

Union College Theater and Dance Presents,

Floridita, my Love

by Javier Antonio González

*Directed by
Jorge Luna*

Yulman Theater

This is a non-stop train to our final destination. For the safety of you and our actors, we ask that you please remain in your seats and refrain from exiting during the performance, except for emergencies. If you need to leave the theater, you will be escorted by one of our MTA workers and will be reseated upon reentrance. Thank you!

floridita: MY LOVE

BY
JAVIER ANTONIO GONZÁLEZ

DIRECTED BY
JORGE LUNA

STAGE MANAGER -- CHLOE SAVITCH
SCENIC DESIGN -- ANDREW MANNION
COSTUME DESIGN -- BRITTNEY BELZ
LIGHTING DESIGN -- MARNIE CUMINGS
SOUND DESIGN -- ARMAAN UPPAL
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR -- DREW BODD
VIDEO DESIGN -- ANDREW MANNION

CAST

FLORIDITA MELANIE DE LA CRUZ
DEATH VIC LUCONTONI
GARCÍA JAY HERNANDEZ
HOFFMAN BRIAN RUSK
SOR JUANA LILIAN RUGGIERI
ADOLFO BENJAMIN NEFF
SEVERIO ASPEN MORRIS
PERHAPS A DEAD MAN TREMAINE RICHARDSON
CHILDREN JEROME ANDERSON
& MATTHEW CONNOLLY
LIBERTY ENLIGHTENING THE WORLD HESTIA DOUD
IMMIGRANT - MANUEL DANA AUMENT
IMMIGRANT - AGUILÚ THOMAS RAIMO
IMMIGRANT - SOFÍA MOLLYJANE BOYLE
IMMIGRANT - MILAGROS SEONA CHUTARO
PREGNANT WOMAN..... ANNABELLA SCHIAVI

THIS PRODUCTION CONTAINS MATURE LANGUAGE AND THEMES, INCLUDING DISCUSSION OF SUICIDE, AND RACIAL SLURS. PROP GUNS, GUNSHOTS, HAZE/FOG, SUDDEN LOUD NOISES, AND DISCO/STROBE LIGHTING EFFECTS WILL BE USED DURING THE PERFORMANCE.



Desayunos
BREAKFAST

PRODUCTION STAFF

PRODUCTION MANAGER -- *BRITTNEY BELZ*

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS -- *ISHITA KHAMBETE & KYRA KELLY*

HAIR CONSULTANT/WIG DESIGNER -- *BRITTNEY BELZ*

SCENE SHOP SUPERVISOR -- *ROBIN MACDUFFIE*

SOUND/VIDEO CONSULTANT -- *LUKE KRAUSS*

FIRST HAND - *SARAH GOETHE-JONES*

PROPS COORDINATOR -- *CHLOE SAVITCH*

HOUSE MANAGER -- *KOMILA DUSTBABAYEVA*

BOX OFFICE TEAM -- *CHARLIE JONES, BRENDAN CULLEN, ALDO LEAL,
& JENNIFER VIL*

RUN CREW

LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR -- *OLLIE TAYLOR*

SOUND BOARD OPERATOR -- *ASHER ZIDE*

HAIR AND MAKE UP - *SASHA STARK*

WARDROBE/HAIR/MAKEUP CREW -- *JENNIFER VIL*

RUNNER -- *VICTORIA AVON*

STAGECRAFT

**MYA AGUIRRE, PAIGE FOX, MICHAEL GRANDINETTI, KYRA KELLY,
LIA NICHOLS, THOMAS ORR, & OLIVER TAYLOR**

SCENIC PAINTERS

MELANIE DE LA CRUZ & VICTORIA AVON

COSTUME WORK STUDY

**DANA AUMENT, EVELYN MALLORY, ASHLEY SUH, CHRISTIAN THOMPSON,
& YSABEL THOMPSON**

SCENE SHOP WORK STUDY

**JEROME ANDERSON, VICTORIA AVON, ZACH DICKINSON, ADAM HECKER,
ALEXANDRA KNOWLES, ELI VALORE-CAPLAN, & WILL ZIMMER**

A NOTE FROM THE

Chef

FLORIDITA, my Love had its world premiere at LATI Theater in New York City in 2010. Caborca Theatre produced it under artistic director and playwright, Javier Antonio González.

