



Press Contacts

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THE SOL PROJECT

ANNOUNCES COMPLETE SCHEDULE FOR

SOLFEST 2021

SEPTEMBER 19-23

**INCLUDING NEW PIECES FROM
DOMINIC COLÓN
JULISSA CONTRERAS**

FEATURING

THREE-TIME TONY AWARD NOMINEE

ROBIN DE JESÚS

AND

ASHLEY ALVAREZ, TATYANA-MARIE CARLO, VICTORIA COLLADO, GILBERT CRUZ, ADRIANA GAVIRIA, L.H. GONZÁLEZ, MICHAEL LEÓN, JUAN PABLO MENDIVE, DAVID MENDIZÁBAL, MARIANA MONDRAGÓN, GREGORY JON PHELPS, REZA SALAZAR, PALOMA SIERRA, OCTAVIO SOLIS, FRANCISCO SOLORIZANO, CÁNDIDO TIRADO AND MORE

(New York – September XX, 2021) **The Sol Project**, the national theater initiative dedicated to amplifying Latinx voices and building a body of work for the new American theater, announced today full details for the fourth annual **SolFest: A Latinx Theater Festival**, produced in partnership with **Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater (Pregones/PRTT)**, **Hedgepig Ensemble Theatre**, and **North Star Projects**, and in collaboration with **La Gente**. Marking **Pregones/PRTT**'s return to in-person programming, the festival will be held in a hybrid structure this year with both in-person and digital events from September 19 – 23.

SolFest Producer and Founding Member of The Sol Project **Adriana Gaviria** stated, “We’re thrilled to be returning for the fourth edition of **SolFest**, once again in partnership with the venerable **Pregones/PRTT** and with exciting new partnerships with **Hedgepig Ensemble Theatre**, **North Star Projects**, and **La Gente**. Using a hybrid format, we’re able to continue our work of celebrating Latinx storytellers while also expanding access to audiences world-wide. This year’s selections offer audiences opportunities to experience works both classical and contemporary, to think critically about legacy, issues of identity and representation in all aspects of the industry, and to once again gather safely to communally experience the performing arts.”

SolFest 2021 will feature five days of expansive, hybrid programming, which will center playwrights, writers, storytellers, poets and performances with both

in-person and online events. Projects will include works from classical to contemporary, solo and ensemble pieces and will be presented in English and Spanish.

For the first time, The Sol Project will also be partnering with the **Hedgepig Ensemble Theatre** and the **Expand the Canon Festival**. **SolFest** will kick off on Sunday September 19 with **Reading #1** of the **Expand the Canon Festival**, **A Happy Country** written by **Maruxa Vilalta** and directed by **Victoria Collado**. The festival will culminate in a two-night live program at **Pregones/PRTT**.

"In times of uncertainty, there's nothing more grounding for the theater artist than to step onto the stage, and little that's as rewarding to theatergoers as a live performance. **Pregones/PRTT** is thrilled to reprise our partnership with **The Sol Project** for a fourth consecutive year, welcoming a live audience to the Puerto Rican Traveling Theater for the first time since January 2020," shared **Rosalba Rolón**, artistic director of **Pregones/PRTT**. "The five-day program brims with Latinx talent and extends its embrace beyond New York City with online events. This SolFest is an exuberant homecoming and we're all here for it!"

"I am thrilled to collaborate with SolFest on a crossover with the Expand the Canon festival," shared **Mary Candler**, Artistic Director of **Hedgepig Ensemble Theatre**. "Together, we get to amplify a beautiful classic, by a woman from Latin America, which simply needs to be produced, celebrated, and known. Through this collaboration, we have created an incredible team of artists whose work showcases the play as undeniably worthy of the theatrical canon."

The programming for **SolFest 2021** will include the following:

Sunday September 19 at 4 p.m. ET

Premiere Watch Party

In person at Endswell in Fort Greene, Brooklyn (773 Fulton Street)

VOD available September 20-22

Sunday September 19 at 7:30 p.m. ET

Virtual Watch Party

Watch on northstarprojects.org or Facebook Live.

