

ANNOUNCING LPN's NEW DURATIONAL PUBLIC PERFORMANCE:
“THE PHANTOM MARIACHI”



“The Phantom Mariachi” posing w/ performance artist Jadelynn Stahl at the SF Pride Parade June 2015

In early 2015 - as the “post-gentrification” era became harder and harder to ignore and more virulent than ever before - **La Pocha Nostra** performance troupe began to think of ways to address complex issues facing our Bay Area community in performative, playful and highly visible ways. The persona of the “**Phantom Mariachi**” was developed during a residency at University of California Davis that focused on the applications of new technologies in live performance. The image features a black spandex Sentai-suited “anonymous” woman (we are not disclosing her identity) wearing a mariachi hat, high heels and bearing a bar-code that directs onlookers to political statements viewable online. Other times she holds placards with statements like: “**Against the erasure of complex identities and eviction.**”

This bold persona appears as a walking censorship bar. She silently speaks of the devastating erasure of complex identities. She is a symbolic inhabitant of past, present and future San Francisco.

The goal of this **real-life Super-Heroine** is to inspire people in San Francisco and other cities undergoing similar processes of extreme

gentrification to respond with creative and critical commentary to their own local issues.

During public appearances, the Phantom Mariachi delivers poetry, takes selfies with audience members, engages in more staged photo opportunities, stages tableau vivants, crashes politically questionable events, takes public transportation and ad libs with audience members and the unsuspecting/perplexed passer by.



The Phantom Mariachi with La Mission's godfather Rene Yanez at SOMArts 2015

This “**Madonna of the Bohemian Others**” has a more serious side bringing to light the seeming erasure and displacement of communities in the Mission district and other parts of the city; in particular the many Latino families, artist, bohemian, queer communities and working class people, currently being evicted.

The Phantom Mariachi made her public debut in the **2015 SF Pride Parade** as part of the leading entourage of “the Ecossexuals” (Annie Sprinkle, Beth Stephens, Gomez-Peña & crew). She has since appeared at anti-censorship events held at the **Free Speech Wall** on Valencia Street, at the opening of Dia de los Muertos at **SOMArts Cultural Center** and at the **Eric Quezada Center for Culture and Politics** of San Francisco, among other places. In 2016 the Phantom Mariachi will be featured in the **Queering the Castro Festival** and other places to be announced. Also, the persona is being rendered as a cartoon by Chicano artist Rio Yanez and will soon be the subject matter of a short video documentary titled “**A**

Day in the life of the Phantom Mariachi” which includes conversations with a range of SF locals, from “hipsters” to local business owners.

The Phantom Mariachi has just launched a confessional facebook page in which visitors can write their own personal stories of displacement, eviction, racism and homophobia in the new fratmosphere of the bohemian theme park still know as San Francisco.

www.facebook.com/erasureinsanfrancisco



The Phantom Mariachi at the Free Speech Wall with activist Antonio Solis (left) and Director of the FS Wall Bruce Tomb (right)