## Israel Franco-Müller <u>ifrancomuller@gmail.com</u> | 787-225-7357 www.israelfrancomuller.com

Before entering the production design field he makes his debut in the theater sphere in the year 2000 as an actor. His professional career starts in 2003 by pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Arts (BA) majoring in Theater at the Faculty of Education in the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras campus. During this period, he performed in the following plays: A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, The Taming of the Shrew by William Shakespeare, "Nuestra Natacha by Alejandro Casona", "La Orestiada de Esquilo", "Divinas Palabras" by Don Ramón del Valle Inclán", and "La Villana de Vallecas" by Tirso de Molina. Being a member of the Teatro Rodante, he starred in "El Lazarillo Musical" of José Luis Ramos Escobar. Alongside the university's theater organization, he participated in various international festivals at the following cities: El Paso, Texas at the "Festival de Teatro del Siglo de Oro", in Chihuahua, Ciudad Juárez and Cuauhtémoc in Mexico; and at the "Festival de Teatro Universitario de Otoño" in Murcia, Spain, both celebrated in 2007. In July of that same year, he traveled with the theater organization, as part of a sponsored project by the Sociedad Estatal de Conmemoraciones Estatales of Spain, entitled "Las Huellas de la Barraca", touring the historical route of La Via de la Plata with the production of "Retablo Jovial de Alejandro Casona" and in 2009 with "La Gatomáquia" by Lope de Vega.

Aside from the University's theater company, he is invited to be part of the following productions: The zarzuela, "Alma Llanera" by Enrique Gutiérrez at El Festival de las Artes Ibero-americanas; "Mi Rincón de Lectura" sponsored by the office of the first lady of Puerto Rico with Kikiwi; "Obscenidad Crasa" by Moisés Kaufman" and "El Espejo de Justina", among others. In the Puerto Rican film industry he has appeared in the following movies. "Nene Lindo" (2007) and "Sirenas" (2008) both, under the direction of Vicente Castro. For the local TV networks he participated in "Esto Pasó Aqui" for WAPA Televisión and, "Mis años en la High" for channel 52 (2005). He played the leading role in the local program "Logos" (2009) for Sí TV. His latest appearance was in 2017 in the movie "Vivo C: La Vida del Filósofo".

While finishing his Bachelor's degree, he is commissioned to design his first piece: the scenography of a new musical version of the play "El Lazarillo de Tormes", diving into a new world that would become his domain. He perfects his newfound passion at the theater in the scenography, lighting and costume design branch by starting his post graduate studies with a Master's Degree (MFA) in Technical Theatrical Design in the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain from 2009 through February 2011 achieving a distinguished Honorable Mention. In August 2011, he then pursues a second Master's Degree (MA) in Acting Technique in Minsk, Bielorrusia. Decisively, in February 2016 he completes his third and final Master's Degree (MA) in Theater and Scenic Arts at the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain. Currently, he is undergoing studies conducive for his Doctoral Degree (PhD) in Theatrical Studies of the Faculty of Philology in the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain.

As an experienced designer in the set and lighting department, he has taken under his wing the production designs of the following renowned plays: "El Lazarillo de Tormes", "Bodas de Sangre", "Don Quijote", "La Tía de Carlitos", "Desde Toledo a Madrid", "La ópera de los Tres Centavos", "El Caballero de Olmedo", among others. His outstanding designs have been internationally recognized. In August 2011, he was part of the International Festival of Theatre Amateur de Girona (FITAG), in which he served as the technical director for the second year in a row for the Puerto Rican Theater collective invited as guests. The next year he jumps to northern Europe and partakes at the FRINGE Theater Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland designing the scenography and lighting for "Platero y Yo" of Juan Ramón Jiménez, work that was later nominated for nine categories by the ACTF (American College Theatre Festival Community) presented at the prestigious Kennedy Center. Following this milestone, in October 2016 he outspreads his already existing career in the European scenery as the lighting designer for "Herejía de una Musa de Pía" of Ramón de Paso, directed by Mariano de Paco, in the Lara Theatre in Madrid, Spain. And, as a set designer with the theatrical play "Vita Brevis" de Jostein Gaarder in the Romea Theatre in Murcia, Spain. Furthermore, he has also been engaged in music performances. On July 2019, he designed the lighting spectacle for the urban artist Chencho Corleone in the Cali Flow Festival taken place in the Pascual Guerrero stadium in Cali, Colombia.

Currently, he has also been the recipient of a diversity of awards. In February 2013 he was nominated for the theatrical play "Platero y Yo", for Best Lighting and Scenography Design Award of the KCATCF (The Kennedy Center American College Theater) in Washington D.C. In March 2017, with the Miguel Will production, he won the nomination to Best Scenography Design in the ATI (Artistas Teatro Independiente) awards in New York. In 2018, he was awarded with the Best Costume Design in the ATI awards and as an Outstanding Production Designer by the HOLA awards for the theatrical play "El Caballero de Olmedo" of Lópe de Vega, produced by Teatro Círculo, in New York. In March 2019, he was also honored with the award for Best Scenography and Costume Design by the ATI awards for the theatrical play "El Burlador de Sevilla", produced by Teatro Círculo.

In addition to his active career on the stage, since 2011 he serves as an associate professor at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras campus. Currently, he is the delegate of the Faculty of Humanities for the Government Board of Commission of the University of Puerto Rico Theatre. As a professor, he lectures the courses of lighting and scenography, costume design and scenic combat. In addition he is an active member of the "Asociación de Académicos de las Artes Escénicas" of Spain and, the "Asociación Internacional de Teatro Siglo XXI."

To this day, he is completing his Doctoral Degree (PhD) studies at the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain and is simultaneously working in the theatrical designs of the following plays: "Los Entremeses de Cervantes" for Teatro Círculo; "El Padre", "El Litoral" de Wajdi Mouawad", "Casa de Muñecas" and, "Bodas de Sangre". In addition of being a proficient artist to the theatrical field and to the music performances he greatly enjoys lecturing, being the photography and artistic director for music videos, therefore promoting and supporting a new generation of artists.