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THEA TRICAL

TOURNAMENT

La Carmencita, Himself

LABIAL

How Electrons Move
A Bronx Short Play

Esplash

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FUERZA
LATINO
FEST



La Carmencita, Himself

Author: **Joe Montoya**

Directed & Developed: **Chris Rivera**

Music by **Georges Bizet**

Lyrics by **Joe Montoya & Chris Rivera**

Musical Direction & Accompaniment: **Jacob Heid**

Costume Design: **Chris Rivera & Kip Silva**

Joe Montoya (they/he) a NYC-based actor/writer and so glad to return to Fuerza Fest. Select Film: Group (North Film Festival 2023), The Hosts (Newfest 2022). Select Theater: Tobias in Sweeney Todd (Hangar Theater), Crutchie in Newsies! (Arena Stage), Doody in Grease (Bucks County), Our Own Odyssey (Fuerza Fest NYC). Education: Pace University's BFA Musical Theatre. On the horizon for Montoya, they are developing two new musicals — in collaboration with playwright Chris Rivera. For more info: follow @montoyaandriviera on Instagram, or visit JoeMontoyaOfficial.com. So grateful to Mom, Dad, Chris, & Kip! Besos y brazos.

Chris Rivera (he / they) is a NYC-based playwright, actor, and director. Originally from Texas, Rivera's early works were mentored by the late Lanford Wilson. Six of Rivera's full length plays have had productions in NYC, many premiering at FuerzaFest. The gender-nonconforming rom-com Gender of Attraction, has since traveled from FuerzaFest to the Edinburgh International Festival, and Back to You has been produced in Austin, Texas. The UK has also seen readings of their work. As a director, Rivera has led Romeo & Juliet, Julius Caesar, and Dog Sees God for What Dreams May Co. and Queens Shakespeare. Rivera has also workshopped and directed two plays for the Tony Award-winning Alley Theater. As a multi award winning actor, Rivera coaches acting privately, and teaches at the New York Film Academy's international summer program. For more: IG @theactingchrisrivera.



LABIAL

De **Linda Morales Caballero**, dirigido e interpretado por **Edu Díaz**, con el acompañamiento de piano de **Angelho Díaz**.

SINOPSIS

LABIAL es una inmersión audaz y emocional en la identidad, la memoria y el deseo. A través de vívidos recuerdos de infancia y la confusión adulta, un hombre desentraña su sentido del yo—atrapado entre el género, la autoexpresión y la necesidad desgarradora de ser visto. Crudo, íntimo e inolvidable.

LABIAL is an audacious and emotional dive into identity, memory, and desire. Through vivid childhood memories and adult confusion, one man unravels his sense of self—caught between gender, self-expression, and the haunting need to be seen. Raw, intimate, and unforgettable.

LINDA MORALES CABALLERO (PLAYWRIGHT)

Linda Morales Caballero es escritora, periodista y profesora, autora de ocho poemarios y una colección de cuentos, *El libro de los enigmas*. Esta obra inspiró un cortometraje premiado, una obra de teatro y monólogos presentados en Nueva York y Madrid.

En 2019, fue homenajeada en la Feria del Libro LACUCHE. Morales Caballero ganó el International Latino Book Awards 2020 y fue finalista del Premio de Literatura en Español Ernest M. Hemingway, 2021.

En 2022, produjo una obra multidisciplinar en honor a Trilce en Nueva York, que recibió gran reconocimiento. Su obra poética, traducida a varios idiomas, se encuentra en múltiples antologías en diversas partes del mundo.

*Linda Morales Caballero is a writer, journalist, and educator, author of eight poetry books and one collection of short stories, *El libro de los enigmas**

(The Book of Enigmas). This work inspired an award-winning short film, a play, and monologues performed in New York and Madrid.

In 2019, she was honored at the LACUCHE Book Fair. Morales Caballero has won the International Latino Book Award and was a finalist for the Premio de Literatura en Español, Ernest M. Hemingway.

In 2022, she produced a highly praised multidisciplinary performance honoring Trilce in New York. Her poetic work, translated into multiple languages, has been showcased worldwide.

EDU DÍAZ (director y actor)

Edu Díaz es becario Fulbright y un multipremiado creador escénico, actor y dramaturgo originario de las Islas Canarias.

