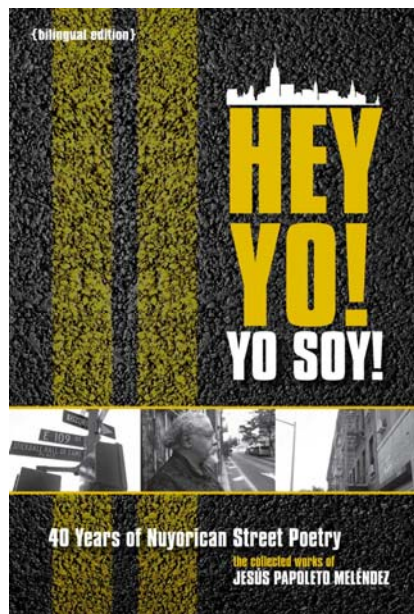


Hey Yo! Yo Soy!

40 Years of Nuyorican Street Poetry, A Bilingual Edition

The collected works of Jesús Papoleto Meléndez



Jesús Papoleto Meléndez

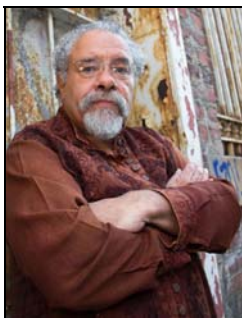


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HEY YO! YO SOY! 40 YEARS OF NUYORICAN STREET POETRY, A BILINGUAL EDITION is a 386-page collection, comprised of three previously published books, *Casting Long Shadows* (1970), *Have You Seen Liberation* (1971), and *Street Poetry & Other Poems* (1972), that consist of stories about growing up Puerto Rican in New York City's El Barrio. Meléndez has long been considered one of the founders of the Nuyorican Movement and the political, intellectual and linguistic topics he approaches in his work remain extremely relevant to this day.

"Finally, a body of work from the school of Nuyorican Poetry that calls us from the street while we're on the rooftop making faces at the stars: The Birth of Yo in Us. You can feel the steam of winter wreck our souls in Papoleto's verse; in it, you find the cascading flow of personal and political evolution born of chaos and fracture. Poetry has never spoke louder; same goes for love in this collection. Let Papoleto's book serve as a chronicle of transnational awakening."

— Willie Perdomo

PEN Beyond Margins Award-winning author of *Smoking Lovely*

"Poet Jesús Papoleto Meléndez is the true voice of a poet, who disrobes society for us to see it raw and naked as it is in its own skin. Many of us are not ready to see society as it is. Papoleto brings us closer through his magnify glass of words, drawing us to the sad, dark, and rebellious part of our humanity that deserves to be seen and analyzed. His poetry represents freedom of speech and thinking, bringing voice to the often silenced perspectives in our society. I look forward to sharing these poems with my friends and students — we are all in need of a linguistic venue for our critical thinking."

— Melissa Nieves

Director of Adult Education, Union Settlement Association

"From San Diego's Barrio Logan to the streets of East Harlem, Papoleto Meléndez is a legendary figure. This volume of collected and lovingly translated poetry is long overdue. The poems sing with rhythms of the streets, but Papo's cogent use of metaphor and penetrating insight elevates him to the ranks of the great poets of this era."

— DeeDee Halleck

Founder Paper Tiger TV and co-founder Deep Dish Network,
Democracy Now TV and Indymedia

"jesús papoleto meléndez is a living spanglish lexicon, *Hey Yo! Yo Soy!* is a testament to the dedication & documentation of the nuyorican experience, it carries so many words in between the pages: longevity, strength, survival, transformation. a very necessary piece in the literary history of puerto ricans in new york."

— Bonafide Rojas

Author of *When The City Sleeps*
Publisher, Grand Concourse Press

About the Author

Jesús Papoleto Meléndez ("Papo") is a New York-born Puerto Rican award-winning poet most associated as one of the founders of the Nuyorican Movement. He is also a playwright, teacher and activist. Meléndez is the recipient of the Louis Reyes Rivera Lifetime Achievement Award (2004); and a 2001 New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry. He currently resides in New York. Visit him online at www.papoleto.com.

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