

MEDIA ALERT:

Asolo Repertory Theatre announces programming and events for *Hamlet, Prince of Cuba*

Asolo Repertory is proud to present events leading up to the Spanish performances of *Hamlet, Prince of Cuba*. Set in late 19th century Cuba, the show is currently enjoying a run in English at Asolo Rep and will have two performances in Spanish with English supertitles on May 3 at 8 p.m. and May 5 at 2 p.m. After concluding its run in Sarasota, the show will move to the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center in Miami where there will be both English and supertitled Spanish performances May 11-13. *Hamlet, Prince of Cuba* features guest artist **Frankie J. Alvarez** as Hamlet, **Gisela Chípe** (of Asolo Rep's *Yentl*) as Ophelia, **Emilio Delgado** as Claudius (known for his role as Luis on *Sesame Street*), **Mercedes Herrero** as Gertrude and **Andhy Mendez** as Laertes. The following programming will be offered in conjunction with the production.

Sunday, April 15

Meet the Actors

Post-show discussion facilitated by Asolo Rep Staff – featuring multiple cast members.

Location: Mertz Theatre

Time: Approx. 4:15 – Following matinee performance

Friday, April 20

Back to the Future: The Return of Spanish language to art and culture in SW Florida

University of South Florida's Dr. Carlos Cano will moderate a panel composed of Tampa residents – including an original member of the Ybor family, and members of a Tampa-based Cuban theatre group. Cast members of *Hamlet, Prince of Cuba* – Frankie J. Alvarez and Andhy Mendez – will perform selected scenes and participate in the discussion.

Moderated by: USF Professor, Dr. Carlos Cano, Associate Professor of Spanish American Culture, Film and Literature

Partners: University of South Florida (USF), Unidos Now, and Centro Asturiano

Location: Centro Asturiano de Tampa, 1913

North Nebraska Avenue Tampa, FL 33602

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 28

Bilingual Early Stages

For Families with children six and under. Come play with us as we use storytelling and interactive exercises to engage with popular children's books and enter the world of your favorite characters!

Special Guest: Emilio Delgado

Location: Asolo Rep Rehearsal Hall

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, May 1

Tuesday Talkback

Post-show conversation with cast member Gisela Chípe facilitated by Asolo Rep staff

Location: Asolo Rep Mezzanine

Time: Approx. 9:45 – Following evening performance

Wednesday, May 2

Panel Discussion - Cultural Intersections: To Be or Not To Be/Ser or no ser?

A discussion on the past, present, and future of Cuban-American identity and culture, examining the role of the arts in bridging cultural divides, creating social capital, and promoting engaged citizenship.

Guests: Dr. Andy Gomez – Senior Fellow of the Institute of Cuba and Cuban American Studies, University of Miami
Department of State, Author of *The Cuba Wars*
Nilo Cruz – Playwright, *Hamlet, Prince of Cuba*

Moderated by: Kelly Kirschner, former Mayor, City of Sarasota, currently of Unidos Now

Location: Cook Theatre

Time: 5:00 p.m.

This event will be preceded by cocktails and Cuban coffee – available in the main lobby.

Made possible, in part, with support from Community Foundation of Sarasota County.

Thursday, May 3

Spanish Language Opening Night of *Hamlet, Prince of Cuba*

Performance in Spanish with English supertitles.

Location: Mertz Theatre

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Friday, May 4

Panel Discussion - Art as Language: Manifestations of Bilingualism

Guests: Dr. Carlos Cano, Associate Professor of Spanish American Culture, Film and Literature at the University of South Florida
Nilo Cruz – Translator, *Hamlet, Prince of Cuba*
Michael Donald Edwards – Asolo Rep Producing Artistic Director and director of *Hamlet, Prince of Cuba*
Mercedes Herrero- Gertrude, *Hamlet, Prince of Cuba*

Johannes Werner – Editor, *Cuba Standard*

Location: Cook Theatre
Time: 2:00 p.m. – Following student matinee performance

Made possible, in part, with support from Community Foundation of Sarasota County.

Saturday, May 5

Pre-Show Reception – Sponsored by Bright House Networks, featuring Cuban food, a three piece guitar ensemble, and live-streaming from a radio affiliate.

Location: Asolo Rep Main Lobby
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Matinee Performance - *Hamlet, Prince of Cuba* – Performance in Spanish with English supertitles.

Location: Mertz Theatre
Time: 2:00 p.m.

Bilingual Meet the Actors – Post-show discussion facilitated by Asolo Rep Staff – featuring multiple cast members

Moderated by: Jesse Ontiveros, Assistant Director for *Hamlet, Prince of Cuba* & Irma Murillo of Bright House Networks

Location: Mertz Theatre
Time: Approx. 4:15 – Following matinee performance

The pre and post show events on May 5 are sponsored in part by Bright House Networks and InfoMas.

For more information on the events above please contact Education and Outreach Director Brian Hersh at brian_hersh@asolo.org or by calling 941.351.9010 x3320.

Sponsors for *Hamlet, Prince of Cuba* are PNC Wealth Management, Bright House Networks, Gold Coast Eagle Distributing, National Endowment for the Arts, Woman’s Exchange INC. and Sarasota County Tourist Development Cultural Arts Program. Special Support for bilingual productions is provided by Mary Ann Robinson, Mike and Renee Silverstein and the Asolo Rep Artistic Excellence Society. Tickets for *Hamlet, Prince of Cuba* are available through the Asolo Repertory Theatre box office by calling 941-351-8000 or toll-free, 800-361-8388. Tickets are also available online at www.asolorep.org.