Summer 8-8-2013

Glengarry Glen Ross, Alternative Theatre Festival 2013

Department of Theatre, Florida International University
FIU THEATRE PRESENTS

GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS

A PLAY BY DAVID MAMET
DIRECTED BY WAYNE E. ROBINSON, JR.

HERBERT AND NICOLE WERTHEIM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
BLACK BOX THEATRE
AUGUST 8, 9, 10
A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, MARYLIN SKOW

Good evening, everyone, and welcome to the final offering of this summer's incredible ATF season which has featured FIU Theatre alumni giving back in all areas, from performances to directing, designing and production. We started off the season with three terrific nights of alumni contributions, and the season culminates with tonight's special reprise of "Glengarry Glen Ross" with the original cast from 11 years ago. I think it is extra special that the idea to reprise the show came from the guys themselves. It is wonderful to have them back in town and back in the Black Box Theatre for the week. I want to thank and applaud them for agreeing to come back and give a week of their time to do this. What a terrific finish to an incredible summer of shows at ATF.

I also want to take this opportunity to give a special "Thank you" to our production and front of house staffs who have endured eight straight week ends of shows throughout the summer with such a sense of good will and professionalism.

I want to remind you that the "Glengarry" performances are meant to be "scholarship performances". This means that instead of our regular summer admission charge we are asking that you make a generous donation, starting at $20, to our theatre student scholarship fund. Our being able to offer help us help our students as much as you feel comfortable doing.

Enjoy the show tonight and thank you for supporting FIU Theatre's Alternative Theatre Festival through another successful season.

Special thanks to the Alumni Association for sponsoring our opening night reception.

2013 ALTERNATIVE THEATRE FESTIVAL PRODUCTION STAFF

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ................. Marilyn R. Skow
PRODUCTION MANAGER ............... Marina Pareja
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR ................. Geordan Gottlieb
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT .............. Robert (BJ) Duncan
WPAC EVENTS MANAGER ............. Sammy Garcia, Jr.
MARKETING/PUBLICITY ............. Kathleen Anderson
OFFICE MANAGER .................... Marianna Murray
SENIOR FISCAL ASSISTANT ........ Paulette Rivera
COSTUME SHOP ASSISTANT .......... Sophie Hamann
SOUND ENGINEER ..................... Paul Steinsland

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF: Monica Abreu, Rachel Capote, Katiana Davila, Ephraim Luc Etienne, Caitlyn Lincolin, Gabriella (Gaby) Lopez, Shelley Miller, Nakayta Moore, Erica Ramos, Sofia Sassone.

Please note, video and photography of any kind of this production is strictly prohibited. Please turn off cell phones and mobile devices.

GLEN GARY, GLEN ROSS
BY DAVID MAMET
DIRECTED BY WAYNE E. ROBINSON, JR.


Performance dates: August 8, 9, 10.

CAST

BLAKE ................ Gustavo David Ortiz
SHELLEY LEVINE .................. Ricky Waugh
JOHN WILLIAMSON .............. Ivan Lopez
DAVID MOSS ............... Danny Suarez
GEORGE AARONOW .......... Mashaun Arnold
RICHARD ROMA ............. Joe Llorens
JAMES LINGK .............. Ramon Vuenes
BAYLEN ................ Daniel Gutierrez

STAGE MANAGER: Marina E. Catalán
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER: Andrea Bovino
SET RECONSTRUCTION: Robert (BJ) Duncan & Amanda Sparhawk
COSTUMES: Marina Pareja
LIGHTING DESIGN: Amanda Sparhawk
SOUND ENGINEER: Paul Steinsland

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Produced in arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

This show contains adult language and situations, not recommended for children.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR — WAYNE E. ROBINSON, JR.

In the prize winning play you'll see tonight, playwright David Mamet is not writing about polite society. Instead, he reveals the crude and volatile world that we don't often publicly acknowledge. It exists in the political arena. It is rampant in offices and boardrooms. What do these worlds have in common with each other? They are dominated by men. They are the dog-eat-dog, ethics be dammed societies that we all depend on to get things done. Yes, these are deplorable men, but that's the way the game is played. If we were honest, we might admit that, on some level, we admire the men who play it well.

