

# DAVID DAVILA

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## BIOGRAPHY

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David Davila is a playwright, composer, director, and performer from South Texas. Through plays, songs, sketch comedy, musicals, film, and poetry, he tells the stories of Latinx people living in the United States.

## PLAYS & MUSICALS

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### *Manuel Versus the Statue of Liberty, an undocumented musical comedy*

Adventure Land Productions LLC, New York 2020 (workshop, postponed due to covid)  
The Gallery Players, Brooklyn, February 2018 (workshop production)  
Broadway Au Carre, Paris, Sept 2017 (featured selections)  
MTF @ Joe's Pub, New York, May 2017 (featured selections)  
TDF Performeteria, New York, Feb 2017 (abridged production)  
Princeton University, March 2017 (abridged production)  
Dramatic Question Theatre, Sept 2016 (staged reading)  
Princeton University, February 2016 (workshop)  
New York Musical Theatre Festival, New York, July 2015 (full production)  
New York Musical Theatre Festival, New York, July 2014 (staged reading)

### *Animal Husbandry, a gay bedroom drama*

New York International Fringe Festival, 2019 (full production, dir. Sidney Erik Wright)  
New Ambassadors, New York, 2019 (developmental reading)  
Broadviews on Broadway Summer Fresh Festival, New York, 2018 (staged reading)  
Barn Fest, Brooklyn, Jan 2017 (staged reading)  
FEAST Performance Series, New York, 2016 (staged reading)  
Barn Arts Collective - Bar Harbor, Maine, 2016 (residency)  
PlayGround Experiment, New York, 2016 (developmental readings)

### *Selfish Shelfish, a sketch comedy show*

The Pit NYC 2020 (postponed due to covid)  
Barn Arts Collective - Bar Harbor, Maine - May 2020 (postponed residency)  
Second City Chicago 2019 (sketch cast production)

### *Promesa, a mariachi musical*

Musical Theatre Factory at Playwrights Horizons 4x15 Series, 2019 (workshop)  
Musical Theatre Factory at Playwrights Horizons 2017-2018 (writer's residency)

### *Hotel Puerto Vallarta, a legitimate work of dramatic theatre*

Egg and Spoon Theatre Incubation Series, July 2021 (reading & workshop)  
Variations Theatre Co, January 2021 (staged reading)  
The Latinx Playwrights Circle at Primary Stages, Spring 2021 (staged reading)  
PlayGround Experiment, New York, 2020 (developmental readings)

### *Aztec Pirates, a Latinx Fantasia on National Themes / Part One, the Insignificance of Life on Mars*

Landing Theatre Company, Houston, Spring 2021 (developmental workshop)  
San Diego Rep, San Diego, 2019 (workshop reading)  
All-Star Theatre, Rio Grande Valley, 2019 (staged reading)  
PlayGround Experiment, New York, Fall 2020 (fully staged workshop, postponed)  
Brooklyn Cultural Arts Center, Fall 2019 (staged reading)  
Broadviews on Broadway Summer Fresh Festival, New York, Aug 2018 (staged reading)  
PlayGround Experiment, New York, Spring 2018 (staged reading)  
FEAST Performance Series, New York, Spring 2018 (fully staged workshop)

