

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER

Carey Perloff, Artistic Director Heather Kitchen, Executive Director

PRESENTS

# WORDS <sup>on</sup> PLAYS

INSIGHT INTO THE PLAY, THE PLAYWRIGHT, AND THE PRODUCTION

## *Boleros for the Disenchanted*

BY JOSÉ RIVERA

DIRECTED BY CAREY PERLOFF

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER

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## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

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1. What contributes to Flora's decision to move to the United States mainland at the end of Act I?
2. How would you define the 39-year marriage between Flora and Eusebio? How does it compare to the marriage between Doña Milla and Don Fermin?
3. What is the effect of seeing the same actress play Doña Milla and Older Flora? How would your understanding of the play be different if the actors who play Flora and Eusebio in Act I also played their older selves in Act II? All of the actors play a pair of roles; what, if any, connections are there between the two characters in each pair?
4. José Rivera's style has often been called "magical realism," yet Rivera explains that *Boleros* is a more conventional drama. What moments feel "magical" in this play?
5. How is *Boleros* a commentary on the migration experience of Puerto Ricans in the United States?

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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