



WATER PEOPLE THEATER

An extraordinary encounter

NORTH & SUR

Written by OSCAR PERDOMO MARÍN

Directed by IRAIDA TAPIAS





WATER PEOPLE
THEATER

Abrimos Caminos | We Open Paths



Our mission

Water People Theater is a Latina-owned and led non-profit organization that believes in the transformative power of theater.

For over two decades, we have been dedicated to producing socially-engaged bilingual and inclusive theater with and for diverse audiences.

We aim to inspire multicultural audiences to become change-makers contributing to a more equitable, just, and inclusive world.



To leverage the power of high-quality theater and educational offerings to advance social values, defend human rights, and inspire people to become changemakers.



Us Premiere
An extraordinary encounter

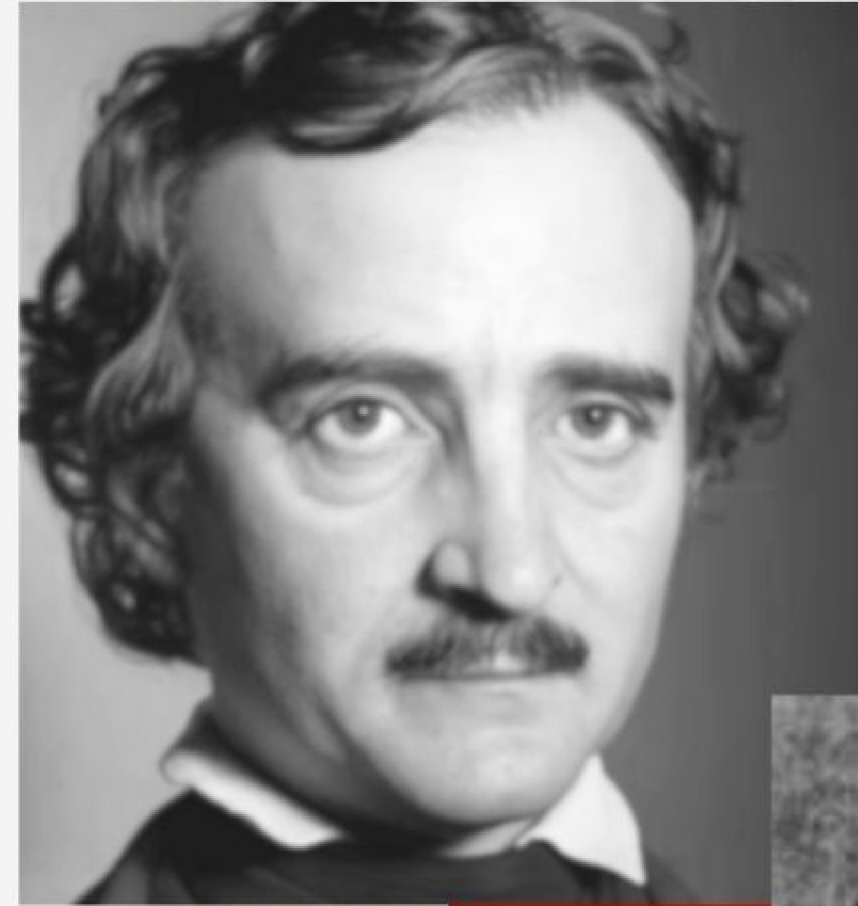
NORTH & SUR



Synopsis

North and Sur is a fictional encounter between the Northern poet, Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849), and the Southern poet, Alfonsina Storni (1892-1938). Although this meeting never really took place, it is within the realm of art where they share the most intimate and passionate moments of their lives.

Under the invocation of Edgar Allan Poe's poem "The Raven," a poet from Boston encounters the Argentine poet in the realm of transcendence. During their extraordinary encounter, Alfonsina speaks in Spanish, while Poe communicates in English, as they strive to transcend the barriers between the North and the South.





The audience becomes an integral part of the mutual discovery between these two characters. They will witness the intensity of these artists and share in the most pivotal moments of their careers and their profound relationship with art and mortality.

The play is a celebration of the meeting of cultures and seeks to inspire the audience to open themselves to exploring diverse people, cultures, races, ideas, and languages through an innovative theatrical presentation.

