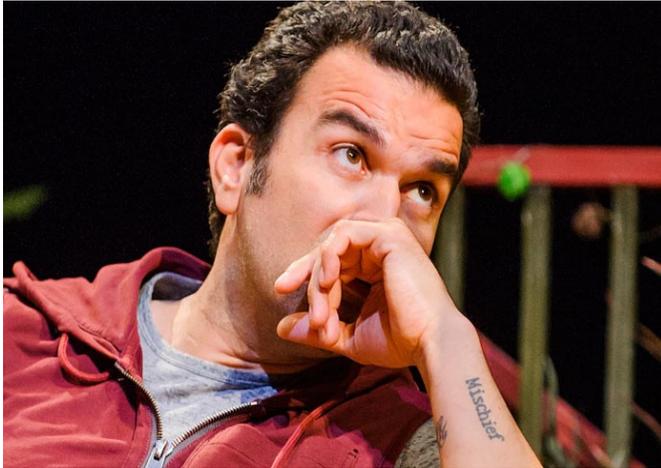


## 'Naughty is Nice' for UC San Diego Theatre Alum on London Stage



Ricardo Chavira in, *The Motherf\*\*cker With The Hat*. Photo: Tristram Kenton, the 'Guardian'

As a self-proclaimed “naughty kid” who spent time in the principal’s office, actor Ricardo Chavira is making the grade as the lead in *The Motherf\*\*cker with the Hat*, his stage debut at London’s National Lyttelton Theatre.

Chavira’s portrayal of “Jackie,” an ex-convict released from prison with a new lease on life—until he finds a man’s hat on his girlfriend’s table—is receiving enthusiastic reviews.

In a recent BBC News interview, Chavira explained that the play, framed by a theme of

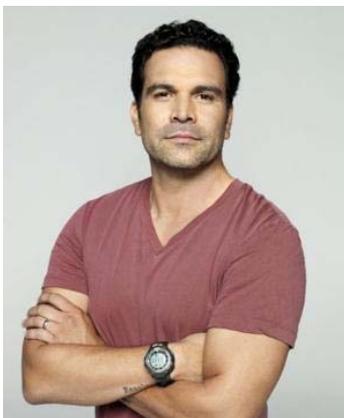
honor, deals with “universal topics of addiction and dysfunction within a loving relationship,” and presents more acting

bandwidth relative to his role as Carlos Solis on the ABC comedy-drama *Desperate Housewives*.

Grateful for what he called the “wonderful opportunity of a series like that,” Chavira admitted that the role was limited, noting, “I have a Master’s Degree from a professional actor training program at UC San Diego.” He further explained that as a theatrically trained actor, working within TV character constructs was creatively frustrating at times. When asked during the interview about his return to the stage, Chavira said, “I love it; there has been nothing better . . . .”

In a June 23 interview by Georgia Snow of *The Stage*, Chavira explained that during high school he tried drama, but it wasn’t until college that he took acting seriously. He studied acting at the University of California, San Diego, then participated in repertory theatre nationally. He also performed small parts in television. “Then about three years out of graduate school, I landed *Desperate Housewives*,” said Chavira.

Chavira last appeared on stage five years ago when he starred in a production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His first theatrical job after graduating from UC San Diego was *Tracers* at the Odyssey Theatre in Los Angeles in 2001. Its ensemble developed the long-running Vietnam War drama in a series of experimental workshops. Chavira also performed in *Living Out*, with the Seattle Repertory Theatre in 2004. His other TV credits include *Castle*, *Bad Teacher*, *Welcome to the Family*, *Burn Notice*, *Six Feet Under*, and *The Division*.



Ricardo Chavira. Photo: Art Streiber, NBC

His current play, “Hat,” was written by Pulitzer Prize-winning Stephen Adly Guirgis, premiered on Broadway in 2011 and was nominated for six Tony Awards. It starred Chris Rock, Bobby Cannavale, Annabella Sciorra, Elizabeth Rodriguez and Yul Vazquez.

The London production led by Chavira, runs through August 20 at the National Theatre. It is directed by Indhu Rubasingham, whom Chavira referred to in his BBC interview as “the best director he’s ever worked with.” Joining Chavira in the cast is female lead and television star, Flor de Liz Perez of *The Good Wife*; original “Hat” star, Vazquez; Nathalie Armin; Lisa Caruccio Came and Alec Newman.