Glengarry Glen Ross, is a rhythmically poetic and highly theatrical play. It is more of a moral fable than anything else. Through the seductive rhythm of his language and the shockingly outrageous humor of these men, Mamet sucks you in. He asks his audience to consider our complicity in their behavior.

FIU Theatre first presented this play 11 years ago with FIU Theatre student actors. Those same actors are now men, not boys. In 2002 we approached the text like musicians reading a score. We are now revisiting Mamet's play with the advantage of life experience hoping to remember the music, but with the added wisdom that only time can bring. Thank you for listening.
CAST BIOS

Meshaun Labrone—Received his BFA in theatre from FIU in 2005. He has worked in prestigious Miami theaters such as the M Ensemble, New Theatre and Coconut Grove Theatre. For three years he was a company member of the Miami Theatre Center. In 2009, he was considered Best Actor in the Miami New Times magazine for his portrayal as Tupac Shakur in his solo show Right to Remain... Tupac Shakur. Labrone has taken Right to Remain to Miami, London’s Off West End and Washington, DC. When he is not writing or acting, Labrone devotes his time mentoring students in the Washington, DC area and has led acting workshops for college students, most recently at Southampton Solent University (Southampton, England).

Labrone has also worked in tv and film and is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA.

Daniel Gutierrez—Daniel has been on and off the stage over the last five years. His most recent successes include being part of an award winning sketch comedy troupe, Sitcoms Blow, where he has performed in various venues including the Santa Monica Playhouse as well as the world famous Hollywood Improv located in Hollywood, CA. He will be working on a web series this fall following the success of the YouTube hit ‘Le Detector’. He is currently a coordinator on the Emmy award winning Ellen DeGeneres Show.

Ivan R. Lopez—Ivan is thrilled to revive this production of Glengarry Glen Ross and share the stage with his college friends again. He discovered his passion for acting and the theatre while taking an Introduction to Acting class as a student at FIU. Since then, he has acted in over 40 plays and short films in New York, Denver, and Miami. Some favorite roles include Katurian in The Pillowman (White Rose Miami), Hal in Proof (White Rose Miami), Davey in second (S12E - NY), Treves in The Elephant Man (Denver Center), Felix in Bird in the Hand (New Theatre). He co-founded and is currently the co-Creative Director of White Rose Miami, a theatre, film, and creative education company. He is an adjunct professor at FIU teaching Introduction to Acting and Dramatic Literature classes.

He has a Master of Fine Arts degree from the National Theatre Conservatory and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Florida International University. Check out WRM: whiterosiami.com

Joe Llorens—Joe graduated with a Bachelors in Fine Arts from FIU in 2003. During his time there he had the pleasure of working with some of the most talented and driven artists he's ever met. He remembers Glengarry Glen Ross as his favorite acting experience while at school, and is honored to be back on stage with this collection of brilliant actors.

After his graduation, Joe went on to perform as an Equity Cast Member of Walt Disney World for several years. He is currently living in Winter Garden, FL, and can be seen in commercial spots for Publix Supermarkets and BrightHouse Networks.

Gustavo David Ortiz—Gustavo is excited to be working with this incredibly talented group of artists again in the space where his formal training in the arts began. His experience at FIU helped him to better understand the direction of his passion as an artist, which led him to do what he loves most - produce. He has produced live theatre including The Big Funk and Three Days of Rain, live music and poetry, stand-up comedy featuring the Miami Comics, improv-theatre featuring Laughing Gas, and other performing and visual arts at The Madman Experiment - a company he organized (which started as an FIU club) with colleagues Daniel Suarez, Jeanette Taylor-Mahmoud, and Luc Mahurth. He was the Theatre and Event Manager at the Art and Culture Center of Hollywood as Theater Manager of the Hollywood Central Performing Arts Center. As an independent producer he produced a number of multi-media awareness events and live music events in Historic Downtown Miami including the Conscious Artist Collective Save Darfur - Groove Series and the AEG Live Official DubFest 3-Venue After Party. He is currently the Marketing and Social Media Manager for The Us Postal Solutions Company and the software development subsidiary, PackageLog, LLC. He also volunteers his time with the City of Clermont as they begin the development of the revitalization of their downtown district and hopes to be their advocate for the arts in Historic Downtown Clermont.

