

THE  
**B E T S Y**  
SOUTH BEACH

**“ESCRIBE AQUÍ” – Miami’s First Literary Cultural Festival of Iberoamerican Authors**

*Presented by The Writers Room at The Betsy-South Beach in Partnership with  
SubUrbano Ediciones, Books & Books*

Miami, Florida – February 21, 2015 -- Miami’s Hispanic/Latino population exceeds 65%, yet no Iberoamerican literary and cultural festival exists to celebrate the diversity and contributions of Spanish-speaking/Spanish-writing authors. In partnership with SubUrbano Ediciones and Books & Books, The Betsy presents **ESCRIBE AQUÍ 2015** (“Write Here!”), Miami’s first all Iberoamerican literature festival, the only one of its kind in the Southeast, honoring Iberoamerican authors living in the United States and presenting lively events that are FREE and open to the public.

Eight world-class authors will be in Miami to present their Spanish-language works at panels, readings, dance performances and more, for guests and the community to experience bi-lingual events in one place at one time. Special guest Peter London (choreographer and former principal dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company will premiere a new work (with the Peter London Dance Company) featuring mostly contemporary choreography and music from Spain, Cuba, Peru, Mexico, Argentina and Puerto Rico.

**March 1:** **ESCRIBE AQUÍ** festival kick-off and preview salon with Edmundo Paz Soldan

**March 28:** **7 p.m.** opening reception with music and words, B-Bar at The Betsy

**March 29:** **1 p.m. to 11 p.m.:** Series of panels, readings, a Spanish poetry slam, a special dance presentation by one of Miami’s premier dance companies, all culminating in a Betsy rooftop Paella Party to celebrate Iberoamerican literature and authors, including:

- ANJANETTE DELGADO (Puerto Rico)- Affiliation: Florida Literacy Arts Center
- BRENDA LOZANO (México)
- CAMILO PINO (Venezuela) Affiliation: Telemundo
- CARLOS GÁMEZ PÉREZ (España) University Affiliation: University of Miami
- EDMUNDO PAZ SOLDAN (Bolivia) University Affiliation: Cornell University
- GIOVANNA RIVERO (Bolivia) University Affiliation: University of Florida
- HERNÁN VERA ÁLVAREZ (Argentina)
- MARINA PEREZAGUA (España) University Affiliation: NYU
- RODOLFO PÉREZ VALERO (Cuba)
- SALVADOR LUIS (Perú) University Affiliation: University of Minnesota
- TERESA DOVALPAGE (Cuba) University Affiliation: University of New Mexico, Taos

**RSVP TO: [ARTSANDCULTURE@THEBETSYHOTEL.COM](mailto:ARTSANDCULTURE@THEBETSYHOTEL.COM)**

**ESCRIBE AQUÍ** festival organizers are Pablo Cartaya, Betsy hotel’s Manager of Literary Programs and Community Partnerships and Pedro Medina, Chief Editor and founder of SubUrbano Ediciones, an online Spanish language literary journal with a 30,000 monthly

readership. Deborah P. Briggs, Betsy's Vice President for Philanthropy, Arts, Culture and Education provides oversight.

### **About The Betsy**

As the only Four Star, Four Diamond hotel in Miami, The Betsy is a distinguished landmark hotel on Ocean Drive. Believing that public spaces can be more than waiting areas, the transformed boutique hotel has been uniquely recognized by global patrons and media for programs that champion the power of community by cultivating the sights and sounds of art, music and literature. Robust monthly programming in 2015 includes poetry readings, jazz, opera and piano performances, exiled writers in residence, a New York Times best-selling author, literary salons, Writers for Young Readers, April Poetry Month, Global Jazz Party, the Accelerate Literacy Symposium, LGBT programming, the JAHLIT (Jewish American and Holocaust Literature festival), Miami's first TransArt festival, its first A Cappella festival, and this, its first IberoAmerican Literary festival create community partnerships, give a voice and stage for underserved artistic communities and open the hotel's doors for all to enjoy. The Betsy is located at 1440 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139. For information on these and more events, visit [www.thebetsyhotel.com](http://www.thebetsyhotel.com).

### **Writer's Room**

The Writer's Room is a cornerstone of The Betsy's arts, culture, and philanthropy program. Launched in April 2012, designed in cooperation with an advisory team from Craig Robbins' Design District and the recipient of a prestigious Knight Foundation Challenge grant, it is a space for respite and retreat (in homage to historic artist retreats like MacDowell and Yaddo) for visiting writers to 'do their best work' in an atmosphere where they are treated with great respect. The Writer's Room pays homage to the owner's father Hyam Plutzik, a poet and finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, whose original desk is a vintage juxtaposition to the modern room, and whose words "Expect no more. This is happiness" are inextricably attached to the hotel's brand. The room was also created to recall the many 'writing rooms' that existed in pre-war hotels where guests recorded memories and linked to home – yet another example of the ownership team's commitment to linking past and present in an exciting new dimension. Since its opening the room has hosted two US Poet Laureates, a MacArthur Genius Winner, the 2013 Inaugural Poet Richard Blanco, and many other emerging and established writers, all of whom have participated in Betsy-directed community service programming during their stay. For more information: [www.betsywritersroom.com](http://www.betsywritersroom.com).

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