

HORTENSIA AND THE MUSEUM OF DREAMS

by Nilo Cruz. Directed by Michael Gieleta. Designed by Alex Marker.

Cast – Lucy Barker, Linda Bassett, Tim Hardy, Simon Harrison, Kate Miles, Irini Venieri, Alex Waldmann, Marcello Walton.

THE BRITISH PREMIERE OF A GRIPPING NEW POLITICAL DRAMA BY THE PULITZER PRIZE WINNING PLAYWRIGHT.

Havana, 1961. Luca and Luciana's lives are irreversibly changed when their mother puts them on a plane bound for the United States. The Castro regime prevents her from following them.

Havana, 1998. The estranged siblings return to Cuba to revisit their confiscated childhood. Luca finds himself a Cuban lover while Luciana settles in a village where the Communist authorities will not allow a Museum of Dreams to open.

In this haunting and evocative drama, playwright **Nilo Cruz** explores themes of love, loss, faith and oppression against a background of fraught and claustrophobic local and international politics. In 1993, Nilo Cruz became the first Latino playwright to be awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his play *Anna In The Tropics*. Also produced initially at the New Theatre, Florida, the play came to national attention through critical acclaim, transferred to Broadway and toured across the United States. Cruz' other awards to date include the American Theatre Critics' Association / Steinberg New Plays Award. Previous works seen in London have included *Two Sisters and a Piano* (Riverside Studios) and *Anna in the Tropics* (Hampstead).

The Cherub Company London has been a creative and pioneering force in British Theatre since 1978. This is new Artistic Director Michael Gieleta's first production for the company. His credits include *Anyone Can Whistle* (Bridewell Theatre), *Last Song of the Nightingale* and *Change of Heart* (New End) and *Twelfth Night* (Norway). He also worked with Franco Zeffirelli on the highly acclaimed production of *Absolutely!(Perhaps)* at the Wyndham's Theatre.

Best known for her BAFTA Nominated performance as Mrs Khan, the stoic mother in *East is East*, **Linda Bassett** plays Hortensia. Bassett's other film credits include Cora in *Calendar Girls* and Nelly Boxall in *The Hours*. Bassett's prolific stage career has recently encompassed Phylidda Lloyd's *The Taming of the Shrew* (Shakespeare's Globe) and Kathy Burke's *Love Me Tonight* (Hampstead Theatre).

Tim Hardy plays General Viamonte. Hardy recently played Galileo in the BBC's *Life of Galileo*. Other credits include *Waiting for Godot* at the Finborough Theatre.

Simon Harrison plays Basilio. Harrison's recent credits include *Doctor Faustus* at Liverpool's Everyman Theatre.

Playing Delita is **Lucy Barker**. Barker's recent credits include *Love and Understanding* at the Old Red Lion.

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Press Information

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Ireni Venieri plays Luciana. Venieri's credits include *A Little Life* at the Arcola and *Oedipus Rex* at the Rosemary Branch Theatre.

Playing Samuel is **Alex Waldmann**. Waldmann's recent credits include *The Secret Garden* and *Capital* at the Kings Head.

Marcello Walton plays Luca. Walton featured in the recent ITV/Granada series *The Last Detective*. Stage credits include *Jamaica Inn* (Salisbury Playhouse) and *Abandonment* (York Theatre Royal)

PRESS ACCLAIM FOR NILO CRUZ

"With rich poetic language and dark sexual power, *Anna in the Tropics* echoes the Spanish master Federico Garcia Lorca... as well as Tennessee Williams." *Miami New Times*

"A fascinating import by Nilo Cruz which admits us to a whole new cultural world" *The Guardian*

"Undoubtedly the best new American play" *Daily Express*

Tuesday, May 24th 2005-Saturday, June 18th 2005

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday Matinees at 3.30pm.

Tickets £12, £9 concessions. Tuesday Evenings £8 all seats. Saturday evenings £12 all seats. Previews (May 24th and 25th) £8 all seats.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

Neil McPherson on **020 7244 7439** or e-mail **admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk**

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