

marisol by jose rivera

marisol by jose rivera is a groundbreaking play that has captivated audiences and critics alike with its surreal narrative, powerful social commentary, and evocative imagery. Written by acclaimed playwright José Rivera, "Marisol" explores themes of apocalypse, urban decay, social justice, and the human struggle for hope amidst chaos. It is widely recognized as a pivotal work within contemporary American theater and the Latino dramatic canon. In this article, readers will discover an in-depth analysis of the play's background, plot, themes, characters, production history, and impact. Additionally, the article offers insights into Rivera's unique writing style and how "Marisol" reflects pressing societal issues. Whether you are a theater enthusiast, a student of literature, or simply curious about the play, this comprehensive guide provides valuable information and context. Continue reading to uncover the enduring relevance and artistry of "Marisol" by José Rivera.

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Overview of "Marisol" by José Rivera

"Marisol" is a dramatic play first produced in 1992, written by Puerto Rican-American playwright José Rivera. The play is set in a dystopian version of New York City and centers around Marisol Perez, a young Puerto Rican woman navigating a world in turmoil. Rivera's work is celebrated for its blend of magical realism, poetic language, and exploration of urban life. "Marisol" is often studied for its innovative structure, complex characters, and thought-provoking narrative. Its critical acclaim stems from its ability to address contemporary issues such as poverty, violence, and spiritual crisis through a highly imaginative lens. The play stands as a testament to Rivera's reputation for challenging conventional storytelling and inspiring reflection on societal transformation.

Plot Summary and Structure

Setting and Premise

The story unfolds in a chaotic New York City where reality is fractured by supernatural events and widespread despair. The city is plagued by environmental disasters, violence, and a mysterious war among angels. Marisol, the protagonist, finds herself caught between the ordinary struggles of urban survival and the extraordinary upheaval of the world around her.

Key Plot Developments

- Marisol's guardian angel warns her about an impending cosmic war and abandons her to fight against God, who has grown senile.
- Marisol faces homelessness and encounters a cast of eccentric and desperate characters as she navigates the city's dangers.
- The distinction between reality and fantasy blurs, with apocalyptic events and surreal imagery intensifying Marisol's journey.
- Throughout her odyssey, Marisol strives to maintain hope, grapple with existential questions, and seek meaning in a collapsing world.

Structure and Style

Rivera uses a nonlinear structure, shifting between dreamlike sequences and stark realism. The play's pacing and narrative flow mirror the confusion and unpredictability of the world Marisol inhabits, contributing to its immersive and unsettling atmosphere.

Major Themes in "Marisol"

Apocalypse and Urban Decay

The play's setting is marked by decay, violence, and supernatural chaos, reflecting an apocalyptic vision of urban life. Rivera uses this backdrop to critique societal neglect, environmental degradation, and the breakdown of community.

Spiritual Crisis and Faith

Marisol's interactions with angels, and the celestial rebellion against a failing God, symbolize spiritual doubt and the search for faith in troubled

times. The play questions traditional religious beliefs and explores the need for human agency.

Isolation and Solidarity

Throughout her journey, Marisol experiences profound loneliness but also moments of solidarity with other marginalized individuals. The play emphasizes the importance of compassion, empathy, and collective action in overcoming adversity.

Social Justice and Political Commentary

"Marisol" addresses social inequalities, poverty, and systemic violence. Rivera uses the play as a vehicle for political critique, urging audiences to reflect on the consequences of apathy and the power of resistance.

Key Characters and Their Roles

Marisol Perez

Marisol is the central character, a young Puerto Rican woman whose journey represents the struggle for survival, identity, and hope. Her resilience and vulnerability anchor the play's emotional core.

The Guardian Angel

Marisol's guardian angel serves as both protector and catalyst for change. The angel's decision to rebel against God introduces the supernatural conflict that drives the plot and challenges Marisol's faith.

Supporting Characters

- June: Marisol's friend and confidante, whose own experiences reflect urban hardship.
- Homeless Man: A recurring figure symbolizing the plight of the marginalized and the impact of societal neglect.
- Lenny: A character whose interactions with Marisol highlight themes of desperation and delusion.

Each character contributes to the play's exploration of diverse perspectives within a fractured society.

José Rivera's Writing Style and Influence

Magical Realism and Surrealism

Rivera is renowned for incorporating magical realism into his writing, blending fantastical elements with real-world issues. In "Marisol," surreal imagery and metaphors create a visceral sense of wonder and unease.

Poetic Language and Symbolism

The play utilizes poetic dialogue and rich symbolism to convey complex emotions and ideas. Rivera's language elevates the narrative, making it both intellectually stimulating and emotionally resonant.

Impact on Contemporary Theater

"Marisol" has influenced a generation of playwrights and theater makers, particularly within Latino and multicultural theater. Rivera's innovative approach has expanded the boundaries of dramatic storytelling and representation.

Production History and Reception

Original Production

"Marisol" premiered in 1992 at the Humana Festival of New American Plays in Louisville, Kentucky, receiving immediate critical attention for its originality and relevance. Subsequent productions have been staged across the United States and internationally.

