Alternative Theatre Festival 2013

Department of Theatre, Florida International University

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FIU Theatre Presents

ALTERNATIVE THEATRE FESTIVAL 2013

JUNE 20 TO AUGUST 10
HERBERT AND NICOLE WERTHEIM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, BLACK BOX THEATRE
10910 SW 17TH STREET, MIAMI, FL 33199
Greetings, everyone. Welcome to another exciting season of FIU Theatre’s Alternative Theatre Festival. This year’s edition of the Festival is extra special because it has become the summer of FIU Theatre’s alumni giving back. FIU Theatre alumni from all over the area as well as from as far away as California are coming back to the campus to direct, perform and design in order to show off their talents and to raise scholarship money for current FIU theatre majors.

The beauty of this is that the idea for our theatre alumni to do this came from the alumni themselves. All of the alumni involved are taking time out of their personal lives to participate in this special alumni-featured summer season. For some it is at great personal expense. I am so proud of our graduates and grateful that they would want to do this. I hope that if you like what you see tonight you will make sure to spread the word and encourage others to come see the shows we’re presenting this summer.

The first week end and the last weekend of this season are devoted totally to the work of our alumni, and all donations taken at the door for these six performances will go directly to our student scholarship fund. The first weekend is composed of three different theatre experiences, including one night of “Get Your Shorts On” that will rival the famous City Theatre “Summer Shorts” going on at the Arscht this summer.

The last week end of the Festival looks to be a truly unique experience, again suggested by the alumni themselves. Eleven years ago FIU Theatre did a very successful production of David Mamet’s “Glengarry Glen Ross”, directed by faculty member Wayne Robinson. This August that show will be revived for three performances. The entire cast and the director have all agreed to come, remount the show in three days and give three performances of the play. When you look in the special playbill that is being printed for that show and see the bios of these actors you will realize what a talented bunch they are - still all practicing actors, and all excited to come back, some from great distances, to do this.

Sandwiched between these two weekends is the regular summer season. Two of the three plays are directed by FIU Theatre alumni, and scattered throughout the casts of all three plays are other FIU Theatre alumni as well as current majors. The designers for the summer are all also FIU Theatre alumni. Also for the second year in a row, we have our new play development project, a new play called “One Thousand Years” by this year’s guest playwright, Kenny Finkle. This ought to be enough theatre to satisfy anyone’s taste. Enjoy!

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

THE EDUCATION OF JEFF RODRIGUEZ
A staged reading of the new play by Joshua Martel
Directed by Israel Garcia

CAST

JEFF: David Neale
HARRIS: Wayne E. Robinson, Jr.
SAM: Ivan R. Lopez
AMANDA: Melissa Almaguer
DARK FIGURE: Anthony Mediavilla
NARRATOR OF STAGE DIRECTIONS: Alyssa Alayeto

SCRIPT? WHAT SCRIPT? An Evening of Long Form Improvisation Comedy
Directed by Osvaldo Quintana* of ImprovX

ImprovX PLAYERS

Rey Bode*
Peter Mir*
Gilbert Palín*
Nicole Quintana*
Charles Sothers*

AND THE BRAVE NON-MEMBER VOLUNTEERS:

Israel Garcia*
Mabel Mir*
Juan Espinosa*
Dawn Plummer*
Fabian Cardenas*
Anthony Mediavilla*
Alyssa Alayeto*

(with members of the improv troupe ImprovX, founded by Osvaldo Quintana*)

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS (CONTINUED)

The Spontaneous Theatre ProJX STPX is dedicated to creating spontaneous theatre for all types of audiences. Using suggestions or music from audiences as inspiration to start a group of scenes and unify by theme or character that eventually evolve into a one act play before the audience’s very eyes without the use of any preconceived scripts or plot lines. This theatrical experience is meant to be a one of a kind event every single night with each show being the opening and closing night of that specific show. Whether it be drama, comedy, or even classical theatre, the Spontaneous Theatre ProJX will always be something new, exciting, and surprising for audiences and even performers. Check out Spontaneous Theatre ProJX on Facebook.

ImprovX

 Born right here at the FIU Theatre Department’s DM 150 space, ImprovX has been breaking audiences down into laughter for 16 years. Using a combination of improvisation games, Long Form improvisation, and original sketch comedy, ImprovX has had the honor of performing at the Florida Association of Theatre Educator’s Conference, International Toronto Improv Festival, the Del Close Marathon in New York City, the Providence Improv Festival, Gainesville Improv Festival, and the Miami Improv Festival and continues touring their sketch comedy and improv shows across the state and nation. ImprovX has trained and worked with some of the best improvisors in the country and continues redefining improve and sketch comedy in South Florida. Check out ImprovX on Facebook, Twitter, and at www.improvX.me

FIU Alumni Workshop All Stars

Featuring the FIU alumni actors performing improvisation greatness under the direction of Ozzie Quintana.

