


# “SWEET 15” (*Quinceañera*)

## An Interactive Comedic Stageplay Written and Created by Award-winning Writer/Performer Rick Najera

**World Premiere:** November 17, 2007 – December 16, 2007  
Lyceum Theatre @ San Diego REPertory Theatre, San Diego CA

March 13 - 22, 2009 - History Theatre @ Mixed Blood Theatre, Minneapolis, MN



**WORLD PREMIERE COMEDY**  
By Rick Najera  
Directed by Sam Woodhouse  
Honorary Producers Rick and Elisa Jaime


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**Nov 17 - Dec 16**

Are you ready to party? The Valerama family of National City invites you to celebrate their daughter's *quinceañera* (sweet fifteen coming-of-age party). Patriarch Eduardo has returned home from Mexico with unexplained riches after a ten year absence that began the day his daughter Sonora turned 15. He vows to put his family back on their feet, on one condition: 25 year-old Sonora must agree to star in the *quinceañera* party that Dad bailed out on ten years ago! *Sweet 15* pits father against daughter, wife and grandmother in the midst of superstar singers and dancers in a very funny and very interactive comedy. San Diego native Najera is the author and star of the longest running Latino show in Broadway history - *Latinologues* - and an award winning writer for "Mad TV" and "In Living Color"

*"Rick Najera's Work and writing are genius."*  
QUENTIN TARANTINO

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 **SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE**  
AT THE LYCEUM • HORTON PLAZA

**(619) 544-1000**      [www.sandiegorep.com](http://www.sandiegorep.com)

*SWEET 15 (Quinceañera)*, a new interactive comedy written and created by award-winning playwright/screenwriter/actor **Rick Najera**, made its world premiere at San Diego Repertory Theatre in November of 2007. This hilarious production became an instant hit when it made its debut as a workshop performance at the REP in 2006. It's highly anticipated World Premiere was directed by the REP's Artistic Director Sam Woodhouse and featured choreography from Cynthia Morales. *SWEET 15* starred an incredible cast of Broadway performers and REP veterans including Alma Martinez, Fernando Vega and Rick Najera himself.

*SWEET 15 (Quinceañera)* welcomes you into the home of the Valderama family, as they prepare to celebrate their daughter's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday – ten years too late! Set in National City (a suburb of San Diego), their story begins when the patriarch of the family, Eduardo, returns home from Mexico after a ten-year absence that began when his daughter Sonora turned 15. He promises to reunite his estranged family under one condition – that they allow him throw a Quinceañera for his daughter, who is now 25 years old. Eddy tries to recreate the special night and things don't necessarily go how he planned.

In this production you will witness the love of a father who would do anything for his daughter. This production is guaranteed to have you dancing in your seats because this is the *ultimate* party, complete with an Aztec dancer, Juan Gabriel impersonator, an interactive 'court' and much more! This show is filled to the brim with music, laughter and enough taffeta dresses to last you until Cinco De Mayo.

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## **PRESS QUOTES – REVIEWS**



*"Hilariously entertaining..."*

*"Bigger than life performances."*

*"Given Najera's history in sketch comedy, 'Sweet 15' shoots jokes and one-liners like an automatic weapon."*

- Anne Marie Welsh, [SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE](#)

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*Najera knows how to make people laugh...and returns here this month at the peak of his powers."*

*"A talented core of Latino actors who rock the house with their comic timing and musical skills."*

*"Sweet 15" is loaded with laughs and it's a festive, entertaining evening that's enjoyable for Latinos and Anglos alike.*

- Pam Kragan, [NORTH COUNTY TIMES](#)

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*"Najera is a very funny author."*

*"I find the whole package hard to resist."*

- Welton Jones, [SANDIEGO.COM](#)

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*"Be prepared for a hearty night of laughter and fun."*

*"The dialogue is witty and the cast of characters perform with such fervor and energy, there is truly not one dull moment in this production. "*

- Joanne DiBona, [SAN DIEGO CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU](#)

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## AUDIENCE Testimonials



“No writer more authentically captures the flavor, pathos and comedy of the Hispanic world than Rick Najera. The audience loved the laugh-out-loud story of a Latino family on the verge of a nervous breakdown, and so did we!” – *David Salzman, creator, executive producer MAD TV*

“Rick Najera’s ‘Sweet 15 – Quinceañera’ is a flashback to every young girl’s dream of a big fiesta, and this play highlights the everyday challenges a family faces as it gets near the big day. I laughed, cried and was truly delighted with its Latino authenticity.” – *Lupe Corona, Director of the United Front Multicultural Center, University of San Diego*



# SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Playwright Rick Najera Back From Broadway with World Premier of New Comedy SWEET 15 (Quinceañera)**

*Performance Runs November 17 through December 16 at San Diego REPeritory Theatre*



SAN DIEGO –October 3, 2007 – From the writer, creator and star of Latinologues on Broadway, Rick Najera’s new comedy Sweet 15 (Quinceañera) will make its world premier at San Diego REPeritory Theatre, with performances beginning November 17 through December 16. Sweet 15 became an instant hit when it made its debut as a workshop performance at the REP last year. It’s highly anticipated world premiere will be directed by the REP’s Artistic Director, Sam Woodhouse.

“Rick has his pulse on what it means to be Latino in the United States,” says director Sam Woodhouse. “He’s endlessly creative and one of the most fluid, facile and funny writers I’ve ever worked with.”

Sweet 15 is a comedy based on a Latino family whose patriarch has just returned from a 10 year absence that began the day his daughter turned 15. He vows to put his family back on its feet under one condition – that they allow him throw a Quinceañera (15th birthday) for his daughter who is now 25 years old. This family comedy is filled with music, laughter and hilarious, unscripted audience participation.

Rick Najera, an established playwright and award-winning writer/actor/director/producer, is one of the most produced Latino playwrights in the country. His nationally recognized Broadway play Latinologues, ran for 137 performances on Broadway, a historical achievement for a Latino-oriented show. Najera has been honored twice by Hispanic Magazine as “100 Most Influential Latinos in America” and is currently Vice President of Development for LATV, a national, bilingual network. His writing credits include comedies such as MAD TV and In Living Color. Sweet 15 is Najera’s first play written since Broadway.

Sweet 15 runs November 17 through December 16 at San Diego REP (79 Horton Plaza, San Diego). Tickets available at REP’s box office, 619-544-1000, or at [www.sandiegorep.com](http://www.sandiegorep.com). Sponsored by Enlace and San Diego Latino Film Festival, with producers, Rick and Elisa Jaime.

### About San Diego Repertory Theatre

San Diego Repertory is a professional theatre in San Diego committed to developing audiences and programming that serve the cultural diversity of the region; because bringing people together and building bridges across cultures and disciplines is an act of citizenship that promotes a wiser and more tolerant, progressive and inclusive community. [www.sandiegorep.com](http://www.sandiegorep.com)