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IMPACT AWARDS

GALA

Celebrating Media Advocacy

Sunday, December 5, 2021
5:30 PT / 8:30 ET
STREAM.NHMC.ORG

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I began my tenure as the first woman President and CEO of the National Hispanic Media Coalition in 2020, and since then my mission has always been to elevate NHMC into a new era. Transforming us into an organization that reaches far and wide and to ensure that Latinos of this country are represented, supported, and uplifted is what we strive for.

NHMC has been advocating for the visibility of Latinos in Hollywood - from our very own 10-year-old Latinx Stream Showcase to our 20-year-old Series Script Writers Program. Every day we work to uplift and highlight Latino creators that make strides in the media. We will continue to collaborate, create, and connect Latinx talent with the Entertainment Industry.

NHMC will continue to advocate for Latinx representation, from Hollywood to the White House, because we know the power of representation truly does matter. We are in Washington D.C., working together with policy makers to eliminate online hate and disinformation, and advocating for programs that will help close the digital divide for our children and marginalized communities. Most importantly, my ask to Hollywood executives is for you to work with us in building bridges between our community and corporate boardrooms and writers’ rooms.

I am a big believer that you do not have to be Latino or part of another marginalized community in order to believe in civil and human rights. So join us in our movement - work together with NHMC to really make an impact in Hollywood, close the digital divide for our children, and eliminate hate in this country!

Yours in the Movement,
NHMC LEADERSHIP

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Monica Lozano is a highly accomplished leader in business with a thirty-year career in media and a life-long dedication to public service and participation in non-profit organizations. Lozano retired as Chair and Chief Executive Officer of ImpreMedia, one of the largest media companies serving Hispanic communities in the United States, in 2014. Before this, Lozano led the publications division for the company and was Publisher and Chief Executive Officer of La Opinión, the largest and most influential Hispanic newspaper in the country.

In 2014, Lozano joined the Aspen Institute to shape and launch the new Latinos and Society Program, a non-partisan platform for public programming, policy convenings, and leadership development, focusing on bridging the emerging Hispanic growth and influence in the U.S. with the broader American society. Lozano serves as chair of the Advisory Board. In 2017, Monica Lozano was named President and Chief Executive Officer of CollegeFutures Foundation, a California-based private foundation dedicated to educational equity.

In addition to her work with College Futures Foundation, Lozano serves on the Board of Directors of Apple, Bank of America, Target Corporation, and the Weingart Foundation. She was named one of Fortune Magazine’s 50 Most Influential Latinas, the Poder Business Leader Award, “Media Executive of the Year” from AHAA, US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce’s “CEO of the Year,” National Immigration Forum “Keeper of the American Dream” Award, and NCLR “Raul Yzaguirre President’s Award”. Lozano was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2016.
Matthew López is an American playwright and screenwriter. His play The Inheritance, directed by Stephen Daldry, premiered at London’s Young Vic in 2018, where it was hailed as “the most important American play of the century.” The Inheritance is the most honored American play in a generation, sweeping the “Best Play” awards in both London and New York. He is the first Latine writer to win the Tony Award for Best Play.

In New York, Matthew’s work has been seen off-Broadway with The Whipping Man (Manhattan Theatre Club) and The Legend of Georgia McBride (MCC Theater), productions that received Obie, Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Awards. Other works include Somewhere and Reverberation (Hartford Stage), The Sentinels (Headlong Theatre, London), and Zoey's Perfect Wedding (Denver Center). Matthew is currently co-writing the musical adaptation of the classic film Some Like it Hot.

Matthew is also working on a reimagining of the iconic 1992 Whitney Houston box office hit, The Bodyguard for Warner Bros., and a feature film adaptation of the novel Leading Men for Searchlight Pictures, which centers on Tennessee Williams and his longtime partner Frank Merlo. Matthew will be making his directorial feature debut with the LGBTQ+ romantic comedy Red, White & Royal Blue for Amazon Studios. In addition to directing the film, Matthew has adapted the script based on Casey McQuiston's bestselling novel.

In October 2020, he signed an overall television development deal with Amazon Studios.
An Oscar, Golden Globe, and Emmy-nominated actress and choreographer, Rosie Perez has been a cultural mainstay since her breakout performances in such classic films as Spike Lee’s “Do the Right Thing,” Ron Shelton’s “White Men Can’t Jump” and Peter Weir’s “Fearless.” Perez currently stars as Megan Briscoe in HBO Max’s thriller drama series, “The Flight Attendant”.

