PHOTOS: PLAYWRIGHT LONNIE CARTER TALKS TRIM, THE TIGER WOODS WHAT IF STORY, THE ROMA...

Posted by Lia Chang on Friday, 02 December 2011.



L to R: Gelo Francisco, Jon Jon Briones, Antoine Reynaldo Diel, Jet Montalibano
Photo by Hydee Abrahan/Studio1003

A critically acclaimed production of Lonnie Carter's OBIE award-winning*The Romance of Magno Rubio* is currently playing through December 11, 2011 at [Inside] the Ford in Hollywood, in rep with the world premiere of*Ang Romansa ni Magno Rubio*, a new translation in Tagalog, with five performances each week, three in English and two in Tagalog. The productions of *The Romance of Magno Rubio / Ang Romansa ni Magno* are directed and translated by Bernardo Bernardo who appeared in Ma-Yi's Off-Broadway production of *The Romance of Magno Rubio* in New York, and are presented by PAE Live! in association with Good Shepherd Ambulance Company.

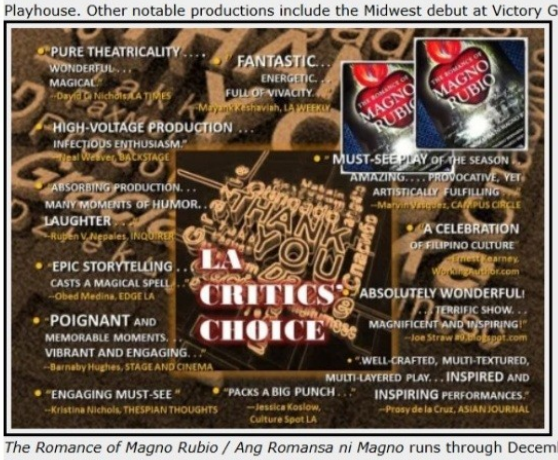


(l-r) Paolo Montalban, director Loy Arcenas, playwright Lonnie Carter, Ramon de Ocampo, JoJo Gonzalez , Arthur Acuna and Bernardo Bernardo at the May 27, 2007 opening night party of The Romance of Magno Rubio at Cendrillion in New York. Photo by Lia Chang

A high-energy stage adaptation of Carlos Bulosan's seminal short story about a love struck Filipino migrant worker in 1930s California, *The Romance of Magno Rubio* uses clever word play, rhymes, rhythms and Philippine love songs ("kundimans") to reveal the lives of migrant workers, their struggles and dreams, and their longings for home and a better life.

Jon Jon Briones (Magno Rubio), Antoine Diel (Prudencio), Elizabeth Rainey (Clarabelle), and Muni Zano (narrator) each appear in both the English (E) and Tagalog (T) casts, while Giovanni Ortega (E) and Frederick Edwards (T) share the role of Nick; Erick Esteban (E) and Gelo Francisco (T) are Claro; and Eymard Cabling (E) and Jet Montelibano (T) double as Atoy.

The Romance of Magno Rubio premiered off Broadway in 2002 at New York's Ma-Yi Theatre Company where it received rave reviews and eight OBIE citations. That production subsequently traveled to the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Manila, then received its West Coast premiere at the Laguna Playhouse. Other notable productions include the Midwest debut at Victory Gardens in Chicago and the Los Angeles premiere at LATC.



The Romance of Magno Rubio / Ang Romansa ni Magno runs through December 11. Performances in English are on Thursdays and Fridays @ 8pm and Sundays @ 3 pm. Performances in Tagalog are on Saturdays @ 3 pm and 8 pm. The performance on Sunday, Dec. 4 (in English) will be signed for the hearing impaired. Tickets are $25. Full-time students with ID are $12.