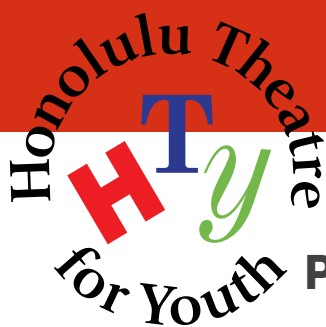




PERFORMANCE GUIDE

UNCLE'S MOSTLY TRUE STORIES OF THE PHILIPPINES

BY HERMENIGILDO TESORO JR. & THE HTY ENSEMBLE

(RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 4 AND UP)



WWW.HTYWEB.ORG

**ALOHA FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
ERIC JOHNSON**



Aloha!

Welcome to the work of Honolulu Theatre for Youth. We are delighted to share these resources with you. We believe wholeheartedly in the power of stories to bring us together. When that happens we often find great similarities with our fellow humans that strengthen our sense of belonging and shared purpose. Coming from a place that is both geographically remote and culturally diverse, we treasure stories in our community and are deeply honored to share this one with you. Thank you so much for taking the time to look over these resource materials. If you would like more information on the company or our work, please look us up at htyweb.org.

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PRODUCTION CREDITS

Written by

Hermenigildo Tesoro, Jr. and The HTY Ensemble

Directed by

Eric Johnson

Dramaturgy by

Lee Cataluna

Set and Lighting Design by

Chesley Cannon

Costume Design by

Iris Kim

Sound and Music by

Jarren Amian

Prop Design and Technical Direction by

Eric West

Stage Manager

Sarah Danvers

Performed by

Jarren Amian and Hermenegildo Tesoro Jr.

Study Guide by

Reiko Ho

National Core Arts Standards compiled by

Daniel A. Kelin, II



ABOUT OUR SHOW AND CREATOR, HERMENIGILDO "JUNIOR" TESORO



Mahalo nui for joining us for *Uncle's Mostly True Stories of the Philippines*.

You may think you know about Filipino culture. You may even know about the candle dance, halo-halo, malunggay, and the carabao. But... you don't know Uncle's version of these stories, which he swears are true, mostly.

Longtime Honolulu Theatre for Youth Resident Ensemble member, Hermanigildo Tesoro Jr., affectionately known to all as "Junior," is the creator and star of this exuberant celebration of all things Filipino. This is a piece made with love from his family to all the families in Hawai'i.

Tesoro has been entertaining and educating Hawai'i's children at HTY since 1996! Though he's helped devise dozens of plays with the company, this marks the first time that he is writing his own play. The piece is inspired by Junior's memories of his family, who always told wonderful stories about the family's Filipino heritage -- stories of valor and kindness, great adventures and magical experiences.

"This piece is so special because Junior has had it in mind for years while he worked on other people's plays," said HTY Artistic Director Eric Johnson. "We're so fortunate that he's willing to share these stories with us. It blends history and culture with so much creativity and fun. We know audiences are going to love this show."

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE PHILIPPINES?

The Philippines is an independent nation in Southeast Asia. It is an archipelago, a nation made up of a group islands (like Hawai'i!). It is situated between the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean. The Philippines are made up of over 7,000 islands and organized into three main island groups: Luzon in the north, Visayas in the center, and Mindanao in the south. The capitol, Manila, is located on the island of Luzon.



The Philippine flag symbolizes the nation's fight for independence. The blue stripe represents peace, truth, and justice; the red stripe represents patriotism and valor; and the white triangle stands for equality and liberty. The golden sun with eight rays symbolizes the first eight provinces that revolted against Spanish colonization. The three stars represent the three main island groups of Luzon, Bisayas, and Mindanao.

