

## New adaptation of the tragedy Yerma kicks off the 40th anniversary

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Washington, DC - GALA Hispanic Theatre begins its ¡Viva los 40! anniversary season with the world premiere of a new adaptation of *Yerma*, a dramatic tragic poem written in 1934 by the renowned Spanish poet and writer **Federico García Lorca**. *Yerma* will be performed in Spanish with English surtitles from September 10 through October 4, 2015 at GALA Theatre, 3333 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, D.C., one block away from the Columbia Heights metro station on the Green/Yellow lines. Discounted parking is available behind the theater at the Giant Food garage.

In this new adaptation by the Spanish playwright **Fernando J. López**, the cast has been reduced to five characters: Yerma, Juan, Victor, Dolores and María. This concentration of characters heightens the oppression of a loveless marriage, forbidden desires and repressive society faced by Yerma in her rural environment and underscores how even today women face the tension between motherhood and their role in society. A playwright who has had numerous productions in Spain, López is also a published novelist and a noted scholar in Europe and the United States.

*Yerma* is directed by **José Luis Arellano García**, an acclaimed stage and television director from Madrid. Since 2009, he has directed *El caballero de Olmedo*, *Ay, Carmela!* and *Cabaret Barroco*, among others, at GALA.

Featured in the cast are Spanish actors **Mabel del Pozo** as Yerma and **Iker Lastra** as Victor. A stage, film and television actor, Del Pozo has appeared in many plays in Spain, including *Manlet*, *Excalibur* and *El hidalgo caballero de la Mancha*; and currently appears in the popular Spanish television series *Acacias 38*. Lastra, who appeared with Del Pozo in the television series *Hospital Central*, has performed in more than 30 theater, television and film productions, including *El lenguaje de tus ojos* and *Testigo de cargo*. He also appeared in the popular series *Amar a tiempos revueltos*.

Also appearing in *Yerma* are New York actors **Eric Robledo** (Juan) from Mexico, who is making his debut at GALA and **Natalia Miranda-Guzmán** (María) from Chile; and **Luz Nicolás** (Dolores), from Spain and now from the Washington area. Miranda-Guzmán appeared in GALA's acclaimed *House of the Spirits* and last season's *Los empeños de una casa*. Nicolás appeared last season in *Cancún*, *Mariela en el desierto*, and *Los empeños de una casa*.

Students matinees are on September 23, 24, 25 and 30, and on October 1 and 2 at 10:30 am.

Regular tickets are \$38 on Thursday evenings and Sundays, and \$42 on Friday and Saturday evenings. Senior tickets (65+) are \$26, and student and military tickets are \$20. To purchase tickets, call 202-234-7174, 800-494-8497, or visit [www.galatheatre.org](http://www.galatheatre.org). Tickets are also available on Goldstar.

**Press Night and Noche de GALA is on Saturday, September 12**, under the gracious patronage of the Ambassador of Spain Ramón Gil-Casares. This production is supported by the Embassy of Spain in Washington, DC, SPAIN arts & culture, [Acción Cultural Española](http://www.accioncultural.es) through its *Programa de Internacionalización de la Cultura Española* (PICE), and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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