

Ubú sin Cuernos (Ubu without Horns)



Author: Abel González Melo

Name of producing group/organization: Ludi Teatro

Project country of origin: Cuba

Discipline: Theater (Contemporary classical, physical and visual theater, including Cuban music and carnival elements)

Directed by: Miguel Abreu

Producer: Rafael Vega

Length of piece: 80 minutes (without intermission)

World premiere date & location: January 31, 2020, Ludi Teatro, Havana, Cuba

Seeking: Presenting opportunities/bookings, representation.

Brief description

Ubu Without Horns proposes a theater work that is simultaneously contemporary, political, and surrealist. It is a personal look at Alfred Jarry's classic, reflecting Cuba's current reality. Ubu conquers an island and names it after himself. He dethrones the reigning leader, makes pacts with the bourgeoisie, making promises that he won't fulfill once enthroned. He proves an erratic, lying, and inept leader. Sooner rather than later, greed, and the excesses of his misrule return him to the cycle of death and reconquest. Mindful of this cycle, his mother conspires against him and plots his death. Ubu Without Horns is physical theater, of action and ideas channeled to the audience through Cuban music, humor, parody, grotesquery and mockery, with carnivalesque spirit and thundering theatricality. It considers the universal archetype of power, allowing us to say through impudence very deep truths that drama and tragedy would not admit.

About our show:

Ubú Sin Cuernos (Ubu Without Horns), a work of the Cuban dramaturg Abel Gonzalez Melo, inspired by the Alfred Jarry's French classic, Ubu Roi. This script won the National Dramaturgical Prize (Premio Nacional de Dramaturgia) José Jacinto Milanés 2002 and the Dador Prize of the Cuban Institute of the Book (Premio Dador del Instituto Cubano del Libro) in 2003. This work was published and celebrated because of the novel way in which it treated Cuban reality. Ubu Without Horns premiered on January 31, 2020 under an exclusive arrangement with the author. It ran for a sold-out month before COVID shut it down: nonetheless, the work was an outstanding public and critical success. This is a work of contemporary and political theater, of the here and now, inspiring the public to consider the political confusion of our times. As the plot progresses, Ubu is revealed to be a liar, and, even worse, an inept leader. We witness how the extravagance, the trials, errors, and failures of a corrupt and stupid president combine to harm the people. Ubu Without Horns is theater of action and thought, deploying humor, parody, and the absurd.

We enjoy the grotesque, the mockery and dazzling carnival spirit, all of which are supported by revealing symbols filled with questions that challenge, and which merge into intentional political speech.

Our show is a multicultural journey that begins with the scandalous Ubú Rey of 1896, and that now confronts a group of Cuban creators of 2020. For this, our investigation was characterized by the sensory exploration of the bodies of the actors, their history and their characters, through physical training, traditional songs and dances, and always in search for the Cuban-Universal. We created the original music for the play, fusing contemporary music with native Cuban rhythms. The music is performed live by the actors and is an equal partner to the dramaturgy. Cultural exchange is at the core of Ludi Teatro's mission. We have introduced

international works to Cuba, works that we can use as pretexts to explore and discuss our own socio-political reality, from the perspective and value system of our culture.

Links of Reviews

- ◆ https://www.google.es/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwi6hPWFv8nvAhU_STABHb06Be8QFjABegQIA-xAD&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.artezblai.com%2Fartezblai%2Fubnu-sin-cuernos-abel-gonzalez-melo-miguel-abreu-ludi-teatro.html&usg=AOvVaw2hPDKOm7YTxHcL-HImvhVtK
- ◆ <https://www.google.es/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjG4t3Hv8nvAhU3RzABHS3VC8sQFjADegQIAhAD&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.juventudrebeldede.cu%2Fcultura%2F2020-02-24%2Fvolver-a-querer-una-isla-sin-cuernos&usg=AOvVaw2FzEzYMmwZPmcsUI0QvQ9R>
- ◆ <https://www.google.es/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjU3a2pwMnvAhWMQzABHRdzCcoQFjAAegQIBBAD&url=http%3A%2F%2Fcu-baescena.cult.cu%2Fludi-teatro-encanto-la-teatralidad%2F&usg=AOvVaw1S7oYigGfcLZB9dYv6omkD>
- ◆ https://www.google.es/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjG4t3Hv8nvAhU3RzABHS3VC8sQFjAFeg-QIBhAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fisbn.cloud%2F9789592680913%2Fubu-sin-cuernos-premio-nacional-de-teatro-jose-jacinto-milanes-2002%2F&usg=AOvVaw2H7_zbwPIYd3iOrBkkeQxy

Cast:

Ubú: Arianna Delgado

Mother Ubú: Aimee Despaigne

Colonel: Yoelvis Lobaina

King: Gisselle González

Fan Seller: Francisco López Ruiz

Union Representative: Evelio Ferrer

Fishbone Fisherman and Rich Moneylender: Raiza D Beche

Harvester of withered wheat and Poor Cook: Alina Castillo.

Gatherer of dry grapes: Annalie Quero

Seamstress: Arianny Sánchez Isidro

Staff:

Author: Abel González Melo

Director: Miguel Abreu

Producers: Rafael Vega Rivera

Assistant Director: Maria Karla Romero

Costume Designer: Celia Ledón

Makeup Designer: Pavel Marrero

Graphic Designer: Helman Bejerano

Set and Lighting Designer: Miguel Abreu

Singing Coach: Johannes de la Torres Corpas

Choreographer: Yuly Rodríguez Verdecia

Soundtrack Designer: Rommy Sánchez.



Original music by: Llilena Barrientos

Music Director: Dennis Peralta

Set Builder: Edel Figueredo, Ricardo Hernández

Costume fabrication: Inalvis Moya, Celia Ledón

General Director of Ludi Teatro: Miguel Abreu