

JAIL ROCK (working title)

Lola Arias company



creation 2024-2025

direction and text Lola Arias

with Jocelyn, Nacho, Estefania, Noelia, Paula, Carla

playwright Bibiana Mendes

music Ulises Conti et Mailen Pankomin

choreography Andrea Servera

set design Mariana Tirantte

costumes Andy Piffer

video Martin Benchimol

lights David Seld

production Lola Arias company

coproduction (work in progress)

PRODUCTION AND TOURING CONTACTS

Lola Arias company (Berlin)

Lola Arias - lolaariascompany@gmail.com

Mara Martinez - production - contact@lolaarias.com

EPOC productions (Paris)

Emmanuelle Ossena + 33 (0)6 03 47 45 51 - e.ossena@epoc-productions.net

Lison Bellanger + 33 (0)6 21 63 07 96 – l.bellanger@epoc-productions.net

The project

The population of women's prisons in Buenos Aires has doubled in the last five years. Most of them are detained for violation of Law 23.737, which refers to drug trafficking. Many of them are mules, people who use their bodies to transport drugs. They are the lowest link in the drug trafficking chain. In one way or another, they are victims of the gender violence that makes low-income women the favorite target of criminal gangs.

Who are the women and trans people who are deprived of their freedom? What path led them there? How to transform that experience into the possibility of rewriting one's own life and inventing a future?

The performance is the second part of a film called *REAS* that was shot in a former prison in Buenos Aires in 2022 and 2023 by Lola Arias herself, with a group of 14 women and transgender people. They reconstruct scenes from their past and imagine their future in a musical where they sing, dance, and perform.

In 2024, Lola Arias will reunite six of the film's protagonists. With them, she will write and direct *JAILS ROCK*, a blend of theatre, live and archive footage, music, dance and song. Straddling the line between documentary and fiction, the aim is to talk about these people without stigmatizing them, about their journeys, their dreams and their failures. *JAILS ROCK* shows us how they dance and sing about their past in prison, relive their life as fiction, and invent a possible future.



Joselyn is 26 years old and has a tattoo of the Eiffel Tower on her back, but she has never seen Europe. In 2017, she was arrested at Ezeiza airport for drug trafficking. Joselyn was released from prison in 2021 and worked as a carer for older people..



Nacho is 38 years old, a trans man, and he was in prison many times because of fraud. He is a drummer and used to have a rock band in jail. Now, he is working as a diver for the Municipality. And it's the first time he has had a proper job.



Estefanía is 36 years old. She has been in prison for robbery many times since the age of 15 years old. She had a rock band in jail together with Nacho. Now, she works in a bar, and she still makes music.



Noelia is 33 years old and has been convicted and imprisoned for drug trafficking. She is a sex worker and voguing dancer. She works in a bar and organises voguing and ballroom competitions. She is also a campaigner for trans women's rights.



Carla is 39 years old and a former boxer. She was in prison for robbery. She worked as a cleaner and ambulant seller, and now she organized a food court in her own house to support her three children.



Paula is 28 years old, and she's originally from Peru. She was in prison for smuggling drugs. Now, she works in a textile workshop. But she also sings and used to have a folk music band with her family.



Lola Arias director

Lola Arias (Argentina, 1976) is a writer, theatre and film director. She is a multifaceted artist whose work brings together people from different backgrounds (war veterans, former communists, migrant children, etc.) in theatre, film, literature, music and visual art projects. Arias' productions play with the overlap between reality and fiction.

Arias studied Literature at the Universidad de Buenos Aires, and Dramaturgy at the Escuela de Artes Dramáticas (Buenos Aires), the Royal Court Theatre (London) and Casa de América (Madrid). In 2014 she completed the Film Laboratory Programme at the Universidad Di Tella (Buenos Aires), one of the most prestigious cinema programmes in Argentina.

Between 2001 and 2007 she wrote and directed six fictional pieces: *The Squalid Family*, *Studies of Loving Memory*, *Poses for Sleeping* and the trilogy *Love is a Sniper*, *Revolver Dream* and *Striptease*. Since 2007 she has worked in the field of documentary theatre, creating over twelve plays in collaboration with people who have lived through different events or historical experiences. People who have, one way or another, survived. Her most recent plays are *Minefield* (2016), *Atlas des Kommunismus* (2016), *What they want to hear* (2018), *Futureland* (2019), *Mother Tongue* (2022).

Her first feature film *Theatre of War* (2018) was selected for the 68th Forum of the Berlinale Film Festival and received several prizes. Arias is currently working on her next film *Reas* [working title], supported by IDFA Bertha Fund and selected for the Pitching du Réel at the Visions du Réel Festival.

In the visual arts and curating field, she developed *My Documents* (Buenos Aires, 2012-2017; Milan, 2018; Lisboa, 2020), a lecture-performance cycle and created the exhibitions *Stunt Double* (Buenos Aires, 2016). She also conceived the durational performance *Audition for a Demonstration* (Berlin, 2014; Athens, 2015; Prague, 2015; Buenos Aires, 2017; Berlin, 2019).

With Ulises Conti she released the albums *Love is a sniper* (2007) and *Those who do not sleep* (2011), and with Stefan Kaegi she developed the projects *Chácara Paraíso* (2007), *Airport Kids* (2008) and *Ciudades Paralelas* (2010), a festival of urban interventions in Berlin, Buenos Aires, Warsaw, Zurich and other cities.

She has published poetry, fiction and plays. In 2019, Performance Research Studies published *Re-enacting Life*, a book that gathers articles, screenplays and documents from her whole career.

Lola Arias has received very prestigious prizes for her works, including the Premio Konex 2014 and the Preis der Autoren 2018, and her work has been performed at festivals including: Lift Festival, London; Under the Radar, New York; Festival d'Avignon; Theater Spektakel, Zurich; Wiener Festwochen; Festival Theaterformen, Brunswick/Hanover; Spielart Festival, Munich; and Berlinale... among others.

company news

Lola Arias is currently in rehearsals at the Theater Bremen (Germany) where *Happy nights* will be premiered in September 2023.

Mother Tongue (2022) will be presented on the 8th, September 2023 at the Gorki Theater in Berlin.