

Anna in the Tropics
By Nilo Cruz
Directed by Denise Blasor

McClintock Theatre
November 20–23, 2014



**ANNA
IN THE
TROPICS**

USC School of Dramatic Arts 2014/15 SEASON

USC School of Dramatic Arts

PRESENTS

ANNA IN THE TROPICS

By Nilo Cruz

WITH (in alphabetical order)

Omete Anassi (M.C.) Andrew Buenrostro Natalie Nagar
Gabriela Ortega Tomás Ruiz Saba Saghafi
Amy Sizer Kapil Talwalkar

SCENIC DESIGN

Lea Branyan

COSTUME DESIGN

Colette Adatto

LIGHTING DESIGN

Sabrina Cadena

SOUND DESIGN

Danielle Kisner

STAGE MANAGER

Haley Miller

DIRECTED BY

Denise Blasor

McClintock Theatre
November 20–23, 2014

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service Inc.

Cast of Characters

(in order of appearance)

Eliades/Eduardo Omete Anassi (M.C.)
Santiago Andrew Buenrostro
Cheché Tomás Ruiz
Marela Natalie Nagar
Conchita Gabriela Ortega
Ofelia Amy Sizer
Juan Julian Kapil Talwalkar
Palomo Saba Saghafi

Time

1929

Place

Ybor City, Tampa, Florida

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

WARNING: Please be advised that this production contains the smoking of e-cigars.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Dialect Coach | Cynthia DeCure

Movement Coach | Anastasia Coon

Fight Choreography | Edgar Landa

Scenic Artist | Vika Teplinskaya

Wardrobe Technician | Sara Gray

Assistant Stage Managers | Jessica Peeters, Helina Seyoum

Scenic PA | Liam Sterbinsky

Crew | Rachel Arevalo, Madison Devries, Tuesday Grant, Ethan Haslam, Rayna Koishikawa

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Denise Blazor began her acting career in Puerto Rico. Founding member of LAAFO, KOAN and East LA Classic Theater she became Artistic Director of LADiversified Theater Company where she produced, directed and performed new adaptations of *The Three Sisters*, *Caderas*, *He Who Gets Slapped*, *No Exit*, and *Cooking*. She is now the Associate Artistic Director of Bilingual Foundation of the Arts. Plays directed include: *La Vida Es Sueño/Life Is A Dream*, *Bodas De Sangre/Blood Wedding*, *The Wide Wide Sea*, *Pedro Infante Y La Viuda Triunfante*, *Cumbia De Mi Corazon*, *La Verdad De Judas*, and *Wild In Wichita/Locuras En Wichita* which she also directed/performed at LATC and Frida Kahlo Theatre this past season. Her productions have been honored with DramaLogue, Cesar, Back Stage West, LA Weekly, and Ovation nominations/awards. She will be directing *House of Bernarda Alba* at Barnsdall Gallery Theatre which will open in 2015.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“Everything in life dreams. A bicycle dreams of becoming a boy, an umbrella dreams of becoming the rain, a pearl dreams of becoming a woman, and a chair dreams of becoming a gazelle and running back to the forest.”

—excerpt from *Anna in the Tropics*

Ybor City, where *Anna in the Tropics* is set, was once known as the “Cigar Capital of the World.” But in 1929, things were about to change in the U.S. and the Tampa workers were controversial because they wanted to hold onto tradition: to roll “puros,” cigars, by hand, continue to employ lectors who were their window to the world and not be replaced by mechanization. While many workers were illiterate, they could quote Cervantes, Calderon de la Barca, Tolstoy, Shakespeare and were more politically aware than many of their American counterparts. The lectors educated, enriched and entertained their listeners with news, classic literature and new ways of thinking, providing them with an escape from their painstaking repetitive labor.

There is so much that is sensory in *Anna in the Tropics*. As we hear the rhythm of life, we taste the “sabor” and beauty of Cuban music; we smell the humidity and the tobacco in the air as the fans cool and refresh our skin; we see the light coming in through the windows and as each day pass in the story, we watch the emotional transformation of this small group of factory workers and we ourselves, the audience, are changed by the experience.

Nilo Cruz won the Pulitzer Prize with this beautiful gem in 2003. He is the first Hispanic playwright to win this prize for Drama followed by Quiara Alegria Hudes, who won in 2012 for her play *Water by the Spoonful*. So dear audience, imagine you are smoking a hand rolled Cuban cigar on a warm balmy night and enjoy the power of words. A gozar!

SPECIAL THANKS

Luis Alfaro, Angel Chen, Terry Gordon, Beth Hogan, Tina Haatainen-Jones, Oliver Mayer, Haley Miller, Arthur Murray Santa Monica, Joel Rieck, Jack Rowe, Howard Schmitt, Meagan Smith, Michelle Tang, Gabriela Young and David Woodbury for the Rumba class.

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2014/15 SEASON

To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday
By Michael Brady
Directed by Cameron Watson
Scene Dock Theatre
October 2–5, 2014

4.48 Psychosis
By Sarah Kane
Directed by Paul Backer
McClintock Theatre
October 2–5, 2014

Dark of the Moon
By Howard Richardson
and William Berney
Directed by John DeMita
Bing Theatre
October 9–12, 2014

The Dream of the Burning Boy
By David West Read
Directed by Edward Edwards
Scene Dock Theatre
October 23–26, 2014

Summer Brave
By William Inge
Directed by Robert Bailey
McClintock Theatre
October 30–November 2, 2014

Cat Among the Pigeons
By Georges Feydeau
Translated by John Mortimer
Directed by Michael Keenan
Bing Theatre
November 6–9, 2014

Anna in the Tropics
By Nilo Cruz
Directed by Denise Blasor
McClintock Theatre
November 20–23, 2014

The American Clock
By Arthur Miller
Directed by Cameron Watson
Scene Dock Theatre
November 20–23, 2014

MFA Acting Spring Repertory*
Scene Dock Theatre
February 7–March 8, 2015

The Seagull
By Anton Chekhov
Directed by Kate Burton

The Servant of Two Masters
By Carlo Goldoni
Translated by Sylvie Drake
Directed by Andrew J. Robinson

Blood Match
By Oliver Mayer
Translated and adapted from the play *Bodas de Sangre*
by Federico García Lorca
Directed by David Bridel

Red Noses
By Peter Barnes
Directed by Stephanie Shroyer
McClintock Theatre
February 26–March 1, 2015

As You Like It
By William Shakespeare
Bing Theatre
March 5–8, 2015

The Way of the World
By William Congreve
Directed by John DeMita
Scene Dock Theatre
April 2–5, 2015

Grease
Book, Music and Lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey
Directed by Brian Kite
Bing Theatre
April 2–12, 2015

The Waiting Room
By Lisa Loomer
Directed by Larissa Kokernot
McClintock Theatre
April 9–12, 2015

New Works Festival Year 2
The Master of Fine Arts
in Dramatic Writing
Playwrights Workshop
Massman Theatre
April 10–26, 2015

BFA Sophomore Show
Directed by Jack Rowe
McClintock Theatre
April 23–26, 2015

Crumbs from the Table of Joy
By Lynn Nottage
Directed by Gregg T. Daniel
Scene Dock Theatre
April 23–26, 2015

New Works Festival Year 3
The Master of Fine Arts in
Dramatic Writing Play Project
The Carrie Hamilton Theatre at
The Pasadena Playhouse
May 26–30, 2015

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