

# UTEP highlights local culture

UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance highlights the culture and customs of the border region this season with adaptations of a celebrated Chicano story, a Christmas classic and a Greek tragedy, all at the Wise Family Theatre.

The season opens Oct. 3-17 with a performance of “Bless Me Ultima,” based on the novel by Rudolfo Anaya. The department is one of 79 nonprofit organizations to receive a National Endowment of the Arts Big Read grant to host a community reading program. Part of the \$15,000 grant to UTEP will help produce the performance.

Jay Stratton and Adriana Dominguez are giving a regional twist to the Charles Dickens Dec. 8-16, with “A Christmas Carol, en la Frontera.” The play will include all the elements that make this holiday ghost story a classic, but also focus on “family, solitude, and redemption, with the unique flavor of our unique region.”

The season ends with the regional contemporary adaptation of Sophocles’ Oedipus Rex, written by Luis Alfaro, “Oedipus El Rey” April 26-May 5. The play takes place in a prison system and a barrio of Los Angeles.

Department chair Cristina Goletti, who directs the season closer, said these plays are an example of the department’s commitment to UTEP’s border identity.

“It is because of this commitment that our season begins and ends with two

wonderful LatinX/Chican@ plays ... gesturing at the evolution of Hispanic playwrighting, while a new and festive edition of ‘A Christmas Carol’ will delight anyone looking for a holiday treat,” she said.

The department’s one Studio Theatre performance this season is the comedy “The Humans” by Stephen Karam March 27-31. The winner of the 2016 Tony Award for Best Play, and a Pulitzer Prize finalist, the play examines American anxieties through a Lower Manhattan family celebrating Thanksgiving.

The department will offer two dance productions this season, beginning with the debut of the University Dance Company Nov. 1-4 at the Wise Family Theatre with original works choreographed by UTEP dance faculty and guests Jose Zamora of Texas, Shannon Mockli of Oregon, and by UTEP alumni-collective Fawnz Dance Company.

UTEP will host the 2019 World Dance Alliance Americas General Assembly Feb. 14-16 with the theme “Moving Interactions: Dancing through In-Between Borders.” The event will take place both at UTEP and throughout El Paso, with site-specific choreographies, panel presentations, dance for the camera screenings and other events.

For ticket and season information, call the department box office at 747-5118 or visit [utep.edu/liberalarts/theatre-dance](http://utep.edu/liberalarts/theatre-dance).

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“Carrying the Banner,” “Seize the Day,” and “Santa Fe.” Show time is 7 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; non-dinner matinees are Sunday 1:30 p.m. Feb. 3 and 10; dinner matinee is 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27. Tickets: \$33.50 to \$43.50 Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday discount dinner performances; \$36.50 to \$48.50 (Friday and Saturday dinner performances), and \$19.50 to \$29.50 no-dinner matinee performances (Ticketmaster). Information: 747-6060 or [utep.edu/udt](http://utep.edu/udt).

**La Pinga’s Orquesta** — Amigos de la Fundacion Mascareñas’s Matices Culturales 2019 performance series opens with the musical group from Aguascalientes at 8 p.m. Saturday, **Jan. 26**, at Centro Cultural Paso del Norte in Juarez. The group plays a fusion of classical, chamber, Argentine tango, Balkan music, jazz and more. Information: 544-5118 in El Paso or [fmascarenas.org](http://fmascarenas.org).

**‘Jersey Boys’** — Broadway in El Paso presents the Tony, Grammy and Olivier Award-winning Best Musical about Rock and Roll Hall of Famers The Four Seasons Tuesday and Wednesday **Jan. 29-30**, at the Plaza Theatre. This is the true story of how four blue-collar kids — Frankie Valli, Bob Gaudio, Tommy DeVito and Nick Massi — became one of the greatest successes in pop music history. They wrote their own songs, invented their own sounds and sold 175 million records worldwide — all before they were 30. Recommended for ages 12 and older; contains authentic, “profane Jersey language.” Show times to be announced. Ticket information: 231-1111, [ElPasoLive.com/Broadway](http://ElPasoLive.com/Broadway) or on Facebook at Broadway in El Paso.

