



WELCOME

Getting to Zero: Are We There Yet?

A WEBINAR TRAINING SERIES FOR CLINICIANS

Increasing Access to Underserved Communities Including
Transgender, African American, MSM, and Latinx

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Colectivo ALA

Nurturing
self-efficacy
through theater

Presented by
Rodrigo García-Reyes
Co-Founder and Director



Rodrigo García-Reyes

Rodrigo García is the Director and Co-Founder of Colectivo Acción Latina de Ambiente (Colectivo ALA) in San José, California. He is also a Health Education Specialist leading the countywide PrEP Navigation program for the County of Santa Clara. In addition, Mr. García is a theater director/playwright, and he combines his passion for theater arts with his passion for public health using a participatory approach in which the community drives the creative process.





“... Without a sense of identity, there can be no real struggle...”
— Paulo Freire



Who we are

Colectivo Acción Latina de Ambiente (Colectivo ALA)

Is a grass-roots, volunteer run organization serving LGBTQ Latinx individuals in the Santa Clara Valley since 2001.

Colectivo ALA is fiscally sponsored by Valley Medical Center Foundation.

Our Mission

“To create a space for the freedom of expression, individual growth, and community building for Latinx LGBTQ individuals”.



What we do

- **ALA**
 - Biweekly social support group
 - Annual weekend retreat
 - Additional recreational activities
 - Information and referrals to resources and services
- **“Teatro Alebrijes” Theater Ensemble**
 - Theater training
 - Produce 2-3 theater plays during the year. Plays are originally written and devised by the ensemble.



“No one is born fully-formed: it is through self-experience in the world that we become what we are.”
— Paulo Freire

Objectives

1. Understanding the sociocultural factors that influence risk behavior among Latino Men who have Sex with other Men.
2. Exploring creative interventions using a participatory approach through theater in order to engage community in self-observation, and to nurture self-efficacy.

Background

HIV Among Latinos*

- One fifth of people living with HIV in the United States are Latino
- A quarter of new HIV infections in the United States occur among Latinos
- Latino men accounted for 90% of new HIV infections among Latinos in 2016, and 88% were among Latino gay and bisexual men
- 25 to 34 year olds accounted for the largest number of new infections among Latinos in 2016

* CDC Fact Sheet:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/docs/factsheets/cdc-hiv-latinos-508.pdf>

Background

HIV Prevention Progress and Challenges*

- Not enough Latinos with HIV are aware of their status
- Latinos account for 13% of PrEP uptake compared to 69% of their White counterparts
- The fear of disclosing risk behaviors or sexual orientation can prevent people from seeking testing, prevention and treatment services, and support from friends and family.

* CDC Fact Sheet:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/docs/factsheets/cdc-hiv-latinos-508.pdf>

Response

We proposed two different projects, at different times each.

- 1) A telenovela
- 2) A theater play.

We used a popular education framework in which we centered on participants' life experiences to help develop a more critical consciousness, while affirming the dignity of all and recognizing that we were all both teacher and a learner.

SIEMPrE Por Ti

“SiemPrE Por Ti” is a 4- episode webseries that uses the Telenovela/Soap Opera format to deliver the message about PrEP and HIV testing in the context of a family and friendship.

The series are available on Youtube and the GettingtoZeroSV.org website.

Always For You

Method

- Colectivo ALA hosted a series of 3 community sharing circles during the biweekly group sessions and asked participants to share their thoughts about PrEP and their experience with getting tested for HIV.
- In addition, Colectivo ALA hosted 1 session that focused on providing the information about PrEP, how it works, how to access it, etc.



Outcomes

- An average of 30 participants attended each of the sharing circles and the informational session about PrEP. Their responses helped shaped the script for the telenovela.
 - Based on their response, we found out that
 - Two thirds of the participants had little to no information about PrEP.
 - The majority didn't believe they needed PrEP
 - The majority didn't want to be perceived as promiscuous for taking PrEP.
 - The majority feared of getting tested and getting a positive result
 - The majority said they wouldn't be able to disclose their HIV status to others because of fear of rejection and disappointment
-



- The Telenovela aired on Youtube and Facebook. It had over over 1300 impressions and over 300 views in the first week.
- In addition, the Telenovela served as the main device in an Anti-Stigma Toolkit developed by Colectivo ALA to guide a training/conversation about HIV related stigma. Four community organizations received a Train-The-Trainer training.
- The Anti-Stigma Toolkit is available at the GettingToZeroSV.org website

Scenario 1 – Prejudice, stigma, and discrimination

While having lunch, the main character discloses to his friends the HIV status of his boyfriend and faces different reactions from the group.

