

# GLOSSARY

**El Cuco** - a mythical ghost-monster, equivalent to the bogeyman

**Hatuey** - was a Taíno chief from the island of Hispaniola who lived in the early sixteenth century. He has attained legendary status for leading a group of natives in a fight against the invading Spaniards, and thus becoming the first fighter against colonialism in the New World. He is celebrated as “Cuba’s First National Hero”

**Maceo** - Lt. General José Antonio de la Caridad Maceo y Grajales (June 14, 1845 – December 7, 1896) was second-in-command of the Cuban Army of Independence. Spaniards referred to Maceo as the “Greater Lion”

**USS Maine** - The Maine is best known for her catastrophic loss in Havana Harbor on the evening of 15 February 1898. Sent to protect U.S. interests during the Cuban revolt against Spain, she exploded suddenly without warning and sank quickly, killing nearly three quarters of her crew. The cause and responsibility for her sinking remained unclear after a board of inquiry. Nevertheless, popular opinion in the U.S., fanned by inflammatory articles printed in the “Yellow Press” by William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer, blamed Spain. The phrase “Remember the Maine, to Hell with Spain!” became a rallying cry for action, which came with the Spanish-American War later that year.

**Martí** - José Julián Martí Pérez (January 28, 1853 – May 19, 1895) is the Cuban national hero and an important figure in Latin American literature. In his short life he was a poet, an essayist, a journalist, a revolutionary philosopher, a translator, a professor, a publisher, and a political theorist.

**Old Clothes** - Ropa vieja is shredded beef dish (usually flank) simmered in tomato-based criollo sauce until it falls apart. Ropa Vieja is the Spanish name meaning “old clothes”, in which the dish gets its name from the shredded meat resembling “old clothes”.

**Weyler (The Butcher)** - Don Valeriano Weyler y Nicolau, Marquis of Tenerife, Duke of Rubí, Grandee of Spain, (September 17, 1838 – October 20, 1930) was a Spanish general, and Governor General of the Philippines and Cuba. He was famous for his Reconcentración policy which was the first of the similar acts known today as internment.

SPANIARDS SEARCH WOMEN ON AMERICAN STEAMERS



**Yellow Journalism** - or the yellow press, is a type of journalism that presents little or no legitimate well-researched news and instead uses eye-catching headlines to sell more newspapers. Techniques may include exaggerations of news events, scandal-mongering, or sensationalism. The term originated during the American Gilded Age of the late nineteenth century with the circulation battles between Joseph Pulitzer’s New York World and William Randolph Hearst’s New York Journal. Pulitzer and Hearst are often adduced as the cause of the United States’ entry into the Spanish-American War due to sensationalist stories or exaggerations of the terrible conditions in Cuba.

NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE  
 David Ellenstein  
 Artistic Director

Bill Kerlin  
 Managing Director

presents

# Becoming CUBA

by Melinda Lopez

directed by David Ellenstein

Scenic Designer:  
**Marty Burnett**

Lighting Designer:  
**Matthew Novotny**

Costume Designer:  
**Alina Bokovikova**

Sound Designer:  
**Melanie Chen**

Props & Set Dressing:  
**Angelica Ynfante**

Wig & Hair Design:  
**Peter Herman**

Stage Manager:  
**Rosalee Barrientos\***

Production Manager:  
**Jason Nall**

Associate Production Manager:  
**Ryan Ford**

Assistant Stage Manager:  
**Sylvia Trinh**

L.A. Casting Director:  
**Amy Lieberman**

Scenic Artist:  
**John Finkbiner**

## CAST

Chucho ..... Aaron Acosta, David Coffey  
 Davis..... Richard Baird\*  
 Martina..... Maritxell Carrero\*  
 Adela..... Eileen Faxas\*  
 Manny..... Steven Lone  
 Fancy ..... Catalina Maynard\*  
 Isidore..... Mark Pinter\*

Place: Havana, Cuba  
 Time: Winter, 1897-1898

There will be one 15 minute intermission.

