

22/23 USC School
of Dramatic Arts

The Conduct of Life

By María Irene Fornés
Kirk Douglas Theatre
November 17-19, 2022

USC School of Dramatic Arts

presents

The Conduct of Life

By **María Irene Fornés**

With

**Alcides B. Costa Jr. Beryl Liu Krosby João Roza
Megan Tomei Gabriella Weltman**

Costume Design

Juliet Black

BFA Design, Sophomore

Lighting Design

Eliot Ohlemeyer

Sound Design

Alma Reyes-Thomas

Stage Manager

Yaesol Jeong

Directed by **Sabina Zúñiga Varela**

Kirk Douglas Theatre

November 17-19, 2022

Originally produced at Theater for the New City, New York.

THE CONDUCT OF LIFE is produced by special arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing Inc, NYC.
www.broadwayplaypub.com

CAST (In alphabetical order)



Alcides B. Costa Jr.
Alejo
MFA Acting Year 2



Beryl Liu
Leticia
MFA Acting Year 2



Crosby João Roza
Orlando
MFA Acting Year 2



Megan Tomei
Olimpia
MFA in Acting, Year 2



Gabriella Weltman
Nena
MFA Acting Year 2

The Conduct of Life

This performance will be performed without an intermission.

PLEASE NOTE

Please be advised that this production contains depictions of non-consensual sexual acts, descriptions of torture, themes of oppression and domestic violence, depictions of psychological violence, torture, underage trafficking and enslavement, and the use of weapons on stage.

ADDITIONAL *THE CONDUCT OF LIFE* PRODUCTION STAFF

Vocal/Dialect Coach **Peter Marciano**

Intimacy Director **Margaret Kemp**

Production Deputy **Megan Tomei**

DRAMATURGICAL NOTES

Leticia: We only know what we have in our hand to put in our mouth, to put in our stomach, and to put in our pocket. We take care of our pocket, but not of our country. We take care of our stomachs but not of our hungry. We are primitive.

The war “out there” never stays “out there.” It invades every aspect of life. It desensitizes those who commit atrocities as well as those who witness them. Bystanders actively avoid knowing what is going on around them. The constant environment of trauma breeds disassociation.

Fornés’s play was written in 1985. The Iran-Iraq war was in the news; Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini would set up a theocracy and deny women their human rights. Today, there is rebellion in Iran again. Women and men are demanding women’s rights be restored — demanding that women be relieved of the fear that they might be taken off the street and killed because of how they dress. In the U.S. Roe v. Wade has been overthrown. Women’s rights to bodily autonomy are under attack. Unprovoked, Russia has declared war against Ukraine. What is the cost of war to the aggressors? Ukrainians have become warriors to defend themselves. What will be this war’s cost to them? What is war’s cost, both for the nation and for the individual? The cost of war against women?

María Irene Fornés (1930–2018) was a Cuban-born American playwright. She wrote over 40 plays and won nine Obie awards. She was a director and teacher as well as a playwright and she inspired a generation of playwrights, including School of Dramatic Arts Professor Luis Alfaro. We are proud to be connecting with this underproduced great playwright and one of her most iconic works.

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The USC School of Dramatic Arts fosters the talents of artist-scholars who are dramatically different—who are willing to imagine the future of the entertainment industry and bring it to life. Through an interdisciplinary, entrepreneurial education students develop the skills necessary to discover their unique voice and are exposed to diverse styles and multiple media. Students and recent alumni are supported by the School's unique Professional Development Center which offers career services and professionalization opportunities to help students establish and sustain successful careers as creators, performers and cultural innovators.

For more information, please visit dramaticarts.usc.edu.

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The USC School of Dramatic Arts would like to recognize the generosity of the following individuals and organizations who have supported the School over the past year towards core programs such as production, professional development, scholarship, Dean's Strategic Fund and our new Drama Center. We recognize at the visionary level those donors whose tremendous generosity has reached the cumulative giving level of \$1 million+. Their extraordinary commitment has built the foundation for our continued ascent and future achievements.

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Season of Plays

Wedlock of the Gods

By Zulu Sofola

BT Sept 29-Oct 2, 2022

Nora: A Doll's House

By Stef Smith

SDT Oct 6-12, 2022

Carrie: The Musical

Music by Michael Gore

Lyrics by Dean Pitchford

Book by Lawrence D. Cohen

Based on the novel by

Stephen King

MT Oct 6-9, 2022

Into the Woods

Music and Lyrics

by Stephen Sondheim

Book by James Lapine

BT Oct 27-Nov 3, 2022

Wintertime

By Charles L. Mee

MT Oct 27-30, 2022

The Aliens

By Annie Baker

KDT Nov 10-12, 2022

The Conduct of Life

By María Irene Fornés

KDT Nov 17-19, 2022

we, the invisibles

By Susan Soon He Stanton

SDT Nov 10-20, 2022

Passage

By Christopher Chen

MT Nov 17-20, 2022

Buried Child

By Sam Shepard

SDT Jan 26-Feb 1, 2023

The Winter's Tale

By William Shakespeare

BT Feb 23-26, 2023

Urinetown

Music by Mark Hollman

Lyrics by Mark Hollmann

and Greg Kotis

Book by Greg Kotis

BT Mar 30-Apr 5, 2023

The Belle's Stratagem

By Hannah Cowley

SDT Apr 6-16, 2023

MFA Dramatic Writing Year 2 New Works Festival

Apr 6-9, 2023

MFA Dramatic Writing Year 3 New Works Festival

MT Apr 20-27, 2023

Company

Music and Lyrics

by Stephen Sondheim

Book by George Furth

BT Apr 20-26, 2023

KEY: SDT = Scene Dock Theatre / BT = Bing Theatre / MT = McClintock Theatre / KDT = Kirk Douglas Theatre



For more information about our shows, visit

← dramaticarts.usc.edu

Plays:

General \$17, USC Students/Faculty/Staff with ID \$10

Musicals:

General \$22, USC Students/Faculty/Staff with ID \$15

22/23 USC School
of Dramatic Arts

Powerful Theatre... sometimes doesn't end when you leave.

We recognize that challenging content can disturb as well as delight. Please know these resources are available for you.

USC School
of Dramatic Arts

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP)

(213) 740-9355(WELL), press "o" after hours – 24/7
on call studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

<https://sites.google.com/usc.edu/rsvpclientservices/home>

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops,
and training for situations related to gender-based harm.
(For USC Students)

Journey Out

<https://journeyout.org/>

The mission of this organization is to help victims of
commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking
leave a life of abuse and violence, overcome their
fears, and empower them to reach their life goals.

The Haven at College

<https://thehavenatcollege.com/>

On-campus care and support for college students
and young adults struggling with mental health and
substance use disorders, Alcoholics Anonymous.

Counseling and Mental Health

(213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

<https://sites.google.com/usc.edu/counseling-mental-health/>

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students,
including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress
fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. (For USC Students)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call

<https://988lifeline.org/>

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal
crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

USC Veterans Resource Center

<https://vrc.usc.edu/>

The VRC is committed to supporting the veteran community in
the areas of higher education, academic success, graduation,
career development, and wellbeing. (For USC Students)

Veteran Peer Access Network-Veteran Services (Department of Mental Health)

<https://dmh.lacounty.gov/veterans/>

This is an LA County initiative that works with
veterans dealing with mental health issues.

LA vs. Hate: United Against Hate Initiative

<https://www.lavshate.org/>

The LA vs Hate program/initiative is a community driven
approach to empowering all residents of Los Angeles
County to unite against, report, and resist hate.