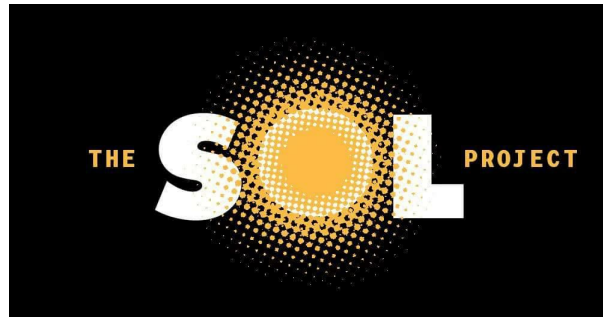


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ANNOUNCES

BEES AND HONEY

WRITTEN BY GUADALÍS DEL CARMEN

DIRECTED BY MELISSA CRESPO

**PRODUCED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
LABYRINTH THEATER COMPANY**

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

(New York – February 25, 2020) **The Sol Project**, the national theater initiative dedicated to amplifying Latinx voices and building a body of work for the new American theater, is proud to announce the world premiere of ***Bees and Honey*** by **Guadalís Del Carmen**, directed by **Melissa Crespo** (*¡Figaro! (90210)*), produced in partnership with **LAByrinth Theater Company**. Performances at the Cherry Lane Theatre (38 Commerce Street) will begin **March 27, 2020** and run through **April 25, 2020**. Opening night is set for **Monday, April 6, 2020**. Tickets are now on sale at www.labtheater.org/season.

The Sol Project's Artistic Director **Jacob G. Padrón** said, "The Sol Project is honored to continue our work in partnership with the trailblazing LAByrinth Theater Company and bring this stunning new American play to life. **Bees and Honey** announces the arrival of a powerful and singular new voice in the American theater – **Guadalís Del Carmen** is a star on the rise."

Inspired by the Juan Luis Guerra song "Como Abeja Al Panal," **Bees and Honey** by **Guadalís Del Carmen** is an intimate portrait of a Dominican couple's love and dreams in New York City. Manuel and Johaira meet at a Washington Heights club and it was love at first sight. Now married, the ambitious young couple set out to achieve their dreams together. Manuel's entrepreneurial spirit drives him to expand his mechanic shop, while Johaira lands a career-defining sexual assault case that could help her make partner at her law firm. As the high-profile trial takes its toll on Johaira, she also begins to question whether her husband will ever outgrow his bad boy mentality. Adding in Manuel's ailing mother and an unforeseen tragedy, the pair must reckon with how their love is put to the test.

The cast of *Bees and Honey* includes Lucille Lortel award-winner **Sean Carvajal** (*King Lear*) as Manuel and **Maribel Martinez** (*Julius Caesar*) as Johaira.

Bees and Honey was part of **The Sol Project's** inaugural summer play festival, **SolFest**, in 2018 and went on to be developed at LAByrinth Theater Company's Summer LAB Intensive 2019 and subsequently received a reading as part of LAB's 20th annual Barn Series in January 2020. **Bees and Honey** was also named to The Kilroys List 2019, one of 33 most recommended un- and underproduced new plays by women, trans, and non-binary authors. It was also selected by the 50 Playwrights Project in 2019 as one of eight top unproduced plays by Latinx playwrights in the country.

Tickets range from \$35-40. The performance schedule for **Bees and Honey** is as follows: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 7pm; Saturday at 3pm & 7pm; and Sunday at 2pm.

ABOUT LABYRINTH THEATER COMPANY

LAByrinth Theater Company, founded in 1992 as The Latino Actors Base, was created to deliberately interrupt the racial status quo by giving voice to artists of color and reflecting a world where color is the norm and not the exception. LAByrinth Theater Company is a diverse, impassioned, tightly knit ensemble of multicultural artists that empowers individuals and builds community by creating member driven, incendiary, new works of theater.

