



Zoot suit and other plays pdf

This critically acclaimed play by Luis Valdez opens the performance of Chicanos on stage, challenging the audience to revisit a troubled moment in our nation's history. From the moment the myth-infused character El Pachuco burst onto the stage, cutting his way through the fall curtain with a switching blade, Luis Valdez spurred a revolution in the Chicano theatre. Focusing on the events surrounding the sleepy lagoon murder trial of 1942 and the soot-fighting riots that followed that turned Los Angeles into a bloody war zone, it is a gritty and vivid depiction of the horrific violence and racism suffered by young Mexican Americans on the home front during World War II. Valdez's group of young urban characters is grappling with the stereotypes and generalizations of the dominant American culture, issues of assimilation and patriotism, and the desire to rebel against the prevailing pressures that threaten to annihilate them. Experimenting with narrative saracen forms, wartime pop culture, and complex characterizations, this quintessential exploration of the Mexican-American experience in the United States during the 1940s was the first, and only, chicano play to open on Broadway. This collection contains three of the most important and recognized pieces by playwright and screenwriter Luis Valdez: Zoot Suit, Bandido! and I don't have to show you any stinky badges. The anthology also includes an introduction by renowned theatre critic Jorge Huerta of the University of California, San Diego. Luis Valdez, the most recognized and famous Hispanic playwright of our time, is the director of the famous agricultural workers' theatre, El Teatro Campesino. Zoot Suit has been named on The Basics: 100 Fiction Titles You Should Stock List Valdez is the Pachuco of Broadway, the social media bandit and the brilliant student who will change the face of Hollywood representations of his people. —Jorge Huerta ATOS Level of Interest: Top Grades Category: Adult LEXILE: 1240L Zoot Suit1979 Broadway PlaybillMusicDaniel Valdez and Lalo GuerreroLyricsLalo GuerreroBookLuis ValdezBasisThe murder trial of Sleepy LagoonProductions1979 Broadway 1981 film Zoot Suit is a play written by Luis Valdez, with stage music by Daniel Valdez and Lalo Guerrero. Zoot Suit is based on the murder trial of Sleepy Lagoon and the zoot riots follows. Beginning in 1979, Zoot Suit was Chicano's first Broadway play. In 1981, Luis Valdez also directed a film version of the play, combining stage and film techniques. Plot Zoot Suit tells the story of Henry Reyna and the 38th street gang, who were tried for Sleepy Lagoon murder in Los Angeles during World War II. After a run-in with a nearby gang at the alley of local lovers, Sleepy Lagoon murder in Los Angeles during World War II. Lagoon, the 38th Street Gang fights at a party, where a young man is murdered. Discriminated for wearing zoot zoot costume 22 members of the 38th street gang are on trial for the murder, convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in San Quentin. Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, Henry's brother, Rudy, is beaten and stripped of his zoot costume during the zoot costume riots. Thanks to the efforts of George and other lawyers, as well as activist-reporter Alice, with whom Henry has a brief romantic encounter, the boys win their appeal in court and are released. The play ends with a Reyna family reunion as Henry returns home and Rudy is about to leave to join the Marines. The scene suggests that this is not the happy ending we expect, however, as multiple ends of Henry's story are suggested: that he returned to prison and drug abuse, died in the Korean war and received the Medal of Honor posthumously, or married Della and had five children. [1] El Pachuco characters: an allegorical character of the Chicano subculture of the same name. Henry Reyna: leader of the 38th Gang of St. Enrique Reyna: Henry Father Dolores Reyna: Henry Mother Lupe Reyna: Henry Sister Rudy Reyna: Henry Brother George Shearer: Henry's lawyer and the boys of 38th Street Alice Bloomfield: journalist and activist for Henry's case, as well as a brief love interest of Henry's Della Barrios: 38th Street Gang member and henry's girlfriend The 38th Street Gang : includes Smiley Torres, Joey Castro, Tommy Roberts, Elena Torres and Bertha Villarreal Rafas: leader of the Downey gang, 38th Street Downey Gang's rival: include Ragman, Hobo, Cholo, Zooter, Guera, Hoba, Blondie, and Little Blue Lieutenant Edwards and Sergeant Smith: Detectives Members of the Press: Includes The Press (which doubles as the prosecution), Cub Reporter, and Newsboy The Court: includes Judge F. W. Charles and bailiff prison guard military men : Include Bosun's Mate, Sailors, Marine, Swabbie, Manchuka, and Shore Patrolman Extras: Girls, Pimp, Cholo[1] Historical Background The Sleepy Lagoon Murder Zoot Suit is based on the Sleepy Lagoon Murder of 1942 and the Zoot Riots follows from 1943 in Los Angeles, California. On August 1, 