

PREGONES PRTT

Rosalba Rolón, Artistic Director

Alvan Colón Lespier, Jorge B. Merced, Associate Artistic Directors

Arnaldo J. López, Ph.D., Managing Director PRESENT

TORCHED! IN CONCERT

MAY 28 - JUNE 7, 2026

PREGONES
 PRTT

Book & Lyrics
ROSALBA ROLÓN

Featuring
**JOHN CENCIO BURGOS, CHRISTIN EVE CATO,
JOSÉ JOAQUÍN GARCÍA, AUSTIN TURNER,
JENYVETTE VEGA & NYSELI VEGA**

Musicians
**ÁLVARO BENAVIDES, ANTHONY CARRILLO,
DESMAR GUEVARA, MARCOS TORRES**

Projection Designer
EAMONN FARRELL

Lighting Designers
LUCRECIA BRICEÑO

Costume Designer
HARRY NADAL

Vocal Coach
SHADIA FAIRUZ

Movement Coach
ARTHUR AVILÉS

Assistant Director
ROSAL COLÓN

Associate Lighting Designer
EMMANUEL DELGADO

Wardrobe Supervisor/
Maintenance
STEPHANIE LÓPEZ

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MATÍAS ULIBARRY

Photography
KRYSTAL PAGÁN

Production Stage Manager
BRIANNA GUILLÉN

Assistant Stage Manager
SAMARA LEE

Production Manager
JESSICA MOYA

Audio Engineer
EDUARDO RESÉNDIZ

A2
ISAIAH LEMOS

Qlab Operator
NOELIA FLORES-CUETO

Production Electrician
DARIEL GARCÍA

Electricians
**SEBASTIAN FAZIO
MASANORI ASAHARA**

Supertitles Operators
FACUNDO AGUSTIN

Press
PRINT SHOP PR

Musical Direction by **DESMAR GUEVARA**

Directed by **ROSALBA ROLÓN**

SPECIAL THANKS: Joe Conzo Jr., Elena Martínez, Elba Cabrera, Edwin Pagán, Clara E. Rodríguez, Doris Colón, Petr Stand, Vivian Vázquez, Neyda Martínez, Oscar Olivier Didier, Julia Gutiérrez, Axel Piazzola, Ken Corrigan & firefighters David González, José Prosper, FDNY Engine 38, Engine 54, Ladder 4, Battalion 9, LP Percussion.

Artwork by **KARINA CRUZ ORTIZ**
based on an original design by **JEISON RIVERA.**

Performed in English with supertitles.

Pregone Theater, 575 Walton Avenue, The Bronx

RUNNING TIME: 65 minutes, no intermission

Box Office Manager – Raymond Xavier

House Managers – Joyce Baez

Program Design – Ernesto Cruz-Barriga

Produced By

PREGONES
 **PRTT**



Photo by Krystal Pagán

CAST

Burt	JOHN CENCIO BURGOS
Gina De La Vega	CHRISTIN EVE CATO
Tito	JOSÉ JOAQUÍN GARCÍA
Mr. B and Jay	AUSTIN TURNER
Candy / Insurance Broker	JENYVETTE VEGA
Linda	NYSELI VEGA



JOHN CENCIO BURGOS



CHRISTIN EVE CATO



JOSÉ JOAQUÍN GARCÍA



AUSTIN TURNER



JENYVETTE VEGA



NYSELI VEGA

MUSICIANS

Bass	ÁLVARO BENAVIDES
Percussion	ANTHONY CARRILLO
Keyboard	DESMAR GUEVARA
Drums	MARCOS TORRES



ÁLVARO BENAVIDES



ANTHONY CARRILLO



DESMAR GUEVARA



MARCOS TORRES

CREATIVES



ARTHUR AVILÉS



LUCRECIA BRICEÑO



ROSAL COLÓN



SHADIA FAIRUZ



EAMONN FARRELL



DESMAR GUEVARA



BRIANNA GUILLÉN



SAMARA LEE



HARRY NADAL



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**UNITED
SCENIC
ARTISTS**

Pregones/PRTT respectfully acknowledges that our Bronx and Manhattan venues are located on the ancestral and unceded lands of the Lenape Nation.

ABOUT TORCHED! IN CONCERT

Torched! In Concert, a powerful live music performance exploring the complex legacy of the Bronx fires of 1970's New York. Pulsing to the beat of salsa, funk disco, and hip hop, *Torched! In Concert* transports audiences between 1970s New York- when the fires gripped headlines- and the present day journey of survival and rebuilding.