Critical Acclaim and Awards

- The play won the 1993 Obie Award for Best New American Play.
- It has been praised for its daring narrative, social critique, and vivid theatricality.
- The production history includes notable performances by diverse casts and directors, reflecting its universal appeal.

Legacy and Continued Relevance

Decades after its debut, "Marisol" remains a staple of university and professional theater repertoires. Its themes of crisis, resilience, and hope

continue to resonate with contemporary audiences facing global uncertainty.

Social Commentary and Cultural Impact

Reflection of Societal Issues

Rivera's play serves as a mirror for societal anxieties, addressing urban poverty, environmental collapse, and spiritual malaise. "Marisol" encourages audiences to confront uncomfortable truths and imagine transformative possibilities.

Influence on Latino Theater

As a work by a prominent Latino playwright, "Marisol" has contributed to the visibility and evolution of Latino voices in American theater. The play explores identity, migration, and cultural heritage through its protagonist and setting.

Educational and Artistic Value

- "Marisol" is frequently studied in theater, literature, and cultural studies programs for its innovative use of form and content.
- It inspires new generations of artists to engage with social justice themes and experiment with theatrical conventions.

The play's enduring impact is evident in its continued relevance and the conversations it sparks about art, society, and change.

Frequently Asked Questions about "Marisol" by José Rivera

Q: What is the main message of "Marisol" by José Rivera?

A: The play's central message is a call for hope and resistance in the face of social, spiritual, and environmental collapse. It urges audiences to question authority, empathize with the marginalized, and seek transformative change.

Q: Who is Marisol Perez and what is her significance?

A: Marisol Perez is the protagonist, a young Puerto Rican woman whose journey embodies the struggle for identity and survival in a fractured society. Her experiences highlight themes of isolation, faith, and resilience.

Q: What genre does "Marisol" belong to?

A: "Marisol" is classified as a drama with elements of magical realism and surrealism. It combines realistic depictions of urban life with fantastical and apocalyptic imagery.

Q: How does José Rivera use magical realism in "Marisol"?

A: Rivera integrates magical realism by blending ordinary settings with supernatural events and metaphors, creating a surreal, dreamlike atmosphere that intensifies the play's emotional and thematic impact.

Q: What are the major themes addressed in "Marisol"?

A: Major themes include apocalypse, urban decay, social justice, spiritual crisis, isolation, and solidarity. The play explores these through its characters, setting, and narrative structure.

Q: Why is "Marisol" considered important in Latino theater?

A: "Marisol" is significant because it centers a Latina protagonist and addresses issues affecting Latino communities. It has helped to elevate Latino voices and stories within American theater.

Q: What awards has "Marisol" won?

A: The play received the 1993 Obie Award for Best New American Play, among other accolades, affirming its artistic excellence and cultural impact.

Q: How has "Marisol" impacted contemporary theater?

A: "Marisol" has influenced modern theater through its innovative use of form, language, and social critique. It has inspired playwrights and theater makers to address pressing issues and experiment with new storytelling techniques.

Q: What makes "Marisol" relevant today?

A: The play's exploration of crisis, resilience, and social justice remains timely, resonating with audiences facing contemporary challenges such as climate change, inequality, and spiritual uncertainty.

Q: Where can "Marisol" by José Rivera be studied or performed?

A: "Marisol" is widely available for study in academic courses on theater and literature, and it is performed in professional, university, and community theaters worldwide.

Marisol By Jose Rivera

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Marisol by José Rivera: A Deep Dive into a Timeless Play

Are you captivated by powerful female characters, complex family dynamics, and the enduring struggle for identity? Then José Rivera's *Marisol* is a play you need to experience. This blog post delves into the heart of Rivera's acclaimed work, exploring its themes, characters, and lasting impact on contemporary theatre. We'll examine its allegorical nature, its use of magical realism, and its profound commentary on societal decay and the search for meaning in a chaotic world. Get ready for an in-depth analysis of *Marisol* by José Rivera, a play that continues to resonate with audiences and critics alike.

The Unfolding Apocalypse: Setting the Stage for Marisol

Marisol unfolds in a New York City steeped in a palpable sense of unease. Rivera masterfully crafts an atmosphere of impending doom, subtly weaving elements of magical realism into an otherwise realistic setting. The play begins seemingly normally, introducing Marisol, a young woman working as a secretary, before gradually escalating into a surreal and apocalyptic landscape. This gradual

descent into chaos keeps the audience engaged and unsettled, mirroring the protagonist's own growing disorientation and fear. The city itself becomes a character, reflecting the internal turmoil of Marisol and symbolizing a society on the brink of collapse.

A City in Chaos: Symbolic Representation

The crumbling infrastructure and encroaching darkness in Rivera's portrayal of New York City are not just literal descriptions. They represent the breakdown of social order and the erosion of traditional values. The city's decay mirrors the disintegration of Marisol's world, reflecting the wider anxieties and societal uncertainties of the late 20th century. The use of symbolic imagery, such as the disappearing stars and the encroaching darkness, heightens the sense of impending doom and adds layers of meaning to the narrative.

