to become citizens or because they and their families were behind barbed wire. Those who answered yes became eligible for leave; those who said no were sent to a segregation center at Tule Lake, California. By January 1944, Japanese Americans were again being drafted. The U.S. Army had formed the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated unit for Japanese Americans that fought with distinction in North Africa, France and Italy.

In August 1944, Manzanar's newly built auditorium hosted a memorial service for Pfc. Frank Arikawa, killed while serving in Italy. The only Japanese American awarded the Medal of Honor during World War II, Sadao Munemori, had volunteered for the Army in 1942 and died in Italy in 1945; during those years, his family was confined in Manzanar. Eventually, nearly 26,000 Japanese Americans served in the U.S. military during World War II.

In 1944 the Supreme Court upheld the unconstitutionality of evacuation based solely on national ancestry and ruled separately that loyal citizens cannot be held against their will. By this time, the internment camps' populations had dwindled as the war had turned in favor of the United States and many previous internees had been allowed to leave; Manzanar's population was around 6,000 that year.

The war ended in August 1945, and the final few hundred internees left Manzanar that November. Many had lived there for more than three years.

In 1988 the U.S. Civil Liberties Act granted 82,000 former internees a \$20,000 payment and an official apology signed by President George H. W. Bush.

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# YEARNING FOR ZION RANCH

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**L**ate in March 2008, a domestic violence hotline took a call that was allegedly from a 16-year-old mother and victim of domestic and sexual abuse at Texas' Yearning for Zion (YFZ) Ranch, owned by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (FLDS), a sect that removed itself from the larger Mormon Church when the latter outlawed polygamy.

The phone call, though later revealed to have been made by a local woman unaffiliated with YFZ Ranch, led Texas law enforcement and child welfare officials to evacuate more than 400 children from the ranch into the temporary custody of the state. More than 100 women voluntarily left the camp in order to accompany the children. Texas officials searched YFZ Ranch and began investigations and DNA tests to determine family relations among the children and adults living there. The case received considerable media attention and several mothers appeared on CNN's "Larry King Live." Eventually the investigations discovered 12 underage brides and mothers (in Texas, children under 17 cannot consent to sex with an adult), but in most cases, the courts declared that insufficient evidence of abuse had been produced. A year after the April 2008 raid, many of the children were back at YFZ Ranch; some families had chosen to leave the ranch for other FLDS communities. Twelve men were eventually indicted on charges including assault and bigamy.

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# MARCELO LUCERO

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**B**y 2008, 37-year-old Ecuadorian immigrant Marcelo Lucero had lived in the United States for 16 years; he worked at a Long Island dry cleaning shop and sent money home to his mother, sister and nephew in Ecuador. Just before midnight on November 7 of that year, seven teenagers surrounded Lucero and his friend near the Patchogue train station on Long Island. The Caucasian teens taunted and began beating the two Latinos. Lucero's friend was able to escape, but Lucero was not. One of the teens, Jeffrey Conroy, stabbed Lucero in the chest. The teens left Lucero bleeding and dying on the street. They later admitted to targeting Latinos regularly as a hobby they called "beaner hopping" or "Mexican hopping." After four days of deliberation, a jury acquitted Conroy of murder as a hate crime, but convicted him of first-degree manslaughter as a hate crime, of first-degree gang assault, of fourth-degree conspiracy related to Lucero's death and of attempted assault against three other Latinos (Lucero's friend, an attack earlier that night and an attack five days earlier). In May 2010, Conroy was sentenced to 25 years in prison. Four other attackers were sentenced to six or seven years each for lesser charges.

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# SHYLOCK'S SPEECH

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In Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, Shylock demands a pound of flesh from Antonio to settle a defaulted loan. Asked what good was a pound of flesh, he answers:

“To bait fish withal. If it will feed nothing else, it will feed my revenge. He hath disgraced me, and hindered me half a million, laughed at my losses, mocked at my gains, scorned my nation, thwarted my bargains, cooled my friends, heated mine enemies; and what's his reason? I am a Jew. Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer, as a Christian is? If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? And if you wrong us, shall we not revenge? If we are like you in the rest, we will resemble you in that. If a Jew wrong a Christian, what is his humility? Revenge. If a Christian wrong a Jew, what should his sufferance be by Christian example? Why, revenge. The villainy you teach me, I will execute, and it shall go hard but I will better the instruction.”