**Young People’s Concerts** — El Paso Symphony Orchestra presents its 78th season of free programs for area fifth-graders at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, **Jan. 30-31**, at the Abraham Chavez Theatre. Presented in collaboration with Carnegie Hall’s Link Up Program. The public is invited on a space-available basis; call for availability. Information: 532-3776 or [epso.org](http://epso.org).

## February

**‘The Crucible’** — Las Cruces Community Theatre presents the Arthur Miller play **Feb. 1-17**. Directed by Norman Lewis. Performances are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Ticket information: (575) 523-1200 or [lcctnm.org](http://lcctnm.org).

**Saxsational, The Next Generation** — Showtime! El Paso presents a new generation of saxophone and swing music 7 p.m. Thursday, **Feb. 7**, at the Abraham Chavez Theatre. Individual tickets to be announced. Information: 247-2726, [Events@showtimeelpaso.com](mailto:Events@showtimeelpaso.com) or [showtimeelpaso.com](http://showtimeelpaso.com).

**‘Always a Bridesmaid’** — **Feb. 8-24** at El Paso Playhouse, 2501 Montana. Information: 532-1317 or [elpasoplayhouse.com](http://elpasoplayhouse.com).

**‘Kinky Boots’** — Broadway in El Paso presents the musical with songs by Grammy- and Tony-winning pop icon Cyndi Lauper Saturday, **Feb. 9** at the Plaza Theatre. Inspired by true events, it goes from a gentlemen’s shoe factory in Northampton to the glamorous catwalks of Milan. Charlie Price is struggling to live up to his father’s expectations and continue the family business of Price & Son. With the factory’s future hanging in the balance, help arrives in the unlikely but spectacular form of Lola, a per-

former in need of some sturdy new stilettos. Ticket information: 231-1111, [ElPasoLive.com/Broadway](http://ElPasoLive.com/Broadway) or on Facebook at Broadway in El Paso.

**Gene Watson** — The country music singer performs at 7 p.m. Saturday, **Feb. 9**, at Spencer Theater in Alto, N.M. Watson and his band share his many smooth country hits including “Fourteen Carat Mind,” “Paper Rosie” and “Farewell Party.” Tickets: \$39-\$65. Information: (888) 818-7872, (575) 336-4800 or [spencertheater.com](http://spencertheater.com).

**UTEP Percussion/Chorale Concert** — 5 p.m. Sunday, **Feb. 10**, at Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall. Ticket information: 747-5606 or [utep.edu/liberalarts/music/](http://utep.edu/liberalarts/music/).

**Blues Brothers Revue** — The tribute to Jake and Elwood Blues is 7 p.m. Thursday, **Feb. 14**, at Flickinger Center for Performing Arts in Alamogordo for the Center’s annual Valentine’s Day fundraiser. Performed cabaret style with a chocolate buffet. Tickets: \$18, \$30 and \$40. Information: (575) 437-2202 or [flickinger-center.com](http://flickinger-center.com).

**World Dance Alliance Americas** — UTEP Department of Theater & Dance hosts the World Dance Alliance Americas General Assembly, “Moving Interactions: Dancing through In-Between Borders,” as national and international guests artists gather to present their work **Feb. 14-16**, at UTEP’s Wise Family Theatre. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and noon Saturday. Tickets: \$10. Information: 747-5118, [theatredance.utep.edu](http://theatredance.utep.edu) or on Facebook.

**Five Sax** — Grant County Community Concert Association presents the saxophone quintet at 7 p.m. Friday, **Feb. 15**, at WNMU Auditorium in Silver City. Tickets: \$20. Information: (575) 538-5862 or [gconcerts.org](http://gconcerts.org).

**Melissa Kraut** — El Paso Pro-Musica presents the cellist in residency with UTEP’s Center for Arts Entrepreneurship **Feb. 18-21**. Her residency will detail the Sustained Music through the Holocaust. Performance and details to be announced. Information: 747-8163 or [eppm.org](http://eppm.org).

**UTEP Wind Symphony** — 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, **Feb. 19**, at Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall. Ticket information: 747-5606.

**EPSO’s ‘The Emperor’** — El Paso Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Bohuslav Rattay, presents guest pianist Daria Kiseleva, at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, **Feb. 22-23**, in the Plaza Theatre. Selections include Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major, op. 73 “Emperor”, and Prokofiev’s Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major, op. 100. Tickets: \$9-\$45. Information: 532-3776 or [epso.org](http://epso.org).

