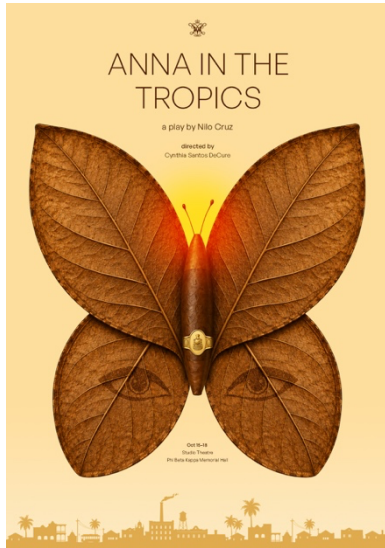


Latinx Heritage Month cultural events - September & October 2026

Department of Theatre & Performance - William & Mary

- [*Anna in the Tropics*](#), a play by Nilo Cruz, Directed by Cynthia Santos DeCure
October 15-18, 7:30pm Thursday-Saturday, 2:00pm Sunday, PBK Studio Theatre



Get tickets here: [Anna in the Tropics tickets](#)

Written by Nilo Cruz, an important Cuban-American playwright, *Anna in the Tropics* was Winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. It is a beautiful story about family, love, and change, set in Ybor City Florida in 1929.

This iconic play combines Chekhovian drama with magic realism. It depicts strong familial bonds valued over individual independence, in tension with the cultural complexity of a multi-generation immigrant community, facing the pressures of the American Dream. The demand to leave behind traditional beliefs and practices in order to embrace modernization and competition threatens to overpower a slower-paced, romantic lifestyle and work ethic that characterize a family-owned cigar factory (one of the last of its kind), where cigars are still rolled by hand and "lectors" are employed to read literature to workers.

"The arrival of a new lector is a cause for celebration, but when he begins to read aloud from Anna Karenina, he unwittingly becomes a catalyst in the lives of his avid listeners, for whom Tolstoy, the tropics, and the American dream prove a volatile combination." (Dramatist's Play Service)

If you are interested in this play, please take note that for Hispanic Heritage month, we will be hosting a number of cultural events in relation to Anna in the Tropics, to celebrate Latine communities and their contributions as part of our country's history and future. These events will include music, dance, video art, community building, information sessions and more ([full lineup here](#))! **They are all free and open to the public:*

- [Screening of dance film](#) *Entre Puerto Rico y Richmond: Women in Resistance Shall Not Be Moved*, Weds Sept 30, 4:30pm-6pm, PBK 265 conference room, discussion with artists Dr. Patricia Herrera and Professor Alicia Diaz, University of Richmond



Join us for the screening of this award-winning dance film honoring Black female tobacco workers in Richmond and Puerto Rican anti-colonial activists Dominga de La Cruz Becerril and Luisa Capetillo. The program will include a panel discussion with co-creators [Alicia Diaz](#) and [Patricia Herrera](#).

Published Materials Related to the Dance Film:

Dávila, Lourdes. "El cuerpo como archivo de historia y resistencia: *Entre Puerto Rico y Richmond: Women in Resistance Shall Not Be Moved*." *Esferas*, no. 11, NYU Department of Spanish and Portuguese, 2021, pp. 140–147.

Díaz, Alicia and Herrera, Patricia. “Entre Puerto Rico y Richmond: Bridging Stories of Resistance.” [Commonwealth Publication](#), no. 2, Institute for Contemporary Art at VCU / Philadelphia Contemporary / Beta-Local, 2020, pp. 69-77.

Díaz, Alicia and Herrera, Patricia. “Radical Imaginings of Feminist Solidarities *Entre Puerto Rico y Richmond*.” *Porque Estamos Aquí: Puerto Rican Feminisms Against Empire*, edited by Jessica Nydia Pabón-Colón, Feminist Press at CUNY, 2025, pp.65-86.

Rivera Santana, Carlos, Whitney Ledesma, and Malvika Shrimali. “Entre Puerto Rico y Richmond: A Conversation on Embodied Decolonial Creation with Alicia Díaz & Patricia Herrera.” *Interventions*, [The Latinx Project](#) at NYU, 10 Apr. 2022.

- [Know Your Rights training](#), Mon Oct 5, [RSVP](#) for time and location, with WM Fire



Join WMFIRE for a Know Your Rights training to hear about how current events influence immigrant communities and what you can do to stay informed.

- [Lecture/demonstration “Batá Beyond Performance”](#): Understanding an African Diasporic Knowledge Tradition”, Tues Oct 13, 4:30-6pm, Recital Hall, Music Arts Center, with Dr. R. Khari Clemmons, Virginia State University & batá ensemble



Experience an interactive introduction to the batá song and dance tradition. This educational experience will offer deeper understanding of how African diasporic communities preserve, organize, and transmit knowledge across generations. Guest speaker/performer Dr. R. Khari Clemmons (Virginia State University) approaches drum, song, dance, and participation as interdependent components of a cultural ecosystem

- [Opening Night Latin Dance Party](#), Thurs Oct 15, 9:30pm-11:30pm PBK 133 Lab Theatre (after the show *Anna in the Tropics*), with instructor Quiana from Con Alegria Movement & W&M Latin American Student Union, light refreshments provided



Come celebrate the opening of *Anna in the Tropics* with a fun, stress-free evening of Latin Dance, including an introductory class during the first hour, followed by free dancing to the rhythms of Salsa, Bachata, Merengue, and more! Everyone is welcome, from Latin Dance lovers to beginners, so bring your friends and your own style!

- [Reception](#), Fri Oct 16, after the show until 10:30pm, PBK lobby, Cuban food and drinks provided.

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STRATEGIC CULTURAL PARTNERSHIPS

Come celebrate *Anna in the Tropics* and mingle with other theatre goers and the cast and crew, while enjoying Cuban treats. Cosponsored by Swem Library, American Studies and Strategic Cultural Partnerships.

- [Taller de Teatro Comunitario](#) sobre nuestras historias / **Community Theatre workshop** in Spanish on Latinx Stories, Sun Oct 18, after the show until 5:30pm, PBK 163, [RSVP](#), refreshments provided



Este taller participativo explorará los temas de *Anna in the Tropics* en relación con las experiencias de las personas asistentes. Profundizaremos en la forma narrativa de la obra y en su relevancia para la vida latina contemporánea, abordando temas como la memoria cultural, la modernización, el machismo, el mestizaje, la tradición, la americanización y la diáspora. Improvisaremos escenas inspiradas en la obra y exploraremos cuentacuentos en español como una forma de expresar los intereses e inquietudes, los sueños y recuerdos, así como las culturas y contribuciones de nuestras comunidades en EEUU.

- [Community Theatre workshop](#) on Latinx stories in English, Weds Oct 21, 5pm-7pm, PBK 112, [RSVP](#), refreshments provided



This participatory workshop will explore the themes of *Anna in the Tropics* in relation to the lived experiences of audience members. We will delve into the play's mode of storytelling and its relevance to present day Latinx experiences, touching on topics like cultural memory, modernization, machismo, mestizaje, tradition, Americanization, and diaspora. We will improvise scenes inspired by the play and explore storytelling as a way to express our communities' interests and concerns, dreams and memories, cultures and contributions to US contexts.

- [Undocu Ally Training](#), Tues Oct 22, 6pm-8pm, PBK 163, with WM FIRE



Join WMFIRE for an UndocuAlly Training focusing on the Cuban-American immigrant experience. Learn how to be an ally for immigrant communities on campus and beyond. All are welcome to share their stories, learn from others, and engage in critical discussion.