

HOUSES
ON THE MOON™
Presents

HOTEL HAPPY

BY CAMILO ALMONACID

Houses on the Moon Theater Company will produce HOTEL HAPPY in February 2024. A play about sexual tourism in Colombia and that industry's close connection to the country's civil war, HOTEL HAPPY explores American-Colombian relationships through a farcical lens, using the power of absurdity to reflect how the decimating effects of war displace us all. This timely and ambitious project boasts a seven-person cast and an eighth character – who happens to be a donkey – played by a life-size puppet!



HOTEL HAPPY takes place at a high-end erotic resort in Bogotá, Colombia, that caters to foreign men. Sofi, a former beauty queen turned sex worker, rescues a displaced donkey named "Like You". Sofi wants to protect Like You from greedy landowners who will use him for forced labor. She plans a rescue mission with her co-workers Lulu and Candela, and they bring him to the hotel. When three American mercenaries visit the hotel on a special mission, the girls must protect Like You at all costs because, as they will soon discover, he is no ordinary donkey.

ARTISTIC TEAM



Camilo Almonacid
Playwright

As a writer, storyteller, and teaching artist based out of New York City, Camilo has over a decade of experience developing theatrically bold, heartfelt, funny plays that explore the pluralistic voices of America. His most recent plays in development include: *What Have They Done*, and *Hotel Happy* which was awarded the NYSCA-A.R.T./New York Creative Opportunity Fund (2018), and further developed by Houses on the Moon Theater Company. Other works include; *Nothing To Wipe With*, (2020) commissioned for Play At Home; *The Assignment* (2017), Off-Broadway, A.R.T NY Theaters; *For The Flies* (2015), DUTF festival; *After the Crowds* (2015), Queen's Theater and a New York Times Critics Pick; *West Pine Myopes* (2014), Rita Goldberg Playwriting Award; *Checkin' In* (2013), Irv Zakower Award; *Shithole* (2012) DUTF festival.



Estefanía Fadul
Director

Estefanía Fadul is a Brooklyn-based Colombian-American director. Recent projects include the world premieres of *Eva Luna* by Caridad Svich (Repertorio Español), *The Garbologists* by Lindsay Joelle (Philadelphia Theater Company), *Carla's Quince* created with The Voting Project (Drama League Award nomination), *Zoom Intervention* by Noelle Viñas (Weston Playhouse, NYTimes Critics Pick), *The Same Day* by Stefan Ivanov (Sfumato Theatre, Bulgaria), and C. Quintana's *Azul* (Southern Rep) and *Scissoring* (INTAR). Estefanía has developed new work off-Broadway and regionally at the Public Theater, Playwrights' Realm, NYTW, Chautauqua, Audible, Goodspeed, Juilliard, and more. She is the inaugural recipient of New York Stage and Film's Pfaelzer Award, and an alumna of directing fellowships at Clubbed Thumb, the Drama League, O'Neill/NNPN, Williamstown, and Repertorio Español. She serves on the Drama League's Board of Directors, and is a member of the Leadership Circle of the Center for Performance and Civic Practice, the New Georges Jam, the Latinx Theatre Commons advisory committee, the Lincoln Center Directors Lab, and SDC.



Emily Joy Weiner
Artistic Director

Since the company's inception in 2001, Emily has been developing new works that address the complex and sensitive issues of our time. In most recent years Emily directed the Off-Broadway production of *The Santa Closet* at Teatro Circulo, guided the company through its production of *DE NOVO* at Next Door at NYTW, directed the world premiere of *The Assignment* at the ART/New York Theatres and the touring production of *gUN COUNTRY*. She has performed throughout NYC and beyond with highlights including *Othello* at the West End Theater, *Coming Through* at the American Place Theatre, *Finding the Words* at the Lucille Lortel, *An Epidog* with Mabou Mines and *Fefu and her Friends* at Williamstown Theatre Festival. She co-developed and toured a one-woman adaptation of Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* with the late Wynn Handman of The American Place Theatre. The League of Professional Theatre Women recently honored Emily with the Josephine Abady award for the creation of multicultural works. Her play, *Shared Sentences*, had its world premiere in Fall 2022.



Matt Acheson
Puppet Director

Matt Acheson is a puppet and theater artist who was based in Brooklyn for 20 years and now lives in Pittsburgh. He is a founder of AchesonWalsh Studios, a kinetic creation studio providing design, fabrication, direction and performance services, whose clients include Amazon Studios, Broadway, Radio City Music Hall Lincoln Center Theater, The Alliance Theater and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Long Wharf Theatre, Radio City Music Hall, Disney Cruise Lines, Cirque Du Soleil, and the Yale School of Drama. Currently AchesonWalsh Studios is designing and fabricating large scale creatures for *Other World*, a new musical which will open this winter in Baltimore. Matt has had the pleasure of working with many exceptional artists including Basil Twist, Dan Hurlin, Mabou Mines, Lee Breuer, Paula Vogel, Chris Green, Metropolitan Opera, The Swedish Marionette Cottage, MTV, Lake Simons and Nami Yamamoto and directed and curated The Puppet Lab, an experimental puppet festival at St. Ann's Warehouse for over a decade. He was the Puppetry Director for *War Horse*, during its run at Lincoln Center Theater and for the North American tour.

HOTEL HAPPY

by **Camilo Almonacid**
directed by **Estefanía Fadul**



HOTEL HAPPY explores American-Colombian relationships from a farcical lens, using the power of absurdity to reflect a troubling and sad reality that the decimating effects of war displace us all.

JOIN US!

***To learn more or get involved, please contact
Houses on the Moon Theater Company at
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