

Auric

A transdisciplinary project, reinventing the classics
through multilingual spoken word & music of the world

By Paula Rodriguez
& Arthur Astier



“AURIC succeeds in transcending temporal and spatial limits”

The Theatre Times



“AURIC has taken us on a journey”

Theatrefullstop



Press

The Theatre Times

thetheatretimes.com/let-them-do-yeats-next-auric-at-the-brighton-fringe/

Theatrefullstop

theatrefullstop.com/tag/auric/

Brit.es

britesmag.com/amp/auric-songs-from-a-golden-age-a-gig-theatre-show-based-on-poetry-from-the-spanish-golden-age-period/

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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



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About the project

AURIC explores the power of classical stories retold and reinterpreted into the present time, to address social and personal matters of today's world which resonates strongly with migrant communities.

- **Reinventing** classical plays and characters to focus on current social and political issues.
- **Innovative:** exploring new paths for staging the classics and new tools for translation and adaptation of heightened language and verse.
- **Transdisciplinary:** merging performance, spoken word, classical poetry, contemporary music, and soundscaping, both in-person and virtually.
- **Multicultural:** team led by migrant artists and workshops targeted towards young people from diverse backgrounds.
- **Multilingual:** collaborating with local artists and workshop participants in their mother tongue and learning languages, celebrating accents and sound diversity.

This project reflects on the need we have as a society to reinvent classical stories. This process helps us as individuals to find our cultural identity and be part of a global community; classical plays offer us a sense of belonging due to their universal and timeless nature. This initiative is targeted toward diverse audiences and communities, offering an artistic experience where everyone feels part of it.

Songs from a Golden Age

In the show *Songs from a Golden Age* by AURIC, classical stories from the Golden Age are reinvented into spoken word (English/Spanish) by artist Paula Rodriguez and set to music by French composer Arthur Astier.

A selection of the most inspiring and resonant texts from celebrated playwrights like Cervantes, Calderón de la Barca & Lope de Vega. These are tales of heroes overcoming separation, looking for hope and confronting their realities just like we do now globally. Triggered by recent socio-political events worldwide, this project reflects on poignant matters such as identity, freedom and justice to celebrate foreign voices in the UK and beyond.

The Spanish Golden Age began in 1492 with two major historical events (the discovery of America and the reconquest of Spain) these were turbulent times that led to a change of paradigm. Until this date different cultures and religions had cohabited in Spain, which is why these classical stories take source in ancient tales present in the Eastern, Indian and Jewish traditions, among others, making them relevant to the global community, resonating even louder in today's world when accompanied by contemporary music fusing international genres.



“Tackling classical texts as part of our creative work brings us closer together today. The authors of the Spanish Golden Age, much like Shakespeare, lifted their plots from ancient stories rooted in many cultures and traditions, stories of struggle, exile, loss and hope, hence their works still resonate worldwide. Translation and adaptation can play an important role in reinventing classical legacies for international audiences. One of the most interesting challenges, alongside exploring new formats for retelling these stories, remains finding innovative approaches to verse and heightened language in the modern day. Music and spoken-word become powerful tools for their dissemination. My objective is to revisit these stories from a more contemporary, relevant and inclusive perspective.”

Paula Rodríguez



Post-show Q&A & workshops

Auric post-show Q&A

An informal atmosphere is created for the 20 minutes post-show Q&A, facilitated by the two artists. Building on the stories within the performance.

- *To reflect about the interdisciplinary nature of our work and how it can be applied to reinventing classics.*
- *To raise awareness about the need to champion foreigner voices in the UK and beyond.*
- *To encourage responsibility for the migrant community.*

Reinventing classics for digital storytelling (in-person or online) workshop

In this workshop we will reinvent classical stories by focusing on current social issues, to create Digital Storytelling pieces from a multilingual, multicultural and multidisciplinary perspective. Facilitated by Paula Rodriguez. Visit www.ournewgold.com for further references

