

El Departamento de Drama de la Universidad de Puerto Rico presenta a:

# COMBATE HIPPIES en AMAL

Teatro Julia de Burgos

26 y 27 de abril de 2024

8:00pm

Donativo Sugerido \$10

Direction and Dramaturgy by award-winning theater artist, Teo Castellanos,  
Written and Performed by military/war veterans Combat Hippies, with a head  
bangin' original AfroRican Punk soundtrack, produced by DJ Brimstone 127  
and live music by TAMBUYE.

AMAL examines the impact of war with equal parts humor and urgency. It  
explores the quest for meaning, purpose and identity sought through  
enlisting in the military and shares the unifying experiences of combatants  
and noncombatants as people of color. Tough and tender, AMAL relays stories  
of veterans', refugees' and civilians' adjustment to life after war. This all Puerto  
Rican theater company, places Puerto Rico's colonial status, cultural and  
military heritage center stage.+





**Combat Hippies** is an ensemble of Puerto Rican military veteran performing artists based in Miami, Florida. Formed during a creative writing workshop for veterans in 2015 which culminated with their inaugural theater piece “Conscience Under Fire”, they have since developed multiple evenings of spoken word and music, generative approaches to workshops designed toward healing, community engagement offerings and more. The company focuses on works about combatants as people of color, and shares experiences of veteran’s adjustments to life after war as well as that of civilians from war-torn countries. Their work also explores the search for meaning, purpose, and identity through enlisting in the military, as well as Puerto Rico’s cultural and military heritage. The Combat Hippies are funded through generous support from the Knight Foundation, National Performance Network (NPN), New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), National Ensemble of Theaters (NET), and the MAP Fund.

## AMAL Synopsis

A provocative and inspiring spoken-word theater piece that delves into the societal impact of war. Direction and dramaturgy by award-winning theater artist, Teo Castellanos, written and performed by military/war veterans Combat Hippies, with a head bangin’ original AfroRican Punk soundtrack, produced by DJ Brimstone127 and live percussion by Angel Ruben Rodriguez Sr. AMAL examines the impact of war with equal parts humor and urgency. It explores the quest for meaning, purpose and identity sought through enlisting in the military and shares the unifying experiences of combatants and noncombatants as people of color. Tough and tender, AMAL relays stories of veterans’, refugees’ and civilians’ adjustment to life after war. This all-Puerto Rican theater company, places Puerto Rico’s colonial status, cultural and military heritage center stage. AMAL was originally developed for MDC Live Arts at Miami Dade College.

# THE CAST & ARTIST CREATORS

## TEO CASTELLANOS

Artistic Director/Direction & Dramaturgy



an independent actor/writer/director, who the past 25 years has worked solely in devised theater, film and television. Teo is a Doris Duke Artist 2021, United Artist Fellow 2019, and a Sundance Institute Screen Writers Intensive Fellow 2015. His award – winning solo NE 2nd Avenue, commission by Miami Light Project, toured extensively for a decade and won the Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Scotland 2003. He is the recipient of several awards and grants including the National Latinx Theater Initiative, National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts, MAP Fund, National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures, National Performance Network, Knight New Works, Knights Arts Challenge, Knight Foundation People's Choice Award, Miami – Dade County Cultural Affairs and also won the State of Florida Individual Artist Fellowship 2005 and 2013. Teo's most Recent Solo, Third Trinity, was directed by long – time collaborator and Oscar winner Tarell Alvin McCraney. He founded the Dance/Theater Company Teo Castellanos D – Projects in 2003 and is also Artistic Director of the devised theater company Combat Hippies. Teo has toured solo, and company works throughout the US, Europe, South America, China, and the Caribbean. Some acting credits include playing Elegba in Alvin McCraney's The Brothers Size (Miami), and Santos in The Hitlitt Empire's Skeletons of Fish (London). Film Credits include playing opposite Matt Dillon in Sunlight Jr. and opposite John Leguizamo in Empire. Teo is a member of the SAG/AFTRA, an Association Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers, and holds a BFA in Theater from Florida Atlantic University. Teo is an ordained Zen practitioner and belongs to the 44th generation of the Vietnamese Lineage of the Lam Te (Lin Ji) Zen School. He has worked as a volunteer at Everglades Correctional Institute teaching both Theater and Zen.

