

## Mateo Hernandez (*they/he*)

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### BIO

Mateo Hernandez is a queer, Latinx theatre maker, applied theatre practitioner, pedagogue, and scholar currently pursuing an MFA in Drama & Theatre for Youth & Communities at The University of Texas at Austin. As a playwright, their plays revolve around topics of gender and sexuality within Latinx/Chicanx culture. As a dramaturg, they have a keen ability to facilitate a team towards questioning the “why” of the story. Mateo is the 2023 recipient of the Don and Elizabeth Doyle Fellowship from the American Alliance for Theatre & Education. They are a company member with For Youth Inquiry (FYI), a performance company in Chicago, IL making participatory theatre around issues of reproductive justice. They are also a member of the Board of Directors for Teatro Vivo in Austin, TX, a theatre company focused on showcasing Latinx experiences.

### PLAYS

**spayce boys** is a play for young audiences that follows two queer, Latinx, middle school-age boys who are forced to work together on a school project but just cannot seem to figure each other out. One day they find themselves in a mysterious room in their school that rockets them out into outer space. Once there, they are again forced to work together to prove to the robot rocket that they are indeed human boys and should be allowed to return to earth. This is a tender play about finding friends, being raised/socialized as a boy on earth, and how being witness to young folks is essential. *Past Development – UTNT: The University of Texas at Austin (2024); New Plays for Young Audiences: New York University Steinhardt (2021); INGENIO: Teatro Vivo, Cara Mia, Milagro (2020).*

**el bailador** is a play for all audiences that centers a young Chicanx boy named Pablo who loves to dance but only does so in the privacy of his room. Afraid of what his family might think, Pablo forms a personal relationship with every physical space in the play as a chorus of actors transforms into the various settings of the play. When Pablo, his brother and his parents must move into his grandma’s house along with his uncle and cousin, his anxiety is exacerbated by his family being around every corner in the new house. Pablo has nowhere to explore his self-expression and grief of his recent grandpa’s passing but is finding new musical inspirations through the Tejano music that fills his grandma’s house. But he must quickly confront his anxieties and trepidation when a family quince hosts the baile at his grandma’s house.

*Past Development – Austin Latinx New Play Festival: Teatro Vivo (2023).*

### PUBLICATIONS on Dramaturgy

“How Do We Tend to Collaboration?” HowlRound. Commissioned Essay.

<https://howlround.com/how-do-we-tend-collaboration>. September 28, 2023.

“Why Go On Tour?: Taking *The Smartest Girl in the World* to Central Texas Students.” Off-Book: A Theatre & Dance Blog. Commissioned Blog. <https://sites.utexas.edu/theatredance-blog/2023/11/16/why-go-on-tour-taking-the-smartest-girl-in-the-world-to-central-texas-students/> November 16, 2023.