

DIRECTED BY CARL GONZALES

# ANNA IN THE TROPICS

BY NILO CRUZ

*Anna In The Tropics* is presented by  
special arrangement with Dramatists  
Play Service, Inc., New York

# Anna In The Tropics

Written by

**Nilo Cruz**

Directed by

**Carl Gonzales**

<i>Composer/Guitarist</i> .....	<i>ERIK FLORES</i>
<i>Assistant Director</i> .....	<i>LACEY CANNON GONZALES</i>
<i>Scenic Design</i> .....	<i>MAGGIE ARMENDARIZ</i>
<i>Lighting Design</i> .....	<i>JACQUELINE SINDELAR</i>
<i>Costume Design</i> .....	<i>DESIREÉ HUMPHRIES</i>
<i>Sound Design</i> .....	<i>ANTHONY WILLIAMS</i>
<i>Properties &amp; Set Dressing Design</i> .....	<i>CB GOODMAN</i>
<i>Production Stage Manager</i> .....	<i>REMY JOSLIN</i>
<i>Stage Manager</i> .....	<i>KELSEY MORINGY &amp; ASTRID RANGEL</i>
<i>Intimacy Director</i> .....	<i>ANDY GRAPKO</i>
<i>Technical Director</i> .....	<i>KELLAN DI DONATO</i>
<i>Graphic Design</i> .....	<i>ERICA MORENO</i>
<i>Cigar Consultant</i> .....	<i>IBRAHIM RUIZ</i>
<i>Photographer</i> .....	<i>CINDY ELIZABETH</i>
<i>Social Media Marketing</i> .....	<i>BEN GIBSON &amp; ANDREA NUÑEZ</i>
<i>Press Representative</i> .....	<i>NICOLE SHIRO, MOTLEY CREW MEDIA</i>

## Cast

<i>Juan Julian</i> .....	<i>BEN G BAZÁN</i>
<i>Palomo</i> .....	<i>MICHAEL GALVAN</i>
<i>Conchita</i> .....	<i>BRIANA GARCIA</i>
<i>Ofelia</i> .....	<i>TONIE KNIGHT</i>
<i>Marela</i> .....	<i>CHERRY MENDOZA</i>
<i>Cheche</i> .....	<i>VICTOR SANTOS</i>
<i>Santiago</i> .....	<i>DAVID SEGURA</i>
<i>Eliades</i> .....	<i>MICHAEL GALVAN</i>

## Crew

**Carpenters** - Kellan diDonato, Nick Davis

**Scene Painters** - Jenny Durkin, CB Feller

**Master Electrician** - Emily Scott

## Directors Note

This production of *Anna In The Tropics* has been years in the making. I was approached to direct in 2020, then the world shut down. I thought this time would never come, but then like a cigar it was lit and the perfume wrapped around the theatre like smoke. It reminds me of a phrase I repeat to myself when I am creating theatre— "I'm going to spend my time this way".

Thank you to Lisa and Ground Floor Theatre for trusting me with this show. Thank you mi vida, Lacey for being my partner in crime, in theatre, and in life. Thank you to the cast and crew who have put so many hours to make this show beautiful. Last but not least, thank you to Nilo Cruz for writing this perfect work of art that celebrates our people and an aspect of the Latiné culture.

In high school, I was told that people like me, people with the color of my skin, did not belong in this industry. Our people have been told we do not belong in the theatre, in this community, in this country. While we continue to fight for our stories to be told in the Austin community, I have to remember a quote by Pablo Neruda: "You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep spring from coming."

-Carl Gonzales

Roger Berlind, Daryl Roth, Ray Larsen, in association with Robert Bartner presented the New York premiere of *Anna in the Tropics* at the Royale Theatre.

*Anna in the Tropics* was originally commissioned and produced by New Theatre, Coral Gables, FL, Rafael de Acha, Artistic Director; Eileen Suarez, Managing Director, through a residency grant from Theatre Communications Group and the National Endowment for the Arts.

It was subsequently produced by South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa, CA, David Emmes, Producing Artistic Director; Paula Tomei, Managing Director, and at the McCarter Theatre Center, Princeton, NJ, Emily Mann, Artistic Director; Jeffrey Woodward, Managing Director.

The McCarter Theatre Center production transferred to Broadway.