Based on Pregones/PRTT's acclaimed musical theater production, this new staged concert captures the energy of New York City at a time of fearless musical invention and community uprising, featuring 10 powerhouse singers/musicians under the direction of award-winning artists Desmar Guevara and Rosalba Rolón.

Torched! In Concert is a moving and vital exploration of resistance, resilience, and the enduring spirit of a community.



Photo by Krystal Pagán

ABOUT THE MUSIC

The Leaf

The Match

That's The Story

Can You Hear Me?

F.I.R.E.

Each and Every Day

Tough On The Street

From My Bronx Blues

No Irish Need Apply

Insurance Paradise

Tus Mentiras

Proteje Mi Edificio

Finale

Original musical numbers by Rosalba Rolón with music by Desmar Guevara and Ensemble contributions.

No Irish Need Apply by John F. Poole and Kathleen O'Neil

The Leaf by Rosal Colón

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



The staged concert of *TORCHED!* is emblematic of how our original productions can morph, given their storytelling nature and vibe. In this case, the ongoing reminder of the stories surrounding the Bronx fires of the 1970s. Stories that shaped the way in which the world sees and/or perceives The Bronx. And the truth behind them. We love to explore different ways to tell our stories, even one that has been fully staged before.

We have had so much fun bringing *TORCHED!* back to The Bronx in concert format. Most of the band and cast are the original ensemble, and the performers for whom the production was a new experience, blended beautifully. In the process, I was reminded of the moments, a few years ago, when Christin, José and Nyseli improvised on lines inspired by lyrics I thought were final, and Yaraní del Valle's choreography brought images to life. Working with Desmar as Musical Director, Arthur Avilés as Movement Coach, our great band, our creative and production teams, has been a great joy in this new journey.

And so, here is *TORCHED! In Concert*. I hope you enjoy it, just as countless audiences enjoyed it when it was first produced here, at Pregones Theater.

Rosalba Rolón
May 2026

ARTIST BIOS

JOHN CENCIO BURGOS (Burt) recent Off-Broadway credits include the Talia and HOLA Award-winning production of *The Red Rose* by Rosalba Rolón at Pregones/PRTT (Mr. Arens) and *Torched* (Burt). His New York stage work also includes *Flo* by Toby Armour (Max), directed by Joan Kane; *Booked* by Carlos Jerome (Tito & Ed Randolph), directed by Ivette Dumeng; *Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen (George Tesman), directed by Robert Greer; *Aunt Susan and Her Tennessee Waltz* by Toby Armour (Harry Burn), directed by Joan Kane. He appeared in the world premiere of John Patrick Shanley's *Candlelight* (Paulie/Mirror), directed by Lori Key, and played Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, directed by Greta Lambert. John is the Best Supporting Actor Award winner at the Planet Connections Theatre Festival for *The 11th Dimension* (Rosalindo), written and directed by Roi Escudero.

CHRISTIN EVE CATO (Gina De La Vega) is a playwright, dramaturg, and performing artist, born and raised in the Bronx. Her Pregones/PRTT credits include *Torched!*, *Dancing In My Cockroach Killers* and *A Tale of Two Tricksters*. Her recent NYC stage productions include: HOLA award-winning play *O.K.!*; Obie award-winning play *Sancocho*; and The People's Theatre *The Diamond*. She is the founder of The Writer's Hood, an on-line writing school, and holds esteemed positions such as ensemble member and former Resident Dramaturg at Pregones/PRTT, board member of The Latinx Playwrights Circle, a featured playwright of the Sol Project, founding UNIT 52 ensemble member at INTAR, and affiliated artist with the Playwrights Center. (MFA, Playwriting).

JOSÉ JOAQUÍN GARCÍA (Tito) was born and raised on Manhattan's Lower East Side. Jose is celebrating his 40TH year as a member of The Pregones Theatre Company. He appeared on Broadway in Paul Simons *The Capeman* understudying Ruben Blades alongside Marc Anthony and Ednita Nazario. José recently received an NPN grant for the development of his one man musical *How I survived the Lower East Side in the 70s with my A.M. Radio*. He is currently co-writing a musical entitled *Dreaming Of Augustus Washington* about a black photographer in the 1850s He performed Robert Schumann's *Dichterliebe* with San Francisco's Zaccho Dance Theatre. He has frequently collaborated with Dan Zanes, most notably on *Catch That Train*, which won the 2006 Grammy for Musical Album for Children, and 2008's *¡Nueva York!*, which won the Independent Music Award for Best Children's Music Album. Jose can

also be heard on the Leadbelly tribute album on Smithsonian records.