*This production has been made possible by  
 the generosity of Jenie & Vin Altruda*



Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org)

\*The actor or stage manager appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States

# Profiles



**Melinda Lopez** (Playwright) Melinda Lopez is an award winning playwright and actress. Her plays include *Sonia Flew* (Huntington Theatre), *Midnight Sandwich/Medianoche* (Coconut Grove Playhouse), *Alexandros* (Laguna Playhouse), *Gary* (Steppenwolf First Look.), *Caroline in Jersey* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), and *Orchids to Octopi* (Central Square Theatre). She has served as a panel member for the NEA, and has enjoyed residencies with Sundance, the Lark, New York Theatre Workshop and Harvard University. She is a recipient of the Charlotte Woolard Award, given by the Kennedy Center to ‘a promising voice in American Theatre.’ She teaches theatre and performance at Wellesley College, playwriting at Boston University, and is currently the playwright in residence at the Huntington Theatre Company. Melinda makes her home in Boston.

*This artist sponsored by Dori Patterson.*



**David Ellenstein** (Director)  
See David’s complete bio on page 29.

*This artist sponsored by Marilyn & Lou Tedesco.*



**Aaron Acosta** (Chucho) Theatre: *Becoming Cuba* is Aaron’s 6th equity production and his second world premiere. He was in the original cast of the Broadway musical *Chaplin* (formally *Limelight*) when it premiered at the La Jolla Playhouse in 2010. In *Chaplin*, Aaron shared the stage with Rob McClure in the title role that ultimately earned Mr. McClure a 2013 Tony Award nomination.

Aaron was most recently seen at the Old Globe Theatre where he played Danny Who in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. He is the recipient of a 2008 National Youth Theatre Award for his portrayal of Gavroche in the musical *Les Miserables*. Film: Aaron recently completed principal photography for the feature film *Slingers* where he plays the lead role of Bradley. Music: Earlier this year, Aaron traveled to Miami where he recorded two Latin songs produced by Grammy Award winning producer

# Profiles

Chino Nunez. Both songs and their music videos will be released this summer.

*This artist sponsored by Dave & Heidi Hodges.*



**Richard Baird\*** (Davis) is thrilled to return to NCRT where he has played Gus in *The Dumb Waiter*, Tom in *This*, Oswald Alving in *Ghosts*, Tajomaru in *Rashomon*, Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*, Valentine in *Arcadia* and many more. His regional credits include Nils Krogstad in *A Doll’s House* at the Old Globe Theater, Oberon and Theseus in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Portland Center Stage), The Prince of Wales in *The Madness of George III* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), the title role in *Macbeth* and Leontes in *The Winter’s Tale* (Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival) and productions at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare Santa Cruz and Diversionary Theatre. Baird served as Associate Artistic Director of Southwest Shakespeare Company where he played the title roles of *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *Tartuffe*, Iago in *Othello*, Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Bassanio in *The Merchant of Venice* and Leontes in *The Winter’s Tale*. In San Diego, Baird formed the award-winning Shakespeare troupe Poor Players, for whom he has acted and directed in over 20 productions. His favorites include the title roles in *Hamlet*, *Macbeth* and *Coriolanus*, Angelo in *Measure for Measure* (2004 San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Award), Malvolio in *Twelfth Night* and Hotspur in *Henry IV, Part I*. Mr. Baird is a proud member of Actors’ Equity.

*This artist sponsored by Dr. Marianne McDonald.*



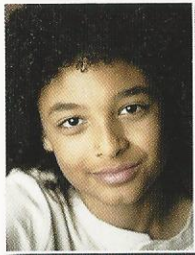
**Maritxell Carrero\*** (Martina) Maritxell is honored to be part of the North Coast Rep family and for the opportunity of bringing to life Melinda Lopez’s Martina. She began to perform at the age of 14 around her loved Island of Puerto Rico, South America and the Caribbean as part of a Traveling Theater Troupe dedicated to professional and community theater. She is a proud alumni of University of California-San Diego’s MFA Theater Program and grateful to be back in San Diego. She has been seen in Spanish TV shows: “Las dos Caras de Ana”, “Dame Chocolate”, “Bajo las riendas del Amor” and “Acorralada”. She later starred as “Senorita Reflejos” in Latin Multimedia Corporation’s episodic for kids “Dos y Dos”. Credits include: *The*

*Continued ►*

# Profiles

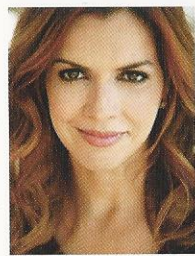
*Physicists, The House of Bernarda Alba, Danton's Death* (UCSD), She incarnated the role of Patrice in the first production of *Bureau of Missing Persons* and Violet in *Picked* at the Baldwin's New Play Festival. She was also part of La Jolla Playhouse's Production of *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Last seen on stage as Lydia at the Matrix Theater in Los Angeles production of *All My Sons* nominated for The Stage Scene LA and Ovation awards and winner of the 2012 NAACP Best Ensemble award. Proud member of AEA. [www.maritxellcarrero.com](http://www.maritxellcarrero.com)

