

MFA DRAMATIC WRITING YEAR 2
NEW WORKS
FESTIVAL
PLAYWRIGHTS WORKSHOP

ONE HOUR EARLIER
BY INDA CRAIG-GALVAN

USC School of Dramatic Arts

New Works Festival / YEAR 2

The Master of Fine Arts in Dramatic Writing Playwrights Workshop

PRESENTS

ONE HOUR EARLIER

By Inda Craig-Galván

Directed by Jennifer Chang

Cast of Characters

(in order of appearance)

Leo

José Pueyo

Peaches

Ocean Reed

Karen Owens

Kristina Hanna

Shay

Empress Christian

Mack

Miles Bryant

Jo-Jo

David McClain

Damen

Ryan Holmes

TIME

March, 2011. Eleven years into the Chicago Public Housing Authority's "Plan for Transformation" which would eventually close the housing projects, and replace the buildings with high-end housing and a broken promise of mixed-income residences. One day before the last building fell.

PLACE

The play takes place in the Golden Nugget diner, on the near-Northside of Chicago. The area is occupied by residents of the Cabrini-Green housing projects, and frequented by the commuters going to nearby jobs, businesses and theaters.

WARNING Please be advised that this production contains mature language and themes.

Massman Theatre | April 22–24, 2016

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

On the Near North side of Chicago was “Swede Town.” In the late 1800s, the area was known as “Little Hell,” named for its proximity to the city gas works. Housing built there was used to house families whose property had been destroyed. During World War II, the Chicago Housing Authority razed Little Hell and built a low-rise apartment “project” for war workers — Frances Cabrini Homes, Cabrini Extension (1958) and William Green Homes (1962). The original Cabrini-Green population was poor Italians, Irish, Puerto Ricans, Blacks; war workers and veterans. The poverty, crime and gang violence that permeated Little Hell since the 1800s remained. The only thing that changed was the ethnic makeup of the community, as the 1960s brought segregation into the area. What once was a mix of various ethnicities, was now an all-Black area. But understand: it was always violent, it was always gang-ridden.

The problems of the area's poverty were exacerbated by the fact that few other affordable housing options existed. There was nowhere else for Cabrini-Green residents to go. What was intended to be a “project” was instead a permanent situation, with up to 15,000 residents at its peak. CHA failed to provide money for building repairs and maintaining landscaping. The building deteriorated and deplorable living conditions were as rampant as crime.

Housing officials decided to replace the buildings with mixed-income housing. The CHA's demolition plan outpaced the reconstruction program, leaving tens of thousands of displaced residents, many of whom refused to leave until they were adequately placed. For some, that relocation never happened. The last building was demolished March 2011. This play takes place on the eve of that demolition.

PLAYWRIGHT'S BIO

Inda Craig-Galván, a Chicago native, was commissioned by MPAACT Theatre (Chicago) as head writer for *Blaxploitation: The Remix* (Black Theatre Alliance Award nomination, Best Writing). Additional plays: *I Go Somewhere Else* (CTG/Humanities Award semifinalist), *The Boy Who Cried Dragon* (published, YouthPLAYS). Screenplay: *Are They Dead Yet?* (Urbanworld Film Festival finalist).

SPECIAL THANKS

Velina Hasu Houston, Jack Rowe, Els Collins, and all the professors in the MFA Dramatic Writing Program.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager Ben Altman | *Scenic Design* Jean Hyon | *Costume Design* Edina Hiser
Lighting Design T. Michael | *Sound Design* Emma Bramble
Production Manager Jennifer Caspellan Franco | *Dramaturg* Christopher Breyer
Dialect Coach Anne Burk | *Fight Choreographer* Edgar Landa | *Scenic Artist* Erin O'Donnell
Crew Annika Ellwanger-Chavez, Ermaline Ogbodo, Harley Douvier

ONE HOUR EARLIER

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Jennifer Chang is an L.A.-based educator, actor, director, writer, and producer. She previously directed *Fortinbras* for the USC School of Dramatic Arts. A founding member of Chalk Repertory Theatre, for the company she has directed *Lady Windermere's Fan* (LA Weekly Pick of the Week), *Gallery Secrets: Prom Season*, *The Debate Over Courtney O'Connell of Columbus, Nebraska*, and acted in various FLASH Festivals, *Hell Money*, *Stray*, and *Three Sisters*. Other directing credits include: *Animals Out of Paper* at East West Players (L.A. Times Critics Pick), *Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them with Artists at Play* (Ovation Nominated) and *Our American Story* (Japanese American National Museum). Acting credits include theatre work at East West Players, South Coast Rep, Company of Angels, Mixed Blood Theatre, Fulton Opera House, and the National Asian American Theatre Company, LaMAMA etc., and numerous TV/Film and commercial credits. Education: MFA, UCSD/La Jolla Playhouse. BFA, NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Proud member of SDC, AEA, SAG-AFTRA. www.changinator.com

Breath, Boom

By Kia Corthron

Directed by Anita Dashiell-Sparks

Scene Dock Theatre

April 21-24, 2016



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