Su aclamado espectáculo unipersonal, **A Drag Is Born**, ha recibido múltiples premios por su audaz exploración de la identidad queer, la resiliencia y el arte como forma de supervivencia, y se presentará en el **Edinburgh Fringe 2025**.

Actualmente forma parte del elenco del musical multipremiado **Señor Bolero** y de **At the Barricades**, una obra de teatro documental sobre la Guerra Civil Española que se estrenará en junio en la ciudad de Nueva York.

Su próximo proyecto como creador es **PETRUS**, una tragicomedia metateatral inspirada en la historia real de un hombre de Tenerife que dio origen a la fábula de **La Bella y la Bestia**. La obra explora la migración forzada y la justicia ecológica a través del clown, el drag y la manipulación de títeres. [edudiaz.com](https://www.edudiaz.com) IG [@edudiazactor](https://www.instagram.com/edudiazactor)

***Edu Díaz** is a Fulbright alumnus and multi-awarded theatermaker, actor, playwright, and drag performer from the Canary Islands.*

*His critically acclaimed solo show, **A Drag Is Born**, won multiple awards for its bold exploration of queer identity, resilience, and art as survival, and is heading to **Edinburgh Fringe 2025**.*

He is currently part of the cast of the multi-awarded musical 'Señor Bolero' and 'At the Barricades', a piece of documentary theater about the Spanish Civil War, to premiere in June in New York City.

*Edu's next project as a creator, **PETRUS**, is a metatheatrical tragicomedy based on the real story of a man from Tenerife who inspired the Beauty and the Beast. It explores displacement and ecological justice through clown, drag, and puppetry. [edudiaz.com](https://www.edudiaz.com) IG [@edudiazactor](https://www.instagram.com/edudiazactor)*

ANGELHO DÍAZ (piano)

Angelho Díaz es un músico profesional cubano, graduado de estudios musicales en Cuba y Moscú y con extensa carrera como pianista clásico y popular en América, Europa y parte de África.

Nacido en el Barrio Cayo Hueso de la capital cubana, Angelho aprendió el arte de los sonidos desde los 4 años, de manos de su padre Ángel Díaz, co creador del movimiento Filin cubano y figura de la cultura cubana, compositor intérprete guitarrista y trovador.

Angelho ha desarrollado una extensa carrera como profesor en diversas universidades y centros de estudios de América Latina y llevado su arte interpretativo por escenarios de todos los lenguajes , obteniendo premios, reconocimientos y fantásticas críticas por su capacidad musical, espontaneidad y versatilidad en el escenario.

Por otra parte, Díaz ha integrado innumerables agrupaciones musicales, dirigido producciones de espectáculos a lo largo y ancho de la Isla de Cuba, y representado a su país en países como Brasil, Ecuador, Alemania, Rusia, USA, y muchos otros.

Actualmente comparte su carrera solista — con un programa centrado en la Música Post Impresionista y Moderna — con la dirección musical del Espectáculo “Señor Bolero” (con elenco actoral de Colombia, España, Ecuador, Puerto Rico, USA., República Dominicana, otros) en la ciudad de New York, donde reside hace más de una década.

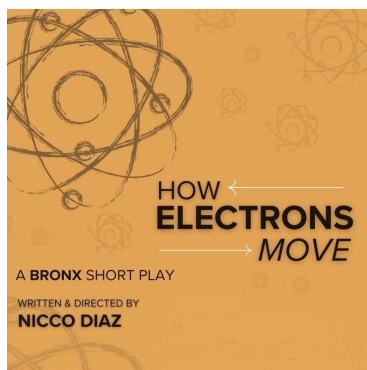
Angelho Díaz is a professional Cuban musician, trained in music studies in both Cuba and Moscow, with an extensive career as a classical and popular pianist across the Americas, Europe, and parts of Africa.

Born in the Cayo Hueso neighborhood of Havana, he began his journey into the world of sound at the age of four, guided by his father Ángel Díaz — co-creator of the Cuban Filin movement and an iconic figure in Cuban culture, known as a composer, performer, guitarist, and troubadour.

Angelho has developed a wide-ranging career as a professor at various universities and educational institutions throughout Latin America, and has taken his performance art to stages of all kinds. He has earned awards, accolades, and glowing reviews for his musical talent, spontaneity, and versatility on stage.