### **Ground Floor Theatre Staff**

Co-Artistic Director -----Patti Neff-Tiven

Co-Artistic Director -----Lisa Scheps

Development Director -----Simone Alexander

Social Media Manager-----Ben Gibson

Social Media Intern -----Andrea Nuñez

# Who's Who

## **Carl Gonzales (he/him) — Director**

Carl is an Actor, Director, and Educator based in Austin, Tx. He has directed and performed with companies such as Penfold Theatre, Ground Floor Theatre, Teatro Vivo, Trinity Street Players, Heckle Her, and Pack Theater out in Los Angeles. He is currently the Arts Administrator for Penfold Theatre Company. Coming up next, catch Carl's directing project *A Christmas Carol* with Penfold Theatre

## **Lacey Cannon Gonzales (she/her) — Assistant Director**

Lacy is an Austin based director, coach, and educator. Credits include: *The Normal Heart*, *Songs For A New World*, *The Boys Next Door*, and *Veronica's Room*.

## **Ben G. Bazán (he/him) — Juan Julian**

Ben is humbled and honored to be performing with Ground Floor Theatre for the first time. He's a 6th generation Tejano who was raised in La Casita-Garciasville, Texas. Ben is an Austin-based bilingual educator, director, coach, and performer who received his B.A. in Theatre and Dance from the University of Texas in 2012 and graduated from the ColdTowne Conservatory in 2013. His work as a performer and director has been recognized by the B. Iden Payne Awards Council and the Austin Critics Table. He would like to thank his parents, Gonzalo and Diana, for their unwavering love and support!

## **Michael Galvan (he/him) — Palomo, Eliades**

Michael is a Hispanic actor based out of Austin, TX and is very excited to be doing his first show with Ground Floor Theatre. Some of Michael's recent credits are: Spokesperson (Austin Community College), *ESTAR GUARS* (The Latino Comedy Project), *THIS BITCH* (The University of Arkansas Theater Dept.), *DANCE NATION* (Theater En Bloc) and *MAS CARA* (The Vortex). He has been nominated for best featured actor in a drama and comedy by Broadwayworld.com and The B. Iden Payne Committee. Michael is very grateful for the acting opportunities he has come by during his life and is thankful for everyone who continues to support the arts.

## **Briana Garcia (she/her) — Conchita**

Briana is a UT Theatre alumna and on-going Meisner student at In the Moment Acting Studio. She can be seen in the television series *Queen of the South*, and spotted in a handful of commercials. Aside from the screen, you can catch her on stage annually at the 14/48 Theatre Festival in Austin. In addition to acting, her passions include yoga and wandering the woods barefoot. Keep an eye for her most recent creative film collaborations, *The Long Lens Project* and *The Perfect Boy*. She is grateful for this storytelling opportunity to bring *Anna In The Tropics* to life onstage at Ground Floor Theatre.

## **Tonie Knight (she/her) — Ofelia**

is a proud Cuban American and excited to be performing with Ground Floor Theatre for the first time! She was most recently seen in *Great Expectations* with Different Stages playing Mrs. Joe. Favorite credits include Nadine in *Secret Lives of the Sexists* with Different Stages, Lady Teazle in *The School for Scandal* with the Public Theater of San Antonio, and Cassie in *Rumors* with the Madison Theatre Guild. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Performance Studies from UT Austin, believes in the magic of Vicks Vaporub, and makes a perfect cafecito.

# Who's Who (con't)

## **Cherry Mendoza (she/her) — Marela**

Cherry is thrilled to be playing Marela. She started acting her sophomore year in high school, and graduated from UT Austin with her BA in Theatre & Dance. Some of her favorite roles have been Vanessa in *In the Heights*, Wendla in *Spring Awakening*, and most recently, Luzbel in Teatro Vivo's *La Pastorela*. She has acted with ScriptWorks, Teatro Vivo, City Theatre, Penfold Theatre, and Ground Floor Theatre. She also models in addition to her performing. Many thanks to my mom and dad, my family, my friends, my partner Zach, and my pups, Jingle and Riley.

## **Victor Santos — Cheché**

Victor is thrilled to be a part of this production at Ground Floor Theatre. His most recent work includes a collaborative workshop with the Houston Grand Opera Co. entitled *A Space of Sky*. A few of his previous credits include Professor in *Invisible Glass* which premiered at REDCAT in LA, Ursula in *Elegy For A Mid-Shipman* at The Boulder Fringe, Tybalt in *Romeo & Juliet*, Lost Boy in *The Book of Tink*, Polonius in *Hamlet: A Toy In Blood*, Knut Brovik in *The Master Builder* and Enrique Reyna in *Zoot Suit*. He studied at California Institute of The Arts where he earned an MFA in Acting. Victor has served as a Theatre Educator & Director for 12 years and is an advocate for Latinx Theatre.

## **David Segura (he/him) — Santiago**

David has acted in several social justice productions (*La Pastorela*, *Eastside*, *Las Lavanderas*, *AfterShock/La Republica*, *Borinquen Sana*, and other Teatro Vivo productions). In 2021 David participated in a podcast production of *AfterShock* under the direction of Karen Alvarado. David uses acting to give life and energy to memorable characters. As a native Austinite and lifelong educator in Austin ISD, David continues to work with students at Ortega Elementary School. Film credit goes to the University of Texas drama department where David took short roles in performing for film majors as part of their academic expectations.

