

Evolution of a **Sonero**

Written and performed by

Flaco Navaja

Directed by

Jorge B. Merced

Running Time: 80 Minutes

Language: English with some Spanish

Developed in The Bronx

with support from

Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater
and its Step Up Artist in Residence initiative.

World Premiere run at

The Puerto Rican Traveling Theater

in the Hells Kitchen Neighborhood of Manhattan in NYC

in December of 2018

For more information please visit

www.pregonesprtt.org.

Evolution of a Sonero

ABOUT

This is the first full-length solo show by acclaimed artist **Flaco Navaja**. With unabashed love for The Bronx, a gift for crafting memorable characters, and genuine good humor, Navaja and five top-notch musicians – aka The Razor Blades – bring on the charm, the rhythm, and the soul essential to a Bronx *Sonero*. Paying homage to many great musical icons—from Janis Joplin to Menudo, from The Doors to Héctor Lavoe, from Jimi Hendrix to Rubén Blades—the play is as much about Navaja’s creative evolution as it is about the wild mix that gives life to a rhyme, a people and a culture.

Please note: Performance is in English, but some Spanish may be used.

Evolution of a Sonero

Written and performed by Flaco Navaja
Directed by Jorge B. Merced

Live music by **The Razor Blades:**

Carlos Cuevas (piano),
Waldo Chávez (bass),
Gabo Lugo (percussion),
Victor Pablo (percussion),
Hommy Ramos (Trombone)

Lighting design by Lucrecia Briceño

Evolution of a Sonero was developed in part with support from Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater and its Step Up Artist in Residence initiative, funded by The New York Community Trust. For more information please visit pregonesprtt.org.



FLACO NAVAJA

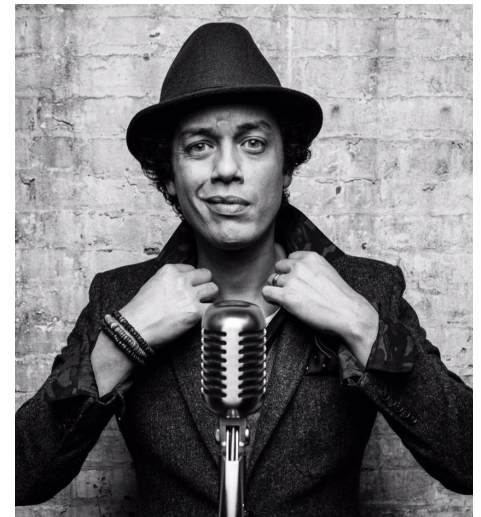
Born and raised in The Bronx, Flaco Navaja is a singer, poet and actor. If Héctor Lavoe boxed Rubén Blades and KRS-1 was the referee you’d get Flaco. His poetry combines singing, beat-boxing, and spoken word, having way with words that is second only to his way with a song. An equally passionate performer in English and Spanish, he is an ensemble member of Pregones Theater, where he premiered *Evolution of A Sonero*. He as a fixture of the Nuyorican Poets Café and star of HBO’s *Def Poetry Jam*. Film & TV credits: *Pride & Glory*, *Fighting*, *Gun Hill Road*, *Law & Order*, *CSI NY*, *East-will YB* and more.

JORGE MERCED

Jorge is associate artistic director at Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater in NY, where he has been a company member since 1987. An acclaimed theater artist, he trained with Osvaldo Dragún, Eugenio Barba, Miguel Rubio and Teresa Ralli (EITALC 89 - Cuba), Augusto Boal (Brazil & France), and at the Alvin Ailey Center (NY). NY Directing credits include: Fellini’s *La Strada* with René Buch, *El huesped vacío* and *Verano Verano* (IATI), *Evolution of a Sonero*, *The Blackout*, *Aloha Boricua*, *Neon Baby*, *El Bolero Was My Downfall* (Pregones), and 11 years of workshop productions for the Asunción Queer Playwrights Project. He is a graduate of NY City College-CUNY.

PREGONES/PUERTO RICAN TRAVELING THEATER

Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater is an award-winning theater ensemble, multidiscipline arts presenter, and owner/steward of arts facilities in The Bronx and Manhattan. Our mission is to champion a cultural legacy of universal value through creation and performance of original plays and musicals, exchange and partnership with other artists of merit, and engagement of diverse audiences. Addressing both need and demand for nearly 50 years, our combined activity adds to more than 200 premieres, 700 visiting artists, 10,000 education units, and 500 touring credits. For more information visit pregonesPRTT.org



Above photo by Eduardo Fierro. Additional photography by Michael Cohen.



A TOURING
PRODUCTION OF
Pregones/PRTT
718-585-1202

PREGONES PRTT

For more information contact:
jmerced@pregones.org
or visit us at:
www.pregonesprtt.org

Evolution of a Sonero

DESCRIPTION BULLETS

(10 words)

The charm, rhythm, and soul of a Bronx Sonero.

(25 words)

A fresh salsa epic about growing up, getting inspired, and staying on track. Written and performed by poet, actor, singer, and Latinx favorite Flaco Navaja.

(100 words)

The first full-length solo show by acclaimed artist Flaco Navaja. With unabashed love for The Bronx, a gift for crafting memorable characters, and genuine good humor, Navaja and five top-notch musicians—aka The Razor Blades—bring on the charm, the rhythm, and the soul essential to a Bronx Sonero. Paying homage to many great musical icons—from Janis Joplin to Menudo, from The Doors to Héctor Lavoe, from Jimi Hendrix to Rubén Blades—the play is as much about Navaja’s creative evolution as it is about the wild mix that gives life to a rhyme, a people and a culture.

