

## **HOLA • HISPANIC ORGANIZATION OF LATIN ACTORS**

Recipient of the 2002 New York State Governor's Arts Award

**One of the 41 Arts organizations considered essential to New York's cultural heritage**

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### **Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors Name Honorees; Set Gala for September 18 at New York's Schomburg Center**

**Written. produced and directed by  
Jack Landrón**

**Danny Rivera**, a world famous Puerto Rican troubadour; **Kamar de los Reyes**, the resident heartthrob of ABC's One Life to Live; **Miguel Algarín**, poet, writer, and co-founder of the Nuyorican Poets' Café and CNN anchor **Soledad O'Brien** will be honored by the Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors (HOLA) at a gala fundraiser on Monday, September 18, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. at the Schomburg Center at West 135th Street and Lenox Avenue in New York City.

Danny Rivera, singer, poet and activist identified with many social and environmental causes as well as his commitment to the wellbeing of children throughout the Americas, will receive an HOLA ILKA Award (named for founding president Ilka Tanya Payán) for his humanitarian activities. Mr. Rivera has earned three Grammy nominations, three silver albums and four gold albums and is the only Puerto Rican artist to have headlined at Carnegie Hall three times.

Recently chosen by People En Español Magazine as one of its 25 Sexiest Bachelors, Kamar de los Reyes is best known for his role as Antonio Vega on the ABC drama, One Life to Live, but he has worked in television, films and theatre for over a decade. He receives an HOLA José Ferrer Tespis Award, given to those Latino actors who are in mid-career and whose promise is that of its namesake.

Born in Puerto Rico and raised in Spanish Harlem, New York, Miguel Algarín was a professor of Shakespeare, Creative Writing and United States Ethnic Literature. In 1973, he used the living room of his Manhattan apartment as a gathering place for poets and artists. This literary salon was the beginning of Nuyorican Poets' Café, now a non-profit organization presenting poetry and prose readings, theatrical musical performances and visual arts exhibits. The Café has won more than 30 AUDELCO Awards as well as an Obie grant for excellence in theatre. Mr. Algarín was named Professor Emeritus for his more than 30 years of teaching at Rutgers University. He will

receive the Raúl Juliá HOLA Founders Award presented to a theatre or film artist who represents a dedication to the arts as notable as that of Raúl Juliá.

Soledad O'Brien is anchor of CNN's American Morning. Daughter of an Australian of Irish descent father and an Afro-Cuban mother, she previously worked at NBC News, where she anchored Weekend Today, MSNBC's weekend morning show and the cable network's award-winning technology program, The Site. She received a local Emmy for her work co-hosting the Discovery Channel's The Know Zone. She has been named People Magazine's 50 Most Beautiful People in 2001 and People en Español's 50 Most Beautiful People in 2004. A graduate of Harvard University, she is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. She is receiving the HOLA Excellence in English Language Media Award.

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The HOLA gala has been scheduled as part of National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15). The Schomburg Center, the venue for the HOLA Awards, is a national research library devoted to collecting, preserving and providing access to resources documenting the experiences of peoples of African descent throughout the world. The Center's collections first won international acclaim in 1926 when the personal collection of the distinguished Puerto Rican scholar and bibliophile Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, was added to the Division of Negro Literature, History and Prints of the 135th Street Branch of The New York Public Library.

The Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors (HOLA) is a not-for-profit arts organization founded in 1975 to expand the presence of Latino/Hispanic actors in both Latino and mainstream arts and culture. HOLA also strives for an accurate, informed and non-stereotypical portrayal of Latino/Hispanic culture, people and heritage in theatre, film, television, and commercials. It provides a variety of programs serving Latino/Hispanic actors and provides a sizable pool of professional Latino talent for the industry.

The awards are designed to offer special recognition to those artists who identify as Latinos and have succeeded in breaking the bonds of typecasting.

