Friday, November 10–Friday, November 17, 2023

Kogod Theatre

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

UMD School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies presents

A BICYCLE COUNTRY
THE PROM
Book & Lyrics by Chad Beguelin
Book by Bob Martin
Music by Matthew Sklar
Based on an Original Concept by Jack Viertel
Directed by Nathaniel Clard '04
Produced by Randall "Randy" W. Lord '77
and Stephen "Steve" Fessler
KAY THEATRE
SEPTEMBER 29–OCTOBER 7, 2023

A BICYCLE COUNTRY
By Nilo Cruz
Directed by Fatima Quander
KOGOD THEATRE
NOVEMBER 10–17, 2023

FALL M.F.A. THESIS DANCE CONCERT
Choreographed by Gerson Lanza
and Javier Padilla
KOGOD THEATRE
OCTOBER 12–15, 2023

MEN ON BOATS
By Jacklyn Backhaus
Co-Directed by KenYatta Rogers and
Elena Velasco
KAY THEATRE
MARCH 1–9, 2024

FACULTY DANCE CONCERT
Directed by Alvin Mayes
Choreographed by Adriane Fang, Kate Ladenheim, Ama Law, and Alvin Mayes
KAY THEATRE
DECEMBER 8–10, 2023

ARE WE AT WAR YET
By Mikhail Durnenkov
Directed by Yury Urnov
KOGOD THEATER
APRIL 19–26, 2024

SPRING M.F.A. THESIS DANCE CONCERT
Choreographed by Brit Falcon, Mary Kate Ford and Rebecca Steinberg
DANCE THEATRE
FEBRUARY 16–18, 2024

UMOVES: UNDERGRADUATE DANCE CONCERT
Directed by Ama Law
DANCE THEATRE
MAY 3-5, 2024
SCHOOL OF THEATRE, DANCE, AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

A BICYCLE COUNTRY
By Nilo Cruz
Directed by Fatima Quander

Director ................................................................. Fatima Quander
Dramaturg ............................................................... Katie Quinn
Movement Coach .................................................. Javier Padilla
Intimacy Director .................................................... Jenny Male
Scenic Designer ..................................................... Sofía Olivar
Costume Designer .................................................. Becca Janney
Lighting & Projection Designer ............................... Luis Garcia
Sound Designer .................................................... Justin Schmitz*
Stage Manager ....................................................... Mel Mader

*The sound designer in this production is represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10–FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2023
KOGOD THEATRE

The performance will last approximately
2 hours 15 minutes with a 15 minute intermission.

Please take this opportunity to silence your cell phones, and anything else that might beep or buzz. Photography and audio or video recording are prohibited. And finally, please take note of the nearest exit from the venue in case of emergency.
CAST
Julio .......................................................... Alex Diaz-Lopez
Ines .......................................................... Gracie Guzman
Pepe .......................................................... Nelson Chen

UNDERSTUDIES
Julio .......................................................... Tito Silva
Ines .......................................................... Kayla Harvey-Ali
Pepe .......................................................... Cyrus Escalera
My grandmother fled her native Dominican Republic in 1940. She escaped 1st-hand encounters with the infamous dictator Rafael Trujillo’s men and was granted asylum here in the United States. Two generations later, though this aspect of my origin story doesn’t perfectly align with that of the three characters in Nilo Cruz’s *A Bicycle Country*, I very much see myself and feel my history in this play. I wholly relate to the warmth of friendship and familiarity; the triumph of overcoming challenges and feelings of hopelessness; and fully connect to the notion of loss and fear of the unknown. My hope is that you too will find aspects of yourself reflected in this evening’s performance and that it may also give insight into why *some* of our families sacrifice it all to leave their native countries for this one. This play isn’t about immigration, but it certainly gives a face and experience to the plight.

*A Bicycle Country* is a truly beautiful play. There is a beauty in its simplicity and there is a beauty in its complexity. Though specifically set in Cuba in 1993—during a time known as the “Special Period”¹—it is a story that many can relate to and understand. It begins on land where there exists a spirit of familiarity juxtaposed by a reality of isolation. The characters move through their day-to-day, making do to overcome the now, whilst dreaming of ways to escape their varying forms of stagnation. The second half moves into fantastical territory as the characters drift through the vastness of endless open water and endure experiences that are beyond their comprehension. The characters are still confined, but in a different way. It is in these restless moments where they encounter a true deterioration and must come to terms with the heartbreaking reality that things are not always as they seem.

One might leave the performance unsure about what is real and what is imagined. If that, I invite you to let the experience linger. Perhaps share your theories and relish in your own journey through the magical realism that is the sea. Or, maybe, just allow the characters to continue to live in the fantasy.