## **Erik Flores (he/him) — Composer & Guitarist**

Born and raised in Texas, Erik Flores has been a performing musician his whole life. After a decade spent in LA doing music, he returned to make Austin the home base for his current music project, Fairbanks and the Lonesome Light. You can explore their Americana sound and their most recent albums at [Fairbanksandthelonesomelight.com](http://Fairbanksandthelonesomelight.com). Erik's Austin theatre credits include music director for Teatro Vivo's *La Pastorela* and co-music director for Anna Westbrook's *Isabel and the Runaway Train*

## **Maggie Armendariz (she/her) — Scenic Designer**

Maggie is a visual artist who works on various theater, film, and art productions around Austin. Most recently, she has worked with Teatro Vivo on the productions of *La Pastorela* and *(Un)Documents* by Jesus Valles. Check out her work at [@maggielynnarmendariz](https://www.instagram.com/maggielynnarmendariz). Maggie is proud to be a part of this team and hopes that you enjoy the show!

## **Jacqueline Sindelar (she/her) — Lighting Designer**

Jacqueline graduated from Loyola University New Orleans with a BFA in Film and Visual Arts. Since then, she has been working in film, professional theater, and live event production for over a decade. Jacqueline has previously had the honor of designing for *Rain Falls Special On Me* and *Unexpected Joy* at Ground Floor Theatre. She has also worked as Lead Theatrical Electrician for Color Factory Houston; Lighting Designer for New Manifest Theatre Company and The Back Pack; Lighting Supervisor for Fusebox Festival; and Master Electrician for kidsActing Studio, Austin Shakespeare, and Zilker Theater Productions

# Who's Who (con't)

## **Desireé Humphries (she/her) — Costume Designer**

Desireé Humphries is an Austin native based in her hometown. She's Texas State University-San Marcos Alumni and has a BFA in Theatre Design/Technology with an emphasis in Costume Design. Her recent credits include *Lonely Planet* at Austin Community College, *Dot* by Colman Domingo at Ground Floor Theatre, *War of The Worlds* by Jarrott King with Penfold Theatre. She believes theatre can inspire people beyond the stage which is why she is passionate about theatre for young audiences, creating theatre that is accessible to all, and is motivated to make theatre that is diverse and inclusive. She is excited to be a part of the production *Anna In The Tropics* and would like to thank Ground Floor Theatre and Carl Gonzales for the opportunity to be a part of this vision.

## **Anthony Williams (he/him) — Sound Designer**

Anthony's love of sound design started with early science fiction shows such as *Star Trek* and *Star Wars*. He studied Music at Brooklyn College, New York University, and MediaTech University where he provided sound design for indie short films. He has provided support for off Broadway multimedia performance in The Knitting Room in NYC, and in large art works at Burning Man. Outside of working with Ground Floor Theatre, in 2021 Anthony recreated the sounds from the classic Twilight Zone episode *Time Enough at Last* and performed the show on the social media app Clubhouse. He was joined by Grammy Award winning actress Tiffany Haddish and the event was produced by Lucille Ball's granddaughter. When not in theater, you may find Anthony DJing livestreams on twitch.tv or releasing music on Spotify.

## **CB Goodman (she/her) — Prop & Set Dressing Designer**

CB is excited to be a part of this joyful ensemble with Ground Floor Theatre. Besides designing and teaching she is also the Artistic Director of Grackle Jack Productions based in Austin, Texas.

## **Remy Joslin (she/her) — Production Stage Manager**

Remy loves both onstage and offstage work and her most recent credits include Stage Management for GFT's *Unexpected Joy* and Shrewd Productions' *Lady Macbeth and her pal, Megan!* and Head Costume Designer for kidsActing's 2021 season. A huge thanks to Joe Kelley for his incredible support and love. Enjoy this wonderful show.

## **Kelsey Moringy (she/her) — Stage Manager**

Kelsey is a born & raised unicorn of Austin, TX. She studied Performance & Production at Texas State University with an emphasis in stage management & directing. Previous Ground Floor Theatre shows Kelsey has worked on include *Next To Normal*, *Fun Home*, *Single Black Female*, *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*, *Dex & Abby*, *TRANSom*, *There & Back*, and *Dot*. Shout out to Remy, Astrid, and Kelsey's partner Jared for all of their support!