Acceptable audience age: 15 and over

Full Credits for playbill:

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Directed by Jorge B. Merced

Live music by The Razor Blades:

Carlos Cuevas (piano),

Waldo Chávez (bass),

Gabo Lugo (percussion),

Victor Pablo (percussion),

Hommy Ramos (Trombone).

Stage Manager: Jessica Moya

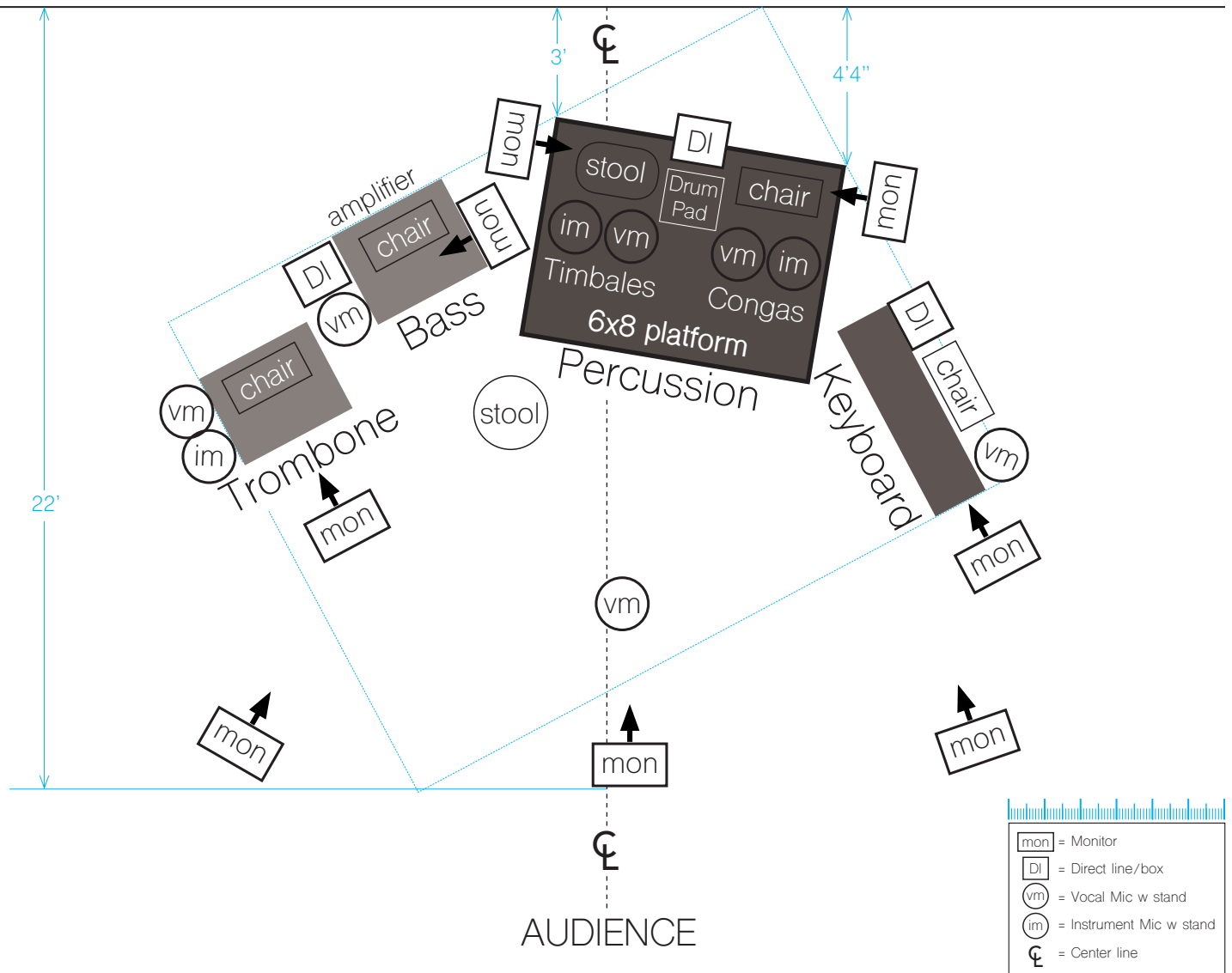
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Evolution of a Sonero

BAND STAGE PLOT



SOUND EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY VENUE:

- 5 Vocal Mics for band w stands
 - 1 Wireless Handheld Mic w stand
 - 1 Wireless Lavaleer with belt/pocket pack
 - 3 Instrument Mics w stands (4 if using acoustic piano).
 - 7-8 monitors (depending on venue size)
- Please note: percussion may require additional amplification depending on venue size.*

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT & INSTRUMENTS PROVIDED BY VENUE:

- 2 congas (11.75" & 12.5") w stands, Timbales (14"/15") w stand,
- Bongos w bongo stand, Chime Tree w stand, tall snare drum stand,
- 2 cymbal stands, Keyboard or Acoustic Piano, 1 Synthetic Guiro,
- 6 music stands, 5 clip lights, 2 stools, 1 additional mic stand,
- 4 chairs.

INSTRUMENTS PROVIDED BY ARTIST:

- Digital Drum Pad, Add. Small Percussion, Trombone, Electric Bass.

EVOLUTION OF A SONERO

Written and Performed by
Flaco Navaja
 Directed by **Jorge B. Merced**

Total # of Artists traveling = 8

- 5 musicians
- 1 Lead Singer/Actor (Flaco)
- 1 Stage Manager, 1 Director



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