



Adrienne Arsht Center
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
15th Anniversary Season



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Alexandra Medina
786-468-2234

amedina@arshtcenter.org

Gino R. Campodónico
786-468-2228

gcampodonico@arshtcenter.org

THEATER UP CLOSE
AN ARSHT CENTER SERIES

PRESENTING SPONSOR:



Zoetic Stage and the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County present the Florida premiere of

OUR DEAR DEAD DRUG LORD

A pitch-black comedy about four Miami teens who gather to summon the ghost of Pablo Escobar

A *New York Times* Critic's Pick by South Florida's own Alexis Scheer

**Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. – Preview
Friday, May 6, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. – Opening Night
Through Sunday, May 22, 2022**

**Tickets: \$55-\$60*
Carnival Studio Theater**

Concludes the 2021-2022 Theater Up Close season

Miami, FL – April 26, 2022 – Zoetic Stage ([@ZoeticStageMIA](https://www.instagram.com/ZoeticStageMIA)) and the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County ([@ArshtCenter](https://www.instagram.com/ArshtCenter)) are proud to

present the exciting conclusion of the 2021-2022 Theater Up Close season – the Florida premiere of **OUR DEAR DEAD DRUG LORD**, a dark comedy by Colombian-American Miami playwright **Alexis Scheer** (@scheer_madness) about a gang of viciously vulnerable teens who try to resurrect the spirit of Pablo Escobar. Playing from May 5 through May 22 in the Arsht Center's intimate Carnival Studio Theater, **OUR DEAR DEAD DRUG LORD** is a rollercoaster ride through the dark and dangerous mind of the modern American teenage girl by a gifted Miami playwright. The teenage wasteland has never been so much twisted fun.

Tickets to **OUR DEAR DEAD DRUG LORD** are \$55-\$60*. Tickets may be purchased at the Adrienne Arsht Center box office by calling (305) 949-6722, or online at arshtcenter.org.

"We are incredibly excited at presenting the homecoming of Miami-native playwright Alexis Scheer's beguiling and thought provoking play **Our Dear Dead Drug Lord** to the community of South Florida," said Zoetic Stage Artistic Director Stuart Meltzer. "The play is a whirlwind of comedic, dramatic and magical moments exploring that complicated yet mystical space between girlhood and womanhood. **Our Dear Dead Drug Lord** is a true Miami play of courage, culture and connection."

Whiplashing back and forth between laugh out loud humor and stop-you-in-your-tracks drama, **OUR DEAR DEAD DRUG LORD** explores the darkest corners of the human heart. Intimate in nature, yet universal in its ability to explore the need to connect, the play is an unflinching and powerful reminder of what it means to be human. As it races to its startling conclusion, audiences will be left catching their breath.

The play enjoyed a highly successful, extended run Off-Broadway, a co-production of Second Stage and WP Theater. Theatre Scene called the play "the work of a born playwright and a unique new voice."

Alexis Scheer is a proud Miami native and New World School of the Arts alum. Her plays include *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (WP Theater/Second Stage: NYT Critic's Pick, John Gassner Award, Kilroy's List, LTC Carnival of New Latinx Work), *Laughs in Spanish* (Kennedy Center's Harold & Mimi Steinberg Award, NNPN Showcase), *Christina* (Roe Green Award), *The Sensational* (Actors' Theatre of Louisville), and *A Very Herrera Holiday* (New Rep). Alexis also wrote the book for the new musical *Shook* (music/lyrics by Zoe Sarnak) that premieres this fall at Northern Stage directed by Maggie Burrows. Her work has been developed at the Kennedy Center, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, McCarter Theatre Center, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Cleveland Playhouse, and more. Alexis' favorite acting credits include the Boston premiere of *Blasted*, a storefront *Equus*, and *Fiddler on the Roof* at Actors' Playhouse which she did when she was 13 instead of getting Bat Mitzvah'ed (true story). Alexis holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from The Boston Conservatory and MFA in Playwriting from Boston University. She is currently under commission by Miami New Drama, Second Stage, and Manhattan Theatre Club. In television, she writes on *Pretty Little Liars: Original Sin*, and has a project in development at HBO Max.

Stuart Meltzer is the Founding Artistic Director of Zoetic Stage. He is the proud recipient of numerous Carbonell Awards for Best Director. He is also a Carbonell Award winner for

Best New Work for his play *The Goldberg Variations*. Altogether, he has been honored with eighteen Carbonell nominations. His directing credits include *Frankenstein*, *American Son*, *The Wolves*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Dracula*, *Fun Home*, *Dancing Lessons*, *Wrongful Death and Other Circus Acts*, *Topdog/Underdog*, *The Caretaker*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *After*, *Passion*, *Rapture*, *Blister*, *Burn*, *Stripped*, *Betrayal*, *Trust*, *Detroit*, *The Great God Pan*, *Assassins* and *Fear Up Harsh*. He is the recipient of five Silver Palm Awards for his work as the Resident Director of Zoetic Stage. He received his MFA in Directing from the Actors' Studio in 2002.

Elena Maria Garcia is blessed to be working with Zoetic Stage! When she's not collecting cats or replanting trees, she's starting a mutiny. Her last one was remounting *Fuacata! Or A Latina's Guide To Surviving The Universe* at Actor's Playhouse. She is a four-time recipient of the Carbonell award. This summer Elena is performing her one person show, *Do You Speak Mexican?*, in Alabama, along with directing for City Theatre. She is assistant professor at Barry University and a member of Screen Actor's Guild and Actors' Equity Association. Her work is dedicated to her father, Dr. Francisco Garcia.

