

GALA

HISPANIC THEATRE

Grupo de Artistas LatinoAmericanos

Since 1976

Abel López | Interim Producing Artistic Director
Hugo Medrano | Founding Producing Artistic Director

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2024-2025 Season
Beauty and Rebellion

Media Release

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GALA HISPANIC THEATRE 49th Season: 2024-2025

Washington, DC — GALA Hispanic Theatre’s Artistic Director Gustavo Ott proudly announces the 2024-2025 Season *Beauty and Rebellion*. “This season features sharp and entertaining works”, states Ott, “that will uplift us while introducing our audiences to the most important discussions of today --the liberating role of dreams, the desire for justice, resistance to power, the complexities of identity, the environmental threat, and the devastating effects of xenophobia.”

“From a hilarious comedy about love and refuge, to a contemporary version of a Spanish classic about resisting tyranny, to a bilingual children’s musical with a young Frida, and a show exploring Latin America’s Spanish, Black, and Indigenous heritages,” continues Gustavo Ott. “And finally, two special gifts --a work by an emerging playwright about a family’s racial and intergenerational prejudices as they face a war with a major corporation, and closing the season, an immersive bolero cabaret with broken hearts and impossible but delicious loves.”

“Rooted in our identity, our theatre cannot ignore its ability to inquire with grace and courage into the nature of power,” affirms GALA’s Artistic Director. “This will be an inquisitive, lively, and endearing season, with impeccable productions of high artistic quality, linking GALA with the best artists from Latin America, Spain, and the United States.”

MAIN STAGE SEASON PRODUCTIONS

LAS 22+ BODAS DE HUGO – *The 22+ Weddings of Hugo* (WORLD PREMIERE IN SPANISH)

By Gustavo Ott (Venezuela) | Directed by José Zayas

September 5 - 29, 2024

In Spanish with English surtitles

Why in the world does Hugo, a quiet postal clerk, keep getting married? Based on a true story, *The 22+ Weddings of Hugo Multiple* by Gustavo Ott is a raucous tale of “a beautiful crime” that delves into several hidden themes of our day, from empathy and immigration, to love in times of hatred, and the universal need to find refuge in a place, person or a feeling.

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This play won the 2018 Marius Götting Award for non-Francophone plays from the *Écriture Théâtrale Contemporaine Caraïbe*.

FUENTEOVEJUNA (U.S. PREMIERE)

By Lope de Vega (Spain), version by Juan Mayorga | Directed by José Luis Arellano

February 6 – March 2, 2025

In Spanish with English surtitles

Fuenteovejuna, perhaps Lope de Vega's most performed work, addresses the people's right to rebel against the abuse of power. Written in 1613 and based on real events, it tells the story of the commander of the town of Fuente Ovejuna, Fernán Gómez de Guzmán, who subjects the citizens to suffer under the rigors of an arrogant, corrupt, and ruthless government. But when they find that power really resides in the citizens, they unite, take up arms, and confront authority with the battle cry of "What is Fuenteovejuna? The whole town, together!"

SUCEDE HASTA EN LAS MEJORES FAMILIAS – Choke (WORLD PREMIERE)

By Emilio Infante (Mexico/USA) | Directed by Rebecca Aparicio

April 24 – May 18, 2025

In Spanish with English surtitles

Choke tells the story of Esperanza Guerrero who, along with her husband, Gonzalo, have worked all their lives to provide opportunities to their daughter, Cassandra, a professional who now lives in New York. But a family medical crisis unleashes intergenerational conflict in the Guerrero family that mirrors the battle that the family has to fight against a corporation. With humor, this work portrays today's American society from the perspective of one of the most exciting young playwrights of the Latino community, the Californian Emilio Infante.

BOTIQUÍN DE BOLEROS DE COLUMBIA HEIGHTS – Columbia Heights Botiquín (U.S. PREMIERE)

By Rubén León (Venezuela)

June 11 - 29, 2025

In Spanish with English surtitles

This musical mosaic regales us with the stories, anecdotes, and memories of patrons who attend the reopening of the "Columbia Heights Bar." The feelings and passions of the performers are influenced by the audience who, despite their role as spectators, become part of the show with their own stories of broken hearts. A cabaret-style immersive musical featuring famous boleros, a beloved genre shared across the region from Mexico to the Caribbean to South America.

DANCE, FILM & PERFORMANCE

FUEGO FLAMENCO XX (20th Annual Flamenco Festival)

Honorary Producers: Lynne and Joseph Horning

November 7 – 24, 2024

GALA celebrates the 20th Anniversary of the Flamenco Festival! Featuring U.S. and international artists in an expanded three-week festival!

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**SPAIN FLAMENCO ARTS & FEDERACIÓN DE COMUNIDADES
ANDALUZAS CENTRO ESPAÑA (FECACE) (Spain)**
SER.RANA (DC PREMIERE)
Created, choreographed & performed by Sonia Franco
November 7 – 10, 2024

Ser.Rana is a foreteller, an experience that transforms the art of movement and sets dance free. It is like the unceasing flow of a river that is inside you and transforms your body through Flamenco. The original music of the show and the minimalist esthetic of dance create a close connection between artist and audience, uncovering deep emotions.

FLAMENCO APARICIO DANCE CO. (USA)
TITLE TBD (WORLD PREMIERE)
November 15 - 17, 2024

A new Flamenco masterpiece choreographed and directed by visionary artist Edwin Aparicio and a troupe of local and international Flamenco dancers. Witness a spectacular display of raw passion, movement, fiery *zapateo*, and rhythm.

