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The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in collaboration with  
The Hispanic Division and the Poetry and Literature Center of the Library of Congress

PRESENTS:  
A Series of Programs 

on Latin American and Latino Literature 

“LA VOZ LATINA” 

THE LATIN VOICE IN THE AMERICAS: A SPLENDID DIVERSITY  
Curated by Marie Arana  
Thursday, June 28 and Saturday, June 30

(WASHINGTON)— The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in collaboration with the Hispanic Division and the Poetry and Literature Center of the Library of Congress today announced “La Voz Latina,” a series of programs on Latin American and Hispanic American literature. The free programs will present an impressive group of prestigious writers in conversation about the inspiration for their work. One panel will take place at the Library of Congress on Thursday, June 28 and the other two panels will take place at the Kennedy Center on Saturday, June 30.

“A Cuban Love Affair”: The Art of the Book, Program and Display  
Thursday, June 28, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in LJ119, Library of Congress  

Ruth Behar (University of Michigan) interviews master bookmaker Rolando Estévez and displays a selection of handmade books, an art form that is highly developed in Cuba. Catalina Gómez of the Library of Congress, which has a collection of Estévez’s books (Ediciones Vigía) in its Rare Books collection, will join the conversation. The Library of Congress will also offer a unique exhibit of highlights from its collection at this event.
“Harlem to Havana”: Langston Hughes and Nicolás Guillén, Two Poets, Two Worlds, One Friendship
Saturday, June 30, 2018 at 11 a.m. in the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater
Featuring Cuban American playwright Jorge Ignacio Cortiñas (Sleepwalkers and Maleta Mulata) and Pulitzer Prize-winning U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey, this is a re-enactment of the friendship and literary collaboration between two great jazz-age poets, Cuban Nicolás Guillén and American Langston Hughes. Cortiñas and Trethewey will present the poets’ verses, correspondence, and anecdotes, as well as talk about their influence on their own art.

“La Voz Latina”: Six Literary Stars of the Americas
Saturday, June 30 at 2 p.m. in the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater
Six of the most eclectic and revered Latino writers from the Americas—North and South—talk about their work, their inspiration, and their enormously diverse cultures, moderated by writer and critic Marie Arana along with writer Ruth Behar. Featured are the legendary Mexican-American writer Sandra Cisneros, Chilean-American playwright and novelist Ariel Dorfman, Bolivian novelist and essayist Rodrigo Hasbún, Peruvian journalist and novelist Santiago Roncagliolo, Puerto Rican-American novelist and memoirist Esmeralda Santiago, and Cuban sci-fi novelist Yoss.

Marie Arana
Marie Arana was born in Lima, Peru and has lived in the United States since the age of 9. She began her career in book publishing, where she became Vice President and Senior Editor at Harcourt Brace as well as Simon & Schuster. In 1993, she joined The Washington Post’s award-winning “Book World” as Editor-in-Chief. She helped found the National Book Festival with Librarian of Congress James H. Billington and First Lady Laura Bush. Since 2009, she has been a writer-at-large for The Washington Post and a Senior Advisor to the U.S. Librarian of Congress. Arana is the author of five books, among them her memoir American Chica, which was a finalist for the National Book Award; The Writing Life, a collection of essays about the writing craft; and two
highly acclaimed novels Cellophane and Lima Nights. Her biography of Simón Bolívar was awarded the Los Angeles Times Book Prize in 2014. Her newest book, Silver, Sword, and Stone will be released in 2019. She has also co-authored many books on the culture and history of Latin America. Arana is director of the National Book Festival and the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction, and has chaired juries for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. Her commentary has been published in The New York Times, The International Herald Tribune, Smithsonian, National Geographic, El País, El Comercio, and many other publications. She has been a visiting scholar at Brown University and Stanford University. Most recently, she was the Distinguished Chair of the Cultures of the Countries of the South at the Library of Congress’s John W. Kluge Center.

Ruth Behar
Ruth Behar was born in Havana, Cuba and grew up in New York City. Now residing in Ann Arbor, Michigan, she is the Victor Haim Perera Collegiate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Michigan. Ruth was the first Latina to receive a MacArthur Fellows “Genius” Award and is known for her ability to move seamlessly between anthropology and the arts in her writing, teaching, and public speaking. Ruth frequently visits and writes about her native Cuba and is the author of An Island Called Home: Returning to Jewish Cuba and Traveling Heavy: A Memoir in between Journeys. She is the editor of the pioneering anthology, Bridges to Cuba and co-editor of The Portable Island: Cubans at Home in the World. Her documentary, Adio Kerida/Goodbye Dear Love: A Cuban Sephardic Journey, distributed by Women Make Movies, has been shown in festivals around the world. She is the author of a newly released bilingual book of poems, Everything I Kept/Todo lo que guardé, with illustrations by Cuban book artist Rolando Estévez. Ruth’s novel for middle grade readers, Lucky Broken Girl, published by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House, received the 2018 Pura Belpré Author Award from the American Library Association, presented annually to a Latino/Latina writer whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.
Sandra Cisneros