AUSTIN TURNER (Mr. B and Jay) is grateful to be a part of *TORCHED!* Recent credits include: Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and Roger in *RENT*. Austin is a voice and piano teacher, choral singer, and proud graduate of Westminster Choir College. He apprenticed at The Walnut St. Theatre in Philly and studied at The Peoples' Improv Theatre in NYC. See him live in NYC every Wednesday at Uncle Charlie's Piano Lounge next to Grand Central. Instagram: @austinturnerlive

JENYVETTE VEGA (Candy / Insurance Broker) is a bilingual actress, singer/ songwriter and dancer born and raised in Puerto Rico. Since graduating in 2014 from Circle in the Square Theatre School, she has participated in theatre productions such as: the US tour of *Tres Vidas*; *La Gringa*, *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*, *La Llamada*, at Repertorio Español; *The Red Rose* at Puerto Rican Traveling Theater. TV credits include: *Law & Order: SVU*. Recent Theatre credits include: *Anna In The Tropics* at Asolo Repertory Theatre and *The Wedding March* at The Puerto Rican Traveling Theater . Glad to be back performing with this wonderful company. Thank you to all my family and friends for their continued love and support! Jenyvettevega.com

NYSELI VEGA (Linda) is a Dominican-American performer. Born in New York and raised in Houston, she brings a distinctive blend of southern warmth and New York edge to her work. She made her Broadway debut in *Hell's Kitchen* and has appeared on screen in *Law & Order: SVU*, *High Maintenance*, and *Orange Is the New Black*. Some credits include *Torched!* (Off-Broadway, PRTT), *BATSU!*, *Carmen La Cubana* (Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris), and *One Day the Musical* (Off-Broadway). Across mediums, she is recognized for her dynamic presence, emotional depth, and a deep commitment to storytelling that centers culture, connection, and truth. As a proud company member of Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater, she is deeply grateful to return to *Torched!* in this concert presentation, and to once again share this music and important story with audiences old and new!

ÁLVARO BENAVIDES (Bass) is a Venezuelan born bassist residing in New York City since 2004. He first moved to the USA in 1996 with a Best Entering Student Award Scholarship from Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. He worked with many local musicians in the Boston years, and since living in New York he's performed with many bands, musicals and theaters. He was part of The Pedrito Martinez Group with whom he re-

corded two studio albums; one live album picked a Grammy nomination in 2015. Touring credits: New Orleans, Newport, Montreaux; Wynton Marsalis, John Scofield, Steve Gadd, Rubén Blades, Issac Delgado and many more. Today you can hear him in NYC playing with various artists and his own project Alvaro Benavides & Radio Club.

ANTHONY CARRILLO (Percussion) is a percussionist of proud Puerto Rican musical heritage. His diverse musical career includes 18+ years of performances with Pregones/PRTT, as well as sharing the stage with Eddie Palmieri, Paul Simon, Harry Belafonte, Batacumbele, Descarga Boricua and the metal band, PUYA. Anthony has released 3 CD's featuring the first ever recordings of Rumba from Puerto Rico. His innovative latin band, YÁMBAWA, released two EP's in 2018 and is releasing a full length album in 2026. He endorses MOPERC percussion; creators of the Anthony Carrillo Signature Series Bongo. In 2023, Anthony Carrillo was recognized by the The House of Representatives in San Juan, Puerto Rico for his musical contributions to Puerto Rican culture and for serving as Puerto Rico's musical ambassador to the world.

DESMAR GUEVARA (Musical Director & Keyboard) Resident Composer and Musical Director of Pregones/PRTT, is a recognized champion of new music idioms in Latin jazz, a composer of experimental and non-traditional music for live theater and film, and an in-demand pianist with numerous concert, touring, and recording credits. He has composed, arranged, and music directed dozens of ensemble theater productions of varying scale, from chamber to Off-Broadway. He is founding director of chamber jazz ensemble Taller Sicá, founding member of Afro Puerto Rican ensemble Viento de Agua, and has collaborated with many musical luminaries including Tito Puente, Celia Cruz, Tito Nieves, Xiomara Fortuna, Andy Montañez, Soledad Bravo, and Danny Rivera. Recent premieres include Grados Inefables, which delves into the esoteric symbolism and philosophies of Freemasonry, co-commissioned by arts presenters in New York, Colorado, and California.

