The ‘Queens’ court

To Joe Ortiz, creating his autobiographical musical ‘Escaping Queens’ was an act of grand collaboration.

A few years ago, Joe Ortiz visited Mexico, the home of his grandparents who he later learned was the inspiration for his musical ‘Escaping Queens’. Ortiz has been a theater director and performer for over 40 years. His musical is an ode to theQueens neighborhood in the 1950s and 1960s, where Ortiz was raised. The musical tells the story of Ortiz’s struggle with asthma and the discrimination he faced in the neighborhood.

‘Escaping Queens’ is set in the 1950s and 1960s and follows Ortiz’s journey from a child in the neighborhood to a young man who is trying to make it in the world. The musical features a cast of more than 20 performers, including Ortiz himself, who plays the role of a young man.

‘Escaping Queens’ is a coming-of-age story that explores themes of identity, family, and the power of music. Ortiz hopes the musical will inspire young people to pursue their dreams and never give up on their passions.

The musical is a collaboration between Ortiz and a team of artists, including a composer, a playwright, and a director. Ortiz has been working on the musical for more than a year and the cast has been rehearsing for the past six months. The musical will have its world premiere at the Cabrillo Music Theater in September.

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