1942, José Daaz was at a birthday party at the Williams Ranch. A disturbance occurred around 11:00 p.m.m when a group of about 20 white men from the suburbs of Downey arrived unassed, complaining of a lack of beer. The Downey Gang group was kicked out of the party after demanding more beer. Meanwhile, a group of men and women from 39th Street drove their cars to the nearby swimming hole and the lovers' lane, nicknamed Sleepy Lagoon, also on Williams Ranch. Among the group were Henry Leyvas and his girlfriend Dora Baca, whose characters Henry Reyna and Della are artificial. Also with them was friend Bobby Telles. While the group is socializing, men entered and began to shout insults, also met the words of Leyvas. All three are gone. The 38th Street group walked around until they parked cars, where Leyvas and Baca stayed. A group of about sixteen men from the Downey gang beat Leyvas and Baca, prompting members of the 38th Street group to defend their friends. After the Downey group left, the 38th Street Gang group left to round up more of their group, before returning to Williams Ranch. The group arrived at Sleepy Lagoon around 1:00 a.m. m the morning of the 2nd, only to find anyone, so someone suggested that the Downey gang had moved to the party at the dormitory near Williams Ranch. At the party, the Downey gang wasn't supposed to be found. Yet a fight broke out between the revelers and the 38th street gang. The fight was brief, ending when someone shouted that the police were coming. In the aftermath of the brawl, the revelers, the Delgadillos, discovered the body of José Daaz along the road, who had left the party shortly before the arrival of the 38th street group. His pockets were returned inside. He was rushed to hospital where he died an hour and a half after being admitted, with a concussion and two stab wounds. The circumstances surrounding Daaz's death remain undetermined. In the end, Henry dies in a bar The People v. Zammora et al. Hundreds of young men and women from the L.A. region were taken to the police as part of the investigation into the murder of José Daaz. Several of the suspects arrested were beaten during interrogation, including Henry Leyvas, Lupe Leyvas, Benny Alvarez and Eugene Carpio, and Manuel Reyes. Twenty-two men were tried in groups, under the defence of seven lawyers in People v. Zammora et al. George Shibley later joined as a lawyer in the case, winning the favor of the defendants and their families for his attempts to communicate in Spanish. Alice McGrath was hired by Shibley to take notes on the trial. Although the murder weapon was never produced, after six days of deliberations, only five of the 22 young men were found not guilty. The other seventeen young men were convicted of the murder of José Daaz, including Henry Leyvas, who, along with José Ruz and Robert Telles, was convicted of first degree murder and two counts of assault with intent to kill. Leyvas, Ruz and Telles were sentenced to life imprisonment, while the other young men were sentenced to one to five years. The decision was overturned in October 1944 and the men were released, thanks to the efforts of the Sleepy Lagoon Defense Committee, with Alice McGrath as executive secretary. However, many young men returned to prison, including Henry Leyvas. [2] The riots zoot costume with the growing tension between zoot suiters and the military in the Los Angeles area what is known as the Zoot Costume riots began on June 3, 1943 when a group of sailors claimed to have been robbed and beaten by Pacheco. [3] Provoked by a Nazi, Nazi, Beat zoot costume carrying civilians with clubs and other makeshift weapons, and stripped them of their costumes. Approximately ninetyfour civilians and eighteen military personnel were treated for serious injuries, all ninety-four arrested, but only two of the military. A source says the riot continued for five nights when military and police efforts ended the violence. [2] However, a second source indicated that the duration of the riots was nine days. [3] Production Story Debut Scene Zoot Suit premiered at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles in April 1978. This production with Center Theatre Group marked the first professionally produced chicano play. [5] The initial ten-day race in April sold out in two days. Each evening, an audience of season ticket holders and local Mexican Americans gave standing ovations to performances at the Mark Taper Forum. A second race started in August and tickets sold out once again. [4] This extended run took place at the Aquarius Theatre, Los Angeles. The Broadway production The Broadway debuted at the Winter Garden Theater on March 25, 1979 and closed on April 29 after 41 performances and 17 previews. The production was directed by Luis Valdez and included choreography by Patricia Birch. Edward James Olmos' portrait of El Pachuco earned him a Tony Award nomination for Best Actor in a Play, as well as a Theatre World Award. Zoot Suit is the second Latin play written and directed on Broadway, after Miguel Piero's Short Eyes won two Obie Awards, as well as the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best American Play, Zoot Suit ran only five weeks on Broadway. Valdez also directed a filmed version of the play, combining stage and film techniques. 