A HAPPY COUNTRY

In partnership with Hedgepig Ensemble Theatre/Expand the Canon Festival

With thanks to the Latin American Literary Review

Written by Maruxa Vilalta

Translation by Edward Huberman

Directed by Victoria Collado

Featuring: Francisco Solorzano, Adriana Gaviria, Reza Salazar, Gilbert Cruz, Mariana Mondragón, Juan Pablo Mendive & Gregory Jon Phelps.

If you're seeking a play about revolution where the family drama is the political drama... consider this powerful portrait of love, protest, class, and voyeurism by a Catalan-born, Mexican playwright.

Monday September 20 at 7:30 p.m. ET

North Star Projects: Virtual Art Share Evening

Watch on northstarprojects.org with select segments on Facebook Live.

Featuring Poets, Writers and Storytellers: Octavio Solis, L.H. Gonzalez, Paloma Sierra, and more.

The evening will include **Artist Spotlights** in partnership with **La Gente: The Latinx Theatre Design Network** and screenings of two short films: ***eat me!*** created and directed by **David Mendizábal** and produced through Soho Rep Project Number One Residency and ***Crabs in A Barrel*** written by **Michael León** and **Ashley Alvarez** and directed by **Michael León**. The screenings will be followed by a Q&A with select artists.

The screenings are free to attend with RSVP required.

eat me!

Screening at 8 p.m. ET

Created and directed by David Mendizábal

Produced by Soho Rep through the Project Number One Residency

They say that every seven years we become new people, because in that time, every old cell in our body has been replaced by a new cell through a process known as autophagy. Autophagy literally translates to "self-eating", which got me thinking: What are the parts of myself, or ideas I've held onto that I would eat away if I could? What would I replace those ideas with?

eat me! is a cinematic ritual towards self-actualization and growth, inspired by the Ecuadorian ritual of preparing and eating “guaguas de pan” or bread babies, as a way to mourn those we’ve lost.

Crabs in a Barrel

Screening at 8:15 p.m.

Written by Michael León and Ashley Alvarez

Directed by Michael León

Celebrating your friends is super exciting...unless you're the least successful person in the room. A jaded writer attends her frenemy's congratulatory event only to discover that she has been robbed of her career changing opportunity. Will she toast the host? Get ready to go from #LOL to #WTF.

Crabs in a Barrel was selected for and screened at the 2021 New York Latino Film Festival.

Tuesday September 21 at 7:30 p.m.

DIGITAL PANEL: *Honor and Amplify*

Moderated by Carla Della Gatta

Featuring members of Hedgepig Ensemble, The Sol Project, Pregones/PRTT, Ma-Yi Theatre Company, Classix and more.

Watch on northstarprojects.org or Facebook Live.

Join us for an intercultural conversation on legacy, identity, and expanding the American theater canon.

Wednesday September 22 at 7:30 p.m.

READING: *The War I Know*

Written by Dominic Colón

Directed by Cándido Tirado

Featuring Robin de Jesús

In person at PRTT (Manhattan)

*Set in 1987 & 1992 during the height of the AIDS and crack epidemic, *The War I Know* tells the story of Eggie, a 12 year old obsessed with TV and musical theater, and the relationship he has with his HIV-Positive 10 year old next door neighbor,*

who was recently sent to live with her teenage half-siblings after losing both of her parents to AIDS.

The War I Know is the first in a trilogy of plays that explores the impact of HIV on the Latinx Community in the Bronx from the late 80's through the COVID 19 pandemic.

Thursday September 23 at 7:30 p.m.

READING: *La Greña*

Written by Julissa Contreras

Directed by Tatyana-Marie Carlo

In person at PRTT (Manhattan)

Milagros Unisex Salón has served the ladies in their Bronx neighborhood for over 20 years from the niños to doña's, while creating a safe space for the ladies to unwind. *Salón jefa, Milly*, takes the lead on employing, supporting, and mentoring her fellow stylist through their inevitable experiences as women. Yet, when their internalized values get challenged, will the ladies let go of the limits placed upon them and rise to take charge of their lives and refine what it means to be a strong beautiful woman?

