

Teatro de la Luna

—al mejor estilo latinoamericano
—with the best Latin American flavor

4020 Georgia Avenue, NW • Washington, DC 20011 • (202) 882-6227 • Fax:
(202) 291-2357

Press Release – For Immediate release
May 2, 2017

Contact: Nucky Walder
Tel: 202-882-6227

WHAT: Teatro de la Luna 25th Poetry Marathon (*in Spanish*)

WHO: Rodrigo Balam (Mexico)
Elena Medel (España)
João Luís Barreto Guimarães (Portugal)
José Marmol (Dominican Republic)
Mario Bencastro (El Salvador / United States)
Ricardo Ballón (Bolivia / United States)
Tracy Lewis (United States / Paraguay)
Yrene Santos (Dominican Republic / United States)

WHEN/WHERE:

Friday, June 9, 2017 (1:30-3:30 p.m.)

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

James Madison Building (Mary Pickford Theater, Third floor)
Independence Ave. & 1st Street SE, Washington, DC 20540
(*Capitol South Metro – Blue, Orange & Silver Lines*)

Saturday, June 10, 2017 (2:00-8:00 p.m.)

SPAIN ARTS AND CULTURE

Former Residence of the Ambassadors of Spain
2801 16th Street NW | Washington, D.C. 20009
(*Columbia Heights Metro - Green & Yellow Lines*)

TICKETS: FREE (donations welcomed)

INFO: 202-882-6227 / 703-548-3092 or www.teatrodelaluna.org

25th Poetry Marathon *The Pen and the Word [in Spanish]*

Teatro de la Luna is proud to announce its 25th Poetry Marathon in Spanish, *La Pluma y la Palabra* (The Pen and the Word) **June 9-10, 2017**. The event is among several each year that support La Luna's mission to promote Hispanic culture and foster cross-cultural understanding between the Spanish and English-speaking communities in the national capital area.

The poetry marathon, a groundbreaking event in the United States, brings together

recognized Spanish American poets –both in and outside the United States– to share their work with Washington, DC poetry community. This year’s marathon includes readings by poets Balam Rodrigo (Mexico), Elena Medel (España), Jose Luís Barreto Guimaraes (Portugal), José Marmol (Dominican Republic), Mario Bencastro (El Salvador / United States), Ricardo Ballón (Bolivia / United States), Tracy Lewis (United States / Paraguay), and Yrene Santos (Dominican Republic / United States).

The marathon kicks off at the **Library of Congress** on Friday, **June 9**, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. On **June 10**, **Centro Cultural de España** (2801 16th Street NW | Washington, D.C. 20009) hosts the marathon, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission to all the events is free of charge.

Poet and Professor Rei Berroa from George Mason University coordinates the marathon, which also features open-mike poetry sessions. Those wishing to participate should submit their poems in Spanish to Teatro de la Luna via fax (202-291-2357) or by email at info@teatrodelaluna.org by May 20.

TEATRO DE LA LUNA’S XXV POETRY MARATHON PARTICIPATING POETS

Ricardo Ballón was born in Bolivia. He writes poetry, short stories, and newspaper articles. He studied Social Communication at Universidad Católica Boliviana. His books of poetry include: *Cabriolario* (2001), *El diario de la sombra* (2016), *Libro de Haiku: O-ir al arroyo* (2016). His work appears in anthologies such as: *Hipótesis* (Bolivia, 1977), *The Americas Poetry Festival* (New York, 2013), *Muerte y poesía* (Mexico, 2016).

João Luís Barreto Guimarães was born in Porto, Portugal (1967) where he graduated in Medicine (he is a Breast Reconstructive Surgeon). As a writer, he is the author of 9 poetry books, collected twice, including his first 7 books, in “Poesia Reunida” (“Collected Poetry”, Lisbon, 2011) and the subsequent “Você Está Aqui” (“You Are Here”, Lisbon, 2013) and “Mediterrâneo” (Lisbon, 2016). He is also a translator, a chronicler, and a blogger (“Poesia & Lda.” [“Ilimited Poetry”]).

Mario Bencastro (El Salvador). Has written narrative, theater, and poetry. His narrative has received several awards, among them the 2016 International Latino Book Award for *La mansión del olvido*. Other novels include: *La encrucijada*, *Disparo en la catedral*, *Odissea del Norte y Paraíso portátil*. In *Waves of the East River*, Bencastro recreates the painful memory of Wall Street as Whitman and Lorca did before him.

Tracy K. Lewis is Distinguished Teaching Professor at SUNY-Oswego. Writing in English, Spanish, and Guaraní, his books of poetry include: *Gesta de colibrí*, *Piel de latitudes*, and *Desembocando en palabra*, as well as the collection of essays: *Tojojuhu ñe’ê: meditaciones de un norteamericano sobre el Paraguay*. In 2012 he was awarded the Paraguayan Ministry of Education Medal. He has translated into English works by Juan Manuel Marcos and Renée Ferrer.

José Mármol (Dominican Republic, 1960). Poet and literary critic, Mármol is a Full Member of the Dominican Academy of Sciences (2007). Among his literary awards, he received the Salomé Ureña de Poesía (1987 and 2007), the Casa de América Poetry (Madrid 2012) and the Premio Nacional de Literatura (2013), highest honor given to a Dominican writer. He is Honorary Humanities Professor at Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo-UASD (2013).

Elena Medel (Córdoba, España 1985) collected all her published poetry in *Un día negro en una casa de mentira* (Visor, 2015). She is also author of the collection of essays *El mundo mágico. Cómo vivir con Antonio Machado* (Ariel, 2015) and *50 cosas que hay que saber sobre poesía* (Ariel, 2017). She is also editor of La Bella Varsovia and coordinates the project *Cien de cien*. Her poetry has been translated into a dozen languages.

Balam Rodrigo (Villa de Comaltitlán, Soconusco, Chiapas, 1974). Poet Balam is a former football player, biologist, and pastor. He is the author, among many books of poetry, of: *Logomaquia* (Puerto Rico, 2012), *Braille para sordos* (2013), *El órgano inextirpable del sueño* (Guatemala, 2015), *El corazón es una jaula de relámpagos* (España, 2015), *Desmemoria del rey sonámbulo* (2015), *Iceberg negro* (2015), and *Bardo. Pequeña antología* (Chile, 2016).

Yrene Santos (Dominican Republic, 1963) teaches at City University of New York (CUNY) and St. John's University. She has published: *Septiembre casi termina* (2016), *Por el asombro* (2015), *Me sorprendió geométrica* (New York, 2013), *Después de la lluvia* (Dominican Republic, 2009) y *Por si alguien llega* (New York, 2009), *El incansable juego* (Dominican Republic, 2002), *Reencuentro* (New York, 1997), *Desnudez del silencio* (Dominican Republic, 1988).

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 202-882-6227 / 703-548-3092

Email: info@teatrodelaluna.org www.teatrodelaluna.org

Teatro de la Luna is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization 501 (c) (3) supported in part by Arlington Cultural Affairs Division of Arlington Economic Development, Arlington Commission for the Arts, Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs (OLA), private foundations, corporations, embassies and individual donors.

The 25th Poetry Marathon receives the support of BANCO POPULAR DOMINICANO
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.