


2025
Sep 12 - Oct 4

program



west
chester
play
house

P R E S E N T S



Real women have *curves*

Written by: Josefina Lopez

show dates

**September 12th -
October 4th, 2025**

Directed by: Marco Rivera
Produced by: Rhonda Yeager-Hutchinson
and Michele Selin

Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC
PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

LA County
**ARTS &
CULTURE**

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Real women have *curves*

written by JOSEFINA LÓPEZ

MARCO RIVERA
director

RHONDA YEAGER-HUTCHINSON
co-producer

MICHELE SELIN
co-producer

GLORIA RAMIREZ-PLUNKETT
costume designer

RICHARD POTTHOFF
lighting designer

BEN LUPEJKIS
set designer

EMALINE JOHNSON
sound designer

Director's Statement

I fell in love with storytelling in childhood — namely theatre. This was mostly because, growing up, the town I'm from in Mexico didn't have a cinema, so puppetry, dance, and surrealism was all the entertainment available to us, it was awesome. Looking back at my professional and scholastic experiences, I see that rooted in all of them was a paradigm of theatre making: a quest for joy and community through the act of performance.

For this play, *Real Women Have Curves*, the starting ground was those two ideas: First, the opportunity to engage with our LA community, and second, to issue resistance to the hegemonic narratives we see on our screens every day. We do so by celebrating 'joy.' This play is not a lecture on what 'one group' in our LA community is forced to overcome, nor is it confined as a play about Latina/Latinx/Latine persons, but about Angelenos. The people next door to you and me, the people who teach our kids, sew our clothes, heal the sick, and put out fires — for some of them, security is now threatened by misguided policy that uses 'enforcement' to occult bigotry — but they are our community too. This play, this collective event of seeing and hearing — where you too, are part of the performance — is an act of celebration that misinformation can be undone, that within our city lies tremendous power to change the world, and that the simple act of creating, doing and joy is resistance.

MARCO RIVERA
director



Cast

(ALPHABETIC BY ACTOR'S LAST NAME)

Estela	KAROL AVILA
Ana	VANESSA CARDONA
Carmen	LUPITA HAHN
Rosali	JEAN MORA
Pancha	MAYRA NAVIA

SETTING

A tiny sewing factory in East Los Angeles. Summer, 1987

SCENES

act i

Scene 1: Monday morning, August 7th, 1987, about 7:00 a.m.

Scene 2: A few hours later, about 12:10 p.m.

Scene 3: A few hours later, about 3:45 p.m.

Scene 4: The following day, about 7:10 a.m.

Scene 5: Later the same day. Late afternoon.

act ii

Scene 1: Wednesday, August 9th, about 8:15 a.m.

Scene 2: Thursday, August 10th, about 2:00 a.m.

Scene 3: Same day, about 2:00 p.m.

Scene 4: Friday, August 11th, about 2:25 p.m.

RUN

The show runs apprx. 90 minutes

There will be one 15-minute intermission between acts i and ii

Meet the Cast



KAROL AVILA – ESTELA

Karol, a proud Latina from Las Vegas, NV, is thrilled to be making her Kentwood Players debut and joining the cast of *Real Women Have Curves*! She is a graduate of UNLV with a BM in Vocal Performance and a BSBA in Management, and she is grateful to be part of this production. Some of her favorite stage credits include Miss Honey (*Matilda The Musical*), Hustler Uno (*¡Pasaje!*), Ensemble (*In The Heights*), Cathy (*Last Five Years*), and Grace Ansley (*Roman Fever*). Beyond the stage, she works at Sony Music and enjoys spending time with family and friends. She thanks her family, friends, and mentors for their continued support. She hopes that many people will feel seen and heard through this powerful story, especially during these particular times. *Ánimo mi gente!*



VANESSA CARDONA – ANA

This is Vanessa's first show with Kentwood Players and she is so excited to be a part of *Real Women Have Curves*. She feels honored to play the character of Ana and hopes she does such an iconic role justice. She just graduated from USC with a BA in theatre and spent some time studying at the British American Academy of the Dramatic Arts in London. She recently has been in *The Effect*, *I and You*, and *Twelfth Night*. She thanks everyone for coming to support the show and dedicates her performance to all the amazing hardworking immigrants who are essential to our community. Enjoy the show!



LUPITA HAHN – CARMEN

Lupita is delighted to make her Kentwood Players debut in *Real Women Have Curves*, playing Carmen. Previous credits include *Tony & Tina's Wedding*, *Remember Me?*, and *Perils on the High Seas*. Offstage, she enjoys writing jokes drawn from everyday life and adventuring with her son, Julio. She thanks her friends and family for their constant love and support, and wishes you an unforgettable show.

Meet the Cast



JEAN MORA – ROSALI

Jean is thrilled to be playing the role of Rosali in *Real Women Have Curves*. She originally hails from the border town of El Paso, Texas, and is particularly excited to play this part in homage to her heritage and in recognition of the current migration crisis. Jean originally graduated from Knox College with a double major in political science and economics. She is excited to begin her journey with Kentwood Players and return as a thespian after previously focusing on film. Catch her on shows like *Million Dollar House Hunter*, *Judge Faith*, and her own produced short film, *Guilty Pleasure*. Jean encourages others to remember that we were once all immigrants and thread the string of what it is like to be an undocumented migrant within the context of the current political climate by imagining themselves as a member of this family unit. Ningún ser humano es ilegal.