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# PEOPLE

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**Saint Adrian of Nicomedia**, patron saint of arms dealers, butchers, guards and soldiers, was an imperial guard for Roman Emperor Galerius Maximilian. He oversaw the torture of Christians before converting to Christianity himself; he was martyred in 306 CE at Nicomedia (in modern Turkey).

**Joe Arpaio** (born 1932) is the Italian American elected sheriff of Arizona's Maricopa County known for his outspoken stance against illegal immigration; he supports Arizona's 2010 Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act, which opponents insist encourages racial profiling.

**Joan Baez** (born 1941), an American folk singer and activist, performed at Woodstock in 1969 and has actively advocated for nonviolence, civil rights, human rights and the environment.

**Justin Bieber** (born 1994) is a wildly popular Canadian singer, originally discovered in 2008 via YouTube videos of his singing.

**Fidel Castro** (born 1927) is a Cuban revolutionary leader who took power in 1959.

**Hernán Cortés** (1485-1547), Spanish conquistador, conquered Mexico in 1521. He captured the Aztec capital Tenochtitlan and renamed it Mexico City.

**Celia Cruz** (1924-2003), known as the Queen of Salsa, was one of the most successful salsa singers of the 20th century. Born in Cuba, she spent much of her career living in New Jersey and working across the United States and Latin America.

**George Armstrong Custer** (1839-1876) and his troops attacked and were defeated by the Sioux and Cheyenne at the Battle of Little Big Horn in 1876.

**Bob Dylan** (born 1941) is a musician who created distinctive protest music in the 1960s; his song "Blowin' in the Wind" became an anthem of the American Civil Rights movement and anti-war protests.

**Benjamin Franklin** (1706-1790), one of the nation's Founding Fathers, published *Poor Richard's Almanac* 1732-1757, created the American Library and studied electricity in lightning.

**Mel Gibson** (born 1956) is an Australian American actor and film director. In recent years, Gibson has repeatedly made the news for using derogatory and discriminatory or inflammatory language.

**Woody Guthrie** (1912-1967) was an American folk singer and composer; he wrote "This Land Is Your Land" in 1940.

**Robert Kennedy** (1925-1968) served as U.S. attorney general for his brother President John Fitzgerald Kennedy and was assassinated in Los Angeles in 1968 during his own presidential campaign.

**Martin Luther King, Jr.** (1929-1968), leader of the American Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and was assassinated in Memphis in 1968.

**Malcolm X** (1925-1965) was a member of the Black Muslims and an activist advocating separatism and Black Pride; he was assassinated in a Manhattan auditorium during a speaking engagement.

**La Malinche** (1505?-1529?) was translator for and companion to Cortés; their children were among the first Mestizos (European and Native American mixed-race people). For helping the Spanish conquistador, she has sometimes been considered a traitor to her own nation.

**Barack Obama** (born 1961) was elected president of the United States in 2008; he campaigned for health care reform, which he signed into law in 2010.

**Sarah Palin** (born 1964) was the first woman elected governor of Alaska; she resigned that post in 2009. She was the Republican Party nominee for vice president in the 2008 election. She has provided political commentary on Fox News and hosted her own television show, "Sarah Palin's Alaska."

**Nancy Pelosi** (born 1940) is currently the minority leader in the House of Representatives, after serving from 2007 to 2011 as the Speaker of the House, the first woman to hold that position.

**Viola Pettus** (1886?-1934?) was a self-educated African American nurse in the American South; she and her husband, African American cowboy Ben Pettus, set up a tent near Marathon, Texas, where they helped treat many victims of the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic.

**James Knox Polk** (1795-1849), eleventh president of the United States (1845-1849), believed in Manifest Destiny and oversaw the United States' expansion west from the Louisiana Purchase all the way to California's Pacific coast at the conclusion of the Mexican-American War.

