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Zoot suit play analysis

Zoot Suit1979 Broadway PlaybillMusicDaniel Valdez and Lalo GuerreroLyricsLalo GuerreroBookLuis ValdezBasisSpana Lagoon Murder TrialProduction1979 Broadway 1981 film Zoot Suit is a play written by Luis Valdez, featuring incidental music by Daniel Valdez and Lalo Guerrero. Zoot Suit is based on the Sleepy Lagoon murder trial and the Zoot Suit riots. Debuting in 1979, Zoot Suit was Chican's first Broadway show. In 1981, Luis Valdez was awarded the 2000 World Cup. Plot Zoot Suit tells the story of Henry Reyna and the 38th Street gang, who were on trial for murder in Sleeping Lagoon, Los Angeles, during World War II. After clashing with a neighboring gang on a local love trail, Sleepy Lagoon, a 38th-century gang, was 100,000 people. Discriminated against because of their identity Chicano in a zoot suit, twenty-two members of the 38th Street gang are on trial for murder, found guilty and sentenced to life in San Quentin Prison. Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, Henry's brother Rudy was beaten and stripped of his zoot suit during the Zoot Suit riots. Through the efforts of George and other lawyers, as well as activist-reporter Alice, with whom Henry has a brief romantic encounter, the boys win a court appeal and are acquitted. The show ends with the Reyn family reunion as Henry returns home and Rudy leaves to join the Marines. The scene suggests that this is not the happy ending we expect, however, as suggested more endings to Henry's story: that he returned to prison and abused drugs, died in the War in Korea and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, or married Della and had five children. [1] El Pachuco characters: the allegorical character of the Chicano subculture of the same name. Henry Reyna: Gang leader Enrique Reyna of the 38th President of the U.S. Streets: Henry's father Dolores Reyna: Henry's mother Lupe Reyna: Henry's sister Rudy Reyna: Henry's brother George Shearer: Henry and the 38th Street boy's lawyer Alice Bloomfield: a reporter and activist on Henry's case, as well as a brief love interest henry's Della Barrios: a member of the 38th Street Gang and Henry's girlfriend The 38th Street Gang : includes Smiley Joey Castro, Tommy Roberts, Elena Torres and Bertha Villarreal Rafas: downey gang leader, rival 38th Street Gang Downey: include Ragman, Hobo, Cholo, Zooter, Guera, Hoba, Blondie and Little Blue Lieutenant Edwards and Sergeant Smith: Detectives Members of the Press: includes Press (which doubles as prosecution), Cub Reporter, and Newsboy The Court: includes Judge F. W. Charles and Bailiff Prison Guards : include Bosun's Mate, Sailors, Marine, Swabbie, Manchuka and Shore Patrolman Extras: Girls, Pimp, Cholo[1] Historical context Sleeping Lagoon Murder Zoot suit is based on the murder of a sleepy lagoon 1942 and zoot suit riots of 1943 in Los Angeles, California. On August 1, 1942, José Díaz was at a birthday party at Williams Ranch. The disturbance occurred around 11 p.m.m when a group of twenty white men from the suburbs of Downey arrived uninvited, complaining of a shortage of beer. A group from the Downey Gang were kicked out of the party after asking for more beer. Meanwhile, a group of men and women from the 39th U.S. Among the group were Henry Leyvas and his girlfriend Dora Baca, of whom Henry Reyna and Della's characters were fictional. Bobby Telles' friend was with them. As the group mingle, the three men stopped and began shouting insults, met equally with words from Leyvas. Three of them drove off. The 38th Street group wandered off until they heard a commotion from parked cars, where Leyvas and Baca remained. A group of about sixteen men from the Downey gang beat Leyvas and Baca, prompting members of the 38th U.S. National Crime Squad. After the downey group left, a group from the 38th Street Gang went to gather more of their group, before returning to Williams ranch. The group arrived at Sleepy Lagoon around 1:00 a.m., .m a.m., not to find anyone, so someone suggested that Downey's gang had moved into a bunkhouse party near Williams Ranch. At the party, Downey's gang wasn't supposed to be found. Still, somehow a fight broke out between a partygoer and a gang from the 38th Street. The fight was short, and it ended when someone yelled for the police to come. After the brawl, partygoers, the Delgadillos, discovered the body of José Díaz on the side of the road, who left the party shortly before the group arrived from the 38th minute. His pockets were turned upside down. 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 Díaz's death still remain unceremonied. [2] The people against Zamora. al. In the process of investigating the murder of José Díaz, hundreds of young men and girls in the L.A. area were taken into custody for police processing. Among the suspects arrested, several were severely beaten during questioning, including Henry Leyvas. Lupe Leyvas, Benny Alvarez and Eugene Carpi and Manuel Reyes. Twenty-two men were put on trial as a group, under the defense of seven lawyers among the people against Zamora et al. George Shibley later joined as a lawyer on the case, winning the favor of the defendants and their families for his attempts to communicate in Spanish. Alice McGrath hired Shibley to take notes on the trial. Although the murder weapon was never produced, after six days of deliberations, only five of the twenty-two young men were found not guilty. The other seventeen The men were convicted of the murder of José Díaz, including Henry Leyvas, who was convicted with José Ruiz and Robert Telles of first-degree murder and two counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to murder. Leyvas, Ruiz and Telles were sentenced to life in prison, while the other young men were sentenced to one to five years. The conviction was overturned in October 1944. However, many young men have returned to prison, including Henry Leyvas. [2] Zoot Suit riots With tensions rising between zoo suitors and military personnel in the L.A. area, what is known as the Zoot Suit riots began on June 3, 1943, when a group of sailors claimed they had been robbed and beaten by Pacheco. [3] Provoked by the Nazi salute, the soldiers beat the zoo suit by carrying civilians