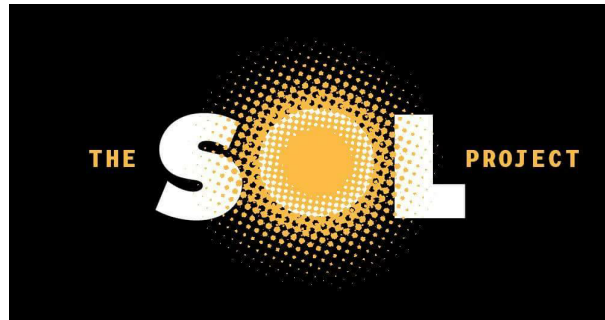


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**ANNOUNCES NATIONAL EXPANSION:  
YALE REPERTORY THEATRE, IN COLLABORATION  
WITH THE SOL PROJECT,  
PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF  
EL HURACÁN  
BY CHARISE CASTRO SMITH  
DIRECTED BY LAURIE WOOLERY  
SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 20, 2018**

**INITIATIVE ALSO WELCOMES NEW PARTNER  
NEW YORK THEATRE WORKSHOP**

(New York – March 28, 2018) **The Sol Project**, the new theater initiative dedicated to amplifying Latinx voices and building a kaleidoscopic body of work for the new American theater, is proud to announce the expansion of its mission with its first national partnership.

**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.

Playwright **Charise Castro Smith** said, "The Sol Project has been such a wonderful advocate for this play since the very beginning and I'm thrilled to have them as partners for the world premiere at Yale Rep."

"I vividly recall the thrill of discovering Charise Castro Smith's singular gifts as a playwright at Yale Cabaret, and I'm delighted that Yale Rep will introduce her to a much wider local and national audience with the world premiere of her exquisite new play, **EL HURACÁN**," said **James Bundy**, Yale Rep's Artistic Director. "I'm also grateful for the unique opportunity to work with The Sol Project, a collaboration that enhances our relationships to leading theatre makers and wider audiences."

This production marks **The Sol Project**'s fourth collaboration with a leading theater to raise the visibility of Latinx playwrights in New York City and beyond and the first national partnership for the initiative. Previous collaborations include the world premiere of Hilary Bettis' **ALLIGATOR** with **New Georges**, the New York premiere of Martín Zimmerman's **SEVEN SPOTS ON THE SUN** with **Rattlestick Playwrights Theater** and most recently, the New York premiere of Luis Alfaro's **OEDIPUS EL REY** with **The Public Theater**. These companies continue their work with **The Sol Project** to build and support a racially diverse theater ecology.

**Jacob G. Padrón**, Founder and Artistic Director of **The Sol Project** adds, "When the initiative launched, our hope was to eventually expand our reach by building a network of national partners who could join us in amplifying Latinx voices and supporting the next generation of gifted storytellers. Charise is one of those storytellers and we are honored Yale Rep stands with us in our growing movement of inclusion and equity. Charise and I first met as graduate students at Yale School of Drama, so it feels especially moving to return to our former artistic home to bring this beautiful new play to life. With our new partner, the pioneering New York Theatre Workshop, The Sol Project continues its commitment of providing visible platforms for Latinx playwrights and building an important canon for the new American theater."

The Sol Project is also proud to announce the addition of a new partner, **New York Theatre Workshop (NYTW)**. NYTW joins the growing roster of leading theaters committed to the mission of **The Sol Project**. Partner theater companies have committed to producing a play by a Latinx playwright in collaboration with **The Sol Project**, commissioning a Latinx playwright for future production and meeting with as many artists of color as possible to deepen the pipeline of talent upon which they can draw for future projects.

**James C. Nicola**, Artistic Director of **New York Theatre Workshop**, stated: "New York Theatre Workshop gives great importance to collaborations with community partners, and a collaboration with The Sol Project is a very exciting new opportunity. We look forward to engaging on a number of exciting ideas."

## **ABOUT EL HURACÁN**

An epic hurricane threatens Miami. A mother and daughter ready themselves for the storm as Abuela takes shelter in a world of memory, music, and magic. A powerful tale of family and forgiveness, **EL HURACÁN** reveals what can be rebuilt in the aftermath of life's most devastating tempests and what can never be replaced.

Playwright **Charise Castro Smith** has enjoyed a long partnership with **The Sol Project**, which has been instrumental in the development of **EL HURACÁN**. **Smith** and **Padrón**, along with founding member of The Sol Project, **Adriana Gavia** and Resident Dramaturg, **Stephanie Ybarra**, are all alumni of Yale School of Drama.

