

## **The Studio for Southern California History announces its 5th annual fundraiser “Los Angeles Love Stories”**

Los Angeles, CA – Wednesday, March 2, 2011

The Studio for Southern California History (Studio) announces its annual fundraiser at its Chinatown gallery on April 2, 2011, from 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm. The fundraiser’s theme is “Los Angeles Love Stories” tying in the Studio’s current exhibit “Love is Living LARGE in Los Angeles.” Guests are encouraged to bring a story that illustrates why they love Los Angeles. The stories will be collected and shared throughout the evening. Entertainment will be provided by diverse artists whose work and history intersects with a critical love of the City of Angels. Guests will be entertained by Hollywood legend, Lennie Bluett. Other performers include renowned writers Tomás Benitez, Rubén Martínez and Luis J. Rodríguez.

Lennie Bluett is an actor, dancer, pianist, and singer whose career spans the classic Hollywood period, with films like *Gone With the Wind* and *A Cabin In the Sky*, to contemporary and annual performances in Casablanca and the Studio for Southern California History.

Actor Tomás Benitez has been a writer and a community cultural worker for the past 25 years at Inner City Cultural Center, the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts, Self Help Graphics and Plaza de la Raza.

Rubén Martínez is a musician, poet, and writer whose books include *The Other Side: Notes from the New L.A., Mexico City, and Beyond* (1993); *Crossing Over: A Mexican Family on the Migrant Trail* (2002); and *The New Americans* (2004).

Luis J. Rodríguez is a poet, novelist, journalist, critic, and columnist. His best-known work is *Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.*. Rodríguez co-founded the Tía Chucha Press and Tía Chucha's Centro Cultural, a San Fernando Valley cultural center.

Proceeds from a raffle and silent auction support the Studio, a nonprofit organization dedicated to critically chronicling and disseminating the region’s social history in order to foster sense of place. The Studio sponsors walking tours and exhibits and maintains an extensive reference library, as well as the online resource the *LA History Archive* ([www.lahistoryarchive.org](http://www.lahistoryarchive.org)).

Tickets are \$25 each for non-members and \$10 for members of the Studio. This is a “kid-friendly” event and children are free with a paying adult. In addition to adult fare, Lady Bug the Clown will educate and entertain those with children. Tickets are available by visiting the Studio’s website at [www.socalstudio.org](http://www.socalstudio.org) or visiting the Studio during its operating hours, Friday – Sunday noon – 8:00 pm and by appointment.

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