

Resource Centre for the Arts Visual Guide / Social Story

For

ALTAR

Showing at the

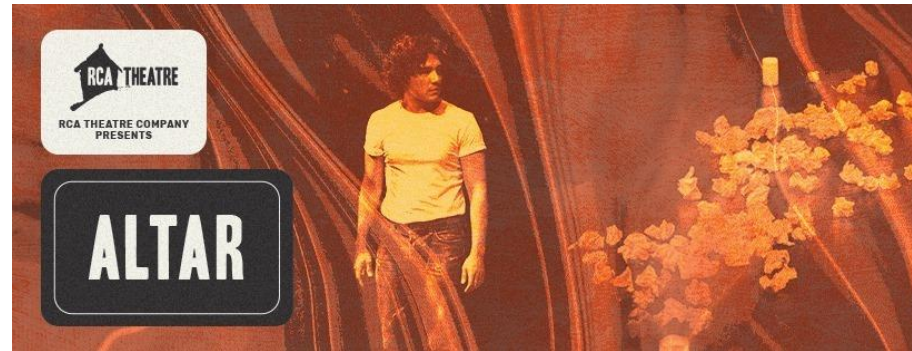
LSPU Hall Main Stage

October 29, 30 & November 1, 4, 5 & 6 at 8 PM

October 31 & November 7 at 2 PM

October 30 & November 6 at 8 PM Livestream



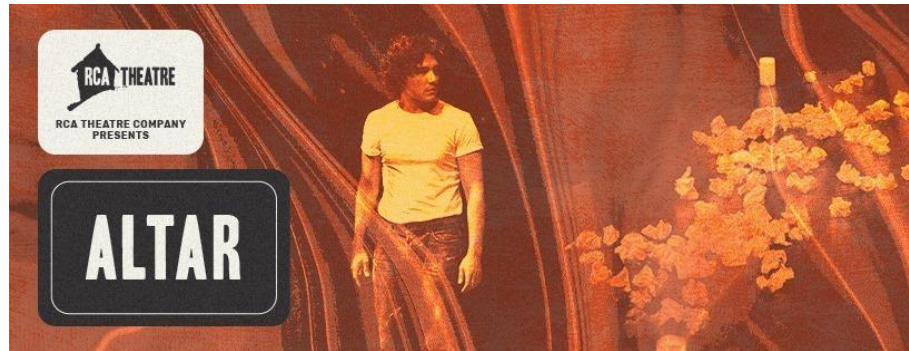


ALTAR follows the story of Eugenio, his broken heart, and his path in trying to heal it. Eugenio has been in St. John's less than a year, and he already has an ex-boyfriend who's ghosted him - and he's still not over it!

Taking Día de Muertos (The Day of The Dead) and his father's previous experience with paranormal activities as references, Eugenio sets up an altar (a central part of the Día de Muertos ritual) to summon his boyfriend's 'ghost' to sort out the breakup once and for all. Will it be enough for Eugenio to forgive, forget, and love again?

[Image Description: A man with curly dark hair kneels on the stage, looking upwards. There is a table with a red tablecloth behind him. He holds a trash can filled with crumpled up pieces of yellow paper. Crumpled yellow paper balls surround him on the floor. White candles are lit and stand behind him, just to his right.]





Welcome back to the LSPU Hall!

There have been a lot of changes to the way we move around our space since the beginning of the pandemic, and we have been working hard to make it as safe and comfortable as possible for all patrons. Please have a read through our new building regulations:

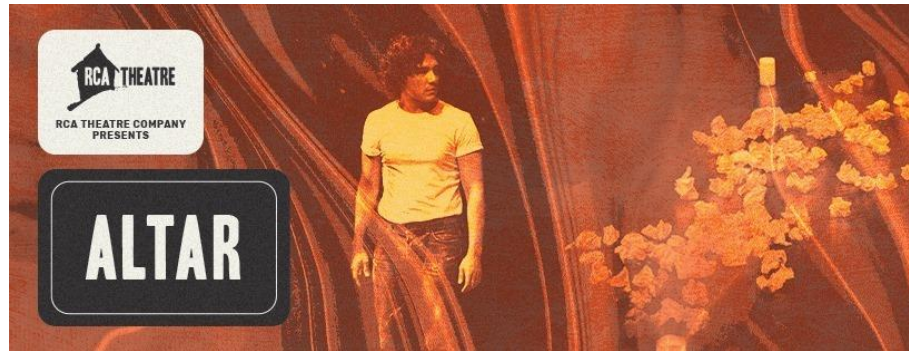
Patrons are required to provide proof of vaccinations upon entering the building either with the NLVaxxPass or hard copies. All patrons must have a photo I.D.