Sandra Cisneros is one of the most beloved Hispanic American writers in the hemisphere. Poet, short story writer, novelist, essayist, her work explores the lives of the Hispanic working class. Her awards include NEA fellowships in poetry and fiction, the Texas Medal of the Arts, a MacArthur, the PEN Center USA Literary Award, and a National Medal of the Arts, awarded to her by President Obama in 2016. Most recently, she received the Ford Foundation’s Art of Change Fellowship. Her classic, coming-of-age novel, The House on Mango Street, has sold over six million copies and is required reading in elementary, high school, and universities across the country. She is also the author of the novels, Caramelo and Have You Seen Marie?, the short story collection Woman Hollering Creek, a book of poetry Loose Woman, as well as numerous works for children. Her latest releases are A House of My Own: Stories From My Life and Pure Amor, a dual language edition illustrated by the author. Founder of awards and foundations that serve writers, Cisneros is a dual citizen of the United States and Mexico and earns her living by her pen.

Jorge Ignacio Cortiñas

Jorge Ignacio Cortiñas is a theater-maker based in New York and Artistic Director of the Obie winning company Fulcrum Theater. His most recent play, Recent Alien Abductions, was presented at the Humana Festival at the Actors Theater of Louisville. Other works include Backroom (Whitney Museum of American Art), Bird in the Hand (Fulcrum Theater, New York Times Critics Pick, published by Dramatic Publishing) and Blind Mouth Singing (NAATCO, New York Times Critics Pick). His many awards include fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts; as well as the Helen Merrill Award; the Anschutz Distinguished Fellowship at Princeton University; “playwright of the year” in El Nuevo Herald’s 1999 year-end list; a Writers Community Residency from the YMCA National Writer’s Voice; and the Robert Chesley Award, among others. His plays have also been published by playscripts and TDR/The Drama Review. He has been commissioned by the Mark Taper Forum, South Coast Repertory and Playwrights
Horizons. He is a Usual Suspect at New York Theatre Workshop and an alumnus of New Dramatists.

**Ariel Dorfman**

A Chilean-American citizen born in Argentina, Ariel Dorfman has been hailed as one of the most important Latin American novelists and social critics of his time for his many books, written both in English and Spanish and translated into more than 50 languages. His plays have been performed in over 100 countries, including “Death and the Maiden” (filmed in 1994 by Roman Polanski), “Purgatorio” and “Widows.” His play, “Speak Truth to Power: Voices from Beyond the Dark,” based on Kerry Kennedy’s book of interviews, premiered at the Kennedy Center with an all-star cast and has since been performed around the world. Dorfman’s poetry, essays, plays, and short stories have won numerous international awards, including the Olivier for best play and two distinctions from the Kennedy Center. Among his novels are *Konfidenz, Mascara,* and *Blake’s Therapy.* A Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Duke University, human rights activist, and contributor to major papers worldwide, he has authored two acclaimed memoirs: *Heading South, Looking North* and *Feeding on Dreams.* His latest works are the essay collection *Homeland Security Ate My Speech* and his novel, *Darwin’s Ghosts,* both of them dedicated to his wife Angélica, who has inspired his work for over fifty years.

**Rolando Estévez**

Born in Matanzas, Cuba, Rolando Estévez is a visual artist and poet who works in multiple mediums, including drawing, painting, installation, performance, stage design, and handmade book design. He teaches basic freestyle design and theater design in Matanzas, where he is a leading promoter and organizer of artistic events and alternative cultural activities. In the U.S., he has been invited to give presentations and workshops on design, Cuban art and culture, and his own work at De Paul University (Chicago), University of Michigan, Florida International University, Boston University, University of Missouri, University of Houston, Repertorio Español (New York), and the University of Southern California. His work has been celebrated with a special issue of
Afro-Hispanic Review (Fall 2012) and many awards, including the Cuban National Book Design Award in 2010, the Omar Valdés Special Prize for Theater in 2012, and the Distinción Hijo Ilustre de la Ciudad (Distinguished Citizen Award) from the city of Matanzas in 2012.

Between 1985 and 2013, Estévez created over 500 handmade artist books for Ediciones Vigía in Matanzas, Cuba, which are collected by the British National Library, the Atlantic Art Museum, the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), the U.S. Library of Congress, as well as numerous universities in the U.S., Canada and other countries in the Americas. At the University of Michigan, the Special Collections Library holds a major collection of these extraordinary books. Estévez is currently moving toward the production of limited edition as well as one-of-a-kind artist books at his own imprint, El Fortín, that are rapidly gaining recognition for their unique beauty and cultural poetics.