Marisol: A Journey of Self-Discovery

Marisol herself is a compelling protagonist. She's a young woman grappling with loneliness, disillusionment, and the weight of responsibility. Her journey is not simply about escaping a physical apocalypse, but also about confronting her own internal demons and forging a path toward self-acceptance and empowerment. Her initial naiveté gradually gives way to strength and resilience as she confronts the challenges before her.

The Power of Female Agency

Rivera's depiction of Marisol showcases the strength and resilience inherent in female characters. She is not a passive victim but an active participant in her own destiny. She learns to navigate the chaotic world around her, developing a surprising amount of agency and self-reliance. This empowered female lead is a significant contribution to the theatrical landscape, challenging traditional portrayals of women in crisis.

The Supporting Cast: Angels, Demons, and the Search for Meaning

The supporting characters in Marisol are equally significant, adding depth and complexity to the narrative. From the enigmatic figures of the angels to the unsettling presence of the demons, each character serves a purpose in furthering Marisol's journey of self-discovery and challenging her perception of reality. Their interactions force Marisol to confront uncomfortable truths about herself

and the world around her.

The Role of Magical Realism

Rivera's masterful use of magical realism enhances the play's thematic richness. The juxtaposition of fantastical elements with the mundane realities of everyday life creates a powerful effect, making the play both engaging and thought-provoking. The surreal elements serve to amplify the emotional intensity of the story and highlight the fragility of human existence.

The Enduring Legacy of Marisol

Marisol transcends its immediate context. The play's themes of societal breakdown, personal struggle, and the search for meaning remain relevant even today. Its powerful exploration of female agency and its innovative use of magical realism continue to influence contemporary theatre. The play's ability to resonate with audiences across different generations speaks volumes about its enduring power and artistic merit. The play's impact on discussions about social commentary and the representation of women on stage cannot be overstated.

Conclusion

Marisol by José Rivera is not merely a play; it is a powerful statement about the human condition. Its allegorical nature allows for multiple interpretations, enriching its enduring appeal and relevance. The play's exploration of existential questions, combined with its captivating characters and its deft use of magical realism, makes it a truly unforgettable theatrical experience.

FAQs

Q1: What is the central theme of Marisol?

A1: The central theme revolves around Marisol's journey of self-discovery amidst an apocalyptic setting, exploring themes of societal decay, the search for meaning, and the empowerment of women.

Q2: What type of play is Marisol?

A2: Marisol is categorized as a magical realism play, blending fantastical elements with realistic settings to create a unique and thought-provoking theatrical experience.

Q3: Is Marisol suitable for all audiences?

A3: While Marisol is a powerful and engaging play, its mature themes and potentially disturbing imagery may not be suitable for all audiences, particularly younger viewers.

Q4: Where can I find a copy of Marisol?

A4: You can find copies of the play script online through various bookstores and online retailers, or you can search for local theatrical productions.

Q5: How does Marisol use magical realism effectively?

A5: Marisol uses magical realism to heighten the emotional intensity of the narrative, amplify the sense of unease and impending doom, and symbolize the breakdown of societal order through fantastical elements interwoven with realistic scenarios.

marisol by jose rivera: Marisol José Rivera, 1994 THE STORY: Marisol Perez, a young Latino woman, is a copy editor for a Manhattan publisher. Although she has elevated herself into the white collar class, she continues to live alone in the dangerous Bronx neighborhood of her childhood. As the play

marisol by jose rivera: Marisol and Other Plays José Rivera, 1997-04-01 The first collection of plays by one of the most moving and astonishing writers of the last 15 years. Though critics reflexively class his work as "magical realism," Rivera's extravagant, original imagery always serves to illuminate the gritty realities and touching longings of our daily lives. Also includes: Each Day Dies with Sleep and Cloud Tectonics.

marisol by jose rivera: References to Salvador Dalí Make Me Hot and Other Plays José Rivera, 2003 A new collection by the author of Marisol and Other Plays.

marisol by jose rivera: The House of Ramón Iglesia José Rivera, 1983 It's a play about a bright, Americanized son's tortured efforts to break away from his immigrant parents, a break that can't be made until the assimilated hero learns to accept the ethnic heritage that he has spent his life trying to suppress. -- New York Times review

marisol by jose rivera: Mythic Imagination and the Actor Marissa Chibás, 2021-08-02 In Mythic Imagination and the Actor, Marissa Chibás draws on over three decades of experience as a Latinx actor, writer, filmmaker, and teacher to offer an approach to acting that embraces collective imagination, archetypal work, and the mythic. The book begins with a comparative analysis between method acting and mythic acting, encouraging actors to push past the limits of singular life experience and move to a realm where imagination and metaphor thrive. In the context of mythic acting, the book explores awareness work, solo performance creation, the power of archetypes, character building exercises, creating a body/text connection, and how to be the detective of your own process. Through this inclusive guide for a new age of diverse performers traversing gender, ability, culture, and race, readers are able to move beyond their limits to a deep engagement with the infinite possibilities of rich imagination. The final chapter empowers and motivates artists to live healthfully within the practice and create a personal artistic vision plan. Written for actors and students of acting, American Drama, and film and theatre studies, Mythic Imagination and the Actor provides practical exercises and prompts to unlock and interpret an actor's deepest creative sources.