Patrons are required to wear a mask when moving through the building as per NL Public Health guidelines. Masks can be removed once you are sitting in your designated seat.

Please respect physical distancing and stay 6 feet apart from others while moving around the building. Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the building and will be clearly marked.

[Image Description: The LSPU Hall, a large green building with white trim is shown. The windows are trimmed in pink. The old Newfoundland flag adorns front of the building. Next to it are two homes, one yellow and one red. The sky is bright and blue.]



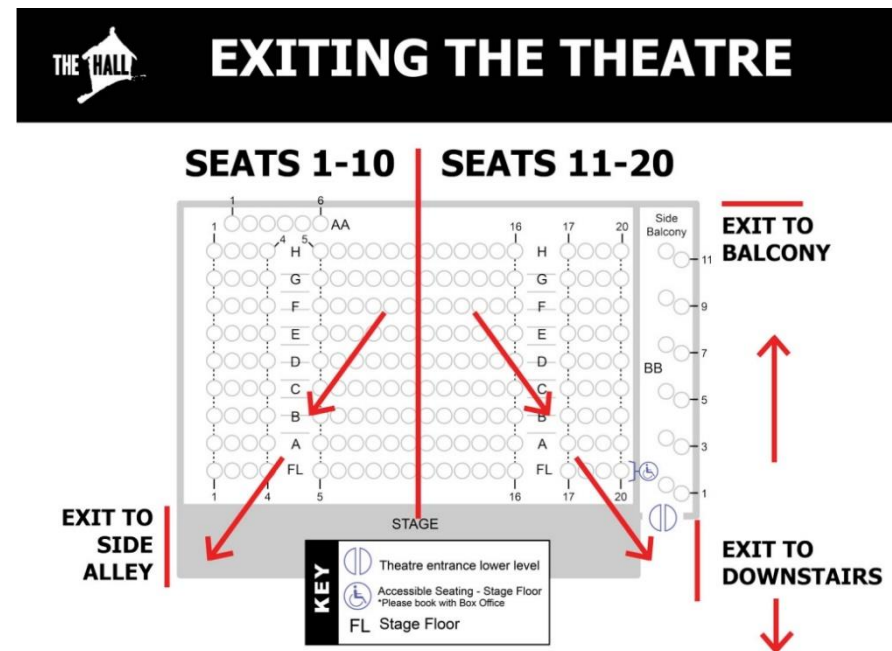


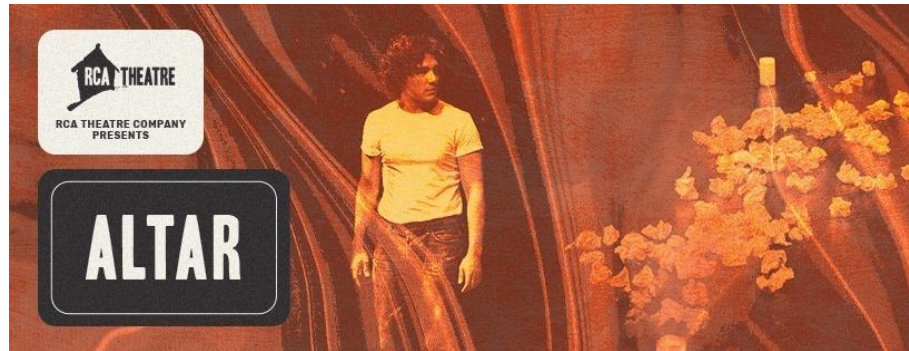
House opens 1 hour prior to showtime. You will be given an arrival time based on the row you are sitting in. Please arrive in that window to avoid congestion in the lobby.

No latecomers will be admitted to the theatre. Please arrive with enough time to be seated before the show.