MAYRA NAVIA – PANCHÁ

Mayra Alejandra Navia is a non-union Chicana actor from Inglewood, California, making her stage debut as Pancha. Specializing in improv and comedy, she has starred in three independent films directed by Jorge Xolalpa, including *Lolita* (post-production), *Improvised Sobriety Story* (2024), and *Strange Love*. A graduate of El Camino College's Musical Theatre and Dance programs, Mayra studied ballet, modern, jazz, and hip hop, and trained her voice under Dr. Kevin Blickfeldt. She honed her acting with Holly Sneed and Nathan Singh, and sharpened her improv skills with Frank Caeti of MADtv. Fluent in English and Spanish, Mayra brings her versatile performance background and boundless energy to every role.



Meet the Production Team

MARCO RIVERA – DIRECTOR

Director, creative producer, and UCLA School of Theatre, Film, and Television - Directing and Dramaturgy alumni. Marco has developed live-event, film, and television content for: Walt Disney Imagineering (Star Wars Land and The Downtown Disney District), Warner Bro's Companies (Do Good Films and 19f Productions), Violent Pink Productions, and Create The Writer's Room. Marco's theatrical work includes: Karen Sacarías' *Just Like Us* with the UCLA Latinx Theatre Comunion, Robert Wilson's *Letters to a Man* with Mikhail Baryshnikov, the USA premiere of Lope De Vega's *Women and Servants* as part of LATC's Encuentro Festival, the USA premiere of Dea Loher's *Life on Praça Roosevelt*, the West Coast premiere of *The Pride* by Alexi Kaye Campbell, *Swan Lake* at the Ricardo Montalban Theatre and Hudson Theatre in NYC and, earlier this year, the premiere of *Watermarks* by Abbott Alexander. Alongside *Real Women Have Curves*, Marco's other directing project, *Beat of the Traps*, is currently running at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in NYC until December 2025. Ralph Freud Fellow, Emmy Winner 2012.

RHONDA YEAGER-HUTCHINSON – CO-PRODUCER

Rhonda has been a part of Kentwood since 2019 when *Pippin* brought her into the fold. It is wonderful having such a loving home away from home. I was fortunate enough to be in the right place at the right time being cast as a Gardener in *Native Gardens* (fun stuff), then as The Magistrate in *Fools*. *Real Women Have Curves* is a story to be told in the here and now. I am so glad to be a part of this production.

MICHELE SELIN – CO-PRODUCER

This is Michele's third time co-producing at Kentwood, previous plays were *Clue* and *Baskerville*. Currently a member of Kentwood's Plays Committee, acting credits include *Steel Magnolias* (Clairee), *Our Town* (Mrs. Webb), *Daddy's Dyin', Who's Got the Will* (Lurline), and *The Imaginary Invalid* (Toinette). Congratulations to our spectacular cast and crew, enjoy the show!

SCOTT GILFORD NOLAN CROWELL – STAGE MANAGER/ SCRIPT SUPERVISOR

Scott is honored to serve as Stage Manager for *Real Women Have Curves*. His previous credits include *Big Fish* and *Something's Afoot* with Kentwood Players. In Houston, he worked backstage at Country Playhouse as ASM and Props Manager for *The Trip to Bountiful*, where he also appeared as the Houston Ticket Agent, and as a Stagehand for *Anything Goes*. He was a Supernumerary with Houston Grand Opera in *Carmen*, *Faust*, *Otello*, and *Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci*. Scott is beginning formal Theatre Arts training at El Camino College and is grateful for the team's trust and mentorship.

Meet the Production Team

ALEXANDRA CARDONA – ASST STAGE MANAGER/DRAMATURG

Alexandra is a director, writer, and producer whose work spans theatre and film. Her directing credits include *The Effect*, *Once on This Island*, and *Lost Girl*, with collaborations at Modern Minority Theatre, Impulse Theatre Company, and Aeneid Theatre Company. On film, she has helmed projects such as *He Was a Nice Guy*, *Sock Money*, and *Mancala*. She is excited to work on *Real Women Have Curves* and has loved working with everyone!

BEN LUPEJKIS – SET DESIGNER

Real Women Have Curves marks Ben's ninth design for Kentwood Players. Ben has designed several sets for KP, beginning with the musical *Two by Two*. From ark, to river boat (*Murder on the Nile*), to the world of a Titanic survivor (*Unsinkable Molly Brown*), to smalltown Texas (*Sordid Lives*), radio studio (*It's a Wonderful Life*), suburban backyard (*All My Sons*), northern English manor (*An Inspector Calls*), and French apartment (*Private Lives*), Ben creates an evocative environment, with a sense of whimsy and attention to inventive detail, for actors and audiences to unleash their imaginations.