marisol by jose rivera: Maricela de la Luz Lights the World José Rivera, 1998

marisol by jose rivera: Guapa Caridad Svich, 2013-12 In Caridad Svich's play GUAPA: Single-mom Roly lives in a dusty Texas town that everyone longs to escape. She's never seen anything like Guapa, a natural-born athlete with a fiery ambition to become an international soccer star. When Guapa joins Roly's family, everyone's life is turned upside down. With only one shot to reach the big leagues from the barrio, how can Guapa convince the non-believers to let go of their doubts, spread their wings and fly? This play received an NNPN rolling world premiere at Borderlands Theater, Phoenix Theatre and Miracle Theatre Group, and a 2012 Edgerton Foundation New Play Award.

marisol by jose rivera: *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play* Jocelyn Bioh, 2023-06-22 1986. Ghana's prestigious Aburi Girls Boarding School. Queen Bee Paulina and her crew excitedly await the arrival of the Miss Ghana pageant recruiter. It's clear that Paulina is in top position to take the title until her place is threatened by Ericka - a beautiful and talented new transfer student. As the friendship group's status quo is upended, who will be chosen for Miss Ghana and at what cost? Bursting with hilarity and joy, this award-winning comedy explores the universal similarities (and glaring differences) facing teenage girls around the world. This edition is published to coincide with the UK premiere at the Lyric Theatre, Hampstead, in June 2023.

marisol by jose rivera: Frankie Shivaun Plozza, 2017-11-07 Shivaun Plozza's debut novel, Frankie, is a genre-hopping, darkly funny novel about searching for the truth, finding yourself, and falling in love Frankie Vega is angry. Just ask the guy whose nose she broke. Or the cop investigating the burglary she witnessed, or her cheating ex-boyfriend, or her aunt who's tired of giving second chances. When a kid shows up claiming to be Frankie's half brother, it opens the door to a past she doesn't want to remember. And when that kid goes missing, the only person willing to help is a boy with stupidly blue eyes, a criminal record, and secrets of his own. Frankie's search for the truth could change her life, or cost her everything. "Frankie's a great, gutsy character, full of heart." —Printz Award winner Melina Marchetta, author of *The Jellicoe Road* and *Saving Francesca*

marisol by jose rivera: **Cloud Tectonics** José Rivera, 1997 During a record-breaking Los Angeles deluge, a man gives shelter to a beautiful, pregnant hitch-hiker who is searching for the father of her child. ... CLOUD TECTONICS, José Rivera's often enchanting new play ... Rivera has successfully mixed two styles in which he previously dabbled, realism and magic realism, to produce a naturalistic play interlaced with symbols and magical occurrences. In doing so, he has found a voice to probe the mystery of the kind of love that stops your heart as surely as it does your sense of time and space. And he does it without goo. -Laurie Winer, Los Angeles Times The operative phrase for José Rivera's work is 'magic realism,' which doesn't mean much until you've been put under the spell of his brief and lovely play, CLOUD TECTONICS. It's a love story, an old boy-meets-girl story, but ... it's also a story of theatrical enchantment, in which the ordinary is suddenly transformed into the miraculous. On a fantastically rainy night in Los Angeles, the city of Angels, a plain Joe named Anibal de la Luna picks up and brings home with him a poor, bedraggled woman hitchhiker who calls herself Celestina del Sol. She is fifty-four years old, she says, and she has been pregnant two years. She is indeed a rare and heavenly creature, a mystic wanderer with no sense of time and an infinite capacity to love. Alone in his little house, sealed off from the wails of the decaying city outside, De la Luna and Del Sol come together, joining their bodies and their dreams. -Richard Christiansen, Chicago Tribune

marisol by jose rivera: *A Decade of Sculpture* Julia M. Busch, 1974 The book includes many plate images both color and black and white. The Acknowledgements page (p. 15) includes a list of the contributing artists: Carl Andre, Anne Arnold, Mike Bakaty, Francois and Bernard Baschet, Sondra Beal, Bruce Beasley, Larry Bell, Fletcher Benton, Ronald Bladen, Robert Breer, Anthony Caro, John Chamberlain, Judy Chicago (Gerowitz), Ligia Calrk, Toney DeLap, Jose De Rivera, Tom Doyle, Fred Eversley, Dan Flavin, Peter Forakis, Jane Frank [Jane Schenthal Frank], Charles R. Frazier, James Grant, Karl Gerstner, Robert Grosvenor, John Healy, Eva Hesse, Robert Hudson, Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Lila Katzen, Lyman Kipp, Bernard Kirschenbaum, Gabriel Kohn, Peter Kowalski, Sol LeWitt, Frank Malina, Marisol, Eugene Massin, John McCracken, Robert Morris,