We ask you to leave the Hall one row at a time once the event is over, starting with the front row to maintain social distancing. Patrons on the right side of the theatre will leave through the side stage exit. Patrons on the left side will either leave through the main exit, or through the balcony exit, or down the lift. Staff/ushers will be on hand to help guide patrons to the appropriate exit.

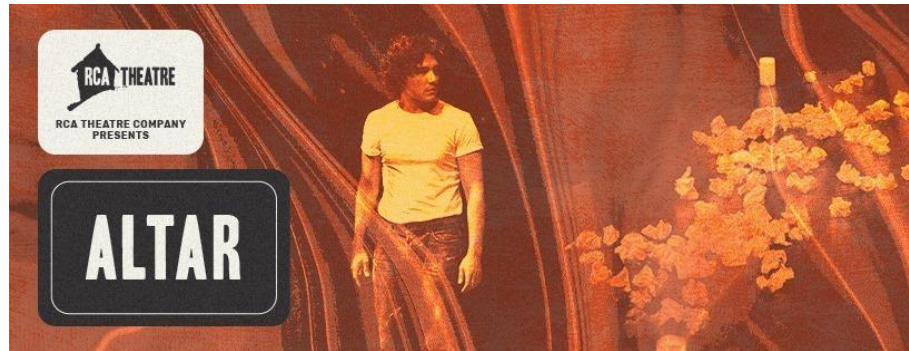
We ask that you leave the building as soon as the show is over – loitering is not permitted.





Let us introduce you to
the Cast & the Crew of

ALTAR



Santiago Guzmán - Actor [Eugenio], Writer

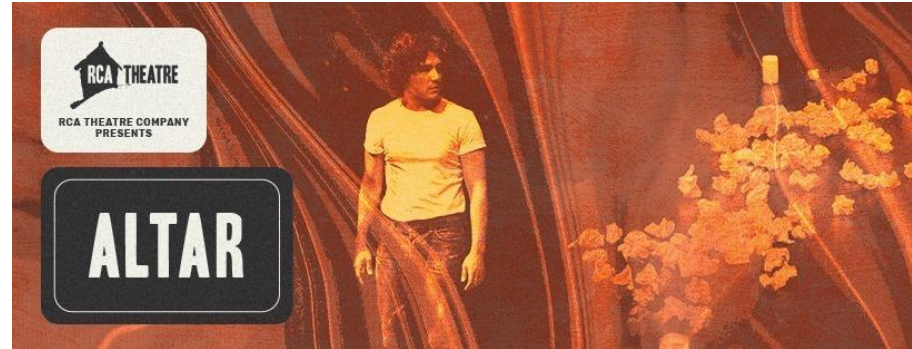
Santiago Guzmán (he/him) is a writer, performer, director and producer for theatre and film originally from Metepec, Mexico, now based in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. He is the Artistic Director of TODOS Productions (NL), the Artistic Associate for Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre (NS) and General Manager for Neighbourhood Dance Works (NL). He is a proud member of The Quilted Collective.

His work as a writer aims to put local, under-represented narratives and characters on the frontlines, whilst inviting audiences to appreciate the vibrancy of Newfoundland and Labrador from a diverse perspective.

His plays have been supported, developed and/or produced by theatre companies and festivals across the country, like TODOS Productions (NL), Resource Centre for the Arts Theatre Company (NL), Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland (NL), Rising Tide Theatre (NL), Neighbourhood Dance Works (NL), Eastern Front Theatre (NS), Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre (NS), Ship's Theatre Company (NS), Page1 Theatre (NS), Boca Del Lupo (BC), Paprika Festival (ON), and the National Theatre School of Canada's Art Apart Program (QC). Santiago's work is very gay, very brown, and very real.

[Image Description: Santiago, a man with curly black hair that reaches above his shoulders and brown eyes, is seen from his chest up. He is smiling and wearing a white shirt under a blue jean jacket. He stands in front of a blurry city scape at sunset.]





