



presents

B

by

Guillermo Calderón

Translated by William Gregory

May 21 - 24, 2020 | Online

Running time: 90 minutes, no intermission

Directed by Jivesh Parasram

Featuring Carmen Aguirre, María Escolan, Lissa Neptuno, and Lili Robinson

Lighting Design by Itai Erdal

Production Design by Christie Watson

Assistant Direction by Shanae Sodhi

Stage Management by Zoe Bellis

Operations and Production Support by Kellee Ngan

Box Office Coordination by Sena Cagla

Consultation by Carmen Aguirre

B was first presented at the Royal Court Theatre on the 28 September 2017

Rumble Theatre is grateful to operate on the traditional, unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples of the xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

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A NOTE FROM THE RUMBLE TEAM

When we first decided to produce Guillermo Calderon's play *B* as part of our 2019-20 season, it looked a lot different in our minds. We imagined it as a live, intimate theatrical performance that would take place in the cozy confines of the Havana Theatre. Much has changed since then, including our vision for this show. What has stayed the same is the initial spark that drew us to the text. In *B*, we entertain the question: What does it mean to long to be part of a political moment that ultimately you are isolated from? What does it mean to feel left behind, or outside?

In approaching the form of comedy it's an interesting thing to try to distance ourselves from the dismissive and derogatory term *Idiot*, and instead look at its etymological origins—where a more accurate interpretation of the word *Idiot* may simply mean, an outsider. These characters, well meaning (or not) as they may be in their own frameworks, could be seen as *Idiots*. And for those of us whose daily lives may not be deeply embedded in the struggle, it's a useful exercise to try to relate to idiots, and maybe learn to laugh at our own idiocy rather than attempt to hide it. There's no shame in being an Idiot sometimes. Shame isn't particularly productive anyhow. But consciousness is. Because maybe through raising consciousness, we can learn to listen better.

We, like many of you, have made the transition to working online. And it's been a steep learning curve to realize this play as an online production. We've had to adopt new technology, train up on new software, and rehearse via video conferencing apps. We've had to figure out how to light and design a show happening in different spaces—including the actors' kitchens—and create costumes and props that translate on-screen. And we've had to do all of this while managing home lives that have been transformed by isolation.

We could not have done this without our brilliant and dedicated creative team: Carmen, María, Lissa, Lili, Itai, Zoe, Shanae, and Sena. Thank you for all of your hard work and generosity.

And thank you—everyone in the audience—for supporting Rumble and our digital production of *B*. Enjoy the show.

Jiv, Christie & Kellee (Three—sometimes—*Idiots*)

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Guillermo Calderón is a Chilean screenwriter, playwright and theatre director based in the USA. His plays include *B*, *Neva*, *Diciembre*, *Clase*, *Villa*, *Speech*, *Quake*, *Escuela*, *Kiss*, *Mateluna* and *Goldrausch*. Calderón's productions have toured extensively through South America, North America, and Europe. He has been commissioned to write and direct by the Düsseldorf Schauspielhaus, Theater Basel, HAU Hebbel am Ufer, the Royal Court Theatre, Center Theater Group, and the Public Theater in New York City, where he also directed *Neva*. His co-written screenplay *Violeta Went to Heaven* won the World Cinema Jury Prize for Drama at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. He co-wrote *The Club*, directed by Pablo Larraín, winner of

the Silver Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival 2015, and nominated for the Golden Globes in the Foreign Language category. The script won the Silver plaque at the Chicago International Film Festival. He wrote the script for *Neruda*, directed by Pablo Larraín, presented at the Quinzaine des Réalisateurs (The Director's Fortnight) during Cannes Film Festival 2016. *B* had its premiere production at the Royal Court Theatre (UK) in September 2017.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

William Gregory has translated over 100 plays and has worked for the Royal Court International Department as a translator, reader and advisor on many Spanish-language new writing projects since 2003. His translations have also been performed in the US, Ireland, Australia, India, Sri Lanka, Germany and Austria, and several have been published. He has lectured on theatre translation, presented at translation events and written articles on the subject for journals in the UK and France. He is the Translation Managing Editor of *The Theatre Times* and a Visiting Research Associate at King's College London, working with the Spanish and Latin American Studies department on projects related to Ibero-American Theatre, including the Out of the Wings theatre collective.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Carmen Aguirre - José Miguel

