

Press Release: Tuesday, April 12th, 2005

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The Romance of Magno Rubio

May 12th – 29th 2005
@ The Theatre Centre
A play by Lonnie Carter with Loy Arcenas
Produced by Nadine Villasin & Carlo Proto

Directed by Romeo Candido
Featuring Byron Abalos, Nicco Lorenzo Garcia, Jon
DeLeon, Leonard Cervantes &
Dean Raphael Vargas

Toronto, Canada - The Carlos Bulosan Theatre (CBT) proudly presents the Canadian premier of the multi-Obie Award winning play *The Romance of Magno Rubio*. For the past 20 years, CBT has succeeded in creating innovative work by means of developing an energetic, progressive-minded generation of Filipino-Canadian artists. Recognized for their reflective interpretations of the Filipino culture, the company celebrates Asian Heritage Month by bringing their second professional production to the stage this May.

The Romance of Magno Rubio is based on a short story of the same title written by Carlos Bulosan, one of the earliest and best-known Filipino writers in English. Set in the 1930s, this adaptation by award-winning playwright Lonnie Carter tells the hard luck tale of a Filipino migrant worker who labours in the farms of California. Undeterred by legal and social prohibitions, the diminutive Magno naively pursues a long-distance courtship. He dreams of a future with a white American woman to whom he sends love letters, though he is unable to read or write. Through clever word play, rhymes, deft hip hop rhythms, movement and song, *The Romance of Magno Rubio* reveals the struggle of migrant workers and their longing for a home and better life.

"The production charms and challenges its audience."

– **Curtain Up (Chicago)**

"One of the best plays of the New York Theatre Season, On or Off Broadway!"

– **Theatre Mania (New York)**

Produced by CBT's Artistic Director Nadine Villasin and Carlo Proto, this Toronto production introduces an exciting ensemble of young Filipino-Canadian actors and artists. Award-winning film and television director Romeo Candido leads the CBT creative team as Director, Sound Designer and Multi-Media Director. His intrepid independent film *Lolo's Child* has been embraced by film audiences world-wide and, in 2002, garnered him the Ishmael Bernal Award For Young Cinema at the 2002 Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival. Candido, a CBT Associate Artist, has since directed *St. Jamestown* for VisionTV and continues to strengthen his ties within the Filipino-Canadian artistic community.

The Romance of Magno Rubio is an engaging and provocative presentation that dives into an intimate, socio-cultural perspective. Passionate and inspiring, a new breed of theatre-making and theatre-audiences are sure to evolve through this production.

Thursday, May 12th until May, 29th, 2005

@ The Theatre Centre, 1087 Queen St. West Toronto, Ontario

For more information, please visit www.carlosbulosan.com

**The Romance of Magno Rubio* website will launch Tuesday, April 19th, 2005