A WORKSHOP PRESENTATION OF
SPRING ON FIRE:
A GUATEMALAN STORY

Written by EDWIN ROSALES ’17
Directed by SUZANNE AGINS

APRIL 28, 29 + MAY 3–5, 2017
MARIE AND EDWARD MATTHEWS ’53
ACTING STUDIO AT 185 NASSAU STREET

UPCOMING LEWIS CENTER EVENTS

Beautiful Girls: A Musical Playdate
An exploration of identity and queerness through acting and costume featuring the music of Stephen Sondheim. Directed by faculty member Elena Araoz.
May 11, 12, 14 • 8:00 p.m.
May 13 • 2:00 p.m.
Marie & Edward Matthews ’53 Acting Studio
SPRING ON FIRE: A GUATEMALAN STORY

Written by Edwin Rosales ’17

CAST
Francisco ................................................................. Sergio Cruz ’18
The Figure ......................................................... Joshua Dolphin ’17/ Nathan Phan ’19
Itzel ........................................................................ Ugonna Nwabueze ’18*
Sister Isabella .......................................................... India Rogers-Shepp ’18
Maria ........................................................................... Feyisola Soetan ’19*
Christiana/Grandmother Moon .............................. Jasmine Wang ’18
Tomas ............................................................................. Jay Wilson ’17

PRODUCTION TEAM
Director ........................................................................ Suzanne Agins
Costume Consultant ...................................................... Wesley Cornwell
Lighting Designer ........................................................... Maria Cristina Fuste
Stage Manager ............................................................. Delaney Carlson ’19
Assistant Director ........................................................... Miles Carey ’18*
Assistant Stage Manager ............................................... Jonah Hyman ’20
Run Crew ..................................................................... Raye Kessler ’18*
Stage Directions Reader ............................................... Kathy Zhao ’17*
Faculty Advisors ......................................................... R.N. Sandberg, Brian Herrera

Set in Guatemala, 1982

Run time approximately 95 minutes with no intermission

Graphic language may not be suitable for younger children.

Please turn off all electronic devices including cellular phones, beepers and watches for the duration of the performance. Please refrain from text messaging during the performance. The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

SPECIAL THANKS
Program in Latin American Studies, Office of the Dean of the College, Class of ’55 Fund, Department of English, Blanca Camacho, Gisela Chipe, Thomas Jankovic, Bobby Moreno, Rocky Vega, Perry Young

A NOTE FROM EDWIN:

“A piece of land, with trees, mountains and a beautiful cistern of water, The most beautiful place in the world, where only the birds and the animals live, Houses of adobe and straw here and there. But the day came…the bullets that killed its people one by one. The children, the elders, watched the late afternoon, watched the sun Hide with tears in its eyes. Thinking of where to go, of taking refuge out of fear, Of the brothers with a rifle in hand without knowing, what will happen tomorrow?”

- Nan Pix Pix by Rigoberta Gonzalez Sul, Olga Mercedes Aícolon Tuis, Alma Temaj

I emigrated from Guatemala when I was seven years old. I still have vivid and beautiful memories of my early childhood there, but because it took me thirteen years to go back to Guatemala, I always felt disconnected from my culture. How could I call myself Guatemalan when I knew so little about my country’s history, remembered so little of my people, rarely visited? Thanks to the generosity of the A. Scott Berg ’71 Fellowship my junior year, I was able to return to my home country for the first time since I left, and my life and my writing was changed.

Like the poem above beautifully reflects, Guatemala is a gorgeous and culturally rich country with an unfortunate, violent history. The Guatemalan Civil War spanned over thirty years, starting in 1960, with a peace accord signed in 1996. Over those thirty years, the country lost hundreds of thousands of lives, from the Indigenous Maya people living high in the mountains, to people “disappeared” in the capital, to soldiers from both the guerilla and the national army killing each other. The tragic consequences from the civil war are still felt by many people today. On my second trip back, I spoke with countless people who carried great pain from the war, and though the country is in “peace,” it is still bleeding from its wounds.

This play sheds light on the year 1982, when the Guatemalan government carried out a genocide against the Maya region in the highlands of Guatemala. Over 600 villages were occupied, invaded, and then massacred over the span of two years. Not many know about the horrors that occurred in Guatemala during the civil war, especially in that year. My only hope is that this play brings to light voices that were lost during that time, and that our eyes look closer to places today where voices continue to be lost to violence.

Gracias a mi querida familia, especially to Mami, who signed me up for community theater classes when we first came here. To Bob, for asking the right questions at the right time, and believing in my stories since the first day of your class. To Brian and Monica, for your support and mentorship. To Jane and the Lewis Center for giving this story a home. To Feyisola, India, Jasmine, Jay, Ugonna and Sergio, for living in these characters and telling their stories so beautifully, and to Miles, Delaney and Jonah, for generously supporting us and being one step ahead in the room. To Suzie, for being there for every moment in this journey - this story would have come undone without you. Thank you.