

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Betsy-South Beach Announces Escribe Aquí/Write Here: Iberoamerican Culture Festival featuring readings, residencies & community programs: September 14-October 16, 2016

Summary: The Betsy-South Beach is proud to announce its 2nd Annual Escribe Aquí/Write Here Festival featuring writers Ana Menendez, Grettel Singer, Carlos Pintado, Cristina Garcia, Santiago Vaquera-Vasquez, Jose Ignacio Valenzuela, Patricia Engel, Jennifer Thorndike, Francisco Ángeles, as well as Ricardo Cavolo (visual artist), Peter London (dancer), Roxanna Amed (Singer), Iberoamerican Shakespearean scholar, Ruben Espinosa, and many others. Community programming partners include Miami Dade College, Centro Cultural España, Suburbano Ediciones, Florida International University, University of Miami, SudAquia Publishers, and Books and Books. Major funding for the project comes from The James S. and John L. Knight Foundation Arts Challenge Program – Miami and The Betsy Community Fund at The Miami Foundation. All events are free and open to the public, from September 14 to October 15, 2016. ArtsandCulture@TheBetsyHotel.com for more information .

Miami Beach, Florida (August 25 2016) – The Betsy Hotel announces a stellar line up for its second annual Escribe Aquí/Write Here: Iberoamerican Culture Festival to include authors and artists showcasing their work throughout Miami. With major funding from the Knight Arts Challenge Program, the project's goal is to celebrate the rich diversity of the Americas through the voices and contributions of contemporary artists. The month-long event brings together authors and visiting artists from around the world including visual artist, Ricardo Cavolo; former Martha Graham Principal Dancer Peter London; New York Times Notable Book author, Ana Menendez; International best selling author, Jose Ignacio Valenzuela; acclaimed Peruvian author and scholar, Francisco Ángeles; Shakespearean author, Ruben Espinosa; Award-winning poet, Carlos Pintado, plus groundbreaking young authors Patricia Engle, Liliana Blum, and Jennifer Thorndike. Guest presenters will stay in The Betsy Writer's Room ([thebetsywritersroom](http://thebetsywritersroom.com)) and present programming in a variety of venues, including The Betsy, Miami Dade College, and Centro Cultural Español. The 2nd annual festival, which is made possible by a 2015 Knight Arts Challenge Grant, and The Betsy-South Beach's Philanthropy, Arts, Culture, and Education (PACE) program, will have readings by internationally recognized authors and artists, master classes, scholarly discussions among distinguished panelists, live music, dance, and theatrical performances, and food inspired by the cultural variances of Iberoamerican culture.

Cuban-American author, Pablo Cartaya, will direct the program under the auspices of the PACE (Philanthropy, Arts, Culture, and Education) program at The Betsy Hotel (thebetsyhotel.com), and The Betsy Writer's Room (thebetsywritersroom.com). Cartaya is the author of *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* (Viking, 2017) and *Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish* (Viking, 2018), and teaches in the MFA program at Sierra Nevada College. *"This year's festival will showcase the cross pollination of Spanish and English in literature, by incorporating both languages into most events. Our goal is to honor the linguistic connectivity that English and Spanish share in contemporary literature and culture. Indeed, out of our different cultures is a vibrant connective tissue that binds Iberoamerican traditions and embraces us all."* (Pablo Cartaya)

Escribe Aquí/Write here is one of many pillar programs at The Betsy-South Beach, all designed to build community in Miami, the beaches, and beyond through innovative partnerships with established and emerging organizations in the fields of Philanthropy, Arts, Culture, and Education. The Betsy has worked with more than 250 organizations since 2009, and has welcomed 450+ artists to The Betsy Writer's room since 2012.

The 2016 Escribe Aquí Line up (selected list)

Cristina Garcia (Cuba-USA), National Book Award finalist Cuban born American author known for her book *Dreaming in Cuban* as well as many other acclaimed novels.

Francisco Ángeles (Peru), novelist, academic, and PhD candidate at the University of Pennsylvania.

Patricia Engle (Columbia), Patricia Engle is the author of *The Veins of the Ocean*, recently named a NYT Editor's Choice, as well as *Vida*, and *It's Not Love, It's Just Paris*.

