

The Panza Monologues, Second Edition

Written, Compiled, and Collected by Virginia Grise and Irma Mayorga
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www.panzamonologues.com



Women - even wise Latinas - are obsessed about it. Some make their peace with it, while others just suck it in. While nutritionists and politicians alike weigh in on the imperious, impossible, belly or *panza*, as it is tenderly known in Spanish, Chicana playwrights and cultural workers Virginia Grise and Irma Mayorga have something to say about its power for emotional and political liberation.

As a solo performance for the stage, *The Panza Monologues* features the words of Chicanas speaking with humor and candor about their *panzas*, a place more sacred than the V-word made famous in Eve Ensler's solo show, *The Vagina Monologues*. From *The Panza Monologues'* 2004 premier in Austin, Texas to productions in Los Angeles, Phoenix, Dallas, and Boulder, the stage show has made quite an impact. In fact, the release of a Panza Monologues performance DVD in 2009 incited an entire movement of "panza parties" comprised of people gathering in homes and public spaces all over the country to view the film and engage in pointed dialogue about "panza positive cultural practices": conversations about the interconnections between health, our bodies, and social justice. *The Panza Monologues* has received critical acclaim in front of standing-room audiences who laugh, cry, and scream in panza-truth-telling solidarity.

Now, as a new book from the University of Texas Press, *The Panza Monologues, Second Edition* has drawn critical notice in both popular and academic circles – enabling its humor, heart, and urgent insights to reach new audiences and wider readerships.

In 2014, The University of Texas Press published *The Panza Monologues, Second Edition*, to rave reviews. A landmark work in Latina/o Studies and yet also adored by young women and men across the country who seek new, timely conversations concerning Latina/o identity, the book garnered national note as staff favorite in the December 2013 issue of *Latina* magazine. As well, Latina/o Studies scholar Alberto Sandoval-Sánchez says, "This is the most original and historically documented theatre project to date in Latina/o theatre...It is a lesson in making theatre matter...." The book is currently taught in course syllabi across a wide variety of disciplines at the university level, has garnered critical attention as the subject of dissertation projects, and has been adopted for use in creative writing programs for incarcerated youth and women.

With the full performance script and a wealth of materials for producing, teaching, and using the play to build community, *The Panza Monologues, Second Edition* discusses issues concerning women making independent theater, body image, and Chicana cultural production and its material realities. The play and its many stories boldly place the *panza* front and center as a symbol that reveals the lurking truths about women's thoughts, lives, loves, abuses, and lived conditions.