30th Anniversary Production In April 2008, Alma Martinez, a member of the original cast of Zoot Suit in 1978, directed the 30th anniversary production at Pomona College in Claremont, California. It was the first time since its stage debut in 1978 that Zoot Suit was produced in the Los Angeles area. The two-week race managed to sell before the opening night, despite minimal publicity, mainly in Latino publications. Many outreach opportunities were provided, including an alumni night, a staff appreciation show, mornings for more than 1,000 high school students to attend, and the development of a study guide for students attending the shows. The alumni event included a meeting of the original members of the as well as members of the film version of Zoot Suit. Luis Valdez and Alice McGrath, the community activist on whom Valdez based the character Alice, received awards. Also in the audience were members of the family of Henry Leyvas, on whom Henry Reyna was based. In launching the takeover, Martinez threw through the Claremont University Consortium in search of Latino Latino All of Chicano's roles featured actors making their stage debuts, and the majority of the cast consisted of non-theatrical majors. Assistant director Shakina Nayfack modified the script to reduce homophobic and sexist language as much as possible. Martinez cast a female in the traditionally male role of the press. The Center Theatre Group's 50th Anniversary As part of the Center Theatre Group's 50th anniversary celebration, playwright and director Luis Valdez presented Zoot Suit at the Mark Taper Forum from January 31 to April 2, 2017. The play stars Rose Portillo and Daniel Valdez, who were original cast members of the 1978 production. Instead of reprising their roles as Henry Reyna and Della, respectively, they returned to the stage to play the roles of Henry Reyna's parents. Rose Portillo was delighted to bring Zoot Suit to new audiences and said: I'm on the moon. It was a dream come true the first time. It's a dream come true the second time, to close the loop and work with Luis at the Taper, where Gordon Davidson and Luis have been so influential on my artistic career. I look forward to sharing Zoot Suit with a whole new generation of artists and spectators. Similarly, Daniel Valdez said: It's great to go back to where it all started 38 years ago. I look forward to living in the world of Zoot Suit once again. Oscar-nominated actor Demion Bichir also played the role of El Pachuco. Review Zoot Suit was well received in its initial production in Los Angeles. In his review for Theatre Journal, Jules Aaron praised the play for its ability to both entertain and make a political statement. Aaron also notes the emotional content of the play. Richard Eder for The New York Times echoed Aaron's observations that the play was both entertaining and political. He adds that Zoot Suit is a mixture of Cantinflas and Brecht. Eder adds his criticism that the play is too specific to the Chicano community and lacks universality. [14] Valdez's play did not receive the same feelings in New York when it made its Broadway debut. Richard Eder expressed a different view of the Broadway staging from when he saw the production in L.A. Eder notes that the design elements lacked harmony, and that Zoot Suit failed to combine entertainment with symbolism, plot and morality. A week later, a New York Times review by Walter Kerr criticized Valdez for his use of the clichés. Kerr also complains about the lack of emotional connection between Daniel Valdez and Miss Hensel, who play Henry and Alice, respectively. Music The songs strung by Zoot Suit are written by Guerrero and the brother of playwright Daniel Valdez. Guerrero, known as the father of Chicano music, wrote music detailing Chicano culture during World War II, resulting in the characteristic of the songs in Zoot Suit. [17] Music combines boogie-woogie and El El version of R and B.[18] References - a b c Valdez, Luis (2009). Zoot Costume. In Jacobus, Lee A. (ed.). The Bedford Introduction to Drama (Sixth ed.). New York: Bedford/St. Martin's. 1256-1288. A b c Pagan, Eduardo Obregon (2003). Murder at the Sleepy Lagoon: Zoot Suits, Race, and Riot in Wartime L.A. Chapel Hill, NC: U of North Carolina P. a b Chiodo, John J. (2013). The Zoot Suit Riots: Exploring Social Issues in American History. Social studies. 104 (1): 1. A b Galens, ed., David M. (2007). Drama for students Vol. 5. Detroit: Gale. p. 279.CS1 main: additional text: list of authors (link) - Lucas, Ashley (Spring 2009). Reinventing Pachuco. Journal for the Study of Radicalism. 3 (1): 61,63. JSTOR 41887618. (subscription required) - Aaron, Jules (May 1979). 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