—Fatima Quander, director

Special thanks to the cast, crew and design team who seamlessly worked together to bring this beautiful piece to life.

¹ After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the resulting loss of Soviet subsidies, Cuba plunged into an economic crisis that roughly lasted through the year 2000. This “Special Period” was marked by food shortages and strict rationing, the disappearance of medicines, suspension of gas sales, and the distribution of bicycles to be used as the main form of transportation. “The Special Period.” *Cuba Platform*, cubaplatform.org/special-period.
Many Americans today have ingrained in them the sentiment of “communism bad” by modern politics. This sentiment has wormed its way into many classrooms and affected what history is taught to students today and how. For example, growing up, I (and many other 20-somethings) cannot recall learning in detail about any places affected by communism, especially Cuba.

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, Nilo Cruz, on the other hand, grew up in 1960s Cuba and immigrated to Miami in the early 1970s. As he had lived through and was surrounded by much of Cuba’s influence, Cruz writes with a compassion and complex understanding of a topic often overlooked when studying history: the people involved. *A Bicycle Country* takes place during a time in Cuba known as The Special Period. This period, starting in 1991, saw significant economic decline and social disruption due to the fall of the Soviet Union, a major trade partner and supporter of Cuba. Without economic and political support from the USSR, the country saw a 40% decrease in food production, a halt in gas sales to individuals and energy blackouts of up to 20 hours per day. This resulted in major declines in the living conditions for most in the country. The Cuban government declared this time a “Special Period in a Time of Peace.”

The rich, individual lives of Cuban people are often overshadowed by the systems they live in. The decades-old cars, food rations and government-sanctioned bicycles tend to permeate the minds of outsiders, rather than the types of isolations felt and freedoms hoped for by the people who actually lived with these things. One year after *A Bicycle Country* premiered, the name Elián González quickly became known around the world. A young boy, whose family wanted the best life possible for him, was caught in a political and media whirlwind. Rather than be cared for and given to relatives in the U.S., the child was used as a political pawn. Elián currently lives in Cuba and is an industrial engineer and incumbent of the National Assembly of the People’s Power.

So rarely do audiences see society reflected so explicitly in art than in this play. Julio, Ines and Pepe are true reflections of real people, like Elián. Without stories like *A Bicycle Country*, their faces and stories would simply turn into those of food rations and old cars, forgotten and untold.

—Katie Quinn, dramaturg
Khara Basden (Assistant Stage Manager) undergraduate English major.

Nelson Chen (Pepe) is a senior theatre major and Asian American studies minor. CAPA Scholar. UMD Credits: The Late Wedding (Narrator/General/Sailor), By the Way, Meet Vera Stark (Slavick/Brad), Eggs and Tomatoes, Fearless New Play Festival (Playwright).

Alexander Diaz-Lopez (Julio) is a senior theatre and political communications double major. UMD credits: Fefu and her Friends (Camera Operator), As You Like It (Charles/Silvius), The Book Club Play (Alex).

Cyrus Escalera (Pepe u/s) is a senior theatre performance major. UMD credits: Much Ado About Nothing (Balthasar). Outside credits: Hello Dolly, The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood (Sheriff), Right Road Lost (Chris), Navigation (Ryley).

Gracie Guzman (Ines) senior theatre and dance double major. CAPA Scholar, Arts Scholar. UMD credits: The Book Club Play (Ana Smith), As You Like It (Celia u/s), Fefu and Her Friends (Christina), Little Women (Amy March u/s), The Revolutionists (Charlotte Corday u/s).

Kayla Harvey-Ali (Ines u/s) is a second-year theatre major. Outside credits: Working (Kate/Roberta), Antigone (Eurydice/Chorus member), Suburbia (Sooze), Ascension Day (Faith).


Becca Janney (Costume Designer) is a third-year costume design M.F.A. candidate. Other costume design credits include Cinderella, Creede Repertory Theatre; HMS Pinafore, Victorian Lyric Opera Company; Don Giovanni, Maryland Opera Studio; Last Dance Lost Dance, Lost Patterns, Fefu and her Friends, UMD; Peter and the Starcatcher, Baylor Theatre; Everything is Wonderful, Godspell, Harvey, WaterTower Theatre; Ada and the Engine, Stage West Theatre. Gratitude to this wonderful design team.

Mel Mader (Stage Manager) is excited to be stage managing her first theatre production at UMD! Previous credits include The Prom (Assistant Stage Manager), Faculty Dance Concert (Stage Manager), and Hookman (Assistant Stage Manager). She’d like to thank everyone who has taught her something at The Clarice.