In addition, Díaz has been a member of countless musical groups, directed stage productions across Cuba, and represented his country in nations such as Brazil, Ecuador, Germany, Russia, the United States, and many more.

He currently combines his solo career — with a repertoire focused on Post-Impressionist and Modern music — with serving as the musical director of the show Señor Bolero (featuring a cast from Colombia, Spain, Ecuador, Puerto Rico, the U.S., the Dominican Republic, and others) in New York City, where he has lived for over a decade.



How Electrons Move

A Bronx Short Play

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
Nicco Diaz

CAST

Dr. Anne Genevieve L'Huillier Luz Arvelo-Martinez
Electron Isaiah Beckles
Neutron Aaron Dumfeh
Proton Sophia Radix

SYNOPSIS / SINOPSIS

When physicist Dr. Anne L'Huillier wins the Nobel Prize for her work on electron dynamics, she's thrust into the attosecond realm, where she meets E—a rebellious Electron determined to stay hidden. As E's siblings, Proton and Neutron, join the chaos, family drama mirrors atomic forces, revealing profound truths about belonging and free will. Can we ever truly escape the bonds that define us?

Cuando la física Dra. Anne L'Huillier gana el Premio Nobel por su trabajo sobre la dinámica de los electrones, es transportada al reino del attosegundo, donde conoce a E—un Electrón rebelde que no quiere ser encontrado. Cuando los hermanos de E, Protón y Neutrón, se suman al caos, las tensiones familiares reflejan las fuerzas atómicas, revelando verdades profundas sobre el pertenecer y el libre albedrío. ¿Podemos realmente escapar de los lazos que nos definen?

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS / EXPRESIONES DE GRATITUD

*Thank YOU to the ones whose stories we tell
making magic on this stage, this script is a spell
actors, spellcasters, this bard with quill & inkwell
is magician, lifting human spirit in the places it fell.*

—Excerpt of “Ode to Sock & Buskin” by Nicco Diaz

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the many individuals and organizations who made this production possible:

FUERZAFest and the Hispanic Federation for their continued support of the arts, la cultura, and visibility at times when we need it most.

- ◆ Nicco Diaz for his words, vision, dedication, and leadership throughout.
- ◆ Friends and Families for your patience, cheers, and late-night pep talks.
- ◆ Our amazing cast—your creativity and courage brought this story to life.
- ◆ Gabriel ‘GARUMA’ Jehu for your artistry.
- ◆ Open Hydrant Theater Co., The POINT CDC, Daniel Freeman/ Inspiration Point, for your generous support during the rehearsal process.

Finally, to our audience—thank you for showing up, clapping loud, and reminding us why we tell stories in the first place.

WHO’S WHO IN THE CAST / QUIÉN ES QUIÉN EN EL REPARTO

Nicco Diaz (he/him) is a Queer Afro-Nuyorican poet, actor, playwright, and director reppin’ the Bronx and El Barrio. His work explores science, spirit, and identity. *How Electrons Move* marks his directorial debut and off-Broadway premiere. Nicco received a B.A. cum laude in English and Latino Studies from Cornell University.

Luz Arvelo-Martinez (she/her) is a Bronx-born Boricua actor and Open Hydrant Theater Co. ensemble member. Some Credits include: *Hairspray*, *Footloose*, *Feinstein’s*, *54/Below*, *Raft of the Medusa*, and *In the Heights*. Nicco Diaz— I’m grateful to be back & much love to my family and friends for always supporting the arts!

Isaiah Beckles is a 17-year-old Bronx actor and Open Hydrant ensemble member. Credits include *Footloose*, *Jesus Hopped the A Train*, *Clue*, *High School Musical*, and more. Grateful for the support!

Aaron Dumfeh (he/him) is a BFA Theatre student at Lehman College. He's thrilled to perform in this Festival and hopes audiences take away something special. Enjoy!

