

VISUAL STORY

CHICHO



Relaxed Performances -

Saturday March 10, 2018 at 2:00pm

Saturday March 17, 2018 at 2:00pm

Saturday March 24, 2018 at 2:00pm

Theatre Passe Muraille, Backspace

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THE
READY
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About the show

Performance Time

The performance will start at 2pm and is approximately one hour and 30 minutes in length; the show will finish around 3:30pm.

Pre-Show Talk

The main character of Chicho is played by **Augusto Bitter**, the show's Playwright and Performer. He will tell you a little bit about the show before it starts, introduce you to all the other characters he will be playing and let you know about any parts of the play we think you might want to know in advance.



Augusto Bitter

Changes to the Show

Compared to other performances, there will be some changes to the lighting and sound to create a less intense environment.

The lights over the audience will remain on low throughout the performance so you can leave the theatre if you need to.

Calm Space

If you leave the theatre at any time there is a calm space in the lobby you can visit. You can go there to relax if you need a break before going back into the theatre.

If you ask an usher they will show you to this area.

ABOUT THE STORY

CHICHO is a one-man show written and performed by **Augusto Bitter**.

The main character is an ashamed-queer-Catholic-man-boy from Venezuela, and he has meticulously curated a presentation for the audience. He compares his coming-of-age journey in Canada and the worsening socioeconomic crisis in Venezuela.

His journey is freckled with appearances from a host of other vibrant characters, which Augusto also embodies: **Chichi** (the sinisterly charismatic Latin game show host), **Aguacate** (the seductive and wise avocado), **Chad** (the hip, young, Canadian priest) and more. Each character has something different to say about Venezuela and about Chicho's personal journey.

Things to look out for:

There will occasionally be loud sound cues. There are also a couple sections that feature flashing lights (but no strobe.)

The show features a repeated, loud sound effect. It will be played before the show so you know what to expect.



There will be some loud music and sound effects during the show. If this is too much for you please feel free to bring and put on your ear protection.

Background: Venezuela is a country on the northern coast of South America.

A brief history of Oil and Venezuela: Oil was discovered in the early 20th century, and today, Venezuela has the world's largest known oil reserves and has been one of the world's leading exporters of oil. Previously, the country was an underdeveloped exporter of agricultural commodities such as coffee and cocoa, but oil quickly came to dominate exports and government revenues. The 1980s oil glut led to an external debt crisis and a long-running economic crisis. Inflation peaked at 100% in 1996 and poverty rates rose to 66% in 1995 as (by 1998) per capita GDP fell to the same level as 1963, down a third from its 1978 peak. The recovery of oil prices in the early 2000s gave Venezuela oil funds not seen since the 1980s. The Venezuelan government—led by the late Hugo Chávez—established populist social welfare policies that initially boosted the Venezuelan economy and increased social spending, temporarily reducing economic inequality and poverty. However, such populist policies later became inadequate, causing the nation's collapse as their excesses—including a uniquely extreme fossil fuel subsidy—are widely blamed for destabilizing the nation's economy. The destabilized economy led to a crisis in Bolivarian Venezuela, resulting in hyperinflation, an economic depression, shortages of basic goods and drastic increases in unemployment, poverty, disease, child mortality, malnutrition and crime. By 2017, Venezuela was declared to be in default regarding debt payments by credit rating agencies. In 2018, the country's crisis was exacerbated by extreme hyperinflation, with estimates suggesting an inflation rate of 1,000,000% by the end of the year.

Hugo Chávez: was a Venezuelan politician who was President of Venezuela from 1999 to 2013. Following the adoption of a new constitution in 1999, Chávez focused on enacting social reforms as part of the Bolivarian Revolution. Using record-high oil revenues of the 2000s, his government nationalized key industries, created participatory democratic Communal Councils and implemented social programs known as the Bolivarian missions to expand access to food, housing, healthcare and education. Venezuela received high oil profits in the mid-2000s, resulting in temporary improvements in areas such as poverty, literacy, income equality, and quality of life occurring primarily between 2003 and 2007. These gains started to reverse after 2012 and Chávez's death in March 2013. It has been argued that government policies did not address structural inequalities, which his successor Nicolás Maduro has worsened. These populist policies eventually led to the severe socioeconomic crisis Venezuela now faces.

Shortages in Venezuela have been prevalent following the enactment of price controls and other policies during the economic policy of the Hugo Chávez government. Under the economic policy of the Nicolás Maduro government, greater shortages occurred due to the Venezuelan government's policy of withholding United States dollars from importers with price controls.

Shortages occur in regulated products, such as milk, various types of meat, coffee, rice, oil, flour, butter, and other goods, including basic necessities like toilet paper, personal hygiene products, and even medicine. As a result of the shortages, Venezuelans must search for food, wait in lines for hours and sometimes settle without having certain products.

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venezuela>

THE END OF THE PLAY



Some people might like the play, and some might not like it. It is all right to feel happy or sad after the theatre performance.

At the end of the play, people will clap. It's your opportunity to show your appreciation of the play.

This is the actor who plays all the characters in the show:



Augusto Bitter

You might see these two people in the booth at the back of the theatre:



Elyse Waugh is the STAGE MANAGER



Laura Phillips is the HOUSE TECHNICIAN