Danny Suarez—Daniel Suarez is an Alumni of the Theatre Department earning his BFA in 2006. Daniel went on to become an engineer and is currently the Technical Services Director for MDC Media Services Department. Daniel is also an accomplished local musician, and has performed in many of Miami’s musical venues. Daniel is ecstatic to be able to reunite with the original cast and rekindle his acting days with friendly familiar faces.

Ramon Vuenes—Ramon joined FIU’s Theatre program in 2001. He dove into his theatre classes, eager to augment his performance experience as a musician with the high quality acting training provided by FIU Theatre’s excellent faculty.

After graduating with a BFA four years later, Ramon spent several years working at various area theatres. Eventually, he transitioned to a career in education, using his training as an actor to play his most important role ever: as a teacher shaping and inspiring the young minds of tomorrow.

Ricky Waugh—Ricky is originally from Fort Pierce, Florida and graduated in 2006 from Florida International University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Fine Arts. He is a proud member of Actor’s Equity and is appearing in this performance with special permission. Having worked professionally in South Florida for the past twelve years, he has earned several Carbonell nominations and multiple Silver Palm Awards for his work in theatres from West Palm to Miami.


See more at rickywaugh.com
THINGS I HAVE LEARNED PLAYING POKER . . .

In twenty years of playing poker, I have seen very few poor losers. Poker is a game of skill and chance. Playing poker is also a masculine ritual, and, most times, losers feel either sufficiently chagrined or sufficiently reflective to retire, if not with grace, at least with alacrity. I have seen many poor winners. Most are eventually brought back to reality. The game itself will reveal to them that they are victims of an essential error: they have attributed their success to divine intervention.

What do you do when you are pushing your luck beyond its limits? You must behave like a good philosopher and ask what axiom you must infer that you are acting under. Having determined that, you ask if this axiom, in the long run, will leave you a winner. If the axiom you are acting under is not designed to make you money, you may find that your real objective at the game is something else: you may be trying to prove yourself beloved of God.

Many of us, and most of us from time to time, try to escape a blunt fact which may not tally with our self image. When we are depressed, we re-create the world around us to rationalize our mood. We are then likely to overlook or misinterpret happy circumstances. At the poker table, this can be expensive, for opportunity may knock, but it seldom nags. Which brings us to a crass thought many genteel players cannot grasp; poker is about money.

I've been playing with the same five players for two decades. As a group we have all improved. As we are men of equal intelligence, that improvement can be due to only one thing: to character, which as I finally begin to improve a bit myself, I see the game of poker is all about.

-David Mamet

ALWAYS BE CLOSING.

-Practical Sales Maxim

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Born on November 30, 1947 in Flossmoor, Illinois, David Mamet studied at Goddard College in Vermont and at the Neighborhood Playhouse School of Theater in New York before venturing into the professional world of the Theatre. He began his career as an actor and director before achieving success in 1976 with three Off-Off Broadway plays, The Duck Variations, Sexual Perversity in Chicago, and American Buffalo.

The most recognized element of Mamet's style is his sparse, clipped dialogue. Although reminiscent of such playwrights as Harold Pinter and Samuel Beckett, Mamet's dialogue is so unique that it has become known as "Mametspeak". His language is not so much "naturalistic" as it is a poetic impression of streetwise jargon. Other signature elements of Mamet's style include minimalism and a lack of stage directions.

Noted for his strong male characters, Mamet's plays often deal with the decline of morality in a world that has become an emotional and spiritual wasteland. In 1984, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Glengarry Glen Ross which recreated the atmosphere of a gritty Chicago real estate office in which Levine, an aging salesman, is about to be sacked. He followed up in 1988 with Speed the Plow which exposes the dirty underside of another industry--show business. Perhaps his most controversial play, however, came in 1992 with Oleanna, a two-character drama involving charges of sexual harassment between a male professor and one of his female students.

Mamet has taught at Goddard College, the Yale Drama School and New York University.
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APRIL 4-7 AND 11-14, 2002
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
WERTHEIM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
STUDIO THEATRE
MIAMI, FL