



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2015

Press Contact: Xavier Custodio

Artistic Director/Co-Founder

xmcustodio@visionlatino.com

Visión Latino Theatre Company Presents A Midwest Premiere of Migdalia Cruz's *Yellow Eyes*

(Chicago, IL) **Visión Latino Theatre Company (VLTC)** kicks off their Inaugural Season with The Midwest Premiere of **Migdalia Cruz's, *Yellow Eyes***. Performance of ***Yellow Eyes*** will be held at **Chicago Dramatists** (1105 W Chicago Ave.). **Visión Latino Theatre Company, Latinos with Vision**, is a new Theatre Company in Chicago promoting the talents of Latino Artist of Chicago through theatre. The Mission of Visión Latino Theatre Company is to bring awareness to Latinos past, present, and future through storytelling. Founded in August of 2014 by **Xavier Custodio, Yajaira Custodio, and Johnathan Nieves**, when the Co-Founders were working on a production called "In The Heights". They saw there was a need for Latino Artists to be able to celebrate their culture and share the struggles and perseverance of Latinos. ***Yellow Eyes*** was selected as the first play the theatre company does because it aligns with the Mission and Vision of VLTC.

About *Yellow Eyes*

Yellow Eyes tells a story of a young woman who walks the streets of the South Bronx at the risk of danger. The only safe place for Isabel is her great grandfather's home. He possesses the knowledge and wisdom that makes her proud of her cultural heritage. After learning that she is the daughter of three races- Taíno, African, and Hispanic, Isabel is empowered to articulate her diasporic identity and to wisely handle her racially mixed circle of friends. Not only does the show "Yellow Eyes" aligns with our vision and mission preserve and promote appreciation of the culture and arts of Puerto Rico and its African heritage.

Creative Team

Migdalia Cruz (Playwright) is an award-winning playwright who has written more than forty plays, operas, screenplays, and musicals including: *Fur*, *Miriam's Flowers*, and *Another Part of the House*, produced in venues as diverse as National Theater of Greece/Athens, Old Red Lion/London, Houston Grand Opera, Ateneo Puertorriqueño, & Latino Chicago Theater Company where she was writer-in-residence from 1991 to 1998. She has also translated three plays through the Lark's Mexico/US Word Exchange. She is an alumna of New Dramatists, was mentored by Maria Irene Fornés at INTAR, and her play, *El Grito Del Bronx*, was seen at NYU (4/08), at Milagro Theater (4/09, Portland, OR), and opened in Chicago at the Goodman Theater in a co-production of Teatro Vista and CollaborAction (7/09). *TWO ROBERTS: a Pirate-Blues Project* commissioned by the Lark with a

NYSCA grant received a studio workshop in February 2011. Her collection of plays published by NoPassport Press, entitled “*El Grito Del Bronx*,” features: *El Grito Del Bronx*, *Yellow Eyes*, *Salt*, and *Da Bronx Rocks*—a part of “*Song For New York: What Women Do While Men Sit Knitting*” presented by Mabou Mines. Migdalia was born and raised in the Bronx.

Xavier Custodio (Artistic Director/Director) is one of the Co-Founders of Visión Latino Theatre Company. Currently, Xavier is the Fine and Performing Arts Department Chair at South Shore International College Prep. Xavier Custodio holds a Bachelor of Music Education from VanderCook College of Music and a Master of Arts in School Leadership from Concordia University of Chicago. He has been in the following productions: *The Scarecrow* (Minster Dodge), *Rent* (Benny), *Godspell* (John the Baptist), *Man of La Mancha* (Juan), *Nine Lives: A Musical Web Series* (BFPS Manger), *Evita*, *Ragtime*, and *The Wiz*. His directing credit includes: *Fame*, and *In The Heights*. Also, he is a freelance trumpet player playing with different Latin Bands in Chicagoland Area. He also had the opportunity to play at Ravinia, St. Louis, Indiana, and Wisconsin. Xavier Custodio has trained with Randy Buescher (Your True Voice Studio) and Janet Louer (Acting).

Yellow Eyes cast includes Visión Latino’s Co-Founders Yajaira Custodio (Dolores), and Johnathan Nieves (José/Itan Durant). Jackie Seijo (Isabel Nieves), Armando Reyes (Don José María Sotillo), Joette Waters (Doña Ana Cecilia Sandoval de Sotillo), Tara Marie Smith (Sharon McNair), Creative Team includes Kris Tori (Stage Manger), Bari Fleischer (Set Designer), Gabriela Vazquez (Sound/Lights), and Ana Santos (Costume).

Schedule

Yellow Eyes runs from September 4, 2015 to September 20, 2015, with performance Friday-Saturday at 7:30pm and Sunday at 3:00pm.

Performance Calendar

September 4, 2015: Performance at 7:30pm

September 5 2015: Performance at 7:30pm

September 6, 2015: Performance at 3:00pm

September 10, 2015: Press and Opening Night Performance at 7:30pm

September 11, 2015: Performance at 7:30pm

September 12, 2015: Performance at 7:30pm

September 13, 2015: Performance at 3:00pm

September 18, 2015: Performance at 7:30pm

September 19, 2015: Performance at 7:30pm

September 20, 2015: Performance at 3:00pm

Press Night

Thursday, September 10, 2015 will be Press Night and the performance that evening will begin at 7:30pm. Please contact Xavier Custodio at xmcustodio@visionlatino.com to RSVP.

Tickets

Tickets for ***Yellow Eyes*** are \$20-\$30 and be purchase online at www.visionlatino.com (\$20) or in person an hour before the performance (\$30) located at Chicago Dramatists 1105 W. Chicago Ave.

About Visión Latino Theatre Company

Xavier Custodio, Yajaira Custodio, and Johnathan Nieves founded Visión Latino Theatre Company, Latinos with a Vision, in August of 2014. The theatre company was created when the Co-Founders were working on a production called "In The Heights" and they saw there was a need for Latino Artists to be able to celebrate their culture and share the struggles and perseverance of Latinos. Visión Latino Theatre Company seeks to break down racial boundaries and to open the minds of audiences to Latino struggles and perseverance through theatre.

###