

PREGONES  **PRTT**

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

PRESENTS

TORCHED!

JUNE 1-18, 2023

Book & Lyrics

ROSALBA ROLÓN

Music

DESMAR GUEVARA

Dramaturgy Support

CHRISTIN EVE CATO
OMAR PÉREZ

Additional Music & Lyrics

CHRISTIN EVE CATO, ROSAL COLÓN,
JOSÉ JOAQUÍN GARCÍA, NYSELI VEGA

Featuring

JOHN CENCIO BURGOS, CHRISTIN EVE CATO
JOSÉ JOAQUÍN GARCÍA, CLAUDIA RAMOS JORDÁN
DEVAN KELTY, NYSELI VEGA

Music Ensemble

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

Lighting

LUCRECIA
BRICEÑO

Projections

EAMONN
FARRELL

Costumes

HARRY
NADAL

Sound

JIMMY
KAVETAS

Associate Lighting Designer

EMMANUEL DELGADO

Stage Manager

JULIA PEREZ

Master Electrician

JEFFREY D'AMBROSIO

Assistant Stage Manager

TALA MUNSTERMAN

Electricians

CHRISTIAN BRAVO
JARROD FRIES
JAEI HOYOS
DEVAN KELTY
CAIT SIMONTON

Audio Engineer Assistant

DANNY HERNÁNDEZ

Costume Assistant

ELIANA YOST

Press Representative

ROSANNA PLASENCIA

Titles Operator

HECTOR LUIS CARDONA

Artwork

JEISON RIVERA

Production Assistant

LUISSANA CARREÑO

Carpenter

BOBBY BODÓN

Assistant Director/ Choreography

YARANÍ DEL VALLE PIÑERO

Production Manager

JESSICA MOYA

Directed by **ROSALBA ROLÓN**

The 2023 production of *TORCHED!* is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Axe-Houghton Foundation.



Photo by Michael Palma Mir

CAST (in alphabetical order)

Burt _____ **JOHN CENCIO BURGOS**
 Gina De La Vega _____ **CHRISTIN EVE CATO**
 Tito Morales _____ **JOSÉ JOAQUÍN GARCÍA**
 Candy & Insurance Broker _____ **CLAUDIA RAMOS JORDÁN**
 Mr. B & J _____ **DEVAN KELTY**
 Linda _____ **NYSELI VEGA**

OPENING MONTAGE

Photographs by **Joe Conzo Jr.**,
 with Music composed by **Desmar Guevara**

MUSICAL NUMBERS

<i>The Leaf</i>	Text: Rosal Colón. Music: Desmar Guevara with José Joaquín García
<i>Plena La Colectora</i>	Music & Lyrics: David Papalote Rosario
<i>F.I.R.E.</i>	Lyrics: Rosalba Rolón. Music: Desmar Guevara with José Joaquín García, Caridad De La Luz
<i>Each and Every Day</i>	Text/Lyrics: R. Rolón. Music: Demar Guevara with José Joaquín García, Christin E. Cato, Caridad De La Luz
<i>Tough On The Street</i>	Lyrics: Rosalba Rolón with Christin E. Cato. Music: Desmar Guevara with Nyseli Vega & Christin E. Cato
<i>Walking Together Blues</i>	Lyrics: R. Rolón. Music: Desmar Guevara with Christin E. Cato & musicians
<i>No Irish Need Apply</i>	Lyrics: John F. Poole (1862). Folk
<i>Insurance Paradise</i>	Lyrics: Rosalba Rolón. Music: Desmar Guevara with Claudia Ramos Jordán & Pat D. Robinson
<i>Cuantas Veces</i>	Lyrics & Music: Desmar Guevara
<i>Proteje Mi Edificio</i>	Lyrics: R. Rolón. Music: D. Guevara
<i>Finale/ Each and Every Day</i>	Lyrics: R. Rolón. Music: Desmar Guevara with José Joaquín García, Christin E. Cato, Caridad De La Luz

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



JOHN CENCIO BURGOS



CHRISTIN EVE CATO



JOSÉ JOAQUÍN GARCÍA



DEVAN KELTY



NYSELE VEGA



CLAUDIA RAMOS JORDÁN

Performed in English & Spanish with titles.
Puerto Rican Traveling Theater, 304 W 47th ST. NYC

RUNNING TIME: 1 hour 10 Minutes . No intermission

FRONT OF HOUSE

Raymond Xavier – Box Office Manager

Joyce Báez - House Manager

Program Design - Jorge B. Merced

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 Piazzola, Ken Corrigan & firefighters David González, José Prosper, FDNY Engine 38, Engine 54, Ladder 4, Battalion 9, LP Percussion.