The role earned Perez an Emmy nomination for Best-Supporting Actress in a comedy series. “The Flight Attendant” has also received multiple nominations, including a Golden Globe nomination for Best Comedy Series and SAG nomination for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series. Season two is currently in production and will premiere in 2022.

In 2020, Perez starred in “The Last Thing He Wanted,” opposite Anne Hathaway and Ben Affleck for Netflix and as ‘Detective Renee Montaya’ in Warner Bros. “Birds of Prey,” opposite Margot Robbie. Her other film credits include: Bergman’s “It Could Happen to You,” “Untamed Heart,” and “The Take,” in which she was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award.

Perez has been a vocal activist for several causes and has served as the Artistic Board Chair for Urban Arts Partnership throughout her career. She details her childhood upbringing and career in her book, “Handbook for an Unpredictable Life: How I Survived Sister Renata and My Crazy Mother, and Still Came Out Smiling (with Great Hair).”
Tessa Thompson is a critically acclaimed actress and is making her mark as a producer. Thompson is known for starring in the Emmy nominated, hit HBO drama series *Westworld* as 'Charlotte Hale.' She has starred in films such as the *Little Woods*, Disney's live-action reimagining of *Lady and the Tramp*, Boots Riley's *Sorry to Bother You*, *Annihilation*, *Creed* (Series), and *Selma*.

In 2019, she appeared on the cover of TIME magazine as the Leader of the Next Generation. Thompson can currently be seen in Rebecca Hall's *Passing*, starring opposite Ruth Negga. The film premiered at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival and is an adaptation of Nella Larsen's 1920's Harlem Renaissance novel that explores the practice of racial passing. *Passing* was recently released globally on Netflix on November 10th.

Thompson has since launched her own production company, Viva Maude, in 2020, anchored by a first-look TV deal with both HBO and HBO Max. In 2021, Kishori Rajan (*Random Acts of Flyness*) joined Thompson as her producing partner to build Viva Maude's production and development slate. Announced projects include *The Secret Lives of Church Ladies* at HBO Max, *Who Fears Death* at HBO, a series adaptation of the best-selling novel *Luster* for HBO with Gaumont, *The Left Right Game* at Amazon, and an unscripted *Puzzle Talk* show at Hulu. Looking toward the future in 2022, Thompson will reprise her role as 'Valkyrie' in the fourth installment of the world-renowned *Thor* franchise, *Thor: Love and Thunder*.

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Salma Hayek is an Academy Award-nominated actress and Emmy-winning director also known for her work as a producer and her advocacy for the rights of women and immigrants. Originally from Coatzacoalcos, Mexico, Hayek began her career as an actress in Mexican telenovelas. Her first feature film was an adaptation of *Midaq Alley*, based on the novel by Nobel laureate Naguib Mahfouz. That year she broke into the U.S. film market with Robert Rodriguez's *Desperado*, thus beginning a series of artistic collaborations with Rodriguez and Antonio Banderas. Hayek starred in and produced *Frida*, the definitive biopic of renowned Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. With her production company Ventanarosa, Hayek secured an all-star cast, acclaimed theater director Julie Taymor, and permission to film in Kahlo's former studio. *Frida* received a total of six Academy Award nominations. Since its inception, Ventanarosa has been committed to telling the stories of Hispanic people, focusing specifically on the lives of women.

In addition to *Frida*, Hayek produced ABC's acclaimed comedy *Ugly Betty*, which earned her an Emmy nomination for "Outstanding Guest Actress." Other projects include the Netflix series *Monarca* and Showtime's *The Maldonaldo Miracle* – her directorial debut – for which she won the Best Director Emmy.

Hayek remains actively engaged in a range of pressing social justice issues and is a longtime supporter of multiple leading nonprofit organizations, including Girl Effect and Fondo Semilla. She resides in London and Los Angeles with her family.
Mario Lopez is a constant presence on the pop culture scene with a legion of fans across the board. Actor, NYT Best Selling author, producer and host, Lopez’s prolific career has made him one of the most sought-after personalities in entertainment today. Lopez became a household name as ‘A.C. Slater’ on the hit 90’s teen series, “Saved By The Bell,” and he stars in, as well as serves as a producer on the wildly popular “Saved By The Bell” reboot on Peacock, with season two premiering November 24th. And his Holiday Movie “Holiday in Santa Fe” premieres on Lifetime December 10th. Lopez is the host of NBC’s “Access Hollywood,” & “Access Daily” and has an over-all development deal with NBC/Universal. Additionally, Mario currently hosts the national iHeart radio programs “On with Mario Lopez” and “iHeartRadio Countdown with Mario Lopez,” as well as the Boxing podcast “3 Knockdown Rule” for ESPN. In 2008, Mario Lopez made his Broadway debut as ‘Zach’ in the revival of "A Chorus Line" where he met his wife, Courtney. Mario and Courtney have three adorable kids, Gia, Dominic, and Santino and dogs, Julio & Oscar.
Joaquin has worked hard to seize the opportunities created by the sacrifices of his grandmother and prior generations. After finishing high school a year early, Joaquin graduated with honors from Stanford University in 1996. He then went on to attend Harvard Law School, where he received his Juris Doctorate in 2000. He served five terms as state representative for District 125. In 2012, Joaquin was elected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives as representative of Texas' 20th Congressional District, covering San Antonio and Bexar County.