Sofía Olivar (Scenic Designer) is a second-year scenic design M.F.A. student born and raised in Mexico. She has a background in film and themed entertainment design, and is excited to be making her theater debut with TDPS. Previous work experience includes show set design at Universal Creative and exhibition design at the Smithsonian Institution. Outside credits: Damn Things Will Kill You, American University.
**Fatima Quander (Director)** is a lecturer of acting for live digital performance at UMD’s School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies. Last semester, she directed *The Book Club Play* by Karen Zacarías here at UMD. Other performing and directing credits include FRESHH Inc. Theatre Company, DC Hip Hop Theatre Festival, Rep Stage, Everyman Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage Education, Theater of the First Amendment, Folger Elizabethan Theatre, Imagination Stage, Discovery Theater, Transformation Theatre, and Howard Community College; she has also performed in house and on tour with The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Fatima also works as a theatre educator with a number of programs throughout the DC area including FRESHH Inc.’s Griot Girls and The Vanguard, Everyman Theatre, Poetry Out Loud, Folger Shakespeare Library’s McKee Fellows and Secondary School Shakespeare Festival, Capitol Hill Arts Workshop, Sitar Arts Center, Jr. Discovery at Georgetown University and Young Playwrights’ Theater. She is a proud member of Actors’ Equity Association and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.

**Katie Quinn (Dramaturg)** is a fourth-year theatre and agriculture science major. UMD TDPS credits: *As You Like It* (Lord), *Fefu and Her Friends* (Fefu u/s). Outside Credits: *Head Over Heels*, Wildwood Summer Theatre (Dramaturg/Musidorus); *A Chorus Line*, UMD 32 Bars (Dramaturg); *The Lightning Thief*, Wildwood Summer Theatre (Choreographer); *Heathers: the Musical*, UMD 32 Bars (Co-Choreographer). She’d like to thank her loved ones for their support in her shenanigans.

**Justin Schmitz (Sound Designer)** is grateful to be back with TDPS having previously designed: *The Heidi Chronicles, Little Shop of Horrors, The Wild Party, Antigone* and *The Call*. Justin is a proud member of USA 829, TSDCA and USITT. Additional credits include productions at: The Kennedy Center, Signature Theatre, Round House, Woolly Mammoth, Studio Theatre, Olney Theatre Center, Constellation Theatre Company, Imagination Stage, amongst many others. He has collaborated Off-Broadway with 59E59 Theaters and Round House Theatre, The Dixon Place Theatre. Regional credits include Cincinnati Playhouse In the Park, The St. Louis Black Rep Theatre Company and others. He has been the designer of three national touring productions through the Kennedy Center’s Theatre for Young Audiences including: *DARIUS AND TWIG, ME, JANE...THE DREAMS AND ADVENTURES OF YOUNG JANE GOODALL* and most recently *DON’T LET PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS, THE MUSICAL!* in collaboration with Mo Willems.

**Tito Silva** (Julio u/s) is a junior theatre and communications double major.
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, DESIGNERS AND STAGE MANAGERS

Assistant Director ................................................................. Katrina Marinelli
Assistant Director ........................................................................ Katie Quinn
Assistant Stage Manager .............................................................. Khara Basden
Associate Lighting Designer .......................................................... Christian D. Henriquez
Associate Projection Designer ....................................................... Jerran Kowalski

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

Assistant Director of Production and Operations ....................... Jennifer Schwartz
Production and Operations Coordinator ....................................... Devin Kohn
Production and Events Coordinator ............................................ Kate Wander

PRODUCTION

SCENIC
Assistant Technical Director ...................................................... Michael Driggers
Scene Shop Coordinator .............................................................. Reuven Goren
Lead Carpenter........................................................................... Earl Browne
Carpenters .................................................................................. Christopher Anderson, Keshav Gulati,
                                                     Eliana Kindred, Kelley Li, Gabriella Loshin, Sarah Mack,
                                                     Zach McKay, Ryan Nock, Terence Ngwafor,
                                                     Harsh Senjaliya, Dhairya Shah, Sophia Tiedt
Carpenter Graduate Students ....................................................... Trey Pope, David Wilson
Student Carpenters ...................................................................... Preston Jones, Precious Ogunsola

SCENIC PAINTING
Scenic Charge Coordinator .......................................................... Ann Chismar
Graduate Students ....................................................................... Thea Luo, Margarita Syrocheva
Scenic Artists ............................................................................... Tifani T. Carnes, Bobbie Carter Dewhurst,
                                                     Aiden Galbraith, Sherri Howells, Nicole Panebianco
Student Scenic Artists ................................................................... Mars Burggraf, Kayla Harvey-Ali, Guinivere Roberts