Sophia Radix (she/her) is a Bronx-born queer actor, comic, and director. Credits: *R+Jules*, New York Latino Film Festival: *The Good, The Bad & Tio Umberto*, WP Theatre: *As I Was, Not As I Am*, Classic Stage Company: *The 24 Hour Plays Nationals 2024*, INTAR's Unit52. She earned her B.A in Theatre from Hunter College. Training: Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and Stella Adler. Thanks for coming! IG: @sophucking.dope



Esplash

Playwright / Director: **Nicolle Márquez**

CAST:

Sínse	Valeria Avina
Seren	Laura Meche
Laura	Zahydé Pietri
DJ	Fernando Vieira
Rula	Rula A. Muñoz

Assistant Director	Laura Riveros-Sefair
Costume	Andrea Villasuso
Choreographer	Veraalba Santa Torres
Puppet-Maker	Renée Lavalle

SYNOPSIS:

Sínse is a quirky queer Latine who is on a mission to overcome their biggest struggle—they can't squirt. After countless failed attempts with their wife Seren, Sínse embarks on a wild and heartfelt journey of training guided by their friends and the divine wisdom of La Virgen de Guadalupe. As they navigate pleasure, pressure, and self-discovery, Sínse learns that letting go is harder than it seems—but maybe, just maybe, liberation is closer than they think.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Special thanks to our entire cast and creative team, The Tank and WR Arts for providing us with rehearsal spaces, The Hispanic Federation and Fuerza Fest for giving us the space to present this piece, and La Virgen de Guadalupe for being our devine muse.

BIOS:

Nicolle Márquez (ella/elle, she/they), Playwright/Director: Queer, multidisciplinary artist born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, based in New York City. Working at the intersection of acting, writing, directing and filmmaking, Nicolle's recent projects include a lead role in the forum theatre play *BURNED* at Pregones Theater, directorial work in the films "Thank You" and "Ana Macho: The Caribbean Pop Star," and co-direction for the New York Latino Film Festival commercial "Así Somos." They hold a Master's in Women's and Gender Studies, a Master's in Theater, and a Bachelor's in Media and Audiovisual Communications. Nicolle is also the co-founder of Chimera Films LLC. Their work centers stories that challenge systemic defaults through intersectional narratives, celebrating the complexity of identity, emotion, and human relations. Nicolle is currently directing "ESPLASH," a theatrical adaptation where decolonizing the body takes center stage by way of queer joy.

Laura Riveros-Sefair (they/them, elle en Español), assistant director: Multi-hyphenated theatre artist and educator based in Brooklyn, New York. Born in Colombia to a Lebanese family, Laura has performing, directing, and line production credits with companies like Repertorio Español, Ensemble Studio Theater, INTAR, Misi, Latine Musical Theatre Lab, IATI, Working Theatre, and Radical Evolution, among many others. They work as a teaching artist with elementary school kids in the North Brooklyn public school system. Laura has also worked in audiobook narration projects with the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled of the Library of Congress, as well Spanish voice over cartoons like *Little Robots*, the animated movie *The Princess and The Pea*, and the singing voices for the Latin American version of *Sesame Street*.

Andrea Villasuso (ella/she), Costume Designer: Stylist and costume designer dedicated to elevating sartorial expression as a vital storytelling tool. Her work celebrates the beauty and diversity of POC bodies, ages, skin tones, personalities, and gender identities, with a strong emphasis on sustainable practices and DIY experimentation.

Veraalba Santa (ella/she/elle), choreographer: Actress and choreographer from Puerto Rico based in Brooklyn NY. **Choreography:** *Desire of the Astronaut* (PRTT) *Así Somos* (NYLFF) *Ya no es canción es grito* (La MaMa Moves); *A series of non-beginnings* (Work Up 3.2 Gibney Dance); *Cuerpo-Cámara-Archivo* (La Espectacular Residencia; Casa Ruth, PR). **Theatre:** *Caborca* (Zoetrope; Abrons Art Center) *FAUNA* (Torn Page Theater) *Talking Band* (City of No Illusions; La MaMa Theater) **Television:** *Law and Order: SVU*; *Bull*; *Law and Order: Organized Crime*; *The Endgame*. **Film:** *Players*; *Quién Eres Tú?*; *Prótesis*; *The Washing Society*. **Selected Festivals & Tours:** *Encuentro Festival*, Los Angeles, California. *BAM Film Festival*, NYC; *Pueblos-Escena*, Camagüey and Ciego de Ávila, Cuba; *Hemispheric*

Institute, Buenos Aires, Argentina; *Festival Iberoamericano*, Cadiz, Spain; *Theater Pigs Troupe*, Düsseldorf, Germany. Graduate of The Neighborhood Playhouse, Meisner Technique. BA in Drama, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras. Actor in Residence at The Actors Center, NYC.

