

ALIENS: OUR STORY OF THE HUMAN RACE / Aliens: Nuestra historia sobre la raza humana

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Washington, DC – Paso Nuevo, GALA's Youth Arts Program, is proud to present **Aliens: Our Story of the Human Race / Aliens: Nuestra historia sobre la raza humana**, an evening of original works, on Friday, January 13, 2017 at 8 pm at GALA Theatre, 3333 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC. Performed in English with some Spanish, the presentation is directed by Quique Avilés and Matthew Vaky. The program is recommended for all ages. **Admission is free.**

When a group of teens meets some aliens in the woods one night, the teens try to convey what makes them human. Through poetry, music, monologues, and songs, **Aliens: Our Story of the Human Race** examines human behavior and prompts the audience to ponder the question: *How is it that our species can be so kind, loving and caring, and at the same time produce so much pain and misery for others?*

"This session," states Director Quique Avilés, "we have a new group of young people writing and performing their first show at GALA, but our role is the same. Paso Nuevo remains a safe place for kids from all walks of life to come and deal with their own lives and what's happening in the world around them. The group includes recently-arrived immigrants from Central America who are part of the latest wave of people fleeing violence in that region. It also includes the children of African- Americans with roots in the city and who grew up exposed to Latinos."

The Paso Nuevo participants are Mason Berry, Jordan Berry, Melissa Cadena, José Coca, Christian Díaz, Jason Flores, Jocelyn Gonzales, Fátima Gabriela González Cruz, Karina González, Christy Lara, Tania Latin, Marselina López, Felicia Miranda, Te'Wan Moses, Darcy Rodríguez, Jacqueline Sibrián, and Michael Ventura.

Following the performance and prior to the talk-back, the State Farm® Youth Advisory Board will present Paso Nuevo with a \$44,730 grant to support the organization. Paso Nuevo is one of 63 community organizations that will receive a grant from the Youth Advisory Board, which is comprised of 30 students from across the country and provides a total of more than \$5 million in financial support to service-learning programs across the country.

GALA Theatre is located at 3333 14th Street, NW in Washington, DC. Parking is available behind the theater in the Giant Food garage on Park Road, NW. The theater is one block north of the Columbia Heights Metro station on the Yellow and Green lines. For more information, call 202-234-7174 or visit www.galatheatre.org

ABOUT PASO NUEVO

Now in its 24th year, Paso Nuevo is GALA's after-school workshop program for Latino and multi-cultural youth ages 13 to 18. The workshops are held throughout the year and provide a safe environment in which youth can explore issues of identity and cultural differences, articulate their values, increase self- esteem, and gain bilingual skills that will enhance their academic performance and future career opportunities. Additionally, the youth involved in this project control all aspects of the theatrical process, from conception to technical direction and marketing.

Paso Nuevo is made possible with generous support from, the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs, State Farm, The United Way of the National Capital area, Wells Fargo, and Events DC.

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CONTACT:

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