

TEATRO EN EL BLANCO: *DICIEMBRE*

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TEATRO EN EL BLANCO: *DICIEMBRE*

Teatro en el Blanco Creative Team

Playwright and Director: Guillermo Calderón

Performed by: Paula Zúñiga, Trinidad González, Jorge Becker

Set and Design Concept: Teatro en el Blanco

Co-Producer: Festival Santiago a Mil

Lighting Technician: José Tomás González

Translator: Harley Erdman

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ABOUT TEATRO EN EL BLANCO AND *DICIEMBRE*

Teatro en el Blanco (comprising six creative team members) is the critically acclaimed avant-garde company led by playwright and director Guillermo Calderón. The company began in 2004, and immediately took Latin America by storm with their thought provoking, quick witted productions. Teatro en el Blanco is known for productions featuring intelligent, challenging dialogue about Chilean culture, politics and the artist's place in society. The phrase "Home for the Holidays" takes a poignantly funny turn in *Diciembre*, this provocative and unapologetic political comedy. *Diciembre* is currently touring the United States following acclaimed runs at international theater festivals in Chile, Spain, Montreal, and Vienna. Written and directed by award-winning Guillermo Calderón, *Diciembre* is part of a three week tour to Miami, Los Angeles and Denver.

Teatro en el Blanco has spent much of their career showing audiences world-wide the inner workings of Chilean society. Since its inception, the company has taken their work to Uruguay, Spain, Peru, Bolivia, Canada, USA, Portugal, France, Italy, Austria, Cuba, New York City and Moscow Theater Festival in 2010. With their many appearances abroad, Teatro en el Blanco has dedicated a large part of its theatrical activities to introducing cultures around the globe to Chilean theater, and to participating in the exchange of ideas with foreign audiences and their counter-part theater professionals in other countries.

In *Diciembre*, Calderon creates a fictional future from the realities of Chile's past relations with neighboring countries, such as Bolivia's gas embargoes on the country and investigations into former President Fujimori's crimes against humanity in Peru. The setting is Christmas Eve 2014, and Jorge, a young soldier fighting a (fictional) war between Chile and Peru, gets a short leave to celebrate with his overbearing and

pregnant twin sisters (Paula and Trinidad). The next day Jorge is expected to return to the war, which brings to life a lively and often painful debate between the insistent pacifist, Trinidad, and her nationalistic, sister Paula, who supports the war. The family functions as a foil for the country's social divisions around such universal issues as racism, protectionism and patriotism, and Jorge finds himself caught in the middle of two extremes just as the country so often has. The fact that the characters have the same names as the actors is by no means an accident, there are many personal and even auto-biographical elements to the production, designed to draw the audience deeper into the story which is, as Calderon says "about who we are as a country".

Teatro en el Blanco's six members are integral to the preservation of *Diciembre's* vision. The company's work is based on the collaboration of these six individuals, who have been working and studying together to bring to life this original play written by the company's founder Guillermo Calderon, and no member can be substituted out and still retain the artistic and cultural integrity of the original piece.

BIOGRAPHIES

Guillermo Calderón is a Chilean writer, director and acting teacher. He graduated with a degree in Arts specializing in Acting from the Universidad de Chile. He studied abroad graduating from Della'Arte School of Physical Theater in California, USA; and La Scuola Internazionale dell'Attore Comico, in Italy. He also has a Master of Liberal Arts with a specialization in Film, from the City University of New York. He has acted in many productions including *Manu Militari*, *Mala Onda*, *Cagliostro*, *El Señor Galíndez*, *Caricias*, *Perversion Sexual en Santiago*, *Despues de la Lluvia*, *Mad love and Golden State*, (the last three plays, performed in the United States). His directing credits include, *Mi Nombre Cuando Yo Ya No Existia*, *Trasatlantico*, *Platonov*, *The Chekhov Sisters*, *Las Amargas Lagrimas de Petra von Kant* and *La Caida de la Casa Usher* among others. His first play as a writer was *Neva*, which he also directed. The play won multiple awards including: Best play of the year in 2006 by the Circulo de Criticos de Arte (Art Reviewers), three Altazor Awards in 2007 including Best Director and Best Playwright and the 2008 Jose Nuez Martin Award given by the Facultad de Letras Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile (Catholic University of Chile). In 2008, *Clase*, also written and directed by Mr. Calderon won an award for Best Play and was nominated as Best Playwright for the Atazor Awards. In 2008 he wrote his newest work, *Diciembre* which he also directed.

Jorge Becker Reyes is an actor, founding member of Teatro en el Blanco, and holds a double degree in Theater Education and Films Studies from the Universidad Católica de Chile. He has also studied contemporary dance and taught voice for actors at the university level in Uruguay and Chile. He has toured with TEEB in their productions internationally.

Harley Erdman is a Professor of Theater at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. As a stage translator for both live performance and supertitles, he has translated contemporary Latin Americans plays by Vicente Leñero, Concepción León Mora, and Aristides Vargas, as well as Golden Age Spanish plays by Calderón, Lope de Vega and Tirso de Molina. He is completing an anthology of translations of plays by 17th-century Spanish women. He is the author of the book *Staging the Jew*, and librettist for the opera *The Captivation of Eunice Williams*. The article on the Yiddish play *God of Vengeance* won the Kahn Award for Outstanding Essay from the American Society for Theater Research. He is also a winner of the Association for Hispanic Classic Theater's Translation Prize. He wants to thank translator Isabel Ruiz, who created an initial version of the supertitles for *Diciembre*.

José Tomás González Jansana is a technical and musical director for theater and a musician. He is a flautist and percussionist that has studied at the Escuela Moderna de Musica de Santiago, Universidad Católica de Chile and abroad in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He has worked and toured as a musician with Ballet Flamenco Furia Flamenca, Antipodas, singer-songwriter Patricio Manns, Pedro Villagra and Laura Fuentes. He created his own musical group cal Cuecas Bravas, which plays traditional Chilean music, with whom he has recorded a CD entitled *Los Condenados*. He is an accomplished soloist and much sought after ensemble member, and has created original music for twelve pieces of theater, including those of Teatro en el Blanco.

Trinidad González Jansana is a founding member of Teatro en el Blanco and has worked with the Teatro Nacional de Chile, Compania Teatro Imagen and Teatro Ictus among others. Besides her role in the company as a member of the collective, she has directed theater, worked in film, and has traveled extensively with TEEB in their touring of the company's performances of *Neva* and *Diciembre*. She studied theater with Escuela Teatro Imagen, and has developed her work in physical theater and comedia del arte in Italy and the Della' Arte School in the United States. She also teaches at the Universidad Bolivariana in Santiago, Chile.

Paula Zúñiga Yanez is an actress, educator and a graduate of the school of Acting at the Universidad de Chile. Besides being a founding member of Teatro en el Blanco, she has also worked as an instructor at the University of Chile with a focus on movement for actors. Paula's specialization in her professional work includes extensive training in Grotowski technique, yoga and East Indian theater arts. As an actress she has won various prestigious awards in Chile for her work as an solo interpreter, as well as for her roles in Teatro en el Blanco's repertory. Besides her work for stage, which has toured throughout Latin America and Europe, she also works in television and film.

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