

[Inside] the Ford NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PAE Live! presents
Lonnie Carter's OBIE Award-winning play
The Romance of Magno Rubio
~ PLUS ~
the World Premiere of a New Translation into Tagalog:
Ang Romansa ni Magno Rubio

**"This is Filipino spoken word, rap, hip-hop.
We'll call it 'Manila Rap.' " – playwright Lonnie Carter**

LOS ANGELES – October 4, 2011 – The Winter Play Season at [Inside] the Ford kicks off with **Lonnie Carter's** OBIE award-winning *The Romance of Magno Rubio* in English – plus the **world premiere** of *Ang Romansa ni Magno Rubio*, a new translation into Tagalog. **PAE Live!** in association with **Good Shepherd Ambulance Company**, presents five performances each week, three in English and two in Tagalog, with both versions directed by translator **Bernardo Bernardo**. *The Romance of Magno Rubio* opens on **November 4**, and *Ang Romansa ni Magno Rubio* follows on **November 5**.

A high-energy stage adaptation of **Carlos Bulosan's** seminal short story about a love struck Filipino migrant worker in 1930s California, *The Romance of Magno Rubio* uses clever word play, rhymes, rhythms and Philippine love songs ("kundimans") to reveal the lives of migrant workers, their struggles and dreams, and their longings for home and a better life.

"The play traces the story of five different 'Manongs' (members of the first wave of immigrants who came from the Philippines to America in the 1920s and '30s)," explains executive producer **Ted Benito**. "It's a story about hope, disillusionment, betrayal and love. There are original songs, guitar playing and martial arts. But it's really a lesson in Filipino American history, and it's personal to me because my dad was a Manong. He came here in 1930 at the age of eighteen and worked the canneries in Alaska and the farmland of California, Washington and Oregon."

He continues, "There are so few plays written by or about Filipinos. Something on this scale has never been done before, to present a play in both English and Tagalog. And Bernardo has a wonderful new vision for this play that's a bit darker than previous productions have been and more in keeping with the tone of Bulosan's original story."

Agrees Bernardo, "I wanted to better balance the humor and romance with the grittier side of reality faced daily by mud-encrusted stoop laborers pursuing the American dream in the 1930s. A huge, hand-painted graffiti will be the dominant backdrop, evoking the iconic discriminatory signs posted in some American establishments in the 1930s: 'No Dogs and Filipinos Allowed.'"

Jon Jon Briones (Magno Rubio), **Antoine Diel** (Prudencio), **Elizabeth Rainey** (Clarabelle), and **Muni Zano** (narrator) each appear in both the English (E) and Tagalog (T) casts, while **Giovanni Ortega** (E) and **Frederick Edwards** (T) share the role of Nick; **Erick Esteban** (E) and **Gelo Francisco** (T) are Claro; and **Eymard Cabling** (E) and **Jet Montelibano** (T) double as Atoy.

Musical direction for *The Romance of Magno Rubio/Ang Romansa ni Magno* is by **Gelo Francisco**; choreography is by **Peter De Guzman**; fight choreography is by **Felix Roiles**; scenic design is by **Akeime Mitterlehner**; lighting design is by **Gerry Linsangan**; sound design is by **Rani de Leon**; projection design is by **John Geronillo**; costume design is by **Dori Quan**; production stage manager is **Jaclyn Kalkhurst**; associate producer is **Lorely Trinidad**; producer is **Ed Ramolete**; and executive producers are **Ted Benito** and **Paul Policarpio**.

MORE-MORE-MORE

The Romance of Magno Rubio premiered off Broadway in 2002 at New York's Ma-Yi Theatre Company where it received rave reviews and eight OBIE citations. That production subsequently traveled to the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Manila, then received its West Coast premiere at the Laguna Playhouse. Other notable productions include the Midwest debut at Victory Gardens in Chicago and the Los Angeles premiere at LATC.

Playwright Lonnie Carter has spent nearly 30 years writing plays that jump racial and ethnic boundaries. He is widely acclaimed for his hip-hop dialect and rhythms, syncopated poetry and prose, humor, pathos, and sharp social commentary. His plays include *China Calls*, *The Sovereign State of Boogedy Boogedy*, *The Gulliver Plays (Lemuel, Gulliver and Gulliver Redux)*, *Baby Glo*, *Wheatley* (the Colonial HippeHoppe story of Phillis Wheatley), *Concerto Chicago* and, most recently, *The Lost Boys of Sudan*, produced by the Tony Award-winning Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis. *The Lost Boys (and Girl) of Sudan* was produced by Victory Gardens in 2010.

Bernardo Bernardo is an award-winning actor, director, writer and educator from the Philippines. Most recently, he was director-writer-and host of *SayAwit*, a presentation of classic and contemporary Philippine choral music and excerpts from Filipino stage musicals. As a stage actor, he starred as Prudencio in the Midwest premiere of *The Romance of Magno Rubio* at Chicago's Victory Gardens, later reprising the role for the Los Angeles premiere at LATC and the Culture Project restaging at the first Asian American National Theater Festival in New York. Bernardo appeared as nostalgic merchant marine Ben Cantil in the Perseverance Theatre production of *Voyage*, a play based on the lives of four generations of Filipino immigrants in Alaska; and, as the despicable cannery foreman Conrado, in PT's world premiere musical, *The Long Season*. Recently, Bernardo appeared in *A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer*, companion piece to Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*, at the Aratani Theatre in Los Angeles. In Manila, Bernardo received the Urian Best Actor award for his role in Ishmael Bernal's much-acclaimed film *Manila by Night*.

