SCHOOL OF DRAMA
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



SUENO By José Rivera
Directed by Jane Jones

MAY 26 - JUNE 4, 2017 | Floyd and Delores Jones Playhouse

# translated and adapted by JOSÉ RIVERA From the play Life is a Dream by PEDRO CALDERÓN DE LA BARCA Directed by JANE JONES

Scenic Design Alex Winterle\* Lighting Design Ranleigh Starling\* Technical Director Alex Danilchik

Dramaturg Bekka Fredrickson *Prop Master* Andrea Bush

Costume Design Fawn Bartlett\*† Sound Design Kyle Thompson Stage Manager Jacqueline Wagner

Assist. Stage Manager Grecia Leal-Pardo

Assistant Director Joy Marzec

House Managers
Andy Luc
Royne Mumbo

Rayna Mumbo

Fight Choreographer Tom Dewey

*Photographer* Mike Hipple Light Board Operator Jonathan Francis-Landau

Sound Board Operator Hannah Probst

Wardrobe Supervisor Jordan Fell\* Costume Crew Carol Lee Jenna McElroy Grace Phelan

Laundry Jordan King Running Crew
Cassidy Barrows
Luoyun Du
Cady Kwon
Gabriel Lee
Austin Payne

Special Thanks: Mattie Cardinal, Michael Dreger

## **CAST**

In order of appearance

Basilio	Andre Brown*
Clotaldo	Allen Miller III*
Servant	Peter Fedorchuk
Servant	Anaïs Gralpois
Servant/Soldier	Alana Cheshire*
Clarín	Taylor Robert Jones*

RosauraBridget McKevitt\*SegismundoAdrian Tafesh\*Guard/SoldierKyle D. OchsGuardAustin PayneAstolfoPeter SakowiczEstrellaBria Henderson\*

Time: 1635 Place: Spain

The play is performed in three acts.

The first scene is 25 years prior to the rest of the show.

The play runs about 100 minutes with two ten minute intermissions

Produced by special arrangement with the Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodsloch, Illinois. *Sueño* was originally commissioned and produced by Hartford Stage Company in Hartford, Connecticut.

<sup>\*</sup> Member of the Master of Fine Arts Program in Design

<sup>†</sup> Thesis production

<sup>\*</sup> Member of the Professional Actor Training Program

# **ABOUT JOSÉ RIVERA**

José Rivera was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1955. When he was 4, his family migrated to New York City and settled on Long Island. The son of very religious parents, he grew up in a house where the only book was the Bible. However, his family did enjoy telling stories, and he learned the basics of storytelling from these conversations. He decided at a young age - only 12 - that he wanted to write plays after seeing a touring performance of *Rumpelstiltskin* at his school. He has written several plays, including Obie-award-winner *The House of Ramon Iglesia* as well as *The Promise, Each Day Dies with Sleep, Marisol*, and *Godstuff*. He became the first Puerto Rican screenwriter to be nominated for an Oscar, for *The Motorcycle Diaries*. He currently lives in Hollywood, where he is working on a movie adaptation of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*.

# ABOUT PEDRO CALDERÓN DE LA BARCA

Born in Madrid, Spain, on January 17, 1600, Pedro Calderón de la Barca would eventually become one of Spain's most important dramatists. Along with the older playwright Lope De Vega, Calderón would dominate Spain's Golden Age of theatre. Educated at the Jesuit Colegio Imperial, Calderón studied law at the University of Alcalá (1614-15) and the University of Salamanca (1615-21), but did not earn a degree. In 1621, he entered the household of the Constable of Castille, Don Bernardino Fernández de Velasco. Two years later, in 1623, he began writing plays for the court. Aside from *Life is a Dream*, Calderón is perhaps best known for his plays of honor and revenge. These plays include *The Mayor of Zalamea*, *The Physician of his Honour, Secret Insult, Secret Vengeance*, and *The Painter of his Own Dishonour*. Calderón became a priest in 1651, but continued to write plays as the court dramatist for Philip IV. He died in Madrid on May 25, 1681.

## **DRAMATURGY NOTE**

Within our play, <code>Sueño</code>, the word 'dream' in its various forms is used 64 times. The play and its source text, Calderón's <code>La Vida es Sueño</code>, consistently engage with the question of dreams and dreaming. The idea that life may be simply a dream is definitely not one that originated with Calderón; rather, it has its roots in ancient philosophy. According to the writings of Christian theologian John Calvin, for example, the fall in the Garden of Eden led to a total corruption of everything relating to Earth and humanity. This includes sensual experience; we have limited evidence that anything we experience with our senses is objectively real. This led philosopher Descartes to work all the way down to his famous maxim 'Cogito ergo sum,' or 'I think, therefore I am', which was his response to the hypothesis that even existence itself may be an illusion. It's a nearly universal idea that reality may not be exactly what it seems.

Even then, dreams aren't always considered a malignant force. Ancient Egyptians, for example, considered dreams to be important sources of revelations from the gods. Ancient Greeks believed the healing process was accelerated by dreaming, describing it as a state of 'incubation'. Early Christian theologians, such as St. Augustine and the Patristic Fathers, believed that dreams had instructional value to achieve insights into higher mysteries, although they maintained the possibility of evil dreams being sent from the devil. Segismundo's experience of revelation within 'dreams' strikes an ambiguous middle ground between the terrifying potential of sensual distrust and the benevolent revelatory power of the dream state.

To add a final layer, in Spain at this time, there was significant concern among church officials about the threat of 'spiritual imposture,' described by Andrew Keitt as "falsifying divine favors such as supernaturally infused visions and miraculous revelations." By the end of the 17th century, this sort of reality falsification by way of the dream state was actually actively prosecuted by the Inquisition. Questions about whether these visions were fabrications or physiologically generated puzzled medical minds and Inquisition prosecutors alike. By locating the play in 17th century Spain, Rivera engages both with Calderón and the philosophical implications of dreaming that would have been part of the daily life of the time.

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Music by Duncan Sheik
Directed by Isabel Martin
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## **CONTACT US**

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**Trojan Women:** A Love Story
By Charles Mee
Jan 16 - 28

**12 Ophelias** By Caridad Svitch Feb 13 - 25

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Goldie, Max, and Milk By Karen Hartman May 23 - June 3

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