



Teatro de Oro

(GOLDEN STAGE)

FILM INFORMATION

FILM TITLE

Teatro de Oro / Golden Stage

LOG LINE

A powerful documentary tracing Puerto Rico's unbreakable spirit through its theater, from the ancient Taíno Areyto ceremonies of storytelling, dance, and ancestral resistance to the revolutionary performances that defied colonialism, slavery, and how the island's people have used the stage as a living weapon of cultural survival, identity, and defiance across centuries.



Contact

Caesar Osiris
Producer & Director
Los Angeles, CA 90403
323-617-2235
caesar@labhmedia.com
www.caesarosiris.com

Technical Information

Running Time: 120:38
Format: ProRes Quicktime
Aspect Ratio: 16:9
Shooting Format: Digital HD 4:2:2;
35mm Film
Color. Spanish with English
subtitles

SYNOPSIS

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Teatro de Oro is a powerful documentary celebrating the unbreakable resilience of the Puerto Rican people through the revolutionary force of their theater, from the ancient Taíno Areíto rituals to Afro-boricua Bomba rhythms. Spanning centuries of Spanish colonialism, African cultural fusions, world wars, migration, and political struggle, the film reveals how Puerto Rican theater evolved into a bold arena for social critique, national awakening, and cultural defiance, serving as both mirror and weapon. Directed and edited by Caesar Osiris, Teatro de Oro spotlights Puerto Rican theater's visionary figures and uses pop-up book stop-motion animation to weave a magical journey, proving the stage preserves memory, forges identity, and embodies resistance, where art outlasts conquest and culture outlasts authority.

FULL SYNOPSIS

"Teatro de Oro" is a captivating documentary that celebrates the unbreakable resilience of the Puerto Rican people through the revolutionary power of their theater. From the ancient Taíno Areíto ceremonies to the defiant rhythms of Bomba, born in the shadows of enslavement as a hidden language of survival and rebellion.

Spanning centuries, it explores the profound influences of Spanish colonialism, the cultural fusions of African heritage, and the upheavals of the world wars, which reshaped the island's identity amid migration, economic struggle, and political transformation.

Through these turbulent eras, Puerto Rican theater evolved into a bold arena for social critique, national awakening, and cultural defiance.

The documentary highlights pioneering figures and institutions that forged a distinctly Puerto Rican theatrical tradition: visionaries like Leopoldo Santiago Lavandero (founder of Teatro Rodante Universitario), Emilio S. Belaval (co-creator of Areyto theater company), Alejandro Tapia y Rivera, René Marqués, Luis Rafael Sánchez, Myrna Casas, Francisco Arriví, Manuel Méndez Ballester, and Pablo Cabrera; landmark companies such as Teatro del Sesenta, La Farándula Bohemia, La Comedia Puertorriqueña, and Teatro del Sesenta; key cultural pillars including the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, the Ateneo Puertorriqueño, Victoria Espinosa, Dean Zayas, Gloria Saez, "Maito" Fernández Cortines, and the Drama Department; and more.

Directed/edited by Caesar Osiris, Teatro de Oro takes viewers on a magical, deeply moving journey through Puerto Rico's theatrical history, revealing how the stage has preserved memory, forged collective identity, and embodied the island's enduring spirit of resistance and rebirth in the face of empire and adversity.

This is more than a chronicle, it's a testament to how art has outlasted conquest, culture outlast authority, turning performance into an eternal act of cultural sovereignty and human endurance.

FAQ

1. How did the project originate?

In 2021, legendary Puerto Rican theater figures Manuel "Maito" Fernández Cortines and Myrna Casas approached filmmaker Caesar Osiris to digitize their personal archives and create a video preserving their legacies, including icons like Victoria Espinosa, Alejandro Tapia y Rivera, Leopoldo Santiago Lavandero, Francisco Arriví, Luis Rafael Sánchez, and René Marqués. What began as a personal favor evolved into Teatro de Oro, the first comprehensive documentary on Puerto Rican theater history, funded initially out-of-pocket by Osiris.

2. What progress has been made, and how has it been funded so far?

Funding has been grassroots and strategic: initial work was self-funded by the director. Crowdfunding campaigns in 2023 and 2024 raised essential support. Two grants from the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña (one in 2024 and one in 2025) enabled screenings of the first act in Puerto Rican schools, engaging more than 1,000 students and shaping the narrative through their feedback.

3. What unique creative elements set this documentary apart?

The film incorporates innovative pop-up book stop-motion animation (over 40 hand-crafted scenes created manually in recent weeks) to bring historical narratives to life visually and magically. This technique enhances storytelling accessibility and emotional impact, blending archival material, interviews, and animation for a fresh, engaging presentation of Puerto Rican cultural heritage.

