El Centro\_Director\_Bios

Pepe Stepensky (Director)

Pepe Stepensky, a director with seven Emmy nominations and four Emmy wins, is also the co-founder of Teatro Punto y Coma. Born in Mexico City, Pepe established the theatre troupe in 1986 and has since directed and written the majority of its plays. With over 30 productions to his credit, Pepe has also authored five books of short stories and poems, along with one children's book.

Pepe has been teaching acting for over 30 years. His acclaimed documentaries, including "The Land of Milk and Honey," "Un Judío en Caborca," "Una Vez Más," and "Los Últimos Diez," for which he won the Emmy for Best Director in 2022, have garnered widespread recognition. His latest documentary, "El Centro," won an Emmy for best documentary in 2023.

In addition to his documentary work, Pepe is currently involved in several film scripts. He is also in the final stages of completing two collections of short stories and a book of poetry.

Directed and wrote the critically acclaimed play “The Play”at the old globe Theater in June 2024,which was highly praised by critics.

His working on a novel in Spanish

“Lo que perdimos en el camino” to be realized early next year.

**Zejaria Ozeri** (Director)

Zeji, born in Mexico City, grew up immersed in Jewish and Israeli culture. Educated at the Yavne School, he learned Hebrew and Yiddish, later spending a formative year in Israel with Macabi Hatzair Mexico at Machon Le Madrichim. Zeji studied Theater at Tel Aviv University and worked as a counselor for international students.

In the U.S., he joined San Diego's Ken Jewish Community, serving as a music teacher, shaliach, and youth director for nearly 25 years. A frequent performer at the Lipinsky Family Jewish Arts Festival, Zeji also spent a decade hosting on Telemundo and currently co-hosts \*Qué Buen Día\*, a morning show on Televisa.

Zeji has co-produced and co-directed numerous documentaries, including his latest project, \*El Centro\*, which has contributed to his 13 regional Emmy awards. As creative director of A Culture of Peace, he promotes Jewish and Israeli culture through music, art, theater, and film.