MARCOS TORRES (Drums) is a Grammy-winning sound engineer, Latin Grammy-nominated producer, and gifted percussionist. A graduate of Berklee College of Music, he has toured worldwide with Latin music legends including Marc Anthony, La India, Jerry Rivera, and Tito Nieves. He's also recorded percussion on the score for In the Heights, further cementing his reputation as a versatile and accomplished musician and producer.

ARTHUR AVILÉS (Movement Coach) is a gay New York-Rican dancer/choreographer living in the Bronx. In 1996, he formed Arthur Avilés Typical Theatre, and in 1998, along with Charles Rice-Gonzalez, he co-founded BAAD! The Bronx Academy of Arts & Dance. Avilés was a member of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company from 1987 to 1995. His work has earned numerous accolades, including a New York Dance and Performance Bessie Award, the Bronx Recognizes Its Own (BRIO) Award, a NYFA Fellowship, the Mayor's Award for Art and Culture, and a NEA Master's Grant from Pregones Theatre. He has also received a B.A., an Arts and Letters Award, and an honorary doctorate from Bard College.

LUCRECIA BRICEÑO (Lighting Designer) is a Brooklyn-based Peruvian artist whose deep roots in New York's performing arts community stretch back to her long-standing collaboration with Pregones Theatre/PRTT, where she has spent years as a resident lighting designer and creative collaborator, helping to shape the visual dramaturgy of one of the city's most vital and beloved cultural institutions. Her work spans theatre, opera, puppetry, dance, and cross-disciplinary collaborations. She serves as Co-Artistic Director of Anonymous Ensemble, a devised theater collective creating new performance work and live film that bridges local and global communities through collective storytelling. She is also an associate artist with The Civilians and a resident designer with La Micro. As a guest artist and lecturer, she has taught at Barnard College, Fordham University, NYU, Princeton, Hunter College, Manhattan School of Music, and the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, among others. Lucrecia holds an MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts and is a member of IATSE Local 829.

ROSAL COLÓN (Assistant Director) Broadway: *Between Riverside and Crazy* (OBC/Hayes Theater), *The Motherf**ker with the Hat* (Gerald Schoenfeld Theater), *A Free Man of Color* (Lincoln Center). Off-Broadway: *Migrants* (Pregones/PRTT), *The Beep* (Pregones/PRTT), *Continuity* (MTC), *Between Riverside and Crazy* (Second Stage) Best known as Ouija on *Orange Is the New Black* (Netflix). Other Television Credits: *Power Book III: Raising Kanan*, *Elsbeth*, *Chicago P.D.*, *New Amsterdam*, *Madam Secretary*, *Elementary*, and *Law & Order: SVU*. Film Credits: *Lost Girls*, *The Dead Don't Die*, *Can You Ever Forgive Me?* Pregones/PRTT Ensemble Member.

SHADIA FAIRUZ (Vocal Coach) New York based actor, singer, and vocal coach is proud to be returning to Pregones/PRTT; this time, as a vocal guide for this exciting production of *The*

Wedding March. Recently seen on Broadway with *Real Women Have Curves* after being a part of its World Premiere at ART, Boston. Highlights: 1st Nat. Broadway Tour, *On Your Feet!* (u/s Gloria Fajardo, Consuelo); *On Your Feet!* (Gloria Fajardo) NCT (Broadwayworld Best Supporting Nominee); *In the Heights* (Daniela, Camila): Cleveland Playhouse, La Mirada Theatre, Saugatuck PAC, (Broadwayworld Best Actor Nominee), Engeman Theater; Gala Theatre, (Helen Hayes, Best Supporting Actor Nominee); Axelrod PAC; *I Like It Like That*, Off-Broadway. TV/Film: Hallmark, *Sugar Plum Twist* (Supporting); CBS, *The Late Show*, *Law & Order*, NBC. Follow her @shadiafairuz and @shadiafairuzvocalstudio. Rep: DGRW.

EAMONN FARRELL (Projection Designer) is a New Jersey-based video designer whose work focuses on investigations of how innovative technologies can support and elevate the work of live performers to create unforgettable experiences. With his company, Anonymous Ensemble, he has created dozens of original, media-infused shows, installations, and live webcasts in New York City and around the world. For two decades, Eamonn collaborated closely with the late Lee Breuer of Mabou Mines. Other design credits include: Sarah Michelson, Big Dance Theater, TFANA, B3 Dance (Bessie Nomination), The LA Phil, Parsons Dance, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Portland Center Stage, Palacio de Bellas Artes, and Megaron Musiki. Eamonn has taught projections design at Princeton, City College of New York, JMU and UVA. Eamonn is excited to be working with Pregones/PRTT once again!