PROPS
Prop Shop Manager ...................................................................... Timothy Jones
Prop Shop Artisans ...................................................................... Tyra Bell, Mercedes Blankenship
Props Graduate Student ............................................................... Amanda Lee Henney
Prop Shop Student Artisans .......................................................... Adam Hawley, Robert Pang,
                                                     Sabrina Rachel Lenett

VENUE OPERATIONS
Stage Crew Leads ......................................................................... Steven Bronocco, Alexix Hayes, Cole Owens

TECHNOLOGY
Technology Shop Manager ............................................................. Jeffery Reckeweg
LIGHTING
Lighting Coordinator.................................................................................................. Carrie Barton
Technology Shop Technician....................................................................................... Cameron Smith
Student Electricians ................................................................................................... Briana Bush, Mariah Faulkner, Jadyn Fine, Ella Gammel, Alana Isaac, Jerran Kowalski, Mel Mader, Royal Miller, Drew Okoye, Emily Pan, Erin Sanders, Ronak Shah, Pranav Shinde, Dylan Speiser, Amelia Talbot

PROJECTIONS
Projections Coordinator............................................................................................ Zachary Rupp
Projections Technician.............................................................................................. Cassandra Saulski

AUDIO
Assistant Manager of Audio...................................................................................... James O’Connell

COSTUMES
Costume Shop Manager ........................................................................................... Jen Daszczyszak
Assistant Costume Shop Manager and Crafts ......................................................... Lisa Burgess
Costume Tailor and Draper ......................................................................................... Tessa Lew
Costume Drapers ......................................................................................................... MJ Hromek, Steven Simon
First Hand .................................................................................................................. Dennis Kitmore
Costume Graduate Assistant ................................................................................... Olivia O’Brien
Costume Technicians ............................................................................................... Mackenzie Gardiner, Ilana Mongilio, Jasmine Voon
Costume Student Crew .............................................................................................. Gabrielle Loshin, Emma Meisel, Layla Nordrum, Wendy Saltzberg

SHOW CREW
Assistant Stage Manager ............................................................................................. Khara Basden
Light Board Operator .................................................................................................. J. Royal Miller
Sound Board Operator ............................................................................................... Sophia Cichetti
Projection Board Operator/automation ....................................................................... Emma Callaggi
Dresser ......................................................................................................................... Ava Susser-Stein
Dresser ......................................................................................................................... Briana Bush
Deck ............................................................................................................................ Sabrina Lenett
Deck ............................................................................................................................ Hudson White
FACULTY
Jennifer Barclay
Amith Chandrashaker
Andrew Cissna
Dan Conway
Sam Crawford
Crystal Davis
Carla Della Gatta
Adriane Fang
Leslie Felbain
Frank Hildy
Helen Huang
James Harding
Misha Kachman
Kate Keeney
Kate Ladenheim
Ama Law
Maura Keefe
Alvin Mayes
Jared Mezzocchi
Lisa Nathans
Sara Pearson
Kendra Portier
Fatima Quander
Scot Reese
KenYatta Rogers
Van Tran Nguyen
Patrik Widrig

GRADUATE STUDENTS
Ronya Lee Anderson
Bailey Hammett
Breeanah Breeden
Christina Collins
Britney Falcon
Colin Franz
Mary Kate Ford
Marissa Kennedy
Mher Kandoyan
Kevin Clark
Luis Garcia
Christian Henriquez
Mariah Faulkner
Leo Grierson
Tim Kelly
Jerran Kowalski
Gerson Lanza Ruiz
Rashonda Lazar
Kaela Lawrence
Margaret Lapinski
Gianinia Lockely
Thea Luo
Sofia Olivar
Brandon Roak
Jalen Rose
Mike Riggs
Javier Padilla
Peter Pattengill
Doni Rotunno
James Sivert
Christina Smith
Rebecca Steinberg
Melissa Sturges
Patrik Saunders
Margarita Syrocheva
Sophia Tepermeister
Caitlin Woods
Zoe Walders
Cody Von Ruden
Rebecca Janney
Amanda Henney
Shartoya Jn.Baptiste
Gavin Mosier
Scott Monnin
Matre Grant
Mina Kawahara
Eran Eads
Yasmin Eubanks
Kristopher Pourzal
Atiya Dorsey

STAFF
Gabrielle Ching
Crystal Gaston
Isiah Johnson
Devin Kohn
Renee Nyack
Jenn Schwartz
Susan Miller
Catalina Toala
Kate Wander
Teri Zillmer