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS



ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION – THE ACTORS AND STAGE MANAGERS EMPLOYED IN THIS PRODUCTION ARE MEMBERS OF ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION, THE UNION OF PROFESSIONAL ACTORS AND STAGE MANAGERS IN THE UNITED STATES. THIS THEATER OPERATES UNDER AN ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION OFF-BROADWAY NYC-LOA.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

*Through our 40+ year 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 firsthand—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 at the arson-for-profit business, 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

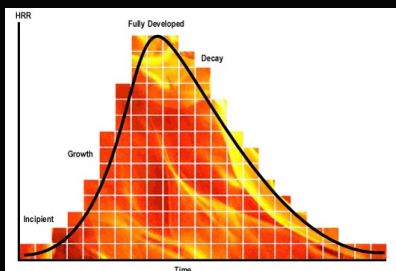
Pregones/PRTT respectfully acknowledges that our Bronx and Manhattan venues are located on the ancient lands of the Lenape Nation.

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TORCHED!

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 rubble 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*

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at Pregones Theater - 575 Walton Avenue

JUNE 23-24

celebrate PRIDE

A ~~DEF~~ITES

by Christopher Cuevas

A STEP UP ARTIST IN RESIDENCE WORKSHOP PRODUCTION

ARTIST BIOS

JOHN CENCIO BURGOS (*Burt*) is very honored to be a part of the Pregones/PRTT Family and to be back reprising the role of Burt in this important piece. Recently: *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; The world premiere of the recently published play *Candlelight* 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 & Twitter @johncburgos.

CHRISTIN EVE CATO (*Gina De La Vega*) Christin is a playwright, performing artist, dramaturg, and educator from the Bronx. She is an ensemble member and the former Resident Dramaturg (2021-2022) at Pregones/PRTT. She is an affiliated artist at the Playwrights Center and with the Latinx Playwrights Circle. Cato is also a member of the Playwrights Lab at WP Theatre. Recent productions include the Off-Broadway sensation, *Sancocho* (co-produced by LPC, WP Theatre, and the Sol Project). She is repped by WME agency and 3 Arts Entertainment.

JOSÉ JOAQUÍN GARCÍA (*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*, Repertorio 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.

DEVAN KELTY (*Mr. B, Jay, Ensemble*) Devan is a performer and technician currently residing in Brooklyn. His past performing credits include Burrs in Andrew Lippa's *Wild Party*, Jamie in *The Last Five Years*, and Vincent Cradeau in *No Exit*. Devan is a Louisville, Kentucky native and holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of Tampa. This is his first performance with Pregones/PRTT and he is very excited and honored to be a part of such a wonderful group of artists, administrators, and technicians. Devan sends many thanks to his family, mentors, teachers, and friends who have enriched his life with their knowledge and support.

CLAUDIA RAMOS JORDÁN (*Candy, Insurance Broker Connie*) Born in San Juan, raised in Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico, Claudia is an actor, singer, and multidisciplinary artist based in NYC. In 2016, she completed a BFA in Theatre Arts Performance at Boston University. Training included Linklater Voice, physical acting and musical theatre, in Boston and abroad at Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy. Upon graduating she expanded her skillset beyond the theatre: as a casting assistant in TV/Film for SONY & FOX, production coordinator in music videos for iLe and Villano Antillano. Recent credits: *The Neighbor's The Chickens Have Come Home To Roost*, *Aloha Boricua (u/s)*, *TORCHED! & Harlem Hellfighters On A Latin Beat* at Pregones / Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre, *NYLON* at Repertorio Español.

NYSELI VEGA (*Linda*) Human. Creator. Storyteller. Music Maker. Recent Credits: *Shesus* 29 hour reading by John Leguizamo and Aaron Gonzalez, *Latiné MT Lab Gala* (Composer), Recorded EP for *Sueños Our American Musical* by Jessie Sanchez, *BATSU!* (ongoing improv show in the LES), *Weed the People* (Director of short film.) Past Credits: *Torched! A People Ignited* (Pregones), *Ménage Music* (Coverband), *High Maintenance* (HBO), *OITNB* (Netflix), *One Day the Musical* (Off-Broadway), *Carmen La Cubana* (Paris, France Premiere). Co-founder of Just BeiN Productions. <http://www.nyselivega.com> "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 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 the-

aters. 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.

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. Premieres: *Grados Inefables*, which delves into the esoteric philosophies of Freemasonry, co-commissioned by arts presenters in New York, Colorado, and California.

ROSALBA ROLÓN (*Book, Lyrics, Direction*) 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.