More information on LAB's history is available at www.labtheater.org/history

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, The Sol Project aspires to create a bold, powerful, and kaleidoscopic body of work for the new American theater. The Sol Project launched 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). In the fall of 2018, The Sol Project partnered with Yale Repertory Theatre to produce the world premiere of *El Huracán* by **Charise Castro Smith** and in 2020 has partnered with Baltimore Center Stage and The Playwrights Realm to produce the world premiere of *Richard & Jane & Dick & Sally* by **Noah Diaz**. The artistic collective includes: Adriana Gaviria, Rebecca Martinez, David Mendizábal, Julian Ramirez, and Laurie Woolery. Brian Herrera is the Resident Scholar. Stephanie Ybarra is the Resident Dramaturg. Joey Reyes is the Producing Assistant. Our partners include: Atlantic Theater Company, Baltimore Center Stage, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Cara Mía Theatre Company, LAByrnth Theater Company, Magic Theatre, 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. www.solproject.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT

WWW.SOLPROJECT.ORG

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BIOS

Chicago born and bred Dominicana, **GUADALÍS DEL CARMEN** is an Ars Nova Resident Artist, a Black Lives Black Words Artistic Associate, and Co-Artistic Director of the Latinx Playwrights Circle NYC. Her plays include *Not For Sale* (Commission/World Premier UrbanTheater Company, Jeff Award New Play Nominee 2019), *My Father's Keeper* (part of Steppenwolf Theatre's The Mix, The Kilroys Honorable Mention 2019, Semi Finalist Bay Area Playwrights Festival 2018), *Bees and Honey* (The Kilroys List 2019, 50 Playwrights Project Best Unproduced Latinx Plays 2019), *Daughters of the Rebellion* (formerly titled Tolstoy's Daughters, World Premiere Montclair State University 2019, The Kilroys Honorable Mention 2017, 50 Playwrights Project Best Unproduced Latinx Plays 2017), *A Shero's Journey or What Anacaona and Yemayá Taught Me* (Yale Magazine 2019, The Parsnip Ship Podcast Season 4), *Blowout* (World Premier Agujón Theater 2013), *Sucking on Cucumbers*, *Blue Wall of Silence*, *Racial Science*.

Her work has been part of The Sol Project's Solfest, the Latinx Theatre Commons Carnaval of

New Latinx Work, and San Diego Repertory Theater's Latinx New Play Festival. She has performed as an actor in Chicago, NYC, and most recently The Repertory of St. Louis in Luis Alfaro's *Mojada: A Medea* in Los Angeles.

MELISSA CRESPO is CT born with Dominican, Puerto Rican and Chilean roots. She is a New York City based director of theater, opera and film. She most often directs world premieres and is also a producer, dramaturg and playwright.

Melissa has developed work at LAByrinth Theater Company, New Dramatists, The Lark and more. She is most known for ¡Figaro! (90210) which had it's world premiere at LA Opera and was produced twice Off-Broadway at The Duke on 42nd Street. Melissa also directed the most recent incarnation of Tar Baby written and performed by Desiree Burch with Dan Kitrosser. Hailed as one of Huffington Post's "Favorite Female Comedians," Tar Baby was awarded the prestigious Scotsman Fringe First at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and has since had productions in NYC, London, New Zealand and Finland.

Melissa co-write the play Egress with Sarah Saltwick which recently had a workshop production at Cleveland Playhouse. It will receive a world premiere production May 2020 at Amphibian Stage in Fort Worth, TX. She is currently adapting Angie Cruz's novel Soledad for the stage.

Melissa has served as a 2016-2018 Time Warner Fellow at WP Theater, Allen Lee Hughes Directing Fellow at Arena Stage, Van Lier Directing Fellow at Second Stage Theatre and is an alum of the Drama League Director's Project. She is a current Usual Suspect at New York Theatre Workshop and received her MFA in Directing from The New School for Drama.