Sofia Duemichen (Pipe) is thrilled to be making her Zoetic debut in **OUR DEAR DEAD DRUG LORD**. A Miami native, she studied musical theatre at New World School of the Arts and has recently received her BFA in Acting from Rutgers University Mason Gross in New Jersey. Credits include Mariana in *Measure for Measure* at the Globe in London, Juliet in *Juliet Among the Changelings* at Lost Girls Theatre Company and Edna in *Mr. Burns*, among others.

Rachel Eddy (Zoom) is an actor/writer/comedian based in Brooklyn, NY. Along with her brother, Bobby, she is the co-creator of the award-winning short *Jew(ish)*, which is currently being developed into a feature film. Some favorite credits include *Book of Esther* (Avigail), *The Music Man* (Zaneeta), *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Lucy), and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Logainne). She is a UCB-trained improviser and sketch comedian with over 60k followers on TikTok for her original characters. She graduated magna cum laude from University of Miami with her BFA in musical theatre.

Mikayla Queeley (Squeeze) is a recent BFA graduate of New World School of the Arts making her Zoetic Stage debut. Recent credits include: Rafiki in *Believe: A Musical Spectacular* (Disney Cruise Line), Cinderella in *Cinderella: A Fractured Fairytale Fantasy* (Theater Factory), Danielle in *Bring it On the Musical* and Felicia Ferrall in *Memphis The Musical*.

Gina Fonseca (Kit) is a Miami native actor and creative based in New York City. Regional credits include *Witch* (Huntington Theatre Company); *Fade* (Kitchen Theatre Company); *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (Workshop Premiere, Off the Grid Theatre Company). She received her BFA in Acting from Boston University.

Tai Fruitstone (Pipe's Little Sister) has been acting since the age of seven and been dancing since the age of four. Now 13, she is performing in her first professional show in her Zoetic Stage debut. Tai has performed several times with Miami Children's Theater and MAD Performing Arts, and previous credits with them include: *Matilda the Musical* (Matilda), *The Addams Family*, *Young @ Part* (Wednesday), *Seussical Jr.* (Gertrude

McFuzz), and *Annie Jr.* (Duffy). Tai also recently performed in Miami Arts Charter School's production of *4 A.M.* and *The Magic Hour* (Anne).

Rio Chavarro (Pablo Escobar) is a classically trained performer and Miami native. He studied in conservatories in New York City and Miami for acting and directing. For the past 20+ years, he has been perfecting his craft as an actor, writer, director/producer, singer, clown, mime, and comedian. His love of being a spoken word poet, singer, MC, voice over dubbing artist, and a world class Charlie Chaplin impersonator has never overshadowed his love for the theatre. He has appeared on many Florida theatre stages professionally since 2003.

The play's creative team features lighting design by **Tony Galaska** and sound design by **Matt Corey**. For detailed cast and creative bios, click [here](#).

PNC Bank is the presenting sponsor of the 2021-2022 **THEATER UP CLOSE** series. WLRN is the media sponsor. The Arsht Center's **THEATER UP CLOSE** series gratefully acknowledges the founding support of Adrienne and Jerry L. Cohen and Funding Art Network.



To download high-resolutions versions of the photo above, click [here](#).

@ArshtCenter

#ArshtCenter

**All programs, artists, ticket prices, availability, dates and times are subject to change without notice. Ticket fees apply. Visit arshtcenter.org for up-to-date information.*

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is made possible by the public support of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural

Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council and the City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency, as well as the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. The Adrienne Arsht Center also receives generous support from individuals, corporations and local, state and national foundations.

###

AboutUs

Set in the heart of downtown Miami, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is committed to welcoming and connecting ALL people to the arts, to the Arsht Center and to each other. Our stages are alive year-round with artists from around the world, innovative programming from our resident companies and local arts partners, free community events that reflect Miami's unique identity and arts education experiences for thousands of Miami children each year.

Since opening in 2006, the Arsht Center, a 501C3 non-profit organization, has been recognized as a catalyst for billions of dollars in new development in the downtown area, a leader in programming that mirrors South Florida's diversity, a host venue for historic events and Miami's hub for arts education.

Each year, we serve more than 60,000 young learners and offer more than 100 culturally diverse and inclusive education programs — many enhanced by the Arsht Center's relationship with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, local teaching artists and Miami-based arts organizations.

The Arsht Center is also a home stage for three resident companies — Florida Grand Opera, Miami City Ballet and New World Symphony — and a launch pad for local artists to make their mark on the international stage. Our 300+ events each year include the Center's Signature Series of classical, jazz, Broadway, local theater and much more. We present a robust series of touring Broadway musicals direct from New York, the largest jazz series in South Florida, a major annual Flamenco Festival and an award-winning Miami-based theater program. In addition, our Family Fest, Free Gospel Sundays, CommuniTEA LGBTQ+ celebration and Heritage Fest are among dozens of free events that bring together people from all corners of our community. For more information, visit arshtcenter.org.

About Zoetic Stage

Zoetic Stage was founded in 2010 to create fresh, bold interpretations of contemporary plays and musicals, and is dedicated to enhancing South Florida's national artistic profile by producing regional premieres and developing new works to become part of the American stage repertoire.

In 2020, Zoetic Stage was named the Best Theater Company by the *Miami New Times*. The theater has been nominated for an impressive 120 Carbonell Awards (of which 15 were for Best Production of the Year) and won 42, including six for Best New Work and

four for Best Production of a Play or Musical. Zoetic Stage productions have received over thirty Silver Palm Awards for Outstanding Achievement.

Zoetic Stage is an Associate Member of the National New Play Network and a member of the South Florida Theater League.

Visit www.zoeticstage.org for more information.