Catalina Gómez
Catalina Gómez is a reference librarian at the Library of Congress’ Hispanic Reading Room and the curator of the Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape (AHLOT), a historic literary audio archive containing recordings of prominent poets and prose writers from the Luso-Hispanic world reading from their works. For the past five years, she has been working on an effort to digitize and bring online access to this and other literary audio archives of the Library of Congress. In addition, Gómez is an outreach and event coordinator in the Library’s Hispanic Division, and serves as the recommending officer for collections from Colombia, Venezuela, as well as material on Latin American art for the LoC. She studied Visual Arts and Latin American Studies at the University of California San Diego, and obtained her Master’s Degree in Visual Culture at the University of Barcelona, Spain.

José Miguel Sánchez Gómez (Yoss)
Yoss is a world renowned author of science fiction and fantasy. He was born in Havana, Cuba, where, since 1993, he has garnered prizes for his short stories, science fiction, erotica, and novels. His work has been translated into a dozen languages
around the world and, apart from being featured in international anthologies, he has been the editor of numerous collections of fantasy, science fiction, and short stories. For many years he was the editor-in-chief of The H, a bilingual magazine dedicated to contemporary literature in Havana. He is the winner of the David Award for science fiction, the Ernest Hemingway Prize, and the Julia Verlanger award, among many other citations and prizes. He has taught seminars, workshops, and overseen international events in France, Spain, Chile, England, Italy, Venezuela, and Ecuador. For almost a decade, he was the primary vocalist for the heavy metal band Tenaz.

Rodrigo Hasbún
Rodrigo Hasbún is a Bolivian novelist living and working in Houston. In 2007, he was selected by the Hay Festival as one of the best Latin American writers under the age of thirty-nine for Bogotá39, and in 2010 he was named one of Granta’s Best Young Spanish-Language Novelists. He is the author of two novels, El lugar del cuerpo (The Body’s Place), Affections, and three collections of short stories, two of which have been made into films. His work has appeared in Granta, McSweeney’s, Zoetrope: All-Story, Words Without Borders, and elsewhere. Affections received an English PEN Award and has been published in twelve languages.

Santiago Roncagliolo
With bracing psychological suspense and black humor, Santiago Roncagliolo, who was born in Lima in 1975, writes about fear, both in Latin American history and in daily life. In the United States he is known for his novel, Red April (which won the coveted Alfaguara Prize as well as the British Independent Prize of Foreign Fiction) and the short stories in Hi, This is Conchita, both translated by the award-winning Edith Grossman. Roncagliolo is also author of the historical novel Memorias de una dama, which has been called “the last censored book in Latin America.” Granta magazine has called him one of the most prominent Spanish language writers of his generation. The Wall Street Journal named him a future Gabriel García Márquez. The Guardian proclaimed Red April one the best novels about Peru ever translated to English. Roncagliolo lives and works in Barcelona.
**Esmeralda Santiago**

Esmeralda Santiago is the best-selling author of three acclaimed and ground-breaking memoirs: *When I Was Puerto Rican, Almost A Woman*—adapted into a Peabody Award-winning film for PBS Masterpiece Theater—and *The Turkish Lover*. She has also written the illustrated children’s book, *A Doll for Navidades*, and is co-editor of the anthologies *Las Christmas: Favorite Latino Authors Share Their Holiday Memories* and *Las Mamis: Favorite Latino Authors Remember their Mothers*. Her novel *América’s Dream*, was recently adapted into a film. Her latest book is a historical novel, *Conquistadora*, which one reviewer called Puerto Rico’s *Gone With the Wind*. Her work has been translated into fifteen languages. Actress, activist, and beloved storyteller, Santiago has just finished a new novel, due to be published soon.

**Natasha Trethewey**

Natasha Trethewey served two terms as the 19th Poet Laureate of the United States (2012-2014). She is the author of four collections of poetry, *Thrall* (2012), *Native Guard* (2006), for which she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, *Bellocq’s Ophelia* (2002); and *Domestic Work* (2000) which was selected by Rita Dove as the winner of the inaugural Cave Canem Poetry Prize for the best first book by an African American poet and won both the 2001 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Book Prize and the 2001 Lillian Smith Award for Poetry. Her book of nonfiction, *Beyond Katrina: A Meditation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast*, appeared in 2010. She is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Beinecke Library at Yale, and the Bunting Fellowship Program of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard. At Northwestern University she is a Board of Trustees Professor of English in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. In 2012 she was named Poet Laureate of the State of Mississippi and in 2013 she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

**TICKET INFORMATION**

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