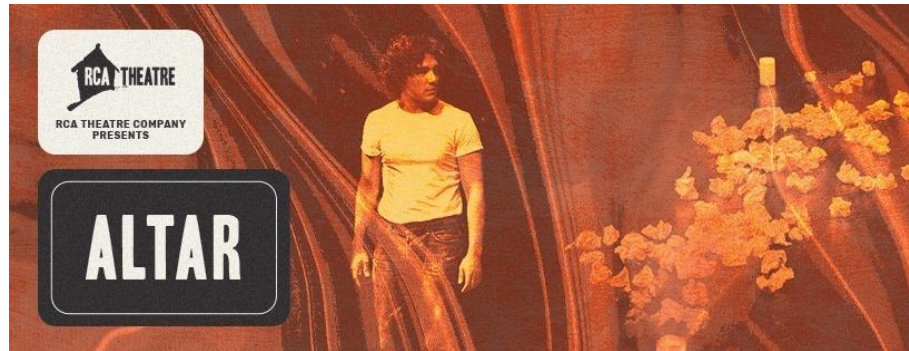
Meghan Greeley - Director

Meghan Greeley is a writer, performer, and director from Corner Brook, NL. She holds a BFA in Theatre (Acting) from Sir Wilfred Grenfell College. She marked her directorial debut with the original version of Santiago Guzmán's *Altar* at the St. John's Short Play Festival in 2019. In 2020 she directed a movement workshop of Mallory Fisher's play *motherskin* and later went on to direct a technical/design workshop of the play at the LSPU Hall in 2021.

Past playwriting credits include *Jawbone*, *The Cut of It*, *Hunger* (White Rooster Theatre); *To the Girls* (Stephenville Theatre Festival); *The Blue Castle* (Rising Tide Theatre); *Brother, Brother* (the InspiraTO Festival); and *Kingdom* (White Rooster, CONTRA). She has been a member of the Tarragon Playwrights Unit and Nightwood Theatre's Write from the Hip program.

[Image Description: Meghan, a woman with shoulder length brown hair and blue eyes is seen from the chest up. She is wearing a black and white striped tank top and hanging pearl earrings. She is looking at the camera without smiling. The background is blurry and grey.]





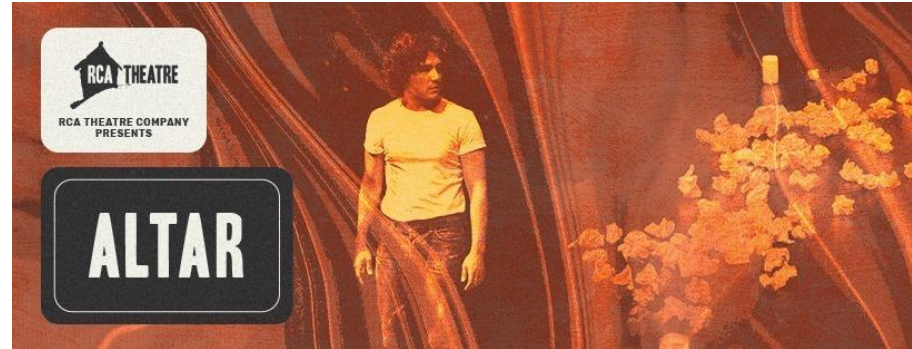
Ryan Wilcox – Lighting Design/Technical Director

Ryan Wilcox (they/them) is a neurodivergent, nonbinary theatre creator based in Kijipuktuk, colonially known as Halifax, Nova Scotia. Ryan is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's Production Design and Technical Arts Program where they trained as a theatre designer and manager.

Since graduating, Ryan has focused on creating new work with artists from untapped communities, seeking to diversify representation on and off stage.

[Image Description: Ryan has short brown hair and brown eyes. They are shown looking at the camera, and they are wearing a charcoal-coloured dress shirt. The background is also grey.]





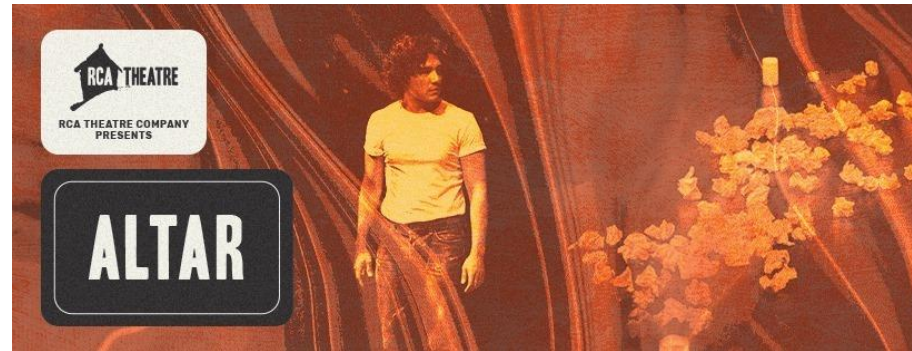
Michelle LaCour -Sound Designer

Michelle LaCour is a freelance audio engineer based in St. John's, NL. After completing a Bachelor of Music in piano and musicology at Memorial University, she went on to earn a Master of Music in sound recording from McGill University in Montreal, where she worked extensively as a live sound engineer, recording engineer, director, and research assistant.

