**Pícaro @ CTC**

**Pícaro, bitácora de un migrante**

By CarlosAlexis Cruz and Alicia Martínez-Alvarez

Inspired and loosely adapted from an original text by Mauricio Jimenez

Directed by Alicia Martínez-Alvarez

Original music by Shamou

Illusion elements, Joe Culpepper

All promo photos by Omar Z. Robles Photography and Cravotta Photography

**About *Pícaro*:**

Lazarito, a 13-year old boy from Guatemala, its forced by the circumstances to leave his family, his home town. Seen as the only savior, a potential door for a better life, he is guided to embark in an adventure; the journey of immigration. What’s ahead? Crossing the Giant country of Mexico with the eyes set on the land of the free.

Trains, thieves, friends, food(or lack of), Priests, Nuns, Coyotes… Lazarito grows up, ‘trickstering’ around, finding his way through out this treacherous journey.

Elements of Contemporary Circus Arts, physical comedy, Masks, Magic, music and the audience playing the role of accomplices will serve as main vocabulary for the re-telling of this classic tale.

**About Pelú Theatre:**

Pelú Theatre Inc. is a company based in Charlotte, NC but rooted in San Juan, Puerto Rico.  As a result, its artists are interested in the conversation between the theatre tendencies of these two particular places, giving birth to a third theatre out of a cultural limbo.  The company is mainly interested in fusions... circus and theatre, Commedia and melodramas, clowns and death.  When these “stuff” are mixed-up like rice and beans on stage, it creates that third scene that can only exist in front of the eyes of the audience.  This unique scene, made out of mixed ordinary “stuff”, is what keeps the audience at the edge of their seats, exactly as Pelú wishes it.

**Bios:**

**CarlosAlexis Cruz, Actor and co-creator**

CarlosAlexis Cruz is the co-founder and Artistic Director of the Pelú Theatre project; a physical theatre company mainly interested in researching the convergence between Contemporary Circus Arts and Theatre as performance vocabulary, particularly in the exploration of themes related to the Latino immigrant experience in the United States.

The company is currently invested in the Pícaro project, a physical theatre take on the journey of a central American immigrant set to tour in the Summer of 2018 and for which Cruz was awarded the Princess Grace Foundation 2017 Works in Progress Award for the development of Pícaro with the support of the Baryshnikov Arts Center in NYC.

Other awards include the 2011 Princess Grace Foundation Theatre Fellowship Award, and the 2014 Arts and Science Council’s McColl award for the development of new, socially-engaged work. With the latter he developed a community powered contemporary circus company/show, the Nouveau Sud project, from and about the city of Charlotte and the evolving concept of what is often referred to as the New South. The Nouveau Sud project had its debut production in April 2016, and it’s an ongoing initiative with a new show coming up in the summer.

Cruz is the Assistant Professor of Physical Theatre at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

**Shamou, Music Director, composer and performer**

Shamou's music career began at an early age in his native Iran where he also studied and performed with the Iranian National Ballet as a dancer. He began his formal music training in Tehran, studied with teachers from the Royal College of Music in London and completed his training at Berklee College of Music in Boston earning a Bachelors Degree in Music.

He is known for his collaborative work with the world-renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Co., Mark Morris Dance Company, ODC /San Francisco, San Francisco Ballet, Sacramento Ballet, David Dorfman Dance, Boston Dance Collective and Prometheus Dance Company among others. As a composer he has created original scores for numerous Companies/Choreographers, including Claudia Lavista (Delfos Danza Contemporanea), FJK Dance, NY2 Dance, Sacramento Ballet, ODC Dance Jam, Prometheus Dance Company, Stephan Koplowitz, Robert Moses, Judith Smith/AXIS, and many others during residencies at the Bates Dance Festival. He has collaborated with emerging African choreographer’s during a choreographer’s workshop at Ecole des Sables, in Senegal. He has created music for and performed in world premiere productions of “Gilgamesh” at the Heartwood Regional Theater Company, and in “Yemaya’s Belly” at the Portland Stage Company. He has created scores for Christal Brown’s Liquid Strength training video project and Cathy Young’s Jazz Pedagogy project.

Since 1990 he has taught hand drumming, percussion, music for dance and body music across the country and abroad in a wide variety of settings, at Harvard and Boston Universities, Bates, Bowdoin and Wellesley Colleges, high school and college dance festivals, including the Bates Dance Festival. He is a member of the Maine Arts Commission’s Artist Access Program and the New England States Touring Roster of the New England Foundation for the Arts.

In 2016 he became the Music Director for Dance at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where he teaches Music for Dance. He continues to work with dance, creating music scores for dance and for theater.

He has contributed music to numerous CD compilations and has released his own solo CDs entitled *Spirits Dance*, *Traces, Nebulae*, and *Shodjah* with his former band by the same name, and *Live at CCE* with his current ensemble Loopin’.

**Alicia Martinez Alvarez , Director, Mask designer**

Alicia is the director of *Laboratorio de la Máscara*, a workshop on training with theatrical masks, investigation on traditional masks, and production of performances. Her work straddles between movement and text, between the natural gesture and the mask, between the real and the magical…

Alica trained at the *Conservatoire National Supérieur d’Art Dramatique, Paris France* where she specialized in the lenguage of mask and the Body Training of the Actor.

Her teaching and staging takes place in national and international scenes. She has directed more than twenty plays.

Alicia is a faculty member of the *Escuela Nacional de Arte Teatral* (INBA), and of the *Centro Universitario de Teatro* (UNAM)

She is member of *Sistema Nacional de Creadores de Arte* (National System of Art Creators)

Some more clips from La Máscara:

<https://vimeo.com/laboratoriodelamascara>