

LADY OF AGREDA— CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

PRINCIPLES:

MARIA DE AGREDA: Born Maria Coronel in 1602. Confirmed in the Catholic church at age 4. Franciscan abbess and spiritual writer, known especially for her extensive correspondence with King Philip IV of Spain and reports of her bilocation between Spain and its colonies in New Spain. She experiences visions, bilocation, and levitation—a cloistered nun, she never leaves her convent. She is at first questioned and bullied in the convent, but later becomes abbess and highly revered and respected. Believes in the love and goodness of God and the Blessed Mother. Spiritually and politically influential. Regarded as one of the most controversial and influential women in the 17th century. Intelligent, powerful, courageous, devout, and mystical. Mezzo-Soprano.

TULA: 10-12 year old Jumano girl in West Texas; Tula is the first to see Maria appear at Paint Rock. Must be able to dance— ballet, contemporary.

TUERTO: The Chief of the Jumanos who is one of the first to see Maria appear in West Texas.

KING PHILIP IV OF SPAIN: Failing King of Spain who hears of the “Lady in Blue” and travels to Agreda to meet Maria in 1646 because he is losing the war. She becomes his spiritual advisor and they exchange over 600 letters over 22 years. He looks to Maria for political advice as well. They have an intimate and deep friendship. He keeps her manuscript of “The Mystical City of God” hidden from the Inquisition. Tenor.

BENAVIDES: Fray Alonso Benavides is a Portuguese Franciscan missionary active in New Mexico. He hears reports of the “Lady in Blue” in the New World amongst the Jumanos, thousands of who want to be baptized. He receives a letter from Spain via Mexico about Maria. He then travels to Mexico and back to Spain in search of the “Lady in Blue.” He meets Maria and believes that she is the one they have described. He is one of her inquisitors during her 1st Inquisition. Motivated by power and politics, he dictates a letter to Maria which saves her life, but stretches the truth about her bilocation which makes her an instant celebrity and increases his status. Baritone.

ENSEMBLE:

MARCILLA: Maria’s first confessor who betrays her confidence in her confession and writes a letter to the Archbishop in New Mexico about Maria’s bilocation and claims. He is one of the inquisitors in her 1st Inquisition. Tenor/Baritone.

TORRE: Maria’s second confessor who supports her writing and encourages her to keep writing what she is receiving from God and the Blessed Mother. He is one of the inquisitors in her 1st Inquisition. Tenor/Baritone.

PADRE JUAN VILLACRE- Called by the nuns in Maria’s convent to Agreda Spain to determine whether or not Maria is demon possessed. Tenor/Baritone.

GERONIMA CORONEL: Maria’s younger biological sister who lives in the convent. She is supportive of Maria. Mezzo-Soprano.

CATALINA CORONEL: Maria's mother; gave birth to 11 children but only 4 lived (Maria the first surviving girl was born when she was 39); she turned the family home into a cloistered convent for Maria where she remained with Maria; pious and devout; talks to a skull at night. Alto.

ENSEMBLE ROLES: NUNS, SPANISH COURT, SPAINAIRDS, NEW MEXICANS, JUMANOS.