

PREGONES PRTT

Rosalba Rolón, Artistic Director

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

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

PRESENTS

ALOHA BORICUA

December 1-23, 2022



Based on the short story *Vivir del cuento*
and the poetry of **MANUEL RAMOS OTERO**

Book & Lyrics by **JORGE B. MERCED**

Music by **DESMAR GUEVARA & JORGE B. MERCED**

Additional music & lyrics by

ANTHONY CARRILLO & ROSALBA ROLÓN

Featuring

JOEL ACOSTA, GILBERTO GABRIEL DÍAZ, KIMBERLY GÓMEZ

TRISTAN ALEK HERNÁNDEZ, LUIS HERRERA

ANNA CRISTINA MALAVÉ, YASMIN SOPHIA

Music Ensemble

DESMAR GUEVARA, ÁLVARO BENAVIDES,

ANTHONY CARRILLO, JONATHAN COSME,

STARLYN LÓPEZ, AMY QUINT-MILLÁN, CAMILO MOLINA

Lighting Design

**EMMANUEL
DELGADO**

Sound Design/Engineer

MILTON RUIZ

Sound Consultant

JIMMY KAVETAS

Sound Engineer

DANNY HERNÁNDEZ

Master Electrician

JEFFREY D'AMBROSIO

Electricians

IMAN R. LOUIS-JEUNE

LINDSEY RATLIFF

BRANDON REDMOND

Casting

BASS/VALLE CASTING

Costume Design

**ORIANA SOPHIA
LINEWEAVER**

Set Design

JORGE B. MERCED

RAÚL ABREGO

Stage Manager

TALA

MUNSTERMAN

Production Assistant

LUISSANA

CARREÑO

Costume Assistant

ELIANA YOST

Artwork

JEISON RIVERA

Assistant Director

LEYMA LÓPEZ

Projection Design

**EAMONN
FARRELL**

Additional Projections

JORGE "FISH"

RODRÍGUEZ

Runner

EMILY BURTSYN

Stage Hand

RAYMOND XAVIER

Musical Director

Assistant

AMY QUINT MILLÁN

Press Representative

ROSANNA

PLASENCIA

Production Manager

JESSICA MOYA

Directed by **JORGE B. MERCED**

Dedicated to **Belarmino Merced Villegas (1938-2022)**

SPECIAL THANKS: Hudson Scenic Studios, Center Stage Sound,
Steve Hernández, Bobby Bodón and photographer Krystal Pagán.



JOEL ACOSTA



LUIS HERRERA



TRISTAN HERNÁNDEZ



KIMBERLY GÓMEZ



ANNA C. MALAVÉ



YASMIN SOPHIA



GILBERTO DÍAZ

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Monserrate Álvarez	_____	JOEL ACOSTA
Chu	_____	LUIS HERRERA
Flor María	_____	ANNA CRISTINA MALAVÉ
Manuel	_____	TRISTAN HERNÁNDEZ
Pura Pérez	_____	KIMBERLY GÓMEZ
Ensemble Singer	_____	GILBERTO DÍAZ
Queen Lili	_____	YASMIN SOPHIA

BAND

DESMAR GUEVARA Piano, **ALVARO BENAVIDES** Bass,
ANTHONY CARRILLO Latin Percussion, **JONATHAN
COSME** Clarinet, **STARLYN LOPEZ** Trombone, **CAMILO
MOLINA** Drums, **AMY QUINT-MILLÁN**, Keyboard

FRONT OF HOUSE

Raymond Xavier - Box Office,
Joyce Báez - House Manager,

Program Design - Jorge B. Merced

THANK YOU TO OUR MEDIA PARTNERS



MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

En las palabras _____	Mon & Ensemble
It Ain't About Dust _____	Chu & Ensemble
Tipo de esquina _____	Ensemble
No es conveniente estar solo _____	Flor María & Mon
San Ciriaco _____	Flor María & Ensemble
He Fell In Love _____	Ensemble
¡Que linda la gente Boricua! _____	Ensemble
La Trayectoria _____	Flor María & Mon
De allí salimos señores* _____	Ensemble
Cuando te vayas _____	Mon & Chu
Plena del Meollo _____	Pura Pérez & Ensemble

