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Nilo Cruz

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Nilo Cruz : Anna in the Tropics (Library Edition Audio CDs) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Anna in the Tropics (Library Edition Audio CDs):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. decent play, but a very very weak winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize By Frank L. Greenagel II The dialogue is decent and the characters are fine. The strength of the story is how the reading of Anna Karenina by the lector inside the cigar factory both effects and reflects the characters' lives. This won the the 2003 Pulitzer Prize. That's pretty surprising to me, as this play, while decent, doesn't have anything that comes off as exemplary. Now, I've only read it, and there is an excellent chance that it is transformed into something different on the stage with the proper actors...but still, the dialogue and the plot are just not very strong. It's a play about family and romantic love, yet there are no "a-ha" moments, nor are there any lyrical lines that cause you to swoon over

language use. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Setting is interesting, but little else is. By Peter J. Orvetti
This play has an interesting setting and a lot of beautiful language, but Cruz does not successfully use these to create a memorable piece. The history of the cigar factory lecturers is one I did not know; I read up on it a bit after reading this play. If nothing else, Cruz gets credit for reviving interest in this bit of history. The language of the characters belies their backgrounds, but this can be chalked up to literary license, and even to a touch of magical realism. But the story just lies there, and once their florid language is stripped away, the characters are mainly archetypes in a battle of ruthless progress versus the way we've always done things, and leaves little to remember. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Elozano
Great addition to our library

Starring Jimmy Smits, this poetic Pulitzer Prize winning play captures 1929 Florida at a time when cigars are still rolled by hand and lecturers are employed to educate and entertain the workers. The arrival of a new lecturer is a cause for celebration. But when he reads 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. A L.A. Theatre Works full-cast performance featuring: Alma Martinez, Jonathan Nichols, Winston Rocha, Onahoua Rodriguez, Adriana Sevan, Herbert Siguenza and Jimmy Smits.

From Publishers Weekly
When Juan Julian, a new lecturer, arrives at the tobacco shop, lives will inexorably be changed as he navigates through the prose of Anna Karenina for the edification of the cigar rollers. Set in Florida in 1929, the characters battle each other and themselves about the changing times as they confront technology, equality, money and love, reflected in the passages read by Julian. Though provocative and provoking in its suggestions and themes, this performance doesn't have much to go beyond that. Jimmy Smits's performance peaks with his charged passages from Tolstoy's novel, but throughout the rest of the play his performance proves less than stellar. Some memorable performances include Winston Rocha as Santiago and Onahoua Rodriguez as Marela, but overall, the building tension in the short play feels forced and the performers seem to know this. L.A. Theatre Works, perhaps recognizing the brevity of the performance of this surprise Pulitzer Prize winner, provides an interview with Jimmy Smits to round out the production. The interview provides some insight to the decisions and the motivations of the cast as well as the director and writer. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. ...a play in which language is savored and emotions simmer. These are the reasons why it won the Pulitzer Prize. --

TheatreMania.com
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Library Journal
L.A. Theatre Works presents yet another production recorded live before an appreciative audience. Star Jimmy Smits embraces his role with verve and enthusiasm in this charming and passionate Pulitzer Prize-winning play. The entire cast rises to the occasion before the sensitive microphones, unreeling a torrid yet thoughtful romantic tragedy set among immigrant cigar-rollers in 1929 Florida. The surreal writing is translated warmly and creatively, making this listen a rare entertainment and making it clear other theater companies could easily follow this lead and add to the genre. A bonus interview with Smits adds some fascinating back story on the actor's reasons for making time for this project and why the play makes an important statement. --
AudioFile Magazine
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From the Inside Flap

This poignant and poetic Pulitzer Prize winning play captures 1929 Florida at a time when cigars are still rolled by hand and "lectors" are employed to educate and entertain the workers. The arrival of a new lector is a cause for celebration. But when he reads 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. An L.A. Theatre Works full-cast performance starring: Jimmy Smits as Juan Julian Onahoua Rodriguez as Marela Adriana Sevan as Conchita Alma Martinez as Ofelia Jonathan Nichols as Palomo and Eliades Winston Rocha as Santiago Herbert Siguenza as Ch ch Directed by Jose Luis Valenzuela. Recorded before a live audience at the Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles.