Fall 9-24-2009

Sonia Flew

Department of Theatre, Florida International University

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SONIA FLEW
BY MELINDA LÓPEZ
DIRECTED BY
JENNIFER SMITH DE CASTROVERDE

SEPTEMBER 24–27, 2009
OCTOBER 1–4, 2009
THU–SAT Performances at 8PM
SUN Performances at 2PM

Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center
10910 SW 117 Street, Miami, FL 33199
DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I am so proud to have directed such a beautiful piece that speaks to our Cuban community at a time when the anniversary of the Pedro Pan flights has just passed. In 1961, my family suffered the great loss and sacrifice of forced exile from their homeland of Cuba. My childhood was enveloped with nostalgic celebrations of the power to accept the many challenges life possesses, and the redemption of rebuilding one’s life.

I have so many great memories from those times, including the way my grandmother played Lecuona on her piano every day, having the lullaby “Mufiequita Linda” sang to me before bed, and kissing my small bedside statue of Santa Barbara before falling asleep every night. My ancestral story is merely one among the many who have shared in a vast mythology that resonates every bit as much today as it has in the past.

Sonia grew up blind to her family’s history. The question then is, what becomes of the human spirit when its ancestry remains a mystery?

As a very proud Cuban-American, I would like this to stand as my tribute to those brave enough to leave their homeland during Pedro Pan.

This is but one of their stories...

Jennifer Smith De Castroverde
Director

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Jennifer Smith De Castroverde was last seen performing at the Actors Playhouse in the role of Sandra in Carlos Lacamara’s play “Havana Bourgeois” with FIU alum Danny Pino. Other credits include Circus Theatricals in the title role of John Bunzel’s “Complexity,” “Blood Wedding” at La Jolla Playhouse alongside Ivonne Coll, directed by Mark Wing-Davey; and “Picnic” at A Noise Within, directed by Craig Belnap. She received her MFA in Theatre from the University of California, San Diego, where she was directed by Andrei Belgrader, Les Waters, Kyle Donnelly, and Brian Kulick. She has vocal coached at the University of Oklahoma and the New Theatre in Miami. Jennifer is currently an Assistant Professor at FIU Theatre, where she teaches voice, movement, speech, acting, and literature. She also currently developing an online course on the history of Cuban theatre, as well as writing her one-woman show celebrating her Cuban ancestry.
ARTISTIC AND DESIGN TEAM

DIRECTOR Jennifer Smith De Castroverde
SCENIC DESIGNER Jesse Dreikosen
LIGHTING DESIGNER Harold Trenhs
COSTUME DESIGNER Patricia Almodovar
STAGE MANAGER Emily Barona
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/DRAMATURGY Michelle Antel
ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Amanda Sparhawk
ASSISTANT SCENIC DESIGNER Jaime Hartwell
ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER Challe Storall
SOUND DESIGNER Jennifer Smith De Castroverde/Alfred Smith
ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER Marilisa Mendoza
ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR Natalie Rivera

PRODUCTION

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Caroline Spitzer
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Sarah Giles
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Michael Mena
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Andrea Bovino
PROPS MASTER Damian Charkiewicz
ASSISTANT PROPS Michael Engelman
MASTER ELECTRICIAN Alex Parayuclos
ELECTRIC CREW Sarai Heria
ELECTRIC CREW Mary Grillo
ELECTRIC CREW Janine Granda
ELECTRIC CREW Liz Crespo
ELECTRIC CREW Elizabeth Nickerson
ELECTRIC CREW Brian Espinoza
ELECTRIC CREW Alexander Moreno
ELECTRIC CREW Sonia Sheron
SOUND BOARD OPERATOR Sarah Bartels
FLY OPERATOR Gus Florentino
FLY OPERATOR Gustavo Dapiaggi
SET CONSTRUCTION CREW Omar Bham
SET CONSTRUCTION CREW Haydn Diaz
SET CONSTRUCTION CREW Shanti Gaines-Bernard
SET CONSTRUCTION CREW Robert Alter
SET CONSTRUCTION CREW Michael Fernandez
SET CONSTRUCTION CREW Lauretta Navarro-Watts
SET CONSTRUCTION CREW Elaine Bryan
SET CONSTRUCTION CREW Juan Martinez
SET CONSTRUCTION CREW Harold Trenhs
SET CONSTRUCTION CREW Sarah Bartels
SET CONSTRUCTION CREW Daniel Blanco
SET CONSTRUCTION CREW Daniel Shmueli
PAINT CHARGE Clarissa Brillembourg
PAINT Nathalie Nodarse
PAINT Jannelys Santos
PAINT Maribel Martinez

Operation Pedro Pan Group, Inc. (OPPG) would like to thank Florida International University administration, faculty, staff and students for bringing to the community the theater production of Sonia Flew. This is an excellent way to tell the story of Operation Pedro Pan, the secret exodus of 14,040 unaccompanied Cuban minors during 1960–1962. This is a story of courage, sacrifice, pain, and sorrow suffered by both parents and children during their separation. This story must never be forgotten, and this play, along with other media outlets, helps maintain our story alive and vibrant.

Board of Directors
Operation Pedro Pan Group, Inc.

"SONIA FLEW" IS A PARTICIPATING ENTRY IN THE KENNEDY CENTER AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATER FESTIVAL

THE KENNEDY CENTER AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATER FESTIVAL™ 2010
Presented and Produced by
The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Supported in Part by
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The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C. in the spring of 2010.

KCACTF involves more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theatre department is sharing the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.
Dear Friend of FIU Theatre:

Thank you for attending this performance. Your decision to support the students and faculty in FIU Theatre is greatly appreciated.

We are dedicated to increasing resources available to students and faculty for the purpose of participating in creative and scholarly projects, enhancing student scholarship support, and improving and expanding facilities. To realize these goals, I am reaching out to you as Dean and requesting your support for FIU Theatre by contributing to one of the following three funds: Educational Excellence, Student Scholarships, and Naming Opportunities.

Once again, thank you for joining us and for considering my request. If you would like to learn more about FIU Theatre in the College of Architecture + The Arts, please contact me at (305) 348-3176, schriner@fiu.edu, or visit our website at carta.fiu.edu.

I am very grateful for your continued support, and I look forward to meeting and speaking with you.

Brian Schriner
Interim Dean
College of Architecture + The Arts

The College of Architecture + The Arts is grateful for all the continued support received by the following sponsors and community partners.

Special thanks to Havana Rick's Cafe at 1311 SW 107 Avenue, Miami, for their generous food donation to Friday performances of "Sonia Flew."
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