Carmen Aguirre is an award-winning theatre artist and author who has written and co-written over twenty-five plays, including *Chile Con Carne*, *The Refugee Hotel*, *The Trigger*, *Blue Box*, *Broken Tailbone*, and *Anywhere But Here*, as well as the #1 national bestseller *Something Fierce: Memoirs of a Revolutionary Daughter* (winner of CBC Canada Reads 2012), and its bestselling sequel, *Mexican Hooker #1 and My Other Roles Since the Revolution*. Carmen is currently writing an adaptation of Euripides' *Medea* for Vancouver's Rumble Theatre, and Moliere's *The Learned Ladies* for Toronto's Factory Theatre. She is a Core Artist at Electric Company Theatre, a co-founding member of the Canadian Latinx Theatre Artist Coalition (CALTAC), and has over eighty film, TV, and stage acting credits, including her award-winning lead role in the Canadian premiere of Stephen Adley Guirgis' *The Motherfucker with the Hat*, and her Leo-nominated lead performance in the independent feature film *Bella Ciao!*. She is a graduate of Studio 58. carmenaguirre.ca

Zoe Bellis - Stage Manager

Zoe is a Vancouver-based theatre artist, who is very fortunate to live and play on the traditional ancestral and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh people. She is very excited to be creating some isolation theatre with this wonderful group of people. Previous credits include: As Apprentice Stage Manager – *The Sound of Music* (Arts Club Theatre Company), *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Coriolanus*, *Timon of Athens*, *Lysistrata* (Bard on the Beach), *East Van Panto: The Wizard of Oz*, *Snow White* (Theatre Replacement), *Outside Mullingar* (Chemainus Theatre Festival); as Assistant Stage Manager – *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (Chemainus Theatre Festival); and as Stage Manager – *The Fabulous Lipitones*

(Miracle Theatre Prince George), *Suddenly Slaughter* (The Biting School). Zoe is a graduate of Studio 58.

Itai Erdal - Lighting Designer

An award-winning lighting designer, writer and performer, Itai has designed over 300 shows for theatre, dance and opera companies all over North America and Europe. Some of the companies he worked with include: New Victory (Off Broadway), The Stratford Festival (11 shows), The Vancouver Opera, Vancouver Playhouse, Arts Club Theatre, Bard on the Beach, Soulepper, Tarragon, National Arts Centre, The Citadel, MTC, The Segal Centre, The Electric Company, The Jerusalem Lab, Haifa Theatre, Tamasha, Box Clever and Teatro Villa Velha in Salvador, Brazil. Itai has won five Jessie Richardson Awards, the ADC's Jack King Award, a Dora Mavor Moore Award, Victoria's Spotlight Choice Award, a Winnipeg Theatre Award, a Guthrie Award and the Dublin Fringe Design Award. He was shortlisted for the Siminovitch Prize for Design in 2018. His one-man show *How to Disappear Completely* (The Chop, directed by James Long) has had 30 remounts, and continues to tour nationally and internationally. www.itaierdal.com, www.theelbow.ca

María Escolan - Marcela

Born and raised in El Salvador, María is a theatre artist, performer, and director who also calls Vancouver home, the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tseil-Waututh Nations. She holds a BFA Degree in Theatre Performance from the School for Contemporary Arts at SFU and a BA Degree in Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Social Justice from UBC. Recent credits include performance in PuSh Festival's *Corazón del Espantapájaros* (2019) and rEvolver Festival's *Geologic Formations* (2018), as well as a forthcoming translation publication (Spanish to English) of *Corazón del Espantapájaros* by Hugo Carrillo in the online journal *Asymptote* – Summer 2020 edition. María also blends her artistic practice with community engaged arts, developing and delivering theatre workshops and performance opportunities with local communities.

Lissa Neptuno - Carmen

Lissa is grateful to be part of *B*, especially during this time. Previous theatre credits include *The Trophy Hunt* (November Theatre), *Leap Playwriting Festival* (Arts Club), *Rot* (VACT's MSG Lab), *Fists* (rEvolver Festival), and *Dogfight* (Semper Fi Collective). Actor/producer credits include *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* and *The Nether* for the RedCurrant Collective, and the short film *Beyond Saturn*. Film and television credits include *Hekademia*, *Virgin River*, *The Good Doctor*, *Supergirl*, *Motherland: Fort Salem*, and *The Murders*. Lissa is a graduate of Studio 58, and dedicates this performance to her Irish lad.

