

## REPERTORIO ESPAÑOL ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF THE 2020 MIRANDA FAMILY VOCES LATINX PLAYWRITING COMPETITION

**MALAS MAÑAS** by Puerto Rican Alejandra Ramos and **THAT DRIVE THRU MONTEREY** by Mexican American Matthew Paul Olmos tie for first place, in the first edition of the competition. The playwrights will receive a cash award of \$3,000.

**October 2020 – New York, NY** – Repertorio Español announces the winners of *The 2020 Miranda Family Voces Latinx Playwriting Competition*, an initiative to develop and promote Latinx plays that resonate with and accurately depict the Latinx experience. The competition is inclusive of all playwrights who are at least 18 years of age and residents of the United States or Puerto Rico.

“The act of writing is an intimate process full of uncertainty where most of the time you never truly know what will happen with the play you are writing. This leads to a thrilling, exciting and sometimes scary rollercoaster. *Malas mañás* is a Puerto Rican story that carries universal themes. I wrote it from within without any kind of expectations. Winning *The Miranda Family Voces Latinx Playwriting Competition*, is a beautiful reassurance that when you are true to yourself and write the stories you want to write, the world will be open to hear. I believe our Latinx voices need to continue to be heard now louder than ever. *The Miranda Family* and *Repertorio Español* are committed to help make this happen and I can’t be more grateful.” – Alejandra Ramos

“At a time when Latinx stories and voices are needed both in the arts and in the United States at large, unique initiatives like Repertorio Español’s Voces Latinx are vital in creating a space for this and the next generation of Latinx artists. While our works go often unseen by mainstream theatrical institutions, community-based organizations such as Repertorio Español remain a home where our stories are valued as an essential voice in this country’s national conversation.” – Matthew Paul Olmos

*The 2021 Miranda Family Voces Latinx National Playwriting Competition* begins now! Submissions are due by Monday, February 1, 2021. A readings series will be held in June of the top 5 plays. For info please visit [www.repertorio.nyc/voceslatinx](http://www.repertorio.nyc/voceslatinx) or email [aav@repertorio.org](mailto:aav@repertorio.org).

### WINNERS OF THE 2020 MIRANDA FAMILY VOCES LATINX PLAYWRITING COMPETITION

#### **1st Place: (Award: \$3,000)**

**MALAS MAÑAS** by Alejandra Ramos from New York, NY

About *Malas Mañás*: A 37-year-old ex-convict is released after serving a long sentence for a crime he committed in self-defense. Once he is paroled, he decides to reconnect with his father confronting the difficulties of adapting and re-integrating back into society by starting with his own family.

Playwright Bio: Alejandra Ramos is a Puerto Rican playwright, actress, director, and producer based in NYC. She holds a B.A in Dance and Theater, from The University of Puerto Rico, and an M.A. in Scenic Arts from the University of Murcia, Spain. Author of *En la azotea, 10 piezas cortas de teatro* (Ed. Callejón 2016). Her most recent work was her direction of the Equity Workshop *Agua, vida y tierra* produced by *WWTNS? (MITU 580, 2019)*. Recent original plays include, *Broken Words (Step-Up Artist in Residence* at Pregones/PRTT, April 2019), *A Taste of Loving Sea (Fuerza Fest, May 2019)*, and *Paris (En Construcción, New Works Latin American Writers, February 2019)*.

**1st Place: (Award: \$3,000)**

**THAT DRIVE THRU MONTEREY by Matthew Paul Olmos from New York, NY**

About *That Drive Thru Monterey*: Inspired by the life of the playwright's mother. It is the story of a young Mexican American woman growing up in Los Angeles. In the play, she experiences her first love and deals with what it means to assimilate into this country. Through mysterious premonitions, she also sees what lies ahead in her life.

Playwright Bio: A three-time Sundance Institute Fellowship/Residency recipient, Humana Festival Commissioned Playwright, New Dramatists Resident, Center Theatre Group LA Writer, Oregon Shakespeare Festival Black Swan Playwright, Princess Grace Awardee in Playwriting, Repertorio Español Met Life Nuestra Voces honoree, La MaMa's Ellen Stewart Playwright Awardee as selected by Sam Shepard. Mentored by Ruth Maleczek through Mabou Mines/SUITE; Taylor Mac through Cherry Lane's Mentor Project. Former fellow/resident at Baryshnikov Arts Center, INTAR, Latinx Theatre Commons, New York Theatre Workshop, Primary Stages; Ensemble Studio Theater lifetime member; and a proud Kilroys nominator. His work has been presented nationally and internationally and has been published as well as taught at universities.

