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# RED DEATH

An adaptation of *The Phantom of the Opera*

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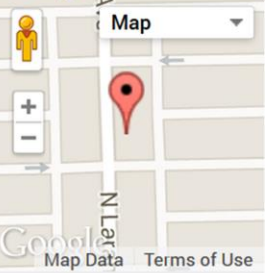
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Rosario Vargas









OLIVER ALDAPE

## La Chunga

**When:** Through 11/16: Fri-Sat 8 PM, Sun 6 PM


**Price:** \$25

Mario Vargas Llosa's 1986 play *La Chunga*, set in the Peruvian city of Piura, takes place entirely in a bar run by La Chunga, a middle-aged woman who's more than able to hold her own in the vulgar banter among four regulars, who call themselves the "Inconquistables" ("Superstuds"). One of them, Josefino, loses all his money playing dice one night and offers La Chunga, who's become enamored of his girlfriend, Meche, a night with her in return for a loan. The play alternates between the present, with the Superstuds again gambling in the bar and trying to get La Chunga to tell them the fate of Meche, who disappeared that night, and the past, in which each of the four men fantasizes about what happened after La Chunga took Meche up to her room. At the crux of the play is how women can survive in a world dominated by men, neatly illustrated by the fact that our view of what transpired between the two women is dominated by what the men believe happened. (NB: While the play is supertitled, the titles are choppy and the dialogue may be difficult to follow for non-Spanish speakers.) —**Julia Thiel**

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aguijontheater.org

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