



COLORADO SPRINGS

# Fine Arts Center

at COLORADO COLLEGE

[COLORADOCOLLEGE.EDU/FAC](http://coloradocollege.edu/fac)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## ***Anna in the Tropics*, Winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, Hits the FAC's Mainstage**

*Colorado Springs (January 8, 2019)* — The Fine Arts Center Theatre Company is excited to present the regional premiere of *Anna in the Tropics* by Nilo Cruz, Feb. 7-24, 2019, directed by Rebecca Martinez.

*"This play is born from the history and traditions of intertwined cultures. When we leave behind one country and make our home in another, what do we hold on to? What do we let go of? How do we use traditions as an intercessor to connect with our own history? How do we embrace what is new? As a Xicana artist with roots that run deep in Colorado and New Mexico, I am fascinated by these questions at the core of this Cuban-American family story." — Director Rebecca Martinez*

Nilo Cruz's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Anna in the Tropics* takes place in Ybor City, Florida in 1929. Here, a Cuban-American family eagerly awaits the arrival of their new lector, Juan Julian. In a cigar factory owned by the Patriarch of the family, Santiago, Juan Julian is hired to read to the family during their long days of rolling cigars by hand. Most of the family is overjoyed by the presence of a new lector, but when he starts reading from the Russian classic, *Anna Karenina*, the scandalous lives of Tolstoy's characters start to intertwine with the lives of his listeners. As Juan Julian reads, the hot, humid Florida summer starts to resemble the cold Russian winter of the story. Infidelity, money problems, and violence spring to the surface as the family members grapple with their newfound understanding of life and relationships. Conchita, Santiago's daughter, confronts her husband, Palomo, about his extramarital affairs, and Palomo becomes aware of a budding relationship between his wife and Juan Julian. Cheche, Santiago's half-brother, tries to take over the factory, and Santiago has to admit to his wife that he is neck-deep in gambling debt. Instead of discovering the love and acceptance they seek, the family is met with tragedy in the end, just as in the story of *Anna Karenina*.

*"The words of Nilo Cruz waft from a stage like a scented breeze. They sparkle and prickle and swirl, enveloping those who listen in both a specific place and time—and in timeless passions that touch us all ..."* —Miami Herald

The cast includes Nicholas Ortiz, Felipe Gorostiza, Elise Santora, Maria Peyramaure, Ashley Alvarez, Alex Perez, and A.B. Lugo with scenic design by Raul Abrego, lighting design by Maria-Cristina Fuste, costume design by Courtney Flores, choreography by Alex Perez, music composed by Ryan Bañagale, and stage managed by Kate Ferdinandi.

### ***Anna in the Tropics***

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**When:** Feb. 7-24; times vary, check website for details

**Where:** Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, 30 W. Dale St.

**Tickets:** Starting at \$20; Students can purchase rush tickets 1 hour before the performance at

the FAC front desk for \$15 (Colorado College students receive FREE rush tickets). Tickets subject to availability; must purchase in person; CC students must present a CC Gold Card.

**More:** Ticketholders for any performance are invited to a FREE guided backstage tour following the Feb. 21 performance and a FREE talkback session following the Feb. 24 performance.

**Special offer:** Theatre patrons receive FREE admission to the FAC museum on the day of their ticketed performance.

**Plus:** Pre-theatre dining options are available. View menus online; reservations: (719) 634-5583

### **Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College**

The story of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) begins with the founding of the Broadmoor Art Academy by Julie and Spencer Penrose in 1919. For 100 years, 30 West Dale Street has been the hub of rich cultural history throughout the region. The Broadmoor Art Academy served as a pillar in the cultural community of the Rocky Mountain West. During the Great Depression, three dedicated philanthropists – Julie Penrose, Alice Bemis Taylor, and Elizabeth Sage Hare – envisioned expanding the Broadmoor Art Academy into an entire arts district under one roof – ultimately evolving into what is known today as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. The FAC is deeply rooted in the legacy of its founders, who possessed bold visions, a deep passion for the arts, and dedication to the Colorado Springs community. The FAC honors this legacy and spirit today by providing innovative, educational, and multidisciplinary arts experiences designed to elevate the individual spirit and inspire community vitality, building on its history as a unique cultural pillar of the Pikes Peak region. For more information, visit [www.coloradocollege.edu/fac](http://www.coloradocollege.edu/fac).

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