Ted Benito inaugurated PAE Live! in 2003 with the Ovation-nominated L.A. premiere of Jason Robert Brown's *Songs for a New World* featuring Ovation award winner Jennifer Paz (of *Miss Saigon*). In 2004, he co-executive produced the L.A. premiere of Jessica Hagedorn's *Dogeaters* with S.I.P.A. (Search to Involve Pilipino Americans) and Playwrights' Arena, and in 2009 he executive produced Leslie Lewis Sword's one-woman show *Miracle in Rwanda* at LATC. Ted has produced and/or directed numerous live events and concerts for organizations including The Filipino American Library; Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches; The ABS-CBN Foundation International; and The APL Foundation; and has worked with Asian-American artists including Grammy Award winners Tia Carrere and apl.de.ap (of the Black Eyed Peas); Tony winner Lea Salonga; and Tony nominee Lou Diamond Phillips. He has twice produced Eve Ensler's *Vagina Monologues* with actresses including Tamlyn Tomita, Giselle Tongi, Leslie Ann Huff, Melody Butiu and Tatyana Ali. He directed soprano Stephanie Reese's debut concert at Carnegie Hall, and directed/co-produced the "Thousand Hearts" concert, a fundraising event for the victims of the Japan tsunami and earthquake featuring Mark Dacascos, Iron Chef Morimoto, ABDC's QuestCrew, Hiroshima and Amy Hill. In 2009, he began his association with the Ford Amphitheatre as a summer partner and has branded the "Jazzmopolitan" (featuring artists such as Greg Karukas and Michael Paulo) and "AlohaFest!" (featuring the likes of Willie K and the Brothers Cazimero) concert series there for the past three years. He served as co-producer of Jennifer Paz's debut CD "Awakening" in 2005 and currently serves as International Consultant on Lea Salonga's latest CD "The Journey So Far."

The Romance of Magno Rubio / Ang Romansa ni Magno opens on Nov. 4 and continues through Dec. 11. Performances in **English** take place on **Thursdays and Fridays @ 8pm** and **Sundays @ 3 pm**. Performances in **Tagalog** take place on **Saturdays @ 3 pm** and **8 pm**. The performance on Sunday, Dec. 4 (in English) will be signed for the hearing impaired. There is no matinee on Saturday, Nov. 5, and no performance on Thursday, Nov. 24. Tickets are **\$25**, except opening nights (Nov. 4 & 5) which are **\$34** and include a reception with the actors. Full-time students with ID are **\$12**. Two previews, on Nov. 2 (in Tagalog) and Nov. 3 (in English) @ 8 pm, are **pay-what-you-can**.

[Inside] the Ford is located in the Ford Theatres complex at **2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood, CA 90068**, just off the 101 Hollywood Freeway across from the Hollywood Bowl and south of Universal Studios. **On-site, non-stacked parking is free**. For reservations and information, call the **Ford Theatres Box Office** at **323.461.3673** (323.GO1.FORD) or go to www.FordTheatres.org.

MORE-MORE-MORE

Details for Calendar Listings

The Romance of Magno Rubio / Ang Romansa ni Magno Rubio

WHAT:

The Romance of Magno Rubio/Ang Romansa ni Magno Rubio – Lonnie Carter’s OBIE award-winning play is a high-energy stage adaptation of Filipino author Carlos Bulosan’s seminal short story about a love struck migrant worker in 1930s California. Using clever word play, rhymes, rhythms, and Philippine love songs (“kundimans”), *The Romance of Magno Rubio* reveals the lives of migrant workers, their struggles and dreams, and their longings for home and a better life. PAE Live! presents five performances each week, three in English and two in Tagalog - the **world premiere** of a new translation by renowned Filipino actor **Bernardo Bernardo**, who also directs.

WHO:

Written by **Lonnie Carter**

Based on the short story by **Carlos Bulosan**

Filipino translation by **Bernardo Bernardo**

Directed by **Bernardo Bernardo**

Presented by **PAE Live!** in association with **Good Shepherd Ambulance Company**

WHEN:

Preview: Nov. 2 (in *Tagalog*) & Nov. 3 (in *English*) @ 8 pm

Opening Nights: Nov. 4 (*English*) & Nov. 5 (*Tagalog*) @ 8 pm

Performances: Nov. 4 through Dec. 11

Thursdays @ 8 pm (*English*): Nov. 10, 17; Dec. 1, 8 (dark Nov. 24)

Fridays @ 8 pm (*English*): Nov. 4 (Open), 11, 18, 25; Dec. 2, 9

Saturdays @ 3 pm (*Tagalog*): Nov. 12, 19, 26; Dec. 3, 10 (no 3 pm matinee on Nov. 5)

Saturdays @ 8 pm (*Tagalog*): Nov. 5 (Open), 12, 19, 26; Dec. 3, 10

Sundays @ 3 pm (*English*): Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27; Dec. 4*, 11

**The performance on Sunday, Dec 4 will be signed for the hearing impaired*

WHERE:

[Inside] the Ford

2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East

Hollywood, CA 90068

(just off the 101, across the freeway from the Hollywood Bowl and south of Universal Studios)

HOW:

(323) 461-3673 (GO 1-FORD) or www.FordTheatres.org

TICKETS:

General admission: **\$25**

Opening nights: **\$34**

Seniors & full-time students with ID: **\$12**

Previews: **Pay-what-you-can**

Discounts available for groups of 8 or more

PARKING:

FREE on-site (non-stacked)

The 2011-12 Season at [Inside] the Ford is supported by
the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the Ford Theatre Foundation.

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