

# TEATRO CÍRCULO

AS TRANS SOLDIERS ARE FORCED OUT OF THE U.S. MILITARY, a 400-YEAR OLD SPANISH PLAY TELLS THE TRUE STORY OF ONE WHO SERVED IN KING FERDINAND'S ARMY

TEATRO CÍRCULO PRESENTS *LA MONJA ALFÉREZ* (*THE LIEUTENANT NUN*)  
BY JUAN RUIZ DE ALARCÓN, OCTOBER 17 TO NOVEMBER 2, 2025

*The story of a 17th Century decorated trans soldier.*



**NYC 2025 – Teatro Círculo**, one of New York City's leading Spanish-language theatre companies - known for its creative staging of classical and contemporary works – presents this extraordinary play that challenges the idea of gender conformity 400 years ago.

When President Trump issued his Executive Order declaring transgender soldiers, “*not in the best interest of the Service of the Militaries...and not consistent with the interests of national security*,” José Cheo Oliveras, the Founding Artistic Director of NYC's Teatro Círculo knew which play he would choose to open the theater's 2025-26 Season.

***La monja alférez* (The Lieutenant Nun)** by **Juan Ruiz de Alarcón**, is a 17th Century Spanish Golden Age play that tells the powerful true story of Catalina de Erauso, a

woman who fled a convent disguised as a man, sailed to the Americas, and became a decorated soldier.

*"I have always been drawn to the Golden Age Classics, because many addressed political oppression, wealth disparity, and women's agency," explains Oliveras. "The story of Catalina de Erauso has fascinated people for centuries because the central character openly challenged gender norms. When the President refused to allow thousands of transgender soldiers to serve their country, I realized we needed to present **La monja alférez**. I hope transgender soldiers and the trans community will attend this show and that they see that they are represented in history."*

Director Daniel Alonso de Santos, who also adapted the play with Germán Vega García-Luengos, reimagines **La monja alférez** as a play within a play set in a piano bar in present day New York City. The MC, a nonbinary pianist and opera singer, introduces the powerful true story of Catalina de Erauso. Known as Guzmán in Perú, Catalina falls in love with Doña Ana but flees after killing a soldier in self-defense. When arrested, Guzmán reveals their assigned gender at birth and declares their intention to keep living as a man and to remain a soldier. Guzmán's case is then taken before the court for the King to decide their fate.

Between the international cast and design team they together hold more than 35 awards in Spanish language theater, including **María Fontanals** as Guzmán, **Sandra Gumuzzio** as Doña Ana, **Gerardo Gudiño** as Don Diego, **Eva Cristina Vásquez** as Inés, **Fernando Gazzaniga** as Machín, **Mario Mattei** as Nuevo Cid, **Jei Fabiano** as the MC, and **José Cheo Oliveras** as Miguel de Erauso.

The creative and design team is completed with verse direction by **Karmele Aranburu**, Production Design by **Israel Franco-Müller**, **Caridad del Valle** is the Assistant Director and Stage Manager, **Eliana Michelle Yost** is the Assistant Costume Designer, **Kareliz Michelle De Jesús** is the Hair & Makeup Designer, with original music by **Jei Fabiano**, and fight choreography by **Mario Mattei**.

**La monja alférez** will have 12 performances, **October 17 through November 2, 2025** at Teatro Círculo's **64 East 4th Street** Mainstage Theater in Manhattan. Curtain times are Friday and Saturday evenings at 7PM, with matinees Saturday and Sunday at 2 PM. Performances are in Spanish verse with overtitles in English.

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Foundation, and the Miranda Family Fund. In the summer of 2024, the production toured to Spain's prestigious Golden Age Festivals Clásicos en Alcalá and Olmedo Clásico.

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Tickets are available at [teatrocirculo.org/tickets](https://teatrocirculo.org/tickets)

General Admission \$40, Students & Seniors \$35, Groups of 10+ \$30.

For more information visit: [teatrocirculo.org/la-monja-alferez-the-lieutenant-nun-2025/](https://teatrocirculo.org/la-monja-alferez-the-lieutenant-nun-2025/)  
ADA Accessible

WHAT: ***La monja alférez*** (*The Lieutenant Nun*) by Juan Ruiz de Alarcón

WHEN: October 17 to November 2, 2025, Fridays & Saturdays at 7 PM; Saturdays and Sundays at 2 PM

WHERE: Teatro Círculo, 64 East 4th Street in Manhattan, NYC

CONTACT:

Spanish/English Press: Edna Lee Figueroa / [eleefigueroa@teatrocirculo.org](mailto:eleefigueroa@teatrocirculo.org) / 347.967.0764

English Press: Ginny Louloudes / [glouloudes@teatrocirculo.org](mailto:glouloudes@teatrocirculo.org) / 917.841.6519  
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