

SPECIAL THANKS

Danielle C.N. Zappa gives thanks to: Producer Kathleen Potts for all her guidance and support throughout this process, and for her unwavering trust and confidence in my direction; to Playwright Alex Polanco for being the most genuine and enjoyable writer with whom to collaborate; to Stage Manager Rose Labarre and ASM Tasiya Roseborough for always keeping us on task, for problem solving or picking up the slack, and for impeccable attention to detail; to our amazing CCNY network helping us from audition monitors to designers to house managers; to Tara Nachtigall; to the original cast of *The Illusion of Love*; to my supportive family and friends, and to Oscar Aguirre.

Alex Polanco would like to give special thanks to the following individuals from the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture: Director of Operations Michael Miller, Director of Finance and Administration Camille Hall, Graduate Student Services Manager Hannah Borgeson, Executive Assistant to the Dean Erica Wszolek, and, of course, Dean Gordon A. Gebert. Also thanks to the entire cast and crew of *Team Illusion of Love*

Kathleen Potts gives thanks to: The Entire Planet Connections Theatre Festivity Staff, especially the amazing founder Glory Kadigan, Laura Mae Baker, Olivia Rubano, Brock H. Hill; with extra thanks to the fabulous tech team: Jenna Lazar, Lauren Arneson, & Mary Greene. Also to CCNY supporters & friends: David Willinger, Tara Nachtigall, Brandon Judell, Jen Tuttle, Rob Barron, Jen Holmes, Mary Myers, Gene Nesmith, Julio Matos, and Kayla Lessard; plus the original cast in the NPC workshop: Nicheal Gadson, Dante Montgomery, Jeancarlo Perez and Paris Scott. Truly special thanks to "Team Illusion of Love." I'm astounded by your talent, dedication, and generosity of spirit; I feel grateful to share this artistic journey with all of you.

Please visit our friends/fellow artists in Planet Connections Theatre Festivity!!!

Try: *Blankets and Bedtime: 3 Restless Plays* by Erik Champney

Company/Artist: Pixie Theory Productions, Directed by Janet Bentley. Benefiting: RAINN

Plus, catch our friend & fellow artist, Cesar Valderrama, in *Flow* by Roi Escudero

Company/Artist: ETdC Projects' Lab, Roi Escudero, Tatyana Kot, Cesar Valderrama, et al.

Benefiting: The Indie Theater Fund

Finally...

The Illusion of Love is a new play and a work-in-progress, so we'd love your feedback. Please connect with us via social media and tell us what you think!

INSTAGRAM: [theillusionoflove](#)

TWITTER: [@illusionoflove1](#)

You can even let us know what *you* believe about love by tagging your post:

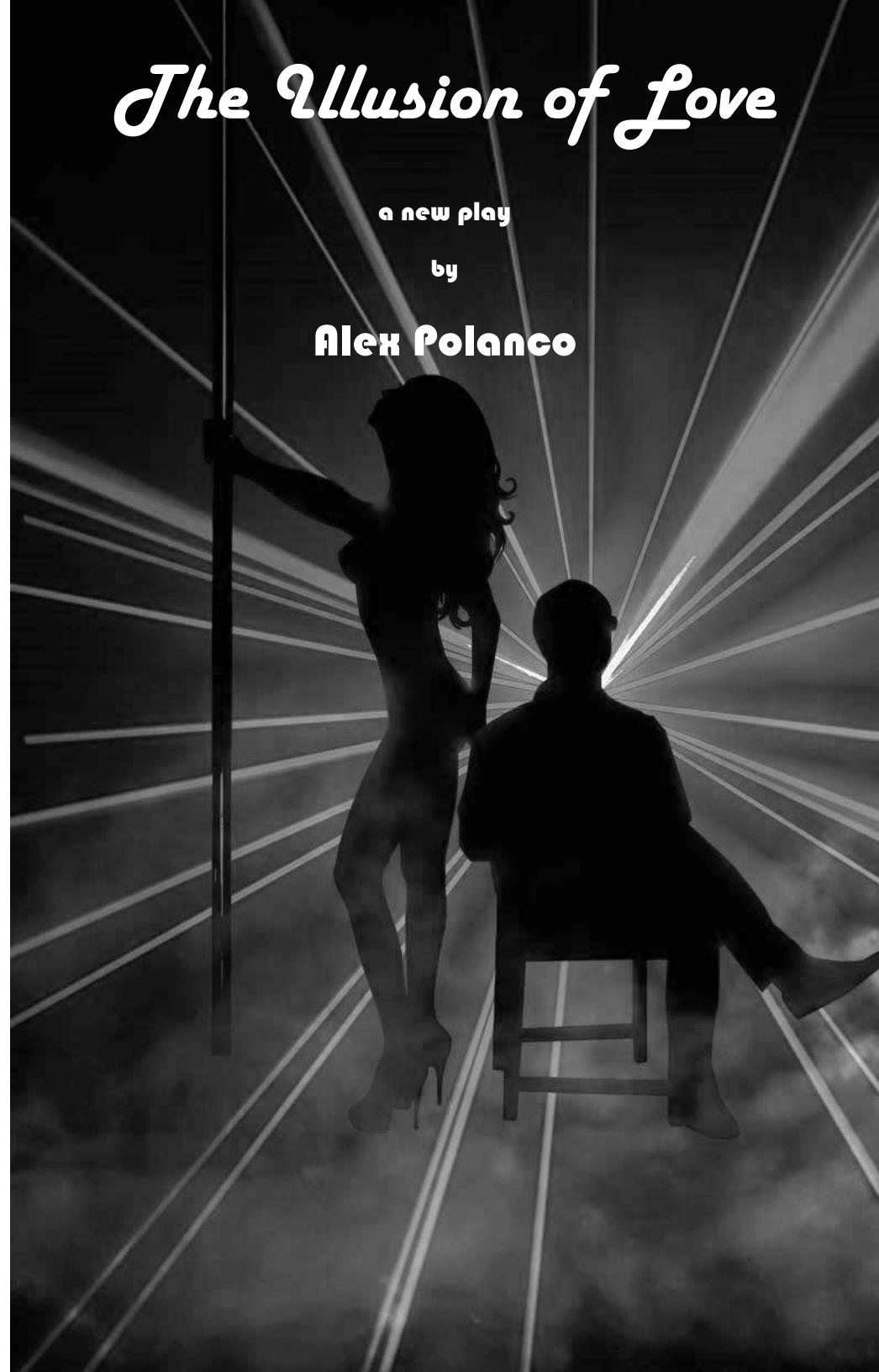
#teamphysical #teamemotional #teamillusion