ARTISTIC TEAM

OSCAR
PERDOMO MARÍN



PLAYWRIGHT

IRAIDA TAPIAS



DIRECTOR

REBECA ALEMÁN



ARTISTIC PRODUCER

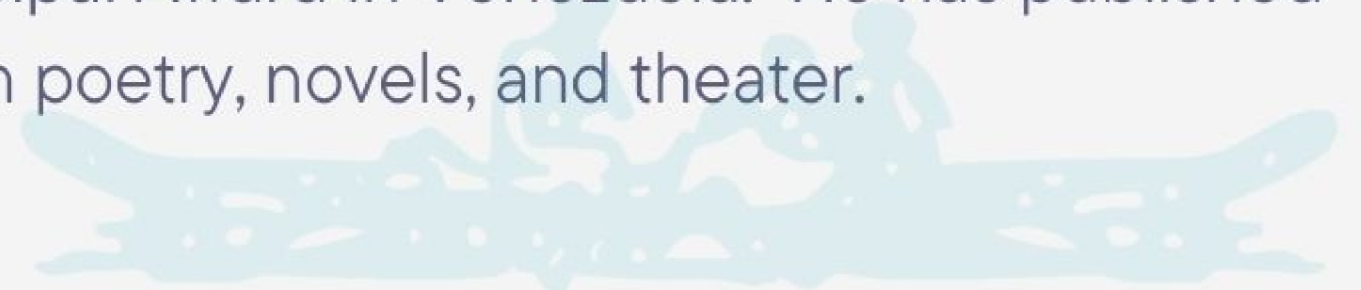


OSCAR PERDOMO MARÍN

“I am deeply grateful to Water People Theater for this gift, which allows us to witness the extraordinary encounter that unites the North and Sur on the same stage”.

Venezuelan journalist, poet, and playwright.

He graduated from the National School of Performing Arts in Caracas and studied theater at the University of Chile. He worked as a press correspondent in various countries in Latin America and Africa. He was the Information Chief for the newspaper "El Mundo". Mr Perdomo is the author of more than 500 Sunday interviews in the Newspaper "Últimas Noticias". He was a member of the central committee of news agencies from countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. He received the "Certamen Mayor de las Artes y las Letras" Award, the Literature Award, and a Municipal Award in Venezuela. He has published recognized works in poetry, novels, and theater.





North & Sur

Written by **Oscar Perdomo Marín**

Directed by **Iraida Tapias**

Artistic Producer **Rebeca Alemán**

Alfonsina Storni **Kris Tori**

Edgar Allan Poe **Eric K. Roberts**

Violinist **J. Andrés Robuschi**

Set Designer | Art Director **Marisabel Munoz**

Choreographer **Jorge Niedas | Tango 21**

Lighting Designer **Karen Wallace**

Costume Designer **Kim Schalk | Oriana Nigro**

Press Relations **Acacia Consulting Group**

Graphic Designer **Carlos Trujillo**

Videographer & Photographer **Dante Padilla**

Production Team **Gabriel Paredes,**

Andres Grillo, María Carolina Naranjo,

Zenda Zurita

Audience Services **Sandra Bernal**

House Manager **Madeline Nesbitt**

House Manager **Kenneth Martin**

IRAIDA TAPIAS

Playwright | Director | Sociologist
Artistic Director - Water People Theater



“Making theater is a constant and challenging exercise in the pursuit of freedom. We do theater as an act of love in favor of life”.

During her 50 years in theater, Iraida focused on producing and directing plays of Spanish American authors, especially Venezuelan ones. Iraida has written seven plays and produced over 30 theatrical performances. She has directed 12 theatrical pieces and six musicals, including “The House of Bernarda Alba” by F.G.Lorca, “MUSES” by Néstor Caballero, “Orchids in the moonlight” by Carlos Fuentes, “Orinoco” by Emilio Carballido, “The Delicate Tears of Waning Moon” by Rebeca Alemán, “Lorca - Living the Experience” with texts and lyrics Federico Garcia Lorca, “It never was you” texts and lyrics by Kurt Weill, “The Man of La Mancha”, the musical written by Dale Wasserman, music by Mitch Leigh and Joe Darion. Awards: Her awards include National Artist Award, Venezuela – Best Director. Premio Municipal de Cine, Venezuela – Scriptwriter and La Habana Film Festival Award – Best Producer.