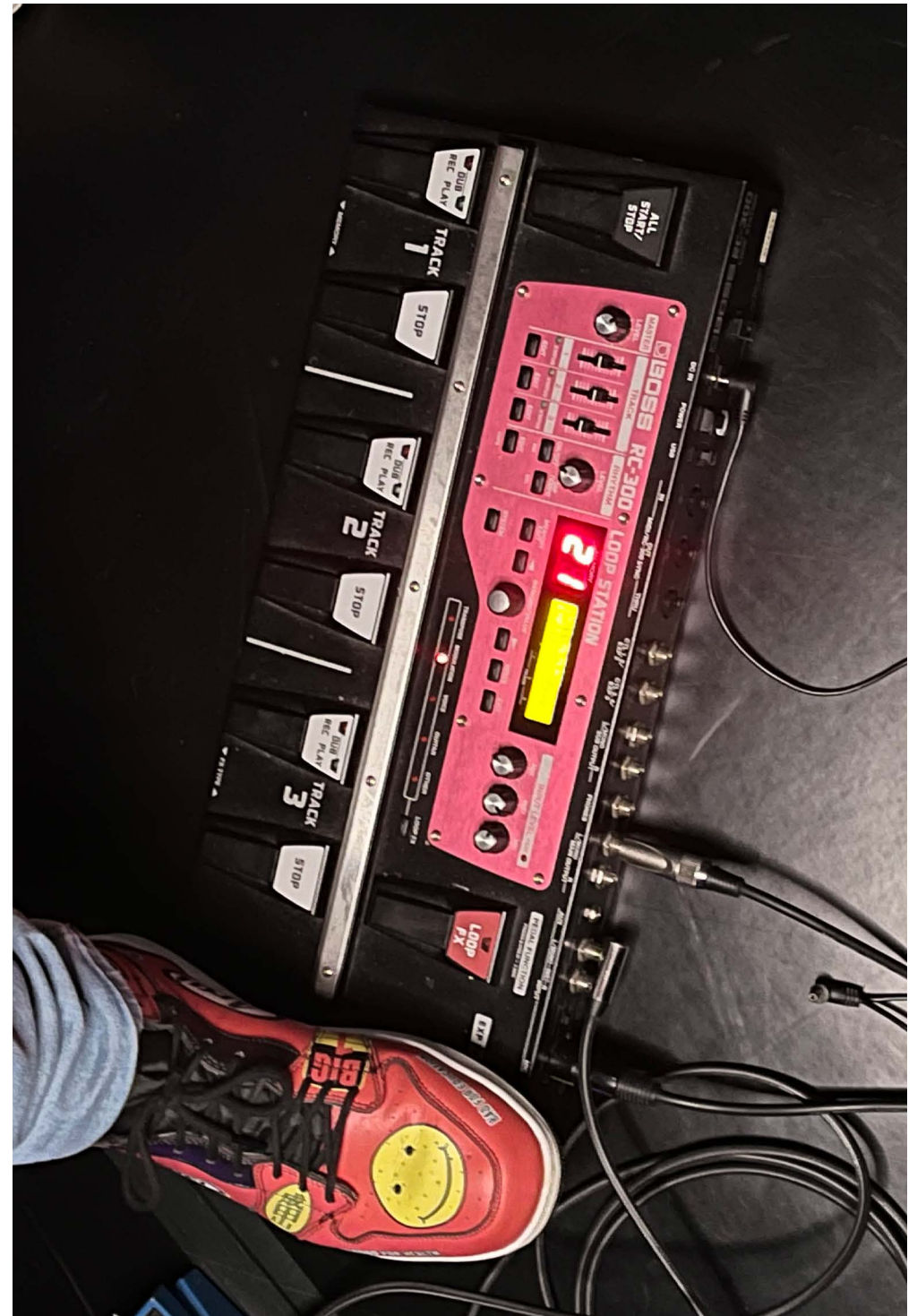
Retelling classical tales through music (in person) workshop

In this workshop we will reinvent stories from participant's heritage through music and multilingual spoken-word, putting special focus on the rhythm and how it can support the retelling of a story. Facilitated by Paula Rodriguez and Arthur Astier.

