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In the Next Room (The Vibrator Play)

Department of Theatre, Florida International University

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FIU THEATRE PRESENTS

IN THE NEXT ROOM
(The Vibrator Play)

JANUARY 27 to JANUARY 29, 2012
FEBRUARY 8 to FEBRUARY 12, 2012

DIRECTED BY GUEST ARTIST JESUS QUINTERO

FIU Architecture + The Arts
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to the third show of FIU Theatre's 2011-2012 season. We are pleased to present Sarah Ruhl's provocative, funny and touching play IN THE NEXT ROOM or The Vibrator Play directed by guest artist, Jesus Quintero.

Jesus was educated at the renowned Teatro Libre of Bogota, Colombia, as well as the School of Russian Art Theatre at Columbia University and the Grotowski Institute in Poland, among other places and countries. After working for several years as both a director and a performer with The Playground Theatre here in Miami, as well as in other venues around the world, Jesus has just recently branched out to form his own theatre company. The experience of having Jesus come in as a guest director for this show has been a very enriching one for everyone involved with the production.

We are also pleased to announce that FIU Theatre's November 2011 production of "The House of the Spirits" has been chosen as one of only five shows to be performed at the KCACTF Region IV Festival in Daytona Beach this month. This is a tremendous honor for our department because it recognizes the quality of the work we do here and the high level of our education program. (Read more about the KCACTF organization on page 6 of this playbill). Over 40 of our students and half of our faculty and staff will be participating in the festival. Several of our students will be participating in the various disciplines of theatre, including Design & Technology, Stage Management, and the Irene Ryan Performance competition. A number of our faculty are also festival nominees for awards in Directing, Design and Technical Direction. As you can imagine, funding the trip to the festival is a very large expense for the department. The Dean of CARTA, Brian Schriner, has very generously agreed to support a large part of the cost, but we would welcome any further assistance anyone else might be willing to give. Any donation or gift to help with this endeavor would, of course, be tax deductible and would be gratefully received. If anyone wishes to make a donation, there will be a table out in the lobby and someone one there to take your donation and information. Feel free to stop by during intermission or at the end of the show. Thank you in advance for your support of the work we do here at FIU Theatre, and we hope you enjoy this performance.

Marilyn R. Skow

DIRECTOR Jesus Quintero
STAGE MANAGER Stephanie Barr (BA)
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Mariana Vallejo (BFA, Performance)
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Amanda Ortega (BFA, Performance)
VOCAL DIRECTION Jennifer Smith de Castroverde
SCENIC DESIGNER Amanda Sparhawk (BFA, Scenic Design)
COSTUME DESIGNER Marina Pareja
ASSISTANT TO COSTUME DESIGNER John Froehlich (BFA, Costume)
LIGHTING DESIGNER Alex Pararuyos (BFA, Lighting)
SOUND DESIGNER Katherine Paez (BA)
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Celso Peruyera
ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Geordan Gottlieb

CAST
MRS. GIVINGS Michelle Antelo (BFA, Performance)
DR. GIVINGS Alexander Machado (BA)
MRS. DALDRY Victoria Collado (BFA, Performance)
LEO Lucas Hood (BA)
ANNIE Caitlin Wiggins (BFA, Performance)
ELIZABETH Krystal Joseph (BA)
DR. DALDRY Albert Campillo (BFA, Performance)

SETTING
A prosperous spa town outside of New York City, perhaps Saratoga Springs
Time Period: The dawn of the age of electricity, after the Civil War, circa 1880's

There will be one 10-minute intermission

Original Broadway Production by Lincoln Center Theater
New York City, 2009

IN THE NEXT ROOM or The Vibrator Play
was originally commissioned and produced by
Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Berkeley, CA
Tony Taccone, Artistic Director/Susan Medak, Managing Director

IN THE NEXT ROOM or The Vibrator Play
was developed at New Dramatists

Please note that flash photography, videotaping, or other video and audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ADMINISTRATION

CHAIR/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Marilyn R. Skow
ADMINISTRATION Marianna Murray, Zahra Rezapour
HEAD OF DESIGN AND PRODUCTION Jessie Dreikosen
HEAD OF PERFORMANCE Lesley Ann Timlick
DEPARTMENT DRAMATURG Michael Yawney
MARKETING/PUBLICITY COORDINATOR Geisha Garcia-Pares
EVENTS MANAGER Sammy Garcia, Jr.

