

2017 ENCUENTRO DE LAS AMÉRICAS FESTIVAL

Celebrating Dynamic Contemporary Latinx and Latin American Theatre

WHAT: The Latino Theater Company, operators of the Los Angeles Theatre Center (LATC), in association with the Latina/o Theatre Commons (LTC), is accepting applications for participation in the *2017 Encuentro de las Americas: Celebrating Dynamic Contemporary Latinx and Latin American Theatre (2017 Encuentro)*. The *2017 Encuentro* seeks to establish an active dialogue between Latinx theatre companies in the United States and our counterparts in the Americas. This festival will feature three weeks of artistic exchange, cross-company co-creation, and presented performances, in repertory, for audiences in Los Angeles, including one weekend-long International Convening of leading Latinx and Latin American theatremakers and guests produced by the Latina/o Theatre Commons. Each production will have up to twelve performances in the festival.

Ten participating companies will join the Latino Theater Company and work together during the three-week residency at The Los Angeles Theatre Center to share creative methodologies that will culminate in a performance of a co-created new work during the International Convening. This unique opportunity will allow participants and audiences to take an in-depth look at the range of aesthetic diversity in our work.

WHEN: October 29-November 19, 2017

WHERE: *Encuentro 2017* will be held at the historic Los Angeles Theatre Center, a multi-theatre complex in downtown Los Angeles, California, USA with a total of five performance spaces. The festival will form the centerpiece of the 2017 LATC fall season and will provide a venue for the 2017 Latina/o Theatre Commons International Convening.

WHO SHOULD APPLY: Latinx and Latin American companies from the Americas including the United States, US territories, Canada, and Latin America (including Central America, South America, and the Caribbean) interested in sharing their artmaking processes, who value collaboration and cross-cultural partnerships, and who have a completed, tour-ready production are encouraged to apply.

VALUES OF ENCUENTRO 2017: Cross-Cultural Collaboration, Exchange of Methodologies, Openness to Risk, and Inclusive Dialogue

ABOUT THE LATINO THEATER COMPANY: The Latino Theater Company is celebrating thirty years of commitment to the creation of exciting, thought-provoking theatre in Los Angeles. Artistic Director José Luis Valenzuela co-founded the Latino Theater Lab at the LATC in 1985, and together with the Latino Theater Company, has made significant contributions to the advancement of US Latino Theatre. In 2006, the company was awarded a twenty-year lease to operate the LATC from the City of Los Angeles. Their mission at the LATC is to provide a world-class arts center for those pursuing artistic excellence; a laboratory where both tradition and innovation are honored and honed; a place where the convergence of people, cultures, and ideas contribute to the future. In 2014, the Latino Theater Company at the LATC hosted the historic 2014 Encuentro: A National Latina/o Theatre Festival, the largest Latina/o Theatre festival in the US in over twenty-five years. The company also produces a free pageant play, *La Virgen de Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin*, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels as a gift to the city each holiday season. The members of the company include José Luis Valenzuela, Evelina Fernandez, Sal Lopez, Geoffrey Rivas, Lucy Rodriguez, and the late Lupe Ontiveros. "Having been together for almost 30 years, the Latino Theater Company is among America's great ensembles." -*American Theatre Magazine*, January 2015. For more information, visit www.thelatc.org

ABOUT THE LATINA/O THEATRE COMMONS: The Latina/o Theatre Commons, in partnership with HowlRound, is a national movement that uses a commons-based approach to transform the narrative of the American theatre, to amplify the visibility of Latinx performance making, and to champion equity through

advocacy, art making, convening, and scholarship. Our values include Service, Radical Inclusion, Transparency, Legacy and Leadership Cultivation, and Advancement of the Artform. For more information, visit: www.latinaotheatrecommons.com

2017 ENCUESTRO DE LAS AMÉRICAS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can submit a proposal?

Any ensemble, solo artist, theatre company, or producing entity that self-identifies as Latinx, indigenous, or Latin American is encouraged to submit a full production for consideration. **If chosen, all company members are required to be present in Los Angeles for the duration of *Encuentro 2017* (October 29-November 19, 2017), with the exception of the production's designers, who may elect to leave after opening or stay for the duration of the festival.** All productions must be adaptable to a venue at the LATC and run no longer than ninety minutes. There is a limit of ten traveling company members per production, including designers. Only one proposal per group/person. We strongly suggest submitting a production that has already been produced and is ready to tour.

