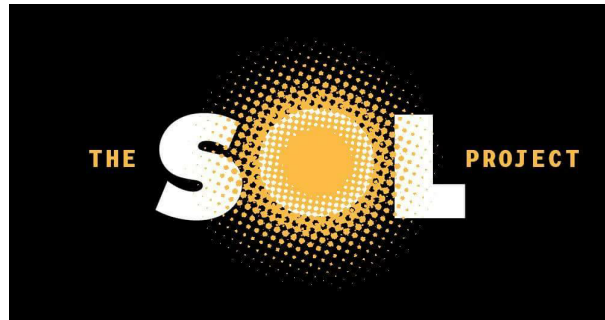


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**ANNOUNCES**  
**SOLFEST:**  
**A LATINX THEATER FESTIVAL**  
**PRODUCED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH**  
**PREGONES/PUERTO RICAN TRAVELING THEATER**

**FEATURING NEW WORK BY**  
**GUADALÍS DEL CARMEN**  
**PAOLA LÁZARO**  
**KAREN ZACARÍAS**

**JUNE 25-27, 2018**

(New York – May 29, 2018) **The Sol Project** (Jacob G. Padrón, Artistic Director), the groundbreaking theater initiative dedicated to amplifying Latinx voices and building a body of work for the new American theater, is proud to announce dates for **SolFest: A Latinx Theater Festival**, produced in partnership with **Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater (Pregones/PRTT)**. The festival will run from **June 25-27** at PRTT (304 West 47<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10036). Lead support for **The Sol Project** comes from the **Howard Gilman Foundation**.

“**SolFest** is an exciting extension of **The Sol Project**'s mission of amplifying and supporting Latinx voices in the American theater,” said founding member of **The Sol Project** and producer of

**SolFest, Adriana Gaviria.** “We are grateful to launch this summer festival in partnership with the venerable **Pregones/PRTT.**”

**SolFest** will feature new work by three Latina playwrights: the work of **Paola Lázaro** on Monday, June 25; the work of **Guadalís Del Carmen** on Tuesday, June 26; and the work of **Karen Zacarías** on Wednesday, June 27. All presentations will begin at 7pm, with a pre-show mixer. Writers will receive up to 15 hours of rehearsal, culminating in a public sharing of their work each evening. Unlike traditional new work festivals, which culminate in a full reading of the play, writers will choose an hour of material to share at the end of their process. Each night will include a celebration and toast to each writer.

The festival will also include a special musical performance by **MICHA (Michelle J. Rodriguez)**, who will close out the festival on its final night after the presentation by **Karen Zacarías.**

**Rosalba Rolón**, Artistic Director of **Pregones/PRTT** and member of **The Sol Project's** Honorary Board, stated, “This partnership with **The Sol Project** represents a new stage in our commitment to an expanding repertoire of new works by Latinx theater artists. It's especially fitting that we inaugurate **SolFest** at **Puerto Rican Traveling Theater**, in the heart of Manhattan's buzzing Broadway/Times Square district, and with a focus on women writers, as we labor to evolve and elevate the legacy of **Miriam Colón** and our very own Playwrights Unit.”

Later in 2018, **EL HURACÁN** by **Charise Castro Smith** (*Feathers and Teeth*) will receive its world premiere production at the Tony Award-winning **Yale Repertory Theatre** in New Haven, Connecticut, in collaboration with **The Sol Project**. Directed by **Laurie Woolery** (founding member of **The Sol Project** & Director of Public Works for The Public Theater, *As You Like It*), the production kicks off Yale Rep's 2018-19 season. Performances begin on Friday, September 28, with opening night set for Thursday, October 4. The final performance is slated for Saturday, October 20, 2018.

### **ABOUT PREGONES/PUERTO RICAN TRAVELING THEATER**

**Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater** is a multigenerational performing ensemble, multidiscipline arts presenter, and owner/steward of arts facilities in The Bronx and Manhattan. Our mission is to champion a cultural legacy of universal value through creation and performance of original plays and musicals, exchange and partnership with other artists of merit, and engagement of diverse audiences. Pregones was founded in 1979 when a group of artists led by Rosalba Rolón set out to create new works in the style of Caribbean and Latin American *colectivos* or performing ensembles. Soon established as a Bronx resident company with a home season, Pregones remains in the vanguard of an arts renaissance radiating throughout and beyond The Bronx today. Spurred by stage and film icon Miriam Colón, Puerto Rican Traveling Theater, aka PRTT, was founded in 1967 as one of the first bilingual theater companies in all of the United States. It is credited for nurturing the development of hundreds of Latino theater artists, legitimating creative connections throughout the Spanish-speaking world, and pioneering models for genuine community engagement. Following merger in 2014, our unified New York season plays a decisive role in empowering underrepresented artists and audiences to claim a place at the front of the

American theater. Rosalba Rolón, Artistic Director. Alvan Colón Lespier and Jorge B. Merced, Associate Artistic Directors. [www.pregonesprtt.org](http://www.pregonesprtt.org)

### **ABOUT HOWARD GILMAN FOUNDATION**

The **Howard Gilman Foundation** supports the most robust, innovative, and promising performing arts organizations in New York City. [www.howardgilmanfoundation.org](http://www.howardgilmanfoundation.org).

