



GUILLERMO CALDERÓN
VILLA + DISCURSO

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presented by

REDCAT

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California Institute of the Arts

CaLARTS

GUILLERMO CALDERÓN

VILLA + DISCURSO

Playwright and Direction: Guillermo Calderón

Assistant Director: María Paz González

Performed by Carla Romero, Isabel Ruiz, and Macarena Zamudio

Design Concept: María Fernanda Videla

Running Time

Villa: 70 minutes

Discurso: 40 minutes

Villa + Discurso is co-production of the Foundation Festival Internacional Teatro a Mil. *Discurso* was developed in 2009 at the International Residency of the Royal Court Theatre of London.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Villa Grimaldi was the main torture and extermination center during Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship that subjugated Chile from 1973 to 1990. The intelligence services called it Cuartel Terranova. It is estimated that 5,000 detainees were brought and tortured in this center. At least two hundred of them "disappeared." Many of their bodies were thrown into the sea after being tortured to death.

Villa Grimaldi's buildings (particularly its Main House) were destroyed during the last days of the military dictatorship, presumably to destroy evidence of the crimes that were committed there. Nevertheless, at the end of the dictatorship period the survivors built in the empty land a memorial called "Villa Grimaldi Park for Peace."

Michelle Bachelet, president of the Republic of Chile from 2006 to 2010 was the first female president as well as the first direct victim of the human rights violations to become president.

In 1973, her father Alberto Bachelet, a general of the Chilean Air Force, was detained because of his loyalty to the democratic president Salvador Allende. He died soon after being tortured in jail. Afterwards, Michelle Bachelet and her mother were arrested for many days at Villa Grimaldi.

In 1998, Pinochet was arrested in London at the request of Spanish Judicial authorities for crimes against humanity. Once in Chile, his lawyers pleaded “moderate dementia” and the trial was suspended.

A few days before leaving the presidency, Michelle Bachelet confronted the crisis caused by the worst earthquake in Chile in the past 50 years.

—Guillermo Calderón

SYNOPSIS

Villa + Discurso are different plays, linked by a dialogue of ideas and recurring images. Both are represented consecutively, separated by a 10-minute intermission. In *Villa*, three women discuss alternatives to remodel Villa Grimaldi, the main torture and extermination center during Pinochet’s dictatorship. *Discurso* stages an imaginary farewell speech by President Michelle Bachelet, performed by the same three actresses.

ABOUT TEATRO PLAYA

Teatro Playa was founded with the creation of *Villa + Discurso* by Guillermo Calderón, Francisca Lewin, and Macarena Zamudio. After the premiere in Santiago de Chile, performed in several emblematical repression places and former centers of torture, within the context of the Santiago a Mil Festival, *Villa + Discurso* have been presented worldwide: Sao Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Brasilia and Rio Preto, Brazil; Montevideo, Uruguay; Buenos Aires, Argentina at the International Theater Festival, and several European cities, including Cádiz, Spain at the Iberoamerican Theater Festival; Bayonne, France at the Les Translatines Festival; Lisbon, Portugal; Düsseldorf, Germany; Vienna, Austria at the Festwochen Vienna Festival; Edinburgh International Festival in Scotland; Théâtre de la Ville at the Festival d’Automne de Paris, among others.

BIOGRAPHIES

Guillermo Calderón (1971) 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 wrote and directed *Neva, Dicembre*

and *Clase*. His productions have been performed in more than twenty-five countries. His work, *Villa + Discurso*, has been invited to participate in various international theater festivals during the last three years.

Macarena Zamudio (1980) studied acting at the Universidad Católica de Chile Theater School and filmmaking at the Escola de Mitjans Audiovisual Nou Prodigí in Barcelona. Macarena received her MA in Visual Arts from the Universidad de Chile. As director and dance video filmmaker, her works have been exhibited in many international festivals. As an actress she has worked with Marcapaso Theater company for many years and is currently touring with *Villa + Discurso*.

Isabel Ruiz (1981) was born in Gothenburg, Sweden. She studied acting at "La Mancha" International School of Image and Gesture, focused on the French Le Coq theater method. Soon after graduating, she explored street and physical theater techniques. Isabel has worked as an actress in a wide range of theatre styles with a special emphasis on use of the voice on stage, in song and speech. Her experience also includes soap operas and other TV series. She currently teaches English and Speaking Skills at the Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez.

Carla Romero Martínez (1980) is an actress trained at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. From 2003 to 2011, Carla worked with "Gran Circo Teatro" Theater Company as part of the *Negra Ester* cast. During this time she also attended several acting, voice and dance seminars at "Teatro La Memoria" investigation Center. Currently she is touring *Villa + Discurso* and is also the Assistant Director of *Amores de Cantina* by Juan Radrigán, directed by Mariana Muñoz.

María Fernanda Videla Urra (1986) studied acting at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile Theater School. She has worked as a film and stage actress. She is currently developing her career as a Stage Designer with several emerging Chilean companies. *Villa + Discurso* is her first design work that has toured internationally.

María Paz González (1985) studied acting at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile Theater School. Since graduating she has been dedicated to the creation of theater productions. She is currently the producer and assistant director of *Villa + Discurso*.