

PREGONES / PUERTO RICAN TRAVELING THEATER

Rosalba Rolón, Artistic Director Alvan Colón Lespier, Jorge B. Merced, Associate Artistic Directors Arnaldo J. López, Ph.D., Managing Director

PRESENTS

TORCHED!

Book & Lyrics by **ROSALBA ROLÓN** Music by DESMAR GUEVARA

Dramaturgy by CHRISTIN E. CATO OMAR PÉREZ Additional Music & Lyrics by JOSÉ J. GARCÍA, NYSELI VEGA, CHRISTIN E. CATO, ROSAL COLÓN

Featuring

CHRISTIN E. CATO, JOSÉ J. GARCÍA, OMAR PÉREZ CLAUDIA RAMOS, PAT D. ROBINSON, NYSELI VEGA

Music Ensemble

ÁLVARO BENAVIDES, ANTHONY CARRILLO, DESMAR GUEVARA, CAMILO MOLINA

Costume Design HARRY NADAL

Sound Design MILTON RUIZ

Electricians OMAYRA GARRIGA DALIA SEVILLA

Sound Engineer & Production Asst. JOSÉ L. TORRES

Scenic Paint/Carpenter

BOBBY BODÓN

Artwork JEISON RIVERA Lighting Design LUCRECIA BRICEÑO

Assitant Lighting Design **EMMANUEL DELGADO**

Light Board Programmer STACEY BOGGS

Costume Assitant ORIANA SOPHIA

Projections/Sound Op. EDUARDO RESÉNDIZ GÓMEZ

Titles Operator KIMBERLY GÓMEZ Projection Design EAMONN FARREL

Production Manager JESSICA MOYA

Prod. Supervisor

COLÓN LESPIER

Stage Manager ALEJANDRA RAMOS RIERA

Press Representative ROSANNA PLASENCIA

Directed by **ROSALBA ROLÓN**

Pre-Show Guest Artists: Brother North and Caridad De La Luz

SPECIAL THANKS: Joe Conzo Jr., Caridad De La Luz, Elena Martínez, Elba Cabrera, Edwin Pagán, Clara E. Rodríguez, Doris Colón, Petr Stand, Vivian Vázquez, Neyda Martínez, Oscar Olivier Didier, Julia Gutiérrez, Axel Piazolla, Ken Corrigan & firefighters David González, José Prosper, FDNY Engine 38, Engine 54, Ladder 4, Battalion 9, LP Percussion Gina De La Vega _____ CHRISTIN EVE CATO Tito Morales _____ JOSÉ JOAQUÍN GARCÍA Burt Candy, Insurance Broker ____ CLAUDIA RAMOS-JORDÁN Mr. B and J linda



CHRISTIN EVE CATO



CLAUDIA RAMOS

7





PAT D. ROBINSON

MUSICAL NUMBERS



OMAR PÉREZ

NYSELI VEGA

PAT D. ROBINSON

OMAR PÉREZ



NYSELI VEGA

The Leaf	Text: Rosal Colón. Music: José Joaquín García, Desmar Guevara
F.I.R.E.	Lyrics: Rosalba Rolón. Music: D. Gue- vara, J. J. García, Caridad De La Luz
Each and Every Day	Text/Lyrics: R. Rolón. Music: J. J. García, D. Guevara, Christin E. Cato, Caridad De La Luz
ough On The Street	Lyrics: Christin E. Cato & Rosalba Rolón. Music: Nyseli Vega, C. E. Cato, D. Guevara
Walking Together	Lyrics: R.Rolón. Music: C. E. Cato, D. Guevara & musicians
lo Irish Need Apply	Lyrics: John F. Poole (1862). Folk
Insurance Paradise	Lyrics: R. Rolón. Music: D. Guevara with Claudia Ramos, Pat D. Robinson
Cuantas Veces	Lyrics & Music: D. Guevara
Proteje Mi Edificio	Lyrics: R. Rolón. Music: D. Guevara
/Finale Each and Every Day	Lyrics: R. Rolón. Music: J. J. García, D. Guevara, C. E. Cato, C. De La Luz

All musical arrangements by Desmar Guevara with Alvaro Benavides, Anthony Carrillo and Camilo Molina

Torched! is performed in Spanish and English with titles. RUNNING TIME: 80 Minutes. No intermission. December 2-19, 2021 At Pregones Theater575 Walton Avenue, The Bronx, NY

ABOUT TORCHED!