**For further information, call HOLA at 212-253-1015 or visit the website: [www.hellohola.org](http://www.hellohola.org).**

Also being honored on Monday, September 18, 2006 are the following artists whose work as actors, directors and professionals of the Spanish language theater outshone in quality and accomplishment. These recognitions are not competitive but given in the name of the many unsung actors who have been working the Spanish Theater Movement for the last 30 years. The 2005-2006 Spanish Theater Season turned out to be a banner year for productions in Spanish and English and whose casts predominantly featured Latinos in leading roles.

**Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor**

Ricardo Barber (*El Quijote*) Repertorio Español

Iván Camilo (*Don Quijote: su última aventura*)  
Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre

Pedro de Llano (*La importancia de llamarse Blanca*)  
Latin American Theatre Ensemble

**Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor**

Aminta de Lara (*La importancia de llamarse Blanca*)  
Latin American Theatre Ensemble

Marta Julián (*Defensa de dama*) Retablo Hispanic  
Theatre

Eva Cristina Vásquez (*Un Quijote en Nueva York*)  
Teatro Círculo/Teatro IATI

**Outstanding Solo Performance**

Roy Arias (*Sex on the Beach*) Teatro Estudio  
Internacional

Marga Gómez (*Los Big Names*) Puerto Rican  
Traveling Theatre

**Outstanding Achievement in Direction**

René Buch (*Doña Rosita la soltera*) Repertorio  
Español

Jorge B. Merced (*Blanco*)  
Pregones Theater/Teatro IATI

Rosalba Rolón (*La rosa roja/The Red Rose*)  
Pregones Theater

**Outstanding Achievement in Playwriting**

Oscar A. Colón (*The Last of Bernarda*)  
Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre Playwrights Unit

Pablo García Gámez (*Blanco*)  
Pregones Theater/Teatro IATI

**Outstanding Achievement in Technical Production**

Arthur Avilés (*La rosa roja/The Red Rose*) Pregones  
Theater

Regina García (*Blanco*)  
Pregones Theater/Teatro IATI

Jason Sturm (*Lorca Federico Lorca*) Teatro Círculo

**Outstanding Performance by a Featured Female Actor**

Jessica Florí (*Lorca Federico Lorca*) Teatro Círculo  
Ana Margarita Martínez-Casado (*Doña Rosita la soltera*) Repertorio Español

Tanzina Vega (*3x2+2*) Teatro Experimental Blue  
Amigos

**Outstanding Performance by a Featured Male Actor**

George Bass (*Defensa de dama*) Retablo Hispanic  
Theatre

Mateo Gómez (*Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue*)  
Page Seventy-Three Productions/45 Bleecker Theatre

Fermín Suárez (*Defensa de dama*) Retablo Hispanic  
Theatre

Fernando Then (*La importancia de llamarse Blanca*)  
Latin American Theatre Ensemble

**Outstanding Achievement by an Ensemble Cast**

Denia Brache, María Cellario, Maya Parra, Dania  
Ramos, Katherine Riley, Nancy Rodríguez, Monica  
Steuer, Teresa Yenque (*The Last of Bernarda*) Puerto  
Rican Traveling Theatre Professional Playwrights Unit

Emanuel Loarca, Johary Ramos, Carlos Alberto  
Valencia (*Blanco*)  
Pregones Theater/Teatro IATI

**Outstanding Achievement in a Dramatic Production**

*Blanco* Pregones Theater/Teatro IATI  
*Doña Rosita la soltera* Repertorio Español  
*El Quijote* Repertorio Español  
*La importancia de llamarse Blanca*  
Latin American Theater Ensemble

**Outstanding Achievement in a Musical Production**

*La rosa roja/The Red Rose* Pregones Theater  
*Tango Flamenco Fusion* Thalía Spanish Theatre

**Special Recognition Awards**

Danny Rivera (*La rosa roja/The Red Rose*) Pregones  
Theater

Desmar Guevara (*La rosa roja/The Red Rose*)  
Pregones Theater