

NEW MOVEMENT IN SOLIDARITY WITH
PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIALISM
GUERRILLA THEATRE

ALL: Guerrilla Theatre in 60 seconds! Free Show! Guerrilla Theatre!

NARRATOR: (holding small banner): The New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence and Socialism Guerrilla Theatre is proud to present its performance of

ALL: REAGAN'S NIGHTMARE OR BEDTIME FOR IMPERIALISM!

NAR: Now as you may or may not know, Puerto Rico was invaded by the United States in 1989 and has been a colony ever since, thanks to a massive military occupation and immense economic exploitation. Our play begins in the White House, where President Ronald Reagan is trying to take one of his many afternoon naps.

Scene I: The White House

AIDE: OK now, you get some good sleep, Mr. President. Have a nice afternoon nap. You have an important meeting with the CIA this afternoon on El Salvador, Mr. President. Here's little Bonzo to keep you company (stuffed dog).

RON: Where's my jelly beans?

AID: Here they are.

RON: Don't let me sleep through anything important.

AID: No we won't let that happen again, Mr. President. Sweet dreams, Mr. President

NAR: Now, as Ronnie slinks into a deep sleep he is going to be visited by a dream of a former U.S. President. Can you guess which one?

AUDIENCE: Jefferson?

NAR: No.

AUD: Lincoln?

NAR: No.

AUD: Teddy Roosevelt?

NAR: Right! Ronnie is going to be visited by the president who not only helped to colonize Puerto Rico, but also Panama, Cuba and the Phillipines. ARCH IMPERIALIST, THEODORE ROOSEVELT!

Blast from trumpet sounds the cavalry charge

TED: CHARGE!! Ronnie, Ronnie, wake up ol' boy. This is no time to be sleeping. This is a time to be standing up for America as we build it back into the great power it once was -- from sea to shining sea. What a manifest destiny!

RON: Teddy, my old friend. It's so good to see you. You know, I've always looked up to you as my idol. Why, I remember when you invaded Puerto Rico...

TED: Ah yes, Puerto Rico. That little gem of an island we snatched up. They didn't know what to do with it anyway.

RON: No, it was going to waste.

TED: What a splendid little war that was. Now Puerto Rico is very important to America, Ronnie. It's very strategic to US interests. Don't you lose that island. Why, Puerto Rico is our stepping stone to all of Latin America.

RON: Oh, don't you worry, Teddy. Puerto Rico is imperative to our control of the entire world.

TED: But how are you going to hold onto it?

RON: Well, Teddy. I'm building up the military! I'm cutting out all those wasteful social programs like aid to the elderly, hot school lunches, welfare, aid to the riffraff. And I'm putting that money where it belongs: I'm building bigger guns, bigger bombs, more tanks. Why, even Nancy has her own little gun.

TED: Bully for her!

RON: And that's not all, Teddy. I'm building up the American people's patriotic spirit. Why, last January when our brave boys came home from Iran (holding hat over heart) we had thousands of people out in the streets waving American flags and burning Iranian flags. It was wonderful.

TED: That's what I like to hear.

RON: BUT! I've been having terrible nightmares lately. I've been dreaming that I'm losing control, that things are slipping away from us. I keep thinking about El Salvador and Nicaragua. And then if we don't stop it why we'll be having trouble in Mexico. And if we can't stop them south of Mexico how can we stop it north of Mexico. And then there's those Puerto Ricans who are bombing our bases and corporations demanding independence. Why there's even Puerto Ricans doing bombings right here in the US - the FALN. Whenever I think about it I get so upset why I-I-I...

TED: Snap out of it, Ronnie! You've got to buck up, boy, and remember: the American people are a great people because we're a fighting people, a conquering people. That's the spirit that made this country everything it is today. That's the spirit we've got to rebuild. And with you in command, Ronnie, I know we're moving in the right, and I do mean the right, direction. Keep up the good work, Ronnie. Tally ho!

RON: Tally ho, Teddy, tally ho.

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NARRATOR: Now, how did you like that dream?

AUDIENCE: (Boos or cheers)

NAR: You did? How did you like Teddy?

