

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 Support by **CHRISTIN E. CATO OMAR PÉREZ**

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

Featuring

CHRISTIN E. CATO, JOHN CENCIO BURGOS, JOSÉ J. GARCÍA CLAUDIA RAMOS, PAT D. ROBINSON, NYSELI VEGA

Music Ensemble

ÁLVARO BENAVIDES, NELSON MATTHEW GONZÁLEZ, **DESMAR GUEVARA, CAMILO MOLINA**

Costume Design **HARRY NADĂL**

Lighting Design **LUCRECIA BRICEÑO**

Projection Design **EAMONN FARRELL**

Sound Design MILTON RŬIZ

Associate Lighting Design EMMANUEL DELGADO Production Manager **JESSICA MOYA**

Sound Enginers **MILTON RUIZ**

EDUARDO RESÉNDIZ

Electricians

EMMANUEL DELGADO JARED KEMP DALIA SEVILLA

Production **Assistant** LUISSANA **CARREÑO**

Light Board Operator

LUISSANA CARREÑO

Titles Operator

HECTOR LUIS CARDONA

Projections/Sound Op. **EDUARDO**

RESÉNDIZ

Artwork **JEISON**

RIVERA

Stage Manager LEYMA

LÓPEZ

Press Representative **ROSANNA PLASENCIA**

Directed by **ROSALBA ROLÓN**

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

CAST (in alphabetical order)

CHRISTIN EVE CATO Gina De La Vega JOSÉ JOAQUÍN GARCÍA Tito Morales ___ JOHN CENCIO BURGOS Burt Candy & Insurance Broker __CLAUDIA RAMOS-JORDÁN **PAT D. ROBINSON** Mr. B & J NYSELI VEGA Linda









Tough On The Street





MUSICAL NUMBERS

Text: Rosal Colón. Music: José Joaquín The Leaf García, Desmar Guevara

Lyrics: Rosalba Rolón. Music: D. Gue-F.I.R.E.

vara, J. J. García, Caridad De La Luz Each and Every Day Text/Lyrics: R. Rolón. Music:

> Lyrics: Christin E. Cato & Rosalba Rolón. Music: Nyseli Vega, C. E. Cato,

Ćlaudia Ramos, Pat D. Robinson

J. J. García, D. Guevara, Christin E. Cato, Caridad De La Luz

Walking Together Blues Lyrics: R.Rolón. Music: C. E. Cato, D. Guevara & musicians

D. Guevara

No Irish Need Apply Lyrics: John F. Poole (1862). Folk

Insurance Paradise Lyrics: R. Rolón. Music: D. Guevara with

Cuantas Veces Lyrics & Music: D. Guevara

Proteje Mi Edificio Lyrics: R. Rolón. Music: D. Guevara

Lyrics: R. Rolón. Music: J. J. García, Finale/ D. Guevara, C. E. Cato, C. De La Luz Each and Every Day

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

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.

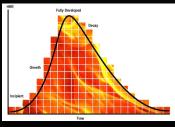


Pre-production photos by Michael Palma Mir.



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.

Key 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), INTARTheatre (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 Relmagine 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.



JOHN CENCIO BURGOS (Burt) is so honored to be a part of Pregones/PRTT and this production. Recently: Aunt Susan and Her Tennessee Waltz by Toby Armour (Ensemble) Directed by Joan Kane; Dance Of Death by August Strindberg (Allen) Direct-

ed by Robert Greer; The world premiere of *Candlelight Written* by John Patrick Shanley (Paulie/Mirror) Directed by Lori Key; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bottom) Directed by Greta Lambert at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Best Supporting Actor Award-Winner for *The 11th Dimension* (Rosalindo) Written and Directed by Roi Escudero at the Planet Connections Theatre Festival. http://www.johncencioburgos.com FOLLOW AT: Facebook.com/johncburgos, Instagram @jbu81 and Twitter @ johncburgos.



CLAUDIA RAMOS JORDÁN (Candy, Insurance Broker) Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Claudia is an actor and multidisciplinary artist based in NYC. Her BFA in Theatre Arts at Boston University included musical and physical theatre 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. Theatre credits: 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 performer and writer originally from Greensboro, NC. This is his second show with Pregones and he is thrilled to be back with this incredible ensemble. Pat has made music with Robbing Johnny, Six Time

Users and Scribble Scoundrel. As a playwright, his plays have been produced at the NYC Fringe Festival, Dixon Place and DIY venues in Brooklyn. Pat is also an educator in the South Bronx. He is honored to work with all of the talented artists and musicians in Torched! to tell this important story.



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.



NELSON MATTHEW GONZÁLEZ (percussion) Bronx native Nelson was raised in a musical family. His grandfather, Benny Ayala, was a seasoned Plenero composer and folklorist. As a young child, Matthew was surrounded by Afro-Caribbean rhythms of Puerto Rican

folkloric music. He began formally studying music at the Harbor Conservatory in East Harlem, NY at age eleven. Matthew is equally gifted as a dancer and has been a member of Danza Fiesta for over ten years. He has performed with Los Pleneros de la 21, Aurora Flores, Zon de Barrio, David Kada, La Salsera Sol, Hector Tricoche, Eugene Marlow and the Heritage Ensemble, Arturo O'Farrill, Chino Ramos and His Orchestra, and Jessica Rodriguez y La Malanga.



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: 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.



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

nedy Center, Atlas Performing Arts, Berlind Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, La Mama ETC, Birmingham Repertory (UK), Culture Project, 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. Guest artist/lecturer: NYU, Princeton, Hunter College and the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. MFA: NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Member of 829.



EAMONN FARRELL (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



MILTON RUIZ (Sound Designer) is an audio engineer and occasional guitarist. 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,

Game Over, Aloha Boricua, Harlem Hellfighters, Dancing in My Cockroach Killers, Marchers, ¡Guaracha!, Evolution of A Sonero, and We Have Iré, and 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). He is currently working as audio engineer at NY Public Radio (WNYC/WQXR).

CURRENTLY ON EXHIBIT AT OUR LOBBY



A PEOPLE IGNITED

PHOTO EXHIBIT BY **JOE CONZO JR.**











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.



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ROSALBA ROLÓN

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Associate Production Manager

JESSICA MOYA

House Manager
LUISANA CARREÑO
RAQUEL COLEX

Artwork & Graphic Design JEISON RIVERA

Facilities Team

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Supporting Public Agencies

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Special Thanks

Mark McKew, Esq.; Steve Hernández & ACE Construction; our neighbors and volunteers in The Bronx and Manhattan!

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ONLINE: pregonesprtt.org/donate BY PHONE call us at 718-585-1202

Felix Ventura



COMING UP IN MANHATTAN

REFOCUS PROJECT

Presented in partnership with



The Refocus Project spotlights Latinx playwrights from the 20th and 21st centuries, including René Marqués, Fausto Avendaño, María Irene Fornés, and Rosalba Rolón. The plays will be workshopped and performed in a reading series this summer in Roundabout and Pregones/PRTT.

JUNE 13 - 27, 2022