REBECA ALEMÁN

Actress | Writer | Pianist | Journalist | Founder
and Executive Director of Water People Theater.



“Being a Latin American female artist in a country other than your own has been very challenging, especially in overcoming cultural barriers and attracting new audiences. History tends to give us the ideal stage to play on. It’s up to us to avoid choosing the wrong one”.

Born in Venezuela. At age five, Rebeca began playing the piano and at age 17 was selected to join the first National Youth Theater Ensemble of Venezuela. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism/Media Communication and Music, Rebeca continued her training in London and NYC for both acting and directing. She has played leading roles in over 38 theatrical productions, soap operas, and films including those as Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Frida Kahlo, Camila O’Gorman, and Yerma. Rebeca was an ensemble member at the Spanish Repertory Theater-NYC. She has written six plays, four short films, and one children's book. She has produced 23 plays and directed and produced four short films focused on denouncing violence. “Gone with The Sea”, in memory of all victims of violence, was Official Selection FIACINE-2019-Academia de Artes y Ciencias Cinematográficas, Spain. “The Delicate Tears of the Waning Moon” at Steppenwolf Theater was recognized as outstanding by specialized critics and the audience.

ERIC K. ROBERTS



as EDGAR ALLAN POE

“My opportunity with Water People has come as a delightful surprise.

I grew up hearing Spanish--my grandmother was from the Canary Islands--and though I don't speak it, I'm so grateful to work with this creative company in the language's poetic space.”

Eric K. Roberts is a social worker, actor, and film photographer. He has been a Theatre Y ensemble member since 2016. He has played Valmont in Christopher Hampton's "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," Cadmus in Euripedes's "The Bacchae," and Oberon in Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

This is his first performance with Water People Theater.

KRIS TORI



as ALFONSINA STORNI

“It has been a delightful experience working with Water People Theater for the second time. Both Iraida and Rebeca have been guiding us tremendously with such care and grace. The text in itself “North y Sur” has been such a true gift.”

Born in Pogradec, Albania and raised in Chicago, she graduated from Columbia College Chicago. She is an ensemble member with Aguijon Theatre and Theatre Y. Her theater credits include Macbeth with Theatre Y; Cervantes and Shakespeare: Mano A Mano, Tren Al Sur, The House of Bernarda Alba, Blowout, Yerma and Las Soldaderas with Aguijon Theatre, and Lorca Living the Experience with Water People Theater.

J. Andrés Robuschi



VIOLINIST

“To be part of this outstanding theatrical work has been a wonderful experience. Everyone strives for the highest artistic quality, giving the best of themselves. I hope the audience enjoys the piece as much as we enjoyed preparing.”

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance degree from the Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts, Germany. At his young age, he has vast experience in different continents and various areas of music, including orchestra, chamber music and performances as a soloist. He now pursues his master's degree in music at DePaul University and acts as a regular member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago.

Director's Note

“NORTH & SOUTH has given me the opportunity to attempt once again to understand the profound need for transcendence in those of those of us who make art our life's project.

I've stated again that a portion of humanity seeks to transcend mortality by making an impact on others, while others achieve this through the creation of poetry, theater, music, culinary recipes, or chemical formulas. Both paths are as legitimate as they are complex.

This play has deepened my dedication to live in the present with intensity, maintaining my faith in theater, and preserving the respect for fellow human beings that I have always held.”

Thanks to Rebeca, Oscar, Kris, Eric, J. Andrés, Marisabel, Carlos, Gabriel, Jorge, Andrés, and Teresa Hernando, I have enjoyed this new journey with Water People Theater immensely”

IRAIDA TAPIAS



Gratitudo ¡GRACIAS!

