

ADVERTISEMENT



NEWS

Lorca's classic still lingers in Cruz's updated 'House'

By Chris Jones and Tribune theater critic
Chicago Tribune • September 23, 2006

Great works of historic literature can irritate because they often seem unfair.

Take "The House of Bernarda Alba," that throbbing 1945 Spanish classic by Federico Garcia Lorca (the name as published has been corrected in this text). It's the tale of five frustrated, vibrant daughters kept under lock and key by a nasty mother more interested in the neighbors' opinions than her daughters' needs. Lorca surely explored the chasm between individual freedom and social convention -- but he did so in the muted fashion of his day.

ADVERTISEMENT

FEEDBACK

HOLIDAY SALE

ONLY \$1 FOR 4 MONTHS
Hurry, sale ends soon

SAVE NOW



Enter Migdalia Cruz, a contemporary writer with an interest in improving -- or, at least, riffing - on Lorca. In the aptly titled "Another Part of the House," now in an uneven but interesting Chicago production from Teatro Vista, Cruz makes a couple of changes. Instead of telling the story mostly from the mother's perspective, she gives more ownership to the oppressed daughters (and Bernarda's similarly oppressed mother). And instead of muting the women's pain in that 1940s symbolist stuff, Cruz makes things more explicit. We feel the heaves of their sexual desires, the sting of the maternal physical abuse, the agonies caused by Bernarda's obsession with patriarchal norms.

This is a provocative idea -- although there's no question that the Cruz play will mean most to people already familiar with the Lorca. And when a writer spends this much time and effort deconstructing someone else's play -- and arguing that he didn't understand his own characters -- you're inclined to think she might have been better penning her own.

FEEDBACK

Cecilie D. Keenan's earnest and nicely melodic Teatro Vista production is acted with a great deal of honesty and passion -- there are especially provocative performances from Sandra

HOLIDAY SALE

ONLY \$1 FOR 4 MONTHS
Hurry, sale ends soon

SAVE NOW

that these women are locked up. Rather, folks float up and down the stage with what looks like a lot more freedom than Bernarda (Julia Neary) cared to dispense.

Cruz is a smart, quirky and deeply lyrical writer, and there are pleasures to be had in seeing muted metaphors turned inside out. This is one way to bust open the canon. In this case, it's not entirely clear whose Bernarda we end up with -- and Neary doesn't seem to have her heart fully engaged in villainy.



ADVERTISEMENT

"Another Part of the House"

When: Through Oct. 22

Where: Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division St.

Running time: 2 hours, 10 minutes

Tickets: \$17-\$30 at 312-494-5767

FEEDBACK

cjones5@tribune.com


HOLIDAY SALE**ONLY \$1 FOR 4 MONTHS**
Hurry, sale ends soon**SAVE NOW**

COVID-19 hardships fuel increase in violent student behavior and threats in K-12 schools: 'It breaks our hearts to see them in crisis.'

Virus outbreaks have been upstaged by a surge in troubling student behavior that veteran educators say is unlike anything they have ever witnessed.

Chicago Tribune

These Cars Are So Loaded It's Hard to Believe They're So Cheap

 Luxury SUVs | Search Ads | Sponsored



Mature Trainer: This Is What "Ripped" Old Guys Do Differently (Genius!)

 Power Life | Sponsored



Tommy Chong: The Horrifying Truth About CBD

Tommy Chong's CBD | Sponsored

Big Boss of internet games

Hero Wars | Sponsored

Transmodernismos, Conceptualities of the Habitat and the Body

artealdia.com | Sponsored

Seniors With Hearing Loss in Florida Regret Not Knowing This Sooner

Hear.com | Sponsored

FEEDBACK

NFL Star Rob Gronkowski's Favorite Shoes

Wolf & Shepherd | Sponsored

HOLIDAY SALE

ONLY \$1 FOR 4 MONTHS

Hurry, sale ends soon

SAVE NOW

The App That's Teaching Americans Spanish in Just 3 Weeks

Babbel | Sponsored

Take This Quiz To See If You Can Retire Comfortably

SmartAsset | Sponsored

No Appointment? No Problem - Upgrade to the World's Smartest CPAP Without Leaving Home



The Easy Blog by EasyBreathe.com | Sponsored



Here Are 23 of the Coolest Gifts for This 2021

Nerds&Gadgets | Sponsored

The Best Face Mask for Air Travel in 2022

Sonovia | Sponsored

Don't play this game if you are under 40 years old!