Jennifer Thorndike (Peru) Author, academic, PhD candidate at the University of Pennsylvania whose work is published by Penguin/Random House and who has presented at book fairs around the world.

Ricardo Cavolo (Spain), Cavolo is an emerging international visual artist and illustrator, coming to Escribe Aqui in a special partnership with Centro Cultural Espagnol. His works will remain on Exhibition at The Betsy for Art Basel.

Grettel Singer (Cuba), Author of several collections of works in Spanish about everyday life of Latin women and has an international following.

Ruben Espinosa, Scholar who teaches at University of Texas El Paso and is a rising star in Shakespearean studies because of his work on Shakespeare and Immigration.

Jose Antonio "El Chascas" Valenzuela, "Chascas" has written and developed various television, literature, film and theater projects in Chile, Mexico, the United States, and Puerto Rico. He has published a number of novels and is widely known for his young adult literature.

Santiago Vaquera-Vasquez (Mexico-USA), author, academic, "unrepentant" border-crosser and ex-DJ, was "made in Mexico but born in the U.S."

Carlos Pintado (Cuba-USA) is a writer, playwright and award-winning poet who received the prestigious 2014 [Paz Prize for Poetry](#), and published in a bilingual edition by [Akashic](#) Press.

Liliana Blum (Mexico) Blum is a short story writer and one of the first Mexican writers of her generation to be translated into English.

Pablo Brescia (Argentina), author and scholar who is professor of Latin American studies at the University of South Florida.

Gastón Virkel (Argentina), is a filmmaker, screenwriter, and television producer who has worked in film and television in Argentina and throughout the world.

Cristian Proa (Mexico), filmmaker, screenwriter, and actor who has developed several renown art house films in his native Mexico.

Peter London (Trinidad/Tobago-USA), dancer, choreographer, teacher who danced with Martha Graham, Alvin Ailey, and Bill T. Jones Dance Companies, and is founder/director of the Peter London Global Dance Company.

Roxana Amed (Argentina), jazz singer, songwriter, filmmaker, whose album, *Entremundos*, was considered by Rolling Stone magazine among the 5 top Argentine jazz albums in 2006.

Pedro Medina (Peru), Medina is an editor, publisher, and author. He is the founder of the online Spanish language journal *Suburbano Ediciones* and has lectured and talked at literary festivals throughout Latin America.

Literary Highlights

Betsy Sunday Afternoon Chats, "Charlas" will feature authors of Iberoamerican anthologies in both Spanish and English and will feature panel discussions focusing on writing across language. Editors, publishers, and contributing authors in the field will discuss various areas of the publishing side of Iberoamerican literature and its affect on United States culture beyond language. These afternoon Sunday talks will be hosted at The Betsy and will feature a wide range of industry professionals. Sunday salons are free and open to the public: September 18, 25 and October 2, 9, 16.

Writing Workshops - Cristian Proa, Liliana Blum, Santiago Vaquera-Vasquez, and Ana Cecilia Blum will lead four consecutive, Saturday morning master classes (beginning September 18th-October 8th) at Miami Dade College in varying

disciplines of Iberoamerican writing (including screenwriting, bilingual writing, short story, and poetry). This series is co-sponsored with Miami Dade College and The Center for Literature at MDC.

Readings and Cultural Outings

Readings by visiting authors and some of Miami's brightest Iberoamerican authors and artists will be held every week. The official "kickoff" will be on Wednesday, September 14, at 7 PM, and will continue on Thursdays (7 PM), thereafter (Sept 22, 29, and October 6, 13). Thursday events will include complimentary wine and snacks as well as live music and dance. The culminating event on October 13 will feature free paella for the community, as a gift from The Betsy Hotel.

Music: Music and literature will be linked in the Festival, and will be present throughout. Musicians pending are flamenco and multi-genre vocalist, Rodolfo Troncosco, the Ed Calle Duo, Roxana Ahmed, Lourdes Valentin, Sylvia Santilli, and Edil de Leon, among others.

Food: The closing party (October 13th at 7pm) and reading will be on The Betsy-South Beach's famed rooftop where music, readings, and paella will be served along with complimentary wine. This event is free but limited to 100 people.