## **Andy Grapko (she/her) — Intimacy Director**

Andy Grapko (she/hers) is an Intimacy Director and Coordinator. She is the Resident Intimacy Director for the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Texas at Austin where she is also a member of the acting faculty. Her intimacy work includes training with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators (certification pending), Theatrical Intimacy Education, and Intimacy for Stage and Screen. A Stage Directors and Choreographers Society Associate and a member of the Association of Theatre Movement Educators, her recent intimacy credits include *Venus in Fur*, *Dot*, *Murky as Hell*, *Unexpected Joy*, *The Tasters*, *rain falls special on me*, and the upcoming feature film *Clock*.

# Who's Who (con't)

## **Kellan di Donato (he/him) – Technical Director**

Kellan is a scenic carpenter born and raised in Austin, Texas. He's new to the world of theater and has quickly grown to love the supportive people and atmosphere of the Austin theater scene. After pulling his hair out producing for film for several years, Kellan finds great joy in the monkey-brained simplicity of sawing wood and banging things together with hammers to create art. He's looking forward to seeing everyone's hard work come together on this production.

## **Erica Moreno (she/her) – Graphic Artist**

Erica is an Austin Creative with over 20 years of experience in poster art and graphic design. She continues to expand her creative curiosities with painting, fine art photography, and performance art. Music is tied to everything she does as an artist. Erica's love for theatre, especially musical theatre, started at such a young age. She is inspired when she designs for concerts, events, and theatrical performances. She has a strong passion for her creative work and draws inspiration from her family, traveling, nature and history. "Design is an opportunity to solve a problem with a creative solution. It's a puzzle and I get to arrange the pieces. For me, it's attention to detail and a strong concept. Design can attract attention, make you think, and reveal something new each time you look at it."

## **Nicole K. Bell — Equity Diversity & Inclusion Consultant**

Nicole is a strategic learning and development professional that focuses on leadership, equity, and creating inclusive and authentic learning connections. She is currently the training and development manager in Human Resources at Austin Community College (ACC). She has over 15 years of experience in creating diverse employee leadership and development training programs. She is a certified mediator, success coach, and graduate of both Leadership Women-Leadership Pipeline (2016) and the Essential Class of Leadership Austin (2018). Nicole is a Courageous Conversations about Race Affiliate Practitioner with the Pacific Education Group. As an Anti-Racist educator, Nicole's passion is the uplifting and support of women and families of color. Nicole's mission in equity work is to create spaces for everyone to be free to show up in their full humanity.

## **Motley Crew Media — Press Representative**

Founded in 2006 by Amy S. Layton, Motley Crew Media is a full-service boutique marketing and public relations firm with a focused expertise in arts and entertainment. Made up of senior-level experienced PR and marketing specialists, the "Crew" helps clients bring their brand to life in the field through passion and commitment, alongside a keen ability to transform concept and vision into precisely executed reality. Sampling of clients include: aGLIFF, Austin Playhouse, Austin Shakespeare, Broadway Across America, Ground Floor Theatre, Hobby Center, Holland Taylor, Impact Arts, Jaston Williams, LTWA, LTZA, Penfold Theatre Company, Tapestry, Texas Performing Arts, The Lost Gonzo Band, and ZACH Theatre among many others. [info@motleycrewmedia.com](mailto:info@motleycrewmedia.com)

### **WARNING**

***Anna In The Tropics* deals with sexual assault and gun violence. In this production there will be gun shot sound effects (no gun will actually be fired). There will also be Cigar smoke on stage.**

Ground Floor Theatre has signed a pledge with GunNuetral.org that for every gun appearing in our productions a donation will be made to an anti gun violence organization. We have made a contribution to Moms Demand Action ([momsdemandaction.org](http://momsdemandaction.org))



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### Special Thanks

Ploeger ASL Interpreting, The Cigar Vault, Ibrahim Ruiz and Cigars and Rollers, Peter Barlin & 3423 Holdings, WA Brenner, Southside Printing

### WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR PRODUCTION SPONSORS

Greg Ciotti, Maurine McLean & Lisa Rogers, Nicole Shiro, Susan McLeland & Joe Freeland, Bob Dailey, Jo & Jon Ivester, John & Susan Theiss, Jim Lindsay.

If you'd like to support this production, click the QR code or Venmo (@GroundFloor) or Pay Pal (lisa@groundfloortheatre.org)



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[arts.gov](http://arts.gov)

We would like to acknowledge that we are on the Indigenous lands of Turtle Island, the ancestral name for what now is called North America.

We would like to acknowledge the Alabama-Coushatta, Caddo, Carrizo/Comecrudo, Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Kickapoo, Lipan Apache, Tonkawa and Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo, and all the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories in Texas.

We would also like to acknowledge that East Austin has also been historically home to segregated and under resourced Mexican and Black communities.

As guests, we pay respect to these peoples, past, present, and future, here in their homeland.