I arrived to the directing world via the acting one and it is not an accident I got to direct this play, as I had the good fortune of playing Alejandro Hoffman in the 2010 LATI Theater production.

With its main premise being suicide, this play is seemingly a tragedy. Yet you'll rapidly find it's most definitely a dark comedy. Through dark humour and magic realism, the playwright expertly blends the immigrant experience with the search of the U.S. American Dream, our class divide, and the relentless pursuit for one's happiness.

As a Puerto Rican living in the US, I often combat the plethora of microaggressions I'm subject to on a daily basis with dark humour. This is a wonderful technique that could be utilised by any person regardless of sex, sexual preference, race, color, country of origin, age, cultural background, and gender identity. This antidote serves as a paramount survival tool for us to make it to the next day. It is our escape from the neverending tedium of what society allows for us to be. And like the title character in Floridita, "anyone with this much imagination" should be allowed to live a joyful life. Even if that "life happens only in your head."

I'd like to thank the Department of Theater and Dance at Union College for being open to producing this play this season. Visibility means something. And this means a whole lot of something.

Thank you Keelie for your support and your vision.

Otto, Keelie, Mami, Noris, Alina, Franchute y Monchi. Los amo.

PS- I make no apologies for all the house music. I actively choose to never outgrow my DJ years.

-- Jorge Luna

UNA NOTA DEL *Chef*

FLORIDITA, my Love tuvo su estreno en el teatro de IATI Theater en la ciudad de Nueva York en el 2010. La obra fue producida por la compañía Caborca Theatre y dirigida por su director artístico Javier Antonio González.

Llegué al mundo de la dirección a través de la actuación. No es un accidente el que yo esté dirigiendo esta obra ya que tuve la dicha de interpretar el papel de Alejandro Hoffman en la producción de IATI Theater en el 2010.

Debido a su premisa principal con el tema del suicidio, la obra es, a primera vista, una tragedia. Pero pronto descubrirán que es una comedia de humor negro. Utilizando el realismo mágico y el humor negro como vehículos, el dramaturgo logra de manera experta capturar la experiencia que el inmigrante vive en su persecución del sueño estadounidense, la división de clase y la búsqueda eterna de la felicidad.

Como puertorriqueño que vive en los Estados Unidos combato la plétora de microagresiones que recibo a diario con humor negro. Esta técnica es fenomenal y puede ser utilizada por cualquier persona sin importar sexo, preferencia sexual, raza, color, país de origen, edad, trasfondo cultural e identidad de género. Este antídoto es una herramienta esencial de supervivencia que nos puede ayudar a llegar al próximo día. Es el escape que nos aleja del tedio al cual la sociedad nos somete a diario; a lo que la humanidad nos permite ser. Y, como el personaje de Floridita, a toda persona con esta cantidad de imaginación se le debe permitir la búsqueda de la felicidad en su vida. Aunque esa vida ocurra solo en su imaginación.

Quiero agradecer al departamento de teatro y danza de Union College por la oportunidad de producir esta obra durante esta temporada. La visibilidad para las minorías significa mucho.

Gracias Keelie por el apoyo y la visión.

Otto, Keelie, Mami, Noris, Alina, Franchute y Monchi. Los amo.

P.D. No pido disculpas por la música house en la pieza. Me rehúso a olvidarme de mis años de discjockey.