Special Programs and Events

Global (award-winning) Choreographer premieres new work (Peter London Global Dance Company)

On September 14th, October 6th, and October 14th, and with funding from wide-ranging local and regional sources, The Peter London Dance Company will debut several new works at The Betsy Hotel.

Presentations for Young Readers

With funding from the Wege Foundation and with partnership from South Florida Cares Mentoring Network, several selected writers will visit youth programs to make presentations and inspire young people to read – and write.

About Escribe Aquí-Write Here – Escribe Aquí/Write Here: Iberoamerican Culture Festival

Escribe Aquí-Write Here aims to bring the multilingual multicultural voices of literature to the forefront through a series of readings, workshops, and community outreach. Escribe Aquí-Write Here was created by The Betsy-South Beach's PACE program to bring marginalized voices in Iberoamerican literature to the forefront, in a series of readings where authors writing in Spanish and teaching at American Universities were able to have a space to share their work with the Miami community. The project was then expanded to include authors who claim multilingual and multicultural heritage in their work and brought a new kind of awareness to authors writing from and about their respective cultures. Artists came for residencies, made presentations, and realized (with us) that there was much more to be done. In 2015, the first festival launched to rave reviews in many major new outlets including el Nuevo Herald, WLRN, Radio Mambi, Radio Caracol, Diaro las Américas. In late 2015, Escribe Aquí-Write Here was awarded a coveted Knight Arts Challenge grant to expand the program. This year (2016) marks the first time the festival will take place over an entire month from September to October, in tandem with National Hispanic Heritage Month.

About The Betsy-South Beach:

The Betsy-South Beach is the only Forbes Four Star and AAA Four Diamond rated boutique hotel in Greater Miami. Located in the heart of the Art Deco District on Ocean Drive, The Betsy's unique hospitality model champions the power of community through its dedicated PACE (Philanthropy, Arts, Culture, Education) program by weaving those brand pillars into the guest experience. Currently, the 61-key hotel is in the process of a groundbreaking expansion, led by architect Allan T. Shulman and designers Diamante Perdorsoli and Carmelina Santoro, to merge with the historic Carlton Hotel and become a single unified property by fall 2016. Upon completion, the new Betsy will boast 128 guestrooms with 25 suites, three distinct food and beverage outlets under the direction of famed Chef Laurent Tourondel, a 3,000 sq. ft. rooftop pool complex, new boardroom, expanded fitness center and rooftop spa, dedicated library, and 15,000 sq. ft. of new event space to scale their celebrated PACE program. For more information on The Betsy-South Beach, visit www.thebetsyhotel.com. Follow us on Instagram and Twitter [@TheBetsyHotel](https://www.instagram.com/TheBetsyHotel). Like us on Facebook [TheBetsyHotel](https://www.facebook.com/TheBetsyHotel).

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[Schedule on following page](#)

EA Festival Schedule – all events are free and open to the public (as of August 24)

For more information – artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com

Wednesday,	September 14	Noches Artes – Betsy B Bar at 7 PM
Saturday,	September 17	WRITING WORKSHOP OFF SITE (MDC KOUBEK) – 10 AM
Sunday,	September 18	Charlas - @ Betsy - 4-5:30pm
Thursday,	September 22	Noches Artes – Betsy B Bar at 7 PM
Saturday,	September 24	WRITING WORKSHOP (MDC KOUBEK) – 10 AM
Sunday,	September 25	Ladino/Yiddish Salon – Betsy B Bar – 9:30 AM
Monday,	September 26	Charlas- @ Betsy -930 AM
Thursday,	September 29	Noches Artes– Betsy B Bar at 7 PM
Saturday,	October 1	WRITING WORKSHOP (MDC KOUBEK) – 10 AM
Sunday,	October 2-	Charlas @ Betsy - 4-530pm
Thursday,	October 6	Noches Artes – B Bar at 7 PM
Saturday,	October 8	WRITING WORKSHOP (MDC KOUBEK) – 10 AM
Sunday,	October 9	Charlas - @Betsy - 4-530pm
Thursday,	October 13	Breakfast Salon Latin Shakespeare @ Betsy - 9:30 AM
Thursday,	October 13	Poetry Paella on Ocean Deck @ Betsy - 9:30 AM