Improv Jam Extravaganza

Featuring all our improv players of the evening coming together through different improv games and jamming to audience suggestions. Enjoy our colorful improv pack of skittles!!
ALUMNI SHOWCASE
FEATURING FIU THEATRE ALUMNI

GET YOUR SHORTS ON! An Evening of Original Short Plays

Performance: Saturday, June 22.
Program subject to change.

Coladita (A short film)
by Fabian Cardenas

Dreaming on the Hudson
by Ivan R. Lopez*
Directed by Ivan R. Lopez*

LACEY: Melissa Almaguer*
HENRY HUDSON: Randy Garcia
THING 1: Erik Rodriguez*
THING 2: Nicole Quintana*

URGES
by Rey Dabalsa*
Directed by Rey Dabalsa*

HIM: Juan Espinosa*
HER: Mabel Mir*

INTERMISSION

Scenes from In The Driver's Seat
by Israel Garcia
Directed by Israel Garcia and Veronica Salgueiro, with assistance from Kevin Triana

DAD: Joshua Martel
MARRA: Veronica Salgueiro

Paradise De La Nada
Based on Zoe Valdes's La Nada Cotidiana
Performed by Francesca Toledo*
Music by Matthew Garcia

* Indicates Alumni
= Current FIU Theatre Student

ALUMNI SHOWCASE
STAGE MANAGER: Marina Catalán;
LIGHTING DESIGN: Samantha Transleau;
HOUSE MANAGER: Gaby Lopez

BACHELORETTE
BY LESLYE HEADLAND
DIRECTED BY STEPHANIE SANDOVAL

These women can party harder than you. But can they make it to the wedding in one piece... and without a hangover?

CAST
Gena: Juanita Olivo
Katie: Nicole Fernandez*
Regan: Lauren Kistner*
Jeff: Michael Engleman*
Joe: Danny Blanco*
Becky: Jannelys Santorini*

STAGE MANAGER: Karen Figueredo
SCENIC & LIGHTING DESIGN: Sam Transleau*; COSTUME DESIGN: Angie Esposito*;
SOUND DESIGN: Paul Steinsland; LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR: Natalie Brenes;
HOUSE MANAGER: Kaitlin Lincoln*

SETTING
An upscale, NYC hotel suite. Present time.

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR STEPHANIE SANDOVAL
Oscar Wilde said “I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being”. That being said, choosing Bachelorette was easy. It was realizing how through the extreme scenarios we can relate to one if not all the characters, that proved to be the most interesting and exciting part. Life is full of trials and tribulations and people allow themselves to be defined by them. However, it’s how you choose to handle those ups-and-downs that really define who you are.

I would love to thank FIU for everything I was blessed to learn throughout the duration of my time here; Marilyn Skow for trusting me with this huge and fantastic opportunity, Michael Yawney and Wayne E. Robinson, Jr. for all their guidance, support, and encouragement, and the entire faculty and staff. You all have helped shape the director, actor, anything-to-do-with-theatre-person I am today. To my wonderful production team; this wouldn’t be possible without you. And most importantly: my cast for putting up with my crazy tactics. THANK YOU!

Enjoy the Show!

PERFORMANCE DATES: June 27, 28, 29 & July 4, 5, 6.

* Indicates Alumni
= Current FIU Theatre Student
**REVERSE PSYCHOLOGY**

**BY CHARLES LUDEK**

**DIRECTED BY MARINA PAREJA**

Dating a psychiatrist can drive you crazy. Dating your boyfriend’s psychiatrist will drive you crazier.

**CAST**

LEONARD SILVER: Danny Leonard\(^c\)

KAREN GOLD: Andrea Bovino\(^*\)

ELEANOR: Chachi Colon\(^c\)

FREDDIE: Luis Etorre\(^c\)

STAGE MANGER: Erica Ramos\(^c\)

SCENIC & LIGHTING DESIGN: Sam Transleau*; COSTUME DESIGN: Angie Esposito*;

SOUND DESIGN: Paul Steinsland*; HOUSE MANAGER: Monica Abreu*;

**NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR MARINA PAREJA**

Thank you for joining us at the Alternative Theatre Festival, we hope to see you at the other shows! I hope you enjoy the show!