**This artist sponsored by DMY Studio.**



**David Coffey** (Chucho) David is 12 years old and is making his North Coast Rep debut in *Becoming Cuba*. He began acting and singing one year ago. David recently completed the role of Pasko in San Diego Junior Theatre's highly acclaimed production of *A Little Princess* directed by Desha Crownover. He also performed the lead role of Milo in SDJT's *The Phantom Tollbooth*, Dad in *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*, Jay Bird in *Honk!* and was a performer in this year's second annual JT Honors. David is featured in the television series, *Haven's Light*, produced by Turning Point television studios. David is excited and honored to be part of this amazing cast and premiere stage production of *Becoming Cuba!*

**This artist sponsored by Dave & Heidi Hodges.**



**Eileen Faxas\*** (Adela) is honored to be originating this world premiere work of art by Melinda Lopez. Eileen was last in San Diego on the Broadway tour of *Mamma Mia!* Other interesting roles & shows include *The Drowsy Chaperone*, the Wicked Witch in *Oz*, Off-Broadway's *Hereafter Musical*, FOX's *The Following* and actual TV Journalist! Eileen is a 3-time Emmy Award winner for her work in her former life as a reporter. She'll play a reporter in the new Jason Reitman Film, *Labor Day*, coming this Fall. Eileen invites you to visit [EileenFaxas.com](http://EileenFaxas.com) & enjoy her videos, songs, and musings. Dedicado a mi pueblo...and for all who yearn to breathe free. VCL.

**This artist sponsored by Martin & Dr. Cynthia Davis**

# Profiles



**Steven Lone** (Manny) North Coast Repertory Theatre: Debut. Regional: *Zoot Suit, Boom* (San Diego Repertory Theatre); *Recipe for Disaster, Frida Libre* (La Jolla Playhouse); *References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot, The Listener* (Moxie Theatre); *Blasted, Jack Goes Boating, Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue, All In The Timing, La Gaviota, Punks, Glass Menagerie, Grapes of Wrath* (ion theatre company); *Bent, No Exit* (Diversionary Theatre); *The Vortex* (Cygnet Theatre); *Gam3rs* (10th Ave. Theatre); *Marat/Sade, As You Like It* (UCSD Theatre); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Calaveras Repertory Theatre); *Mrs. Warren's Profession* (Pear Ave. Theatre); *West Side Story, On The Town* (Foothill Theatre).

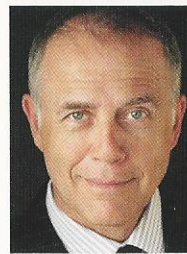
**This artist sponsored by Tina Simner.**



**Catalina Maynard\*** (Fancy) North Coast REP: Debut, *Becoming Cuba\**, Regional Theatre: Arizona Theatre Co., *The Glass Menagerie*; The Mark Taper Forum; *Lydia, Electricidad*; Yale REP and The Denver Center, *Lydia\**; TheaterWorks, *Living Out*; The Children's Theatre Co. Minneapolis, *Esperanza Rising\**; PCPA, *Anna in the Tropics, Much Ado about Nothing, Imaginary Invalid, The Heart's Desire\*, Sylvia, Invierno\**; East LA Classic Theatre, *Romeo and Juliet*; Teatro Campesino, *Confessions of Women from East LA\**. San Diego Theatre: ion Theatre (company member), *Little Flower of East Orange, Julia\** (Craig Noel Award 2012), *Angels in America* (Craig Noel Award 2011), *La Gaviota\**; San Diego Repertory Theatre, *Zoot Suit, Mummified Deer\*, Nuevo California\*, Marriage is Forever\*, A Quiet Love\*, A Streetcar Named Desire, Hamlet, Burning Dreams\**. TV: *The Closer* FILM: *The Big Deal*. Proud member of AEA.

