

ARCA Images is a non-profit artistic production organization founded by Alexa Kuve in 2001 in the city of Miami.

Between 2013 and 2021 we have presented with great success the works of Nilo Cruz, winner of the prestigious Pulitzer Prize in Drama: *Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams*, the world premiere of *Sotto Voce* (premiered in Miami in collaboration with New York's Theater for the New City), *Hurricane*, *Beauty of the Father*, *The color of desire*, *Three internal monologues*, *Lorca in a green dress*, the Spanish premiere of *Sotto Voce*, *Bathing in Moonlight* and *Two sisters and a piano*, all under his artistic direction and in co-production with the Miami Dade County Auditorium. In October 2015, in collaboration with the South Miami Dade Cultural Arts Center and the University of Miami, we presented the world premiere of *Tsunami*, nominated for the Carbonell Award for best original work. Other of our productions are *Uncle Vannia* by Antón Chéjov and *Love Story* by Jean-Luc Lagarce (directed by Nilo Cruz), as well as *El cuento de René* by René Ariza, *Neva* by Guillermo Calderón, *The Room Next Door* by Sarah Ruhl and *I Was Home Waiting for the Rain to Fall* by Jean-Luc Lagarce (directed by Larry Villanueva), all co-produced by Miami Dade County Auditorium.

In 2021, Arca presented the world premieres of *Fallen Angels* by Joel Cano (Adriana Barraza Black Box), *Vuelve a contármelo todo* by Abel González Melo and *Hotel Desiderium* by Nilo Cruz (commissioned by Arca Images). In 2022 we commissioned and produced the world premieres of *Abismo* by Abel González Melo, directed by Carlos Celdrán and *Kisses through the Glass* written and directed by Nilo Cruz. We closed the year with the successful presentation of *The Bald Soprano* by Eugene Ionesco. In 2023 we present the premiere in South Florida of *Tebas Land* by Sergio Blanco, under the direction of Carlos Celdrán. Our work includes *Chambelona*, a short film written and directed by Larry Villanueva, and the plays *A Breath of Air*, *American Dream*, *Downtown Witches*, *\$2.50 for a Cubalibre*, (Teatro Viernes), and *The Repetition*, (group Maderamen). Arca participated in the First Latin American Theater Festival in New York (2009) with the monologues *Meat* and *Suspicious Story. Talco*, by Abel González Melo, received the distinction of Best Play of the Year 2010 by *El Nuevo Herald*. Other premieres include William Nicholson's *La retirada de Moscú* and more than twenty-five pieces directed by Larry Villanueva in coproduction with the School of Arts and Minds and for Arca's acting workshop.

Miami-Dade County Auditorium

opened its doors in 1951. Since then, it has become one of the best performing arts centers in South Florida. This popular theater, decorated in the Art Deco style, adapts to multiple uses. The 2,372 seat auditorium lends itself to staging major dance, theater, and music productions. In the “mid-stage” modality, it has room for 450 spectators, ideal for small concerts and dance and theater shows, thus satisfying the needs of medium sized organizations, while the On.Stage Black Box, where both the public and the artists occupy the stage, comprises 250 seats and is ideal for more intimate presentations and experimental pieces. Since January 2012, the Miami Dade County Auditorium has been administered by the Miami Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, an agency with a history of supporting innovation and artistic excellence.

Departamento de Asuntos Culturales

The Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council foster cultural excellence, diversity, and participation throughout the county by creating and promoting opportunities for artists and cultural organizations, and for residents and visitors that make up your audience. The Department directs the Art in Public Places program and its board of directors, the Art in Public Places Trust, which commissions, maintains, and promotes the county’s award-winning collection of public art. Through its staff, board of directors, and programs, the Department, Council, and Board of Trustees promote, coordinate, and support more than a thousand nonpro-fit cultural organizations and thousands of resident artists through grants, technical assistance, public information, and interactive community planning. The Department receives funding through the Miami Dade County Mayor and Commission, the Children’s Trust, the National Endowment for the Arts, the State of Florida through its Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and Council for the Arts and Culture, and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Additional support and services are provided by TicketWeb (for the Culture Shock Miami program), the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, the South Florida Cultural Consortium, and the Tourist Development Council.