5. What remains to be completed, and what is the timeline?

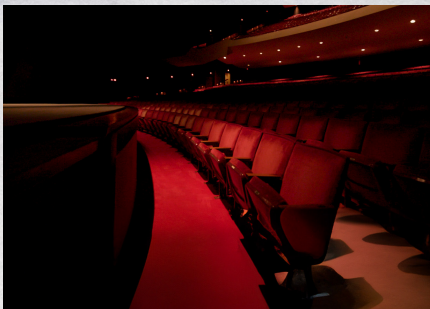
Remaining work includes integrating cleared archival footage, finalizing animation sequences, color correction, sound design, music composition, and final mix. The team is on track for completion in Mid 2026. Additional funding will accelerate these finishing stages and ensure high-quality delivery for festivals, educational distribution, and public impact.

6. Who is the team, and what partnerships are in development?

Directed and edited by Caesar Osiris (LA-based Puerto Rican filmmaker via Lab H Media). The project honors mentors like Maito and Myrna Casas while building partnerships with the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña (ICP), Puerto Rico's Department of Tourism, Department of Education, and GEER Funds.

7. How will grant funds be used, and what is the expected impact?

Grant funds will support final post-production: animation completion, sound/music design, color correction, and archival clearances—to deliver a polished feature for festivals, streaming, and screenings in Puerto Rico and the diaspora. The finished film will preserve vital oral histories, educate global audiences on Puerto Rican cultural resilience, and inspire future generations by linking theater history to contemporary identity and self-determination.



PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Director's Statement

When two legends of Puerto Rican theater; Myrna Casas and Manuel "Maito" Fernández Cortines asked me in 2021 to help preserve their archives and stories, I didn't yet know I was stepping into the making of my life's most urgent film. What began as a favor to honor their legacies quickly revealed itself as something far larger: **the first comprehensive documentary on the history of Puerto Rican theater**, a living archive of resilience told through the very art form that has kept our identity alive against centuries of erasure.

I am a Puerto Rican filmmaker raised on the island and now based Los Angeles, shaped by the same cultural currents this film traces, from Taíno Areíto rituals of communal memory to Bomba's coded defiance under enslavement, through Spanish colonial stages, world wars, migration, and the ongoing struggle for self-determination. Theater, for us, has never been mere entertainment. It has been resistance, mirror, weapon, and sanctuary. Every performance preserved a piece of who we are when empires tried to define us otherwise.

This documentary is personal. It carries the voices of those who are no longer here; Myrna Casas, "Maito" and Pablo Cabrera, and others whose interviews I recorded in their final years. It is also communal: over 50 hours of footage, hand-crafted pop-up book stop-motion animation (more than 40 scenes built manually), newly uncovered archival discoveries from Spain's General Archive of the Indies, and the input of hundreds of Puerto Rican students who watched early cuts in school screenings funded by Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña grants. Their reactions helped shape the narrative, reminding me that this story belongs to the next generation as much as it does to the past.

We have built this film almost entirely through grassroots effort, self-funding, crowdfunding, small grants, community art shows in DTLA Arts district (*TIEMPO VIVO ART SHOW, PROJECT SPACE, 2023*), and sheer persistence, because no major institution initially believed a story this specific could resonate universally. Yet it does. The resilience we document on stage is the same resilience that carried our people through colonialism, hurricanes, economic crises, and diaspora. Teatro de Oro is proof that culture outlasts authority, that art is how we remember who we are when the world tries to forget.

My hope is that this film reaches Puerto Ricans everywhere on the island, in the diaspora, and beyond, and reminds us that our story is not one of loss, but of unbreakable continuity. Through theater, we have always found ways to speak, to gather, to endure. Now, through this documentary, we pass that torch forward.

Caesar Osiris
Director & Editor
Los Angeles, February 2026



PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

BUDGET

Total Above-The-Line: \$13,250

Total Below-The-Line Production: \$20,290

Total Below-The-Line Post: \$45,405

TOTAL BUDGET: \$78,945

FUNDS RAISED

\$5,000: JAMES ADOMIAN CONTRIBUTION (2021)

\$1,000: DUPLASS BROTHERS PATRONS CIRCLE (2023)

\$7,556: SOCIAL MEDIA CROWDFUNDING (2024)

\$1,500: TIEMPO VIVO ART SHOW FUNDRAISING (2024)

\$13,440: INSTITUTO DE CULTURA PUERTORRIQUENA (2024)