TORCHED! speaks to the now legendary era of the Bronx Fires of the 1970s, lifting stories of survival to lay bare the infamies of the arson-for-profit business.

Alternating from past to present and pulsing to salsa and hip hop sounds, the show is part investigative theater and part poetic fiction–delivered by Pregones/PRTT's Latinx ensemble cast of ten actors/musicians under the direction of award-winning artists Rosalba Rolón and Desmar Guevara.

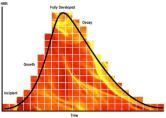
TORCHED! pays tribute to real people who fought back, who continue to want to set the record straight, who continue to research, give testimony, and unmask ugly truths behind the fires. With this production, we join the generations of Bronx artists and activists shining light on this period of our history. *TORCHED!* invites audiences to tap into living networks of popular resistance, storytelling, music, and triumph.



TORCHED! is our ensemble's first staged in-person production since 2020. Pre-production photos by Michael Palma Mir.



STAGES OF FIRE Although all fires follow these stages, the speed at which they burn depends on the fuel and ventilation in it's area.



STAGE ONE: Also known as the **Incipient Stage**, in which a plume of hot gases and flame rises from the fire and mixes with the cool air within the room. This in turn increases the overall temperature of the room.

STAGE TWO: Also known as the **Growth Stage**. This is when the hot layer of air from the previous stage plums on the ceiling and begins to mix with the cooler air closer to the ground. Between this stage and the next is when there is a possibility for all flammable material exposed to the fire to simultaneously be ablaze.

STAGE THREE: referred to as the **Fully Developed Stage**. This is when a fire is at its greatest and most volatile energy. At this point flames are visible from the outside of a building and have already spread to several other rooms.

STAGE FOUR: the final stage is **Decay**. At this stage all fuel or flammable materials have been consumed and/or the oxygen that has fuelled the fire has been lowered. The heat release rate will decrease as the amount of available oxygen also begins to decrease, temperatures may continue to rise for a brief period afterward. The aftermath of this stage often includes ruble and ash.

Excerpt from the production's Dramaturgy Packet compiled by Dramaturgy Interns **Amanda Tafeen & Nicaulis Mercedes** under the direction of Resident Dramaturg **Christin E. Cato** & Associate Artistic Director **Jorge B. Merced**

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Through our 40-yr history of national and international travels, one item has been consistently the subject of curiosity everywhere we go: The Bronx. The one place people think they know everything about.



My motivation for developing TORCHED! comes from a combination of these experiences, the rich artistic output by Bronx artists and allies over the past five decades, and stories shared by those who lived through the devastating fires of the 1970s.

Working with a generation of artists who did not experience the fires first hand-including me- or were at least very young then, was another way to add to the landscape of voices. TORCHED! takes us between past and present, points fingers, and at the risk of repeating what many already knew, insists on the role of mainstream and dominant industries in destroying the reputation of an entire community: The South Bronx in particular.

I am grateful for the support from colleagues, advisors, friends, and neighbors who collaborated, challenged, and contributed to the content of the production as it developed.

So here is TORCHED!, for us to keep the conversation going. We must never forget. We must remain alert.

Rosalba Rolón

COVID-19 Visitor Safety These in-person performances are open to the general public. Tey to NYC mandates requires ALL VISITORS Including children over 12 years of age to present proof of vaccination against COVID-19 together with valid governmentissued personal identification. Use of face masks at all times is also requested.

