



The Sol Project Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Announces Convening of Latiné Theater Artists At The Public Theater, September 3



2016 L: (L-R) The Sol Project Founding Members: Kyoung Park, Elena Araoz, Jacob G. Padrón, David Mendizábal, Laurie Woolery, Adriana Gaviria and Claudia Acosta. (Photo Credit: Tammy Shell)

"Transforming advocacy to a national theatre movement with wide-ranging results sounds like an impossibility. And yet, in just seven years, this NYC collective...[has] partnered with theatres across the country to produce dozens of workshops, festivals, and productions employing hundreds of Latiné playwrights, actors, and directors." - *Obie Awards*

Obie Award-winning theater initiative **The Sol Project** is an expansive and multi-dimensional collective of artists who partner with Off-Broadway companies and leading theater organizations to amplify the voices of Latiné playwrights from across New York City to beyond. Led by co-artistic directors **Jacob G. Padrón** and **Adriana Gaviria**, The Sol Project will celebrate its 10th Anniversary with a convening of Latiné theater artists on **Thursday, September 3, 6PM** at **The Public Theater, NYC**. The event is free and open to all Latiné theatermakers. Seats are limited, and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. To secure your spot, RSVP by visiting The Sol Project's website at solproject.org.

Launched in 2016 with an initial grant from **The Time Warner Foundation** under the

leadership of its then-president and dedicated champion, the late **Lisa Garcia Quiroz**, and matching support from **Lin-Manuel Miranda** and the **Miranda Family Fund**, the project has grown from a singular mission to produce 12 Latiné playwrights with 12 theaters to a movement that has spawned a network of workshops and readings, regional productions, and an annual new works festival called **SolFest**, now in its ninth year.

Padrón says, "The Sol Project began as a single seed. Over the past decade, it has grown into a national, multi-partner theater initiative dedicated to elevating Latine artistry in New York City and beyond. We stand on the shoulders of giants like INTAR, Pregones/PRTT, and Repertorio Español, who have championed our community for generations. This milestone is a testament to our collective dedication. A Latinx story is an American story, and we remain fiercely committed to carving out a permanent, expansive space for our voices in the American theater."

All who identify as part of the Latin-American diaspora are welcome to attend the convening. The Sol Project hopes to bring the NYC Latiné community together to dream and celebrate their collective accomplishments, while also strategizing for the next phase – a shared future as they continue to see a shortage of Latiné stories onstage in a city full of Latiné people. This convening will include Latiné theater makers across all disciplines: playwrights, directors, actors, dramaturgs, designers, stage managers, producers, educators, and technicians.

The Sol Project marks this milestone at The Public because it is where the historic initiative was born – in a 2014 meeting of the Latinx Theatre Commons in the theater's restaurant. The Public would then go on to partner with The Sol Project in 2017 for the critically acclaimed production of *Oedipus El Rey* by Luis Alfaro. In fact, The Public has a history of supporting the Latiné theater community, going back to the Festival Latino under Joseph Papp at The Delacorte Theater in the 80s and 90s.

Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director of The Public Theater, says, "Since its inception, The Sol Project has quietly had a revolutionary impact. Determined to increase Latinx representation in the theater through creating partnerships, collaborations and relationships, they've laid the foundations for permanent change. An indispensable, brilliantly successful project."

Over these 10 years, The Sol Project has co-produced 10 New York or world premiere productions by Latiné playwrights in partnership with as many theater organizations, and will continue until 12 are completed. In 2018, they began a partnership with **Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater** to launch SolFest, which is led by Gaviria. More expansion has been seen through their partnership with North Star Projects for the North Star Projects Latiné ShortsFest, a short film festival founded by Gaviria in 2023, a podcast, and dozens of readings, workshops, and symposia, all in service of hundreds of Latinx theater artists. In 2023, the collective was awarded an Obie for their "unprecedented championing of Latino voices."

"Entering our 10th anniversary year is a profound moment to reflect on the immense impact our small, dedicated team has made amplifying hundreds of Latiné voices," says Gaviria. "It is deeply moving to witness the incredible community we have fostered from the ground up, and this flagship convening is the perfect launchpad for our next phase. We are gathering as a unified family to kick off a yearlong celebration of collaboration with a cohort of our stellar alumni writers and exciting new voices. Having produced SolFest since its 2018 launch, it is the perfect moment to officially share a 'Save the Date' for our ninth annual festival this late September."