## GARY LUND

Light Design & Stage Manager

is the President of Anchor Arts Management, Inc. a full-service production management organization devoted to the performing arts. Mr. Lund is a production manager, light designer and stage manager with International, National and Miami artists in dance, theater and music. Mr. Lund has toured with several artists in numerous concert halls and festivals throughout the United States, Europe, South America, the Caribbean, Russia and China. Mr. Lund's professional career spans over 4 decades.



## ANGEL R. RODRIGUEZ SR

Percussionist & Performer

is an interdisciplinary musician/teacher/actor/poet/visual artist and advocate, who navigates the creative realms between Brooklyn, NY, Puerto Rico and the world. His diverse practice in music form delves into themes of race, migration, memory, sacred materiality, and identity, as well as preservation of who is who in the creation of music in the Americas. Angel's unique blend of music recordings redefines traditional cultures, constructing in music immersive environments that provide cultural and historical context for the socio-political challenges faced by Puerto Rican communities in both the Puerto Rico's archipelago and New York City. Angel has earned recognition in many areas including: GZA Genius (Wu-Tang Clan) & Punky Nomads, Roy Ayers, Big Daddy Kane – Sony Hall New York City 2023, The Combat Hippies – "AMAL", 2015 – present, LSymphony Space NYC – 2012, Luna Lauren Velez, "They Call Me La Lupe" – 2011, amongst others.

# THE CAST & ARTIST CREATORS



## SETH "BRIMSTONE" SCHERE

Music Producer

is a dynamic leader, educator, activist and artist who embodies Hip Hop's "Can't stop, won't stop!" attitude. He us a Co-founder and Artistic Director of PATH: Preserving, Archiving and Teaching Hip Hop, Inc. He has written and been featured in several articles on Hip Hop culture and education and has served as a lecturer and specialist on Hip Hop history.

## ANTHONY TORRES

Executive Director/Writer & Performer

was born in Brooklyn and raised in Utica, New York. He joined the U.S. Army in 1999 as a Civil Affairs Specialist, and later as a Mental Health Specialist. His enlistment included a yearlong deployment to Abu Ghraib Prison, Iraq where he provided mental health treatment to U.S. troops and Iraqi detainees. After the military he relocated to Miami, Florida to continue his education. He earned a Master's degree in Social Work from Barry University in 2016. Torres is a 2023/24 Intercultural Leadership Institute (ILI) Fellow, a 2022/23 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Veteran Fellow, a 2022 National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC) Leadership Institute Fellow, and a 2021 Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow.



## HIPÓLITO ARRIAGA III

Writer & Performer

the South Florida based performance artist, was born and raised in the South Bronx, New York City. At age 19 he enlisted in the Marine Corps, deploying twice to Iraq, and separating honorably after four years. In 2015, he co – founded Combat Hippies, a military veteran theater company. Serving as co – writer and performer for the company's two performance pieces, "Conscience Under Fire", and "AMAL". Hipólito has an undergraduate degree in Theatre from Nova Southeastern University.



# THE CAST & ARTIST CREATORS

**KARLELE LEVY (KRELWEAR)**  
Wardrobe Design

**NOUR HUDAINI**  
Voiceover

## MUSICIAN CREDITS

**TALLÉ TAMBUYÉ**  
Live Music

**JODY HILL**  
Drums

**NATALIE "NATTY" SCHERE**  
Bass

**BUFFALO BROWN**  
Guitar & Sound Effects

**LEO CASINO**  
Horns

**ANGEL R. RODRIGUEZ SR**  
Congas & Bata

**SETH "BRIMSTONE" SCHERE**  
Music Producer, Arranger, Engineer & Mixer

**TEO CASTELLANO**  
Co-producer

## SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

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**MIAMI FOUNDATION**  
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Photos & Video

**ROMAIN MAURICE**  
Photographer

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