\*World Premiere

**This artist sponsored by Julia & Eric Querin.**



**Mark Pinter\*** (Isidore) North Coast Repertory: *The Lover, The Lion in Winter, Becky's New Car*, Off-Broadway: *My Sweetheart's the Man in the Moon/Hypothetical Theatre Company, Three on the Couch/Soho Rep*. Regional: *Zoot Suit, Clybourne Park, Federal Jazz Project* for San Diego Rep, *The Price/Northern Stage, Follies/Little Theatre on the Square, Book of Days/Arena Stage, The Sound of Music/Syracuse Stage, Hamlet/Old Globe, Charley's*

*Aunt/Carter Center Stage, Equus, Black Comedy, Shadow Box/Arizona Theatre Company, Victor/Victoria/North Shore Music Theatre, Hello! Dolly/Bucks County Playhouse, Television: NCIS: Los Angeles, Law and Order, SVU and CI, and long running roles on All My Children and Another World. Film: Other People's Money, Eden Myth, Season of Youth, Vanilla Sky and the short, Play. MFA/Hilberry Theatre. Proud member of AEA.*

*This artist sponsored by Arthur & Molli Wagner.*

### The Design Team

**Marty Burnett** (Scenic Design) Marty has designed for North Coast Rep for the last 145 shows. Mr. Burnett has designed sets for the Union Plaza, Sahara, and Hacienda Hotels and Casinos in Las Vegas; Harrah's Lake Tahoe; The Claridge Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, NJ; The Grand Hotel in Anaheim; and The Drury Lane in Chicago. Mr. Burnett is the resident designer and technical director at North Coast Rep.

**Matt Novotny** (Light Design) Matthew recently designed the lighting for *The Odd Couple, Time Stands Still, Educating Rita, The Underpants, Dames at Sea, Two by Pinter: The Lover and The Dumb Waiter, THIS, Visiting Mister Green, Lend Me A Tenor, Five Course Love, My Name is Asher Lev, King O' the Moon, Ghosts, Glorious, I Love You Because, Old Wicked Songs, Rabbit Hole, Shipwrecked!, The Dresser, Don't Dress for Dinner, Mornings at Seven, Baby and Rashomon* at North Coast Rep. He's currently the Director of Production for Lyric Opera San Diego. Lighting designs include: *Iolanthe, The Merry Widow, The King and I, Countess Maritza, and The Mikado.* San Diego: *Das Barbecu, The Wiz, West Side Story and Rumors.* Regional: *Yankee Doodle Dandy (Seattle), Noises Off! (Boston), The Game, (Washington DC) and Primal Twang,* a guitar concert featuring six Grammy-winning artists. Matthew holds a BA in Technical Theatre from San Diego State University, and an MFA from Boston University.

**Alina Bokovikova** (Costume Design) Alina is thrilled to work with this great theatre again. Her last credits include: *The Odd Couple, The Underpants, THIS, Henry IV (North Coast Rep) The Man His Wife and His Hat (Moxie Theatre), A Raisin in the Sun (Moxie), Les Noces (ballet), The Great American Trailer Park Musical (SD Rep), Hedda*

Continued ►

*Gabler, Joe Turner's Come and Gone, Stereoblind (Dance film), Phantom Band, Camino Real (Patté Award), Beehive the Musical, Good Doctor, La Traviatta.* Alina has a MFA in Costume Design from UC San Diego and Masters Degree in Education from Russia, so teaching theatre is one of her favorite activities. She is an instructor for Costume Design at UC San Diego and for History of Costume at FIDM.

**Melanie Chen** (Sound Design) Melanie is thrilled to be working with North Coast Rep! She is a 2nd year MFA Candidate for Sound Design at UC San Diego. She has worked extensively with ion theatre company in downtown Hillcrest. Select ion theatre company credits: *Grey Gardens, Punk Rock, The Little Flower of East Orange, Blasted (Craig Noel Award 2012 nomination), Angels in America (Craig Noel Award 2011);* Select UC San Diego credits: *Tonight We Improvise, In the Red and Brown Water, Hookman, Salamander Leviathan.*

**Angelica Ynfante** (Props and Set Dressing) Angelica is a Texas State University graduate with a BFA in theatre. She made her way around the US and Mexico for five years working in Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Vermont, New York, Tennessee, Kentucky and Cancun until she made it to sunny California where she is currently the props mistress with San Diego Rep for the 5th season. She is the props mistress for Scripts Ranch for 2 seasons, Cygnet theatres props designer this season and has worked with moxie as a props designer and or a technical director for almost 3 seasons, this is the first show that she has worked at North Coast Repertory theatre.