**PERFORMANCE DATES:** July 11, 12, 13 & July 18, 19, 20

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**A THOUSAND YEARS**

**A NEW PLAY BY KENNY FINKLE**

**DIRECTED BY MICHAEL YAWNEY**

Make one wrong turn and it might take a millennium to get back to the one you love. A comedy about vast distances, tsunamis, and coffee.

**CAST**

MIRIAM: Michelle L. Antelo\(^*\)

ENSEMBLE: Peter Mir\(^*\)

Patrick Rodriguez\(^c\)

Francesca Toledo\(^*\)

STAGE MANAGER: Nelly Torres\(^c\)

SCENIC & LIGHTING DESIGN: Amanda Sparhawk*; COSTUME DESIGN: Angie Esposito*;

SOUND DESIGN: Paul Steinsland*; LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR: Natalie Brenes*;

HOUSE MANAGER: Gaby Lopez*;

**NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR MICHAEL YAWNEY**

There is so little I can say without giving away the surprises in A Thousand Years. (Even saying that let you know that there are surprises!)

So let me just thank Kenny Finkle and everyone who took the leap of faith to work on this play.

I hope you enjoy A Thousand Years.

**PERFORMANCE DATES:** July 25\(^*\), 26, 27 & August 1, 2, 3

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* = South Florida Theatre League is asking everyone to “Get In Bed With the Arts” and on July 25th we will host the League’s bed. Hop in bed and tell us what the arts— and theatre— mean to you. At the end of the summer the bed (and a small South Florida Theatre League team) will race in the Coconut Grove Bed Race.

This event is part of the WLRN-South Florida Theatre League Summer Theatre Fest - for more festival events visit the WLRN Events Calendar: summertheatrefest.wlrn.org or the SFTL website: www.SouthFloridaTheatre.com.

* Indicates Alumni

\(^c\) = Current FIU Theatre Student
The Alumni Showcase weekend features Alumni including:

Melissa Almaguer—Melissa is incredibly excited to be a part of the FIU Alumni Event. Many of her close friends and professional peers have come from the circle of FIU artists. Melissa is Co-Creative Director of White Rose Miami, a company she founded with good friend Ivan R. Lopez. She recently played "Micha" in WRM's The Pillowman, which she also directed. She has worked with theatre companies such as New Theatre, Mad Cat Theatre Company, The PlayGround Theatre, and The JQ Studio. Next for WRM is their short play festival in July called Miami Time 2. Several playwrights are selected from a long list to tell short stories that reveal something about Miami. Hope to see you there!

www.whiterosemiami.com

Fabian Cárdenas — Fabian was born and raised in Ecuador. His training as an actor began in Quito with the Malayerba ensemble, an internationally renowned, experimental theatre group. He moved to Miami eleven years ago and continued his theatre education at Florida International University and film training at Miami Dade College. In 2005, he toured with the Boston Flamenco Ballet company throughout the eastern and mid-western U.S. performing in plays in English and Spanish — La Quixote of La Mancha, and Cyrano de Bergerac (Christian). In addition to the tour, and throughout his theater career, Fabian has had the opportunity to portray many other challenging and diverse characters such as Demetrio in Shakespeare's The Seagull, and Alan in the original work Marea Romana. Fabian is the founder and artistic director of Dream Theatre Productions (DTP), a non-profit company, and Cinema 360, a film and video production organization. Through DTP, he has produced and directed theatrical productions for the past five years. Fabian has also furthered his acting career through his involvement with several innovative new projects such as the short film Chamber Made and skits with the web comedy troupe People Of Color.

Marina Catalán — Marina is a Miami based Chilean Actor, who has appeared in Telemundo, Televideo, and Venevision soap operas, as well as commercials and theatre plays for the hispanic and anglo market. She earned her Associate degree in Drama from Miami Dade College and her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Performance from Florida International University (2011). You can view more of her work at www.marinacatalan.com

Ray Dabalsa — Ray earned a Bachelor’s degree in Theatre Arts from Florida International University in 1996. During his University years he was prominently involved in the Miami theatre scene both as an actor and playwright. As an actor he’s held prominent roles in plays by everyone from Chekov to Shakespeare to Kushner. As a playwright he’s had three of his short plays produced. Upon graduation, he moved to New York City where he lived and acted for two years. When he made the decision to return to Miami, he immediately entered the education arena as a high school Drama and English teacher. Theatre remains an active part of his life. He is a theatre critic for an online magazine and continues to write plays with his spare time.

