

# TEATRO CÍRCULO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **TEATRO CÍRCULO CELEBRATING ITS 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PRESENTS 'LA MONJA ALFÉREZ'**

*(The Lieutenant Nun)*

by Juan Ruiz de Alarcón

**November 3-19, 2023**

***A story of a 17<sup>th</sup> Century woMAN who fights against all odds to validate his gender identity.***

**NEW YORK, NY, August 2023 - Teatro Círculo**, one of the main bilingual Latino theatre companies in New York City, begins its **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season** with ***La monja alférez*** (*The Lieutenant Nun*) by Juan Ruiz de Alarcón, directed by Daniel Alonso de Santos, from **November 3-19, 2023** at **Chain Theatre** (312 W 36th St., 3rd floor) in Manhattan.

***La monja alférez*** (*The Lieutenant Nun*) is the story of Catalina, who flees a convent in Spain dressed as a man, travels to The Americas, and becomes a renown soldier throughout Latin and South America. In Perú, Catalina falls in love with Doña Ana, then leaves because they cannot consummate their relationship.

With growing attacks on transgender people, ***La monja alférez*** (*The Lieutenant Nun*), a 17th Century play centered on a nonbinary character, demonstrates that gender nonconformity is neither new nor unnatural. With this production, Teatro Círculo will bring attention to this forward-looking play and to the challenges gender nonconforming individuals faced then and now.

### **Free Scholarly Conference on Teatro Novo Hispano**

For centuries, ***La monja alférez*** (*The Lieutenant Nun*), was attributed to Juan Pérez de Montalbán until Professor Germán Vega García-Luengos from the University of Valladolid in Spain, conducted calligraphic research of the original text, and discovered that the play was written by Juan Ruiz de Alarcón. This important development prompted Teatro Círculo to organize a conference in which 14 scholars from Spain, Canada, and the United States will present their research about Teatro Novo Hispano, theater plays written in or about the Americas during the 17th Century. The keynote speaker of the conference will be Prof. Vega García-Luengos who will discuss what led him to conclude that Juan Ruiz de Alarcón is the rightful author of this unique work.

# TEATROCÍRCULO

This adaptation of ***La monja alférez*** (*The Lieutenant Nun*) made by Daniel Alonso de Santos and Germán Vega García-Luengos is placed in a piano bar in NYC where its host gathers his clientele to tell the story of this legendary nun. The director's concept mixes old and new esthetics, emphasized by the costumes, lighting, and set in a Production Design by Israel Franco Müller.

The cast of ***La monja alférez*** (*The Lieutenant Nun*) features María Fontanals, Eva Cristina Vásquez, Sandra Gumuzzio, Fernando Gazzaniga, Gerardo Gudiño, Pablo Andrade, Mario Mattei and Jei Fabiano. The creative team is completed with Verse Direction by Karmele Aranburu, original music composed by Jei Fabiano, Eliana Michelle Yost is the Assistant Director and Stage Manager, Kareliz Michelle De Jesús is the Hair & Makeup Designer, Production Design Assistant and Props Master, and Mario Mattei is the Fight Choreographer.

***La monja alférez*** and the **Teatro Novo Hispano Conference** are made possible, in part, through funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, Howard Gilman Foundation, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the Shubert Foundation, and the Lucille Lortel Foundation.

The play will be performed in Spanish with overtitles in English.

###

What: **LA MONJA ALFÉREZ** by Juan Ruiz de Alarcón

When: **November 3-19, 2023**

What: **Teatro Novo Hispano Conference**

When: **November 10th, 2023, 10 am – 5 pm (EST)**

Where: **TEATRO CÍRCULO at CHAIN THEATRE**, 312 West 36th Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues in Manhattan. ADA Accessible.

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT [teatrocirculo.org/tickets](https://teatrocirculo.org/tickets)**

For more information visit [teatrocirculo.org](https://teatrocirculo.org)

For more information on the Conference visit <https://teatrocirculo.org/special-programs/teatro-novo-conference/>

To connect with Teatro Círculo via social media: [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/teatro.circulo.7) (@teatro.circulo.7), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/teatrocirculonyc) (@teatrocirculonyc) and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](https://twitter.com/TeatroCirculoE4) (@TeatroCirculoE4).

## CONTACT

Marcela Álvarez (917) 306-6966  
[malvarez@teatrocirculo.org](mailto:malvarez@teatrocirculo.org)

Edna Lee Figueroa (347) 967-4764 Ext. 104  
[eleefigueroa@teatrocirculo.org](mailto:eleefigueroa@teatrocirculo.org)