



“PICASSO PRESENTS GERNIKA”

Friday, May 21, 2021

2pm – 4pm

Join us to view this powerful play followed by a Question and Answer session with

Playwright: Dr. Begoña Echeverria

***Associate Dean of Academic Personnel & Professor, Graduate School of Education
at UC Riverside***

&

Director of Creative Development: Dr. Annika Speer

***Professor of Teaching in the Department of Theatre, Film, and Digital Production
at UC Riverside***

Film screening of the play: 2pm (via YouTube)

Question & Answer Session: 3:15pm – 4pm (via ZOOM)

Links will be sent out the week of May 17, 2021

A historical docudrama about the child refugee crisis resulting from Hitler's 1937 bombing of the Basque town of Gernika and Picasso's artistic response to the event. The script weaves primary source material and documentation with imaginative fiction. The film draws from a 2019 reading of the play staged at Chino Community Theatre, directed by Paul Larson, and produced by TFDP students. *The play contains historical footage, tense situations, and references to historical violence.*

Dr. Begoña Echeverria is the daughter of Basque immigrants to southern California. A native Basque speaker with a PhD in sociology, she is a Professor at UC Riverside's Graduate School of Education. Her research on Basque language, culture and identity has been published in academic journals in education, sociolinguistics, anthropology, history and folklore. She is also a singer-songwriter with the Basque-American trio, NOKA which has performed domestically and internationally. Her historical novel, *The Hammer of Witches*, loosely based on the 1610 burnings of Basque "witches" from the Baztan Valley in northern Spain, was the *Historical Novel Society's Editor's Choice* for May, 2015.

Dr. Annika Speer is a Professor of Teaching in the Department of Theatre, Film, and Digital Production at UC Riverside where she runs the public speaking program. She is Co-Director of the Public Speaking Initiative, a UC-Wide program based out of UC Santa Barbara that prioritizes interdisciplinary training in speech and rhetoric. Speer is also supporting faculty of the Medical Health and Humanities Studies. In addition, Speer works as a dramaturgical researcher and script consultant for film, including *The Girl on the Train* (2016), *Men, Women & Children* (2014), *Walking Stories* (2013), and *Call Me Crazy: A Five Film* (2013). She has directed plays as fundraisers for Women Help Women, Planned Parenthood, and Pacific Pride Foundation with the mission to generate collaborative, creative, and activist oriented theatre.