

CANTATA CRIOLLA
América
By Guillermo Arriaga

YOLA 1: America

YOLA 3: América

YOLA 2-4-5-6: America!

YOLA 4: The great America, the powerful America.

YOLA 3: La gran América, la poderosa América.

YOLA 5: America, the invention, the new territory.

YOLA 6: América, la invención.

YOLA 3: El nuevo territorio.

YOLA 1: South America, Central America, North America, the Antilles,

YOLA 2: Norteamérica, Sudamérica, Las Antillas, Centroamérica,

The Six continue, their voices mixing until they become a mass of words.

YOLA 3: Tenochtitlán, Teotihuacán, Machu Pichu, Chichen Itzá , Tikal,

YOLA 4: Tiwanaku, Nasca, Copán, Isla de Pascua,

YOLA 5: Washington, New York, Los Angeles, Antigua, Barbados,

YOLA 6: Ciudad de México, Caracas, Bogotá , Buenos Aires, La Habana, San José,

YOLA 5: Quebec, Bahamas, Georgetown, Guatemala, Asunción, La Paz,

YOLA 4: Toronto, Austin, Williamstead, Montreal, the Cayman

YOLA 2: Islands, Vancouver, Dallas, San Francisco,

YOLA 3: Managua, San Salvador, Ciudad De Panamá , San Juan, Santo Domingo,

YOLA 2: Lima, Sao Paulo, Guadalajara, Guayaquil, Santiago, Córdoba, Saint
Martín,
YOLA 1: Miami, Quito, Port of Spain, Kingston, Bermuda, Anchorage,
YOLA 3: Tegucigalpa, Oaxaca, Maracaibo, Barranquilla, Cartagena,
YOLA 1: Bonaire, Belo Horizonte, Fort de France, Port au Prince,
YOLA 4: Medellín, Barquisimeto, Cali,
YOLA 5: Cali, Cayenne, Acapulco, Boston, Victoria, Calgary,
YOLA 6: Colón, Salvador, Porto Alegre.

The actors stop. Silence. Yola 4 slowly begins again.

YOLA 4: Americans that build, write, compose, create.

Yola 3 begins one beat later.

YOLA 3: Americanos que construyen, crean, componen, escriben.

Yola 5 continues one beat after Yola 3.

YOLA 5: That sing, dance,

YOLA 6: Bailan, cantan, aman, pelean,

YOLA 1: Love, fight, destroy, write, compose, create, build,

YOLA 3: Bailan, cantan, aman, pelean,

YOLA 2: Construyen, crean, componen, build, write, create.

ALL: The wild America, the civilized. The America that gives and takes. The
America that is here.

The Six begin to tell what America has given musically. It has had a rhythm all to itself, a strength, an intonation. Beginning slowly and then mixing one with the other. The melody begins with the mixing of words.

YOLA 1: Music.
YOLA 3: Música.
YOLA 2: The music of America.
YOLA 6: Huapango, tango, llanera, ranchera,
YOLA 4: Bolero, samba, cumbia, tambor,
YOLA 5: Folk, pop, rock,
YOLA 1: Corrido, bossa nova, reggae,
YOLA 2: Reggaetón, merengue, rumba, cueca,
ALL: Blues, country, jazzzzzzzzzz...

The Six stop, then continue, accelerating.

YOLA 3: Trova, salsa, rumba, mambo,
YOLA 6: Andina, norteña, chachachá,
YOLA 1: Rap, hip hop, bebop, ska,
YOLA 2: Sandunga, punteo, gospel, soul,
YOLA 4: Calypso, boogie-woogie, grunge,
YOLA 5: Life in America.
YOLA 3: La vida en América.
YOLA 4: We're Americans.
YOLA 6: Americanos.
ALL: Americans.
YOLA 3: La Pampa, la cordillera,
YOLA 2: Plains and mountains,
YOLA 6: Sertao, islas y penínsulas,

YOLA 5: The Great America,
YOLA 4: The unstoppable America,
YOLA 3: El llano, el pueblo, el cerro,
YOLA 2: La estera, la bahía,
YOLA 1: Sea and rivers, lakes and streams,
YOLA 5: The cities, the towns,
YOLA 2: The streets, the plains,
YOLA 6: La jungla, mesetas, sierras,
YOLA 4: Jungle, mountains, islands, and seas.
ALL: Americans.

Pause.

YOLA 5: America.
YOLA 3: La Tierra es de quien la trabaja. (Zapata)
YOLA 1: The land belongs to those who work it. (Zapata)
YOLA 6: ¿Acaso estoy en un lecho de rosas? (Cuauhtemoc)
YOLA 2: Am I in a bed of roses? (Cuauhtemoc)
YOLA 4: When the Earth is sick, the animals will begin to disappear, when that happens, The Warriors of the Rainbow will come to save them. (Chief Seattle).
YOLA 5: Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country. (Kennedy)
YOLA 1: I have a dream... (Martin Luther King)
YOLA 2: A house divided against itself cannot stand. (Lincoln)
YOLA 3: Vale más un minuto de pie que una vida de rodillas. (Marti)
YOLA 4: A minute standing on your feet is worth more than a lifetime on your knees. (Marti)