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- Aztec Pirates, a Latinx Fantasia on National Themes / Part Two, the Inequity of Sacrifice*  
Playwrights Realm, Spring 2021 (mentor script program)  
Brooklyn Cultural Arts Center, Spring 2021 (staged reading)  
PlayGround Experiment, New York, Spring 2020 (staged reading)  
The Latinx Playwrights Circle at Primary Stages, Summer 2020 (staged reading)
- Adan y Julio y la Frontera 2003, a play with music*  
Variations Theatre Co, New Jersey, 2021 (staged reading)  
Viva Theatre Co, San Antonio, 2013 (staged reading)  
Lone Star Theatre Co, New York, September 2012 (staged reading)  
University of Texas Pan American, December 2011 (staged reading)
- Butt Babies Never Live, a poetry cycle performance piece*  
Poetic Theatre Production - March 2018 (reading)
- Morning in America, a collection of monologues about 11-9-2016*  
Primary Stages at Cherry Lane Theatre, New York, March 2017 (full production)
- Pyramid, a one-act musical adventure*  
Lincoln Center, Across a Crowded Room Series, August 2015 (staged reading)
- The Magic Time Machine, a song-cycle*  
Texas Sings Festival, Jan 2017 (concert)  
The Laurie Beechman Theatre, New York, January 2016 (concert)
- Vox Pop, a musical parable*  
Musical Theatre Factory 4x15 Series, New York, February 2015 (workshop)  
New Musicals @ 54 Below, New York, November 2014 (concert)
- The Mesquite Tree, an American Tragedy*  
PlayGround Experiment, New York, 2021 (staged reading)  
The Latinx Playwrights Circle at Primary Stages, Spring 2021 (staged reading)
- Men of God, a new play*  
Lone Star Theatre Co, New York, October 2014 (staged reading)  
Primary Stages ESPA, 2013-2014 (developmental readings)
- The Capitol Plays*  
Lone Star Theatre Co, New York, May 2014 (full production)
- Tales from Highway 281, a song cycle*  
Intar Theatre Co, New York, November 2013 (concert)
- #52songs: a song cycle*  
Laurie Beechman Theatre 2013 & 2015 (concert)  
West End Lounge 2013 (concert)  
The Underground 2013 (concert)  
The Triad 2012 (concert)
- Occupy the musical (with 8 other writers)*  
Primary Stages (ESPA) 2012 (staged reading)
- Fucking Beautiful, a song cycle*  
Broadway sings for Pride 2014, 2016, 2019 (selections performed)  
Laurie Beechman Theatre 2013 (selections performed)
- Credo, a new play*  
Primary Stages (ESPA), New York, September 2011 (staged reading)
- Recuerdos of my Life, a poetry cycle performance play*  
University of Texas Pan American 2003 (public reading)

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## Short plays:

*Tree Tales* - Prospect Theatre Co 2021  
*ICE Agents* - The Second City Chicago 2019  
*Princess Party* - The Second City Chicago 2019  
*Red Light / Green Light* - NY MADNESS 2018  
*Woman on the A* - Primary Stages (at Cherry Lane Theatre) 2017  
*If they Come for Me in the Morning they will Come for You at Night* - Lone Star Theatre 2017  
*Flag Day* - Primary Stages (ESPA studios) 2016  
*Business Lunch* - PlayGround Experiment 2015  
*The Last Virgin in School* - Lone Star Theatre 2015  
*For Every Action there is an Equal and Opposite Reaction* - NY MADNESS 2014  
*Attack of the Castro Clones* - Lone Star Theatre 2014  
*Watch Us Sit In: Live* - Lone Star Theatre 2014  
*Wine and the Way We Embrace* - Primary Stages (ESPA studios) 2011

## AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

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2021	Playwrights Horizons Non-Profit Artist Grant
2021	New American Voices National Playwriting Award, Landing Theatre Company
2021	Official Selection, Egg & Spoon Incubation Series
2021	InkProject at Raleigh Little Theatre, Artist in Residence
2021	Orchard Project shortlist
2021	Semi-Finalist, The Playwrights Foundation BAPF
2021	Semi-Finalist, Sin Muros Latinx Playwrights Festival
2020	Barn Arts Maine, Artist in Residence
2019	Official Selection, San Diego Rep New Play Festival
2019	CDMX Cultural Research Grant
2017-18	Musical Theatre Factory at Playwrights Horizons, Writer Residency
2016-17	Askins Playwriting Fellow
2016	Barn Arts Maine, Artist in Residence
2016	Finalist, O'Neill National Musical Theatre Conference
2015	The Yip Harburg Award for Lyrics
2015	Social Relevance and Impact Award, New York Musical Festival
2015	Best Musical (nomination), New York Musical Festival
2015	Best New Song for "Contender," New York Musical Festival
2014	Developmental Reading Series Award, New York Musical Festival
2013	Semi-Finalist, O'Neill National Playwriting Conference
2012	Rockwell Scholar, Primary Stages Theatre Company

