AMAL

Part of Reflections of Native Voices
Direction and Dramaturgy by Teo Castellanos
Written and Performed by Combat Hippies

The Downstairs
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
January 9 - 10, 2020
AMAL

Teo Castellanos – Artistic Director/Direction & Dramaturgy
Anthony Torres – Executive Director/Writer & Performer
Hipólito Arriaga – Writer & Performer
Angel R. Rodriguez Sr. – Percussionist & Performer

Gary Lund – Light Design & Stage Manager
Seth “Brimstone” Schere – Music Producer
Karelle Levy (Krelwear) – Wardrobe Design
Nour Hudaini – Voiceover

Musician Credits
- Drums – Jody Hill
- Bass – Natalie “Natty” Schere
- Guitar & sound effects – Buffalo Brown
- Horns – Leo Casino
- Congas & Bata – Angel R. Rodriguez Sr.

Produced, arranged, engineered & mixed by
Seth “Brimstone” Schere

Support Organizations
Thomas O. Kriegsmann (ArKType) – Artist Representative
Anchor Arts Management, Inc.
- Tour Management & Fiscal Sponsor
Miami Foundation – Fiscal Sponsor
Rick Delgado (NuFrontier Pictures) – Photos & Video
AMAL – A provocative and inspiring spoken-word theater piece that delves into the societal impact of war. Direction and dramaturgy by award-winning theater artist, Teo Castellanos, written and performed by military/war veterans Combat Hippies, with a head bangin’ original AfroRican Punk soundtrack, produced by DJ Brimstone127 and live percussion by Angel Ruben Rodriguez Sr. AMAL examines the impact of war with equal parts humor and urgency. It explores the quest for meaning, purpose and identity sought through enlisting in the military and shares the unifying experiences of combatants and noncombatants as people of color. Tough and tender, AMAL relays stories of veterans’, refugees’ and civilians’ adjustment to life after war. This all-Puerto Rican theater company, places Puerto Rico’s colonial status, cultural and military heritage center stage. AMAL was originally developed for MDC Live Arts at Miami Dade College.

Teo Castellanos – is an actor/writer/director, who works in theater, film and television. His award-winning solo NE 2nd Avenue toured extensively for a decade and won the Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Scotland 2003. His most recent solo Third Trinity was directed by Oscar winner Tarell Alvin McCraney, whom Teo has had a working relationship and friendship for over 25 years. He founded the Dance/Theater Company Teo Castellanos D-Projects in 2003 and is Artistic Director of the devised theater company Combat Hippies. Teo has toured solo and company works throughout the U.S., Europe, South America, China and the Caribbean. Some acting theater credits include playing Elegba in Tarell’s The Brothers Size, (Miami) and Santos in The Hittite Empire’s Skeletons of Fish (London). Film credits include playing opposite Matt Dillon in Sunlight Jr. and opposite John Leguizamo in Empire as well as in A Change of Heart with Jim Belushi. He is a United States Artist Fellow 2019 funded by Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and a recipient of several awards and grants including NEA, NEFA, MAP, NPN, Knight New Works, Knight Arts Challenge, Knight Foundation People’s Choice Award, Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs and also won the State of Florida Individual Artist Fellowship 2005 and 2013. He’s a Sundance Institute Screen Writers Intensive Fellow 2015. Teo is a member of SAG/AFTRA, and Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers and holds a BFA in Theater from Florid Atlantic University.
Gary Lund – is the President of Anchor Arts Management, Inc. a full-service production management organization devoted to the performing arts. Mr. Lund is a production manager, light designer and stage manager with International, National and Miami artists in dance, theater and music. Mr. Lund has toured with several artists in numerous concert halls and festivals throughout the United States, Europe, South America, the Caribbean, Russia and China. Mr. Lund’s professional career spans over 4 decades.

Seth “Brimstone” Schere – is a dynamic leader, educator, activist and artist who embodies Hip Hop’s “Can’t stop, won’t stop!” attitude. He is a Co-founder and Artistic Director of PATH: Preserving, Archiving and Teaching Hip Hop, Inc. He has written and been featured in several articles on Hip Hop culture and education and has served as a lecturer and specialist on Hip Hop history.

Combat Hippies – is an ensemble of Puerto Rican military veteran performing artists based in Miami, Florida. Formed during a creative writing workshop for veterans in 2015 which culminated with their inaugural theater piece Conscience Under Fire, they have since developed multiple evenings of spoken word and music, generative approaches to workshops designed toward healing, community engagement offerings and more. The company focuses on works about combatants as people of color, and shares experiences of veteran’s adjustments to life after war as well as that of civilians from war-torn countries. Their work also explores the search for meaning, purpose, and identity through enlisting in the military, as well as Puerto Rico’s cultural and military heritage. The Combat Hippies are funded through generous support from the Knight Foundation, National Performance Network (NPN), New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), National Ensemble of Theaters (NET), and the MAP Fund.
AMAL was made possible with major support by the Knight Foundation; by the New England Foundation for the Arts’ National Theater Project, with lead funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and additional support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; by the MAP Fund, supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; by a grant from the Network of Ensemble Theater’s Touring & Exchange Network (NET/TEN); and a grant from the National Performance Network/Visual Artists Network, with lead funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. AMAL was originally developed for MDC Live Arts at Miami Dade College.
BOOKING INFORMATION CONTACT

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For more information on Combat Hippies visit
https://www.thecombathippies.com
La MaMa's historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street is undergoing an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit www.lamama.org/remakeaworld

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AMAL
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Jan 16 - 19, 2020
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Nick Payne’s Constellations
Jan 9 - 12, 2020
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Magic Agency Chapter 4: Bro-Tox
Jan 17 - 19, 2020
47 Great Jones Studios

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