### The Crew

**Rosalee Barrientos\*** (Stage Manager) NCRT credits include *Time Stands Still, Fuddy Meers, As Bees in Honey Drown, First Night, Moon Over Buffalo, The Rivals, The Diary of Anne Frank, and Arcadia.* Theater credits: *Parade, It's A Wonderful Life: A Radio Play (2007, 2009, 2011), The Glass Menagerie, Our Town, The Tragedy of the Commons, The Norman Conquests trilogy, Sweeney Todd, Noises Off, A Christmas Carol, The Receptionist, A Number, Turn of the Screw, Arcadia, Desire Under the Elms, Yellowman, Copenhagen, Biedermann and the Firebugs, The Invention of Love, A Cat On a Hot Tin Roof, Pageant, and Bed and Sofa 2004 (Cygnet Theatre); Redwood Curtain (Asian American Repertory Theatre); Master Class (Alpine Theatre Project); A Dream Play, Macbeth, Nu, [sic], Berzerkergäng, and*

Continued ►

# Profiles

*The Universal Monster Show* (Sledgehammer Theatre). Ross holds a BA in Theatre Arts from San Diego State University and has been a proud member of Actors' Equity Association since 2008.

*This artist sponsored by Jeffrey Strauss.*

**Sylvia Trinh** (Assistant Stage Manager) This is Sylvia's return to NCR after working on *Educating Rita* earlier this season and she is happy to be back! Sylvia's most recent work: MOXIE Theatre's *References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot* (ASM), La Jolla Playhouse's staged reading of *Being Henrietta* (PSM), and *John Doe the Musical* (ASM). Ion Theatre Credits: *The Mystery Plays* (PSM); *Angels in America* (ASM), a recognized production within the San Diego Critic's Circle 2011. UCSD Credits: Finesse Dance Showcase 2012 (PSM), *Being Henrietta - Staged Reading* (PSM), *Bodies in the Park - BNPF 2011* (PSM), *The Threepenny Opera* (PA). Other Credits: *TedxSemesterAtSea - Morocco* (PSM) She earned her Bachelor Degree in Communications and minored in Theatre at the University of California, San Diego. Love to family and friends and mentors near and far!

**Jason Nall** (Production Manager) Jason is in his first season with North Coast Rep. Previously, he was production manager with The Cutting Ball Theatre, where he worked on their award-winning *Pelleas and Melisande*, *Tontlawald*, and *Tenderloin*, a documentary piece of the famous San Francisco neighborhood. He also served as PM for Crowded Fire Theatre Company (*Exit; Pursued by a Bear; Songs of the Dragon Flying to Heaven; The Secretaries*), Box Car Theatre (*Clue*), and Lamplighters Music Theatre (*Pirates of Penzance, Iolanthe, Mikado*). He is also an AEA stage manager, working for San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera Program, The Magic Theatre, and Berkeley Playhouse. He has also participated in several new works, including Cybil Shepherd's one-woman show *Curvy Widow*, Lou Harrison's *Young Caesar* with Ensemble Parallèle, and Mark Foeringer *Dance Project's Bitter Fruit*. Originally from Claremont, CA, he has a BA in Criminology from UC Irvine.

**Ryan Ford** (Associate Production Manager) Ryan is thrilled to be on staff here at NCRT as the Associate Production Manager. Previous works at NCRT include: as a sound mixer; *Dames at Sea, Honky Tonk Angels*, and *Back to Bacharach* and *David*; as ASM or PA; *Dracula, String of Pearls, Madagascar, A Shayna Maidel, Tuesdays with Morrie*, and *Leading Ladies*. Around San Diego, Ryan has worked as a stage manager at several theatre

Continued ►

# Profiles

companies including Moxie, ion, Diversionary, Cygnet, Playwrights Project, and San Diego Rep. Favorite productions include *Twist* (Diversionary), *A Hammer A Bell* and *A Song to Sing* (SDRep), and *Angels in America* (ion). Ryan holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts from UCSD.

**John Finkbiner** (Scenic Artist) John has been a member of the NCR staff for nearly three years. His favorite shows are *Halpern and Johnson, SHIPWRECKED!*, *The Dresser* and *Jacques Brel*. John received his BA degree at UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television in 1991. John is also an accomplished singer/songwriter and performs with his band, the Stereotypes. His music has been featured on Showtime's "*Californication*", Fox's "*Bones*" and NBC's "*Knight Rider*", among others. John lives with his wife Judi and his son John Gibson in Leucadia.

Rehearsal Assistant: **Vanessa Thomas**

North Coast REP thanks Union Bank



**UnionBank**

for sponsoring our actor & audience talkback

*"Insight into the Arts"*

on

Friday, June 7th, 2013  
following the performance