

**YOUNGARTS ALUMNA YARA TRAVIESO PREMIERES “EL CICLÓN” AT OUTSIDE THE BOX  
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – NOV. 4**

*Neo-Feminist Transmedia Performance Combines Theater, Dance, Film And Music  
Inspired by Swamp Fiction Literature*

**MIAMI, FL (October 13, 2017)** – National YoungArts Foundation’s signature Outside the Box program returns with “El Ciclón”, produced and directed by YoungArts alumna and intersectional director, artist, choreographer and filmmaker Yara Travieso (2005 Winner in Dance). Described as a “wild neo-feminist mythology trapped inside a 1950s B-movie psychological thriller with singing, dancing, and just enough alligators” by Travieso, “El Ciclón” is a multidisciplinary transmedia story about protagonist Ava, who finds herself in a precarious situation facing an impossible moral decision.

“El Ciclón” is a one-night only performance on Saturday, November 4 at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.) that will reimagine the YoungArts Plaza at 2100 Biscayne Boulevard as a South Florida swamp. Guests are also invited to explore the new alumni exhibition *IMAGINATION LAND: Fantastical Narratives* curated by Derrick Adams at the YoungArts Gallery on campus. This program is free and open to the public with RSVP at [otbyara.eventbrite.com](http://otbyara.eventbrite.com).

“Coming back home and creating this work with my YoungArts family feels like a celebration of the artistic freedom YoungArts helped instill over 12 years ago,” says Travieso. “This work is made with so much love, which has come out of moments of pain. It is the story of Miami, my hometown; it is the story of Ava, my heroine; and it is the story of her struggle, continuously expected to save those who are oppressing her.”

Travieso’s new magical-tropical-realist work is an ode to the wet South and a reflection on the struggle women face when they are expected to save those who continuously oppress them. Following in the tradition of “swamp fiction literature” by writers such as Maryse Condé and Karren Russell, as well as essays by womanist and civil rights activist Audre Lorde and sci-fi trailblazer Octavia Butler, Travieso hopes to continue in the lineage of female storytellers with one foot on the wet ground and the other near the jaws of an alligator.

YoungArts strives to build a strong alumni community, foster lasting alumni relationships and encourage collaboration across disciplines. For “El Ciclón”, Travieso has enlisted fellow YoungArts alumni Kelley Kessell (2012 Winner in Theater and Voice & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts), Alanna Morris-Van Tassel (2003 Winner in Dance), Daniela Amaro (2016 Winner in Voice) to join her on stage.

Support for Outside the Box is provided by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners; the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; National Endowment for the Arts; Wells Fargo and the Miami Downtown Development Authority.

**About Yara Travieso**

Yara Travieso unravels the infinite scope of her female heroines, from emptiness to totality. Using Latin American magical-realism, mythology and monumental objects, Travieso’s work lives in the intersection of film, dance-theater, and immersive installation. Born in Miami and based out of Brooklyn, Travieso is a

2016 Creative Capital recipient, a 2015 NALAC grantee through the Ford Foundation, a 2016 Performance Space 122 Ramp Artist, and a 2017 HERE Artist in Residence. Travieso's 2017 original live performance and broadcast feature film "La Medea" was called "a modern day 'Nasty Woman'" by VICE Magazine. "La Medea" premiered with Film Society of Lincoln Center, BRIC Arts for PS122's COIL Festival, and was featured at SXSW among other festivals. Travieso's hybrid works have also been presented internationally in numerous venues such as NYC's Lincoln Center, Museum of The Moving Image, New World Center, Amphithéâtre D'oin in Montpellier, France, and more. She has directed commercials and short films for Hermès of Paris, Glamour, GQ and Elle, and is represented by Digital Bodega creative house in The Bronx. Artist residencies include Bessie Schonberg at The Yard, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, BRICLab, Imagine Science Films, Tribeca Performing Arts and Korzo Theater in The Netherlands. She is a YoungArts award winner in Dance and Choreography and a graduate of New World School of the Arts and The Juilliard School. She has danced for The Metropolitan Opera and is a co-founder of Miami's Borscht Film Festival.

### **About the National YoungArts Foundation**

The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison to identify and nurture the most accomplished young artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts, and assist them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development. Through a wide range of annual programs, performances, and partnerships with some of the nation's leading cultural institutions, YoungArts aspires to create a strong community of alumni and a platform for a lifetime of encouragement, opportunity and support.

YoungArts' signature program is an application-based award for emerging artists ages 15–18 or in grades 10–12 from across the United States. Selected through a blind adjudication process, YoungArts winners receive valuable support, including financial awards of up to \$10,000, professional development and educational experiences working with renowned mentors—such as Debbie Allen, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Rebecca Walker, Plácido Domingo, Frank Gehry, Jeff Koons, Wynton Marsalis, Salman Rushdie and Carrie Mae Weems—and performance and exhibition opportunities at some of the nation's leading cultural institutions, including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, D.C.), The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), The Museum of Modern Art (New York) and New World Center (Miami). Additionally, YoungArts winners are eligible for nomination as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students who exemplify academic and artistic excellence.

YoungArts winners become part of a thousands-strong alumni network of artists, which offers them additional professional opportunities throughout their careers. YoungArts alumni who have gone on to become leading professionals in their fields include actresses Viola Davis, Anna Gunn, Zuzanna Szadkowski and Kerry Washington; Broadway stars Raúl Esparza, Billy Porter, Andrew Rannells and Tony Yazbeck; recording artists Josh Groban, Judith Hill and Chris Young; Metropolitan Opera star Eric Owens; musicians Terence Blanchard, Gerald Clayton, Jennifer Koh and Elizabeth Roe; choreographers Camille A. Brown and Desmond Richardson; visual artists Daniel Arsham and Hernan Bas; internationally acclaimed multimedia artist Doug Aitken; New York Times bestselling author Sam Lipsyte; and Academy Award winners Doug Blush and Tarell Alvin McCraney.

For more information, visit [youngarts.org](http://youngarts.org), [facebook.com/YoungArtsFoundation](https://facebook.com/YoungArtsFoundation) or [twitter.com/YoungArts](https://twitter.com/YoungArts). To watch a brief video about YoungArts, [click here](#).

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