Sadamasa Motonaga, Forrest Myers, Elie Nadelman, Louise Nevelson, Claes Oldenburg, Otto Piene, Peter Pinchbeck, Robert Rauschenberg, Martial Raysse, Ad Reinhardt, Bridgitt Riley, Nicolas Schoffer, George Segal, Jason Seley, David Slivka, David Smith, Tony Smith, Robert Smithson, Kenneth Snelson, Frank DStella, George Sugarman, Takis, Victor Vasarely, David Von Schlegell, Al Vrana, David Weinrib, H. C. Westermann, Audrey Corwin Wright, Wilfred Zogbaum.

marisol by jose rivera: Water by the Spoonful Quiara Alegria Hudes, 2013 THE STORY: Somewhere in Philadelphia, Elliot has returned from Iraq and is struggling to find his place in the world. Somewhere in a chat room, recovering addicts keep each other alive, hour by hour, day by day. The boundaries of family and communi

marisol by jose rivera: Barrio Boy Rudolf Steiner, Ernesto Galarza, 1991-08-31

marisol by jose rivera: Sueño José Rivera, 1999

marisol by jose rivera: Peerless Jiehae Park, 2017 Asian-American twins M and L have given up everything to get into The College. So when D, a one-sixteenth Native American classmate, gets "their" spot instead, they figure they've got only one option: kill him. A darkly comedic take on Shakespeare's Macbeth about the very ambitious and the cut-throat world of high school during college admissions.

marisol by jose rivera: When Creole and Spanish Collide , 2021-05-25 When Creoles and Spanish Collide: Language and Culture in the Caribbean presents a contemporary look on how Creole English communities in Central America grapple with evolving Creole identity and representation, language contact with Spanish, language endangerment, discrimination, and linguistic creativity.

marisol by jose rivera: The Book of Salsa César Miguel Rondón, 2008 Rondón tells the engaging story of salsa's roots in Puerto Rico, Cuba, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Venezuela, and of its emergence and development in the 1960s as a distinct musical movement in New York. Rondón presents salsa as a truly pan-Caribbean phenomenon, emerging in the migrations and interactions, the celebrations and conflicts that marked the region. Although salsa is rooted in urban culture, Rondón explains, it is also a commercial product produced and shaped by professional musicians, record producers, and the music industry. --from publisher description.

marisol by jose rivera: Seven Spots on the Sun Martin Zimmerman, 2018-03-09 The village of San Isidro has been without its doctor for eighteen months. Moisés has remained a recluse, refusing to even look at a patient, since the day the army took his wife away during the country's civil war. But when a mysterious plague begins to ravage the countryside around San Isidro, the local parish priest convinces Moisés to take action. And when Moisés examines his first patient, he discovers he has the miraculous power to heal this plague with the touch of his hand. But among the thousands of pilgrims who flock to San Isidro, Moisés is forced to confront his past, and San Isidro the violence that tore it apart. A meditation on mourning, redemption, and revenge, Seven Spots On The Sun follows each character's attempt to come to terms with the extraordinary losses they have suffered and the miracles they have witnessed -- Back cover.

marisol by jose rivera: Sonnets for an Old Century José Rivera, 2004 SONNETS FOR AN OLD CENTURY examines what it means to be alive at this particular time and place and what traces each of us will leave behind. In a series of exquisitely written monologues, using dance and live music, SONNETS captures the subtle, often overlooked treasures of everyday life. Now we have a SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY to call our own, a work whose scope and insights begin to suggest an OUR TOWN for our generation. The only question left involves what we do with the information. It is a fearsome enough thing. Its name is SONNETS FOR AN OLD CENTURY. Much as Edgar Masters did nearly ninety years before - with a much larger sample from a much smaller town - playwright Jose Rivera gives eighteen characters from present-day Los Angeles and environs one final chance in this collection of dramatic monologues to speak their peace about their lives, apparently from just the other side of the grave. -Byron Woods, The Independent Could you tell your life story In the space of a moment, the length of a sonnet? Playwright Jose Rivera attempts to answer that question for sixteen different individuals in a moving yet amazingly unencumbered play he has titled SONNETS

FOR AN OLD CENTURY. In a moment somewhere between life and afterlife, these individuals are assembled. One man, who has been waiting for them, tells them that they have one final chance to tell their stories, and that their words will go out to the universe. This is a deceptively simple work. Yet it builds in its intensity as each storyteller brings his or her own story to life. These are people that we would meet on the street; they are ordinary souls. But their stories are not. They focus power center-stage with their individual stories and what they learned from them. There is not a plot here; there are sixteen individual plots. And each story, small as it might be in and of itself, fills the space, and our ears and our minds, with feeling; joy, fear, rage, love, sorrow; and makes each one expand to fill this void. We as listeners are forced to face these ravaging emotions, even as we contemplate the death of the storyteller. This work is simple, and simply potent in its impact. And while it seems to do without the trappings of stagework, set, plot, scenes, etc, it is powerfully theatrical. -Alan R Hall, Front Row Center