-- Jorge Luna



Platos del Dia

THEATER & DANCE FACULTY & STAFF

OMONIKE AKINYEMI - ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR OF DANCE - FLAMENCO

HETTIE VYRINE BARNHILL - ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR OF THEATER & DANCE

**BRITTNEY BELZ - INTERIM DEPARTMENT CHAIR, COSTUME DESIGNER &
COSTUME SUPERVISOR**

CHERYL BLACK - VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF THEATER

DREW BODD - TECHNICAL DIRECTOR & LIGHTING DESIGN

**MEGAN FLYNN - GUSTAVE L. DAVIS '59 AND SUSAN S. DAVIS DIRECTOR OF
DANCE, ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE**

CHRISTINE GEREN - ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR OF DANCE - BALLET AND PILATES

CHARLIE JONES - OFFICE ASSISTANT

JORGE LUNA - ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR OF THEATER

ROBIN MACDUFFIE - SCENE SHOP TECHNICIAN

**ANDREW MANNION - SENIOR LECTURER OF THEATER AND DANCE, SCENE
DESIGN, PAINTING & VIDEO**

FREDDY RAMIREZ - ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR OF DANCE - JAZZ & BROADWAY

VICTORIA ROTONDI - ARTS DEPARTMENT COORDINATOR

**DAN VENNING - THEATRE HISTORY, DRAMATIC LITERATURE, PERFORMANCE
CRITICISM, & DRAMATURGY**

LAURIE ZABELE CAWLEY - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF DANCE

**PATRICIA CULBERT - PROFESSOR EMERITA THEATER AND DANCE FACULTY
1997-2019.**

**WILLIAM A. FINLAY - PROFESSOR EMERITUS CHAIR OF THEATER AND DANCE
FROM 1994-2019**

**MIRYAM MOUTILLET - PROFESSOR EMERITA DANCE FACULTY 1996-1999 & 2001-
2022**

**CHARLES STECKLER - PROFESSOR EMERITUS THE DWANE W. CRICHTON
PROFESSOR OF THEATER, STAGE DESIGNER**



Menü

CAST & CREW BIOS

Melanie De La Cruz / FLORIDITA

Melanie De La Cruz (She/Her) is a first generation second year student from Tampa, Florida. She is a Theatre and Political Science double major with a minor in Dance. She has a heart to pursue the arts, and is incredibly grateful of her time at Union so far. In Theatre, she has performed as Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Lydia in *Pride and Prejudice*, and participated in *Sweat* as Assistant Director and Student Dramaturg. She also had the experience of a lifetime in Edinburgh, Scotland this past summer performing at the Fringe Festival with the Dance program. She thanks everybody in her life for bringing her thus far, with a special thanks to her parents, family, mentors and friends back home for motivating her to pursue her passions. Another special thanks to her mentors from Union. Love to the cast, crew and you all. I hope you enjoy the show! Besitos! Romans 13:10 NIV

Vic Lucontoni / DEATH, UNDERSTUDY PERHAPS A DEAD MAN

Victoria Lucontoni (She/Her) is thrilled to be performing as Death in her 5th show at Union! She has portrayed other roles like Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Lady Catherine DeBurg in *Pride and Prejudice*, Reporter/Understudy Tracey in *Sweat* and Mitch Mahoney in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Vic is a sophomore who enjoys singing and acting as well as hanging out with friends. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Brian Rusk / HOFFMAN

Brian Rusk (He/Him) is a junior theater major from Carroll County, MD. Previous Union College credits include Jason in *Sweat*, Friendship in *Everybody*, and Chip Tolentino in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. When not in some sort of theater, Brian enjoys star-gazing and trying to befriend random cats on the streets of Schenectady. He thanks you for coming, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Lilian Ruggieri / SOR JUANA

Lilian Ruggieri (She/Her) is a junior theater major at Union. She has performed in several productions at Union such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Peter Quince, the staged reading of *Everybody* as Everybody, and as Jessie in *Sweat*. Lilian is very excited to put on this performance for you all and would like to thank the fabulous crew and cast of this show!

Benjamin Neff / ADOLFO

Ben Neff (He/Him) is a Junior from Bow New Hampshire majoring in Economics and Chinese . This is his second production at Union, reading *Pride and Prejudice* last Winter. Ben would like to thank his parents for their enthusiasm and pragmatism, his teammates and coaches for all the wonderful things that they bring to his life, and his cast mates for being an absolute joy to work with!