COFFEE SHOP ASSISTANT Sophie Hamann

PRODUCTION STAFF

SCENIC CREW Daniel Leonard (BFA, Performance), Amber Benson (BFA, Performance), Natalie Brenes (BA), Zachary Myers (BFA, Performance), Stefani Lewis (BFA, Scenic), Kayla Martinez (BFA, Performance), Albert Campillo (BFA, Performance), Gonzalo Garcia (BFA, Performance), Roberto Sanchez (BA), Joshua Dobarganes (BA), Michael Engelman (BA), Jesula Lubin (BA), Nina Vorobeva (BA), Paula Wilhelm (BA), Diego Perez (BA)

PROPS CREW William Cadena (BFA, Performance), Sofia Sassone (BA), Dung Truong (BFA, Scenic), Daniel Blanco (BA)

ELECTRICAL CREW Juanita Castro (BFA, Performance), Yarelis Chavez (BA), Julio Liverpool (BFA, Performance), Florencia Ancevics (BFA, Scenic), Nelly Torres (BA), Danielle Rollins (BFA, Performance), William Cadena (BFA, Performance), Jordan Sasaki (BFA, Performance), Kevin Preval (BA), Omar Bham (BFA, Performance), Zakiya Markland (BFA, Performance)

PAINT CREW Cristina Garcia (BA), Sarah Cordoba (BA), Liza Perez (BA)

COSTUME CONSTRUCTION CREW Ileana Mateo (BFA, Costume), Grace Tabales (BFA, Costume), Caroline Spitzer (BFA, Costume), John Froehlich (BFA, Costume), Ephraim Etienne (BA), Allan Napier (BFA, Performance), Lena Rodriguez (BA)

WARDROBE CREW HEAD Stephanie Perez (BFA, Performance)

WARDROBE CREW Florencia Ancevics (BFA, Scenic), Leslie Bull (BA), Jason Caceres (BFA, Performance), Lucile Cocco (BFA, Performance), Sarah Cordoba (BA), Joshua Dobarganes (BA), Zachary Myers (BA), Natalie Nodarse (BFA, Performance)

COSTUME CLEANING CREW HEAD Jordan Sasaki (BFA, Performance)

HAIR AND MAKE-UP Rachel Rodriguez (BFA, Performance), Rafael Martinez (BFA, Performance), Georgina Delgado (BA)

HAIR AND MAKE-UP DESIGN CREW HEAD Carina Skrande (BFA, Performance)

SOUND CREW Odette Barrientos (BA), Lucas Hood (BA)

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Tathiana Pandiani (BFA-Performance), Patricia Morales (BFA-Performance)
I am grateful to the FIU Theatre faculty for giving me the opportunity to be this year's guest director for their production of IN THE NEXT ROOM or The Vibrator Play. The experience of directing this show has made me feel so alive and has been such an important event for me that I ask myself, “Why doesn’t the mere biological existence of life by itself provide that feeling of really being alive? What is it that enhances our quality of life?”

Some people say that science and technology are the answer to this question, especially in areas such as medicine and communications, but I must say that advances in these areas don’t always bring with them the same level of advancement in cultural and social understanding. For example, a great leap forward in technology such as the internet does not by itself resolve the feelings of loneliness and isolation in today’s society.

At its most basic level, IN THE NEXT ROOM or The Vibrator Play, is about the discovery of electricity and its influence on the treatment of hysteria. However, in a larger sense it’s about how, in the latter part of the 19th Century, many people came to believe that science held all the answers to the meaning of life and would be the solution to society’s problems.

In this play the arrival of electricity “gives light” to the dichotomy between what is natural and/or organic and what is produced and/or manufactured. This need not be an either-or situation. While science and technology are necessary for society and civilization to evolve, they cannot be the only factors. An understanding of the essence of existence as human beings must also be part of the equation.

The characters in this play are forced to face the truth about the consequences of an unbalanced relationship between science and humanity and must fight to find their own answers to this dilemma. But what about us?. Aren’t we still living in a world where too many of us look to technology, science, and drugs of one sort or another as the solution to our unhappiness or our lack of fulfillment?. Aren’t we still trying to understand why we feel disconnected from our own bodies, our own minds and hearts?.

Sarah Ruhl skillfully uses both humor and sensitivity to explore these issues in such a way that you will leave the theatre with a smile on your face while at the same time pondering the eternal questions of “Who am I really?” and “What is my place in the world?”

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