marisol by jose rivera: *Each Day Dies with Sleep* José Rivera, 2004-11-01 Written by Jose Rivera, Academy Award nominee for *The Motorcycles Diaries*, EACH DAY DIES WITH SLEEP is the story of a young woman's struggle to find an identity apart from the two men in her life, her father and her husband. This fantastical tragicomedy leaps from coast to coast and from one outrageous moment to the next. Here is a production to restore our faith in live theater, and a play to restore our interest in new theater. Jose Rivera ... an American playwright born in Puerto Rico - wrote EACH DAY DIES WITH SLEEP ... it's real subject is the primitive human struggle between animal instincts and civilized order. The language - poetic, intense, heightened, rude, stunted, funny, by turns - is always vivid. I simply testify that it is months since I was so worked up by characters in a play as here ... Rivera's play brings fresh imaginative vitality to the London theater. Its conception of the human condition as a psychic battleground - lively, funny, erotic, tragic - has a rare force. -Alastair Macaulay, Financial Times Surrealism, magic realism, expressionism, alternate-world realism - Rivera's tortured triangle of father, daughter and son-in-law writhes across the entire map of modern Hispanic literature, in a beautifully lofty English - unsettling, disturbing, rich with excitement and hope. -Michael Feingold, Village Voice

marisol by jose rivera: *El Grito Del Bronx and Other Plays* Migdalia Cruz, 2010 EL GRITO DEL BRONX & OTHER PLAYS collects for the first time three plays and one song-poem by celebrated Nuyorican poet-playwright Migdalia Cruz. With an introduction by eminent Latino scholar Alberto Sandoval-Sanchez and afterword by theatre scholar Priscilla Page, this is an invaluable addition to the field of US Latina/o drama and all of American theatre.

marisol by jose rivera: *Puerto Rican Chicago* Mirelsie Velazquez, 2022-02-01 The postwar migration of Puerto Rican men and women to Chicago brought thousands of their children into city schools. These children's classroom experience continued the colonial project begun in their homeland, where American ideologies had dominated Puerto Rican education since the island became a US territory. Mirelsie Velázquez tells how Chicago's Puerto Ricans pursued their educational needs in a society that constantly reminded them of their status as second-class citizens. Communities organized a media culture that addressed their concerns while creating and affirming Puerto Rican identities. Education also offered women the only venue to exercise power, and they parlayed their positions to take lead roles in activist and political circles. In time, a politicized Puerto Rican community gave voice to a previously silenced group--and highlighted that colonialism does not end when immigrants live among their colonizers. A perceptive look at big-city community building, Puerto Rican Chicago reveals the links between justice in education and a people's claim to space in their new home.

marisol by jose rivera: *Semmelweis* Jens Bjørneboe, 1998 Translated from the Norwegian and with an introduction by Joe Martin. Novelist and essayist Jens Bjorneboe turned to playwriting during the 1960's, as a genre in which he might stage his literary assault on hierarchical society with an aggressive, extroverted form of theater (from the Introduction). This play had its world premiere in Oslo in 1969, and recounts the tragic history of Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis, the founder of modern antiseptic techniques, whose biography illustrates the pitfalls and even horrors of the man

or woman of science who is naively in search of truth and improvement in the human condition, in a society who is naively in search of truth and improvement in the human condition, in a society that reveres prestige and power and its own received belief systems to the exclusion of any new 'truths' (from the Introduction). Brechtian in style and somewhat anarchic in its politics, Semmelweis provides a biting critique of obtuse authority.

marisol by jose rivera: Culture Clash in America Culture Clash (Comedy troupe), 2003 Who needs CNN when we have Culture Clash? --Steve Winn, S. F. Chronicle

marisol by jose rivera: Giants Have Us in Their Books Jose Rivera, 2014-06-30 This collection includes six short plays: FLOWERS, TAPE, A TIGER IN CENTRAL PARK, GAS, THE CROOKED CROSS, and THE WINGED MAN. The genesis of these fairy tales for adults was Mr. Rivera's daughter who asked where fairy tales came from and was told that people made them up and put them in books. "Oh, " she replied, "then giants have us in their books." The plays that followed were written "as if we were the subject of stories told by giants. FLOWERS: Lulu's acne must have some cosmic meaning, perhaps punishment for her vanity, but when the acne morphs into hibiscus flowers, she believes she is cursed. Her little brother, Beto, however, sees an unearthly beauty in the flowers. TAPE: If we suspected everything we said was being recorded, would we act differently? A TIGER IN CENTRAL PARK: A runaway tiger renders the island of Manhattan impotent. GAS: A man goes to a gas station to fill up his tank. The Gulf War has just started, and the man's brother is fighting in it. The gas comes out red. THE CROOKED CROSS: A high-school girl dons swastika earrings, given to her by her boyfriend, and finds that her life soon turns into a nightmare. THE WINGED MAN: A young girl bears the child of a fabled flying man. Jose Rivera's GIANTS HAVE US IN THEIR BOOKS, is subtitled 'Six Children's Plays for Adults.' The genesis of the plays, he explains in a program note, was his four-year-old daughter's observation that, if we have giants in our fairy tales, they must have us in theirs. Rivera wrote the plays, he says, 'as if we were the subject of fairy tales told by giants.' It's an apt notion. The six short plays in GIANTS have all the beautiful simplicity of fairy tales ... Rivera's prose has become more concentrated and spare, more pregnant with metaphor and poetry. The profuse and sometimes self-consciously fantastical stew of magic realism - which, like his mentor, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Rivera insists is just another form of everyday reality - has been condensed so that each image carries greater weight. The six short fables in GIANTS add up to two hours of compelling, entertaining and provocative theater. -Robert Hurwitt, San Francisco Examiner