BIOS



CHRISTIN EVE CATO (Gina De La Vega) is a playwright and performing artist from the Bronx. She holds an MFA in Playwriting from Indiana University and completed her BA degree at Fordham University. Cato is also a graduate of Fiorello H. LaGuardia

High School for Music and Art and the Performing Arts. She is affiliated with NYC theater companies, Pregones/PRTT (ensemble member), INTAR Theatre (UNIT 52 ensemble member), and the Latinx Playwrights Circle. Past credits with Pregones/ PRTT include *Dancing In My Cockroach Killers* and *We Have Iré*. Cato is also the 2020 Greater Good Commission recipient for Afro-Latinx writers and the 2021 ReImagine New Plays in TYA grant. She is a 2021-2022 PWC Core Apprentice Playwright. She is represented by 3 Arts Entertainment.



JOSE JOAQUIN GARCIA (*Tito Morales*) is a singer, actor, director, composer. He has graced the stages of Pregones Theater Company since 1986 performing original musical theater works. He has performed with The New Group in *The Flatted Fifth*, Reper-

torio Español, Paul Simons *The Cape Man* Broadway Musical understudying Ruben Blades. He frequently guests with his Rubi Theatre Company on recording artist Dan Zanes albums including"*Catch That Train*" Grammy winner Best Children's Album and most recently *LEAD BELLY*, *BABY* on the Smithsonian Label.



OMAR PÉREZ (Burt) is an actor, director, writer and educator. He began his acting career with the internationally recognized Pregones Theatre (partial list): The Red Rose starring Grammy winner Danny Rivera (winner of the 2006 HOLA award for Best Musi-

cal), *The Beep* (winner of the 2007 HOLA award for Best Ensemble) and *Dancing In My Cockroach Killers* (Off-Broadway). Other stage credits include *Passion Nation, DC7 The Roberto Clemente Story* (Off Broadway), *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Man of La Mancha*. He is a 2017 ACE award nominee for his work as Sancho Panza in *Miguel Will*. His one-man show *Rhapsodia*, has been presented at several NYC festivals. Recent T.V. credits include *Younger* (TVland), *FBI: Most Wanted* (CBS) *Power, Ray Donovan* (Starz network) *Russian Dolls* (Netflix) and *Search Party* (TBS).



CLAUDIA RAMOS JORDÁN (*Candy, Insurance Broker*) Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Claudia is an actor and multidisciplinary artist based in New York City. Her BFA in Theatre Arts at Boston University included musical theatre training and physical the-

atre training, in Boston and abroad at Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy. Upon concluding her studies, she sought to develop and expand her experiences and skillset, both within and beyond the discipline of theatre. Throughout her career, Claudia inhabited diverse roles within the Film, Television and Theatre landscape. Her theatre credits include Tanya Saracho's *Kita y Fernanda*, which she co-produced and starred in, making it the first full-length Spanglish production done at Boston University, as well as *Unmerciful Good Fortune*, presented at the Celemente Soto Vélez Theatre.



PAT D. ROBINSON (*Mr. B and J*) is a NYC based writer and performer originally from North Carolina. He performs music with Six Time Users, Scribble Scoundrel and Robbing Johnny. As a playwright his plays have been at Dixon Place, and the NYC

Fringe Festival. His play Vox Beta was performed at Alphaville in Brooklyn. Pay acted in *Betsy!* at Pregones in 2015 and is thrilled to be back in *Torched!* Pat also is a teacher, and currently teaches students in the Bronx.



NYSELI VEGA (*Linda*) is a multi-hyphenate Dominican-American performer, producer, and human. She is a co-founder/performer with the powerhouse singing trio Ménage Music, as well as a regular member of FaceOff Unlimited Improv Company.