"Pregones/PRTT joins SolFest in celebrating nine years of excellence in theater, bringing to the stage a broad range of voices, aesthetics, and collective vision. Thank you for sharing your work on our stage over the years, for our mutual audiences to enjoy!" says **Rosalba Rolón**, Artistic Director of Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater.

The inaugural production of The Sol Project was the world premiere of **Alligator** by **Hilary Bettis** directed by Elena Araoz in partnership with New Georges in December 2016. **Susan Bernfeld**, artistic director of New Georges, said, "Jacob Padrón walked into our office ten years ago with what I like to call his incontrovertible idea. Also an irresistible one! We're immensely proud to have been The Sol Project's first producing partner, of our values-driven collaboration (a continuing inspiration), and of our connection to the decade of great work that's followed."

Subsequent productions are:

Seven Spots on the Sun by **Martín Zimmerman** directed by Weyni Mengesha (Rattlestick Theater) 2017 *

Oedipus El Rey by **Luis Alfaro** directed by Chay Yew (The Public Theater) 2017 *

El Huracán by **Charise Castro Smith** directed by Laurie Woolery (Yale Repertory Theatre) 2018 ^

Richard & Jane & Dick & Sally by **Noah Diaz** directed by Taylor Reynolds (Baltimore Center Stage & The Playwrights Realm) 2020 ^

Notes on Killing Seven Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Board Members by **Mara Vélez Meléndez** directed by David Mendizábal (Soho Rep) 2022 ^

Bees and Honey by **Guadalís Del Carmen** directed by Melissa Crespo (MCC) 2023 ^

Sancocho by **Christin Eve Cato** directed by Rebecca Martínez (WP Theater and Latinx Playwrights Circle) 2023 #

Torera by **Monet Hurst-Mendoza** directed by Tatiana Pandiani (WP Theater and Latinx Playwrights Circle) 2025 #

Canciones by **Beto O'Byrne** with Rebecca Martínez, Julián Mesri, Sara Ornelas, and Meropi Peponides directed by Rebecca Martínez (Radical Evolution, Latinx Playwrights Circle, Boundless Theatre Company) 2026 ^

[More info on these productions can be found here.](#)

* New York Premiere
^ World Premiere
Off-Broadway Premiere

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Lead support for The Sol Project is generously provided by the **Howard Gilman Foundation**. Ongoing institutional support is provided by the **National Latinx Theater Initiative (NLTI)** and the **Venturous Theater Fund of the Tides Foundation**. The Howard Gilman Foundation continues to provide lead support for The Sol Project.

About The Sol Project

The Sol Project is an Obie Award-winning theater initiative dedicated to amplifying the voices of Latiné playwrights in partnership with leading theaters in NYC and beyond. Led by artistic directors Jacob G. Padrón and Adriana Gaviria, The Sol Project launched in 2016 with the world premiere of *Alligator* by **Hilary Bettis** in partnership with New Georges. Subsequent productions have included work by **Martín Zimmerman** (*Seven Spots on the Sun*), **Luis Alfaro** (*Oedipus El Rey*), **Charise Castro Smith** (*El Huracán*), **Noah Diaz** (*Richard & Jane & Dick & Sally*), **Mara Vélez Meléndez** (*Notes on Killing Seven Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Board Members*), **Guadalís Del Carmen** (*Bees & Honey*), **Christin Eve Cato** (*Sancocho*), **Monet Hurst-Mendoza** (*Torera*), **Beto O'Byrne** with Rebecca Martínez, Julián Mesri, Sara Ornelas, and Meropi Peponides (*Canciones*) and **Cusi Cram** (*Blanca and Ines*). In addition to productions with leading theaters, The Sol Project advances its mission by producing a yearly new play festival, SolFest, in partnership with Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater and North Star Projects, while also supporting writers through readings, workshops, a podcast (SolTalk), a writer's retreat and ongoing symposia. The artistic collective includes Gaviria, Rebecca Martínez, David Mendizábal, Padrón, Julian Ramirez, and Laurie Woolery. Bryanna Cuthill is the Producing Associate. Maryclare Ramirez is the Artistic & Production Assistant. Brian Herrera is the Resident Scholar. Founding members of The Sol Project also include: Claudia Acosta, Elena Araoz, and Kyoung Park.

The Sol Project

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