



Press Contacts:  
Stephanie Coen, Associate Artistic Director  
scoen@trtc.org or 732.936.8829

Cassie Galasetti, Associate Director of Marketing  
cgalasetti@trtc.org or 732.936.8838

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 21, 2016

**TWO RIVER THEATER CONTINUES ITS SEASON WITH THE AMERICAN PREMIERE OF  
ROPES, WRITTEN BY BÁRBARA COLIO, TRANSLATED BY MARIA ALEXANDRIA BEECH,  
AND DIRECTED BY LISA ROTHE**

**Featured in the company are Varín Ayala, Gabriel Gutiérrez, and Luis Moreno.  
The run will include two performances in Spanish—a student matinee on March 3 and a  
public performance on Sunday, March 5**

**Performances: Saturday, February 20 - Sunday, March 20, 2016  
Opening: Friday, February 26, 2016 at 8pm**

RED BANK, NJ — Two River Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, announces the full cast and creative team for *Ropes*, a play written by Bárbara Colio, translated by Maria Alexandria Beech, and directed by Lisa Rothe. Performances will begin in Two River's Marion Huber Theater, 21 Bridge Avenue, on Saturday, February 20 and continue through Sunday, March 20. The opening night performance is Friday, February 26 at 8pm. Tickets are available from 732.345.1400 or [tworivertheater.org](http://tworivertheater.org). The lead production sponsor is Bank of America.

In this beautiful and universal story about forgiveness, love, and loss, three brothers rendezvous at an airport to meet the father who abandoned them as children, and who is now the most famous tightrope walker of all time. The production will feature Varín Ayala as Paul, the middle brother; Gabriel Gutiérrez as Prince, the youngest brother; and Luis Moreno as Presley, the oldest brother.

"We were introduced to Bárbara Colio's *Ropes*, in Maria Alexandra Beech's exquisite translation, in our 2013 Crossing Borders festival of new Latino plays, and just never let it go," says Artistic Director John Dias. "It's a gorgeous, deeply moving play. We are especially pleased to present two performances in Spanish, and create opportunities for our Spanish-speaking audiences to experience the play in its original language."

**Bárbara Colio** (Playwright) is a Mexican playwright and director. Her plays have debuted in Spain, Portugal, France, United States, England, Italy, Argentina, Peru, and different locations in Mexico. Among other honors, her *Cuerdas (Ropes)* won the 2009 Mexican National Fine Arts Prize for Playwriting. She has been resident writer at the Royal Court Theatre in London, and in New York at The Writers Room and the Lark Play Development Center.

**Maria Alexandria Beech** (Translator) is a Venezuelan-American writer living in New York. Her play *Good Friends* was selected for the 2014 Crossing Borders festival at Two River Theater, where it was performed in English and Spanish (in her own translation). Her work has been developed and produced in New York, Chicago, South Korea, and many cities across the United States.

**Lisa Rothe** (Director) was nominated for SDC's Joe A. Callaway Award for Direction for *Hold These Truths* by Jeanne Sakata, produced by Epic Theatre Ensemble in New York. She has workshopped, developed, and directed hundreds of new plays and musicals, working with many award-winning writers. For five years, she was the Director of Global Exchange at the Lark, where she provided expanded opportunities for playwrights, aimed at advancing new work to production nationally and globally.

The creative team includes scenic designer **Narelle Sissons**, costume designer **Theresa Squire**, lighting designer **Mary Louise Geiger**, and sound designer **Stowe Nelson**. The composer is **Daniel Kluger**, the casting is by **Annie Henk**, and the production stage manager is **Alison Hassman**.

### Spanish-Language Performances

*Ropes* was introduced to Red Bank audiences as a reading in Two River's 2013 Crossing Borders festival of new Latino plays, where it was presented in both English and Spanish. During the run of this production, Two River Theater will present two performances of *Ropes* in Spanish: a student matinee on Thursday, March 3 and a public performance on Sunday, March 5 at 3pm. Two River Theater will offer complimentary childcare under the supervision of bilingual teaching artists in the theater's lobby during the public performance, as well as a special pre-show talk and a post-play discussion with members of the cast, both conducted in Spanish. Tickets for the public performance are \$20.

This event is presented as part of Two River's ongoing Nosotros series and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance's Stages Festival, the state's largest annual theater festival. For tickets, call 732.345.1400 or visit [tworivertheater.org](http://tworivertheater.org).

### Ticket Information

Ticket prices range from \$45 to \$65, with discounts available for groups, seniors, and U.S. military personnel, their families, and veterans. Tickets for the Spanish-language public performance are \$20. A limited number of \$20 tickets are available for every performance; \$20 tickets may be partial view. Tickets for patrons under 30 are \$20 and include the best available seats at every performance. Tickets are available from [tworivertheater.org](http://tworivertheater.org) or 732.345.1400.