Jay Hernandez / GARCÍA, UNDERSTUDY FLORIDITA

Jacob “Jay” Hernandez (He/Him) is a junior from Santa Ana, CA who is majoring in computer science with a minor in music. Last spring, he portrayed Oscar in Union College’s production of *Sweat* by Lynn Nottage. He would like to give appreciation to his friends, family, and the cast and crew for always supporting him. This is his second performance at Union.

Aspen Morris / SEVERIO, UNDERSTUDY HOFFMAN

Aspen Morris (She/Her) is a junior from Lutherville, Maryland majoring in music and computer science. *FLORIDITA* is the third show she’s worked on at Union, alongside *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *Everybody*, but is the first full show she’s performed in. She’d like to thank the cast and crew of Floridita for a wonderful experience, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Tremaine Richardson / PERHAPS A DEAD MAN, UNDERSTUDY GARCÍA

Tremaine Richardson (He/They) is an Electrical Engineering and Mathematics double major from South Carolina. He has been in Union College’s productions of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *Sweat* and is attempting to have an organizing theme minor related to Theater with some hope, maybe. Tremaine would like to clarify that he is NOT a theater kid; He just so happens to be so charismatic and dramatic that the productions come to him, not the other way around.

Jerome Anderson / CHILD ONE

Jerome Anderson (He/They) is a sophomore from the Southside of Chicago. He is majoring in psychology. At Union he has been in the staged reading of *Everybody*. He also works in the Scene Shop for work-study and helped build the stage. Outside of Union he had been a part of performing a concert style version of *Hamilton*. His hobbies include playing video games and creative writing. Jerome is thankful to his supportive friends, cast members, and the crew, and sends praise and love to the entire Theater Department for making shows happen!

Matthew Connolly / CHILD TWO,
UNDERSTUDY LIBERTY ENLIGHTENING THE WORLD

Matthew Connolly (He/Him) is a Sophomore Classics Major from Bethlehem, New York. He previously portrayed Francis Flute/Thisbe in Union's Production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and played several additional roles in high school including King Duncan in *the Scottish Play* and the Narrator in *Puffs*. Matthew would like to thank Jorge and Chloe for the countless hours and effort with this production and the entire cast and crew as well.

Hestia Doud / LIBERTY ENLIGHTENING THE WORLD,
UNDERSTUDY SOR JUANA & PREGNANT WOMAN

Hestia Doud (She/Her) is a Junior Physics major (astrophysics minor) from Baltimore MD. In the past she has played The Lion in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Love in *Everybody*, and Leaf Coneybear in the Mountebanks production of *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. As always, she would like to thank all her friends and family for their continuing support and encouragement of all her weird and wonderful adventures!

Dana Aument / MANUEL, UNDERSTUDY CHILDREN

Dana Aument (She/Her) is a Biology major here at Union and is currently a sophomore. Coming from Woodstock, MD this is her second production with the Union College Theater department. She was also Little Girl/Time in a staged reading of *Everybody* last year. She was also involved with the Mountebank's production of *Spelling Bee* last year. Along with performing she also works in the costume shop, helping to make some of the costumes you will see onstage in this show. She is so grateful to her family for supporting her through everything and to the cast and crew of *FLORIDITA*, *My Love* whom without there wouldn't be a show. Now on with the show!!

Thomas Raimo / AGUILÚ, UNDERSTUDY IMMIGRANTS

Thomas Raimo (He/She/Them) is a senior Neuroscience and Theatre major at Union. This is their third show at Union and they're very excited to be back on stage! Previously, Thomas has been in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lysander), *Pride and Prejudice* (Mr. Bennet), and the UC Mountebanks production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (William Barfeé). He hopes you enjoy the show!

Seona Chutaro / MILAGROS, UNDERSTUDY AGUILÚ

Seona Chutaro (She/Her) is a Freshman from Honolulu, Hawaii majoring in Political Science. This is her first time acting in a student production, and would like to thank the Union Theater and Dance Department and the cast and crew of *FLORIDITA*, *My Love* for being so welcoming and supportive.