Through these activities we will reflect on the need we all have to share our stories, and on the power that the classics have to transcend cultural and language barriers. We will share the interdisciplinary nature of our work with focus on various fields: spoken-word, music & sound experimentation, music composition & sound design, artistic writing, translation & digital adaptations. These workshops are a safe artistic space, where everyone is welcome.

Technical information

Venue	A flexible performance that would work within a wide range of contexts
Set	2 chairs (provided by the venue) and 2 mic stands (provided by us)
Duration	60 minutes. A shorter bespoke version of 30-45 minutes is also available
Set	2 chairs (provided by the venue) 2 mic stands (provided by us)
Technical requirements	Sound system and basic lighting
Tech time	4 hours
Tech team	1 technician (lights & sound)
Fee	1 performance + 1 workshop
Availability	All year round. Online or in person



Marketing information

Artists / Credits | AURIC duo is the result of the collaboration of actress and theatre-maker Paula Rodriguez and composer and musician-performer Arthur Astier.

Show title | Songs from a Golden Age

Long copy | Songs from a Golden Age by AURIC is a musical performance inspired by classical poetry from the Spanish Golden Age. The texts have been reinterpreted into spoken word (English/Spanish) by artist Paula Rodriguez and set to music by French composer Arthur Astier.

The show offers the opportunity to rediscover the social and political nature of these classical texts which seem timeless. These stories resonate even louder in today's world when accompanied by contemporary music exploring international genres. AURIC revisits some of the most ground-breaking texts from celebrated Spanish Golden Age playwrights like Calderón de la Barca, Cervantes and Lope de Vega.

The sounds and words invite the audience on a journey through universal matters such as identity, freedom, equality and justice, to find the very essence of that which makes us all human.

Short copy | In Songs from a Golden Age by AURIC, classical poetry from the Spanish Golden Age – translated and adapted into spoken-word English by Paula Rodriguez- is set to contemporary music of the world by French composer Arthur Astier, offering the opportunity to rediscover the social and political nature of these classical stories which seems timeless.

Spoken word & music revisit political and social ideas of freedom, identity and justice in a performance inspired by Spanish classics by Paula Rodriguez & Arthur Astier.

One sentence copy | A mesmerising and poignant experience fusing classical poetry and contemporary music.

Photography credit | Cam Harley, Oliver Mounir & Gloria Gomez

Age suitability | 12+

Videos & links

- **Website:**
paularodriguezact.com/auric
- **Facebook:**
facebook.com/AURICproject
- **Instagram:**
instagram.com/auricsongsfromagoldenage
- **Full Performance at Cervantes Theatre (2022):**
<https://youtu.be/553Szn9DOC8>
- **Trailer:**
<https://youtu.be/cfasOaA8ANw>
- **Pilot workshop:**
<https://vimeo.com/879000535>
- **Digital Accessible Performance at the Bush Theatre (2023):**
<https://vimeo.com/883242988>
- **Audience reactions & Q&A:**
<https://vimeo.com/882534083>

Impact

“A first-rate and original approach to performing poetic material from Spain’s Golden Age in a light-hearted but rigorous manner. “Auric” combines canonical with lesser-known voices in a way that is accessible to all, but which also contains insights aplenty for those well-versed in the Early Modern period”

Professor Duncan Wheeler, Chair of Spanish Studies and
Director of International Activities. University of Leeds.

“There are two great things about the Renaissance: that it was highly international, and that it hasn’t stopped happening yet. AURIC are keeping alive the poetry of the Spanish golden age and making it happen now, even for Anglophone ears, in fresh, eloquent present-day music”

Michael Dobson Director of the Shakespeare Institute.

“This workshop has encouraged me to develop my artistic work further here in the UK”

Irewne Serrano, UK based migrant artist.



“AURIC show & workshop presents diverse ways and offers tools for exploring one’s linguistic resources and, in doing so, accessing and performing one’s creative agency. It is particularly empowering for those whose voices are marginalised, including international students, and under-represented young migrants”

Kasia Lech, University College Dublin.

“A major challenge in teaching literary texts that are remote historically, culturally and linguistically is how to bridge these gaps for 21st-century students, how to enable them to connect meaningfully with the material. The AURiC project is something of a game-changer in this regard – the ‘classroom’ is transformed into a place from which students can ‘take off’ into other environments, where process trumps product and where understanding is performed in imaginative ways”

Isabel Torres, Queen’s University, Belfast.

“I’ve loved being part of this workshop. Debating about classics and working towards ‘reinventing’ them to fit into our current culture has been nurturing and special.”

Natasha Dubalia, UK based migrant artist.

“I was engaged from the first moment, both to your texts and to the original music you have created. There is a lot of care and detail put into the work. We are excited about programming AURIC”

Marivi Rodriguez Quiñones, Artistic director at FesteLon Theatre Festival.

“AURIC brings world-class culture to audiences in the UK, making Spanish classics universal & accessible to Anglophone audiences & underrepresented communities”

Paula Paz, Artistic director at Cervantes Theatre.

About us

Paula Rodríguez is an award-winning Spanish actress and director based in London and working internationally. She trained at RESAD, Madrid and RCSSD, London. Paula is also a translator, writer, and producer. As an artist, she is interested in revisiting Spanish classics for modern anglophone audiences, by collaborating with diverse artists from multidisciplinary backgrounds. She is the cofounder of Teatro Inverso: their two shows ROSAURA and WONDERS have toured the USA, Latin America, and Europe since 2015. She has worked at the

Bridge Theatre, the Young Vic, Orange Tree Theatre, the Cervantes Theatre, Chichester Festival (UK), Corral de Comedias Alcalá de Henares, Almagro International Classical Theatre Festival, Teatro de la Abadía, Ilure Teatre (Spain), Golden Age Festival of Ciudad Juárez (México), Teatro di Bo' Santa Maria A Monte (Italy), Nuevo Siglo Drama Festival Chamizal, Heart of America Festival (USA), Gavleborg Folkteatern (Sweden), Shakespeare Festival Neuss (Germany), and Craiova International Festival (Romania), among others.



Arthur Astier is a French composer and musician. He explores different styles of expression such as performance installations, theatre, post-hardcore, immersive performance and film. He has worked alongside international artists such as Peter Brook, Christian Boltanski and Frank Krawczyk. He was part of Brook's production of The Suit, which premiered at The Young Vic and

toured internationally. In recent years, Arthur has composed music for The Singapore Repertory Theatre and has devised various shows in collaboration with MA students and researchers at Goldsmiths University. He is the composer of the project Digital Umbilical, winner of the Dansathon 2018 at Sadler's Wells.



Team

- Produced, created & performed by Paula Rodríguez
- Music composed & performed by Arthur Astier
- Graphic design by Maya Goldstein
- Lighting design by Nao Nagai
- International producer Lorenzo Pappagallo Xperteatro
- Filmography by Taylan Mutaf

Touring history

Bush Theatre, FesteLon Festival, London, Festival Clásicos en Alcalá, Festival Internacional de Teatro Clásico de Almagro, Museo Casa Cervantes Valladolid (2023).

Queen's Mary University Belfast, Cervantes Theater London, Jornadas de Teatro Clásico de Málaga, Festival Noche de Juglares Zaragoza & Sala Exlimate Madrid (2022).

Byre Theatre, in collaboration with the Department of Modern Languages, University of St Andrews, Byre World, Scotland (2021).

Online performances at: International conference of the Association of Hispanic Classical Theatre (AHTC) & Almagro International Classical Theatre Festival (2020). Pedro Calderón de la Barca poetry and theatre festival, University of the Andes, Chile & Festival of Spanish and New-Spanish Classical Theater, LeLiTeaNe, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Brighton Fringe Festival (2021).



Target audience

- **Regular theatre goers – to classical drama.**
 - **International migrant community (Latin-American and Spanish communities).**
 - **Young migrant artists.**
 - **International students & students of theatre, drama, performing arts, music, sound design, multimedia performances, translation, Spanish studies.**
 - **Suitable for ages 12+**
 - **Anyone who likes to be entertained, informed and amused.**
 - **Those interested in current political and social.**
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- **Workshops:** designed for local young diverse/migrant communities. Especially for those with English as a second language.
 - **Collaborations:** we seek to collaborate with local artists in their mother tongue.

Auric



Contact

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