From where?

Applications from companies/artists from all fifty states, Washington, D.C. and US territories (including Puerto Rico) will be considered (for the purposes of this application and the festival) to be "of the USA." All applications from Canada, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America will be considered "of the Americas." In addition to the Latino Theater Company, five companies "of the USA" and five companies "of the Americas" will be selected. It is the intention of the selection committee that each production "of the USA" represents a different state or territory, and each production "of the Americas" represents a different country.

Can I submit a production in a language other than English?

Yes! We will accept productions in all languages spoken in the Americas, and productions that are bilingual/multilingual. If selected, companies presenting work in Spanish must provide English language subtitles and companies presenting work in English must provide Spanish language subtitles. If your production is in another language, we will make accommodations after selection is complete. Language has no bearing on selection.

How will proposals be selected, and how many will be selected?

A selection committee of USA-based Latinx theatre practitioners made of up Latina/o Theatre Commons Steering Committee Members and Latino Theater Company members will use the following criteria to evaluate and select a total of ten proposals to join the Latino Theater Company at *Encuentro 2017*:

- Relevant Content,
- Artistic Boldness,
- Values Alignment with the Goals for Encuentro 2017,
- Geographic Representation,
- Diversity of Aesthetics,
- Diversity of Methodology,
- Feasibility of Technical Requirements.

What will the LATC provide?

- A modest artistic fee to the company submitting the proposal,
- Modest hotel housing in downtown Los Angeles within walking distance of the LATC for up to three weeks

for up to ten company members (rooms will be shared, two occupants per room),

- For US-based companies: Roundtrip travel to and from Los Angeles for up to ten company members. For companies not based in the United State: Travel assistance in the form of letters of invite, visa assistance, and ground transport to and from Los Angeles International Airport for up to 10 company members,
- Weekly per diem for participating company members,
- Performance venue equipped with lighting and sound equipment,
- Dedicated rehearsal and technical time in the performance venue (16 hours maximum),
- Technical staff support in the form of Technical Director and technicians,
- Marketing and promotional support,
- An opportunity for dialogue about the work with peers in an international forum.

What is expected of Encuentro 2017 participants?

- All company members are expected to participate in all *Encuentro 2017* activities, including three weeks of performances, viewing other companies' performances on a provided schedule, rehearsals and performances of a new collaborative theatre piece, 2017 Latina/o Theatre Commons International Convening events, and full *Encuentro 2017* company meetings. Upon acceptance to *Encuentro 2017*, all traveling company members are expected to sign an agreement confirming their commitment to participation.
- Participating companies must provide sets, costumes, props, lighting designs, and sound designs for their individual production. Any shipping costs to Los Angeles are at the expense of the individual company.
- Artists and companies must acquire all necessary rights to perform, as well as permission(s) from the appropriate unions or professional associations prior to arriving at *Encuentro 2017*. For companies working with the Actor's Equity Association, we will be working under a Festival contract.
- By October 13, 2017, companies presenting work in Spanish must provide English language subtitles and companies presenting work in English must provide Spanish language subtitles to the LATC in the form of a PowerPoint file.
- All company members (except designers) are required to stay for the entire rehearsal and performance process from Sunday, October 29-Sunday, November 19, 2017.
- Once in Los Angeles, transportation in and around the city is to be paid for by the participants.
- Expenses not outlined above must be covered by the companies.

Submission Deadline: December 1, 2016 @ 5pm EST

Submit applications to encuentro2017app@howlround.com and list "COMPANY NAME Encuentro 2017 Submission" as the email subject heading. All applications must be submitted electronically. Notification of the committee's decision will be emailed by February 15, 2017. If accepted, applicants will receive detailed information regarding artistic fee, travel, and responsibilities as a festival participant.

Have Questions? Join LATC Staff and the Selection Committee for an information session!

1-857-216-6700

Conference Code: 314596



Option #1: Tuesday, October 25 @ 7pm EDT (English)

Option #2: Wednesday, November 2 @ 10am EDT (Spanish)

Option #3: Thursday, November 3 @ 1pm EDT (English)