Since returning home in 2017, she has found herself working in a variety of positions, including as a festival manager and administrator; as a location recordist and post-production mixer for documentary, film, and television; as a live sound engineer at various venues in the province; as a recording, mixing, and mastering engineer for local bands; and as a sound designer for theatre.

[Image Description: Michelle, a woman with long red hair pinned with a bow behind her head, is playing an accordion. She is wearing a long sleeve grey hoodie. There is a green gazebo in the background.]



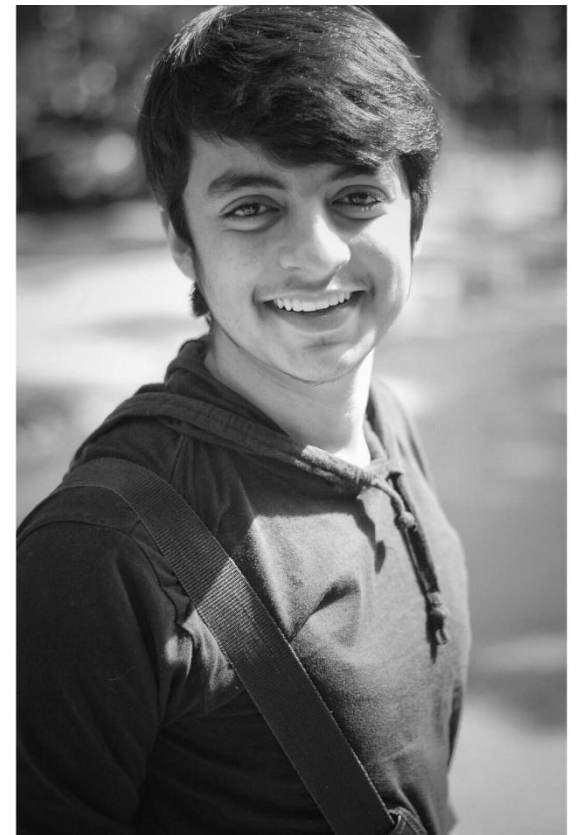


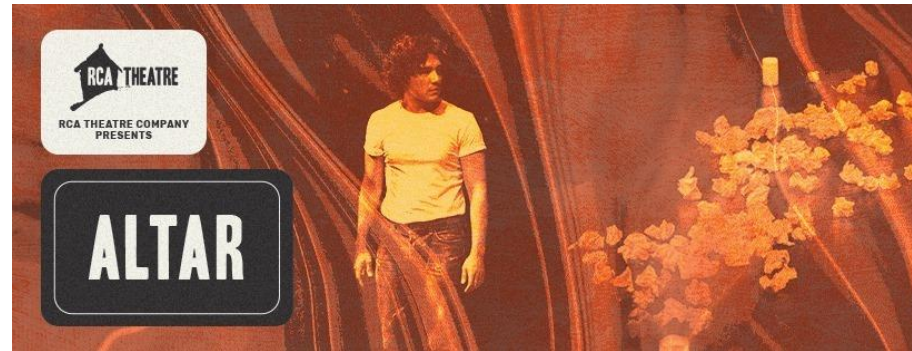
Azal Dosanjh – Stage Manager

Azal Dosanjh is a theatre artist from India, now residing in St. John's, Newfoundland. His recent directing credits include *Sun in an Empty Room* (GroupHug Productions, 2021), *Lights Out* (Theatre Perimetric, 2021), *Relief* (Aariz Theatre, 2021), *BURROW* (Eastern Front Theatre & CB Nuit, 2020 & 2021), *Until Death Do Us Part* (Different Strokes Theatre, 2020), and *The Boor* (Aariz Theatre, 2019). He has also worked with Perchance Theatre as Assistant Director on projects such as *Julius Caesar* (2019), *Hamlet* (2021), and the upcoming *Power of One 2.0 - World Classics* (2021).