\$14,400: INSTITUTO DE CULTURA PUERTORRIQUENA (2025)

\$7,560: CAESAR OSIRIS OUT-OF-POCKET (2021 - 2026)

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED: \$50,456

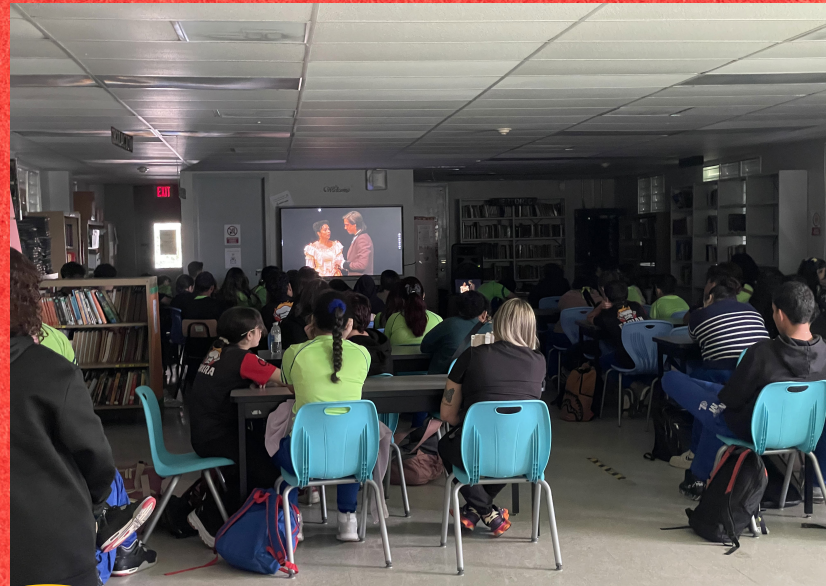


**HAPPENING
NOW**

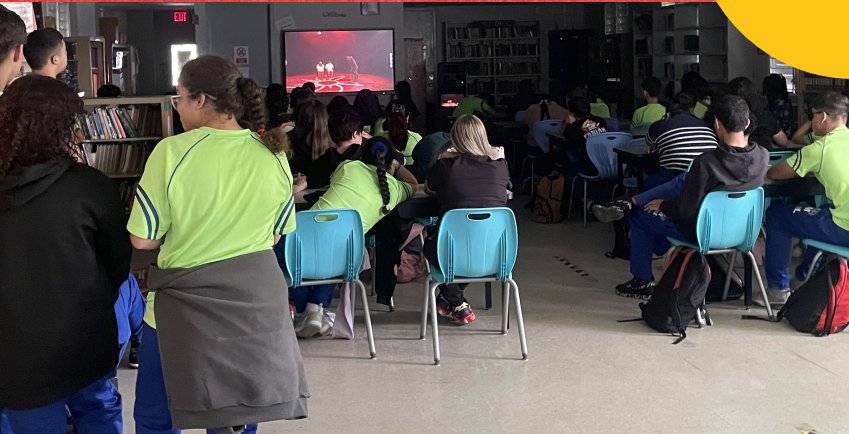
**STOP MOTION
ANIMATION**

IMPACT

In October 2024 and 2025, with GEER funds and Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, we screened the first act of *Teatro de Oro* in over 10 Puerto Rican schools, directly reaching and impacting more than 1000 students. Without even finishing the documentary, it is already impacting people, their engagement and feedback helped shape the narrative while sparking vital conversations about identity, history, and performance among the next generation.



**1000+
STUDENTS
SERVED**



CREDITS

CAST

Teresa Hernandez

Doña Gabriela, Marta

Cristina Soler

Chabela, Rosa Luna, Maribel

Carmen Nydia Velázquez

Mama Toña, Esther

Gabriela Saker

Rosario, Clarita, Marina

Jeliannys Michelle

Milagros, Juanita, Betunia

Anna Malavé

Julia, Pinta

Jorge Luis Ramos

Simón, Don Crisol

Julio Ramos

Ignacio, General Español

Modesto Lacén

Ramón, Casimiro

Héctor Enrique Rodríguez

Carlos, Ponce de León,
Samuel, Cheo

Yussef Soto

Agueybana

Bárbara Hernández

Visión Celestial

Maritxell Carrero

Gran Bohique

Norelix Rivera

Bailadora

Hashlye Perez

Vejigante

Percusionistas

Christian Galarza

Esteban R. Millan

Táinos

Christa Taina

Keily Taina

X

INTERVIEWEES

Idamaly Jimenez

Edgar Garcia

Jacqueline Duprey

Carola Garcia

Pedro Adorno

Johanna Rosali

Cacique Angel

Ismanuel Rivera

Angela Mayer

Jetppeht Pérez

Mayra Santos-Febres

Myrna Casas

(posthumous)

Natalia Arriví

Deborah Hunt

Pablo Cabrera

(posthumous)

Rafy Cruzado

Roberto Ramos-Perea

Rosa Luisa Márquez

Rosalina Perales

Sosan Homer

"Maito" Manuel

Fernández Cortines

(posthumous)

And More!