ACT II

Pillo Revoltoso _____	Chu & Ensemble
Oh Pele, Here I Am _____	Queen Lili & Ensemble
Plena de San Juan Bautista _____	Ensemble
Mas dura que dura _____	Flor María
Sólo sé que sólo quiero _____	Mon & Chu
Lengua que traba y destraba _____	Ensemble

* Musical number based on *Narración Patriótica* by Nicolás C. Vega & Salvador Hernández, written in the early 1900's in honor of their own journey to Hawai'i, documented by Puerto Rican Hawaiian scholar Blase Camacho Souza.

SPECIAL THANKS to the **Center for Puerto Rican Studies**, for guiding us through the papers of second generation Puerto Rican Hawaiian Blase Camacho Souza, where we found the inspiring lyrics of Nicolás C. Vega and Salvador Hernández; **Vicky Holt Takamine** - kumu hula (master teacher) of **Hālau Pua Ali`i `Ilima** and our dear colleagues from **Pa'i Foundation** for their ongoing encouragement and friendship; **Archivo de Imágenes en Movimiento (AIM)** del **Archivo General de Puerto Rico**, for granting access and permission to use archival footage of Puerto Rican sugar cane workers and turn-of-century hurricane aftermaths.

And especially the **Manuel Ramos Otero Estate**, in particular **Carmen Beatriz Ramos Otero** and **Vanessa Droz**, for authorizing and trusting Pregones Theater to bring the author's great legacy to a broader audience.

Performed in Spanish & English with titles.

December 1-23, 2022

At Puerto Rican Traveling Theater

304 W 47th ST. NYC

RUNNING TIME: 1 hour 57 Minutes,
including one intermission.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Aloha Boricua is made up of story, verse, and song – an evocative, sometimes puzzling exploration of history and of the ways in which migrant experience and cultural heritage are distilled, preserved, or turned on their heads. The inspiration for it is double: on one hand, the formidable journey of Puerto Ricans to the islands of Hawai'i at the very tail end of the 19th Century; on the other, the exuberant literature of **Manuel Ramos Otero**, with its queer turns, detours, and multiple voices. From both I draw lessons in difference and fortitude. But what dazzles me most is a shared story-telling habit that sustains and glues together a people over time and space. *Aloha Boricua* is largely made up of those stories –made up, borrowed, or stolen– that make the Puerto Rican diaspora a living thing.

Thank you to all the various people who gave their support and encouragement during the development of this production, in particular the endless inspiration of my husband, scholar and Managing Director of Pregones PRTT **Arnaldo J. López, Ph.D.**. Thank you to co-composer and fellow Escuela Libre de Música alumni **Desmar Guevara**; and to **Anthony Carrillo** and **Rosalba Rolón** for their additional music and lyrics.

To the original workshop cast and creative team of *Aloha Boricua* in 2009 and 2013, I am so grateful to have begun developing this production with you: **Shadia Almasri, Sol Crespo, Yaraní del Valle Piñero, Erickson Huertas, Indio Meléndez, Omar Pérez, Josean Ortiz, Flaco Navaja, Antonio Vargas, Cleo Vivas Rojas, Yaritza Pizarro**, photographer **Marisol Díaz**, and musicians **Anthony Carrillo, Jorge Castro, Desmar Guevara, Javier Rodríguez Rullán, Nicholas Laboy, Gabo Lugo, Edwin Marrero, Alberto Toro** and **Benjamin Willis**; Set & Costume Designer **Harry Nadal**, Lighting Designer **Esteban Lima**, Filmmaker and Videographer **Jorge "Fish" Rodríguez**, Sound Designer **Milton Ruiz**, Production Managers **Alvan Colón Lespier** and **Jessica Moya**.

Thank you to the 2022 *Aloha Boricua* cast and production team for your passion and commitment to this story. Working with you will remain one of my most cherished creative experiences.

