



A bilingual one act musical

LOG LINE

On a protest-choked night in a small Chicago Latino restaurant, Sophia is fighting a developer for her building. Then ICE takes one of her servers, and her niece's fiancé arrives with a ring, a new coat, and a government job he won't name. By closing, everyone in the room finds out what it costs to keep a door open when everything outside is trying to close it.

CASTING

10 actors — 7 male, 3 female. All cast members sing. Roles for Sophia, Carlos, Maria, Luis, Eduin, and Donovan are written for Latino actors. Spanish is limited throughout. Conversational comfort preferred for Sophia, Carlos, Luis, and Eduin.

3-5 Musicians. Guitar (acoustic and electric), Cajón / percussion, Keys / MIDI covering bass, horn, and violin, *Recommended:* add live horn (4 players), then violin (5)

SONGS

1. El Cruce (Opening) — Cumbia. Sung by Ensemble
2. Don't Rush the Bread — Latin pop / Cumbia. Sung by Maria, Sophia, and Carlos
3. A Reputation Preserved — Latin Pop / Melodic Hip-Hop. Sung by Carlos and Kari
4. It Will Be Mine — Son Montuno. Sung by Donovan and Sophia
5. Come Back Tuesday (El Cruce Reprise) — Cumbia. Sung by Ensemble
6. Dancing With Judas — Tango. Sung by Evan and Maria
7. This Is My Place — Son Montuno. Sung by Sophia
8. I Just Met Me — Bolero. Sung by Maria
9. Tend the Fire — Indie Folk. Sung by Ensemble

PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS

Run Time 75-90 minutes. One act, continuous, no intermission. Single set, the restaurant. Sound design carries the street: protest noise, sirens, and the door opening and closing on it. The front door and front window are practical units. The street beyond them is a controlled offstage playing space with actor access, used for one impact moment that requires a fight director. Written for a proscenium or black box. An immersive restaurant staging is possible provided the production can control the space beyond the front window.

INFO El CRUCE: www.elcrucemusical.com MUSIC: www.duncanholmesband.com/music

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Full script on request. Complete studio recording of all nine songs.

BIO

Doug Holmes is a Chicago musician and writer making his theater debut. He has released three albums as the Duncan Holmes Band. El Cruce began as songs — there were a dozen before there was a plot — written when ICE enforcement reached people he knows. The book was written to hold the score.