SONNETS FOR AN OLD CENTURY

by Jose Rivera
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR’S NOTE

Human contact is the backbone of what we do in the theatre. We all miss being on campus.

But the global pandemic has challenged us to find new ways to create theatre and give our students the creative opportunities to develop and grow their unique talents. FIU Theatre has risen to that challenge.

Our students, faculty, and staff have been working overtime to adapt to the virtual environment, and in many ways, we are meeting the moment and creating more theatre than ever before. The 2020-21 season at FIU Theatre is a testament to our collective ingenuity, intelligence, compassion, and spirit.

Last semester, we produced three full-length play readings, staged some of the solo projects that were canceled in April, and created five original devised plays created by the students of FIU Theatre – all in a virtual environment that was new to us. This semester we bring you two uniquely creative stagings of the ancient Greek comedy Lysistrata and Jose Rivera’s lyrical Sonnets for an Old Century. After watching these plays, we are confident you will agree that FIU Theatre has once again risen to the challenge of the moment.

Our designers and actors are getting opportunities to work on exciting material and use their creativity and imagination to create work in these unusual times. We are also excited to be able to keep our connection with you, our audience, and bring you plays that reflect our shared humanity.

Thank you for joining us this evening. Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram for information on our future events and to see some behind the scenes content. Also check out our website, theatre.fiu.edu.

Be well,

Joel Murray, Ph.D.
Department Chair & Artistic Director
SONNETS FOR AN OLD CENTURY
by José Rivera
directed by Michael Yawney

CAST
(in order of appearance)

Clarissa Fleurimond
  Bianca Utset
  Luis Diaz
  Marla Lopez
  Warren Welds
  Gabriel H. Perez
  Samantha Morato
  Chiara Jacobus
  Jennifer Weiner
  Michael Lacayo
  Laney Rodriguez
  Nathalie Ordoñez
  Summre Raimer
  Dayron Leon

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager .......................................................... Pam Cartwright
Scenic Designer .......................................................... Ashley Scheer
Associate Scenic Designer ............................................. Lisandra Alonso
Costume Designer ........................................................ Glennys Jean
Lighting Designer ........................................................ Bryan Pivaral
Sound Designer ........................................................... Clarissa Rodriguez
Props Designer ........................................................... Julianne Garcia
Director of Photography ................................................. Ivan Lopez
Vocal Coach .............................................................. Rebecca Covey
Technical Director ....................................................... Chris Goslin
Assistant Director ........................................................ Daniella Valdivieso
Assistant Stage Managers ...................... Lexi Berson, Cynthia Jose, Alize Medina
Assistant Lighting Designers ........................... Saraí Berio, Christopher Wynter
Assistant Costume Designer ............................................ Julia Zayas
Assistant Technical Director ........................................... Geordan Gottlieb
Costume Shop Manager .................................................. K. Blair Brown
Production Specialist .................................................... B.J. Duncan
Master Electrician ........................................................ Lovanni Gomez
DIRECTOR’S NOTE

When we all began working on this play in the middle of a pandemic, we did not know what the play was going to be (or what our lives were going to be) by the time we were done. This was a rough year, but in the end, this play (and our lives) taught us to hope.

The designers, actors, faculty advisors, and I all felt our way through a new process. We rehearsed on Zoom from our homes but filmed on a set on campus. We worked out design concepts online, making final adjustments just before filming. It was difficult and disorienting at every step, but the difficulties inspired all of us to make a production unlike anything we had ever been part of before.

I would like to thank everyone who worked on this production for taking the leap of faith with this play.

And I would like to thank you for watching it.

The new century starts now.

Michael Yawney
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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.
FIU Theatre is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST). We are a “limited access” program which means we are committed to keeping small class sizes. This keeps the student/faculty ratio low and the quality of pedagogy and production high. Our students and faculty are regularly recognized with regional and national awards by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) and our production are often invited to perform at the prestigious festival. Our graduates can be found at prestigious professional theatres, graduate programs, and in film and television. Visit us at theatre.fiu.edu for news, information on the program, and how you can contribute.