### **ABOUT THE SOL PROJECT**

**The Sol Project** is a national theater initiative dedicated to producing the work of Latinx playwrights in New York City and beyond. Founded by Artistic Director, Jacob G. Padrón and driven by an artistic collective, The Sol Project works in partnership with leading theaters around the country to amplify Latinx voices and build artistic homes for artists of color. Through the writers we champion, Sol aims to create a bold, powerful, and kaleidoscopic body of work for the new American theater. The Sol Project launched in December 2016 with the world premiere of *Alligator* by **Hilary Bettis** in collaboration with New Georges, followed by the New York premieres of *Seven Spots on the Sun* by **Martín Zimmerman** (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater) and *Oedipus El Rey* by **Luis Alfaro** (The Public Theater). The founding artistic collective is: Claudia Acosta, Elena Araoz, Adriana Gaviria, David Mendizábal, Kyoung Park, and Laurie Woolery. Brian Herrera is the Resident Scholar. Stephanie Ybarra is the Resident Dramaturg. Our partners include: Atlantic Theater Company, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Cara Mía Theatre Company, Center Theatre Group, LAByrinth Theater Company, MCC Theater, New Georges, New York Theatre Workshop, Playwrights Horizons, Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, The Playwrights Realm, The Public Theater, WP Theater and Yale Repertory Theatre. Our honorary board includes: Raúl Castillo (HBO's *Looking*), Junot Díaz (Pulitzer Prize-winning author), Priscilla Lopez (Tony Award-winning actress), Sandra Marquez (Steppenwolf ensemble member), Edward James Olmos (Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winning actor), John Ortiz (co-star, *Silver Linings Playbook*), Tony Plana (ABC's *Ugly Betty*), Chita Rivera (Presidential Medal of Freedom), Diane Rodriguez (OBIE-winning actress, member of National Arts Council) Rosalba Rolón (Artistic Director of Pregones/PRTT) and Daphne Rubin-Vega (Tony nominated-actress, original company of *Rent*).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT**

**[WWW.SOLPROJECT.ORG](http://WWW.SOLPROJECT.ORG)**

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### **BIOS:**

**GUADALÍS DEL CARMEN** is currently based in NYC. Her first play, *Blowout*, was produced by Agujón Theater Chicago in 2013. *Tolstoy's Daughters* was a finalist in Quick Silver Theater's Playwrights of Color Summit in June 2016, and in 2017 was one of 50 Playwrights Projects Best Unproduced Latino/a Plays and received an Honorable Mention in the Kilroys List. *Tolstoy's Daughters* (now renamed *Daughters of the Rebellion*) won Montclair State University's 2018-2019 New Works Initiative. *Anacaona and Yemayá Taught Me...* was a semi-finalist in The

Playwrights Realm's 2017-2018 Writing Fellowship. Guadalís is a Co-Coordinator of the NYC Playwright Circle and running her fourth half marathon later this year.

**PAOLA LÁZARO** is an actress and playwright from San Juan, Puerto Rico. Theater: OUR LADY OF 121st ST - Signature Theatre - TO THE BONE - Cherry Lane Theatre - Drama Desk Nomination for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Play. Playwriting: TELL HECTOR I MISS HIM - Atlantic Theater - Nominations: Drama League Award for Best Production and Outer Critics Circle Award for John Gassner Playwriting Award. Currently the Van Lier Playwright in Residence at Public Theater. Awarded Sundance Institute Storytelling Fellow for her play THERE'S ALWAYS THE HUDSON - 2017 Relentless Award finalist. TV/Film: Shelter (NBC), Pimp, Scenes from the Underground. BFA SUNY Purchase MFA Columbia University. Paola is a proud LAByrinth Theater Company member.

**KAREN ZACARÍAS** was recently hailed as one of the most produced playwrights in the US. Her award-winning plays include *Destiny of Desire*, *Native Gardens*, *The Book Club Play*, *Legacy of Light*, *Mariela in the Desert*, *The Sins of Sor Juana*, the adaptations of *Just Like Us*, *Into The Beautiful North*, and *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent*. She is the author of ten renown TYA musicals and the librettist of several Ballets. She is one of the inaugural resident playwrights at Arena Stage, a core founder of the Latinx Theatre Commons (LTC), and a founder of Young Playwrights' Theater.

MICHA is the project of vocalist, songwriter, musical theater composer and actor **MICHELLE J. RODRIGUEZ**. Born in Orlando, Florida to Puerto Rican parents and raised in Kirkland, Washington and Lexington, Kentucky, Rodriguez sings and writes songs that move you and remind you of home in all its forms. With a voice that is "clear and compelling" and a sound that features "flourishes of bolero, bossa nova and even jazz" (Chicago Tribune), MICHA has captivated audiences at Joe's Pub, the Hideout, Steppenwolf and Salonathon in Chicago with her stunning vulnerability onstage. Rodriguez starred in her original bluegrass/folk musical, *East o', West o'!* at ANTFest at Ars Nova in New York City this past June, which earned her a mention in *The New Yorker*. MICHA will take you on a visionary journey through her musings on the power of love over fear, all with powerful femme-centered vibes. This is an exciting chance to see MICHA in an intimate duo performance of original songs and old favorites in her two native languages, Spanish and English, with acclaimed guitarist Samuel Hasting.