

# REDCAT

ROY AND EDNA DISNEY/CALARTS THEATER

**NEWS RELEASE**

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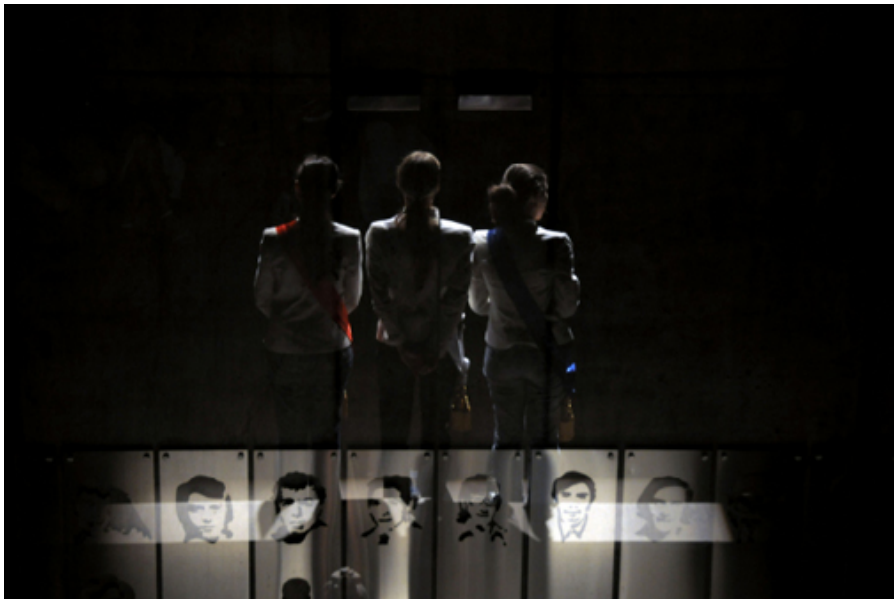
**CHILEAN WRITER/DIRECTOR GUILLERMO CALDERÓN  
RETURNS TO LOS ANGELES WITH A PAIR OF GRIPPING  
NEW THEATRICAL WORKS EXPLORING CHILE'S  
TUMULTUOUS POLITICAL LEGACIES...**

REDCAT presents

## **GUILLERMO CALDERÓN: *VILLA + DISCURSO***

<http://www.redcat.org/event/guillermo-calderon>

**U.S. Premiere, April 25 – 28, 2013**



**LOS ANGELES, CA**—REDCAT, CalArts' downtown center for contemporary arts, presents the U.S. premiere of a new pairing of theatrical works by acclaimed Chilean writer and director

Guillermo Calderón. Performed in Spanish with English titles, *Villa + Discurso* will take place at REDCAT (Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater) on Thursday, April 25 through Saturday, April 27, 2013 at 8:30 pm, and Sunday, April 28, 2013 at 3:00 pm.

A chilling and provocative theatrical exploration of the lingering impact of Chile's tumultuous political past, the powerful double-bill *Villa + Discurso* had its 2011 premiere in Santiago, performed on the site of the Villa Grimaldi, where an estimated 5,000 people were detained and many tortured and "disappeared" during the Pinochet dictatorship. In *Villa*, three women discuss the future of the site where the notorious building once stood. Should there be a memorial to the crimes committed there? How should we remember the violence of the state?

In *Discurso*, the same three actresses share the role of Michelle Bachelet, Chile's president from 2006 to 2010, to deliver an imagined farewell speech that abandons diplomatic parlance to reveal a leader's aspirations, failures and humanity, amid the mechanizations of political life. Bachelet and her mother were detained and tortured at Villa Grimaldi in 1975, and her father is believed to have died of torture in 1974. Bachelet announced on March 27, 2013 that she is running for president of Chile in this November's election.

Calderón's lean, literary theater works are powerful explorations of political legacies distilled into tightly wrought drama. The U.S. premiere of *Villa + Discurso* marks Calderón's third visit to REDCAT, which previously hosted *Diciembre* (Feb 2010) and *Neva* (June 2011), both performed by Teatro en el Blanco. Reflecting on the U.S. premiere of Calderón's first play *Neva* at 2011's RADAR L.A. festival, Los Angeles Times theater critic Charles McNulty wrote, "What I'll treasure most from my Radar L.A. theatergoing was... [Neva], constructed like a self-fueling theatrical machine, culminates in a cascading monologue of revolutionary fervor that is, in its critique of bourgeoisie stage pretension, unlike anything else I've experienced in the theater."