## **ABOUT YALE REP**

**Yale Repertory Theatre**, the internationally celebrated professional theatre in residence at Yale School of Drama, has championed new work since 1966, producing well over 100 premieres—including two Pulitzer Prize winners and four other nominated finalists—by emerging and established playwrights. Seventeen Yale Rep productions have advanced to Broadway, garnering more than 40 Tony Award nominations and ten Tony Awards. Yale Rep is also the recipient of the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. Established in 2008, Yale's **Binger Center for New Theatre** has distinguished itself as one of the nation's most robust and innovative new play programs. To date, the Binger Center has supported the work of more than 50 commissioned artists and underwritten the world premieres and subsequent productions of 30 new plays and musicals at Yale Rep and theatres across the country—including next season's *El Huracán* by Charise Castro Smith, *The Prisoner* by Peter Brook and Marie-Hélène Estienne, and *Cadillac Crew* by Tori Sampson. [yalerep.org](http://yalerep.org)

## **ABOUT NEW YORK THEATRE WORKSHOP**

**New York Theatre Workshop**, now in its fourth decade of incubating important new works of theatre, continues to honor its mission to explore perspectives on our collective history and respond to the events and institutions that shape all our lives. Each season, from its home in New York's East Village, NYTW presents five new productions, over 80 readings and numerous workshop productions for over 45,000 audience members. NYTW supports artists in all stages of their careers by maintaining a series of workshop programs, including work-in-progress readings, summer residencies and artist fellowships. Since its founding, NYTW has produced over 150 new, fully staged works, including Jonathan Larson's *Rent*; Tony Kushner's *Slavs!* and *Homebody/Kabul*; Doug Wright's *Quills*; Claudia Shear's *Blown Sideways Through Life* and *Dirty Blonde*; Paul Rudnick's *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told* and *Valhalla*; Martha Clarke's *Vienna: Lusthaus*; Will Power's *The Seven* and *Fetch Clay, Make Man*; Caryl Churchill's *Mad Forest*, *Far Away*, *A Number* and *Love and Information*; Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen's *Aftermath*; Rick Elice's *Peter and the Starcatcher*; Glen Hansard, Markéta Irglová and Enda Walsh's *Once*; David Bowie and Enda Walsh's *Lazarus*; Dael Orlandersmith's *The Gimmick* and *Forever*; Anais Mitchell's *Hadestown*; and eight acclaimed productions directed by Ivo van Hove. NYTW's productions have received a Pulitzer Prize, seventeen Tony Awards and assorted Obie, Drama Desk and Lucille Lortel Awards. [nytw.org](http://nytw.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 **Marín 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, LAByrnth Theater Company, MCC Theater, New Georges, New York Theatre Workshop, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Playwrights Horizons, 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.THESOLPROJECT.ORG](http://WWW.THESOLPROJECT.ORG)**

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**BIOS:**

**CHARISE CASTRO SMITH** is a playwright, television writer and actor originally from Miami. Her playwright credits include FEATHERS AND TEETH (Goodman Theatre), ESTRELLA CRUZ [THE JUNKYARD QUEEN] (Ars Nova/ Halcyon Theatre), THE HUNCHBACK OF SEVILLE (Washington Ensemble Theatre/ Trinity Repertory Company), WASHETERIA (Soho Rep), and BOOMCRACKLEFLY (Miracle Theatre). She was most recently a Supervising Producer on THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE for Netflix and prior to that her pilot, THE DEATH OF EVA SOFIA VALDEZ, was shot for ABC/ABCs. Smith is a recipient of a Van Lier Fellowship at New Dramatists, and is an alumna of Ars Nova's Play Group and The New Georges Jam. She holds an M.F.A from Yale School of Drama.

**LAURIE WOOLERY** is a director/playwright/educator/producer who has worked at theatres across the country including the Public Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Yale Rep

(Imogen Says Nothing, 2017), Trinity Repertory, Goodman Theatre, Cornerstone Theater Company, and South Coast Repertory. Recent projects include the world premiere of Mary Kathryn Nagle's Manahatta at Oregon Shakespeare Festival and the world premiere musical of As You Like It co-created with Shaina Taub for Public Works with the Public Theater. Laurie has developed new work with diverse communities ranging from incarcerated women to residents of a Kansas town devastated by a tornado. She creates site-specific work that ranges from a working sawmill in Eureka to the banks of the Los Angeles River. Currently, Laurie is the Director of Public Works at The Public Theater. Laurie is the former Associate Artistic Director of Cornerstone Theater Company and Conservatory Director at South Coast Repertory. Laurie teaches at universities across the country and serves on the Board of the Latino Producers Action Network and Latinx Commons, and she is a founding member of The Sol Project.