He is a graduate of the Stage and Screen Technique Diploma from the Memorial University of Newfoundland and has trained with mentors such as Danielle Irvine (Perchance Theatre), Jillian Keiley and Robert Chafe (Artistic Fraud), and Richard Rose (Atlantic Repertory Company). Azal is currently adapting and developing a series of political satires originally written by Gursharan Singh, in a collection entitled *Politically Relative*.

[Image Description: Azal is shown in a black and white photo. He has short dark hair and is smiling at the camera. He is wearing a dark hoodie. The background is blurred and grey.]





ALTAR Second Space

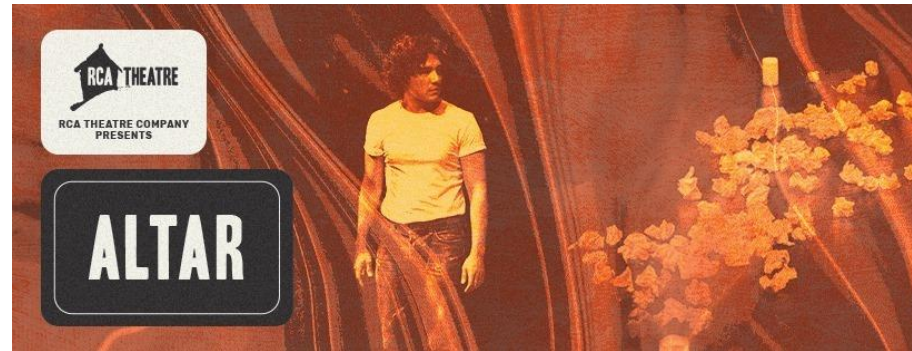
It is important to the team of ALTAR to honor the Mexican holiday Día de Muertos (Nov 1-2) and the tradition of remembering and celebrating loved ones who have departed. To help replenish their spiritual journey, family members and friends set up altars with food and drinks the deceased enjoyed in life, and tokens that belonged to them, alongside their photographs. In Mexican culture, it is viewed not as a day of sadness but one of celebration as their loved ones awaken and celebrate with them.

The Cox & Palmer Second Space will host a community altar for the duration of the run of the show. We invite our audiences to participate and celebrate with us, by bringing in a picture of their departed loved ones to place on our pin-board. We ask that you bring a picture you don't necessarily want back, a photocopy of a picture, etc.

As a community engagement initiative patrons can also bring donations for the altar when they come to their performances or anytime during box office hours. All donations will be distributed among The Gathering Place, The Women's Center, The CNIB, and Bridges to Hope.

[Image Description: A man with curly dark hair kneels on the stage, looking upwards. There is a table with a red tablecloth behind him. He holds a trash can filled with crumpled up pieces of yellow paper. Crumpled yellow paper balls surround him on the floor. White candles are lit and stand behind him, just to his right.]





At the start of each show, there will be a Curtain Raiser. A Curtain Raiser is an opening performer who opens each show of ALTAR with a song or a poem. The Curtain Raisers submitted to apply and have been chosen for each performance. The Curtain Raisers performance will be five to ten minutes and once they have performed will take a seat in the audience to watch ALTAR.

October 29th, 8pm - Arshad Ali Shaikh - Poet

October 30th, 8pm (LIVESTREAM) - Deantha Edmunds and Annabelle Ramsay - Classic Inuit Singers

October 31st, 2pm - Tendai Mudunge and Charliza Slusher - Dancers

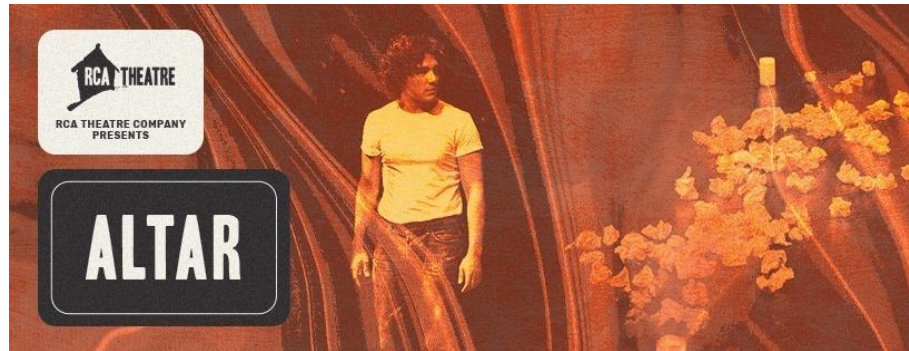
November 1st, 8pm - Borrego Escobar - Writer