RICHARD POTTHOFF – LIGHTING DESIGNER

Richard is a lifetime Kentwood member and past president having first joined the theatre during the 1983 production of *Chicago* as a novice follow spot operator. One of his proudest achievements was the 1996 production of *Man of La Mancha*, where Richard won Marcom Masque awards for Set Design, Lighting Design and Best Production. He even snagged an acting award for his portrayal of the Captain of the Inquisition. After a long hiatus due to some nagging health issues, he is happy to return to Kentwood as the Lighting Designer of *Real Women Have Curves*.

EMALINE JOHNSON – SOUND DESIGNER

Emaline is a theater person from Illinois who came to LA because she loves the ocean. She has since done a decent amount with film but is happy to be back in the theater. This is her first big foray into sound design but is excited to help make the actors feel like they are living the scenes.

GLORIA RAMIREZ-PLUNKETT – COSTUME DESIGNER

Gloria está muy orgullosa de vestir su primer espectáculo para Kentwood Players. Though this is her first Kentwood show, she has costumed productions for elementary, middle, and high schools like *The Wizard of Oz*, *Spamalot*, *The SpongeBob Musical*, *Crazy For You*, *Mary Poppins*, and *The Music Man*. She would like to thank the cast and crew for being a dream to work with. A nuestro hermosa elenco: ¡Mucha suerte! Break legs, everyone!

Meet the Production Team

MICHELE GOFFEAU – PROPS

Michele has enjoyed working with Kentwood on *Real Women Have Curves*. This is Michele's second show with Kentwood. She has previously been seen in the ensemble for the TAP production of *Damn Yankees*. Other performances include ensemble roles in community productions of *Oklahoma* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Thank you to the cast and crew for a wonderful experience and she hopes you enjoy the show.



Production Team

Lighting Design Asst	NICK UNQUERA
Stage Manager/ Script Supervisor	SCOTT GILFORD NOLAN CROWELL
ASM / Dramaturg	ALEXANDRA CARDONA
Booth Crew	ALTA ABBOTT, KELLY GOV, HOWARD MALE, GRACE O'NEILL (ALT.)
Master Builder	GEORGE KONDRACK
Props	MICHELE GOFFEAU
Prop Asst/Dresser	TONI FARINA
Set Decoration	PATTIE BUTLER, BEN LUPEJKIS
Photographer	CHRIS FARINA
Sound Tech	EMALINE JOHNSON
Hair and Make-Up	SUSAN BUTTON
Graphic Artist	KATIE KLOPP YOUNG
Audition Desk	ANN KLAFTER, MYRON KLAFTER

SPECIAL THANKS

Doug Carlson, Thomas Fitch, Helen Floersh, Sylvia Garcia,
David Gonzalez, Elijah Green, Julio Hahn, Keith Hutchinson,
Emaline Johnson, Kato's Sewing Machines, Mindy Kim,
George Kondreck, Ben Lupejkis, Daniel Mitchner,
Gloria Ramirez-Plunkett, Michele Selin, Shawn Summerer,
Michael Thorpe, Doug Vasquez, Monte Wilson,
Rhonda Yeager-Hutchinson, Jazz Zhu

WORK SATURDAY/SUNDAY

Karol Avila, Alison Boole, Alexandra Cardona,
Vanessa Cardona, Doug Carlson, Arlene Cohen,
Sheldon Cohen, Scott Crowell, Jamie Dawley, Chris Farina,
Isabella Francisco, Helen Floersh, Michele Goffeau,
Samuel Goldman, Cylie Hall, Julio Hahn, Emaline Johnson,
George Kondreck, Daniel Kruger, Ben Lupejkis, Howard Male,
Melvin Miller, Daniel Mitchner, Roy Okida, Jeremy Palmer,
Lyndsay Palmer, Carissa Pelletier, Shawn Plunkett,
Richard Potthoff, Marco Rivera, Michele Selin, Julia Sison,
Jon Sparks, Elizabeth Bouton Summerer, Shawn Summerer,
Michael Thorpe, Megan Unquera, Nick Unquera, Brian Wells,
Rhonda Yeager-Hutchinson



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42ND STREET

Music by Harry Warren

Lyrics by Al Dubin

Book by Michael Stewart & Mark Bramble

Directed by Doug Vasquez

January 16 – February 7, 2026

LOST IN YONKERS

by Neil Simon

Directed by Jeremy Palmer

March 13 – April 4, 2026

GUILTY PLEASURES

by Ken Levine

Directed by Jonathan Fain

May 8 – June 6, 2026

NEXT TO NORMAL

Music by TOM KITT

Book & Lyrics by BRIAN YORKEY

Directed by Kirk Larson

July 10 – August 1, 2026

SIGNIFICANT OTHER

by Joshua Harmon

Directed by Elijah Green

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THOSE DANCING FEET ...

42ND

STREET

MUSIC BY HARRY WARREN
LYRICS BY AL DUBIN
BOOK BY MICHAEL STEWART & MARK BRAMBLE
DIRECTED BY DOUG VASQUEZ

Produced by special arrangement with Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company

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