



Cherríe L. Moraga

www.cherriemoraga.com

BIOGRAPHICAL NARRATIVE

Cherrie Moraga is playwright, poet, essayist, and literary memoirist whose works have received national recognition, including a TCG Theatre Artist Residency Grant, the NEA's Theatre Playwrights' Fellowship, and two Fund for New American Plays Awards. In 2007, she was awarded the United States Artist Rockefeller Fellowship for Literature and is a recipient of The American Studies Association Lifetime Achievement Award, as well as the "Pioneer" Award from the Lambda Literary Foundation.

Moraga is the co-editor of *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*. Winner of the Before Columbus American Book Award, *Bridge's* 4th edition was published by SUNY Press in 2015. Moraga's most recent non-fiction collection is *A Xicana Codex of Changing Consciousness: Writings 2000-2010*. She is also the author of the now classic *Loving in the War Years: Lo Que Nunca Pasó Por Sus Labios* and *The Last Generation* (1993). In 1997, she published her first book-length memoir entitled *Waiting in the Wings: Portrait of a Queer Motherhood*. Moraga has also published three volumes of drama through West End Press of Albuquerque, New Mexico: *Heroes and Saints and Other Plays*, *Watsonville/Circle in the Dirt*, and *The Hungry Woman/Heart of the Earth*.

A San Francisco Bay Area playwright, Moraga has premiered and developed her work at theatres throughout the country. Brava Theater Center's San Francisco production of *Heroes and Saints* in 1992 received numerous awards for best original script, including the Drama-Logue and Critic Circles Awards and the Pen West Award. In 1995, *Heart of the Earth*, Moraga's adaptation of the Popol Vuh, the Maya creation myth, opened at INTAR and the Public Theatre in New York City. Her most recent premiered play, *New Fire – To Put Things Right Again*, a collaboration with visual artist, Celia Herrera Rodríguez, opened at Brava Theater Center in January 2012. Over 3,000 people witnessed the work in its ten-day run. In 2017, Moraga will premiere the award winning *The Mathematics of Love*, a theatrical conversation with her forthcoming literary memoir, *The Native Country of a Heart – A Geography of Desire*.

Growing up two blocks from the San Gabriel Mission, just east of East Los Angeles, Moraga moved to the Bay Area in 1977 and has made home in Oakland since 1998. For nearly twenty years, she has served as an Artist in Residence in the Department of Theater and Performance Studies at Stanford University and currently also shares a joint appointment with Comparative Studies in Race & Ethnicity. She teaches all genres of Creative Writing, Chicano/Latino Theater, Queer and People of Color /Indigenous Art Theory and Practice. She has mentored a full generation of published writers and playwrights who credit Moraga as one of their most influential teachers. Cherríe Moraga is an activist writer, who sustains an engaged schedule of appearances on college campuses, conferences and community settings both nationally and internationally. She is also a mother, grandmother, and a founding member of La Red Xicana Indígena, an advocacy network of Xicanas working in areas of education, the arts, spiritual practice, and Indigenous women's rights.