



EMORY

MICHAEL C.
CARLOS
MUSEUM

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The Michael C. Carlos Museum and Emory Libraries Present Comedy and Conversations, in celebration of Little Amal

[Atlanta, Georgia, September 12, 2023]— [Little Amal](#), the 12-foot-tall puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee girl, will arrive in Atlanta soon as part of her trek to 15 countries and 35 U.S. towns and cities to bring her message of hope and solidarity for displaced people everywhere.

To celebrate her arrival and her message, the Michael C. Carlos Museum and Emory Libraries present an event focused on the plight of the ever-growing refugee population. On Wednesday, September 27, at 7:30 p.m. hosts comedian David Perdue and social curator/activist Munir Meghjani welcome comedians Angel Contreras and Gilbert Lawand, and artist and Spelman emeritus professor Arturo Lindsay for [Comedy and Conversations](#), a critical, concerned, and sometimes comic look at the world around us, designed to bring attention and action to Little Amal's message of hope.

The exhibition, [You Belong Here: Place, People, and Purpose in Latinx Photography](#), will be open for viewing from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Comedy and Conversations was founded by David Perdue and Munir Meghjani, who understand that comedy can be provocative, but can also be productive, focusing on the human and sometimes absurd aspects of difficult issues. Meghjani tells us,

"Complex topics have become more and more depressing or contentious, either driving us into bleak obsidian or further apart from our fellow beings. We wanted to experiment with having difficult conversations that were engaging and productive, that allowed us to come together, find common ground, and, perhaps, even some joy and laughter. As an immigrant with deep ties to the refugee community, these topics are both personal to me and momentous in our society today. "Comedy and Conversations: Do We Belong Here?" is a critical and comical look at the world around us — designed to bring attention and action to the immigrant experience and Little Amal's message of hope."

The participants in the September 27 event include:

Munir Meghjani

A progressive thinker and a social and civic entrepreneur, Munir Meghjani has used his professional experience and heavy community involvement to make connections and bring together diverse groups in Atlanta and across the Southeast. A serial entrepreneur and commercial real estate broker, he is also deeply involved in the nonprofit sector focused on arts, education, interfaith, and justice. Munir sits on and chairs several boards throughout the region, often being the first and paving the path for others. Additionally, he has received

several honors and awards for his work both in the private and nonprofit sectors. His motivation comes from a mantra he adopted at an early age: "I can't do all the service the world needs, but the world needs all the service I can do!" Munir graduated from Emory University in 2010 with a B.A. in Psychology with an additional focus on Sociology and Philosophy.

Alpa Amin is a leading voice in public interest immigration law in the state of Georgia and serves as the Executive Director of Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network (GAIN). A graduate of Virginia Tech University and Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, Ms. Amin has worked with GAIN since 2008, during which time she built and managed the Victims of Violence program serving Georgia's immigrant survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault, and served as GAIN's first Director of Legal Services before taking on the top executive role. Ms. Amin oversees all aspects of GAIN's work, including the provision of pro bono legal services through GAIN's Asylum and Victims of Violence programs, and has led the organization in an expansion of their legal service model to include holistic services, social service needs assessments and referrals, and client-informed programs. She works closely with federal, state, and local law enforcement and is a frequent guest speaker on issues affecting vulnerable immigrants. Ms. Amin is a graduate of the FBI Citizens Academy, Leadership Buckhead, the Anti-Defamation League's Glass Leadership Institute, and a past chair of the Georgia Immigration Collaborative and the Georgia Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force, where she helped to create the groundbreaking Statewide Labor Trafficking Roundtable and Report. She is a recipient of the Atlanta Bar Association's Rita A. Sheffey Public Interest Award, the NAAAP Inspire Award, the EPIC Inspiration Award, and has been recognized as Georgia Trend Magazine's Top 40 Under 40 and Georgia Asian Times' Top 25 Most Influential Asian Americans in Georgia.

Angel Contreras is originally from Houston, Texas; Angel is an Atlanta based up and coming comedian. She is a regular at the Laughing Skull Lounge and has performed all across the country and internationally. Her comedy touches on her Mexican American upbringing, her day job, witchcraft, and more! When she's not on stage you can find her in court defending the public.

Gilbert Lawand is an Atlanta-based comedian whose style is a mix of social commentary and silliness drawn from a unique background. He was born in Baghdad to Catholic parents before moving to a small town in south Georgia where he grew up on a farm. He's opened large theater shows for Dave Chappelle, Eric Andre, Aziz Ansar, and Tom Segura and performed in several festivals including the Bridgetown Comedy Festival, High Plains Comedy Festival, and the Laughing Skull Festival (where he was a finalist). He also produces the annual Red Clay Comedy Festival in Atlanta.

Arturo Lindsay is an artist/cultural investigator/educator whose work is informed by the scholarly research he conducts on African spiritual and aesthetic retentions, re-discoveries, and re-inventions in America. His research findings are manifested in works of art, as well as books, scholarly essays, and lectures. A proud native of Colon, a seaport city on the Caribbean coast of the Republic of Panama, Lindsay migrated to the United States with his family at age 12 and settled in Brooklyn, New York.

David Perdue is an Atlanta comedian who has appeared on Comedy Central, FuseTV, EPIX, & Kevin Hart's LOL Network. David is also an actor appearing in *Love Is...* on OWN and *Bobcat Goldthwait's Misfits and Monsters* on truTV. David co-hosts the hilarious sports/comedy podcast *Forth and Ten* as well as the political/comedy podcast *The Confused Caucus*. In 2022 David was selected as an Arts & Social Justice Fellow at Emory University as well as a 2022 Climate Comedy Cohort created & directed by Generation180 & the Center for Media & Social Impact's Good Laugh Initiative. As you can see David is many things but most importantly, he is NOT a former US Senator.

About Emory Libraries:

Ranked among the top 20 Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in North America, [Emory Libraries](#) serves as an interdisciplinary, intellectual commons for our campuses in Atlanta and Oxford, Georgia, with more than 5.8 million volumes and 430,000 electronic journals, 1.8+ million e-books, and internationally renowned collections. Libraries include the Woodruff Library; Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, & Rare Book Library; Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library, and Oxford College Library.

About the Michael C. Carlos Museum

Set in the heart of Emory's Atlanta campus, the [Michael C. Carlos Museum](#) is a dynamic, interdisciplinary center for study of art and culture, with collections from Africa; ancient Egypt; Nubia, and the Near East; ancient Greece and Rome; the Indigenous Americas; South Asia; and American and European Works on Paper.

Through our permanent collection galleries, engaging special exhibitions, and innovative programs for audiences of all ages, the Carlos Museum connects the past with the present and the campus with the community.

Curators and faculty develop original exhibitions, engage in interdisciplinary research and teaching, and host touring exhibitions that complement our collections and support the teaching mission of the university. The museum's conservators collaborate with staff, faculty, and students to conduct research and manage preventive care on the museum's varied collections. Museum educators reach across the museum, campus, and city to develop opportunities to engage the intellect and the imagination of university students and faculty, preK-12 students and teachers, and the larger Atlanta community.

The Michael C. Carlos Museum is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday: noon – 5 p.m. For more information, visit carlos.emory.edu/visit, call 404.727.4282, or follow @CarlosMuseum on social media.

carlos.emory.edu

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