- YOLA 6: Contra la espada sin espíritu, la espada empuñada por el espíritu.
(Bolívar)
- YOLA 5: Against the spiritless sword, the sword gripped by the spirit.
(Bolívar)
- YOLA 2: The people united will never be defeated (Quilapayún)
- YOLA 3: El pueblo unido jamás será vencido. (Quilapayún)
- YOLA 1: Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism. (Washington)
- YOLA 6: América.
- ALL: America.
- YOLA 1: Call me Ishmael... (Melville)
- YOLA 3: Muchos años después, frente al pelotón de fusilamiento, el Coronel Aureliano Buendía habría de recordar aquella tarde remota en que su padre lo llevó a conocer el hielo. (García Márquez)
- YOLA 2: Several years later, standing before the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía would remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to see ice for the first time. (Garcia Marquez)
- YOLA 4: He was an old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf Stream and he had gone eighty-four days now without taking a fish.
(Hemingway)
- YOLA 5: Through the fence, between the curling flower spaces, I could see them hitting. (Faulkner)
- YOLA 1: Quoth the Raven, nevermore... (Poe)
- YOLA 6: Vine a Comala porque me dijeron que acá vivía mi padre, un tal Pedro Páramo.
(Rulfo)
- YOLA 2: I came to Comala because they told me that my father lived here, a man they called Pedro Páramo. (Rulfo)
- YOLA 4: I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness. (Ginsberg)
- YOLA 5: The only people for me are the mad ones. (Kerouac)
- YOLA 3: La tierra giró para acercarnos, giró sobre sí misma y en nosotros, hasta juntarnos por fin en este sueño... (Montejo)

YOLA 1: The earth turned to bring us closer, it turned on itself and in us, till it finally brought us together in this dream... (Montejo)

YOLA 2: My flowers will not finish, my songs will not cease. (Nezahualcóyotl)

YOLA 3: No acabará n mis flores, no cesará n mis cantos. (Nezahualcóyotl)

YOLA 5: If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born... (Salinger)

YOLA 4: America.

YOLA 6: América.

YOLA 1: America.

YOLA 2: The Godfather, Raging Bull,

YOLA 3: Los Olvidados, Amores Perros,

YOLA 4: The Birth of a Nation, Citizen Kane,

YOLA 6: Pixiote, La Ciénaga,

YOLA 5: Cidade de Deus, The Maltese Falcon,

YOLA 1: The Jazz Singer, West Side Story,

YOLA 2: Maria Candelaria,

YOLA 3: Nosotros los Pobres, Viridiana,

YOLA 4: Casablanca, Gone With the Wind,

YOLA 6: Y Tu Mamá También, Doña Flor y sus Dos Maridos,

YOLA 5: Reservoir Dogs, Rebel Without a Cause,

YOLA 1: On the Waterfront, Intolerance,

YOLA 3: Viento Negro, The Birds,

YOLA 2: The Wild Bunch, It's a Wonderful Life,

YOLA 5: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest,

YOLA 4: Singing in The Rain, Freak, The Shining,

YOLA 6: Jaws, Memorias del Subdesarrollo, Tocar y Luchar,

YOLA 2: Toy Story, Psycho, Star Wars,
YOLA 3: Lucía, Easy Rider,
YOLA 6: El Hijo de la Novia, Whisky, El Lado Oscuro del Corazón,
YOLA 1: Stage Coach, The Wizard of Oz,

Pause.

YOLA 3 & 6: Contrapunto.
YOLA 1: One man sings. Another one answers. Counter-verse.
YOLA 2: I sing.
YOLA 4: I answer. With song.
YOLA 3: Yo canto.
YOLA 6: Yo respondo. Con canto.
YOLA 5: I answer. With song.
ALL: Poetry. Man versus man. Lyrics against lyrics.

YOLA 2: The river sweats
Oil and tar
The barges drift
With the turning tide
Red sails Wide... (T. S. Eliot)

YOLA 3: Para que tú me oigas, mis palabras, se adelgazan a veces, como las huellas de las gaviotas en las playas. (Neruda)

YOLA 4: So you can hear me, my words sometimes grow thin, like the footprints of seagulls in the sands. (Neruda)

YOLA 6: El nombre de una mujer me delata. Me duele una mujer en todo el cuerpo (Borges)

YOLA 5: The name of a woman betrays me. A woman hurts in my whole body. (Borges)

YOLA 3: Hombres necios que acusáis a la mujer sin razón, sin ver que sois la ocasión de lo mismo que culpáis. (Sor Juana)

YOLA 1: You foolish men who accuse women without reason, without seeing you are the occasion of that which you blame. (Sor Juana)

YOLA 2: The voice of your eyes is deeper than all roses, nobody, not even the rain, has such small hands. (e. e. Cummings)

YOLA 4: I like a look of agony, because I know it's true. (Emily Dickinson).

YOLA 5: Excuse me but lady liberty needs glasses, and so does Mrs. justice by her side. (Tupac Shakur)

YOLA 1: How long will they kill our prophets, while we stand aside and look? (Bob Marley)

ALL This is the end, beautiful friend. This is the end, my only friend. (Jim Morrison)

Pause.

YOLA 3 & 6: Contrapunteo.

YOLA 1: A song between two singers.

YOLA 2: The rivalry of lyrics.

YOLA 3: Counter-verse. Poetry.

YOLA 4: Life.

YOLA 5: A song.

YOLA 6: America.

YOLA 2: The continent.

YOLA 4: Americans.

YOLA 1: The songs of the Americans.

YOLA 3: The life of Americans.

YOLA 5: The love.

YOLA 6: The fights.

YOLA 1: The passions.

YOLA 2: ...of Americans.

YOLA 3: America.

YOLA 4: The continent.

YOLA 6: America.

YOLA 5: America.

Pause.

ALL: Our home.

Pause.

ALL: America.