What are some of the negative reactions that are displayed on this scene?

What kind of impact can these reactions have on him?

What are some of the positive reactions that are displayed on this scene?

What kind of impact can these reactions have on him?

How can these reactions positive or negative could impact the rest of the group.



Scenario 1 – General perception of risk

The group of friends are introduced to PrEP but there's the initial idea that only individuals who have multiple partners should use it.

How are certain ideas generalized?

Scenario 2 – Own perception of risk

The uncle does not feel he is at risk because he is feeling well.

How does stigma influence the way we perceive risk?

Scenario 3 – Social stigma and disclosure

The couple faces the issue of how social stigma affects individuals regardless of their HIV status.

How does stigma influence the way we cope?



**“Canción de Cuna Para Un Niño
herido/Lullaby For a Wounded Boy”**

is a full-length 2-act theater play in Spanish with English supertitles produced and performed by Teatro Alebrijes, Colectivo ALA’s theater ensemble.

TEATRO ALEBRIJES PRESENTA

CANCIÓN DE CUNA PARA UN NIÑO HERIDO

LULLABY FOR A WOUNDED BOY



The play tells the story of Emilio, a young gay man, who is at the crossroads of his life when he is faced with the possibility of having acquired HIV.



Method

- Members of the theater ensemble conducted a series of interviews with 27 individuals who identify as gay (23), lesbian (3), and trans (1), and asked them prompt questions such as:
 - When it comes to HIV what are some things that scare you more
 - As Latino/a LGBT what have been some challenges you have faced
 - How comfortable you feel talking about sex with others
 - As Latino/a LGBT what are some things that will make you happy
 - How comfortable do you feel talking openly about your sexual orientation, gender identity, HIV/STD status with others
 - Teatro Alebrijes developed a play inspired by the personal stories of the individuals who participated in the interviews.
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TEATRO ALEBRIJES PRESENTA

CANCIÓN DE CUNA PARA UN NIÑO HERIDO

LULLABY FOR A WOUNDED BOY

ESCRITA POR ►
RODRIGO GARCÍA
Y UGHO BADÚ

EN ESPAÑOL ►
CON SUPERTÍTULOS
EN INGLÉS


JULY

18, 19, 20, 21
25, 26 Y 27

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FESS PARKER
STUDIO THEATRE
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Through a series of vignettes, the story explores different topics such as

FRIENDSHIP

RELIGION



MACHISMO



ALCOHOLISM AND MACHISMO





INSTITUTIONAL HOMOPHOBIA



SPRITUALITY



BULLYING AND COMING OUT



MENTAL HEALTH





SELF-EFFICACY



And **FAMILY**



457 people attended the performances.

Attendees constantly congratulated the cast for the great performance and praised the importance of bringing stories like this to the stage.



- 120 people responded to the survey
 - 46% Man, 51% Woman, 1.2% Trans, 1.2% Other
 - 70% Latinx, 6% White, 4% Asian, 3.7% African American
 - 76% LGBT identified

Quality of the play

76% Excellent, 16% Very good

- The play helped to better understand the impact of HIV related stigma on LGBT people
 - 89% Totally Agree, 10% Agree
- The play helped understand the importance of getting tested, PrEP, and talking openly about STD/HIV status
 - 85% Totally Agree, 14.7% Agree



“Everyone needs to see it”

“Thank you so much, you made me cry more than once.”

“It made me understand the importance of getting tested for HIV.”



“It made me understand the importance of getting tested for HIV.”

“I’ll tell all my friends to get tested.”

“It was raw and emotional. Nothing sugar-coated. I absolutely loved it.”

Questions?

Rodrigo García

Colectivo ALA, Director and Co-Founder

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“The truth is, however, that the oppressed are not “marginals,” are not people living “outside” society. They have always been “inside” —inside the structure which made them “beings for others.” The solution is not to “integrate” them into the structure of oppression, but to transform that structure so that they can become “beings for themselves.”

— Paulo Freire, [Pedagogy of the Oppressed](#)