

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EL PAYASO

The light he lit will shine forever.



Marlon Jiménez Oviedo in *El Payaso*

WHAT

Milagro presents the World Premiere of *El Payaso*
By Emilio Rodriguez and Directed by Georgina Escobar

ABOUT THE PLAY

Amidst chaos, confusion and war, an American engineer worked to bring electricity to rural villages in Nicaragua. *El Payaso* invites the audience to learn the story of an incredible man and the extraordinary people with whom he unexpectedly connected. Our tale is told through the eyes of Elías, a Latino college student, traveling to Nicaragua thirty years later, to encounter the people who are still carrying on the work of the late Ben Linder. An engineer and a clown for a cause, Linder participated in rallies and health campaigns that brought vaccines to children. His memory lives on in the work of Clowns without Borders and various environmental groups that are collaborating to bring this story to life. With red noses and humor, the performers will share the value of “thinking globally, while acting locally.”

In 1987 Ben Linder was killed by Contras in Nicaragua, during a war that was fueled by the Regan administration of the United States. For the 30th anniversary of Ben’s passing, this play

will share with a new generation, an inspirational story of one idealist who saw the potential of art and science to help save the world, one small village at a time.

El Payaso community partners include: Clowns without Borders, Verde, the Ben Linder Scholarship Fund, the Intertwine Alliance, and Friends of Trees.

El Payaso is presented as part of the 2017 Fertile Ground Festival, an 11-day arts festival showcasing new work from local Portland artists.

WHEN

January 12-21, 2017

Thursday – Saturday, 7:30 PM, Sunday at 2 PM

Thursday, January 12, 7:30 PM – Preview

Friday, January 13, 7:30 PM – Opening night reception catered by Mayahuel!

Sunday, January 15, 2 PM – Resource Fair bookends matinee!

WHERE

Milagro Theatre, 525 SE Stark Street, Portland, OR, 97214

ADMISSION

Adult tickets are \$27 in Advance, \$32 at the door.

Discount for students, seniors, veterans, groups 15+, and with the Oregon Trail card through the Arts for All program.

Senior tickets are \$25 in Advance, \$30 at the door.

Student/ Veteran tickets are \$20 in Advance, \$25 at the door.

Tickets available at milagro.org or 503-236-7253.

MORE INFORMATION

www.milagro.org or call 503-236-7253

MEDIA CONTACTS/ MEDIA PASSES

Dañel Malán, Artistic Director Teatro Milagro, malan@milagro.org

503-236-7253 *125

STUDY GUIDE

Study guide available upon request

High- resolution photos can be found at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/miracletheatregroup/albums/72157676475270896>

Or by emailing malan@milagro.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, January 15 at 2 PM - Resource Fair bookends matinee!

ENSEMBLE

Ajai Terrazas Tripathi
Emile Dultra
Danielle Pecoff
Marlon Jiménez Oviedo

PRODUCTION TEAM

Emilio Rodriguez – Playwright
Georgina H. Escobar – Director
Lawrence Siulagi – Sound Design
Sarah Andrews – Props
Quetzal Rivero Brock – Mural

ARTIST INTERVIEWS

To arrange interviews with artists, contact Dañel Malán, Artistic Director Teatro Milagro, malan@milagro.org or call 503-236-7253 *125

PROGRAM SPONSORS

El Payaso is sponsored by Donnelley Foundation, Umpqua Bank, and Carpenter Foundation.

SEASON SPONSORS

Milagro's 2016 – 2017 Season is sponsored in part by The Kinsman Foundation, The Collins Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, US Bank Foundation, Ronni Lacroute/WillaKenzie Estate, Oregon Arts Commission, Regional Arts & Culture Council, Work for Art, Juan Young Trust, Oregon Community Foundation, Print Results, A to Z Wineworks, Portland Roasting Coffee, Poster Garden, Nicholas Restaurant, The Oregonian, Tilde Noticias, and El Centinela.

ABOUT MILAGRO

As the premier Latino arts and culture center of the Pacific Northwest, Milagro has provided extraordinary Latino theatre, culture, and arts education for the enrichment of all communities since 1985. Teatro Milagro, Milagro's touring & arts education program, presents its original bilingual plays and educational residencies to diverse and underserved communities across the nation. On the mainstage, Milagro produces a full season of regional or world premieres, including one Spanish-language play each year, as well as our long-running Día de los Muertos signature production. We entertain our audiences; we give them pause to think, feel and imagine; and, through the cultural lens of latinidad, we reflect the full spectrum of humanity. For more information about Milagro, visit www.milagro.org or call 503-236-7253.

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