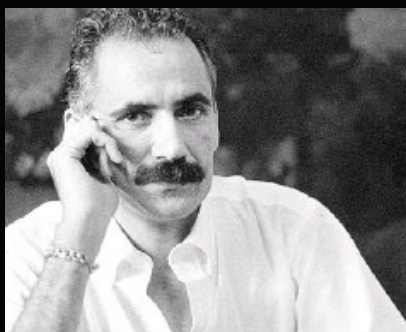
I dedicate this production to my father **Don Belarmino Merced Villegas** who transitioned during our final days of rehearsals on November 28, 2022. The legacy of your love, curiosity and patriotism will continue to live in me and in the words of all the stories still yearning to be retold.

Jorge B. Merced, December 8, 2022
Puerto Rico & New York City



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Puerto Rican immigration to Hawaii began when the Caribbean's sugar industry was devastated by two hurricanes in 1899. The devastation caused a worldwide shortage in sugar and a huge demand for the product from Hawaii. It was then that plantation owners –dominated by Hawai'i's conservative, fiercely commercial, and politically influential "Big Five" sugar conglomerate– began to recruit jobless but experienced Puerto Rican cane laborers. On 22 November 1900, the first group of Puerto Ricans began their long and unpleasant journey. They set sail from San Juan harbor to New Orleans, then boarded on railroad to Los Angeles, and shipped again across the Pacific. According to the press, the Puerto Ricans were mistreated and starved along the way. They arrived in Honolulu on 23 December 1900, and were assigned to work at different plantations throughout the archipelago. By 1901, 5,000 Puerto Rican men, women, and children called Hawai'i their new home. That community has endured and multiplied, and now exceeds 30,000.



MANUEL RAMOS OTERO

Born in Manatí, Puerto Rico, Manuel was a groundbreaking poet, fiction and essay writer, and the first openly gay voice in Puerto Rican literature. A self-identified "sexile," he was a longtime resident and chronicler of New York City. He wrote exclusively in Spanish and earned a place of distinction in the literary canon only after his death due to complications from AIDS in 1990. His books are *Concierto de metal para un recuerdo y otras orgías de soledad* (1971), *El cuento de la Mujer del Mar* (1979), *La novelabingo* (1976), *El libro de la muerte* (1985), *Página en blanco y staccato* (1987), and *Invitación al polvo* (1991). With no authoritative English-language translations or bilingual editions of his work, Pregones is proud to put his writing within reach and in new bilingual format for a new audience. A previous Pregones Theater production, *El bolero fue mi ruina*, was also adapted from his work in 1997.

COVID-19 Visitor Safety

We take your safety very seriously. Until further notice, all guests are still required to wear a **properly fitting face mask over their nose and mouth at all times while in the theatre**, even while in their seats. By purchasing a ticket or asking for entry to our events, you agree to abide by this rule.

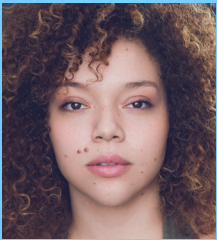
ARTIST BIOS



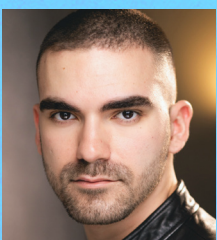
JOEL ACOSTA (Monserrate Álvarez) Joel Acosta (he/him) is thrilled to be making his debut off-Broadway, and to be welcomed by the beautiful family here at Pregones! Cuban-American. Miami native. Theatre: *That Drive Thru Monterrey*, *Henry IV Parts 1 + 2* (Prince Hal) TV: *FBI: Most Wanted*, *The Food That Built America*. Film: *Laconic*, *Funny Business*. Stay tuned for an upcoming titular role in another off-Broadway show! Endless gratitude to Jim Keith at MTA, Paqui, Ariana, Judell, Frank and my incredibly resilient Mother. Thank you for all your faith in me. @joelacostagram