Grettel Trujillo

Cuban theater, film and television actress graduated from the ISA in Havana in 1995 with a specialty in acting and a Master's Degree in Education in Spanish Language from the Nova University in Florida. She has participated in more than thirty plays. "The Dwarf in the Bottle" and "Josefina the Traveler", both one-woman shows by the renowned Cuban writer and playwright Abilio Estévez, have earned her several awards and recognitions, such as Hola and ACE in New York City, just like his character. by Conchita in "Ana in the Tropics" by Nilo Cruz (Pulitzer Prize 2001). Trujillo has also been part of the cast in other works by the award-winning playwright and director: "Two Sisters and a Piano," "Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams" and "Tío Vania." Teatro en las Nubes and Teatro de la Luna companies in her native country, in addition to Teatro in Miami, Antihéroes Project and Arca Images in the United States, have had her presence as an actress. She currently works as a Humanities teacher for high school students at Coral Way K-8 in the city of Miami.

Carlos Acosta Milián

Graduated from the ENA in 1986. That same year he joined the Cuban Theater Movement, participating in several national and international tours. In 1990 he was part of the successful North American Theater Trilogy, under the direction of Carlos Díaz. In 1992 he founded, together with a prominent group of artists, the "El Público" theater, gathered around the figure of Díaz. In 2000 he moved to San Sebastián, Spain, where he served as a professor at the San Sebastián Performing Arts Workshop and taught acting classes until 2008. He has developed an extensive and successful career in theater, film and television. Since 2012 he has resided in Miami. At the recently celebrated 40th Miami International Film Festival he premiered "Havana Stories [La Operación Payret]" where in addition to being an Actor, he serves as Co-Producer of the film. With Arca Images we have enjoyed it in "El cuento de René", directed by Larry Villanueva, the works of Nilo Cruz, "Lorca in a Green Dress", "Baño de Luna", "Exquisita Agonía" and "Two Sisters and a Piano", all under the direction of Cruz, and recently in "Hierro" by Carlos Celdrán, directed by the author.

Claudia Tomás

Cuban actress, graduated from the ENA and the ISA. Since 2011 she joined the “El Público” Theater Company, under the direction of Carlos Díaz, where she worked on the productions: “Twelfth Night”, by William Shakespeare; “Peer Gynt”, by Ibsen; “The Decameron”, by Boccaccio; “The bitter tears of Petra von Kant”, by Fassbinder, among others. She has worked in television and film in the soap opera “Más allá del límite”, the series “Rompiendo el silencio”; and in the films “El Mayor”, by Rigoberto López and “Inocencia”, by Alejandro Gil, for which she won the “Award for Best Choral Performance at the Latin American Film Festival of Trieste, Italy, 2019” and the “Prize of the Audience (Coral Award/40th International Festival of New Latin American Cinema/ 2018.)” She recently completed filming “Plantadas”, by director Lilo Vilaplana and we enjoyed her as Mrs. Martin in the Arca Images production of “The Bald Soprano ”.

Daniel Romero

Cuban actor, graduated from the ENA and the ISA. Since 2012 he joined the Argos Teatro Company, under the direction of Carlos Celdrán, where he worked on the 10 million productions (Hola Award for Excellence in Theater for Best Latin Performance given by the Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors in New York and award Independent Theater Artists (ATI) as Best Actor in a visiting group, also in New York), Mysteries and small pieces and Hierro, written and directed by Carlos Celdrán. He has worked in television and film in works such as the series Zoológico and in the feature films José Martí: El Ojo del Canario, by director Fernando Pérez (Ariel Award for Best Ibero-American Film, 2011); Last Days in Havana, by director Fernando Pérez; El Mayor, by director Rigoberto Lopez; La Joven Novicia, by director Arturo Soto, and Plantadas, by director Lilo Villaplana. We recently enjoyed it in Tebas Land by Sergio Blanco, and Hierro by Carlos Celdrán, both directed by Celdrán and produced by Arca Images.

