



# Ti bu rón

La democracia  
en México  
(1965-2015)

Un proyecto de  
Lagartijas tiradas al sol

# TIBURÓN

**T**iburón is a project for the stage by Lagartijas Tiradas al Sol, part of the cycle “La democracia en México 1965-2015” [*Democracy in Mexico 1965-2015*]. The experience of Fray José María de Barahona in Tiburón Island is contrasted through the reenactment of his voyage by Lázaro Gabino Rodríguez almost 500 years later. A dialogue between the past and actual colony, faith, and theater.



Map of José María de Barahona's journey to Tiburon Island.

**O**n the 20th of August, 2019, actor Lázaro Gabino Rodríguez embarks a trip to Tiburón Island with the intention of reenacting the experienced lived by José María de Barahona five hundred years earlier in the same land.

José María de Barahona was an evangelizer that set foot on Tiburón Island in the sixteenth century, coming from Seville. The elements available to reconstruct his life are scarce; the main source is what he wrote himself while in the island, retrieved by Andrés Pérez de Ribas and published in his book “Triunfos de nuestra santa fe sobre estas tribus, las más barbaras del norte” [*Triumphs of our holy faith over these tribes, the most barbaric of the north*]

During his stay at Tiburón Island and his encounter with the Tocárikú people, José María changes his understanding of the world radically. These two journeys –Lázaro’s in 2019 and José María’s in the sixteenth century– articulate the project and produce a framework to research the three subjects around which the project orbits:

1- The relation that Mexicans who live in the cities have with the past and the present of the indigenous peoples that were enclosed amid the territory that comprises the actual nation state.

What tensions sustain this relationship? How do we –who come from territories with a colonial history yet participate in societies that have oppressed indigenous peoples for centuries– position ourselves? What locus of enunciation do we assume to speak about the past and the present? How has decolonization been worked upon in art? What complexities and what simplifications are applied?

2- The crisis of faith in certain contemporary societies and the discredit of the institutions that were traditionally supposed to guide it.

Is it possible to live without believing? What roots does faith have in the society I inhabit? How are faith, democracy and capitalism related? Is it possible to act without belief? How can we reflect on this dimension of human experience now?

3- Acting as a mechanism for knowledge and fiction as an instrument to negotiate with reality.

To what extent is acting something living it? Why do we keep considering fiction as subordinate to reality? What could fiction grant us access to that reality forbids us? Just as we understand our country better when we get away from it, is fiction not the best place to comprehend reality?



**T**iburón is a project by Lagartijas tiradas al sol. Based on texts and ideas of Juan José Saer, Elisa Ramirez Castañeda, Cesar Aira, Rosana Guber, Fernando Benitez, Olivier Debrose, Michael Taussig y Nigel Barley.

Acting y cordination: Lázaro Gabino Rodríguez.

Co direction: Francisco Barreiro

Space and light: Sergio López Viguera.

Dramaturg: Luisa Pardo.

Video and artistic advice: Chantal Peñalosa

Paints of backdrops: Pedro Pizarro

Sound and image: Juan Leduc

Executive production: Mariana Villegas

Multimedia: Carlos Gamboa

Production: Teatro Unam, Zurcher Theater Spektakell and Lagartijas tiradas al sol

**Tiburón** is part of the project **La democracia en México 1965 - ...**

50 years after the publication of Pablo González Casanova's book *La democracia en México* (1965); We seek to re think democracy in light of the analysis that was made half a century ago. This project is a research about the ideas that support the democratic ideal and about the experiences that the implementation of that ideal produces. Based on the fact that we do not live in one, but in multiple experiences of democracy. More than an explanation of democracy is an implication with democracy. The project is divided into 32 parts, one for each state of the Mexican Republic. 32 visions of the same country.

To date we made 8 projects of this cycle in different formats, 2 theater works, 1 performance lecture, 1 live sound film, a video and a book:

**Tijuana, Veracruz, Santiago Amoukalli, Yanhuitlan, Estado de México, Distrito Federal, Tula y Tiburón.**



**Lagartijas Tiradas al Sol** is a flock of artists. We work on stage, we make books, radio, videos and learning processes.

Since 2003, we started developing projects as a mechanism to link work and life, to erase and trace frontiers. Our work seeks to create narratives upon events from the reality. It has nothing to do with entertainment, it's a space to think, articulate, dislocate and unravel what the everyday life fuses, overlooks and presents us as given.

Things are what they are, but they can also be another way.

We have presented our work in almost all the states of the Mexican Republic, we have made performed in festivals, independent venues, state theaters and universities.

Overseas, among many others, we have worked in Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Brussels. Schaubuhne, Berlin. FIBA, Buenos Aires. Wiener Festwochen, Wien. Festival de automne, Paris. Theater Spektakel, Zurich. FTA, Montreal. HAU, Berlín. Kammerspiele, Munich. Santiago a mil, Santiago. Bienal de teatro, Sao Paulo. DeSingel, Antwerp. Festival internacional, Caracas. FAEL, Lima. Belluard international, Friburg. Cena Contemporánea, Brasilia. TBA, Portland. FIAC, Salvador de Bahía. Festival de otoño, Madrid. RADAR, LA. Temporada alta, Girona. Dialog Festival, Wroclaw. Centro cultural España, Guatemala. Bad, Bilbao. Inteatro, Ancona. TNT, Terrasa. Mess, Sarajevo. Fusebox, Austin. Norderzon, Groningen.

Luisa Pardo y Lázaro Gabino Rodríguez

[lagartijastiradasalsol@gmail.com](mailto:lagartijastiradasalsol@gmail.com)

[lagartijastiradasalsol.com](http://lagartijastiradasalsol.com)

