

**YOUNGARTS ALUMNA YARA TRAVIESO PREMIERES “EL CICLÓN” AT OUTSIDE THE BOX  
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – May 12**

*Neo-Feminist Myth Bringing Together Cinema, Theater, Dance and Music Inspired by South Florida's  
Dangerous Storms That Reveal a Legacy of Unseen Heroines.*

**MIAMI, FL (April 4, 2018)** – National YoungArts Foundation’s signature Outside the Box program returns with “El Ciclón,” created by YoungArts alumna and director, filmmaker and choreographer 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, May 12 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. This program is free and open to the public with RSVP to [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 Karen 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), Roxanne Young (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**

Originally from Miami, Florida, Yara Travieso is a Brooklyn-based director, filmmaker, writer, choreographer and performer. Using Latin American magical-realism, mythology and monumental objects, Travieso’s work lives in the intersection of films, performances and immersive installations that reclaim the cultural and mythical lens for women. Travieso is a 2016 Creative Capital recipient, a 2016 Performance Space 122 Ramp Artist, and a 2015 National Association for Latino Arts and Culture grantee

through the Ford Foundation. Her live performances have been presented with NYC's Park Avenue Armory's Drill Hall, Lincoln Center, PS122, BRIC Arts, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Miami's New World Center, Vizcaya Museum and France's Amphithéâtre D'oin, among others. Her film works have been featured in SXSW, Film Society of Lincoln Center, Miami Film Festival, Museum of the Moving Image, and commissioned by Hermes of Paris, Glamour Magazine, and GQ, among others. Her 2017 original production, "La Medea," received numerous awards and premiered with NYC's COIL Festival, Dance on Camera Film Festival with Lincoln Center, and has since been engaged in a national tour. The production was featured in a VICE article that noted "A Modern-Day Medea is Mythology's 'Nasty Woman.'" She is the recipient of a number residencies that include PS122 RAMP (2016), LMCC Process Space (2015), BRICLab (2014), STREB Lab (2014), Tribeca Performing Arts Center (2013), Imagine Science Films (2010), and Bessie Shonberg (2010). In 2006, Travieso co-founded the Borscht Film Festival and co-ran it until 2010 when it was awarded the Knight Arts Challenge grant. After graduating from the Juilliard School in 2009, Travieso went on to dance for the Metropolitan Opera for five years. Travieso is also a graduate of New World School of the Arts High School and in 2018 received the school's Visionary Award.

### **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, 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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