



## MAGDALENA GÓMEZ FACILITATOR BIO SHEET

**Magdalena Gómez**, Co-founder and Artistic Director Teatro V!da, is an internationally acclaimed and award winning Hispanic, performer, poet, lyricist, columnist and playwright, selected by Pregones Theater of NYC, as an NEA American Master Artist, 2010-2011. She recently collaborated with Maria Luisa Arroyo to develop the ground-breaking “Bullying: Replies, Rebuttals, Confessions, and Catharsis,” anthology, following the tragic 2009 suicide death of Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover. The book is unique as the first multi-cultural bullying anthology ever published in the United States and features Dr. Albert Bermel, a legend among theater scholars; Judith Ortiz-Cofer, author of over a dozen books that are part of U.S. school curriculums; our very own Judge William H. Abrashkin who reveals the poet within him; a 13-year old bully who confesses; youth who break silence for the first time; playwright Janis Astor Del Valle’s acclaimed play, *Trans Plantations*; and a 77 year-old elder who remembers how he stood up to bullies as a child; and so much more. It is also the first multi-generational work on the topic of bullying as its pages include poems, essays, testimonials, and plays written by first time writers from all walks of life and ages as well as content from acclaimed authors.

Magdalena Gómez has been honored by Pregones with a staged reading of her poetry and monologues and has facilitated arts training, arts integration residencies and professional development for educators and students in countless schools throughout the country. As the Theater Specialist and Program Director for Johnny Colon's East Harlem Music School in the late 70's-80's, her acting students included singer, Marc Anthony, MacArthur Genius Award Winner and Eco-Activist, Majora Carter, and writer, Yoruba Rahman. In 2008, she received a Proclamation from the Springfield City Council for her over three decades of work in the arts and her local arts contributions to the city of Springfield, MA. In 2008, Ms. Gómez was one of five recipients of the D.C. based Black Women Playwright’s Group’s, first 2008 national, “*Whisper. Laugh. Shout. Award*” for her national contributions to the field of theater. In 2007, she was named an Unsung Heroine by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women for her arts-based community work in Western Massachusetts. Ms. Gómez’s plays, monologues, poetry and short stories are included in college syllabi throughout the country and she has performed her work in venues which include: Lincoln Center, Vanderbilt University, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Augusta Savage Gallery of the University of Massachusetts, New WORLD Theater and was the inaugural poet for the installation of Lasell College President, Michael B. Alexander earlier this year. In 2007, Ms. Gómez was commissioned by choreographer, Peggy Choy, of the University of Wisconsin, to write and narrate the text for a dance theater production. Ms. Gómez is a regular collaborator of jazz poetry performances with world-class composer and baritone saxophonist, Fred Ho. Her latest bilingual (Spanish and English) CD, *Bemba y Chichón*, features her poetry and songs of resistance created in collaboration with composer Abraham Gómez-Delgado, featuring guitarist, Juancho Herrera and percussionist, Reinaldo DeJesus. Her first album, *Amaxonica (howls from the left side of my body)* now out of print. Her third album featuring intergenerational spoken word and music, is currently in the works. Ms. Gómez also write plays and stories for children as well as adults. Her archives have been selected for inclusion in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center of the University of Connecticut at Storrs.