

# TEATRO CÍRCULO

## 30th Anniversary

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **TEATRO CÍRCULO CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY WITH THE WORLD PREMIERE OF 'LÍO' BY IAN ROBLES**

*This 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season Teatro Círculo is back to its home venue at 64 East 4th Street in Manhattan featuring 'Lío', a drama with elements of comedy exploring the United States colonization of Puerto Rico.*

**NEW YORK, NY, March 2024 – Teatro Círculo**, one of New York City's leading nonprofit Spanish language theatre companies, launches its **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season** with the **world premiere** of **LÍO** from **March 15-31, 2024** by Puerto Rican playwright **Ian Robles**, who was selected by the company after a thorough process of interviews with Latinx writers to be part of the proposal for *The Tow Playwright-in-Residence Program* that offers playwrights the opportunity to focus on their craft, gain experience and insight into all aspects of the nonprofit theater world and debut their work.

*"It is an honor, it's my first time working with Teatro Círculo. I admire the work they have been doing, representing for so many years, not only Latino theater but also the Puerto Rican generation that is doing theater in New York. It is a magical experience to be part of this moment, in the reopening of the theater after a long renovation,"* says a very excited Ian Robles, member of the 2023-24 cohort of The Tow Foundation Playwright Residency Program. Teatro Círculo is grateful to The Tow Foundation for selecting them as the first Spanish language company in their Playwright-in-Residence Program.

**LÍO** takes the audience to July of 1898 in Puerto Rico when American troops have stormed its Southern coast at the end of the Spanish-American War. Lío, a young Puerto Rican fisherman, helps a US marine that was left behind by his troop. As they both struggle to communicate, time bends and Lío suddenly finds himself trapped inside a cyclical nightmare of colonial exploitation and trampled identity.

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Robles continues, *“It is no coincidence that the character’s name is Lío. The Puerto Rican identity is very young. A local society was born in Puerto Rico, after the 18th and 19th centuries, Puerto Rico went from Spanish colonization to United States colonization overnight. All of the sudden, I started tripping about what it’s called historically “The Trauma Generation” that lived through that. It flips me out to think that all the islands were becoming free, becoming independent, and in Puerto Rico we passed from the hands of one empire to another. What a great irony that is, which is the driving force for this piece: How that affects us, how we carry a memory of that colonized identity of that moment.”*

For **Mario Colón**, the director of **Lío**, it’s also the first time working with Teatro Círculo, *“There had been conversations, but it never happened, and now here we are at the 30th anniversary.”*, he keeps conversing. *“People are going to see a lot of my humor, in my approach in this production, my satirical way of seeing the world. Working with young playwrights like Ian is wonderful because of the way they look at history. Regarding Lío, which is a story that is based on a historical event in the lives of all Puerto Ricans, Ian provides a refreshing perspective based on a character whose name is already a mess (“lío” also means “mess” in Spanish), a hodgepodge.”*

The director does not hide his excitement to be working with this cast, *“My actors are a generation of Puerto Rican artists that is making their way in New York City and each one has different styles; the commitment that this cast has for the author and his text is unparalleled.”*

Starring Jorge Sánchez Díaz\*, Bryan J. Cortés\* and Karina Curet. (\*Appears through the courtesy of Actor’s Equity Association), **LÍO** will be performed **March 15-31, 2024 on the Main Stage** in the renovated Teatro Círculo building.

Also part of the creative and design team: Lighting Designer is Omayra Garriga Casiano, set design by Israel Franco Müller, costume design by Eliana Michelle Yost, and the Assistant Director and Stage Manager is Ana Gabriel.

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Mario Colón continues, *“There are anachronisms that we are playing with in the piece. It’s not a period piece, **Lío** is a theatrical show, it is an epic condensed into three characters. It has drama with elements of comedy and mystery. The characters are not linear; they change according to the situation and the experience that happens over time. It is a human story and of connections, of lost memories that hurt, of memories that leave emptiness, of forgotten memory.”*

**Lío** is part of Teatro Fest NYC 2024, a festival of the Alliance of Teatros Latinos of New York, including Iati Theater, INTAR, Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater, Repertorio Español, Teatro LATEA, Teatro SEA, Thalia Spanish Theatre and Teatro Círculo.

*This 30th Anniversary season is made possible, in part, through funds from The Tow Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts, Howard Gilman Foundation, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the Coalition of Theaters of Color, an Initiative of the City Council, The Shubert Foundation, Lucille Lortel Foundation, The National Latinx Theater Initiative, Lily Auchincloss Foundation, the Cory & Bob Donnalley Charitable Foundation, and Jeffrey & Paula Gural.*

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What: **LÍO** by Ian Robles, directed by Mario Colón, cast: Jorge Sánchez Díaz\*, Bryan J. Cortés\* and Karina Curet. (\*Appears through the courtesy of Actor’s Equity Association.)

Where: **TEATRO CÍRCULO**, 64 East 4th Street, between Bowery and Second Avenue in Manhattan. ADA Accessible. Trains: 6 to Astor Place, R or W to 8th Street-NYU, F to 2 Avenue

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

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