To RSVP and for more information on **SolFest**, visit the Sol Project's website at www.solproject.org. Events are free or suggested donation and open to the general public. All online events will be viewable at northstarprojects.org with certain segments viewable on Facebook Live. NYC COVID-19 vaccination mandate and safety protocols will be observed for all in-person events. Limited capacity at in-person events.

ABOUT PREGONES/PUERTO RICAN TRAVELING THEATER

Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater (Pregones/PRTT) is a multigenerational performing 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. 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 Bronx resident company five years later, 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 theater artists, legitimating creative connections throughout the Spanish-speaking world, and pioneering models for genuine and lasting community engagement. Following the merger in 2014, our New York season plays a decisive role in empowering underrepresented artists and audiences to claim a place at the front of the American theater. Rosalba Rolón, Artistic Director. Alvan Colón Lespier and Jorge B. Merced, Associate Artistic Directors. www.pregonesprrt.org

ABOUT NORTH STAR PROJECTS

North Star Projects is a new arts initiative whose mission is to create a better world, one project at a time, by engendering experiences that empower, inspire, and build community through various platforms including live events and digital media. Founded by Producing Artistic Director Adriana Gaviria, North Star Projects works in partnership with artists, cultural leaders, organizations and leading theaters around the country to make a positive social impact in our communities on a local, regional and national level. www.northstarprojects.org

ABOUT HEDGEPIG ENSEMBLE THEATRE

Founded in 2012, **Hedgepig Ensemble Theatre** reimagines the classics, creating a legacy of storytelling with gender equity at its core. Hedgepig is an artistic ensemble dedicated to equity, excellence, and the relentless pursuit of joy. To date, we have produced 7 productions, many readings, and a variety of theatrical events. We have presented works that won "best ensemble" in the Midtown International Festival and "best actress" in Fringe NYC. We are dedicated to serving Brooklyn.

Our cornerstone work is **Expand the Canon**, a call to action for theatres to stage excellent classic plays by women and to include a diverse set of voices in the canon. Hedgepig curates a list of plays that have been reviewed and selected—ensuring they're timely, relevant, and producible. From 400 plays by women, they've hand-picked 9 of the best. This list has all related producing information, making it easy for classical and regional companies to undertake these plays and give women the legacies they deserve.

ABOUT THE SOL PROJECT

The Sol Project is a national theater initiative dedicated to producing the work of Latinx playwrights in New York City and beyond. Founded by Artistic Director Jacob G. Padrón and driven by an artistic collective, The Sol Project works in partnership with leading theaters around the country to amplify Latinx voices and build artistic homes for artists

of color. Through the writers we champion, The Sol Project aspires to create a bold, powerful, and kaleidoscopic body of work for the new American theater. The Sol Project launched with the world premiere of *Alligator* by **Hilary Bettis** in collaboration with New Georges, followed by the New York premieres of *Seven Spots on the Sun* by **Martín Zimmerman** (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater) and *Oedipus El Rey* by **Luis Alfaro** (The Public Theater). In the fall of 2018, The Sol Project partnered with Yale Repertory Theatre to produce the world premiere of *El Huracán* by **Charise Castro Smith** and in early 2020 partnered with Baltimore Center Stage and The Playwrights Realm to produce the world premiere of *Richard & Jane & Dick & Sally* by **Noah Diaz** and with LAByrnth Theater Company for the world premiere of *Bees and Honey* by **Guadalís Del Carmen**. The artistic collective includes Adriana Gaviria (SolFest Producer), Rebecca Martinez, David Mendizábal (Associate Artistic Director), Julian Ramirez, and Laurie Woolery. Joey Reyes is the Associate Producer and Isabel Pask is the Producing Assistant. Brian Herrera is the Resident Scholar. Stephanie Ybarra is the Resident Dramaturg. Kaelani Burja is the SolFest Dramaturg. Our partners include Baltimore Center Stage, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Cara Mía Theatre Company, LAByrnth Theater Company, Magic Theatre, MCC Theater, New Georges, New York Theatre Workshop, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Playwrights Horizons, Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater, The Playwrights Realm, The Public Theater, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Soho Rep., and Yale Repertory Theatre.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT

WWW.SOLPROJECT.ORG

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