Guillermo Cabré

He began his acting studies in Miami at the YMASTUDIOS school with the writer and director Jacky Ortega. In Mexico City, he studies at the Televisa Center for Actor Studies (CEA), participates in plays such as "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot" and "Adios Amor" and in the television series "CEA Como Sea", also with Corporal Televisa. In Miami, he has worked with the theater companies De la Cruz theater ("El duel", "La Guagua de Papel" and "El Hijo"), Artefactus ("Hilos" and "Leyendas Negras" under the direction of Eddy Díaz Sousa), and Troop of actors ("Hansel y Graciela"), obtaining different awards and excellent acceptance from the public. On television we have enjoyed him in the Telemundo, NBC productions "La mujer de mi vida" and "Lalucke de Loli" among others. He has recently co-produced and acted in the film "Maintaining the Distance", and the series "No, Así no" and "Crimes in Miami" from Pronyr TV and Cute Digital Media. This is his first collaboration with Arca Images.

Ricky Saaverdra

Graduated from the ENA and the ISA of Havana, Cuba. He worked with the theater company El Público, under the direction of Carlos Díaz and with Teatro de la luna under the direction of Raúl Martín. In 2018, he was part of Alejandro Gil's film, "Inocencia". "Un parque en mi casa" marks Ricky's theater debut in the United States and with Arca Images.

Nilo Cruz

PLAYWRIGHT & DIRECTOR

He premiered “Anne in the Tropics” on Broadway with Jimmy Smits in the lead role, and was the first Latino to win a Pulitzer Prize for this play. He is the author of more than 16 plays and four translations, and earned a master’s degree in theater from Brown University. Additionally, he is an accomplished theater director who has frequently staged his own plays and directed other classical and contemporary pieces. Cruz’s works have been performed at the Public Theater of New York, the New York Theater Workshop, and the McCarter Theatre, among others. His numerous honors include two NEA/TCG National Theater Artist Residency Fellowships, a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship, a Kennedy Center Fund Award, and a PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation for Theater Award. He has taught playwriting at Brown, Iowa, Yale, and Miami Universities. With Arca Images, he served as Artistic Director for 10 years and has presented and directed more than 13 pieces he authored, including the recent world premieres of “Hotel Desiderium” and “Kisses Through the Glass”, commissioned and produced by Arca Images.

Alexa Kuve

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ARTISTIC PRODUCTION

Candidate for a doctorate in Philology and Adjunct Professor at Florida International University, she has a master’s degree in Hispanic American Literature and is a graduate of the School of Modern Languages in the specialty of Spanish, also at this institution. She started as a producer with Fresco Productions and Venevisión Internacional, she was production coordinator at Gems TV, Sánchez & Levitán, Zubi Advertising and Siboney USA. In 2001 she founded Arca Images and, since that date, she has served as its executive director of production, leading the coordination of artistic and administrative areas. With Arca Images she has produced more than seventy-five shows, including plays, fine arts exhibitions, dramatized readings and concerts. As a theater actress, she has starred in multiple works, including: Love Story, by Jean Luc Lagarce; Uncle Vania, by Anton Checkjov; The color of desire by Nilo Cruz; Chamaco, by Abel González Melo; A Streetcar Named Desire, by Tennessee Williams; The House of Bernarda Alba, by Federico García Lorca and The Galas of the Deceased; from Valle Inclán. She has worked on more than twelve soap operas for Telemundo and other production companies, as well as the short films Chambelona and Fade Out. We recently enjoyed her as Mrs. Smith, in Ionesco’s The Bald Soprano.

