

ALLEY THEATRE

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Alley Theatre Starts the New Year with the World Premiere of *December: a love years in the making*

A slow-burn romance that unfolds beautifully over 20 years

HOUSTON, TX - Tony Award®-winning Alley Theatre and Artistic Director **Rob Melrose** announce the cast of ***December: a love years in the making***. Developed in the 2023 Alley All New Festival, **Marisela Treviño Orta's** (*The River Bride*) world premiere follows two Texans connecting throughout decades over poetry, literature, and music. Directed by **Marcela Lorca**, this love story takes audiences through the seasons of a creative writing professor and her former student's lives, celebrating the enduring power of connection and a romance that defies time.

"While I adore comedies and tragedies, nothing excites me more than a heartfelt romance," mused **Melrose**. "At my core, I'm a romantic, and Marisela Treviño Orta's stunning *December...* is everything I love about the genre—poetry, music, missed connections, and that undeniable spark that keeps us captivated. When we first shared *December ...* during our Alley All New Festival, it was magical to watch audiences of all ages connect with this love story that spans a lifetime. Now, we're thrilled to bring you the world premiere of this remarkable work, developed right here at Alley Theatre. As you experience this beautiful world premiere, know that you are one of the first to see a play that is sure to touch hearts far and wide."

Orta, known for her lyrical and rich writing style, shared her insights on the production, "*December...* was originally inspired by my love for the movie *Harold and Maude* and its unconventional May/December relationship. *December...* is also a love letter to poetry. Some of my favorite poems and my own original work are read and discussed by the characters. So, if you love poetry and enjoy watching two people flirt for 100 minutes, this play is for you."

The cast of *December: a love years in the making* includes **Maggie Bofill** (*American Mariachi*) as Carolina (mayor/older), **Patricia Duran** (*Our Lady of 121st Street*) as Carolina (menor/younger), **Leandro Salazar** as Benjamin (menor/younger), and **Luis Vega** as Benjamin (mayor/older).

The creative team includes Scenic Designer **Regina García**, Costume Designer **Sarita Fellows**, Lighting Designer **Carolina Ortiz Herrera**, Music & Sound Designer **David R. Molina**, Fight Director & Intimacy

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Specialist **Adam Noble**, Stage Manager **Debs Ramser**, and Assistant Stage Manager **Laura Pilar Gutierrez**.

SPONSORS: *December: a love years in the making* is generously sponsored by CKP and Kathryn L. Ketelsen (Associate Producers). Alley Theatre is supported by the 2024-25 Season sponsor United Airlines, the official airline of Alley Theatre, and Hampton Inn and Homewood Suites Downtown Houston, the official hotels of Alley Theatre.

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES: Simultaneous Spanish Translation Performance on Friday, January 24 at 8:00 PM and Sunday, January 26 at 2:00 PM, Captioned Performance on Sunday, February 2 at 2:00 PM, Audio Described Performance on Sunday, January 26 at 7:00 PM and ASL Interpreted Performance is Wednesday, January 29 at 7:30 PM.

TICKETS: Performances of *December: a love years in the making* run **Friday, January 17 to Sunday, February 2** in the Hubbard Theatre. Tickets are now on sale, starting at \$29. Discounted tickets are available for military, seniors, educators and any student, regardless of age, with a valid ID for designated performances in designated sections. Tickets can be ordered online (alleytheatre.org) or by phone (713.220.5700).

PRESS NIGHT: Wednesday, January 22 at 7:30 PM. Invitations to be sent at a later date.

CONNECT WITH US: @alleytheatre, #AlleyDecember

ABOUT ALLEY THEATRE:

Alley Theatre, one of America's leading nonprofit theatres, is a nationally recognized performing arts company led by Artistic Director Rob Melrose and Managing Director Dean R. Gladden. The Alley is committed to developing and producing theatre that is as diverse as the Houston community. The Alley produces up to 11 plays and nearly 400 performances each season, ranging from the best current work and classic plays to new plays by contemporary writers. Home to a full-time resident company of actors and expert artisans in all theatre crafts, the Alley engages theatre artists of every discipline – actors, directors, designers, composers, playwrights – who work on individual productions throughout each season as visiting artists.

Alley Theatre performs at the Meredith J. Long Theatre Center which is comprised of two state-of-the-art theatres: the 774-seat Hubbard Theatre and the 296-seat Neuhaus Theatre. The Alley reaches over 200,000 people each year through its performance, education, and community engagement programs.

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