with batons and other improvised weapons and took away their suits. About ninety-four civilians and eighteen soldiers were treated for serious injuries, and all ninety-four were arrested, but only two soldiers. One source claims the riots continued for five nights, when military and police efforts ended the violence. [2] However, another source said the range of riots was nine days. [3] Production History Stage debut Zoot Suit premiered at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles in April 1978. [4] This production with the Theater Group Center marked the first professionally produced Chicano play. The initial 10-day race in April sold out in two days. An audience of season ticket holders and local Mexican Americans each night gave a standing ovation at the Mark Taper Forum. The second ride began in August, and tickets sold out again. [4] This extended ride took place at the Aquarius Theatre in Los Angeles. [6] A Broadway production of Broadway productions debuted at the Winter Garden Theatre on March 25, 1979, and closed on April 29 after 41 performances and 17 previews. Directed by Luis Valdez, the production featured choreography by Patricia Birch. Edward James Olmos' portrait of El Pachuc earned him a Tony Award nomination for Best Actor in a Play, as well as a Theatre World Award. [7] Zoot Suit was the second Latino written and directed Broadway-produced play, coming second behind Miguel Piñer's Short Eyes in 1974. While Short Eyes won two Obie Awards, as well as the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best American Play, Zoot Suit ran on Broadway for just five weeks. Valdez also directed a recorded version of the play, combining stage and film techniques. [9] 30th anniversary production In April 2008, Alma Martinez, a member of zoot suit's original cast from 1978. This was the first time since his phase. 1978, zoot suit was manufactured in the Los Angeles area. The two-day race managed to sell out before the premiere, despite minimal commercials, primarily in Latino publications. Many outreach options have been undertaken, including alumni evening, staff appreciation performance, matinees that allow more than 1,000 high school students to attend and develop learning guides for students attending shows. The alumni event featured a reunion of the original cast members from 1978, 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. Members of Henry Leyvas' family, on which Henry Reyna was based, were also in the audience. In a casting revival, Martinez cast over the Claremont University Consortium in search of Latino students. All chicano roles featured actors making their stage debuts, with most of the cast made up of non-theatrical majors. Assistant director Shakina Nayfack modified the script to reduce homophobic and sexist language where possible. Martinez played a female in a traditionally male print role. On the 50th anniversary of the Theatre Group of the Center as part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Theatre Group Center, playwright and director Luis Valdez brought zoot suit to the Mark Taper Forum from 31 January to 2 April 2017. Rose Portillo and Daniel Valdez, who were original cast members from the 1978 production, participated in the show. Instead of repudiating their roles as Henry Reyna and Della, they returned to the stage to play the roles of Henry Reyna's parents. Rose Portillo was thrilled to bring zoot suit to new audiences and declared: 'I'm over the moon. It was a dream come true the first time. It's a dream come true a second time, to come full circle and work with Luis at The Taper, where Gordon Davidson and Luis have been so influential in my artistic career. I look forward to sharing Zoot Suit with a whole new crop of artists and audiences. Similarly, Daniel Valdez said: 'It's great to be back where it all started 38 years ago. I look forward to inhabiting the world of Zoot Suit once more. Oscar-nominated actor Demián Bichir also played El Pachuca. [12] Criticism of Zoot Suit was well received in its initial production in Los Angeles. In his review for the Theatre Journal, Jules Aaron praises the show for its ability to entertain and make a political statement. Aaron also notes the emotional content of the play. [13] Richard Eder for The New York Times echoed Aaron's observations that the show was both entertaining and political. He adds that Zoot Suit is a blend of Cantinflas and Brecht. Eder adds to her critique that the show is too specific to the Chicano community and lacks universality. Valdez's play didn't get the same feelings in New York when he debuted on Broadway. Richard Eder has expressed a different take on Broadway staging since he saw the production in L.A. Eder notes that design elements lack harmony, and that Zoot Suit has failed to combine entertainment with symbolism, plot and morality. A week later, Walter Kerr's New York Times review criticizes Valdez for using clichés. Kerr also complains of a lack of emotional connection between Daniel Valdez and Miss Hensel, who play Henry and Alice. [16] Music Songs threaded through zoot suit was written by Lalo Guerrero and drama brother Daniel Valdez. [1] Guerrero, known as the father of Chicano music, wrote music detailing chicano culture during World War II, which resulted in a song feature in zoot suit. [17] Music combines boogie-woogie and El Paso's version of R&B.[18] References ^ a b c Valdez, Luis (2009). Zoot suit. In Jacobus, Lee A. (ed.). Bedford introduction to drama (Sixth Ed). New York: Bedford/St. Martin's. P. 1256–1288. ^ a b c Pagan, Eduardo Obregon (2003). Murder in a 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). Riots in a zoot suit: exploring social issues in American history. Social studies. 104 (1): 1. ^ a b Galens, ed., David M. (2007). Drama for students vol. 5th Detroit: Gale. p. 279.CS1 maint: additional text: list of authors (link) ^ Lucas, Ashley (spring 2009). Reimagining Pachuc. Journal of the Study of Radicalism. 3 (1): 61.63. JSTOR 41887618. (subscription required) ^ Aaron, Jules (May 1979). Reviewed work: Luis Valdez's Zoot suit. Theatrical diary. 31 (2): 263. JSTOR 3219392. (subscription required) ^ Zoot Suit. Internet Broadway database. Broadway League. 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