STOP-MOTION ART

DIRECTOR

Caesar Osiris

STOP-MOTION

DESIGNERS

Karu de Jesus

Ana Miró

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Caesar Osiris

James Adomian

PRODUCERS

Caesar Osiris

Maritxell Carrero

Gabriela Saker

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS

Mark Duplass

Jay Duplass

Joyce Hayashi

Gabriel Leyva

Sofía Toymil

DIRECTOR & EDITOR

Caesar Osiris

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Jeannice Mustafá

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Pamela Lopez

SOUND MIXER

Andrés Nieves

FIRST ASSISTANT CAMERA

Kino Fonseca

FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Milton Carrero

SECOND UNIT DIRECTOR

Amnerys Quiñones

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Christa Romero-Córdoba

Amnerys Quiñones

BTS PHOTOGRAPHY

Fabiola Brown

WARDROBE

Vilma Martinez

KEY MAKEUP

Ricardo Diadoné

MAKEUP ARTIST

Lucy Gonzalez

Virgin Ruiz

Ybelka Hurtado

THEATER TECHNICIAN

Joco Ramos

ECOSOCIAL FILM FUND INC

Fiscal Sponsorship

BIOS



DIRECTOR, PRODUCER & EDITOR

Caesar Osiris is a Los Angeles-based multidisciplinary boricua Director, Producer, Video Editor. His body of work includes collaborations with VivaGlam, Range Rover, Guess, Sea Shepherd, and Beyond Meat, directing and producing films, documentaries, commercials, campaigns, and music videos. Author of Happy Days Everyday. His film projects include Firelighting, which received the Best Score Award at the 2021 Culver City Film Festival, and F.L.Y., which received an Audience Honorary Mention at the Outshine LGBTQ+ Film Festival.



PRODUCER

Maritzell Carrero is an actress, producer, interdisciplinary artist and facilitator. She holds an MFA from University of California- San Diego and a BFA from Florida International University. She is Co-Founder of Carrero Creatives where she has collaborated as producer and cultural consultant for several artistic projects including the 2023 Grammy Awards Bad Bunny opening number, where she also performed as a dancer. She is producer of Calle de la Resistencia.



PRODUCER & ACTRESS

Gabriela Saker is a Cuban-born actress based in New York and Puerto Rico. She earned her MFA in Acting from The Juilliard School. Recent theatre credits include Off-Broadway work in The Desire of the Astronaut (Pregones/PRTT) and Zoetrope (Caborca/Abrons Arts Center). She has collaborated with Manhattan Theatre Club, The Huntington Theatre, Repertorio Español, and others. Founder and artistic director of Teatro Público.

BIOS

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jeannicie Mustafá is a seasoned cinematographer known for her keen eye for detail and passion for visual storytelling. Her credits include *Trail of Ashes* (2020), *The Hoax* (2006), and *The 10 Year Plan* (2014). With a dedication to craft and an ability to craft visually stunning narratives, she continues to make a lasting impact in cinematography and remains a respected professional in the film industry.



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

James Adomian is a Los Angeles-based comedian, actor, and producer known for his sharp impressions and versatile work in comedy and film. His credits include *The Burn with Jeff Ross* (Comedy Central, 2011-2013), *The Kroll Show* (Comedy Central, 2012-2015), *Maron* (IFC, 2012-2016), and *Stand Up Planet* (Pivot, 2013-2014). In the 2010s, he contributed to projects like *The Meltdown with Jonah and Kumail* (Comedy Central, 2013), *TripTank* (Comedy Central), and voice work in *BoJack Horseman* (2014). He continues to perform and produce across stage, screen, and podcasting.



ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Mark Duplass is a Filmmaker, actor, and producer. Mark Duplass is renowned for his contributions to independent cinema through Duplass Brothers Productions, often collaborating with his brother Jay on films like *The Puffy Chair* (2005). A champion of emerging filmmakers, he supported Teatro de Oro with a \$1,000 grant via Seed & Spark's Patrons Circle, showcasing his commitment to diverse storytelling and low-budget, high-creativity projects.

