

PROGRAM, From Poor to Rico - April 29, 2023

Pepatián: Bronx Arts COLLABorative and Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture

present

FROM POOR TO RICO

an original production

Created and Composed by
Caridad De La Luz AKA “La Bruja”

FROM POOR TO RICO is a theatrical tour de force that offers audiences an opportunity to experience the Puerto Rico Caridad knew as a child growing up between the island and the Bronx, and reflections on Puerto Rico post-Hurricane Maria through her eyes as an Emmy-winning Nuyorican poet, musician, and storyteller.

From Poor to Rico is a powerful testament to the richness of Puerto Rican history and culture, the island and its people, who are displaced and oppressed, but fighting nonetheless. This is a love letter to Puerto Ricans everywhere, a diary entry of the diaspora, and a proverbial F-you in the fight to be free from the historical weight of colonization.

A note from the playwright:

After protests caused Governor Ricardo Rosselló to resign, after Hurricane Maria, after the Jones Act, and the infamous paper towels, after the lack of response from FEMA, amidst the corruption, schools closing, spikes in suicide rates, after 4000+deaths and the growing thousands of displaced Puerto Ricans, after tax loopholes that allow the 1% to buy up the island; after all of this, I still imagine a Puerto Rico that her children can return home to. While exploring how to decolonize my thinking, creating poetry, music and stories are the only way to help me navigate through these layers of trauma. The deeper I dig into my reality, the more I go From Poor To Rico.

Thanks to:

Dr. Jane Gabriels of Papatian.org, Felix Arrocho, Hostos Center and its theater team, Elaine Del Valle, Del Valle Casting, Dr. Marta Moreno-Vega, Casa Afro & CCCADI, The Poets’ Passage VSJ, Historian Andrés Sanfeliú Cruz @El_Cayito, Oliver Rios, Oriosdesigns.com, Translation assistant Megan Curet, John Leguizamo, Whoopie Goldberg, Danny Hoch, everyone at Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater, Adan Perez, Allertone Studios, The Theoria Foundation, White Feather Barn, My entire Nuyorican Poets Cafe team, mi familia querida, my supporters and friends.

DEDICATION

To my grandmother, *Lydia Serpa Ruiz*, recognized as a beloved town nurse who worked out of a medical dispensary for over 40 years in Pugnado - Manati, PR since the 1960s. Today she is living in a senior citizen home in Aguadilla PR, displaced since Hurricane Maria.

SPECIAL NOTES

A portion of tonight's ticket sales will go towards fundraising efforts for #TheNext50Fund at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe where Caridad De La Luz is the Executive Director. Celebrating its founding in 1973, #TheNext50Fund is to help usher the cafe into its next 50 years after it closes its doors for a three-year "Nuyoricanstruction", a complete renovation, at the end of 2023. Thanks to capital funds from the New York City Council, the Manhattan Borough President's Office, and the Mayor's Office, all coordinated via the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs as well as Individual donors who also contributed funds to the renovation project, a collective amount of 24 million dollars will help create a NEW Nuyorican Poets Cafe that will have four floors, two theaters, an elevator and more. Capacity building funds for the project have also been provided by the New York City Community Trust, the Booth Ferris Foundation and the Hispanic Federation / NYC Department of Youth and Community Development. During this time, The Nuyorican Poets cafe will be continuing the programming it has become famous for and spoken word performances across the city, country, and globe. With a roster of over 25 poets and teaching artists, they will be expanding their reach and influence with a tour starting in 2024. If you would like to bring The Nuyorican Poets Cafe to your school, venue or media platform, please write to info@nuyorican.org.

If you would like to contribute and help us keep our poetry movement growing, make a tax-deductible donation by visiting www.nuyorican.org/contribute - GRACIAS!

ARTIST BIO

Writer/Performer/Composer - Caridad De La Luz AKA "La Bruja" won an Emmy as Script Writer of the "Legacy of Puerto Rican Poetry" that aired on ABC during the National Puerto Rican Day Parade 2021. In January 2022, she became the Executive Director of the NUYORICAN POETS CAFE where she began her career in 1996. Winner of the Jerome Hill Artist Fellowship 2019-2020 and a 2021 David Prize finalist, Caridad balances a career of activism, education and entertainment. She has been one of America's leading spoken word poets for over 20 years and has received the Puerto Rican Women Legacy Award, The Edgar Allan Poe Award from The Bronx Historical Society and was honored as A Bronx Living Legend by The Bronx Music Heritage Center. She was presented with a Citation of Merit from The Bronx Borough President and named "Top 20 Puerto Rican Women Everyone Should Know".

You can follow her at @LaBrujaNYC on all social media platforms.

CREDITS

FROM POOR TO RICO is supported by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, support from the Statewide Community Re-grants Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by the Bronx Council on the Arts, The Jerome Foundation, and individual contributions to Pepatián: Bronx Arts CoLLABorative.

Pepatián: Bronx Arts CoLLABorative is a non-profit, South Bronx-based arts organization founded in 1983 by award-winning artists Merián Soto, visual artist/MacArthur Fellow Pepón Osorio, and educator/director Patti Bradshaw. Directed by Jane Gabriels, Ph.D. since 1999 in collaboration with

multiple artist consultants/ co-directors, Pepatián: Bronx Arts CoLLABorative is dedicated to creating, producing and supporting contemporary multidisciplinary art by Latina/o/x and Bronx-based artists. pepatian.org

Sound Production: Adan Perez

Images: Contemporary images of Puerto Rico by Caridad De La Luz
1972 images of Puerto Rico by Pedro De La Luz & Ronnie Kessler

Next up:

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023 @ 9 PM

W.O.W. Womxn Orators Wednesday

At Nuyorican Poets Cafe / Nuyorican.org

Caridad De La Luz hosts a celebration and open mic honoring Lois Griffith

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023 @ 1 PM

6th Annual **Bronx Indigenous Futurisms** gathering

At Hunts Point Riverside Park

Caridad De La Luz in collaboration with Leenda Bonilla

Pepatián gratefully acknowledges our privilege to be able to work and create on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Weckquasgeek, Siwanoy and Lenape Nations. In addition, we acknowledge the ancestors of the Taínos, the Arawak people of the Caribbean.

Pepatián is a proud member of the [Bronx Dance Coalition](#), [Bronx Arts Alliance](#), [Latinx Arts Consortium of New York](#).

OPENING - WHO AM I

RETURN

ANACAONA AIRLINES

PASSENGER

QUEEN OF COFFEE / LA REINA DEL CAFE

LOLITA LEBRON - AMERICA

COLIBRÍ

FEMICIDE / FEMICIDIO

W.A.P.

INTERMISSION

MY ABUELITOS

BORIKÉN - POOR TO RICO

TRADITIONS / TRADICIONES

AMERICANO PIE - YOUNG LORD

CLOSING - EN MI VIEJO SAN JUAN