HARRY NADAL (Costume Designer) has had a long standing collaboration as a designer with Pregones/PRTT. As recent as Parrots at the Pagoda in 2025. His latest credits are Hartford Stage's acclaimed production of *Death of a Salesman*, directed by Melia Bensussen, *Los Soles Truncos* at Repertorio Espanol, directed by Jose Zayas and Seattle Opera's premier of *Jubilee*, directed by Tazewell Thompson. NEW YORK: Lincoln Center Institute, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Atlantic Theater Company, LAByrinth Theatre Company, Juilliard, WP Theater, INTAR, Boundless Theater and among many. REGIONAL: Arena Stage (Washington, DC), George Street Playhouse (New Brunswick, NJ), Geva Theatre (Rochester, NY), Chicago Opera Theater, Baltimore Center Stage, Florida Studio Theatre (Sarasota, FL), TheaterWorks Hartford, ZACH Theatre (Austin, TX), Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Boise Contemporary Theatre, Fulton Theatre (Lancaster, PA) and Des Moines Metro Opera among others. MFA: Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. harrynadal.com

BRIANNA GUILLÉN (Production Stage Manager) is a Montclair State University theater graduate and AEA stage manager. She has been the Production Stage Manager for other Pregones/PRTT productions such at *Baile Cangrejero* (2025) and *Burned* (2025). She has also worked as Assistant Stage Manager for *Parrots at the Pagoda* (2025). She was also Production Stage Manager of *Alice by Heart* (2024) as well as Assistant Stage Manager of *Pippin* (2024) at Vanguard Theater Company.

SAMARA LEE (Assitant Stage Manager) is a senior at Montclair State University majoring in Design, Technology, and Management. Recent credits as Stage Manager include *Natasha, Pierre*, and *The Great Comet of 1812*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Rusalka*, and *The Ghost of Versailles* (Miami Music Festival), *Flower Power* (The Tank NYC), *Pride & Prejudice*, *Spring Dance '24*, *Theatre Night Awards '25*, *Dance Makers '24*, and *Su Arte En Mi*. She has also served as Assistant Stage Manager for productions such as *Hamlet* (Luna Stage), *Blind Injustice* (PEAK Performances), *Anna in the Tropics*, *Elephant's Graveyard*, and *Oklahoma!* at Montclair State University. Samara is honored to contribute to this production and applauds the entire team for their dedication and talent.

JESSICA MOYA (Production Manager) Jessica is a graduate of City College-City University of New York, Department of Theater. Pregones credits include: *Evolution of a Sonero*, *Quarter Rican*, *El Apagón*, *Blanco*, *Sissy*, *Betsy*, *El bolero fue mi ruina*, *Game Over*, *El ultimo rosario de Medea*, *The Beep*, *The Black-out*, *Migrants!*, *The Phone Call*; Suzan-Lori Parks' *365 Days/365 Plays*, *The Red Rose*, *Aloha Boricua*, *The Harlem Hellfighters On A Latin Beat*, *Neon Baby*, and all of Pregones Theater's Presenting productions since 2006. She is recipient of a TCG New Generations/Future Leaders Mentorship.



Photo by Krystal Pagán

ABOUT PREGONES/PRTT



PREGONES PRTT

PREGONES/PRTT / Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater is an award-winning acting and music ensemble, multidiscipline arts presenter, and owner/steward of bilingual arts facilities in The Bronx and Manhattan. Our mission is to champion a Puerto Rican/Latinx 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. Our year-round programs offer attractive and affordable opportunities for arts access and participation to NYC residents and visitors alike.

Pregones was founded in 1979 when a group of artists led by Rosalba Rolón set out to create and tour new works in the style of Caribbean and Latin American colectivos or performing ensembles. Established as a South Bronx resident company soon after, Pregones remains in the vanguard of an arts renaissance radiating throughout and beyond The Bronx today.

Spurred by stage and film icon Miriam Colón, PRTT was founded in 1967 as one of the first bilingual theater companies in all the U.S. It is credited for nurturing the development of hundreds of Latinx artists, legitimating creative connections throughout the Spanish-speaking world, and pioneering models for lasting community engagement.

Following merger in 2014, Pregones/PRTT plays a decisive role in empowering diverse artists and audiences to claim their place at the front of the American theater.

PREGONES PRTT

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Special Thanks Jorge Leger & Astound Media; Steve Hernández & ACE Construction; Sam León and all our neighbors and volunteers in The Bronx and Manhattan!

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