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La Luz De Un Cigarrillo (The Light Of A Cigarette): Marco Antonio Rodriguez

An [nytheatre.com](#) Q&A

Q: What is your job on this show?

A: Playwright, director and producer

Q: When did you know you wanted to work in the theater, and why?

A: According to my Dominican mother, when I came out of the womb screaming bloody murder and wouldn't shut up! She also claims I had this "I dare you" stare that would intimidate the nurses. The DRAMA! Personally, I've never known anything but theater in my life. An only child of a single mother and living in a little square efficiency apartment where my only privacy was the bathroom, my imagination was my only escape. Making up and acting out characters both male and female. I remember using the broom if I was a female talking to (or making out with) a male (don't judge) and the mop if I was talking to or cat fighting with (Yes, I acted out plenty of telenovelas) a female. Let's just say my neighbors felt I needed to be committed at a very early age so yes, writing and performance was a no brainer.

Q: Complete this sentence: My show is the only one opening in NYC this fall that...?

A: Touches on the Latino-American taboo theme of... cue telenovela music... SEXUALITY! It's a subject that is still a big no no in many Latin American countries. Particularly taboo in caribbean countries such as the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. La Luz De Un Cigarrillo (The Light Of A Cigarette) touches on the subject in a clear, subtle yet dignified manner. Another subject that we explore is the complex psychology of the immigrant. It isn't just the process of getting to the United States. What happens after you arrive? What has happened years AFTER one has immigrated. How has one changed? It is a subject rarely explored onstage.

Q: Why did you want to write/direct/produce/act in/work on this show?

A: Because nobody else was doing it! I grew weary of repetitive themes in Latino plays: the border, drugs, political dictators... There is so much more to share and explore. Why was sexuality in the Latino culture being explored so rarely? The distance that can occur between parent and child when raised in different countries. The psychology of gentrification. The emotional struggles of the Latina woman who immigrates, alone, to a foreign country. So many stories to tell. Nobody else was doing it so I jumped in!

Q: People who like which of the following recent Broadway shows would also

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Women At Work Festival
Stage Left Studio, 214 W. 30th St., NYC
Sept 23 - Oct 7
a festival for working women
and the men who love their work

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INFO ABOUT *La Luz De Un Cigarrillo (The Light Of A Cigarette)*

After five-years, mother and son, two estranged generations of Dominicans living in Midtown Manhattan, reunite and attempt to rekindle the love and appreciation for each other and their roots; but unexpectedly revealed intimate and taboo secrets threaten to destroy an already thin bond. For mature audiences only. Performed in "Dominican" Spanish with English subtitles.

Venue: Lehman Stages Studio Theater, 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx

Prices: \$20.00 - \$25.00

Students: \$15.00

Seniors: \$15.00

Performance Dates: September 6, 2012 - September 16, 2012

Tickets On Sale Thru: September 16, 2012

Box Office/Info: 212-529-1948

Written & Directed By: Marco Antonio Rodriguez

Producer: Teatro La Tea and Lehman Stages

Cast: Ismael Cruz Córdova, Teresa Yenque, Arisleyda Lombert, Susanna Guzman

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probably like your show: THE BOOK OF MORMON, ONCE, DEATH OF A SALESMAN, CLYBOURNE PARK?

A: Death Of a Salesman and Clybourne Park. And although they are not on Broadway at the moment, if you love Chekov plays like The Seagull, The Cherry Orchard or Three Sisters, you will love this play! A slice of life drama/comedy.

Q: How important is diversity to you in the theater you see/make?

A: Diversity is EVERYTHING! I grew up in the melting pot of Manhattan, New York where I was surrounded by all walks of life; listening to different languages every single day and experiencing a diversity of lives. It is rare to find a native of any one place. We are all descendants from or a mixture of many countries. All you have to do is ask or simply take a good look. Theater is a mirror of life and life is diversity. I am a big proponent of theaters around the world diversifying their seasons to represent their diverse communities rather than their pocket needs.

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[Susanna Guzman](#)

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