## TV & FILM

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Most Likely To, the series	Creator, Head-Writer, Producer (post-production)
Rent-A-Dad (short)	Writer, Director, Editor, Star (post-production)
Cubtaro, the series	Writer, Director, Editor, Composer, Producer, Star
Sugar Parents, the series	Writer, Director, Producer (post-production)
The Voyeur (short)	Writer, Director, Editor, Producer
What's Your Name? (short)	Writer, Director, Editor, Producer

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## PILOTS & SPECS

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***Bowing Out (single cam sitcom):*** A troupe of eccentric, gay, theatre-makers in Hipster-fueled-Brooklyn try to balance their Bohemian lifestyles with their deep desire to settle down and start families in New Jersey.

***Ripe (single cam dramedy):*** A closeted, Mexican-American, son-of-a-preacher-man, teen comes of age in South Texas in Clinton's booming nineties amid the Latin explosion, and the gay rights awakening.

***Circuit (hour-long drama):*** The biggest circuit party promoter in New York navigates the dangerous world of politics, sex, and trafficking as a string of bad overdoses threaten to destroy his operation.

***DEEPR (half-hour variety):*** A cast of openly gay sketch comics offer hilarious and satirical insight into their New York City lives.

***Fraternizing (single cam dramedy):*** A group of rag-tag college students try to form the first ever gay college fraternity in Pre-Marriage Equality Texas, 2003.

***Hotel Puerto Vallarta (multi-cam sitcom):*** Four drag queens live and work at a rundown drag resort in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, that doubles as a front for the local drug cartel. They may not be the most successful queens in town but Connie Guisada, Barbra Coa, Shante Houston, and June sure are the sassiest.

***The 36 Questions (a Looking spec):*** Patrick agrees to go on an immersive blind date when he finds out Richie is on Grindr. Doris convinces Dom to let Augustine help him at the pop-up restaurant.

***The Cammys (a Modern Family spec):*** When Phil discovers that Claire has secretly always wanted to go to the Oscars, he enlists Cam to help him throw the Oscar party of the century.

***Express Yourself (a Goldbergs spec):*** Beverly goes on a quest to keep Adam from seeing Madonna's sexy banned music video for "Justify My Love."

***Deadlines, Breadlines & Vaccine Lines (a Connors spec):*** Becky and Darlene are accused of colonialist violence when they go vaccine hunting. Dan refuses to go to a food pantry with Jackie.

## TRAINING AND EDUCATION

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Playwriting	Rogelio Martinez, Kara Lee Corthron, Kia Corthron
Film & TV	Brent Forrester, Cheri Magid, Brooke Berman, Kara Lee Corthron
Musical Theatre Writing	Marsha Norman, Adam Gwon, Kait Kerrigan, Brie Lowdermilk
Comedy Writing	Second City Chicago
Improv	Second City Chicago, Upright Citizens Brigade NYC
Creative Writing	Denise Chavez
Performance	Judith Light, Charles Busch, Alma Thomas, Randy Graff
Master of Fine Arts	Indiana University (Playwriting/Screenwriting) - Exp. 2024
Bachelor of Music	University of Texas San Antonio (Arts Administration)
Other University Study	University of Texas Pan American (Creative Writing & Theatre) University of North Texas (Opera Theatre)

## OTHER THEATRE EXPERIENCE

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Davila started his career as the head of choral activities at Harlandale High School in San Antonio, TX where he co-directed and produced many concerts, variety shows, fundraisers, tours, and musicals including Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, High School Musical, and the Wizard of Oz.

As a director/dramaturg Davila has directed readings and productions of dozens of new plays in New York City including the premiere production of Jaime Lozano's musical *Lighting Strikes Twice* (HOLA nomination), *The Pet Play* by Noemi de la Puente, *Legends of Texas* by Nilsa Reyna, *Gayby* by Richard Patterson, *Alien Sex Comedy* by Alan Charnock, and many more through Primary Stages ESPA, Lone Star

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Theatre Company, NYMadness, The PlayGround Experiment, Prospect Theatre Company, San Diego Rep, Broadviews on Broadway, and Ex Libris Theatre Company.