Jorge Noa & Pedro Balmaseda

STAGE DESIGNERS

The tandem includes artistic, architectural and interior design in their work. In Cuba they receive two Mahogany Mask awards for their stage designs and collaborate with many companies on the island. In Venezuela they concentrate their work on scenography for television on national channels such as Televén and Venevisión. Based in Miami since 1998, they run the company Genoah Interior Design, Inc., which has created commercial and residential environments throughout South Florida. At the same time, they run the artistic production company Nobarte, which, in addition to artistic presentations, provides scenography and costume creation services for various groups in the city. His creations have been part of premieres by various companies such as Teatro Avante, Teatro Prometeo, Teatro Doble, Galiano 108, El Ingenio Teatro and Wolfson Opera/Musical Theater Ensemble, among others. With Arca Images they have collaborated as designers in multiple shows, such as *El cuarto de al lado*, *Historia de amor*, *Exquisita agonía*, *Estaba en casa y esperaba que llegara la lluvia*, *Dos hermanas y un piano*, *Fallen Angels*, *Vuelve a contármelo todo*, *Hotel Desiderium*, *Abismo y Tebas Land*. They have participated in international festivals and their creations have toured stages in Brazil, Costa Rica, Slovenia, Spain, the United States, Puerto Rico, Peru and Mexico.

Gema Valdés

COSTUME DESIGNER

Coming from the fashion industry, Gema discovered her love for theater when Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Nilo Cruz asked her to design costumes for his Spanish version of *Hortensia y el Museo de Sueños*, produced by Arca Images. Since then he has collaborated with Arca designing the costumes for *Hurricane*, *Belleza del Padre* (nominated for the Miami Life Awards), *El color del deseo*, *Baño de luna*, *Fallen Angels*, *Tebas Land* y *Hierro* (nominated for a Carbonell Award for "best design wardrobe"). Gema has collaborated with GableStage on *Indecent* y *El Huracán*. Currently, Ella Gema is the costume technician, draper, and costume atelier supervisor at the University of Miami's Jerry Herman Ring Theater, where she collaborates with designers and instructs students on costumes for theater productions.

Richard Rodríguez

LIGHTING/SET DESIGNER

Graduated in 1991 from the Higher Institute of Art in Havana in Lighting Design. He has worked with companies and groups including Teatro Estudio, Teatro Buen Día, Ballet Teatro, Retazos, Teatro Avante, El Ingenio Teatro, and Fundarte. His work has been admired in Argentina, Uruguay, Mexico, Ecuador, Brazil, Spain, Portugal, the United States, Nicaragua, and Angola. Richard won a Coral Prize in 1991 for the short film Harlequin. In 2023, he participated in the Alcala de Henares Festival with the play La Celestina and has also worked on the projects Travesía and Alma Flamenca.

Ulyses Peña

DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT

Graduated in acting in Cuba in 2003. After emigrating to the United States, he has dedicated himself to social work while demonstrating his talent as a content producer for a season of the reality show "Ricas Famosas Latina." He worked as Stage Manager at Strella TV, on the television shows "Buenos Días Familia" and "Hay Testigo." As an actor, Ulises has participated in theater productions with renowned Cuban companies such as Argos Teatro and El Público, as well as OMG Studios and Microteatro in the city of Miami. This is his first collaboration as Assistant Director for Arca Images.

Oriana Urdaneta

STAGE MANAGER

She is a Venezuelan, Barry University alumni who graduated with a Bachelor's in Music. Oriana currently works in Production Management at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. Previously, she has worked as a stage manager and/or theater technician for shows and events with Barry University, Miami City Theatre, Arsht Center, Actors Playhouse at Miracle Theatre, YoungArts, Broward Center, SoundCloud, The Carbonell Awards, and more. Oriana would like to thank Nilo Cruz and Arca Images for inviting her to be part of this experience.