Juan Espinosa — Juan graduated with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Acting from FIU Theatre. His FIU acting credits include Romeo & Juliet (Cleric), Metamorphoses (Vertumnus), Balm In Gilead (Martin), Midsummer Night’s Dream (Bottom), Anna In The Tropics (Juan Julian), Proof (Robert) & Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum (Hysterium). He also wrote and starred in an original one-man production titled Incorrigible: The Babe Ruth Story. He has been a public school drama teacher for two years and is looking forward to educate and inspire young actors for many years to come. He is infinitely grateful to the FIU Theatre department for exposing him to a rich education, for allowing him to make lifelong friends and most importantly for the unforgettable opportunity to find the love of his life, Mabel Mir. Their love story continues to flourish and unravel. It is his ultimate pleasure to once again share the FIU stage with her.

Israel (Izzy) Garcia — Izzy is very proud of his experience with FIU’s Theatre Department. In his undergraduate years, he studied under Philip Church, and participated in various productions including NOISES OFF, COMEDY OF ERRORS, and EXIT. He currently teaches acting and theatre appreciation at FIU, and has been doing so since 1996. He has made a living as a theatre arts educator working with Miami Dade County Public Schools, Miami Dade College, FIU as well as other institutions. He has also been active in South Florida theatre, acting in plays such as The Seagull, Caucasian Chalk Circle, Palm Beach Playhouse, and New Theatre. Acting credits also include several small television commercials and “a nice big juicy” speaking role on BURN NOTICE. Awards include The Silver Palm Award for Performance, The New Theatre Award for Best Actor (twice), and nominations for the Carbonell Awards. Most recently, he received the Excellence in Teaching Award at FIU. He is married to Giselle Benitez, his college sweetheart, and they have two very wonderful daughters, Giovanna and Sofia. Somehow, he manages to sleep once in a while. He also is the family cook. Just ask his wife.

Mabel Mir — Mabel is excited to be back on the FIU stage with her role in Urges. A theatre graduate from Florida International University, Mabel’s directing credits include Guys and Dolls, The Glass Menagerie, and Sweet Charity. She has performed in several productions including Clue: The Musical, Fame, and Gondoliers. Mabel would like to give special thanks to her friends, family, her students at Hialeah High, and to her loving husband, Juan.

Dawn A.A. Plummer — Dawn (Karla Hartel / Improv Ensemble / FIU Alumni Class of ’95) is actually having a huge déjà vu moment now that she is back trodding the boards of her alma mater. Dawn is very excited to be a part of this Alumni Showcase production. While attending FIU she performed in such roles as Puck, from A Midsummer Night’s Dream (going on to perform in that play more times than the course of her life, seriously); Antioch, the 80 year old servant from Chekhov The Three Sisters (one of her favorite roles); Duckling in Our Country’s Good; and she fondly remembers being part of the ensemble in FIU’s performance of Working! a musical about people who, well, work.

Dawn was last seen across the street as Rita in New Theatre’s (NEW) production of Educating Rita, she was also in their 2011 production of A Street Car Named Desire. Since moving back to Miami in 2005, some of Dawn’s other credits include performances in Taming of the Shrew (the NEW), Miami Made Festival at the Adrienne Arsht Center, and the All Kids Included Festival in the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center. Due to the miracle of technology, she also made an appearance as a guest host on Chick Talk; an internet based talk show produced by Cinema 360, where she played her most challenging role to date – that of herself. Dawn has a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Theatre from Florida International University and an Masters of Fine Arts in Acting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Nico Quintana — Nico graduated with a Bachelors of Fine Arts with emphasis on Set Design from FIU in 2001. She has flexed her set muscles for such companies as Juggerknot Theatre, New Theatre and White Rose Miami. She has been performing alongside her husband and FIU theatre alumni, Ozzie Quintana since 1997 for the improvisation and sketch comedy troupe Impromy. She has performed locally at the Roxy Theatre and New theatre. She has also designed for screen plays with her sister company White Rose Miami.

Osvaldo (Ozzi) Quintana — Ozzi is a graduate of the FIU Theatre Department and of the Players Workshop of the Second City in Chicago, IL. He has studied and taught the art of improvisation for 17 years and still inspires and teaches both students and adults around South Florida. Ozzi has been artistic director of the sketch comedy improv troupe Impromy for 15 years and is the current artistic director for the newly debuted Spontaneous Theatre Prox. As an Ozzi has been seen around the community doing work for Roxy Theatre, White Rose Miami, and New Theatre where he performed in the World Premiere of Fizz. He has also sound designed for Actor’s Playhouse, New Theatre, Juggerknot Theatre, working with the director on the TJ’s (The Daily Nothingness) , and working with our sister company White Rose Miami.