November 4th, 8pm - Valmy - Singer/Songwriter

November 5th, 8pm - William Ping - Novelist/Journalist

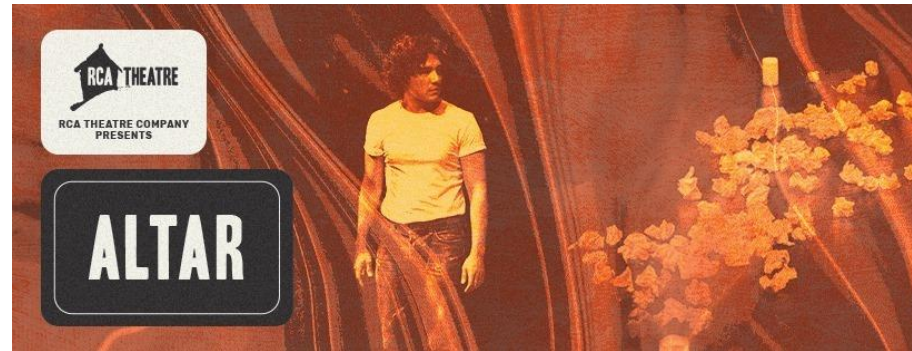
November 7th, 2pm - Ife Alaba - Singer/Songwriter





Rehearsal Pictures - these are photographs taken of the rehearsal process.



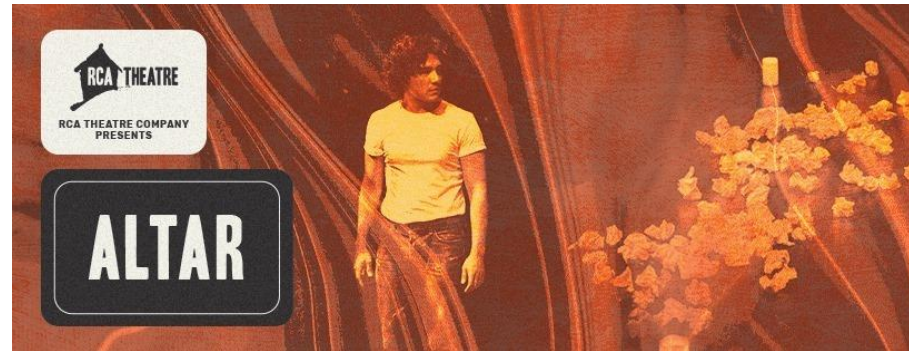


The performance takes place on the stage at the front of the room. The audience do not go on the stage during the performance. At the end of the performance the actors will come on stage and bow while there is applause from the audience.

The set of Altar was designed by the director Meghan Greeley. It is made up of three tables, paper flowers and candles. There are tablecloths over the tables. The candles look very realistic but are battery powered and not real flames.

The lights were designed by Ryan Wilcox and the sound was designed by Michelle LaCour. These are set to cues. The lights above the audience are called House Lights. During the relaxed performance the house lights will not go completely off.





Thank you for taking the time to read through our Visual Guide / Social Story for ALTAR.

We also have a Visual Guide for the LSPU Hall available on our website under the Accessibility Section. There you will find more pictures & information about the theatre space before you visit us.

<http://lspuhall.ca/accessibility/>

If you have any questions about anything you have seen in this guide, please contact our Communications Officer at communications@lspuhall.ca.

We hope you enjoy the show & thank you for choosing Resource Centre for the Arts for your night out!

[Image Description: The front of the LSPU Hall is shown, with spotlights shining over it. The building is green, with white and pink trim. It is nighttime and is dark outside.]

LSPU Hall Box Office

3 Victoria Street, St. John's, NL A1C 3V2 Phone: (709) 753-4531 ext 200

Resource Centre for the Arts Theatre Company (RCAT)

3 Victoria Street, St. John's, NL A1C 3V2 Phone: (709) 753-4537

