

Backstage Pass

INSIGHTS ON STAGE, SCREEN AND BEYOND

Studio Theatre To Host Q&A With Season 4 Playwright

By KRISTEN FIORE

Daily Sun Senior Writer

Season 4 at the Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol is all about overcoming political divide. The season starts in September with “John & Jen” and also includes “Neighbors: A Fair Trade Agreement,” “Assassins” and “Other Desert Cities.” The venue will host Bernardo Cubría, the playwright who wrote “Neighbors,” at 4 p.m. Dec. 14 for a talkback and Q&A session. Tickets, which are \$15, are on sale now. Reserve your spot for this event before it fills up, as seating is limited. Tickets can be purchased online at thevillagesentertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office location.

“Neighbors” features Joe and José, neighbors who never got to know each other until certain circumstances lead them to go into business together.

The show is humorous, but

it’s also about being bicultural, according to Cubría.

“I was born in Mexico and grew up in the U.S.,” he said. “I wanted to talk about how, ultimately, it doesn’t matter where you were born because we all



Submitted photo

Bernardo Cubría wrote “Neighbors: A Fair Trade Agreement,” a featured show in Season 4 at The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol.

want the same things.”

This will be The Studio Theatre’s first “Meet the Playwright” event and also the venue’s first southeastern premiere of a play, according to Whitney Morse, the artistic director at The Studio.

“‘Neighbors’ is a sharply funny absurdist piece of theater,” Morse said. “It offers many laughs but also much food for thought about our relationships with people we have decided are different from ourselves.”

Morse recommends that patrons see the show before attending the event.

“I hope the participants gain a better understanding of the play, the playwright process

and the themes of the play,” she said.

Cubría said that he is thrilled that The Studio chose his play.

“I wrote this play basically for three years in my apartment in New York,” he said. “You never know if it will see the light of day or if people will care about it, but you stay up until 2 a.m. writing it and hoping that people will.”

Cubría hopes the talkback will give people a forum to share their thoughts and opinions.

“The hope of this play is that it strikes up a conversation about what a border is, who owns it, what it means to be an

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immigrant and share land with your neighbor,” he said. “I hope that people will talk and we’ll have a good conversation.”

Cubría welcomes people who are on opposing sides of the issue.

“Maybe we can figure out what we have in common and what values we share,” he said. “There’s this view nowadays that we’re very different, but in reality, we’re very similar. We care about family, community and loving our children. It’s all the same. I hope that we can talk about those things and how similar we are and celebrate the differences that we do have.”

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**BERNARDO
CUBRÍA**

The playwright who wrote "Neighbors"

