



Guild Hall

Organización Latino Americana • PO Box 278 • Sagaponack, NY 11962 • (631) 899-3441 • olaofeasternlongisland.org
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Guild Hall and OLA Collaborate on *Fuenteovejuna: East End*, a Fully Spanish-Language Adaptation of 17th-Century Spanish Playwright Félix Lope de Vega's Classic

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Minerva Perez, OLA Executive Director

631-871-3408 mperez@olaofeasternlongisland.org

Charlotte Ferguson, Guild Hall Marketing Manager

631-324-0806 x122 cferguson@guildhall.org

Approved Photos: <https://adobe.ly/4gCHPup>

February 7, 2025 – East Hampton, NY - OLA of Eastern Long Island (Organización Latino Americana) and Guild Hall (158 Main Street, East Hampton, NY) are pleased to announce the launch of a historic Spanish-language collaboration bringing a contemporary, community-generated version of *Fuenteovejuna*, a 17th-century play by Spain's celebrated playwright Félix Lope de Vega, to Long Island. The co-production, reimagined as *Fuenteovejuna: East End*, is the brainchild of co-directors Margarita Espada, founder and director of Teatro Yerbabruja, and Minerva Perez, executive director of OLA, who are Guild Hall's 2025 Community Artists-in-Residence (CAiR). The play will be performed in Spanish at Guild Hall on May 16 and 17, 2025 at 8 PM. Tickets to *Fuenteovejuna: East End* at Guild Hall will go on sale March 1. Please visit GuildHall.org/fuenteovejuna for details.

Fuenteovejuna, an essential work of the Spanish literary canon, is based on a dramatic historical event that took place in 1476 in a Spanish village. It tells the story of the villagers' revolt against the tyrannical and violent rule of their local commander, who is not only cruel and abusive but a rapist. The play examines the abuse of power, the dangers of unchecked authority, and power dynamics in relation to social class and gender. It also celebrates courage, justice, community solidarity, and the power of collective action. *Fuenteovejuna: East End* updates Lope de Vega's language to be more accessible to a contemporary audience.

Auditions took place in Hampton Bays and East Hampton in October and November 2024 and drew Latino community members from all over Long Island, ranging from those with no formal acting experience or training to others who have acted professionally. Rehearsals have begun and will continue until the May performances.

Guild Hall's CAiR program supports the creative economy, imagination, and civic life on the East End by commissioning regionally based artists to develop socially engaged or participatory work. It provides artists with creative mentorships, administrative support, a commissioning fee, and a shared studio/workspace on the Guild Hall campus. OLA, the East End's foremost Latino immigrant advocacy organization, includes an arts focus as part of its mission in order to celebrate Latino, Latin American, and Spanish-language arts and culture as well as to build bridges among different sectors of the community. Guild Hall and OLA have a history of collaboration that includes Guild Hall hosting



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film screenings during OLA's annual Latino Film Festival of the Hamptons, a flamenco guitar and dance performance, immigration-focused panel discussions, and more.

"This is a dream come true for me," said Perez, who holds a degree in Theater Arts from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and ran her own theater company in New York City for eight years. "I'm thrilled to stage this play at Guild Hall as it will mark the first-ever Spanish-language theatre production on the East End. Given the rise of authoritarian regimes around the world and in our own country, now is the perfect time to rely on the arts to build community and to convey the importance of mutual respect and individual dignity. The demonstration of bravery and strength of women in this 17th-century play is another reason this work resonates so profoundly. *Fuenteovejuna* is ultimately about solidarity and unity—and about how a community has the power to hold political leaders accountable."

In addition to acting in theater, film, and television, Perez has directed and produced independent films and local theater productions, including the only Spanish-language version of *The Vagina Monologues* performed on the East End as well as the English version featuring cast members Brooke Shields, Blythe Danner, and Julie White.

OLA also has a history of collaboration with Espada of Teatro Yerbabruja, an organization focused on using the arts as a tool for social change. Espada, who holds an MFA in Dramaturgy from Stony Brook University and is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Women's, Sexuality, and Gender Studies, has led OLA community theater workshops for teens and adults on the East End, most recently in Greenport in collaboration with the Center for Advocacy, Support, and Transformation, better known as CAST. Espada, who hails from Puerto Rico and is based on Long Island, is an award-winning performer, educator, researcher, and activist in the fields of physical theater, body and embodiments, settlers and colonialism, race, ethnicity, and migration.

"We are incredibly excited to welcome Minerva Perez and Margarita Espada as 2025 Guild Hall Community Artists-in-Residence," said Anthony Madonna, Guild Hall's Theater Director and Curator of Performing Arts. "Through both their creative and community work, Perez and Espada have built trust, comradery, and change within and for their communities. Over the past few weeks, we have seen their work in action here at Guild Hall, as they've welcomed people of all ages for auditions and rehearsals. We are thankful to be part of their process and ready to support them as they bring to life *Fuenteovejuna: East End*."

Fuenteovejuna: East End is possible thanks to support from CAiR's patrons and the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning.

Guild Hall's Learning + New Works programs are made possible through the Vital Projects Fund, the Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman Endowment Fund, and The Melville Straus Family Endowment.



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ABOUT OLA

Founded in 2002, OLA of Eastern Long Island, Inc. (Organización Latino Americana) is a nonprofit Latino-focused organization dedicated to advocacy, education, and the arts working across the five East End towns of East Hampton, Southampton, Riverhead, Southold, and Shelter Island and throughout Suffolk County.

OLA's work is rooted in the belief that our entire East End community benefits from an inclusive approach that involves respectful dialogue and shared accountability. Solidarity is central to the way we work and to creating an East End that fully recognizes and embraces the contributions, energy, and dynamism of local Latinos.

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ABOUT GUILD HALL

Guild Hall is the cultural heart of the East End: a museum, performing arts, and education center, founded in 1931. We invite everyone to experience the endless possibilities of the arts: to open minds to what art can be; inspire creativity and conversation; and have fun.

Guild Hall has served four generations and introduced audiences to the most storied artists and performers of our time. As we approach our centennial, we have completed a state-of-the-art renovation to match the caliber of our artistry for twenty-first-century audiences. The facility-wide Capital Improvements Project & Campaign includes top-of-the-line physical and technological enhancements to better deliver on our mission as an artist-driven, interdisciplinary institution.

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