**3rd Place: (Award: \$1,000)**

**(trans)formada by lily gonzález from San Antonio, TX**

About *(trans)formada*: Sam is queer, a little trans, and a child of Mexican immigrants living in the Texas Hill Country. They're graduating high school and trying to figure out how to express their gender -- to themselves and to the world. Just as Sam is building the courage to present their gender to their mother, they go to a high school party. Everyone is way too into each other and drinking way too much. Amidst the debauchery, a brave and strange set of rituals ensues. "(trans)formada" is a practice in healing. It is about redefining and coming back to family.

Playwright Bio: lily gonzález (they/them) is a playwright from Texas who graduated from UT Austin with a Bachelor's in Theatre & Dance / English. Their work has been developed with The John F. Kennedy Center and Austin Latinx New Play Festival. Their play *(trans)formada* was runner up for the Latinx, Rosa Parks, & National Undergraduate Playwriting Award from The John F. Kennedy Center in 2019. They're currently working on a play about queer community and ego death set in West Texas.

**Runners Up (Award: \$500)**

**CALLING PUERTO RICO by Juan Ramírez, Jr. from Bronx, NY**

About *Calling Puerto Rico*: In New York City, Joel is an amateur radio operator who has not been out of his attic apartment for about a year. He gets news about Tropical Storm Maria and the potential it has to harm Puerto Rico. Worried, he decides to reach out over the radio to a man he hasn't spoken to in a long time, his grandfather, Aníbal.

Playwright Bio: Juan Ramírez, Jr. is an internationally produced, award-winning dramatist, actor, and director. *Calling Puerto Rico* is a 2020 Bay Area Playwrights Festival Finalist and recipient of 2019 Bronx Recognize Its Own Award, part of NYC Department of Cultural Affairs. The first reading was at IATI and an excerpt was presented part of Infinite Stories with the NYC LatinX Playwriting Circle. He's developed and produced works with Downtown Urban Arts Festival, LaTea, Ingenio Milagro, Dixon Place, Raíces, HBMG, BBTF and The Bronx Repertory Company. He's a Dramatist Guild member with a B.A. from Lehman College and an MFA from Tisch.

## **DERECHO by Noelle Viñas from Brooklyn, NY**

About *Derecho*: In Northern Virginia, sisters Eugenia and Mercedes Silva are surrounded by old friends and lovers as Eugenia fights for endorsements on her primary campaign for a seat in the Virginia General Assembly, hoping to join the wave of women of color elected to public office. As a storm brews outside, the sisters must confront how traditional Latino family values conflict with an American definition of success that is always changing. An experimental play that explores how fragmented identity can tear you apart.

Playwright Bio: Noelle Viñas is a Uruguayan American playwright, educator, and theater-maker from Springfield, Virginia, and Montevideo, Uruguay. Her play *Derecho* won the 2019 John Gassner Playwriting Award, was a 2019 Playwrights Realm Writing Fellowship semi-finalist, and will be in the 2020 Bay Area Playwrights Festival. Her play *La Profesora* was produced by TheatreFirst and is in development for a podcast called *Abuelito* with We Rise Production. Other past favorite jobs include running Annandale High School's theater program alongside Theater Without Borders in Virginia and producing her play *Apocalypse, Please* with Kevin Vincenti in San Francisco. She is a resident playwright at Playwrights Foundation, currently attends Brooklyn College for her MFA in Playwriting, and is a proud member of the NYC Latinx Playwrights Circle.

### **ABOUT THE MIRANDA FAMILY FUND**

For over 40 years, The Miranda Family has championed community activism. They have created and supported institutions that have served underserved populations throughout New York City, across the country, and in Puerto Rico. They continue to foster the family's commitment to advocacy for education, the arts, and social justice - along with a sustained focus on relief and rebuilding efforts in Puerto Rico post-Hurricane Maria.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

By phone: 1-212.225.9999 | Online: [repertorio.nyc](http://repertorio.nyc)

### **ABOUT REPERTORIO ESPAÑOL**

Founded in 1968 by stage director René Buch and the late producer Gilberto Zaldívar, and joined by Robert Weber Federico in 1971, who now serves as Executive Producer, REPERTORIO has presented an unparalleled body of theater that promotes and divulges the rich heritage of Hispanic theater. Spanish masters like Calderón, Lope de Vega and García Lorca, renowned playwrights from Latin America and the growing body of American writers who capture the Latino experience in the U.S.—from NYC to Portland, LA, NYC, Washington DC, Texas, Denver and Chicago-- are all at home in REPERTORIO's programming. Also, the company has presented acclaimed translations of plays by Edward Albee, Shakespeare, Tennessee Williams, Gian Carlo Menotti, Eduardo De Filippo and Noel Coward.

The Company presents a rotating repertory of 13 different plays, musicals and dance concerts with over 300 performances every year. Its productions are seen by over 50,000 people annually at its home, the historic Gramercy Arts Theatre and on tour. Every year, approximately 20,000 students are introduced to the heritage of Spanish language theatre through its education program, ¡DIGNIDAD!

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