HISTORY OF FILIPINOS IN HAWAII

(photos from Hawai'i State Archives)



On December 20, 1906, fifteen Filipino plantation laborers arrived by boat in Honolulu. These men, called *sakadas*, were the start of an influx of Filipino immigrants to Hawai'i. Because of new restrictions on Japanese and Chinese workers immigrating to the U.S. at that time, the Hawai'i Sugar Plantation Association (HSPA) began heavily recruiting Filipino laborers to work in the sugar and pineapple fields.

This recruitment continued over the next four decades. By 1919, there were more than 10,000 Filipino laborers documented, making up approximately 22% of the total work force on the plantations. By the 1930s, Filipinos replaced the Japanese as the largest ethnic group of workers on the plantations. By 1946, the HSPA documented 125,917 Filipino laborers on the plantations.

The Filipinos who migrated to work on the Hawai'i plantations were rural folks. Most of them were Ilocanos, but there were also Bisayans and Tagalogs. U.S. Census data from 2020 showed that there are 383,200 Filipino-Americans living in Hawai'i, making them the second largest ethnic group after European-Americans. Filipinos are now 25% of the state's population.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The Philippines is very diverse- there are many ethnic peoples and languages spoken. The majority of people who immigrated to Hawai'i from 1906-1946 were Ilocano. You may here some Ilocano and Tagalog words and phrases during the show.

Ilocano	English
Kablaaw	Hello
Naimbag a bigat	Good morning
Kumusta ka?	How are you?
Anak	Sun
Vinum	Water
Balasang	Young girl
Salagubang	Beetle
Malunggay	A staple food of the Filipino people. Also known as the Moringa tree, leaves (bulong) are used as a vegetable in staple dishes and also made into flour. Fruits and flowers are also used in a variety of dishes.
Mangan bayon!	Let's eat!

Tagalog	English
Salamat po	Thank you
halo-halo	"mix mix"-- name a of popular cold dessert made from a mixture of shaved ice, evaporated or coconut milk, fruit, sweetened beans and other sweet ingredients.



Malunggay tree



(above) Halo-halo

*(left) Malunggay
pandesol- bread made
with Malunggay*

BOOKS FOR THE CLASSROOM



Picture Books for Younger Students

- *Cora Cooks Pancit* by Dorina Lazo Gilmore (Author), Kristi Valiant (Illustrator)
- *When Lola Visits* by Michelle Sterling (Author), Aaron Asis (Illustrator)
- *A is for Adobo: ABCs of Filipino Culture (Filipino Culture Children's Books)* by G.M. Reyes (Author), Twinkle A. (Illustrator)
- *Filipino Children's Favorite Stories: Fables, Myths and Fairy Tales (Favorite Children's Stories)* by Lianna Romulo (Author), Joanne De Leon (Illustrator)

For Older Students

- *The Take Out* by Tracy Badua
- *Mabuhay!* by Zack Sterling (Graphic novel)
- *My Fate According to the Butterfly* by Gail D. Villanueva
- *We Dream of Space* by Erin Entrada Kelly- A Newberry Honor Award Winner
- *Isabel in Bloom* by Mae Respicio -A National Council of Teachers of English Recommended Book.

WEBSITES AND VIDEOS

- Filipinos in Hawai'i (1991)- video resource from PBS Hawai'i
https://youtu.be/yb-VVZhD67c?si=_hx2379aiyyzmOcq
- A Sakada Story (2015) - short documentary film by Maribel Apuya
<https://youtu.be/HKzUIcd37w8?si=ryTKdEM2S7qZT5It>
- Philippine Facts for Kids- website with fun facts
<https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/philippines-facts.html>



POST SHOW DISCUSSION

JARREN IS HALF FILIPINO. ARE YOU OR DO YOU KNOW OTHER FRIENDS WHO ARE MIXED ETHNICITIES? HOW DO YOU THINK JARREN FEELS ABOUT BEING HALF FILIPINO AT THE START OF THE PLAY? AT THE END?

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE STORY THAT UNCLE TELLS?

WHAT IS YOUR ETHNIC BACKGROUND?

ARE THERE STORIES AND TRADITIONS THAT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SHARE?