**John Reed** (1887-1920), American journalist and communist activist, wrote *Ten Days that Shook the World* after witnessing Russia's 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

**Jackie Roosevelt Robinson** (1919-1972), the first African-American baseball player in the major leagues, played second baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers from 1947 to 1956.

**Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt** (1858-1919) was the 26th president of the United States (1901-1909). A story that Roosevelt refused to shoot a young bear inspired toymakers to label stuffed animals "Teddy bears."

**Sitting Bull** (1831-1890) was the Sioux chief who led his people to victory against General Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn in 1876.

**Emmett Till** (1941-1955), an African-American 14-year-old from Chicago, was visiting relatives in Mississippi when he allegedly flirted with a white woman; this action provoked his brutal murder. His mother insisted on a public funeral and an open casket.

**George Washington** (1732-1799) was a military leader in the American Revolution and the first president of the United States (1789-1797). He owned more than 300 slaves on his Virginia estate, Mount Vernon. In a 1783 address to Irish immigrants, Washington declared, "The bosom of America is open to receive not only the Opulent and respectable Stranger, but the oppressed and persecuted of all Nations and Religions; whom we shall welcome to a participation of all our rights and privileges."

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# GLOSSARY

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**“Accentuate the Positive”:** A popular 1944 song by Harold Arlen and Johnny Mercer.

**ADD:** Attention deficit disorder, a syndrome of disordered learning characterized by inattention, hyperactivity and/or impulsive behavior.

***Black Snake Moan:*** A 2006 movie starring Samuel L. Jackson and Christina Ricci.

**Bracero Program:** Facing a shortage of manpower during World War II, the United States government created the Bracero Program (1942-1964), by which thousands of Mexicans legally crossed the border to work in the United States.

**Calvinist:** John Calvin (1509-1564) was a French theologian during the Protestant Reformation. A neo-Calvinist movement called Christian Reconstructionism calls for theonomy, in which governments are decentralized and laws are based on Biblical principles.

**Castor oil:** Vegetable oil from the castor seed, used as laxative; also applied as skin treatment for burns, abrasions, etc.

**Chihuahua:** The largest of 31 states comprising Mexico (*los Estados Unidos de México*), Chihuahua shares borders with the Mexican states of Sonora, Sinaloa, Durango and Coahuila, as well as the two American states of Texas and New Mexico.

**Cinco de Mayo:** May 5, observed in the United States as a celebration of Mexican culture. The date originates with the unlikely victory of the Mexican army over French forces in the Battle of Puebla in 1862. Cinco de Mayo is not Mexico’s Independence Day, which is celebrated September 16.

***Communist Manifesto:*** One of the most influential political manuscripts, the *Communist Manifesto* was published by German political theorists Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in 1848.

**Deportation:** The expulsion of a person or group of people from a place. For example, foreign residents (aliens) may be deported from the United States back to their home country.

**Donner Party:** American pioneers in a wagon train to California were snowbound during the winter of 1846-1847 in the Sierra Nevada. Of 87 travelers, only 48 survived; some resorted to cannibalism, by eating the deceased.

**“Dora the Explorer:”** Seven-year-old Dora Marquez is the main character on the American animated television series “Dora the Explorer.” During the course of each episode, she introduces her viewers to the Spanish language in small words and phrases.

**Egyptian cotton:** Grown along the Nile River, Egyptian cotton grows in extra-long fibers, which are spun into very fine yarns, creating luxury cotton products that are softer and more durable than other types of cotton.

**Four Freedoms:** In his 1941 State of the Union address, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt proposed that people everywhere

in the world should enjoy freedom of speech and expression, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear.

**Free-range:** A method of animal husbandry in which animals are raised without being penned or caged.

**Gasoline rationing:** In the United States during World War II, many common items were rationed due to short supply, often due to high military demand. Rationed items included gasoline, tires, shoes, stoves, coffee, sugar and other food products.

**Google:** A widely-used internet search engine. “Google” also can be used as a verb (as in “googling”), indicating use of the Google search engine.

**Green Card:** A Green Card holder (permanent resident) is someone to whom the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office has granted authorization to live and work in the United States on a permanent basis.