Mollyjane Boyle / **SOFÍA, UNDERSTUDY DEATH**

Mollyjane Boyle (She/Her) is a sophomore from Glenridge, New Jersey. She is majoring in both History and Theater, while also being a member of Union College Choir and Union Chamber Singer. At Union, she has performed in *A Midsummer's Night Dream* as Puck. She is very excited to perform in *FLORIDITA, My Love*.

Annabella Schiavi / **PREGNANT WOMAN, UNDERSTUDY SEVERIO**

Annabella Schiavi (She/Her) is a Junior from Niskayuna, NY majoring in Theater. Before transferring to Union, she played Jo March in a 2021 production of *Little Women* at Hudson Valley Community College. Additionally, she has worked as a background actor on multiple TV shows, including a featured role in the first episode of Rian Johnson's *Poker Face* (2023). *FLORIDITA, my Love* is her first production at Union.

Ishita Khambete / **ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER**

Ishita Khambete (She/Her) is a junior Biology major with two minors in German and Environmental Sciences and Policy. Ishita is primarily involved in stage management and *FLORIDITA, My Love* is the second show she is involved in. She is excited to work on a production again. She thanks the theater department and her friends for the opportunity to gain new skills. Enjoy the show!

Kyra Kelly / **ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER**

Kyra Kelly (She/They) is a freshman from Saratoga Springs, NY, who is planning to major in Computer Science and minor in Theater. She has worked on many high school and community productions in the past but this has been their first college show. When she's not at the theater, Kyra enjoys photography and designing programs. They would like to thank the Union Theater Department for their trust and support, and she hopes you enjoy the show!



Postre

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special Thanks

LUKE KRAUSS

JACKSON JANNEY AND

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

JORGE LUNA FOR SPANISH/ENGLISH TRANSLATION

UNION COLLEGE PRINT SHOP

UNION COLLEGE ITS

**PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOGRAPHY, AND AUDIO RECORDING
ARE NOT PERMITTED DURING THIS PRODUCTION.**

UNION

COLLEGE
FOUNDED 1795

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE LIVE, WORK, AND STUDY AT UNION COLLEGE ON THE TRADITIONAL HOMELANDS THAT WERE ORIGINALLY PEOPLED BY THE IROQUOIS CONFEDERACY, INCLUDING THE CAYUGA, MOHAWK, ONEIDA, ONONDAGA, SENECA, HAUDENOSAUNEE (THE PEOPLE OF THE LONGHOUSE), AND OTHER TRIBES. WHAT WE CALL SCHENECTADY IS A DUTCH VERSION OF A MOHAWK WORD SKAHNÉHTATI, MEANING 'THE PLACE BEYOND THE PINES.' AS A COLLEGE, WE HONOR THE LAND ITSELF WITH GRATITUDE AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE STEWARDED THE LAND THROUGHOUT THE AGES.

COMING SOON FROM UNION THEATER & DANCE

WINTER 2023

PATRIOT ACTS: A SUFFRAGE PAGEANT FOR OUR TIME
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY CHERYL BLACK

WINTER DANCE CONCERT

SPRING 2024

**STEINMETZ DAY - LOTH RIDGE FESTIVAL OF
DANCE**

INTIMATE AFTERNOON WITH DANCERS

YOU ON THE MOORS NOW
BY JACLYN BACKHAUS
DIRECTED BY JASMINE ROTH

UNION COLLEGE THEATER & DANCE

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★ WINTER ★
★ STUDIO ★
★ SERIES ★
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PATRIOT ACTS
A SUFFRAGE PAGEANT FOR OUR TIMES
BY CHERYL BLACK

★ NOV. 7 & 8 ★
★ 6:30-9:30P ★
★ YULMAN ★
★ THEATER ★
★ STUDIO A ★

★ FOR MORE ★
★ INFO: ★



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PERFORMANCES FEBRUARY 1-4

Union College Theater & Dance Department

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