INTERVIEW AN ELDER: FAVORITE FOOD MEMORIES

In our play, Jarren, is looking to connect with his Filipino heritage. His elder, Uncle, helps him to connect with being Filipino. They discover that they both love *adobo*, a savory dish made with chicken or pork. and the unofficial national dish of the Philippines. Every family has their own secret *adobo* recipe. Sharing stories and sharing food are an important way for Jarren to connect to his culture.

Lesson Objective

Interview an elder, listen to their story, and connect with your culture.

Instructions

Find an elder in your family or community to interview.
Ask permission to interview them.
Ask them what their favorite food (from their culture) is.
What is their favorite memory about eating that food?
What makes this food special to their culture and ethnic group?

Share the food memory story with the class.

If time, find a recipe for that food to share with the class or try it out at home and make a memory of your own.

RECIPE FOR FILIPINO CHICKEN ADOBO

Ingredients

1.5 lbs (5-6 pieces) chicken thighs
2 tablespoons neutral oil
3-4 cloves of garlic, minced
1 cup Water + more if needed
1/2 cup of soy sauce
1/2 cup of white vinegar
2-3 bay leaves
1 teaspoon whole black pepper corns
Salt & Fresh cracked pepper to taste

Instructions

- In a heavy braising pan or pot, heat the oil at medium heat. While the oil is heating, pat dry the chicken pieces
- Sear/Brown chicken pieces. Fry in batches as needed. Set aside.
- In the same pan w the heat on low, toast the peppercorns and bay leaves. Once fragrance, add the minced garlic. Gently saute garlic until lightly browned, don't burn!
- Add back the chicken, soy sauce and water. If the liquid is not enough to cover the chicken, add a bit more water until the chicken is just covered with liquid. On a medium-low heat, braise chicken until tender. (40-50min).
- Once chicken is tender, add vinegar and simmer for another 5 minutes. Taste the broth for your preferred flavor. Adjust salt, pepper, vinegar to your liking. Serve with rice.



WRITE YOUR OWN STORY



Uncle and Jarren have fun creating their own stories based on true facts.

Lesson Objective

Create and dramatize a story imagined from historical facts.

Instructions

Introduce a few facts about a tradition like candle-dancing in the play or an object or thing like the malunggay tree.

Have students imagine a story around the introduced object or tradition.

Write out the stories.

Share the stories with the class.

Sample Starter Prompts:

Who are the characters in your story about _____?

Where does your story take place?

What happens to the characters in your story?

If time, **expand the activity into creative drama activity** by having students act out their stories in small groups.



ABOUT HTY

Honolulu Theatre for Youth (HTY) is a theatre of place, deeply rooted in the cultures and people of the Pacific and dedicated to serving young people, families and educators across the Hawaiian Islands. Founded in 1955, HTY is one of the oldest professional TYA companies in the country and is recognized for its long history of innovative drama education programming and the creation of original theatrical works that celebrate the diverse cultures of Hawai‘i.

OUR COMPANY

Becky Dunning
Development

Stu Hirayama
School Reservations

Brad DeCaires
Box Office

Stephanie Conching
House Manager

Lee Cataluna
Writer in Residence

Jian Gu
Accounting

Eric Johnson
Artistic Director

Reiko Ho
Artistic Associate/Marketing

Moses Goods
Artistic Associate/Actor

Annie Cusick Wood
Artistic Associate

Artistic Team
Jarren Amian
Chesley Cannon
Sarah Danvers
Serina Dunham
Lokomaika‘i Lipscomb
Mattea Mazzella
Hermenigildo Tesoro Jr.
Eric West
Emily Wright

Daniel A. Kelin, II
Director of Drama Education

Tamara Smith
Drama Ed. Administrator

Erin O’Hara
Teaching Artist

Ms. Lisa
Teaching Artist

Kirsten Erickson
Teaching Artist

Jill Jackson
Teaching Artist