GILBERTO GABRIEL "GABO" DÍAZ (*Ensemble*) is a multi-faceted Puerto Rican artist based in NYC since 2013. He graduated from the William Esper Studio in 2015. Theater credits include: *Exquisita Agonía* by Nilo Cruz, *Filomena Marturano*, ¡*GUARACHA!*, *La Dama Boba*, *La Gringa*, *Nylon*, *Atrévete a Jugar* and *Embrace 2022*. In 2018 he was part of Maluma's MTV VMA's performance at Radio City Music Hall. Gilberto also has a music project called "TeTxié" which released their last song "Sal Pa' Fuera" back in July. Early in 2022, Gilberto created "Entre ON & OFF" for Loisaida TV.



KIMBERLY GÓMEZ (*Pura Pérez*) is a Dominican actor, dancer, artist, storyteller. A winter baby with a summer heart that loves dazzling the stages of NYC. Recently graduated The New School - School of Drama with her MFA in Acting. She would like to thank her friends, family and cohort for their endless support on this journey. Credits: *Encanto An Immersive Experience* (Camp Stores), *Embrace/Abrazo* (Pregones/Prtt), *Is God Is*, *Blood On These Hands*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Hamlet* (The New School). New York credits include *Sueño De Una Noche De Verano* (Something From Abroad), *Las Mariposas* (People's Theatre Project) *Blu*, *Incorruptible*, *Almost, Maine* (City College Of New York) and *Pedro Castillo Is Innocent* (Theater for the New City). @kim.go.mez



TRISTAN ALEK HERNÁNDEZ (*Manuel*) is a Cuban American born and raised in Miami, Florida. Completely in love with music from a young age, he started studying percussion at the age of 8 and soon after began training in acting, singing, and dancing. He

is a graduate of the New World School of Arts and the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama. Theater: *Fun Home*, *Great Comet of 1212*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Hairspray*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and more. Film: *Last, A Hawk Once Told Me*. Thank you to the entire creative team and the cast members at Pregones/PRTT for making this experience such a memorable one.



LUIS HERRERA (*Chu*) is thrilled to be making his Off-Broadway debut with Pregones PRTT! Regional Credits include: Rusty Charlie in *Guys and Dolls* (ACT), Benny in *Rent* (ACT), Pedro in *Man of La Mancha* (Plaza Theatricals), Anthony Hope in *Sweeney Todd* (Park Playhouse), Sonny in *In The Heights* (Paramount Theater), Papa Ge in *Once on this Island* (Porchlight Music Theater). Luis has also worked with NJPAC, New York City Gay Men's Chorus, and Revolución Latina. Big thanks to Pantera-Murphy The Agency! Grateful to God, family, and love!



ANNA CRISTINA MALAVÉ (*Flor María*) is a theater and film actress, dancer, singer and Casting Director from Puerto Rico. Part of "Teatro Rodante Universitario" for 3 years directed by Prof. Dean Zayas, PR theater Lab, Escena Latina Inc and San Juan Drama Company. Credits included: *Days of significance*, *Stop Kiss*, *Los Justos*, *The Art of Comedy*, *The Addams Family*, *Michael Recycle*, *Joseph the dreamer and the amazing technicolor dreamcoat*, *Lab Six*, *Jelly Beans*, *Almost Maine*, *Alex and Emma*, *El Último mensaje*, *Charlie The musical*, *Love is Everything* (the play and the film), Pregones/PRTT's *Harlem Hellfigthers On A Latin Beat*, and now *Aloha Boricua*.



YASMIN SOPHIA (*Queen Lili*) is making her Pregones/PRTT debut! After attending AMDA New York, the New Jersey native has performed all over NYC including at 54 Below, Rockwood Music Hall and most recently in Disney's *Encanto* at CAMP. She is a music recording artist, her latest feature being *Crush* by Serina Aaliyah. She feels so honored to represent her culture and it's rich history through this show. Big thank you to her partner, family and friends for their endless support.



ÁLVARO BENAVIDES (*Bass*) is a Venezuelan born bassist residing in NY 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 in NY 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 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.