Thank you to our participating Alumni.

Thank you to our additional Showcase Members:

Alyssa Ayala — Alyssa is a FIU senior studying English with a minor in visual arts. She aspires to become a high school English teacher and a published writer. Always having had a passionate interest in the arts she has studied various forms, including theatre. As an educator she hopes to inspire her students to find their passions and pursue them wholeheartedly, always mindful of humanity; as a writer she touches those themes on intimate levels always reflecting on the human condition and spirit.

Anton Medearis — Anthony is very excited and grateful for the opportunity to perform in the FIU Theatre Alumni Festival. For years he’s had a passion for acting, although he was limited to solely entertaining family and friends. In the 2013 spring semester he finally had the chance to take his first acting class with Israel Garcia, and he was instantly hooked. With his growing fire and passion he’s worked non-stop to find every acting opportunity possible, including auditioning and being accepted into FIU’s school of theatre. Now a junior, he is working towards his two majors in marketing and theatre along with a minor in economics. Anthony wishes to thank his friends and family for supporting him, his fellow cast members, and especially Israel Garcia for opening the door to theatre for him.

David Neal — David is a current FIU Theatre student and has performed in productions of Die, Momme, Die! and Beyond Theatre here at FIU. David is thrilled for this opportunity to work alongside two of his own professors, Wayne Robinson and Ivan Lopez, and to take part in tonight’s presentation of The Education of Jeff Rodriguez. He hopes to earn a BFA in performance at FIU and join the ranks of alumni being represented in this showcase. Finally, David would like to thank his mom and dad for their unconditional love and support, which has encouraged him to pursue his passion for this crazy thing we call theatre.

Consider this festival a showcase of our alumni, many who have gone on to work with us, work with our sister company White Rose Miami, work at the largest of Broadway companies and work across the globe. This is the festival’s way of saying thank you to all of the Earth’s alumni. Thank you to our alumni, thank you to our community and thank you to you, the audience!
ABOUT OUR DESIGN TEAM

Angie Esposito — (Costume Design) Angie graduated from FIU Theatre with her BFA in 2011. She is adjunct faculty at New World School of the Arts Theater. She will be pursuing an MFA in Costume Design at The University of Iowa in the Fall.

Amanda Sparhawk — (Scenic and Lighting Design) Since graduating from the FIU Theatre Department in December 2012, Amanda has worked heavily in the South Florida Theatre scene. Lighting Design credits include Cheaters, Glengarry Glen Ross, and Cloud Tectonics at Main Street Players Theatre in Miami Lakes, as well as Bird in the Hand for New Theatre at The Roxy and The Ruby Sunrise while she was at FIU. Scene Design credits include, most recently the World Premiere of Road through Heaven for New Theatre, and previously In the Next Room at FIU and The Prodigal Son: The Execution of William Spencer for Alternative Theatre Festival. She is elated to return to ATF for this season and would like to thank everyone involved, especially the stage crew, Marina, Marilyn, Marianna and Sam Transleau.

Paul Steinsland — (Sound Engineer) Paul graduated as an audio specialist from the Music Industry Arts program at Fanshawe College in his hometown of London, Ontario, Canada. He has since worked for more than 25 years as a theatre technician in Canada and abroad in the cruise industry. Also a playwright and director, Paul's most recent position was as Technical Director of the Papermill Theatre in Toronto. He is currently the audio technician for FIU's Department of Theatre where he is also studying for his BA.

Samantha (Sam) Transleau — (Scenic and Lighting Design) Sam graduated from FIU in 2012 with a BFA in Scenic Design. She is currently working on her MFA in Scenic and Lighting design at The University of Iowa. She has worked at Texas Shakespeare Festival, Palm Beach State College, Take Heed Theatre Company and II Nomo Ensemble Theatre as a scenic artist and designer.

ANNOUNCING THE 2013-2014 MAIN STAGE SEASON

FALL 2013

Cardenio
by Stephen Greenblatt and Charles Mee; directed by Michael Yawney

Sleeping Beauty
by Rufus Norris; Guest Director Margaret Ledford

SPRING 2014

June Moon
by George S. Kaufman & Ring Lardner; directed by Wayne E. Robinson, Jr.

Julius Caesar
by William Shakespeare; directed by Phillip M. Church

Tickets and more information at: THEATRE.FIU.EDU
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