**Teresa Walters** — The pianist performs at 7 p.m. Saturday, **Feb. 23**, at Flickinger Center for Performing Arts in Alamogordo. Tickets: \$9, \$15 and \$20. Information: (575) 437-2202 or [flickingercenter.com](http://flickingercenter.com).

**Macuiles** — Amigos de la Fundacion Mascareñas’s Matices Culturales 2019 performance series presents the eclectic musical group at 8 p.m. Saturday, **Feb. 23**, at Centro Cultural Paso del Norte in Juarez, merging blues, flamenco, jazz, Cuban, bachata and funk. Information: 544-5118 in El Paso; 612-3175 or 612-4075 in Juárez, or [fmascarenas.org](http://fmascarenas.org).

**UTEP Horn Choir Concert** — 3 p.m. Sunday, **Feb. 24**, at Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall. Ticket information: 747-5606 or [utep.edu/liberalarts/music/](http://utep.edu/liberalarts/music/).

**UTEP Symphony Orchestra** — 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, **Feb. 26**, at Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall. Information: 747-5606.

**UTEP Choirs** — 7:30 p.m. Thursday, **Feb. 28**, at Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall. Information: 747-5606 or [utep.edu/liberalarts/music/](http://utep.edu/liberalarts/music/).

## March

**UTEP Wind Symphony** — 7:30 p.m. Monday, **March 4**, at Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall. Ticket information: 747-5606.

**Masters of Soul** — The R&B tribute is 7 p.m. Tuesday, **March 5**, at Flickinger Center for Performing Arts in Alamogordo. The show pays tribute to bands like Gladys Knight & The Pips, Marvin Gaye & Tammi Terrell, Smokey Robinson & the Miracles, The Temptations, The Four Tops, Diana Ross & The Supremes, Martha Reeves & The Vandellas, Barry White, Sam and Dave, James Brown and many more. Tickets: \$15, \$20 and \$30. Information: (575) 437-2202 or [flickingercenter.com](http://flickingercenter.com).

**Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra** — Grant County Community Concert Association hosts its annual concert by the LCSO at 7:30 p.m. Friday, **March 8**, at WNMU Fine Arts Auditorium in Silver City. Tickets: \$20. Information: (575) 538-5862 or [gconcerts.org](http://gconcerts.org).

**‘Godspell’** — Kids-N-Co. presents the musical based on the Gospel According to St. Matthew **March 8-24**, at First Presbyterian Church, conceived and originally directed by John Michael Tebelak, with book by Tebelak and music by Stephen Schwartz. Shows are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$7 (\$5 children, students, senior citizens, military), available at the door. Information: 274-8797 or on Facebook.

**‘Evita’** — Broadway in El Paso presents Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber’s groundbreaking musical Saturday, **March 9** at the Plaza Theatre. The Tony-winning Best Musical captures the rise and fall of one of the world’s most glamorous first ladies in this classic Broadway and London hit. Ticket information: 231-1111, [ElPasoLive.com/Broadway](http://ElPasoLive.com/Broadway) or on Facebook at Broadway in El Paso.

**LCSO with Andrea Padova** — Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Lonnie Klein, performs with the guest pianist at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday, **March 9-10**, at NMSU’s Atkinson Recital Hall, with Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 2, and Tchaikovsky’s “Francesca da Rimini.” Tickets: \$35, \$40 and \$45. Information: (575) 646-3709, [lascrucessymphony.com](http://lascrucessymphony.com) or on Facebook.

**‘The Wizard of Oz’** — The musical based on the 1939 MGM movie classic is 1 and 7 p.m. Sunday, **March 10**, at Spencer Theater in Alto, N.M. Tickets: \$79-\$85. Information: (888) 818-7872, (575) 336-4800 or [spencertheater.com](http://spencertheater.com).

**UTEP Symphony and Concert Bands** — The joint concert is 7:30 p.m. Thursday, **March 14**, at Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall. Ticket information: 747-5606.

**‘Toying With Science’** — Flickinger Center for the Performing Arts in Alamogordo presents a special family event featuring Gary Krinsky Thursday, **March 14**, combining circus skills, mime, original music, and audience involvement in the exploration of the scientific principles of gravity, leverage, fulcrums, and simple machines. Ticket information: (575) 437-2202 or [flickingercenter.com](http://flickingercenter.com).

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