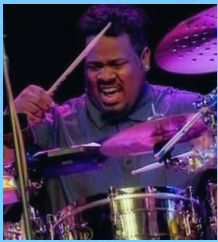
ANTHONY CARRILLO (*Percussion*) is a multi-percussionist of proud Puerto Rican musical heritage. He has been a musical artist for Pregones/PRTT for more than 12 years. Recent Pregones/PRTT credits include *Aloha Boricua*, *Game Over*, *Firefighters*, *Betsy* and *I Like it Like That*. Other musical credits 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, Batacumbela and PUYA. Anthony has released 3 CD's featuring 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.



JONATHAN COSME (*Clarinet*) is an award-winner clarinetist, a solo, chamber, and orchestral musician, he has performed with the Helix! Ensemble, Álea 21, New Symphonic Project, Areytos del Sur Clarinet Quartet, and has been under the baton of Pablo Heras-Casado, Roselín Pabón, Christopher Larkin, J. David Jackson, Rafael Enrique Irizarry, among others. In 2016, he won first place at the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music Concerto Competition being the first clarinetist to do so in the school's history. People praised his beautiful tone, impeccable technique, and expressive playing. That same year he performed the Mozart clarinet concerto with the Conservatory's Orchestra and played alongside the New World Symphony at the Casals Festival of Puerto Rico.



STARLYN LÓPEZ (*Trombone*) born in the Dominican Republic, he currently resides in NJ, studied at New Jersey City University under Dr. Gilles Bernard and Dr. Keith Green. Recent engagements included the US tour of Josimar y su Yambu and well as performances other salsa genre artists. Starlyn maintains an active performance schedule at private and corporate events around the tristate area.



CAMILO ERNESTO MOLINA GAETÁN (*Drums*) is an accomplished Percussionist from New York. In 2000, he 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. He has recorded on 5 Grammy Award nominated albums and contributed to films, 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, 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. 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 (*Additional Lyrics*) 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.



RAÚL ABREGO (*Set Design*) is a set designer for Opera, Theater and Television. His work has been seen at The Juilliard Opera Center, The Manhattan School of Music, The Spoleto Opera Festival in Italy, and Intar. Noted Recent projects: *Fuenteovejuna* for Princeton University, Assistant Art Director credits for Television: "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel", "Ghost" (Power Book 2) and "John Wick," Art Director: "Falling Water", "The Outcasts" (film) and Production Designer for 2009 film "Cruzando."



EMMANUEL DELGADO (*Lighting Design*) is a lighting designer based in New York City. He was born and raised in Puerto Rico. Emmanuel thrives in collaborative spaces and uses artistic expression to tell stories that inspire and connect audiences. He is excited to get more involved in Latino theater in NYC and beyond. Emmanuel has a passion for illuminating real stories that empower communities. He seeks opportunities to work in theater, musical theater, dance, opera and film. Emmanuel wants to explore new relationships within this field and take on new projects for artistic and personal growth.



EAMONN FARRELL (*Video Design*) 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, CCNY, JMU and UVA.



ORIANA SOPHIA (*Costume Design*) is a Dominican-American Actress, Costume Designer, and stylist based in NYC. While going through the creative process, she places a lot of emphasis on the question, "What is it saying?" – she firmly believes that making art is being able to take the "ordinary" and give it an innovative point of view. She draws from her experience as a first-generation immigrant to the U.S. to explore topics related to nostalgia, comfort, safety, and identity. She is an associate artist with Boundless Theatre, a design-led company and she produces her own work with La Diaspora Theatre Company.



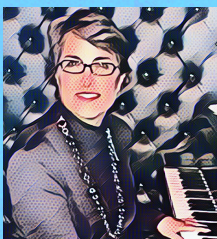
MILTON RUIZ (*Sound Design*) is an audio engineer and occasional guitarist. BA in Music Performance & Sound Recording Technology from UMass Lowell. He has been doing sound for Pregones/PRTT since 2006 where his credits include: *The Beep*, *Game Over*, *Aloha Boricua*, *Harlem Hellfighters*, *Dancing 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).



