

DRAMATURGICAL NOTE

When playwright Carlos Murillo came across a 2005 *Vanity Fair* article about the story of a young boy who took on dozens of chat room personas in an effort to manipulate another young Internet user that he met online, he was immediately intrigued. As Murillo read the story of "John," he was less interested in the facts of the outlandish tale and more in the characters' motivations. *dark play or stories for boys* resulted from that curiosity.

In preparation for their performance, the actors featured in this U.Va. production researched additional cases of cyber bullying. These cases served as grim, real-life examples of how real humans abuse the Internet and how this abuse affects their victims. Such research gave the actors the motivation they needed to play these complex and oftentimes troubled characters.

While *dark play or stories for boys* certainly addresses modern-day concerns such as cyber bullying, Murillo admits he didn't intend to write a socially conscious play. "We obviously live in an age where the Internet and social media are creating fundamental changes in the way humans relate to one another," Murillo told me in an interview. "While there is certainly irresponsible use of the web in the play, I don't think that is the central point." Rather, Murillo set out to write a play about human relationships. Murillo further notes that while the Internet can facilitate human interactions, as it does in this play, it's not necessary. Murillo also calls *dark play* a period piece, as it was written before social media outlets like Facebook engulfed the social life of Internet users.

The Internet still played a significant role in developing *dark play or stories for boys*. While the inclusion of certain "chat speak" terms such as "u" in place of "you" are obvious examples of the Internet's influence on Murillo's script, the structure of the play also reflects the World Wide Web: scenes are repeated throughout the play, multiple characters are interjected into scenes, and the story and speech move at a quick pace. Murillo acknowledges these devices are intentional, designed to give the audience a feeling similar to someone surfing the Internet. "I wanted to create a sense of hopperscotching across time and space that one can directly experience on the web," Murillo said.

Written during Murillo's residency at the 2005 University of California Santa Barbara Summer Theatre Lab, *dark play or stories for boys* was a collaborative effort. The true story that inspired the script served Murillo and his students well as they developed the motivation behind the unbelievable schemes concocted by the play's narrator, "Nick," the equivalent of the true story's "John." And while the laptops and video projections featured in this production may captivate audience members, Murillo reminds us, "One does not need the Internet...to recognize that our identities have a certain fluidity to them."

Tom Christensen, Dramaturg

GUEST ARTIST RESIDENCY: CARLOS MURILLO

Symposium: "Poke Me: Teens, Sex and Social Media"

Thursday, March 24, 2011

4 pm

Helms Theatre

Wine and Hors d'Oeuvres Reception to follow

Tickets are free and available through the U.Va. Arts Box Office,

www.artsboxoffice.virginia.edu

In an era of the World Wide Web, texting and webcams, teenagers are encountering new and unique ways of exploring and testing the world around them. Friends and enemies are made, secret thoughts are revealed, and new identities are created all without leaving the privacy of a personal computer screen. But how is this altering our coming-of-age stories? How is this affecting our perspectives on sex and relationships? And, more importantly, how is the world adapting to this new form of 'growing up?' This symposium will conduct a moderated discussion on how social media is impacting teenagers' exploration of their own sexual expression and creating relationships with those around them. We will also delve into social media's impact on how we, as a society, are adjusting (or should adjust) to this new aspect of adolescent development.

Panelists:

Amori Mikami, U.Va. Assistant Professor of Psychology

Carlos Murillo, *dark play or stories for boys* playwright

Andrea Press, Chair, Media Studies Dept., Professor of Sociology

Dr. Tyler Fortman, post-doctoral psychology intern at the U.Va.

Center for Clinical Psychology Services

Moderators:

Tom Christensen, U.Va. Undergraduate Student, Drama and American Studies

Andrew Cronacher, U.Va. Graduate Student, M.F.A. in Acting

Post-Show Discussion

with playwright Carlos Murillo, director Marianne Kubik and cast members

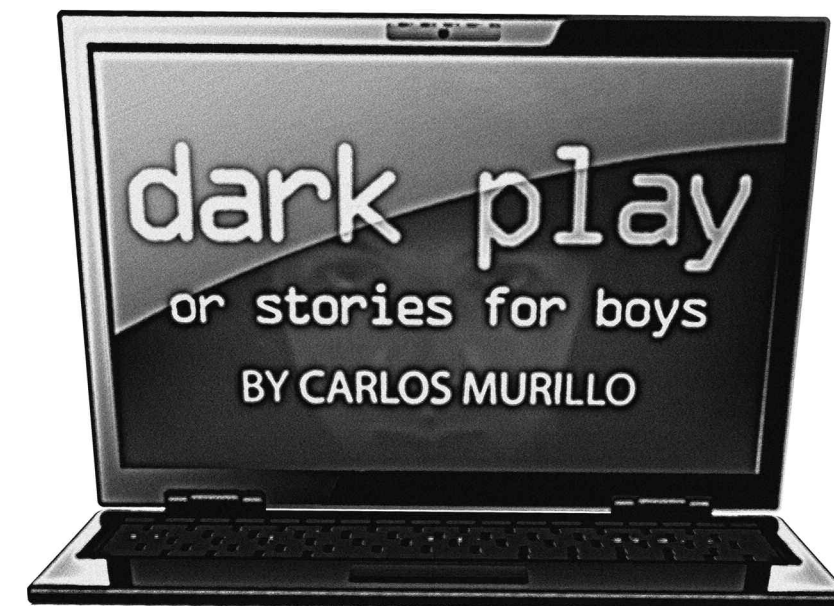
Thursday, March 24, 2011

Following the 8pm performance of *dark play or stories for boys*

Helms Theatre

The Recent Works Series is supported by the Office of the Vice Provost for the Arts and the Provost's Arts Enhancement Fund.