The Illusion of Love

a new play

by

Alex Polanco



A co-production of Planet Connections Theatre Festivity
&
Akadēmeia Theatre

The Illusion of Love

by

Alex Polanco

Featuring:

Kimberly Gómez

Phillip Iweriebor

Amanda Klinikowski

Pablo B. Sandstrom

Paris Scott

Graphic by: Geordano Abreu

Program Design by: Angélica Rivera

Light Design

Thomas Gonzalez

Sound Design/Board Operator

Nicheal Gadson

Fight Choreography

Johnny X. Wang

Stage Manager

Rose Labarre

Assistant Stage Manager

Tasiya Roseborough

Dramaturgy

Kathleen Potts

Publicity

Ervin Vazquez

Directed By

Danielle C.N. Zappa

AKADĒMEIA THEATRE

CO-FOUNDER/MANAGING DIRECTOR..... Kathleen Potts

CO-FOUNDER/ARTISTIC DIRECTORLydia Fort

The fact that these individuals were revealing something so personal to someone they knew only as a character on television demonstrated to Mariska, and to all of us, how desperate they were to be heard, believed, supported and healed.

Her response was to create *Joyful Heart*.

The vision of the Joyful Heart Foundation is a world free of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse.

Their mission is to transform society's response to sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse, support survivors' healing, and end this violence forever. They deliver their mission through a program portfolio that includes three integrated areas: Healing, Education and Advocacy.

We invite you to learn more about them, please visit

<http://www.joyfulheartfoundation.org/>

Consider giving to Joyful Heart Foundation at

<https://secure.joyfulheartfoundation.org/page/contribute/>



When Mariska Hargitay started playing Detective Olivia Benson on *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, the content of the scripts, as well as the work she did to prepare for the role, opened her eyes to the epidemics of sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse. What she learned was staggering:

- One in three women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives.
- Every two minutes in the United States, someone is sexually assaulted.
- More than five children die every day in this country as a result of child abuse and neglect, and up to 15 million children witness domestic violence in their homes each year.

But what really opened her eyes—and subsequently, her heart—was the fan mail she received. The letters didn't say, *"I love your show. Can you send me an autographed picture?"* They said, *"I was raped when I was fifteen. I'm forty now and I've never told anyone."* Survivors were disclosing their stories to her, many for the first time.

CHARACTERS

CANDY	Amanda Klinikowski
HENNESSY.....	Kimberly Gómez
MICHAEL.....	Phillip Iweriebor
RICHIE	Pablo B. Sandstrom
VERONICA	Paris Scott
<i>Understudy for CANDY AND VERONICA</i>	Tasiya Roseborough

SETTINGS

A private room in the Strip Club, Hennessey's Bar, the Strip Club's locker room and Veronica's apartment.

TIME

2016

MUSIC

Original works by the following artists:

Opening Scene: **"Love Is an Illusion,"** featuring beats by WAMOO (a.k.a. Juan Alvarez), music & lyrics by Alex Polanco, with vocals by Alex Polanco, featuring Samara Brown.

Closing Scene: **"Can't Feel The Love"** by thePlanetX

Produced by Bobby La Serra for Strong Island Rocks! Long Island, New York. Vocals, Main Rhythm Guitar, Drum Programming, & Bass by thePlanetX. Lead Blues & Rhythm Guitar by Howard Sadowsky. Rap Vocals by Jarred AllStar. Cuts & Scratches by DJ Decoy.

DISCLAIMER

Recommended for mature audiences.