In his fourth term in the U.S. House of Representatives, Joaquin serves on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and the House Education and Labor Committee.

Outside of the legislative chamber, Joaquin has demonstrated a strong commitment to his community. Joaquin is active on several boards of education-related, non-profit organizations, including the National College Advising Corps and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Taskforce on Education.

Cinestar Pictures was co-founded by Mariel, Cisely, and Zoe Saldana with a focus on broadening the American narrative and creating meaningful, character-driven content. Committed to honest portrayals of women and accurate representation of the America we live in, Cinestar produces contemporary, multicultural stories for everyone.
Musical Performers

Chrisol is a singer/songwriter and actress based in Los Angeles, California. The music she creates coalesces Latin, Disco, and Soul rhythms inspired by her favorite soundtracks.

In the Summer of 2021, she released her second EP, “RETROACTIVE,” and has been spun on KCRW, KROQ, and she was also a featured performer at LALIFF.

Eddie Zuko is a young Chicano singer/songwriter from Imperial, California. Making music since his early adolescence, Eddie elegantly weaves English and Spanish in a melodic hip-hop genre combustion of his own. After releasing his debut “El Zuko EP,” he garnered quite the local buzz, positioning him to work with artists like Terrace Martin, Sublime with Rome, and a spot on Jay Rock’s Redemption Tour.

Vel The Wonder is a hip-hop emcee born & raised in Baldwin Park, just outside of LA. Through the love of baseball & graffiti, she’s made a career of crafting music based on her lifestyle.
#TakeTheLead

STARZ

IS A PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE

NATIONAL HISPANIC MEDIA COALITION
AND THE LATINX CREATIVE COMMUNITY

AND CONGRATULATES THIS YEAR’S

NHMC IMPACT AWARDS RECIPIENTS
Cara Romero is a contemporary fine-art photographer raised between contrasting settings: the rural Chemehuevi reservation in Mojave Desert, California, and the urban sprawl of Houston, Texas. Romero’s identity informs her photography, a blend of fine-art and editorial photography shaped by years of study and a visceral approach to representing Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural memory, collective history, and lived experiences from a Native American female perspective.

As an undergraduate at the University of Houston, Romero pursued a degree in cultural anthropology. Disillusioned by academic and media portrayals of Native Americans as bygone, Romero realized that making photographs could do more than anthropology did in words, a realization that led to a shift in medium. Since 1998, Romero’s expansive oeuvre has been informed by formal training in film, digital, fine-art and commercial photography. By staging theatrical compositions infused with dramatic color, Romero takes on the role of storyteller, using contemporary photography techniques to depict the modernity of Native peoples, illuminating Indigenous worldviews, and aspects of supernaturalism in everyday life.

Maintaining a studio in Santa Fe, Romero regularly participates in Native American art fairs and panel discussions and was featured in PBS’ “Craft in America” series (2019). Her award-winning work is included in many public and private collections internationally.
“Miktlanziwatl” (Lady of Death) was created in the spirit of solidarity with our indigenous Azteca sisters to the south and living here in the U.S. Aztec traditions rooted in these celebrations date back 3,000 years. I was truly honored to photograph Azteca sisters Luna and Crystal Zamora who shared culture, stories, and beauty so generously. They are fierce and inspiring.
TOGETHER, WE CAN DO MORE.

Thank you for joining us for NHMC's Impact Awards Gala. We cannot do the work that we do without social justice advocates like YOU. Every single action you take helps us continue our mission of inclusion, digital access, and eliminating hate.

By attending our events, participating in our programs, or making a contribution, you are helping move forward NHMC's mission of uplifting Latinx and historically underrepresented communities. Thank you!

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NHMC is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization and your donation is tax-deductible within the guidelines of U.S. law.

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