

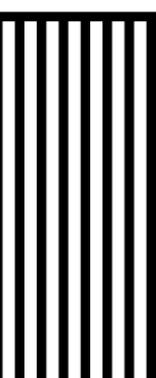


GUADALUPE IN THE GUEST ROOM

BY TONY MENESES



DRAMATISTS
PLAY SERVICE
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GUADALUPE IN THE GUEST ROOM

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Dedicated to Lupe Ontiveros, and the 150 maids she played.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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y mi mami.

GUADALUPE IN THE GUEST ROOM was presented by Two River Theater (John Dias, Artistic Director; Michael Hurst, Managing Director) at the Marion Huber Theater in Red Bank, New Jersey, opening on February 14, 2015. It was directed by Daniella Topol; the set design was by Marion Williams; the costume design was by Karen Perry; the lighting design was by Jiyoun Chang; and the sound design was by Jane Shaw. The cast was as follows:

GUADALUPE Socorro Santiago
STEVE Charles Socarides
RAQUEL Deonna Bouye
ROBERTO Alfredo Huereca

CHARACTERS

GUADALUPE, 50s/60s. Latina.

STEVE, Late 20s/30s. White.

RAQUEL, Late 20s/30s. Black or Asian.

ROBERTO, 50s/60s. Latino.

The actress playing Raquel also plays CLAUDIA and AURELIA.

The actor playing Roberto also plays JOSE FERNANDO and BERNARDO (except where indicated otherwise).

GUADALUPE IN THE GUEST ROOM

Scene 1

In the living room. There are several notebooks and loose pages on the coffee table. Raquel works at her laptop. Guadalupe sits nearby. Then, suddenly:

GUADALUPE. Do you believe in God? (*Raquel looks up from her laptop. Oh no.*) Is that no?

RAQUEL. I, uh, haven't given it much thought.

GUADALUPE. I have, Lord knows. (*Chuckles at that.*) Yes, Lord knows. The hours I've given Him, the years. A lifetime of prayers and rosaries, patron saint candles burning into the night. And all to show Him, I *know* that You're there. But today something strange happened. I rejected Him. All because of an avocado.

RAQUEL. What do you mean?

GUADALUPE. I'm sure it's been hundreds, thousands of avocados that have gone through my hands, and there has never been a seed I couldn't remove. But this morning over breakfast, I met my match. The most resolute avocado seed in the world. Nothing I did could get the damn thing out, tried every trick I could think of! And in my frustration the name of God passed through my lips, and I suddenly thought, *no*.

RAQUEL. No?

GUADALUPE. I told God never mind. That I did not need Him. You know I'd asked so much of Him lately — maybe even too much — I had to do this on my own. And I did. I drove my knife in once more and the seed came popping out. *I* did it. God had nothing to do with it.

RAQUEL. You didn't ask for too much. I doubt that's true.

GUADALUPE. What if I have gone over my limit though? My fair share of prayers answered. He's always been there for me when I've asked — when Claudia was born, when we first moved to this country, when her father suddenly passed, when she moved away from home, when I decided to move back to Mexico. I don't think He's ever gotten a second off. What if I did exhaust Him? What if that's why He couldn't, in the end —

RAQUEL. Couldn't?

GUADALUPE. Save her. I suppose only He knows the answer to that for sure. (*Looks down at the table.*)

RAQUEL. Should we stop for the day? Guadalupe?

GUADALUPE. Hm what?

RAQUEL. Should we stop?

GUADALUPE. Oh no, I wouldn't dream of it.

RAQUEL. You sure?

GUADALUPE. (*Nods.*) Where are we at right now? (*Steve enters, stops, looks at them both.*)

STEVE. So-ee, ih meh oo introopuh. [Sorry, didn't mean to interrupt.]

RAQUEL. Oh oor feh. [Oh, you're fine.]

STEVE. Jih go-eh teh meh eh sandwich. [Just going to make a sandwich.] (*He and Guadalupe meet eyes, he points to the kitchen.*)

Sandwich. (*He smiles, passes through.*)

RAQUEL. He's going to —

GUADALUPE. Sandwich. Right. So where were we?

RAQUEL. (*Looks at her screen.*) Uh, chapter 2. The boy had just *swallowed* the goldfish.

GUADALUPE. Right. It's the goldfish that then swam around in his stomach till they both became old men.

RAQUEL. (*Picks up a drawing of a goldfish.*) She even drew it a little gray beard, the fish.

GUADALUPE. It's about the two of them, the boy and the fish in his belly, the story is about their friendship in the end. I think.

RAQUEL. Hmh. "How the Old Man Became an Aquarium." Is that the right word? *Aquarium*?

GUADALUPE. It's aquarium, yes.

RAQUEL. Oh good. I swear I've been learning more this past month than I did in 4 years of college and a semester abroad.

GUADALUPE. You studied abroad? Where?

RAQUEL. Costa Rica.

GUADALUPE IN THE GUEST ROOM

by Tony Meneses

2M, 2W (doubling)

GUADALUPE IN THE GUEST ROOM tells the story of two people — with nothing in common but a shared grief — who bond in the most unexpected ways. Written by the rising playwright Tony Meneses, the play is a deeply moving and very funny celebration of life, new beginnings, and the healing power of telenovelas.

“Touching ... The telenovela’s episodes that intermittently spring to life on stage ... lend some welcome humor to a melancholy drama and ultimately bring about the play’s tender resolution.” —**The New York Times**

“In GUADALUPE IN THE GUEST ROOM, communication about loss and renewal goes beyond mere words. ... Meneses conveys emotional truths that are difficult to articulate, whether through Claudia’s quirky, fantastical stories or through wordless exchanges that range from violent to compassionate. ... GUADALUPE makes it clear that his is a distinctive voice worthy of attention.” —**New Jersey Star-Ledger**

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