The Cast



Kimberly Gómez (Hennessey) A Theatre Major at the City College of New York, her recent works include Hailstorm in CCNY's production of *Blu* and Sister Margaret in *Incorruptible*. She is thrilled to be able to work with such a talented and committed set of individuals.

Instagram: @kim.go.mez Twitter: @kim_go_mez
Facebook: Kimberly Gomez



Phillip Iweriebor (Michael) A recent graduate at Hunter College, he's been in Hunter Theatre department productions such as *Clybourne Park* and *The Cherry Orchard*. It is a pleasure to be in this production.

Instagram: Phil_lee23
Facebook: Phillip Iweriebor III



Amanda Klinikowski (Candy) Originally from NC, past roles have included Babe in *Crimes of the Heart*, Jenny Diver in *The Threepenny Opera*, and touring with Chamber Theatre Productions. Amanda looks forward to continuing her work with new theatrical works in NYC. She thanks the entire team for their hard work and this opportunity!

Instagram: @amandaklini Twitter: @AmandaKlini_
Facebook: Amanda Klinikowski



Pablo B. Sandstrom (Richie) Pablo is a Spanish/Swedish actor and recent graduate from the T. Schreiber Studio conservatory program. This is Pablo's sixth NYC theatre appearance. Pablo has performed in the 4th St Theatre @ NYTW, The Gloria Maddox Theatre, THE POINT among other venues.

Instagram: pablo.b.sandstrom Twitter: @pablobsandstrom
Facebook: Pablo B. Sandstrom Website: www.pablobsandstrom.com



Paris Scott (Veronica) Currently a Theater Major at the City College of New York, Paris played Veronica when this play was still a one-act. She is very excited to perform in its full length version.

Instagram: @pariyonet
Facebook: Paris Yone't

Production Team

Danielle C. N. Zappa (Director) is thrilled to be directing *The Illusion of Love* in the Planet Connections Theatre Festivity. She directed the original production in its workshop form at CCNY, and loved taking part in the script's journey with Alex and K.P.. Recent credits include *Pedro Castillo* is *Innocent* (TNC) and *Octavia* (Aaron Davis Hall). Many thanks to PCTF, my team, our cast, and our supporters. Forza.

Instagram: @deecaranichole

Alex Polanco (Playwright) An actor/playwright from Washington Heights, Alex is currently attending the City College of New York where he will be graduating in the Fall 2016 with a B.A. in theatre. He has been in school productions like *Tales from the Vienna Woods*, *In the Heights*, *Richard III*, and *The World of Extreme Happiness*. In the summer of 2015 he made his off-Broadway debut in the production of *Othello* at the Davenport Theatre. He is extremely grateful for this opportunity and Kathleen Potts for helping him improve his playwriting.

Instagram: @a1versatil

Kathleen Potts (Dramaturge) An alumna of Columbia University's School of the Arts (M.F.A., Playwriting), and The Graduate Center, CUNY (Ph.D., Theatre), she is also a member of the Dramatists Guild. Other honors include: Eugene O'Neill Center Playwriting Fellow and Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival's "Lorraine Hansberry Award" for her play *Miss Nowhere Diner* (Dramatic Publishing Company). As co-founder and Managing Director of Akadēmeia Theatre Company, she is thrilled to be returning to PCTF with *The Illusion of Love*. Bravo to the dynamic trio of Danielle, Alex, and Rose.

Rose Labarre (Stage Manager) is currently a senior at The City College of New York. Her credits include: *The King and I* Broadway Cast Album (@kingandibway), Broadway's *Fiddler on the Roof* (@fiddlerbroadway) and Broadway's newest revival of *CATS* (@catsbroadway). She has stage managed at City College and Columbia University, and is thrilled to stage manage *The Illusion of Love*.

Instagram: @roselabarre Twitter: @roselabarre
Facebook: www.facebook.com/roselabarre

Tasiya Roseborough (Assistant Stage Manager) A Theatre Major at the City College of New York, she has performed in two CCNY productions, *Octavia* and *Marisol* as an ensemble member. This is her first ever production as an Assistant Stage Manager, and she is thrilled for the opportunity. Tasiya would like to thank her friends and family for their constant love and support.

Instagram: tasiyaroseborough Facebook: Tasiya Roseborough

Nicheal Gadson (Sound Designer/Board Operator) Currently in her senior year at The City College of New York, she is proud to be working on *The Illusion of Love*. She has previously done sound design for *The World of Extreme Happiness*. She has also recently performed in *Working: The Musical*. Nicheal would like to thank her family and friends for all of their love and encouragement.

Instagram: omgitsnicheal www.facebook.com/nichealg

Johnny X. Wang (Fight Choreographer) is a New York-based artist with a focus on acting, stunts, and production. He has been fight- director and/or stage combat specialist for a multitude of shows, including: *Comfort Women: A New Musical*, *A Happy End*, *Blu* and *Romeo and Juliet*. He is excited to help make this show come to life.

<https://www.facebook.com/JohnnyXWang/>
http://www.imdb.com/name/nm7253890/?ref_=fn_al_nm_1