Torched! is her debut with Pregones/PRTT! Some other credits include *High Maintenance* (Hbo), *OITNB* (Netflix), *One Day the Musical* (Off Broadway) and *Carmen La Cubana* (Paris Premiere). Her newest venture is co-founding Just BeiN' Productions Company with the hopes to amplify the vision of creative individuals so that they can push boundaries and feel empowered in their uniqueness. "The creative adult is the child who survived." - unknown



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 Mu¬sic 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 recorded two studio albums; one live album picked a Gram¬my nomination in 2015. Touring credits: New Orleans, Newport, Montreaux; Wyn¬ton 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 multi percussionist of proud Puerto Rican musical heritage. He has been a musical artist for Pregones/PRTT for more than 12 years. Recent Pregones/PRTT credits include *Aloha Boricua, Game Over, Firefighters, Betsy* and

I Like it Like That. Other musical credits include performances with renowned musicians Eddie Palmieri, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Paul Simon and Harry Belafonte as well as being an integral member of famed Puerto Rican groups, Batacumbele and PUYA. Anthony has released 3 CD's featuring the first recordings of rumba from Puerto Rico. Both his latin jazz group, AA team and his latin big band, YÁMBAWA released two EP's in 2018.



CAMILO ERNESTO MOLINA GAETÁN (*drums*) is an accomplished Percussionist from New York City. In the year 2000, Camilo was selected to compete in the Thelonious Monk Hand Drum Competition. He went on to become selected third place winner, who,

at age ten was the youngest finalist in the history of the competition. In 2003, he graduated from the MAP/PATH program of the Juilliard school of music. Camilo has recorded on 5 Grammy Award Nominated albums and contributed to movies and documentaries, Including Lin Manuel Miranda's "*In the Heights*" and "*Vivo*". He is currently part of Eddie Palmieri's Orchestra and has recorded/performed with artists such as Santana, Eddie Palmieri, Ricky Martin, Sergio George, La India and Issac Delgado, amongst others.



DESMAR GUEVARA (composer) is Resident Composer and Musical Director of Pregones/PRTT. He 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 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.



ROSALBA ROLÓN is the Artistic Director of PregonesPRTT. She is an accomplished director and dramaturg specializing in the adaptation of literary and non-literary texts for stage performance with live music. Recent productions include *¡Guaracha!,* which

premiered Off-Broadway in 2019, *We Have Iré* (with playwright Paul S. Flores and composer Yosvani Terry), which premiered at YBCA/San Francisco, *Dancing In My Cockroach Killers, Betsy!* (with Roadside Theater/KY), and *Brides* (with partners in Belgium and the Slovak Republic), among many others. Distinctions include 2019 Creative Capital Award, 2018 Doris Duke Artist Award and 2008 United States Artists Fellowship. She is a member of the Tony Awards Nominating Committee. With PregonesPRTT Ensemble she has traveled to 37 states/500+ cities in the U.S., and 18 countries.



LUCRECIA BRICEÑO (*Lighting Designer*) is a Peruvian artist currently based in Brooklyn. Her designs have been presented at such venues as Oxford Playhouse (UK), The Public Theater, Arena Stage, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Dallas Theatre Center, BAM

(Fischer), Kennedy Center, Atlas Performing Arts, Berlind Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, La Mama ETC, Birmingham Repertory (UK), Culture Project, Pregones Theatre, Intar, HERE Arts Center, Soho Rep, Ohio Theatre, Irondale Center, ArtsEmerson, among many others. She is an associate artist with The Civilians, a Core Member of Anonymous Ensemble, a resident designer with Pregones Theatre/PRTT and La Micro; she has also been a guest artist/lecturer at NYU, Princeton University, Hunter College and the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. MFA: NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Member of 829.