*Villa + Discurso* have also prompted enthusiastic responses from critics during recent international tours to some of the most prestigious theaters and festivals in Latin America and Europe:

"Calderón's acute reflection on the painful and unresolved aspects of Chilean society constructs a point of view as sober as it is exceptional, and *VILLA + DISCURSO* places him as the most outstanding, suggestive and original protagonist in our contemporary theatre." —*La Tercera*

"... Examines the shards of memory that stab at the heart of a nation unable to forget...The piece is both impassioned and wry – particularly in its satirical take on the nature of memorials to horror – and while it offers a glimpse of the future for survivors and their relatives, it also points up how hard it is to stop picking at the scars of the past." —*The Guardian*

"Finely played, humane and without self-pity ... unexpectedly funny moments are followed by references that freeze our smiles." —*Financial Times* (London)

"... An impassioned diptych ... a superb poem for three voices." —*The Scotsman*

For more information and tickets, visit the event webpage on REDCAT.ORG:

<http://www.redcat.org/event/guillermo-calderon>

To request press accommodations, CDs, interviews, additional information, media or images, please contact Diana Wyenn at 213 237-2873 or [dwyenn@calarts.edu](mailto:dwyenn@calarts.edu).

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### **ABOUT GUILLERMO CALDERÓN**

Guillermo Calderón is a playwright and director based in Santiago, Chile, whose plays have extensively toured the world. He graduated with a degree in Arts specializing in Acting from the Universidad de Chile. He studied abroad graduating from the 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 Art Critics Circle of Chile, 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, he debuted *Clase*, also written and directed by Mr. Calderón. *Clase* is the second play by Mr. Calderón to win Best Play of the Year (Art Critics Circle of Chile) and was nominated as Best Playwright for the Altazor Awards. In 2008 he wrote *Diciembre*, which he also directed. *Diciembre*, like *Neva*, swept up multiple awards, among them the 2010 Bank of Scotland Angel Award (Edinburgh Fringe Festival). His latest plays are the duo of *Villa* and *Discurso*. *Discurso* was developed at the International Residency at the Royal Court. They premiered in Chile at the international festival Santiago A Mil, and then went on to run at the Memory Museum in Santiago. He recently worked on the screenplay for *Violeta (se fue a los cielos)*, Chile's 2012 entry for the Oscar Awards in the Foreign Film category.

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### **TICKETS & INFORMATION**

#### **Guillermo Calderón: *Villa + Discurso***

Date(s)/Time(s):

Thursday, April 25, 2013 at 8:30 pm

Friday, April 26, 2013 at 8:30 pm

Saturday, April 27, 2013 at 8:30 pm

Sunday, April 28, 2013 at 7:00 pm

Ticketing:

\$20-25 general (\$16-20 members & students)

Seating is general admission and tickets are available for purchase in person at REDCAT Box Office, by phone at 213-237-2800, or online at [redcat.org](http://redcat.org).

REDCAT's Box Office is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from noon until 6 pm or two hours prior to curtain. Group, member, student and CalArts faculty/staff discounts available.

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### **ABOUT REDCAT | THE ROY AND EDNA DISNEY/CALARTS THEATER**

REDCAT, CalArts' downtown center for contemporary arts, presents a dynamic and international mix of innovative visual, performing and media arts year round. Located inside the iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall complex in downtown Los Angeles, REDCAT houses a modular theater, a 3,000-square-foot gallery space and a lounge. Through performances, exhibitions, screenings, and literary events, REDCAT introduces diverse audiences, students and artists to the most influential developments in the arts from around the world, and gives artists in this region the creative support they need to achieve national and international stature. REDCAT continues the tradition of the California Institute of the Arts, its parent organization, by encouraging experimentation, discovery and lively civic discourse.

For current program and exhibition information call 213-237-2800 or visit [redcat.org](http://redcat.org).

REDCAT is located in downtown Los Angeles inside the Walt Disney Concert Hall complex with a separate entrance at the corner of West 2nd and Hope Streets. REDCAT's street address is 631 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles CA 90012. Parking is available in the Walt Disney Concert Hall parking structure. \$9 event rate or \$5 for vehicles entering after 8:00 pm on weekdays.

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### **MEDIA CONTACT**

Diana Wyenn

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