Lost in Yonkers

Department of Theatre, Florida International University

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NEIL SIMON’S LOST IN YONKERS

WERTHEIM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
Neil Simon is, without doubt, the most financially successful playwright in the American theatre. Most of his nineteen plays have had successful Broadway runs. There have been times when three of his works have been running simultaneously. Yet, throughout most of his career, his work has not been given serious consideration as dramatic literature by critics. His greatest strength, his ability to write fool-proof comedy, has been the very quality which has led to his dismissal as an important playwright. Critics have called his plays too slick, too willing to sacrifice character and depth for a joke. If this were ever true, it certainly has changed in his more recent work. Beginning with *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, the first of a trilogy of largely autobiographical plays, Simon's recent plays have shown great depth and honesty. This is certainly the case with *Lost in Yonkers*. Simon attacks serious situations and thorny characters head-on. The Simon humor is still there, but never at the expense of honesty. The play is deeply moving in a way none of his previous plays were. This led to the play's winning both prestigious prizes—the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for best play, giving him the well-deserved critical recognition denied him before.
CAST OF CHARACTERS

ARTY .......................................... Michael Santos
JAY ............................................ Robert Maxwell
EDDIE .......................................... Ozzie Quintana
BELLA ........................................ Tamala C. Horbianski
GRANDMA KURNITZ ...................... Agnes Tsangaridou
LOUIE .......................................... Daniel Moraguez
GERT .......................................... Heather Sligar

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director ...................... Matt Saxton
Theater Business Manager .......... Catherine Saxton
Costumer .................................. Marina Pareja
Stage Manager ............................ Laverne Lewis
Assistant Stage Manager .......... Molly Lehmann
Assistant Vocal Coach .............. Tamala Horbianski
Student Costume Assistant ........ Heather Koschny
Properties Coordinator ............. Norma Dobrikow-O’hep
Sound Preparation .................... Micky Ross Granat
Sound Board Operator .............. Lucia McArthur
Light Board Operator ................ Andre Thomas, Andres Solis
Giselle Menendez
Master Electrician ...................... Andres Solis
Set Dresser ............................... Colleen Crouch
Property Prep ............................ Rhonda Atkins
Paint Charge ............................. Nicole Santaella
Scenery Painting Crew .......... Yana Dade, Elaine Figueroa,
ahymara Gonzalez, Larisa Odesskya, Victor Ortiz, Susie Pinedo,
Romina Silberstein
Scenery Construction Crew ...... Yana Dade, Melanie Diaz, Norma
ahymara Gonzalez, Anna Grocholski, Jose Guerra,
Carlos Izquierdo, Larisa Odessky,
Charles A. Quinteros, Mike Santos,
Marion Toscano
Wardrobe ................................. Eddie Gloria, Jessica Gloria, Yamil
Piedra, Claire E. Tyler, Aimee Sanchez
Costume Construction Crew ...... Kelly Griffis, Tamala Horbianski,
Lucia McArthur, Aimee Sanchez,
Romina Silberstein, Heather Sligar,
Agnes Tsangaridou, Robert Walker,
Yamil Piedra, Nicole Lakowitz,
Claire Tyler
Light Prep Crew ........................ Rachel Carbonell, Robert Maxwell,
David Perez, Ozzie Quintana,
Charles A. Quinteros
Publicity ................................. Alicia Attong, Rhonda Atkins,
Berki De los Santos, Anna Fuentes,
Mikala Moss
House Manager ........................ Manny Casimir
UPCOMING SHOWS

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE
Jan. 28-30, Feb. 5-7, 1999

THE FIU DANCE ENSEMBLE will be dancing away the 20th Century on the Main Theatre this Spring. “Dance, Dance, Dance” will present artistic dance styles ranging from Classical Ballet to Contemporary to Traditions of African Dance. Come and join us in celebrating some of the dance styles representing the training and artistic vision of the dance program at FIU.

THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA
March 4-7, 11-14, 1999

The greatest of modern Spanish tragedies, THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA is one of the most realistic and lyric of the stage. Bernarda is the stern matriarch obsessed with family honor. There is a tragic climax that is unrelenting in its severity and terror.

FIFTH OF JULY
April 8-11, 15-18, 1999

FIU Theatre closes it’s season of families with Lanford Wilson’s FIFTH OF JULY. A group of friends who came of age in the sixties gather for a reunion at an old farmhouse in Missouri. This wonderful masterpiece of poetic theatre is a portrait of a generation trying to learn from the past, and finding the courage to begin anew.

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The Department of Theatre offers two theatre degrees: a Bachelor of Arts (BA) and a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA). The program is ideal in size, large enough to be able to offer a wide range of courses taught by varied, well-qualified faculty and to support an active production program, yet small enough that every student receives personal attention.

The Theatre and Dance Department has an active production program. We currently present four faculty directed theatre productions a year and one Dance Concert including choreography by FIU Dance faculty and guest choreographers. In addition to the faculty directed and choreographed productions, there are student produced and directed productions, presented by "Showcase Players," the student theatre organization.

The Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center includes a beautiful 250-seat proscenium theatre, large black-box Studio Theatre, costume shop, scene shop, 2 dressing rooms, a green room, and also houses the School of Music.

If you are interested in learning more about the program or becoming a theatre major, please call or write for more information.

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