Teresa Hernando
Anastasio Sánchez Zamorano
Salvador Vergara
Thais Lopez Vogel
Jose R. Sanchez
Pepe Vargas
Giulio Pedota
Samuel Ocean
Constanza Mendoza
Lucas Gioja
Jorge Manghi
Marta Medina
Vanessa Valecillos
Ramón Camín

Mateo Mulcahy
Leonard Dominguez
Patricia Dominguez
Anna Murdick
Ricardo Alemán
Elena Blanco
Marcos Urbano
Lou Alemán
Xioamery Valbuena
Regina Baena
Ana Cecilia Pazmiño
Alejandra Guevara-Alemán
Gabriel Guevara-Alemán

Y a toda la querida gente del Instituto Cervantes Chicago.

COMING UP NEXT!

GONE WITH THE SEA

LO QUE EL MAR SE LLEVÓ

Written by REBECA ALEMÁN & Directed by IRAIDA TAPIAS

SEPTEMBER 24
2:00 PM



In memory of all victims of violence all over the world.

CHICAGO LIVE! 2023



MORE INFORMATION @
WWW.WATERPEOPLE.ORG

JOIN US AND LET US BE HEARD
SUMA TU VOZ Y NOS OIRÁN A TODOS

What make us, us?

Water People Theater is led by two Latina immigrants who bring over 50 years of experience in theater. Our firsthand experiences as Venezuelans living in diaspora have inspired us to explore how theater can be a powerful tool for defending human rights, navigating interculturality, and exploring culturally relevant themes in a safe way.

We explore themes of human rights, justice, interculturality, migration, and climate through bilingual plays and learning programs. Even though our focus is on working and serving Latinx communities, we are also interested in exploring interculturality in a critical and life-affirming way.



2001-2023

Over 118,000

Spectators | Espectadores

38

Plays | Obras

21

Seasons | Temporadas

22
YEARS

10

Campaigns for
peace | Campañas por
la paz.

5

Short Films
in defense of
Human Rights | Cortometrajes
en defensa de los
Derechos Humanos

12

Participations in International
Theater and Film Festivals | Participaciones en Festivales
Internacionales de Teatro y Cine.

WE ARE WATER PEOPLE

Staff

REBECA ALEMÁN

FOUNDER | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IRAIDA TAPIAS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

CONSTANZA MENDOZA

RESIDENT ADVISOR & DEVELOPMENT
SUPPORT

CARLOS TRUJILLO

IT COORDINATOR

GABRIEL PAREDES

ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE AND
ARTISTIC DIRECTORS.

Board of Directors

JOSE R SANCHEZ – CHAIR of the Board

Humboldt Park Health President and CEO

THAIS LOPEZ VOGEL –VICE CHAIR

Founder and Trustee of Volo Foundation.

PHILLIP BARREDA –TREASURER

Executive Vice President - Chicago MSDC

MARTA MEDINA – SECRETARY

President -M2 Communications.

CASPER SANDERSON –DIRECTOR

VP, Sales - Americas Markit.

REBECA ALEMÁN – DIRECTOR

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Founder & Executive Director of the
International Latino Cultural Center

VANESSA VALECILLOS

Dancer & Faculty Member at
Northwestern University, Chicago

JUAN GABRIEL MORENO

Founder of Juan Moreno Architects

OSCAR PERDOMO MARIN

Writer and Poet



Support Our Communities

For 22 years, we have touched the lives of over 118,000 spectators, produced over 38 plays, 21 seasons, five short films defending human rights, ten campaigns for peace, and have participated in 12 Latinx and international film and theater festivals. Through our Water People Theater STUDIO, we have worked with over 127 participants, directly impacting 354 family members through 28 in-person creative labs and 99 online sessions. We have offered 74 scholarships to kids most impacted by larger systems of oppression.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
GRACIAS POR SU VALIOSO APOYO!**

Ways in which you can support:

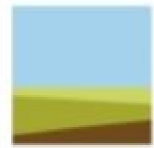
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Supporting Partners



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DOROTHY DONNELLEY
FOUNDATION



Consulado General de la
República Argentina
Chicago - Estados Unidos de América
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto



WE ARE HONORED TO BE THE RESIDENT THEATER GROUP AT
THE INSTITUTO CERVANTES OF CHICAGO.






WATER PEOPLE
THEATER

WATER PEOPLE THEATER

We believe in the transformative power of theater

THANK YOU | ¡GRACIAS!

for being a part of the Water People Theater Community!
por ser parte de la Comunidad Water People Theater!