### Inside Two River

*Inside Two River* is a series of events specially curated for each Two River Theater production. For more information or to reserve seats, patrons should visit [tworivertheater.org](http://tworivertheater.org) or call 732.345.1400.

**“The Art of Translation” with Bárbara Colio and Maria Alexandria Beech, moderated by Stephen Kaplan of the Dramatists Guild, Saturday, February 20 following the 8pm performance**

Audience are invited to stay after the first preview for a special post-play discussion with playwright Bárbara Colio and translator Maria Alexandria Beech, moderated by Stephen Kaplan, the New Jersey Regional Representative for the Dramatists Guild.

**Translation 101: Thursday, February 11 at 7pm in the Victoria J. Mastrobuono Library**

When writing a play, choosing the perfect word is hard. But trying to express the meaning of that word in another language is a translator’s greatest responsibility—and challenge. Two River’s Associate Artistic Director Stephanie Coen will talk with Maria Alexandria Beech (whose translation of *Ropes* is having its American premiere at Two River) and Andrea Thome (author of *Pinkolandia*), who are both playwrights and translators, about the challenges and joys of navigating the specificities—and eccentricities—of language to capture the spirit of a play.

**Film Screening: The Walk, Thursday, February 18 at 7pm**

This acclaimed recent film looks at tightrope walker Philippe Petit’s (played by Joseph Gordon-Levitt) daring high-wire routing between New York City’s World Trade Center’s Twin Towers in 1974—an act some consider “the artistic crime of the century.”

**Audience Extras**

**Before Play and Lobby Display**

Audiences will learn more about *Ropes* in Two River’s Before Play lecture series, which takes place 45 minutes prior to every performance, and Lobby Display.

**Post-Play Conversations**

Discussions with the cast and a member of Two River’s Artistic staff will take place on Wednesday, March 2 at 7pm; Sunday, March 6 at 3pm; and Wednesday, March 9 at 1pm.

**Accessibility**

Working with Google, Two River has created and launched a virtual tour of its facility, which lives on Google Maps and [tworivetheater.org](http://tworivetheater.org). This virtual tour provides an additional level of support and benefit for patrons who use wheelchairs or require other assistance by allowing them to virtually come through the theater’s front doors and view the space in detail in advance of their visit.

**An audio-described performance** is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16 at 1pm, and an **open-captioned performance** is scheduled for Saturday, March 19 at 3pm. Tickets are available at a discounted rate of \$25 for patrons using these services. To reserve wheelchair-accessible seating or tickets to a performance listed above, patrons should call 732.345.1400 or e-mail [boxoffice@trtc.org](mailto:boxoffice@trtc.org).

**Calendar**

Saturday, February 20 at 8pm

Sunday, February 21 at 3pm

Wednesday, February 24 at 1 pm and 7pm

Thursday, February 25 at 8pm  
Friday, February 26 at 8pm (**Opening Night**)  
Saturday, February 27 at 3pm and 8pm  
Sunday, February 28 at 3pm  
Wednesday, March 2 at 1pm and 7pm  
Thursday, March 3 at 8pm  
Friday, March 4 at 8pm  
Saturday, March 5 at 3pm (Spanish-language performance) and 8pm  
Sunday, March 6 at 3pm  
Wednesday, March 9 at 1pm and 7pm  
Thursday, March 10 at 8pm  
Friday, March 11 at 8pm  
Saturday, March 12 at 3pm and 8pm  
Sunday, March 13 at 3pm  
Wednesday, March 16 at 1pm and 7pm  
Thursday, March 17 at 8pm  
Friday, March 18 at 8pm  
Saturday, March 19 at 3pm and 8pm  
Sunday, March 20 at 3pm

### Sponsorship

The lead production sponsor for *Ropes* is Bank of America. *Inside Two River* is sponsored by The William T. Morris Foundation. The *Before Play* series is sponsored by Zager Fuchs, PC.

Two River Theater is supported in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, Monmouth University, The Shubert Foundation, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Meridian Health/Riverview Medical Center, The Stone Foundation of New Jersey, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Saker ShopRites, Investors Foundation, The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, Springpoint Senior Living Foundation at the Atrium at Navesink Harbor, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Wells Fargo, William T. Morris Foundation, US Trust, Brookdale Community College, and many other generous foundations, corporations and individuals.

# # #

---

**Two River Theater**, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, creates great American theater performed by award-winning artists. We produce American and world masterpieces, and new plays and musicals. Two River Theater offers new-play commissions and artistic development activities that support the most adventurous artists in the American theater; invites its audience to be part of the creative process through readings and open rehearsals; and cultivates students and young people to participate in innovative arts-education programs and become a new generation of theatergoers. Founded in 1994 by Joan and Dr. Robert M. Rechnitz, Two River Theater is easily accessible by car, train, or bus, with great restaurants and shopping within walking distance of the theater. For more information, visit [tworivertheater.org](http://tworivertheater.org) or call 732.345.1400.