Additional support for Carlos Murillo's residency is provided by the Keenan Family Memorial Lecture Series.



DIRECTED BY MARIANNE KUBIK

MARCH 23-26, 2011 AT 8PM

HELMS THEATRE

 UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA
DRAMA
<http://www.virginia.edu/drama>



dark play or stories for boys

By Carlos Murillo

Directed by Marianne Kubik
Production Design by The Company
Lighting Design by Robert Eshleman
Sound Design by Wren Curtis
Media Design by Max Clevenson
Costume Design by Emily Price
Voice and Text Coaching by Kate Burke
Technical Direction by Jessica Cloutier-Plasse
Production Stage Management by Lauren Chilton

CAST

Nick Max Krembs
Adam Patrick Greco
Rachel Allyson Boate
Netizen A Kerry Keihn
Netizen B Molly Millard

SETTING

A college dorm room. An affluent town along the Southern California Coast. Cyberspace. Now. and Then.

The show will be performed without an intermission.

World Premiere in the 2007 Humana Festival of New American Plays at the Actors Theatre of Louisville.

West Coast Premiere produced by The Theatre @ Boston Court, Pasadena, California, 2007.

Media services and equipment were provided in part by the Digital Media Lab at U.Va. We give special thanks for support of this production to Jama Coartney, DML Director; Eric Seidel, IT Specialist; and Arin Bennet, A/V Specialist; with additional support from DML staff members Marc Campbell, Samuel German, Kristy Haney, John Howell, and Will Roark.

WHO'S WHO IN dark play

Allyson Boate (3rd Year Drama): A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Imaginary Invalid (U.Va. Drama); Sweeney Todd (FYP), King Lear (SotL); Footloose (LiveArts).

Kate Burke (Associate Professor, Voice, Acting)

Lauren Chilton (3rd Year Drama, Studio Art): Henry VI: The War of the Roses (SotL).

Max Clevenson (Guest Designer)

Jessica Cloutier-Plasse (3rd Year MFA Technical Direction): The Glass Menagerie, Two Gentlemen of Verona, Oklahoma! (U.Va. Drama).

Wren Curtis (4th Year Music): 43 Plays for 43 Presidents (PVCC Drama); Carrie Rose (Hamner); Othello (Four County Players).

Robert Eshleman (4th Year English, Psychology): By the Bog of Cats (U.Va. Drama); Footloose (FYP).

Patrick Greco (1st Year English)

Kerry Keihn (3rd Year Drama): Five Chairs (U.Va. Lab Series).

Max Krembs (3rd Year Drama): Footloose (FYP).

Marianne Kubik (Associate Professor, Movement, Acting)

Molly Millard (4th Year English): She Loves Me! (Spectrum Theatre).

Emily Price (3rd Year Drama): Persephone (Playwriting Society); 13, Mother Hicks (LiveArts).

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR dark play

Assistant Director Andrew Cronacher
Assistant Stage Managers Devon Dawson, Anastasia Helfin
Dramaturg Tom Christensen
Department Chair Tom Bloom
Department Technical Director Steven Warner
Scene Shop Manager David Hale
Master Carpenter Justin Smith
Carpenters Jason Benn, Patrick Derald, Christopher Dickens, Robert Eshleman, Alex Kaplan, Cathy Nakalyowa, Rachel Zucker, Students of DRAM 2210
Paint Shop Virginia Berg, Miriam Hancock, Garrett Majdic, Izzy Sazak
Costume Shop Manager Josh Bond
Costume Design Faculty Advisor Gweneth West
Master Electrician Dale Marshall
Electricians Joshua Chowdury, Kelly Crosswell, Paul Pershied, C. J. Whitaker, Andrea Yun, Students of Drama 2130
Lighting Design Faculty Advisor Lee Kennedy
Sound Shop Manager Max Krembs

Sound Crew Students of DRAM 2630
Sound Design Faculty Advisor Michael Rasbury
Business Manager James Scales
Assistant Business Manager Jenny Mays
Arts Box Office Manager Andrew Burnett
Arts Box Office Staff Nalini Agrawal, Sarah Edwards, Anna Ferrara, Stephanie Harvey, Zach Hoffman, Jessica Lasebikan, Timothy Morris, Danny Navarro, Ashleigh White
House Manager Betsy Graves
Front of House Staff Alicia Moore, Megan Tiller
Publicity Manager Matt Minnicino
Publicity Assistant Terence Fells-Danzer
Production Assistant Paul Truitt
Production Coordinator Caitlin McLeod

The Kennedy Center logo and text: The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education; Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation; The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; the Kennedy Center Corporate Fund; and the National Committee for the Performing Arts. This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels. Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.