Renée Lavalle (she/her/ella), puppet-maker: Actor, director, puppeteer and puppet maker born and raised in Mexico City and based in NYC. Her puppets made with recycled materials have appeared in the Latin Grammy Nominee Sonia de los Santos "This Land is Also Mine" music video, and the stages of Ballet Nepantla's "Mística" National tour, Lava House Arts workshop production of "Gentleman Robert" at Target Margin Theatre, "What Once Was: A Holocaust Remembrance Play" at The Plaza Theatre in El Paso, and the classrooms of Dartmouth College last fall. Puppets are cool. We should use them more.

Valeria Avina (she/they, ella/elle) (playing Sínse): Award-winning queer, nonbinary actor, director, clown, and voice coach from Durango, Mexico, based in NYC. Their work spans stage and screen, with performances at Syracuse Stage, New York Theatre Workshop, INTAR, Boundless Theater, The Phoenix Theater Company, and many more. They are a proud Ensemble Member of The Phoenix Theater Ensemble and have been recognized with national and international awards, including honors at SeriesFest, Fuerza Fest, the International Puerto Rican Film Festival, and the Official Latino Film Festival. Valeria is also a 2024 LATA winner for Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy and 2025 Best Actor with an Ensemble.

Laura Meche (she/her/ella) (playing Seren and a variety of other roles) : a queer Puerto Rican artist that believes in theater as an agent of change and as a space for radical existence. Her alma mater is the Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río Piedras. She also studied with Grupo de Teatro Malayerba in Ecuador. MFA in Acting from a university that [suppresses student dissent](#).

Zahydé Pietri (she/her/ella) (playing Laura and a variety of other roles): Born and raised Puerto Rican actor, puppeteer, and teaching artist based in NYC. She's co-producing artistic director, co-lead writer, and performer/devisor at the after-image. Theater credits include: *Layer the Walls II: Midcentury* (Grand Pistachio), *48 HOURS IN... EL BRONX* (Harlem9 and Pregones/PRTT), *Chain Reaction* (Hostos Repertory Company), *House of American Activities* (the after-image). Voice over credits include: *Monday Night RAW* and *SmackDown* (WWE). She holds a BA in Drama from the University of Puerto Rico and has trained and been onstage in Puerto Rico, Ecuador, Perú and NYC. Zahydé finds joy in collaboration and is grateful and excited to help bring to life ESPLASH alongside the vibrant artistic community at FUERZAFest!

Fernando Vieira (he/her/they, el/ella/esa) (playing DJ and a variety of other roles): Ecuadorian-born New York-based writer, director, and performer.

As a multidisciplinary artist, Vieira balances their career as creator of stage and film works in both Spanish and English. Playwriting work includes the plays *Goodbye, Little George* (2020) and *Anormales* (2021). Vieira has directed the plays *Los nutcrackers: A christmas carajo*, *The maids*, *Las Mártiras* (FuerzaFest 2022, Best Director), among others. Film work includes the short avant-garde films *FreneticJourney Toward Muddledness* (2023) and *Las Olas* (2024). Vieira earned a Master of Arts degree in Film Studies in 2024.

Rula A. Muñoz (she/her) (playing Rula and La Virgen de Guadalupe): Multi-hyphenate theater artist who works as a director, dramaturg, producer, performer and writer. Rula earned a BFA in Contemporary Theatre from the Boston Conservatory at Berklee, an Advanced Directing diploma from the National Theater Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, and is a PEN America DREAMing Out Loud Playwriting alum. Rula is a member of the Artistic Collective of the National Queer Theatre and is part of the Latinx Theatre Commons steering committee. NYC theater credits include working at companies such as The Bushwick Starr, The Sol Project, Repertorio Español, ¡Oye! Group, TOSOS, National Queer Theatre. Regional credits: International Orlando Fringe Festival, SpeakEasy, Central Square. Selected TV/FILMS credits: *Mi Corazón es Tuyo* (Televisa), *Las 13 Esposas de Wilson Fernández* (Animal de Luz), *600 Miles* (LuciaFilms).