ALVAN COLÓN LESPIER (*Production Supervisor*) is seasoned stage director, playwright, and producer with 30 years of experience, and one of two Associate Artistic Directors at Pregones Theater. He is instrumental in the ongoing development of the ensem-

ble's original repertory, multidisciplinary Presenting program, and professional facility. He curates the March Is Music series. Pregones directing credits include: *Voices of Steel, Fables of the Caribbean, La otra orilla, Medea's Last Rosary, Peccatoribus, Game Over,* and *The Desire of the Astronaut.*



EAMONN FARREL (Video Designer) is a Virginia-based theater maker and video designer. With his Brooklyn-based theatre company, Anonymous Ensemble, he has created dozens of original, media-infused shows, installations, and live webcasts in

New York City and around the world. Eamonn also works frequently with Mabou Mines, Sarah Michelson, and Paul Lazar. Other design credits include: TFANA, B3 Dance (Bessie Nomination), LA Dance, The LA Phil, Parsons Dance, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and Portland Center Stage. Eamonn has taught projections design at Princeton, City College of New York, JMU and UVA. http://www.eamonnsgarden.com



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 Blackout, 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.



HARRY NADAL (*Costume Design*) has designed for Pregones since 2005. NEW YORK: Brooklyn Academy of Music, Atlantic Theater Co., Lincoln Center Institute, INTAR Theater, Juilliard, Boundless Theater Co., LAByrinth, Theater for the New City, HERE

Arts Center, HOME for Contemporary Theater and Art among many. REGIONAL: Arena Stage (Washington, DC), Chicago Opera Theater, TheaterWorks (Hartford, CT), Baltimore Center Stage, People's Light (Malvern, PA), UrbanArias (Arlington, VA), Open Stage (Harrisburg, PA), Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble (Bloomsburg, PA) and Boise Contemporary among others. FACULTY: Pratt Institute Film School. MFA: NYU, Tisch School of the Arts. UPCOMING: *Seven Guitars* (Arena Stage - Washington DC), *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* (ZACH Theater - Austin, Texas), *Baipas* (George Street Playhouse - New Brunswick, NJ) and *Folks at Home* (Baltimore Center Stage). http://www. harrynadal.com



ALEJANDRA RAMOS RIERA (*Stage Manager*) is a Puerto Rican playwright, actress, director and educator based in NYC. Winner of "The 2020 Miranda Family Voces Latinx Playwrighting Competition" with her play *Malas mañas*. And a 2021 Emmy Nominee

as a Voice Over Actress for Animated Short Film La Cucarachita Martina's Musical Adventures. Her published work includes her book En la azotea, 10 piezas cortas de teatro (Ed. Callejón 2016), Times of Fire (Vice Versa Magazine, 2020), among others. She's a collaborator artist of Pregones/PRTT. Her latest work include Rhythms of Hearts (48 Hours in...El Bronx Theater Festival, 2021); Bitter Sweet ("Remojo: New Works in process" produced by Pregones/PRTT); Paris (En Construcción, New Works Latin American Writers 2020 produced by Poets & Writers, Inc.).



MILTON RUIZ (Sound Designer) is an audio engineer and occasional guitarist. He earned his BA in Music Performance & Sound Recording Technology from UMass Lowell. He has been doing sound for Pregones/PRTT since 2006 where his credits

include: The Beep, Caravana/Migrants!, Fly Babies, Game Over, Aloha Boricua, Call Me Esteban Only, Harlem Hellfighters, Dancing in My Cockroach Killers, Marchers, ¡Guaracha!, Evolution of A Sonero, and We Have Iré as well as recording and mixing the annual March Is Music concert series. He has also recorded and mixed albums for Rebio Diaz (Yuxtayacientes, HaciaContraDesde, El Septimo Diente) and Albert Marqués (Live In The South Bronx) among many others. He is currently working as audio engineer at NY Public Radio (WNYC/WQXR).



ORIANA SOPHIA (Assistant Costume Designer) is a Theatre Artist with a passion for Acting and Costume Design based in NYC. She is the founder and Artistic Director of La Diáspora Theatre Company, where she recently produced, directed, and acted in

Ay Fefa, Where is the Wind. As a designer, she has worked with Boundless Theatre Company, National Queer Theatre, Showdogs, The Tank and, Davis Shakespeare Company. As an actress, she is trained in the Meisner Technique from Maggie Flannigan Acting Studio and holds a BA in Theatre from Hunter College. You can follow her work on IG @Orianasophia

ABOUT 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

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Special Thanks

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