

GALA Hispanic Theatre's Paso Nuevo Youth Ensemble presents **RUNNING THE FIGHT** **Controlando la Pelea**

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Washington, DC - Paso Nuevo, GALA's Youth Arts Program, is proud to present **Running the Fight/Controlando la pelea**, original work by the Paso Nuevo Youth Ensemble on Friday, May 20, 2016 at 8 pm at the GALA Theatre. Directed by Quique Avilés and Matthew Vaky, **Running the Fight** addresses the issue of guns and gun violence and the impact on our community. The presentation is performed in English with some Spanish and contains strong language. **Admission is free.**

"The vast majority of those involved in Paso Nuevo," states director Quique Avilés, "have been touched in one way or another by guns and violence here or in our home countries. The culture of violence is not limited to the use of weapons, but also includes the physical and psychological abuse to which we are subjected on a daily basis. After much discussion and exploration during the process, the Paso Nuevo participants decided to write individually or in teams the monologues and scenes that will be presented in **Running the Fight.**"

The Paso Nuevo Youth Ensemble includes Gabriela Barahona, Dalila Bermúdez, José Coca, Jason Gómez, Ulyssia Govan, Joselin Guevara, Alyson Liset Franco, Chris Martínez, Josse Martínez, Kevin Najera, Olaedo, Clarke Paty, Pamela Jocelyn Rodríguez, Michelle Vásquez, and Kevin Machuca Villatoro.

Special guest artists for the evening are Raymond Barquero and Elijah Lenix of The Aged Out Poets (Words, Beats and Life) and Michelle Vasquez and Clarke Paty, pianists from the Duke Ellington School of the Arts.

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 23rd 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 a recipient of the 2012 National Arts & Humanities Youth Arts Program Award by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities.

Paso Nuevo is made possible with generous support from The DC Trust, the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs, and Wells Fargo. Paso Nuevo is also supported in part by the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures, the Ford Foundation, and the Surdna

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