



OEDIPUS EL REY



DISCUSSION GUIDE

A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR THE PLAY
BY LUIS ALFARO
DIRECTED BY ROD ODEN
GUIDE CREATED BY TIFFANY BRYANT-JACKSON

“Do we lay down and take what the world has given us? Or do we break the cycle, the system and tell new stories”

Luis Alfaro

- What story am I telling about my own life and who gets to shape that story?
- When I think about someone making difficult or harmful choices, how quickly do I judge versus try to understand context?
- What is one belief I hold about people or systems that I might want to re-examine?
- Do you see opportunities to grow beyond what you were taught or experienced in your upbringing?
- Did the show change how I define “choice,” “justice,” or “freedom”?

FINDING VOICE, COMMUNITY, AND ANCESTRAL MEMORY THROUGH THE TRILOGY

by Mariana Corrales

Experiencing this trilogy has been deeply transformative, each play returning pieces of myself I didn't realize I had lost. When I first came to Mojada, I was unsure if I belonged, questioning my language, my talent, and whether I would be understood. Instead, playing Armida helped me reclaim my confidence and pride in my latinidad, not in spite of it, but because of it. I've always believed villains are like superheroes who never learned how to use their powers for good, and through her, I rediscovered my own strength. That experience, made even more meaningful by sharing it with my son, opened the door to everything that followed. In *Electricidad*, working as part of the vecinas stretched me in entirely new ways, teaching me the power of ensemble. Now, as an assistant stage manager of *Oedipus El Ray*, I've found yet another layer of growth, witnessing how each part of the process builds something essential.

What audiences see on stage, the chemistry, the trust, the ease, is built long before the lights come up. It's created backstage through community, care, and shared understanding. Working with a cast that carries this sense of latinidad, this muchosidad, has been both expansive and healing. There are so many layers to the immigrant experience, and while this country may offer opportunity, it also holds deep challenges. To be in a space where that reality doesn't need explanation is powerful. Productions like these create something we urgently need: conversation. In a time when we are often encouraged to stay silent about identity, division, and power, these plays speak boldly. Every conversation that happens after becomes an act of community-building, an opportunity for people to see each other more clearly and choose connection over silence.



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Stories like these matter because you can't change what you don't know exists. This trilogy brings visibility to experiences many people have never considered, what it truly takes to migrate, the risks, the trauma, the courage. Too often, people assume the journey is simple, when in reality it is one of the hardest decisions a person can make. As a migrant woman myself, I know what it means to start over and build family through community. These stories give dignity and humanity to those experiences, making the invisible impossible to ignore.

At its core, the trilogy feels like an act of ancestral memory, blending ancient Greek tragedy with the voices and realities of Latino communities today. As performers, we feel that lineage. There are moments when I know I'm not alone on stage, that the women who came before me are present. Language becomes part of that invocation; every word of Spanish, every familiar rhythm, calls our ancestors into the room. The trilogy reminds us that while we carry our history with us, we are not bound by it. We are part of a long chain, honoring where we come from while continuing to expand into who we are becoming.

About the Author: Mariana Corrales shares her insights having performed in *Mojada* and *Electricidad* and now serving as an assistant stage manager of *Oedipus El Ray*, she brings a holistic perspective to the trilogy's impact on and off stage.



Additional Resources

To Watch

AMERICAN ME

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0103671>

OZ

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0118421>

MI VIDA LOCA (MY CRAZY LIFE)

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0107566>

Book Corner

THE CHILDREN OF JOCASTA

BY NATALIE HAYNES

<https://tinyurl.com/37jn5sch>

MONSTER

BY WALTER DEAN MYERS

<https://tinyurl.com/59u83rkx>

HOME FIRE

BY KAMILA SHAMSIE

<https://tinyurl.com/y4ejyvz>

OEDIPUS TRILOGY

BY SOPHOCLES

<https://tinyurl.com/mmv7k5n8>

To Listen

EAR HUSTLE

<https://www.earhustlesq.com/>

LATINO USA

<https://www.latinousa.org/>



Move the Mission Forward

Our mission is to create a performing arts experience that is socially engaged, professionally managed, and creatively inspired.

Now that we've introduced you to "Oedipus El Ray" we encourage you to join us in fostering meaningful conversations with your community. Share your reflections on the play's themes, engage with others to deepen your understanding, and consider how you can contribute to creating safe spaces for more open dialogue.

