Fall 9-27-2013

Cardenio

Department of Theatre, Florida International University

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FIU THEATRE PRESENTS

Cardenio

BY STEPHEN GREENBLATT AND CHARLES MEE

LOVE...MUSIC...PASTA

SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 6, 2013

Wednesday-Saturday 8PM, Sunday 2PM

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL YAWNEY

Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center
Black Box Theatre

theatre.fiu.edu
A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff here at FIU Theatre I want to welcome you to our 2013-2014 season, beginning with tonight's performance of Cardenio, by Stephen Greenblatt and Charles Mee. We have a wonderful set of plays for you to enjoy this year, so I hope you will come to see every one of them!

Our first show takes you off to a rustic villa in Italy, where a newly married couple has come to escape the groom’s intrusive parents as they celebrate their wedding. It’s impossible not to have a good time at this show.

Next we take you off to the land of the imagination – to a forest, a palace and a castle, populated by a prince and a princess (of course), woodland creatures, ogres who love to eat people, and a very grumpy fairy named Goody, who passes stinky gas every time she does magic. This version of Sleeping Beauty, by Rufus Norris, is obviously not your typical Walt Disney version of the famous fairy tale (not that there’s anything wrong with that). Instead, this irreverent rendition focuses on Goody, the fairy who, in a fit of pique, places the curse on Beauty that causes her to prick her finger and fall into a magic sleep. This version of the tale includes what happens after the famous fairytale ending line “and they lived happily ever after”, and it’s not what you would expect. Even with its darker side, this is one the whole family will enjoy, and right on time for the beginning of the holiday season.

Our third offering is a throwback to 1920’s New York City when big bands, popular song writing radio shows and creating catchy tunes were all the rage. Set in Tin Pan Alley, June Moon features a wet-behind-the-ears young songwriter named Fred Stevens, who sets off on the train from Schenectady to NYC to make a name for himself in the world of song writing. Trouble really begins when he and his composer partner, Paul, sell a song to a music publisher that becomes a hit. Between the lines Fred finds out who his real friends are and who he truly loves. This is a sweet, romantic drama with lots of music and laughs to counteract the betrayals. Treat yourself and your significant other to an early Valentine’s present by coming to see this show.

We close out the season with one of Shakespeare’s most famous plays, Julius Caesar. This timeless powerhouse of a play stands on its own merit, no matter what century it’s presented in. Expect a contemporary approach with gender changes and multimedia effects, all of which are designed to illustrate once again how relevant Shakespeare’s best works are to today’s audiences. Watch how, once again, the aphrodisiac of power corrupts even the most earnest of men and hear that most famous of lines Et tu, Brute? as Caesar falls. Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears... you will not want to miss this show.

This promises to be our best season yet, so don’t miss out by not showing up. As always, I would like to remind you that our productions serve as our laboratory in which students put into practice what they are learning in the classroom. Their talent, hard work, professionalism and dedication are amazing. We want to thank you again for your support of FIU Theatre and hope you will enjoy seeing our productions as much as we enjoy creating them.

CARDENIO

By Stephen Greenblatt and Charles Mee

DIRECTOR - Michael Yawney
STAGE MANAGER - Patricia Morales (BA)
SCENIC DESIGNER - Florencia Anciewicz (BFA, Design)
COSTUME DESIGNER - Ileana Mateo (BFA, Design)
LIGHTING DESIGNER - Liza Perez (BFA, Design)
SOUND DESIGNER & ORIGINAL MUSIC - Paul Steinsland (BA)
VOCAL DIRECTION - Rebecca Covey

CAST

WILL – William Cadena (BFA, Performance)
ANSELMO – Alexander Machado (BFA, Performance)
EDMUND – Rafael Martinez (BFA, Performance)
ALDRED – Albert Campillo (BFA, Performance)
MELCHIORE – Erik J. Rodriguez (BA)
RUDI – Daniel Leonard (BFA, Performance)
CAMILA – Amber Lynn Benson (BFA, Performance)
SALLY – Yarelis Chavez (BFA, Performance)
SIMONETTA – Natalie Brenes (BFA, Performance)
DORIS – Jannelys Santorini (BA)
SUSANNA – Chachi Colon (BFA, Performance)
LUISA – Juanita Castro-Ochoa (BFA, Performance)

SETTING

Umbria, Italy — the present.

There will be one 10 minute intermission.

Please note that flash photography, video recording, or other audio or visual recording of this production is strictly prohibited.
Alumni Spotlight

The person featured in this Playbill’s Alumni Spotlight is Fletcher McCune, Class of 2006. Fletcher graduated with a BFA degree in Theatre Design & Technology. He stayed in the Miami area for three more years, working in such venues as the Coconut Grove Playhouse, Actors Playhouse, American Airlines Arena and Gable Stage. He also designed lights for dance concerts and theatre all around South Florida. From 2006-2009 he was the Head Electrician for the Carnival Studio Theatre at the Adrienne Arscht Center, after which he moved to NYC. He picked up freelance jobs at various venues such as The Signature Center and Soho Rep until he became the head of the props and crew for “Rent Off Broadway” in 2011, staying with the show until it closed in 2012. He is now the Technical Manager for New World Stages, a 5-theatre Off Broadway complex near Times Square. Fletcher is also a member of IATSE, local 500. We are very proud of the success of our Design/Tech graduates of which Fletcher is a shining example. We wish him continued good fortune.
NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

There are a lot of plays going around with the title “Cardenio.” We know that Shakespeare wrote a play with that title and now theater companies are grabbing musty old scripts off the shelf, claiming that this one or that one is the great lost “Cardenio”.

Our Cardenio is a little different. It was written by playwright Charles Mee in collaboration with Shakespearean scholar Stephen Greenblatt. The lost play features as part of the plot (but I will not spoil it by telling you how), but this is an original work that uses plot elements from a number of Shakespeare’s plays to create a modern comedy.

We hope you enjoy this Cardenio — even if it is not a long-lost play by William Shakespeare.
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