

The Annenberg Center Concludes Spring 2021 Film Series with *Calle de la Resistencia*, May 8

Online screening is an exclusive sneak preview prior to the film's world premiere

(Philadelphia – April 28, 2021) — The **Annenberg Center** concludes its spring 2021 film series with a spotlight on Puerto Rico via the film ***Calle de la Resistencia***, guest curated by **Marángeli Mejía-Rabell**, director of the Philadelphia Latino Film Festival (PHLAFF). *Calle de la Resistencia* will be shown through an online platform and will be available for viewing for 24 hours, from May 8 at 7 PM through May 9. Co-presented with PHLAFF and AFROTAINO, this is an exclusive sneak preview prior to the film's world premiere at the 2021 Philadelphia Latino Film Festival. Access is \$10. Visit [AnnenbergCenter.org](https://www.annenbergcenter.org) for more information.

Shot during the COVID-19 pandemic, *Calle de la Resistencia*, (2021, 79 minutes) directed by Denise Blasor, is an emotional look at the struggle of the Puerto Rican people to regain their dignity. With a unique blend of real-life footage and staged musical production, the film tells the tale of nine Puerto Ricans whose lives were forever changed by Maria, the deadly hurricane that left thousands of families without a home and millions without access to water, food, electricity, medicine and communications. Two years later, fate brings these nine people together to the epicenter of the protests that ultimately resulted in the resignation of the Puerto Rican governor, a symbolic triumph of the people over corruption, albeit short-lived. Featuring 20 original songs, *Calle de la Resistencia* picks up the pieces of a tragic history and transforms them into hope.

Guest Curator Marángeli Mejía Rabell is a Puerto Rico-born, Philadelphia-based connector, cultural organizer and producer, arts and culture curator, and programmer whose work is centered on co-creation, capacity building, leadership development, cross-sector collaborations, and honoring our roots as a tool for social change and community self-actualization. Marángeli's practice is focused on community media practices, cultural organizing, intersectionality, accessibility and diversity. As Co-Founder/Creative Partner of AFROTAINO and Director of the Philadelphia Latino Film Festival she co-curates, designs and executes arts and culture programming, collaborations and multidisciplinary projects. She has served as the Philadelphia Latino Film Festival Director for over five years supporting the groundbreaking work of Latinx filmmakers. Under Marángeli's leadership, PHLAFF has evolved into an international film festival that brings the best of US-based Latinx and Latin American stories to wide audiences. Throughout Marángeli's career she has centered Latinx creators, stories and culture to bring about positive change and new representation. She brings strong skills in developing and leading projects, campaigns and programs that combine business and community objectives and over three decades of experience establishing systems and metrics to measure collective impact. She is a recent graduate of the inaugural cohort of the National Arts Strategies Leadership Coaching Training Program. Collaborations include: Pepon Osorio's *reForm* at Tyler Contemporary, *BrideNext*, a Building Audience Demand project with Marty Pottender and serving as a Guest Curator for the Mural Arts Program for the first cycle of their Neighborhood Portraits Project.

With a long history of presenting film starting in the 1970s, in the 2020-21 season, the Annenberg Center returns this important art form to its regular line-up to broaden its inclusive arts programming while also supporting independent film at Penn and in Philadelphia. Curator-at-Large for Film [Maori Karmael Holmes](#), also Artistic Director and CEO of BlackStar Film Festival, works with Executive and Artistic Director Christopher Gruits to develop a series of films that complement and amplify the Annenberg Center's season programming across all disciplines.

About the Annenberg Center's 2020-21 Digital Season

The Annenberg Center's 2021 spring digital season comprises livestreamed performances featuring world premieres and Philadelphia debuts by top dance companies and outstanding jazz artists, collaborative music performances, and screenings of independent films. Designed specifically for the digital stage, the live performances are broadcast using state-of-the-art digital technology from the Prince or Zellerbach Theatre, integrating live chat, and concluding with interactive discussions with the creators and performers. Livestreamed performances are available online for 48 hours after the start time for those who purchased access. Full season calendar can be accessed [here](#).

About the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts serves as a major cultural destination and crossroads connecting the University of Pennsylvania and the Greater Philadelphia region through innovative human expression in theatre, music, dance and film, serving an annual audience of over 80,000. The Annenberg Center also serves as a key resource for the arts at Penn, connecting master artists with Penn students in support of and as an enhancement to the arts curriculum. Student performing arts groups are also key users of the Annenberg Center's multiple performance and rehearsal spaces, while also staffing many operational roles throughout the academic year. In reflection of Penn's core values as a world-respected academic institution, the Annenberg Center emphasizes artistic and intellectual excellence, diversity and rigor in its presentations; prioritizes broad inclusiveness in the artists, audiences and groups it serves; manages outstanding performance, conference and meeting facilities; and stresses comprehensive event planning, production support and customer service. The Annenberg Center is a major provider of performing arts access for school children and actively engages a broad range of primary, secondary and post-secondary student audiences and inclusive constituencies from the campus, community and surrounding region. Visit [AnnenbergCenter.org](#).

CALENDAR LISTING

Calle de la Resistencia

Saturday, May 8, 7 PM

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Directed by Denise Blasor, 2021, Puerto Rico, musical/drama, 79 minutes

Visit [AnnenbergCenter.org](#) for more information.

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