

Ana Rosa Eichen

Struggle of New Immigrants

It was dark, small; he was cramped, there were bumps in the road and he knew it would be worth the pain when he got there. Then the bumps stopped he realized they stopped moving, his stomach twisted hoping and praying it wasn't them and that he would make it.

These descriptions of a migrant's experience reminded me of Vivi Tellas, an Argentinian icon that is changing theater. In the most recent play she made "*los Amigos*", which enlightened people about fleeing from your home to a foreign place that you are supposedly supposed to call your new home. The play that Vivi Tellas made shows two actors known as Sow & Fallow and their story from Senegal to Buenos Aires. Overview is two Senegalese immigrants who met in the neighborhood of Caballito and who, since then, have kept the friendship well. While reviewing their lives, they venture historical and sociological hypotheses, discuss religion, pray to Allah without hiding her admiration for the films of the young filmmaker Manuel Abramovich. This show was produced and directed by Vivi and came out during the year of covid 2020. She makes plays to enlighten people about political opinions. The latest dated play that she made started in 2002. She holds a degree in Liberal Arts from the UBA and a degree in journalism from the National University of Lomas de Zamora. She is a member of the Cultural Policies Department of the Centro Cultural de la Cooperación in Buenos Aires. She has had many more opportunities open to her for different schools, as well as to teach minors about theater. This show, *Los Amigos*, is an important example of using theater to build empathy by showing the ways refugee youth struggle with survival, mental health challenges, and knowing who to trust.

Many refugee youth struggle with survival, such as Bayan Mahmud he was sixteen years of age and ran away looking for a better life. little did he know he would have a whole career he made a massive fortune by his skill in soccer and created a whole life for himself . As much as it was a struggle to get settled he was very blessed to have an advantage in his new home

Another important issue raised in *los Amigos* is the mental health challenges that newcomer children, immigrants and refugees to the United States may experience. Young immigrants and refugees are at risk of psychological stress and consequently may develop symptoms of anxiety, depression or post-traumatic stress. Some children and families also experience traumatic separations during the process of migration or because of parental deportation. Many newcomer children and parents may have

experienced discrimination at school or in the community. The role of the pediatrician includes helping to identify and collaborate in the provision of mental health and social services. About 5.5 million children have at least one parent who is undocumented. About 1 million children are themselves undocumented, while about 4.5 million are US-born citizens (SOURCE). Now knowing this is very hard to trust who around you, especially when a child, or a child's parents are immigrants.

Knowing who to trust kids these days is already a struggle enough, and now in Argentina people are fleeing because of the governmental debt and a collapsing economy. Confidence in the Argentinian economy has pivoted downwards; they are struggling to find themselves and have an increasing pile of domestic debt. During the span of 2020-2022 about 50,000 Argentinians migrated to other countries because of covid to find a better financially stable country.

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<https://www.ft.com/content/faba01ac-ca34-40e5-aff1-ff40d5c821d6>

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