MARC LÓPEZ & MONSERRAT MARTÍNEZ (Spain)
INTIMATE FRIENDS OF FLAMENCO (WORLD PREMIERE)
November 22 - 24, 2024

In this intimate show, Marc and Ana, friends since their years as teens and university classmates, reminisce and enjoy the music that has been a part of their lives since childhood and continues to resonate with them today. They are joined on their journey through Mediterranean music with Flamenco at its core by Montserrat Martínez, a Cuban dancer with graceful lines and impeccable style. An evening of three distinct personalities, all united by the beauty of music.

GALA Film Fest: Latin American Innovation (Titles TBA)
December 4 - 8, 2024

All films in Spanish with English subtitles

This year's festival will feature six contemporary films by emerging directors and a classic from the Mexican Golden Age. Join us for exclusive talkbacks with producers, artists, directors, and experts, and receptions after the screenings.

EL CANUTO DEL ROCK (WORLD PREMIERE COMMISSIONED BY GALA)
Created & performed by Quique Avilés (El Salvador) | Directed by Abel López
December 13 – 15, 2024

Canuto, an old Salvadoran rocker from Mount Pleasant (a neighborhood surrounding GALA in Washington, D.C.) has a radio show where he only plays the music he loved as a teenager. Suddenly, reminiscences of the past take him on a journey back in time to his childhood and the war in Central America. Rock merges with the landscape of his Salvadoran town and to the music of his ancestors. With humor and lightheartedness, this autofiction

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journey will take Canuto to the bowels of his country charmed by the music of his land and the expressive force of rock.

GALita – BILINGUAL PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

***FRIDA LIBRE* (WORLD PREMIERE OF BILINGUAL VERSION)**

Book & Lyrics Karen Zacarías (Mexico) | Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma | Directed by Elena Velasco

October 12 - 26, 2024

Alex may seem like a quiet, shy boy, but he secretly holds big ideas in his head. He wants to be a *luchador* (wrestler) and defeat bad guys in the ring. His life changes when he meets brave and colorful Frida, an unusual girl who dreams of being a doctor. Forced to collaborate on a science project on butterflies and metamorphosis, the pair discovers how true friendship can help overcome fear and transform dreams into reality. Inspired by the childhood of legendary Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, *Frida Libre* is an uplifting story featuring delightful songs that explore the meaning of friendship, bravery, and transformation.

FLAMENCO EN FAMILIA

November 16, 2024

Sara Jerez and Richard Marlowe lead an interactive performance with castanets, fans, and *zapateo* demonstrations for children and the entire family. FREE!

LA FIESTA DE LOS REYES MAGOS – Three Kings Day

January 5, 2025

Join us for our annual Three Kings Day Celebration! This festive end to the holiday season will feature the timeless story of the Magi, performances by local musicians and dance troupes, a street parade, and a gift for every child. FREE!

***ÉRASE UNA VEZ... ¡Y DOS SON TRES!* – *Once Upon a Time...And Two Are Three!* (U.S. PREMIERE)**

By Manuel Champoseaux (Dominican Republic)

March 17 - 30, 2025

More than 500 years ago, what we are today began to be created. Our language, our skin, our blood, our unfinished struggle, began in that initial encounter that gave birth to Latin America. *Once upon a time... and two are three!* pays tribute to those original cultures that fused, and intermingled to achieve this wonderful creation. Spain, Africa, and Pre-Columbian America are revealed through their stories, full of magical meaning and popular spirit. This Dominican folktale expresses what we are today.

PASO NUEVO YOUTH PROGRAM

Under the direction of artist Chris Ríos, GALA's FREE after-school youth program offers bilingual training in drama, movement, writing, and technical theater to youth ages 14 to 19. Students create new, original works

and perform for the public in the Fall, Spring, and Summer. **The Summer showcase will be Thursday, August 1, 2024, at 7 pm; the Fall/Winter showcase will be Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 7 pm; and the Spring showcase will be Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 7 pm.** Paso Nuevo is the winner of the 2012 National Arts and Humanities Youth Arts Program Award.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHEDULE: Main stage season productions are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm. For other performance times, visit <http://www.galatheatre.org> or call (202) 234-7174. All schedules are subject to change.

TICKETS: Single tickets to main stage productions are \$48 for Thursdays and Sundays and \$50 for Fridays and Saturdays, while regular tickets to all Flamenco performances are \$50. Tickets for military, seniors (65+), teachers, and students 25+ are \$35; tickets for students Under 25 are \$25; and tickets for groups of 10 or more people are \$35 each. Community Night tickets for main stage productions are \$20 and Noche de GALA tickets (including a post-performance reception with the artists) are \$55 each. Tickets for the Fall and Spring public performances of GALita are \$10 for children and \$12 for adults. To purchase tickets, visit www.galatheatre.org or call (202) 234-7174.

LOCATION, PARKING & METRO: GALA Theatre is located at 3333 14th Street NW, Washington, D.C. Discounted parking of \$4 is available in the secure Giant parking garage directly behind the theater. The entrance is located on Park Road and Holmead Street, NW (you must validate your parking ticket at the theatre lobby). GALA is located one block north from the Columbia Heights Metro station (Green/Yellow Lines).

IDENTIFICATION FOR PRESS: GALA is an acronym for **Grupo de Artistas LatinoAmericanos** and should be written in all capital letters. The name of our venue is GALA Hispanic Theatre. Please refrain from using any other terms.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, call (202) 234-7174 or visit www.galatheatre.org.

GALA MAILING ADDRESS: 2437 15th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20009.

GALA is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization supported in part by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, the DC Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs, private foundations, corporations, and individuals.

GALA is a member of the Theatre Communications Group, the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture, and the National Performance Network.