Raid Shadow Legends | Sponsored

Couple Makes A Bet: No Eating Out, No Cheat Meals, No Alcohol. A Year After, This Is Them

HealthyGem | Sponsored

FEEDBACK

ADVERTISEMENT

HOLIDAY SALE

ONLY \$1 FOR 4 MONTHS
Hurry, sale ends soon

SAVE NOW

Chicago Tribune

As plants go dormant for winter, it's an ideal time to prune trees and shrubs

Plants in Illinois and Midwest gardens and yards will go dormant in winter when water dries up, making it an ideal time to prune without inviting disease or pests.

Chicago Tribune



Signs of Metastatic Breast Cancer (Some Of These May Surprise You)

Breast Cancer | Search Ads | Sponsored



These Knee Sleeves Will Transform Your Knees Back 20 Years

AmRelieve | Sponsored

Always Put a Plastic Bottle on Your Tires when Parked, Here's Why

Rich Houses | Sponsored

Daily horoscope for December 19, 2021

Chicago Tribune

Oswego restaurant offers free meals during holiday festival 'to welcome people to town for Christmas'

Chicago Tribune

Neglected Home Found After Decades, See Inside

Past Factory | Sponsored

FEEDBACK

'Night Court,' 'The Fall Guy' actress Markie Post dead at 70

Markie Post, the actress best known for roles in "Night Court" and "The Fall Guy," has died after an almost four-year battle with cancer.

Chicago Tribune

HOLIDAY SALE

ONLY \$1 FOR 4 MONTHS

Hurry, sale ends soon

SAVE NOW

Chicago Tribune

Best of multiplayer RPG

Hero Wars | Sponsored

Amazon Has Millions of Prime Subscribers — But Few Know About This Savings Trick

Capital One Shopping | Sponsored



How Meghan Markle Looks Without Makeup Is Tough To Handle

Life Indigo | Sponsored



A.J. Ajaga is a starter in basketball and an all-conference defensive lineman in football. He'll be the first to say he's 'come a long way' at Carmel.

Chicago Tribune

I am laughing enough for the both of us at the Tweet of the Week nominees

Chicago Tribune

New Neuropathy Sock Is Helping Millions With Their Foot Neuropathy (Nerve Pain)

AmRelieve | Sponsored

ADVERTISEMENT

FEEDBACK



HOLIDAY SALE

ONLY \$1 FOR 4 MONTHS
Hurry, sale ends soon

SAVE NOW



Invest in their wellbeing.

SPONSORED BY ALIGHT

ADVERTISEMENT



Invest in what matters.

SPONSORED BY ALIGHT

ADVERTISEMENT

AT&T fiber

Get fast upload speeds for reliable video calling

[Learn more](#)

FEEDBACK

HOLIDAY SALE

ONLY \$1 FOR 4 MONTHS
Hurry, sale ends soon

SAVE NOW

Most Read

Daily horoscope for December 19, 2021

12:00 AM



Ask Amy: Exhausted caregiver deserves some respite

12:05 AM



San Francisco mayor declares state of emergency to fight city's 'nasty streets'

December 18, 2021



FEEDBACK

HOLIDAY SALE

ONLY \$1 FOR 4 MONTHS
Hurry, sale ends soon

SAVE NOW

Invest in what matters.

SPONSORED BY ALIGHT



You May Like

Sponsored Links by Taboola

Man Gives Girlfriend A Necklace, 2 Years Later She Screams When She Realizes What's Inside

FactAhead

Brad Pitt's Daughter Is Probably The Prettiest Girl Who Ever Existed

Weight loss groove

If You Need To Kill Time On Your Computer, This Vintage Game Is A Must-Have. No Install.

Forge Of Empires

Forget Expensive Roofing (Do This Instead)

Smart Consumer Update

ADVERTISEMENT

FEEDBACK



HOLIDAY SALE

ONLY \$1 FOR 4 MONTHS

Hurry, sale ends soon

SAVE NOW

SPONSORED by Advertising Partner

Sponsored Video

Watch to learn more



Copyright © 2021, Chicago Tribune

SUBSCRIBE NOW
Get full access



FEEDBACK

HOLIDAY SALE

ONLY \$1 FOR 4 MONTHS
Hurry, sale ends soon

SAVE NOW