LEYMA LÓPEZ (*Assistant Director*) is a Cuban-American Stage director based in New York City. She holds a Pedagogy and Theater Direction degree from the Superior Institute of the Arts in Havana, 2008. López is currently Resident Director at Spanish Repertory Theatre in NYC. She received the Van Lier Award for Young Directors in 2012. López has also been nominated and awarded several times by HOLA, ATI and the Association of Latin Entertainment of Critics of NY (ACE) for outstanding direction. She has also collaborated with Pregones/PRTT, ID Studio, Two River Theater, and Teátrica, among others. She has directed more than twenty shows in NY and several staged readings.



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.



AMY QUINT-MILLAN (*Assistant Musical Director*) is in her first collaboration with Pregones/PRTT. An accomplished pianist/arranger/director, Ms. Millan has graced the stage with renowned latin legends, "Johnny Almendra and Los Jovenes del Barrio"

and “Jimmy Sabater, Jr y su Orquesta” among others. She is the co-musical director of YÁMBAWA; a latin fusion band with diverse musical influences. @YÁMBAWA she can be heard on jazz and latin piano as well as vocals.



TALA MUNSTERMAN (*Stage Manager*). This is Tala's first production with Pregones/PRTT and they are very honored and excited to be a part of the team! Their recent credits include *The Golden Cage* (Off Broadway), *Adventures of Ezra J Keats* (TADA! Youth Theater), *Tenderly* (Columbia University), *Into The Woods* and *Starting Here Starting Now* (New York Film Academy) and *EMERGE125 Summer Season* (EMERGE125). They are very thankful to the entire company for being so incredibly welcoming and helping them finally learn some Spanish!



LUISSANA CARREÑO (*Production Assistant*) Graduated in Radio and Television Production in Venezuela, established in New York City, she has worked as an actress in independent productions, producer of 3 channels on digital platforms. With PregonesPRTT she has worked as house manager, stage manager, production assistant and lighting-board operator.



JORGE B. MERCED (*Director, Book & Lyrics*) As Associate Artistic Director at Pregones/PRTT, he plays a key role in the development of the company's ensemble, creative methodology and original repertory. A graduate of Escuela Libre de Música (Puerto Rico) and the City College Theater Department (NYC), he later trained in Cuba with Osvaldo Dragún, Eugenio Barba, Miguel Rubio & Teresa Ralli of Yuyachkani (EITALC 89), and in Brazil & France with Augusto Boal. Directing credits include: *Fellini's La Strada*, *Verano Verano* (IATI), *Evolution of a Sonero*, *Quarter Rican*, *Aloha Boricua*, *Neon Baby*, *El Bolero Was My Downfall* (Pregones), *Swimming While Drowning* (Cara Mía Theater, Dallas, TX). Distinctions include the 2022 Simón Bolívar Lifetime Achievement Award (CUNY), and multiple recognitions for his groundbreaking LGBTQ-themed Asunción Queer Playwrights Project. Jorge serves on the Nominating Committee of The Lucille Lortel Awards for excellence in Off-Broadway theater.



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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

Artistic Director
ROSALBA ROLÓN

Associate Artistic Directors
ALVAN COLÓN LESPIER
JORGE B. MERCED

Managing Director
ARNALDO J. LÓPEZ, PH.D.

Financial Manager
JAMES FIGUEROA

*Business &
Operations Manager*
PRISCILLA AGUILAR

Associate Managers
ALEXANDRA MINCHALA
MAGALIE GONZÁLEZ

Production Manager
JESSICA MOYA

Marketing & Communications
ERNESTO CRUZ BARRIGA

House Manager
JOYCE BÁEZ

Box Office Manager
RAYMOND XAVIER

Artwork & Graphic Design
JEISON RIVERA

Facilities Team
BOBBY BODÓN
NORMA DE LA CRUZ
MATILDE (MARTA) MARTÍNEZ



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Easy link at

www.pregonesprtt.org



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