**Gringo:** In Latin America, a disparaging term for a foreigner, especially an American.

**Guantánamo:** A U.S. naval station since 1902 on the island country of Cuba. Considered outside U.S. legal jurisdiction, a detention camp was established there in 2002 to hold detainees, classified as enemy combatants, from the wars in Afghanistan and later Iraq.

**Haiku:** A Japanese lyric poem with three unrhymed lines of five, seven and five syllables.

**ICE:** Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, a federal law enforcement agency under the Department of Homeland Security.

***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings:*** The 1969 autobiography of African American poet Maya Angelou, chronicling her coming of age and response to racism and prejudice.

**Jim Crow:** Derived from an 1800s minstrel song, Jim Crow was a derogatory name for an African American; segregation laws in the American South were called Jim Crow laws.

***Jerry Maguire:*** A 1996 romantic comedy film starring Tom Cruise and Renée Zellweger.

**Kamikaze:** In World War II, many Japanese pilots became suicide bombers, purposely crashing into American ships in order to die honorably and to inflict as much damage on the enemy as possible.

**Kibbutz:** A collective farm or settlement in modern Israel.

**Koran:** The Koran, or Qur’an, is the Muslim holy book.

**Lifeline:** In the television game show “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?” a contestant may request to use a lifeline, such as calling a friend or asking the audience for help with a question.

**Lime:** Calcium oxide, also called quicklime, helps hide the smell of decomposition and has thus been used historically in open burials.

**Luger:** Designed in 1898 by Georg J. Luger, the Luger pistol is a recoil-operated semi-automatic pistol.

**Mason-Dixon Line:** Originally, the survey line marked by surveyors Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon to clarify the border around Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Colloquially, the Mason-Dixon Line refers to the agreement in the 1820 Missouri

Compromise that no new state north of the 36th parallel would allow slavery.

**Mexican standoff:** A situation in which multiple combatants have drawn and aimed weapons, thus endangering anyone who makes the first move.

**NAFTA:** The North American Free Trade Agreement came into effect in 1994, reducing tariffs and otherwise easing trade relations among Canada, the United States and Mexico.

**Organic:** A growing trend in the food industry, organic food is raised naturally, without chemical injections or additives.

**Posse:** A group of people summoned by a sheriff to aid in law enforcement or to form a search party (with perhaps less than noble intentions).

**Red:** Communists, or anyone with communist leanings, were labeled “red” in 1950s America.

**Sashimi:** A Japanese dish consisting of bite-sized pieces of raw fish.

**Scientology:** Classified in some countries as a religion, Scientology is based on a set of beliefs delineated in 1953 by science fiction author L. Ron Hubbard.

**Sinaloa:** One of 31 states comprising Mexico (*los Estados Unidos de México*), Sinaloa lies along the Gulf of California and borders the Mexican states of Sonora, Chihuahua, Durango and Nayarit.

**Spanish flu:** A global flu pandemic in 1918 that claimed millions of lives. While many countries were struggling to emerge from World War I, neutral Spain was the first nation to document and publicize the disease, which therefore came to be known as the Spanish influenza.

**Stigmata:** Wounds on the wrists and feet resembling the wounds of Jesus’ crucifixion.

**Tea bagger:** A member of the Tea Party, a recent conservative movement within the Republican Party.

**Trader Joe:** A California-based chain of specialty grocery stores.

**Underwear bomber:** On Christmas Day 2009, Nigerian terrorist Umar Farouk Abdulmatallab (born 1986) attempted to detonate explosives (hidden in his underwear) while on a flight from Amsterdam to Detroit. The explosives managed only to light a small fire, and fellow passengers subdued Abdulmatallab.

**USS Utah:** An American naval battleship sunk in the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

**Walmart:** Walmart *de México y Centroamérica* operates more than 1700 stores in Mexico.

**Woodstock:** In August 1969, at a music festival billed as “An Aquarian Exposition: Three Days of Peace and Music” and held at a dairy farm near Woodstock, New York, 32 acts performed for 500,000 concertgoers.