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.eamonnsngarden.com>

HARRY NADAL (*Costume Design and Scenic Consultant*) Originally from San Juan, PR. NY: Pregones/PRTT, Lincoln Center Institute, Atlantic Theater Co., Labyrinth Theater Company, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Juilliard, INTAR, WP Theater, Boundless Theater and Here Arts Center among others. REGIONAL: Arena Stage (Washington, DC), Chicago Opera Theater, TheaterWorks Hartford, Des Moines Metro Opera, Zach Theatre (Austin, TX), George Street Playhouse (New Brunswick, NJ), UrbanArias (Arlington, VA), Baltimore Center Stage, Boise Contemporary Theater, People's Light Theater (Malvern, PA), Open Stage (Harrisburg, PA), Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble and Danza del Alma (Cuba). Faculty member at Pratt Institute's Film School. MFA: NYU, Tisch School of the Arts. WEBSITE: harrynadal.com

LUCRECIA BRICEÑO (*Light Design*) is a Peruvian artist currently based in Brooklyn. Much of her work has been in association with artists developing innovative and original pieces. Her work includes theatre, opera, puppetry & dance, as well as collaborations in several non-performance projects. She is a long-time Pregones/PRTT company member for more than a decade. She is also an Associate Artist with The Civilians and co-artistic director of Anonymous Ensemble and La Micro; she has also been a guest artist/lecturer at NYU, Princeton Universi-

ty, Hunter College, the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, and JMU.MFA: NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Member of 829

EMMANUEL DELGADO (*Associate Lighting Designer*) 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. This is his third production with Pregones PRTT, having most recently designed the lights for *Aloha Boricua* and *Quarter Rican*.

JIMMY KAVETAS (*Sound Design*) is a general crafter and distributor of sounds. Working both creatively as a musician and designer, and technically as an A1 and recording engineer, great sound is Jimmy's fiercest passion. He's worked as A1 and Designer for Performance Space New York, The Strongbox Theater, FIAF, The Flea, The Kaufman Center, Mark Morris School of Dance, INTAR, and now Pregones PRTT!

JULIA PEREZ (*Stage Manager*) is a Brooklyn-based Stage Manager and Production Manager. In New York, she's worked on the Broadway production of *Funny Girl* and Off-Broadway on *My Broken Language*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Wolf Play*, *for all the women who thought they were Mad*, and *Emojiland*. Julia has also worked regionally throughout New England, at Trinity Repertory Company, the Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre, the Peterborough Players, Northern Stage, and others. She joined Pregones/PRTT this spring as the SM for *Quarter Rican*, and she's delighted to be staying on for *Torched!* with this lovely team of people.

TALA MUNSTERMAN (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is a freelance stage manager currently based in NYC with 10+ years of experience from coast to coast. Their main goal with every production is to ensure a safe, respectful, and fun environment to work in! Their recent NYC credits include: *Aloha Boricua* and *Harlem Hellfighters On A Latin Beat* - Pregones/PRTT, *The Golden Cage* - New works Premier Festival (Off-Broadway), *Adventures of Ezra Jack Keats* - TADA! Youth Theater, *Into The Woods* - NY Film Academy, and *A Winters Tale* - NY Shakespeare Exchange. Regional credits include: *Matilda The Musical*, *Mama Mia*, *Sweeny Todd*, *Legally Blonde*, and *Annie*, with The Fort Wayne Civic Theater (Indiana). *Company*, *Ordinary People*, and *Building On Sand* with Good Luck Macbeth Theater (Nevada)

DANIEL HERNÁNDEZ-MARTÍNEZ (*Audio Engineer Assistant*)

Born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico he earned his bachelor's degree in international business from Loyola University Chicago and is currently pursuing an associate degree in Audio at the SAE Institute of Technology New York. His first steps in the industry were in California as an intern for Maximus Media with Eric Sherbon. He has been working with Pregones for the past year. Pregones credits: *Harlem Hellfighters*, *Aloha Boricua* and *March is Music*.

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.

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.

YARANÍ DEL VALLE PIÑERO (*Assistant Director, Choreography, Movement Coach*)

is an actor, singer, educator, Cultural Worker and activist. NYC Theatre credits include: Pregones PRTT's *Aloha Boricua*, *Harlem Hellfighters On a Latin Beat* and *La Guaracha*. With Caborca Theatre, *Octopus's Garden* and *Rubalee*. Film & TV credits include *MI PEQUEÑO MÚSICO* (PBS PR), *CHAMACAS* (Web series) and *MALDEAMORES* (Film). With her music-performance project *PURA'S LÁGRIMAS*, she aims to comment about the migrant experience and the devastating effects of colonialism. Her latest venture is *CAICU*, a cultural platform that supports collaborations between artists in Puerto Rico and its diaspora around the globe.



Photo by Michael Palma Mir

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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