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Thespian Maestro, TEOFILO TORRES, performs about post-hurricane María crisis in specially commissioned X-mas show. One night only @ LOISAIDA CENTER.

NEW YORK, NY, DECEMBER 15, 2017 - Puerto Rico's most treasured monologist, Teófilo Torres, whose acting career spans over 40 years —will perform at Loisaida Cultural Center on December 28th with his new creation: Pateco el Sepulturero (Pateco the Gravedigger).

Pateco's character is borrowed from an old Puerto Rican folk tale. Legend has it that in 1899, after the deathly devastation of hurricane San Ciriaco, so many people died in the island -both during and in the hurricane's aftermath- that dead bodies were left piling up at the gate of a local cemetery. The gravedigger was called Pateco, it is said. From then on, after someone has passed away, the people in the island have been known to say that 'Pateco took them under', 'a fulano se lo llevó Pateco'.

Torres' take on Pateco comes back to life in 2017, this time after hurricane María devastated Puerto Rico, to take to the grave those "dead bodies" and zombies now piling up all over the island. Torres' Pateco character is portrayed as a half-drunk, half-political pundit, that has found a new devotion to singing jíbaro folk music "Décimas". He is a jokester, however a complicated character that takes a swing at killing us (the audience) softly with his rhymes, and makes us aware of the current political and fiscal crisis facing the Caribbean island.



You can find more information online at loisaida.org/events

Loisaida Inc. has produced many performances throughout this year, some that recasts the current fiscal crisis of Puerto Rico, and more recently others hosting visual artists, musicians and academics interpreting through their work the impact on Puerto Rican communities in the wake of the 2017 hurricane season. Loisaida keeps the creative diaspora stemming from the Caribbean island to present a forward-looking merger of eco-urbanism and art-based community making.

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