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# SOURCES

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*Encyclopedia of Mormonism*. Macmillan: 1992. <http://lib.byu.edu/Macmillan/>

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*New Perspectives on the West*. Public Broadcasting System. <http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/>

*The U.S.-Mexican War*. Public Broadcasting System. [http://www.pbs.org/keramexicanwar/index\\_flash.html](http://www.pbs.org/keramexicanwar/index_flash.html)

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>

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# CONNECT

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A series of free discussions providing a catalyst for discussion, learning and appreciation of the productions

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**Perspectives** — Denver Center theatre Company’s own “Creative Team” and community experts host interactive, topical discussions with attendees that provide a unique perspective on the production. This provides an in-depth connection that makes the stage experience even more rewarding.

Oct 7, 6pm, Jones Theatre

**Talkbacks** — Perhaps the best way to fully appreciate a production is by engaging in a stimulating dialogue with your fellow audience members and the actors who bring it to life.

Oct 23, Post-show

**DCTC@The TC: The Art of Making Art** — Discover the secrets behind the art and the artist at the DCTC. Gain deeper insight into the artist’s journey to the creation and development of their work. Gregory Smith, Director of Audience Development for the Denver Center for the Performing arts, hosts these lively and engaging discussions with directors, writers or cast members of the current DCTC productions.

Nov 1, noon at the Tattered Cover LoDo (1628 16th St.)

**Higher Education Advisory Discussions** — Audience members gain scholarly insight into the productions through discussions, facilitated by faculty members from regional colleges and universities.

Oct 16, Post-show

**Theatre & Theology** — In our continued partnership with Pastor Dan Bollman with the Rocky Mountain Evangelical Lutheran Synod and cast members, this discussion examines the relevant connections to the productions through a theological lens.

Nov 1, Post-show

**Student Nights** — College students will enjoy a cheap night out including a Perspective, theatre ticket and a post-show mixer.

\$10 with promo code STUDENT.

Oct 4

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# QUESTIONS

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## PRE-PERFORMANCE QUESTIONS

1. What is your definition of what it means to be a United States Citizen? Should natural-born U.S. citizens be given a citizenship test as well as those that are trying to immigrate? Do you think you would be able to pass the citizenship test?
2. What is the difference between a stereotype and an archetype? Do stereotypes only reinforce negative images or are there stereotypes that reinforce positive images?

## POST-PERFORMANCE QUESTIONS

1. How are stereotypes and archetypes used in this play? Identify characters in the play and the stereotype they reinforce. What message or lesson about stereotypes do the characters deliver? What do you believe the playwright is commenting about with the use of stereotypes and archetypes?
2. What do the Mormons hope to gain from helping Juan José? Does he accept their help?
3. How would you characterize Ben and Viola Pettus and the actions that they take?
4. Why is Ralf Lazo at Manzanar? What reasons does he give for being at the camp?
5. How would you describe the Town Hall meeting? Do any of the voices ring true?
6. Why is Juan José conflicted about becoming an American citizen? What does he have to gain and what does he have to lose?
7. Was there a specific event or moment in Juan José's journey that resonated the most with you? Was there something new you learned or a new perspective of the history?
8. After all that Juan José experiences and the people he meets during the course of the play, explain why or why not you believe he still wants to be an United States citizen at the end?

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# ACTIVITIES

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## **HISTORIC TIMELINE**

1. Ask students to research significant events in United States history from pre-Colonial times to the present and to place them in chronological order. What moments in United States history were chosen and why were they chosen?
2. Create a timeline using the information gathered.
3. Discussion Questions: What changes or innovations were happening during these times? How was the world changing? How are these historical events identified and included in the play *American Night*? What are the parallels of these significant events in world history or global current events?

## **AMERICAN NIGHT TIMELINE**

1. Ask students to chart the journey of Juan José.
2. Create a timeline and plot the events of this character and the characters he meets.
3. Discussion Questions: What significant events did Juan José join and what noteworthy characters did he meet?
4. Track the events in the first timeline and compare them to Juan José's journey.

## **COLORADO MODEL CONTENT STANDARDS**

**History: Develop an understanding of how people view, construct, and interpret history.**

**History: Analyze key historical periods and patterns of change over time within and across nations and cultures.**