

Parable of the Plumber

The story starts a *plomero* winding through the avenues to a rose-colored *casa* underwater and sinking into the scum on the street. His tires splash and stop. The savior grabs his tool box—a square of fixings, wrenches—and wonders how to repair the slinking, puddling wet in the middle of that home. He stands a wash of grease and goo from the last job. With a pair of *pinzas*, he crouches down, slips through the rotting pipes. He goes where no one else will flow. He finds the clog of sewage and sin, that wretched stench, in hiding. Sal plunges to release the stoppage. He yanks and shoves and overcomes the dark, where mold mixes tar, toilet paper, and other bits used in an emergency. A plumb line he sends through the stinky space until a shush, a hushing gush, sputters forth. Into the frenzied stream, he sticks his hand to heal, to fix the pain inside that house. From there he crawls, gashed on his ribs, pierced through by thin a rusty nail. His forehead is chiseled into a bloody crown. The plumber rises, collects his tools, and returns to the truck. Home, he goes . . . until in desperation the *casa* calls him to come again.

Lisa Marie Sandoval

Lisa Marie Sandoval is a nationally published performance artist and two-time City of L.A. Artist-in-Residence (2003-2005) and grant awardee. Performing for crowds of up to a thousand, her unique performance style combines dance, drama, and poetry to vividly bring story to life and connect the cries of human souls. Creator of *The Yowling & Other Sounds from Highland Park*, she currently tours her one-woman show through Southern California, and her book by the same title is scheduled for release in 2008 (tcCreative Press). Lisa Marie has been featured on television in *Spending a Little Time with Poetry*; nationally at Art & Soul and Austin's Red Salmon Art Series, both in Texas; and locally at Beyond Baroque, University of La Verne's "Voice in Action" series, Rock Rose, and other L.A. venues. She has served as host/organizer/featured performer for the Sylvan Amphitheater Festival of the Arts' "Evening of Spoken Word" and created a commissioned presentation for "The Time at the Rock," sponsored by Center for the Arts (Eagle Rock) and then councilman Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. Her work has received congressional recognition and has been published in *The Southern California Anthology*, *The Christian Century*, *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*, *Prism Review*, *poeticdiversity.org*, among others. Lisa Marie regularly performs for What's the Story? at The Powerhouse Theatre in Santa Monica. She holds a master's degree in Professional Writing from USC and a bachelor's degree from Occidental College. For bookings and info, check out www.theYowling.com

