

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The International Committee of the  
League of Professional Theatre Women  
is pleased to announce



# 2014 Winner of the Gilder/Coigney International Theatre Award Patricia Ariza (Colombia, South America)

In October 2014, **The League of Professional Theater Women (LPTW)** will honor **Patricia Ariza**, legendary producer, director, actress, playwright and poet who has worked on the front lines for justice and social change in Colombia for almost 50 years, with the Gilder/Coigney International Theatre Award.

2014 LPTW International Award Ceremony  
**Monday, October 27, 2014**  
Martin E. Segal Theatre Center, CUNY Graduate Center,  
365 Fifth Avenue in New York City.

The Gilder/Coigney International Theatre Award was established in 2011 in honor of **Rosamond Gilder** and **Martha Coigney**, two legendary theatre women whose work on the international stage proved that theatre knows no boundaries. Presented every three years, this Award acknowledges the **exceptional work of theatre women around the world** and aims to make a difference in the life and career of an international woman theatre artist.

### *Patricia Ariza is a "Beacon of alternative culture in Colombia."*



Patricia Ariza in performance, 2009

*Donde estan? Memoria viva. Mujeres en la Plaza. (Where are they? The Memory Lives. Women in the Plaza)*

Ms. Ariza is a feminist, social reformer and political activist, who, with excellence, **drive and humility, builds bridges that connect theatre and society, theatre and politics, theatre and gender on a daily basis.**

*"The important thing is not me, but what I do with the women's **movement and social movement in Colombia. I am confident that the theater serves to achieve peace.**"*

Born to a peasant family in 1946, she moved to Bogotá when her parents were forced into exile. At the heart of her purpose is the strong belief in the transformational power of theatre, leading her in 1966 to **co-found** the experimental **el Teatro La Candelaria** with Santiago Garcia. Since then her work has been inextricably linked with the political and social currents of her time.

For the past 24 years, she has focused on women artists and the social movement, producing vast works and massive performances that bring together professional artists and victims – particularly women – of the long-existing armed conflicts in Colombia. The **Corporacion Colombiana de Teatro**, a not-for-profit organization she manages, creates performances and events with widows and children from the most violent regions of the country: abused women who have left their homes, young people living on the streets, and others displaced by war and social upheaval. These women tell their life stories and play an active role in each performance. The company also organizes the biannual **Festival Alternativo de Teatro** and the internationally acclaimed **Festival de Mujeres en Escena** ("Women on Stage Festival") annually.

## About the 2014 Nominees

Awardee Patricia Ariza is one of 21 **women theatre artists who were nominated on the basis of work that inspires and educates across cultures, has a visible impact in their home country and abroad, and which demonstrates not only artistic excellence but a support of women's work and issues.** The nominees include: **Tiffany Barton - Australia, Doruntina Basha- Serbia, Dalia Basiouny\* - Egypt, Zdenka Becker - Austria, Sabina Berman - Mexico, Ayca Damgaci - Turkey, Mary Ann DeVlieg – Belgium, Lara Foot - South Africa, Jill Greenhalgh\* - Wales, Elena Gremina - Russia, Jude Kelly - England, Ioana Ieronim -Romania, Susie McKenna - England, Lana Nasser\* - Jordan, Yelena Romanova - Russia, Adelheid Roosen - Netherlands, Malgorzata Semil - Poland, Jung-Soon Shim\* - South Korea, Hedda Krausz Sjogren\* – Sweden, Maya Zbib\* - Lebanon.** \* Denotes Finalist

The Award includes travel expenses to New York City for the recipient to be honored. A series of special events surround the award ceremony to showcase the winner's work, and provide artistic and professional networking opportunities. All nominees are encouraged to join us for the award ceremony, with a panel convened of those in attendance to further support international work by women. Many events are open to the public.

## About the League of Professional Theatre Women

**The League of Professional Theatre Women** is a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. It presents numerous events each year as part of its mission to promote visibility and increase opportunities for women in the field. None of this work is possible without generous philanthropic support. The League recently celebrated its thirtieth anniversary, and boasts a membership of nearly 500 women theatre professionals in the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors. League members are actors, administrators, agents, arrangers, casting directors, choreographers, company managers, composers, critics, designers, directors, dramaturgs, dramatists, educators, general managers, historians, journalists, librettists, lyricists, press agents, playwrights, producers, stage managers, and theatre technicians.

**For more information about the award, celebration events and sponsorship contact:**

**Melody Brooks & Gwynn MacDonald**, co-Chairs, *2014 Gilder/Coigney Award* at [InternationalAward@TheatreWomen.org](mailto:InternationalAward@TheatreWomen.org)

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