

FRINGEARTS

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Images available upon request

Chilean Theater Maker's On-stage Revolution

Join Guillermo Calderón in a meeting of rebels planning to overthrow the government

PHILADELPHIA – FringeArts presents Chilean playwright and director **Guillermo Calderón's** new play ***Escuela* January 28-30, 2016**. This paramilitary meeting of dissidents planning to overthrow the Pinochet government takes place at FringeArts' waterfront headquarters, 140 N Columbus Blvd. (at Race St.). Tickets cost between \$15 and \$29 and are available by phone at 215-413-1318 or online at FringeArts.com.

In the late 1980s, the Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet submitted himself to an open plebiscite and lost. The mainstream narrative describes this process as a daring feat in which Chileans defeated the regime by peaceful means. But by giving up the presidency, the dictator secured his legacy by ensuring that all the reforms that he forced on the people were almost impossible to change by the new democratic government.

But there were dissidents, those who did not want to play into the dictatorship's plan. These dissidents created secret paramilitary schools in dining rooms all over the country in order to prepare for battle and depose the regime. *Escuela* takes you into one of those dining room meetings, where all the participants wear hoods to prevent potential betrayal by fellow revolutionaries. They share their secrets: how to use a gun, how to hide, how to build a bomb. And of course, how to justify the problem of killing and dying.

"I'm delighted by the idea of writing from history—by the idea of opening a history book and inside is a theatrical work," Calderón says of his writing process. "I thought it would be interesting to write and direct a play about how the dictatorship ended, about a generation who gave up everything in order to take down the regime but were erased from history because they engaged in violent political action."

Escuela takes on an extraordinary relevance after the Guillermo Reyes Rammsy's recent startling on-air confession to participating in the deaths of 18 opponents of Pinochet in the 1980s. After briefly complaining about a frustrated romance, he went on to describe a string of human rights abuses following Pinochet's military coup against the government of president Salvador Allende. Though verging on the absurd, Rammsy's confession is evidence that much of Chile's history is still hidden, and artists like Calderón are seeking to uncover its secrets.

This is the first FringeArts presentation of Guillermo Calderón. Dramaturg, curator, and FringeArts Programming Manager Sarah Bishop-Stone will be moderating a talkback with Calderón following the January 28th performance of *Escuela*.

ABOUT GUILLERMO CALDERON:

Chilean playwright and director **Guillermo Calderón** started his first company, Teatro en el Blanco, in 2004 with Trinidad González and two other actors who met while studying at the University of Chile. He is a screenwriter of *Violeta Se Fue a los Cielos* (*Violeta Went to Heaven*), the biopic of singer-songwriter Violeta Parra; the film was nominated for Best Foreign-Language Film at the 2012 Oscars. Teatro en el Blanco disbanded in 2014 after ten years of producing and touring across Europe and the United States with *Neva*, *Diciembre*, and *Villa + Discurso*, all written and directed by Calderón. His plays have been presented in more than twenty-five countries.

ABOUT FRINGEARTS:

FringeArts is one of the country's foremost centers for contemporary performing arts, showcasing arts innovators from around the globe and cultivating world-class Philadelphia-based artists. FringeArts plays a vital role in Philadelphia's vibrant artistic community by presenting a year-round programming series of cutting-edge dance, theater, and music performances presented at its striking venue on the Delaware waterfront; the annual Fringe Festival which takes over Philadelphia with hundreds of artistically daring and socially engaging performances; and by providing opportunities for Philadelphia artists to develop and showcase new work. FringeArts believes in art making that tests boundaries—inspiring new ideas, passionate discussion and conceptual thinking, all essential for a healthy and vibrant society.

FACT SHEET FOR *ESCUELA*

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

January 28 | 8:00pm

January 29 | 8:00pm

January 30 | 8:00pm

CREDITS

Escuela

Written and Directed by: Guillermo Calderón

Performed by: Camila Fernanda González, Carlos Alberto Ugarte, Maria Francisca Lewin, Andrew Laura Giadach, and Luis Enrique Cerda

Running time: 1 hour 40 minutes

This production includes loud gunshots using a prop.

TICKET INFORMATION

\$29 | \$20.30 for Members | \$15 for Students and Under-25

Call 215-413-1318 or visit www.fringearts.com to purchase tickets.

All year-round programming at FringeArts is supported by PNC Arts Alive.

CALENDAR LISTING (+/- 100 WORDS)

Join a paramilitary meeting of dissidents planning to overthrow the Pinochet government. Chilean playwright and director Guillermo Calderón's *Escuela* takes you one of the many dissident paramilitary meetings that occurred all over Chile in the years leading up to the open plebiscite that removed dictator Augusto Pinochet from power in 1990. Participants prepare for battle. They wear hoods for safety and share tactical secrets: How to use a gun, how to hide, how to make a bomb. And, of course, how to justify the problem of killing and dying.

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To request photos, interviews and more information please contact:

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