marisol by jose rivera: La Gringa Carmen Rivera, 2008 La Gringa is about a young woman's search for her identity. Maria Elena Garcia goes to visit her family in Puerto Rico during the Christmas holidays and arrives with plans to connect with her homeland. Although this is her first trip to Puerto Rico, she has had an intense love for the island, and even majored in Puerto Rican Studies in college. Once Maria is in Puerto Rico, she realizes that Puerto Rico does not welcome her with open arms. The majority of the Puerto Ricans on the island consider her an American - a gringa - and Maria considers this a betrayal. If she's a Puerto Rican in the United States and an American in Puerto Rico, Maria concludes that she is nobody everywhere. Her uncle, Manolo, spiritually teaches her that identity isn't based on superficial and external definitions, but rather is an essence that she has had all along in her heart. This play is published in a bilingual edition; if you are applying for licensing rights, please state which version you wish to produce.

marisol by jose rivera: Prodigal Son John Patrick Shanley, 2017-03-16 A 17-year-old boy from the Bronx suddenly finds himself in a private school in New Hampshire. He's violent, gifted, alienated, and on fire with a ferocious loneliness. Two faculty members wrestle with the dilemma: Is the kid a star or a disaster? A passionate, explosive portrait of a young man on the verge of salvation or destruction.

marisol by jose rivera: BLKS Aziza Barnes, 2020-07-14 When shit goes down, your girls show up. Waking up to a shocking and personal health scare, Octavia and her best friends, June and Imani, go on a crusade to find intimacy and joy in a world that could give a fuck less about them or their feelings. This 24-hour blitz explores what it is to be a queer blk woman in 2015 New York, how

we survive and save ourselves from ourselves.

marisol by jose rivera: Nuestro New York John V. Antush, 1994 Anthology of Puerto-Rican drama includes contributions by Ruben Gonzalez, Eva Lopez, and other writers.

marisol by jose rivera: **Gruesome Playground Injuries** Rajiv Joseph, 2012 THE STORY: Over the course of 30 years, the lives of Kayleen and Doug intersect at the most bizarre intervals, leading the two childhood friends to compare scars and the physical calamities that keep drawing them together.

marisol by jose rivera: **The River Bride** Marisela Treviño Orta, 2020-10-05 Once upon a time, in a fishing village along the Amazon, there lived two sisters struggling to find their happily ever after. Helena is dreading her sister Belmira's wedding. The groom, Duarte, should have been hers. And she knows that her sister only wants to escape their sleepy Brazilian town for an exciting new life in the city. But three days before the wedding, fishermen pull a mysterious stranger out of the river - a man with no past who offers both sisters an alluring, possibly dangerous future. Brazilian folklore and lyric storytelling blend into a heartrending tale of true love, regret, transformation, and the struggle to stay true to your family while staying true to yourself. An incredibly original and affecting night at the theater... nuanced and well-crafted, and peppered with poetic lyricism. - Houston Press A haunting and beautifully constructed theatrical experience... A work of striking originality... Orta has a wonderful ear for dialogue, and paints complex characters that we care about, and has come up with a modern fable set deep in the heart of the Amazon. - The Siskiyou Daily News A bittersweet dream of love... It's a simple tale, well told, that invites the viewer to ponder the mysteries of romance. Are there such things as true love, as soulmates, as fate? And where does human choice fit into the equation? - AZ Central A story of folklore, love, resentment and regret... as delightfully entertaining as it fascinating. - Latin Life Denver

marisol by jose rivera: **She Kills Monsters** Qui Nguyen, 2016 Revised 2016 Edition. She Kills Monsters tells the story of Agnes Evans as she leaves her childhood home in Ohio following the death of her teenage sister, Tilly. When Agnes finds Tilly's Dungeons & Dragons notebook, however, she finds herself catapulted into a journey of discovery and action-packed adventure in the imaginary world that was her sister's refuge. In this high-octane dramatic comedy laden with homicidal fairies, nasty ogres, and '90s pop culture, acclaimed playwright Qui Nguyen offers a heart-pounding homage to the geek and warrior within us all.

marisol by jose rivera: **Proof** David Auburn, 2001 THE STORY: On the eve of her twenty-fifth birthday, Catherine, a troubled young woman, has spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father, a famous mathematician. Now, following his death, she must deal with her own volatile emotions; the

marisol by jose rivera: **Policing Life and Death** Marisol LeBrón, 2019-04-16 In her exciting new book, Marisol LeBrón traces the rise of punitive governance in Puerto Rico over the course of the twentieth century and up to the present. Punitive governance emerged as a way for the Puerto Rican state to manage the deep and ongoing crises stemming from the archipelago's incorporation into the United States as a colonial territory. A structuring component of everyday life for many Puerto Ricans, police power has reinforced social inequality and worsened conditions of vulnerability in marginalized communities. This book provides powerful examples of how Puerto Ricans negotiate and resist their subjection to increased levels of segregation, criminalization, discrimination, and harm. Policing Life and Death shows how Puerto Ricans are actively rejecting punitive solutions and working toward alternative understandings of safety and a more just future.

