The 31st Annual Loisaida Festival Theater Lab to Feature New York Premiere of Post-Maria Play ¡Ay María!

Created by island artists in the weeks after Hurricane Maria, the play evolved while they performed in all 78 Puerto Rican municipalities during November of 2017.

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[New York, NY] The Loisaida Festival’s Theater Lab, a production of Loisaida Inc. with Mezcolanza NYC, returning for the third year to the Plaza Cultural on the SW corner of 9th Street & Avenue C in the East Village as part of the annual Loisaida Festival on Sunday, May 27th. Among the highlights of the program is the New York premiere of ¡Ay María!, a play that explores the post-Maria reality for an isolated group of neighbors in Puerto Rico that must come together after the storm.

The play was initially written to provide catharsis to performer and audience alike following the devastation of Hurricane Maria. In turn, members of Mezcolanza NYC will be among those discussing the role of contemporary theater and performance in post-Maria Puerto Rico as part of a panel discussion organized by the Martin E. Segal Theatre Center, which will take place days before the festival, on Thursday, May 24th at 6pm.

Loisaida Inc. remains committed to the voices of Puerto Rican playwrights and performers in wake of Hurricane Maria. Following a special one-night only performance of Pateco, el sepulturero by acclaimed Puerto Rican actor Teofilo Torres this past December, the Loisaida Center will again host another timely theatrical work that addresses the aftermath of Hurricane Maria with humor, improvisation, satire, and introspection.

This creative window into the island’s trauma and the resilience of local communities is also an extension of the theme of the annual Loisaida Festival: “Bridging Resurgence: From Sandy to Maria.”

Mezcolanza NYC will take the stage at 2pm to perform ¡Ay María! Families attending the Loisaida Festival are encouraged to join Theater Lab MC Julián Garnik at La Plaza Cultural for a bilingual program of music, dance, poetry, and live theater beginning at 12:00pm. See the full lineup here or below:


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About the Loisaida Festival: Founded in 1987, the Loisaida Festival is the largest ethnic community pride festival in the Lower East Side, attracting over 25,000 visitors in 2017. The event takes place on the Sunday before Memorial Day, and has been featured in the New York Times, TimeOut New York, El Diario La Prensa, DNAInfo, New York Magazine, and Manhattan Times, among others.

About Loisaida Inc. Founded in 1978, the mission of Loisaida Inc. is to address the serious economic and social disenfranchisement of Puerto Rican/Latinx residents while offering multi-generational programming that appeals to the social and cultural sensibilities of the Lower East Side. At the Loisaida Center, we build connections between members of the community, learners, artists and scholars through original productions and exhibits, idea activation space for creative cross-training, community collaboration, artistic residency program, and the historic Loisaida Festival.

About Acacia Network: Acacia Network, the leading Latino integrated care nonprofit in the nation offers children to seniors, a pathway to behavioral and primary healthcare, housing and empowerment. Acacia Network’s extensive array of community-based services is fully integrated, ensures easy access, is bilingual, and actively incorporates consumer and community level input. Our mission is to partner with our communities, lead change, and promote healthy and prosperous individuals and families.

#LoisaidaFest2018 #LowerEastSideHistoryMonth
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