Jivesh Parasram - Director

Jivesh is an award-winning multi-disciplinary artist and facilitator of Indo-Caribbean descent. His work has toured nationally and internationally. Jiv is the founding Artistic Producer of Pandemic Theatre. He became the Artistic Director of Rumble Theatre in the fall of 2018, following three years as the Associate Artistic Producer at Theatre Passe Muraille. He was a member of the

Cultural Leader Lab with the Banff Centre and Toronto Arts Council. His public service work has included collaborations with the Ad Hoc Assembly, The Canadian Commission for UNESCO and acting as an artistic advisor to the National Arts Centre. Jiv has received numerous recognitions for his contributions to the sector, including the Toronto Arts Council Emerging Artist Award, two Harold Awards and a Herald Angel from the Edinburgh Festival as part of the CanadaHub programming in 2018. His current cultural practice centres decolonization through aesthetics.

Lili Robinson - *Alejandra*

Lili (she/they) is an actor, writer, and theatre maker based on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. Having recently finished a year as Theatre Replacement's Artistic Producer Intern, Lili is currently the Emerging Playwright in Residence at Rumble, and a part of the Emerging Playwrights' Unit at the Arts Club. Their debut play, *Mx*, which they also performed in, was the recipient of the 2019 Fringe New Play Prize. *Mx* went on to receive the Cultchivating the Fringe Award following its Fringe premiere, earning it a spot in an upcoming season at The Cultch. Lili is honoured and grateful to be making theatre at this time, in the company of such an incredible team.

Shanae Sodhi - Assistant Director

Shanae is a producer and director whose work is focused on Community Engagement and the Intersectionality of identity, beliefs and experiences which help people to explore and express the complexity of themselves. His producing work began at Studio 58 where he was one of the establishing members and Lead Coordinator of the school's Student Diversity Committee. The student-led group works to give strength to marginalized groups within theatre through offering students tools and knowledge to engage conversations of diversity around them. Recently his play, *Mx* by Lili Robinson, was the recipient of the 2019 Fringe New Play Prize and Cultchivating the Fringe awards.

Christie Watson - Production Design

Christie has been the Managing Director for Rumble Theatre since 2018. He is honoured to have the opportunity to steward such a reflexive and community engaged arts organization with Jiv and Kellee. Over that past 20 years Christie has worked in many capacities in arts and culture. Christie is passionate about design and has been exploring this interest at home and work since he was a kid. As a designer for theatre, Christie has had the pleasure of working with Theatre Replacement, Simon Fraser University, Studio 58, Caravan Farm Theatre, RADIX, The Chop Theatre and Alley Theatre. Many thanks to the creative team of *B* for being so open to this ever-evolving process and to Emelia, Arthur, and Obie for all your love and support.

ABOUT RUMBLE THEATRE

For nearly 30 years Rumble has operated as a chameleon in our local community, with a strong priority on sector development. Though our artistic vision has morphed along with our leadership since our inception, one of Rumble's core aims has always been to respond to our ecology using our infrastructure to enhance, strengthen, and develop the independent theatre community in Metro Vancouver; located on the unceded and occupied territories of the Coast Salish peoples of the x̣ṃəθkwəỵəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. In Fall 2018, Rumble entered a new vision led by a decentralized leadership team: Jivesh Parasram (Artistic Director), Christie Watson (Managing Director) and Kellee Ngan (Operations Director). We are committed to activating cross-sectoral discussion, to collaborating, and to creating alternative models of presentation and production that support engagement opportunities for under-represented communities in a larger national artistic dialogue. Rumble aspires to build solidarity within an artistically driven, disruptive and decolonial practice. rumble.org

RUMBLE STAFF & ASSOCIATES: Jivesh Parasram – Artistic Director | Christie Watson Managing Director | Kellee Ngan – Operations Director | Shanae Sodhi – Assistant Artistic Producer | Meredith Burney – Bookkeeper | Sena Cagla – SFU Intern | Howard Dai – Documentation Assistant | Michael Groberman – Development Assistant

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