marisol by jose rivera: Eurydice Sarah Ruhl, 2021-12-21 "Eurydice is a luminous retelling of the Orpheus myth from his beloved wife's point of view. Watching it, we enter a singular, surreal world, as lush and limpid as a dream—an anxiety dream of love and loss—where both author and audience swim in the magical, sometimes menacing, and always thrilling flow of the unconscious... Ruhl's theatrical voice is reticent and daring, accurate and outlandish." —John Lahr, New Yorker A reimagining of the classic myth of Orpheus through the eyes of its heroine. Dying too young on her wedding day, Eurydice journeys to the underworld, where she reunites with her beloved father and

struggles to recover lost memories of her husband and the world she left behind.

marisol by jose rivera: American Political Plays Allan Havis, 2001 These scripts touch on the issues of the 1990s, including the Gulf War, racial and sexual relations, crises unique to big cities, immigration and multiculturalism, art and censorship, revisionist history, academic freedom, and the transformation of the American presidency. The American play by Suzan-Lori Parks features an Abraham Lincoln impersonator trapped in an outrageous, Beckett-like world, while Naomi Wallace's *In the heart of America* centers on a Palestinian American from Atlanta who is caught up in the Persian Gulf conflict. *Kokoro* by Velina Hasu Houston chillingly depicts the stark predicament of a Japanese mother caught between two impossible worlds; *Marisol* by José Rivera reveals the dark fairytale life of a young Latin woman in a wartorn, apocalyptic New York. *The Gift* by Allan Havis confronts overwhelming moral ambiguity in the farcical realm of university politics, while *Nixon's Nixon* by Russell Lees offers an adroit treatment of the fascinating, tortured Nixon/Kissinger relationship. The collection closes with Mac Wellman's *7 Blowjobs*, a wicked send-up of the compromise politics that determined the fate of the National Endowment for the Arts.

marisol by jose rivera: The Late Wedding Christopher Albert Chen, 2021-06-21 Inspired by the writings of Italo Calvino (*Invisible Cities* and *If on a Winter's Night a Traveler*), *The Late Wedding* is a fractured portrait of a fractured marriage, as told through a series of interconnected fables, including an anthropological tour of fantastical tribes and their marital customs. Christopher Chen's winking second-person narrative, delivered by a six-person shape-shifting cast, deftly guides you on a wild and delightful examination of love and longing. At once an anthropological tour through marriage customs, a spy thriller, and a sci-fi love story, the mind-bending *The Late Wedding* is an inventive and surprising theatrical experience. Wild, witty... contemplative and poignant... you gotta see this funny, brilliant play. - San Francisco Examiner A seductive play... a fascinating little gem... a script about the mystery and challenges of love, in all its permutations. The play is a provocative one-act composed with a unique theatrical structure... a swirling nebula of magical notions put down in a contemporary world. - DC Metro Theatre Arts A comic, dramatic inquiry into human relationships - between lovers or spouses; between playwright and audience - [*The Late Wedding*] is another of Chen's slyly metatheatrical, blissfully funny, whiplash-smart creations... What begins as a look at anthropological research into the marital arrangements and lore of a few odd tribes segues without warning into a political drama cum action thriller. - SF Gate Bold and brainy... As *The Late Wedding* dips in and out of such genres as the spy caper and science fiction... it blurs the boundaries between its two strands of Calvino homage, so that the genre-sampling meta-theater begins to reflect on the bittersweet realities of marriage. - The Washington Post [*The Late Wedding*] is about the vagaries of love and marriage, both homo- and heterosexual, and the way that we both cherish and distort the past, and about the creative process itself... you gotta see this funny, brilliant play. - San Francisco Examiner

marisol by jose rivera: American Theatre, 1997

marisol by jose rivera: Night Train to Bolina Nilo Cruz, 2004 THE STORY: The play is set in Latin America in the mid-eighties, in an unidentified country, during the guerilla warfare. Threatened by starvation and abuse, two children flee their rural village for the city. Dancing on a fine line between innoc

marisol by jose rivera: Funny Bones Duncan Tonatiuh, 2015-08-25 *Funny Bones* tells the story of how the amusing calaveras—skeletons performing various everyday or festive activities—came to be. They are the creation of Mexican artist José Guadalupe (Lupe) Posada (1852–1913). In a country that was not known for freedom of speech, he first drew political cartoons, much to the amusement of the local population but not the politicians. He continued to draw cartoons throughout much of his life, but he is best known today for his calavera drawings. They have become synonymous with Mexico's Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) festival. Juxtaposing his own art with that of Lupe's, author Duncan Tonatiuh brings to light the remarkable life and work of a man whose art is beloved by many but whose name has remained in obscurity. The book includes an author's note, bibliography, glossary, and index.

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