As a cabaret artist Davila has performed his songs at Feinstein's, 54 Below, The Laurie Beechman Theatre, Joe's Pub, The West End Lounge, The Triad, the Underground, Lincoln Center, The Green Room, The Duplex, The Cutting Room, Broadway Au Caurre (Paris), A Little New Music (Los Angeles), The Josephine Theatre (San Antonio), and the Woodlawn Theatre (San Antonio).

As an actor Davila has starred in dozens of musicals and plays regionally including *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying (Finch)*, *Hair (Claude)*, *Elton John's Aida (Radames)*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie (Jimmy)*, *HMS Pinafore (Captain)*, *Lend Me a Tenor (Bellhop)*, *Brigadoon (Charlie)*, *Bertolt Brecht's Baal (Ekart)* *Gilbert & Sullivan's Patience (The Duke)*, *All's Well that Ends Well (the Duke)*, *The Misanthrope (Acaste)*, *World Premiere of Gods of Mischief (Bogus)*, *Married Alive (Paul)*, *A Christmas Carol (Mr. Fezziwig)*, *A Rocky Horror Show (Riff Raff)*, *World Premiere of Gone to Texas (Gregorio)*, *Zombie Prom (Joey)*, *Alan Ball's Power Lunch (Man)*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (Marcus Lycus)*, *Zimmerman's Metamorphosis (Apollo & Others)*, and sung in the ensemble of dozen more operas and musicals.

Davila is also a big proponent of developing new work and has created roles in many readings and workshops in New York City. Most recently he starred as King Henry VIII in the workshop of the much buzzed about new musical *The King's Wife* directed by Annie Tippe for Primary Stages. He also believes deeply in supporting and uplifting other Latinx playwrights. He has helped create the roles of Rodolfo in a recorded presentation of Juan Ramirez' award winning play, *Coquito*, the tormented widower Eric in Daniela Gonzalez Y Perez' *Brooklyn*, Fidel Castro in the premiere production of *Celia Cruz buys a Dress* for 13th Street Rep, the Radio Broadcaster in Nelson Diaz Marcona's *Las Borriqueñas* for Ensemble Studio Theatre, and Uncle Sammy in NDM's *When the Earth Moves we Dance* for Clubbed Thumb.

As a professional singer Davila sings regularly with Essential Voices USA, The New York Pops, and the Eric Whitacre Singers at Carnegie Hall. He has consistently been a featured soloist with these groups and sung with the likes of Kelli O'Hara and Laura Osnes. In 2013 he sang the tenor solos in the world premiere of Stephen Schwartz' *Testimony* at Carnegie Hall and in 2008 he sang the tenor solos for Beethoven's Mass in C with the San Antonio Symphony at the Cathedral of the Little Flower in San Antonio and again at Carnegie Hall. Other Tenor soloist work includes St. Barnibus (Denton, TX 2000-2002), St. Luke's (San Antonio, TX 2005-2010), and Sacred Heart Catholic Church (Times Square - New York, NY 2011-2014).

As a stand-up comic, Davila performs anywhere they'll let him on stage, performing in open mics around New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

From 2012 to 2016, David Davila was managing editor of the popular Bohemian Theatre Blog, Crazytown Blog, created by Ryan Scott Oliver. For a decade the site hosted essays, blogs, cultural commentary, and political satire written by up-and-coming theatre writers in New York including Davila, Joe Iconis, Rob Rokicki, Jennifer Ashley Tepper, Jaime Cepero, David Gomez, Michael R Jackson, and so many more!

In 2012 Davila founded Lone Star Theatre Company with composer Benjamin B Wright, and playwright Emily Comisar. Now in their ninth season the company is dedicated to bringing Texas pages to New York Stages. He serves as the artistic director.

In 2020 Davila founded the Voices of America Writers Workshop at the PlayGround Experiment in Manhattan (where he also serves as a member of the literary committee). The Voices of America Writers Workshop is an affordable eight-week workshop for people of color and members of the trans community who want to tell their own stories through long form play and screenwriting. In this workshop writers use tools from creative writing, dramatic writing, and comedy writing/improv - focusing on idea generation, the art of dialogue, and story structure to create multi-dimensional characters and captivating narratives.