AUD: Boos

NAR: All right! It kind of made me sick to my stomach myself. Now the next dream...

WOMAN (stepping forward from audience): Hey, I want to be in this dream!

NAR: You wanna be in this dream?

WOM: Yes.

NAR: OK-- you're in the dream! Hey, Ronnie, your next dream is going to be of a Puerto Rican woman.

Scene II: Dialogue between Puerto Rican woman and Reagan

This scene opens as the Puerto Rican woman enters the stage and kicks Reagan's hat off his head as he is sleeping.

RON(waking): Oh, there must be a wind. (Gets up) Oh, hello, my dear...

WOM: Don't touch me. I've come to take Puerto Rico back for the Puerto Rican people! (She grabs Reagan's pillow)

RON: (Reaching for pillow and wrestling it away from the woman) Give that back to me! Puerto Rico is part of AMERICA! (Puts pillow back on bed) Why, we've given so much to Puerto Rico. It's our island. We've given you education...

WOM: Education? We can't even speak Spanish in our own schools!

RON: Why, who'd want to?

WOM: WE do! It's our language!

RON: We've brought you health care...

WOM: 40% of Puerto Rican women are sterilized against our will -- you call that CARE?

RON: We've brought you modern industry...we've brought you Burger King!

WOM: All modern industry has brought us is pollution, and it hasn't given us any jobs. Why, I had to come to the US to get a job.

RON: And we've welcomed you here to our Great Nation...we've made you Americans.

WOM: We don't want to be Americans! We're Puerto Ricans! We've come here only to live in filthy rotten slums to work the worst jobs in your America.

RON: We've brought you military protection...

WOM: Military protection! On the island of Vieques in Puerto Rico, the US Navy and NATO practice their maneuvers bombing the island day and night. Do you KNOW what its like to live under constant bombardment day and night?

RON: It's a great honor...

WOM: HONOR!?? That's terrorism! We want our island back! (She takes back the pillow fiercely). SMASH US IMPERIALISM! (Starts beating Reagan with the Pillow, yelling at him, and he cowers back into a cowering sleep)
FREE PUERTO RICO!

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NAR: Now, how about that dream?

AUD: (Cheers) (I like it)

NAR: Yeah, it was really great. You know, I'm glad you took part in that dream because the next dream is very similar. It's the New York trial of Haydee Torres, one of the Eleven Puerto Rican Prisoners of War who were charged with seditious conspiracy or the attempted overthrow of the US government by force. What that actually means is that they are fighting to win independence for the Puerto Rican Nation. Now Haydee and her 10 comrades took a Prisoner of War stand because the US and Puerto Rico have been at war ever since 1989 when the US invaded Puerto Rico. Now this kind of strong stand gives Ronnie here the creeps! The willies! The jitters! Nightmares! OK, Ronnie -- here comes the New York trial of Haydee Torres!

Scene III - A New York courtroom

Characters: Bailiff, Judge, Haydee Torres

BAIL:Hear ye, hear ye, all rise for Judge Pigbottom.

JUDG: Order in this court. Silence. I demand respect in this court. Be quiet over there. I demand respect. Bailiff, bring in that defendant. Ms. Torres.

HAYD: Take your hands off me!

JUDG: Ms. Torres, I hope you realize why you are here.

HAYD: I don't recognize your authority! I, Maria Haydee Torres, am a Puerto Rican Prisoner of War. I am a product of the continuous struggle of my people against US colonialism. I am the conscience of my people in arms. You (pointing to the judge) and your government call me a terrorist, but I say the real terrorists are the ones who oppress my people -- Reagan and the CIA and the Pentagon. I am proud that my people struggle daily against US domination. This country does not know how to combat the revolutionary spirit of a people in arms! Puerto Rico will be free! Death to US imperialism!

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NAR: But enough of dreams! Harsh reality intervenes -- with BAD NEWS from the Caribbean...

Scene IV: The White House

AIDE: Mr. President, Mr. President. Wake up, Mr. President. It's those Puerto Rican terrorists again!

REAG: Where's Nancy?

AIDE: Don't worry about Nancy at a time like this. Those Puerto Ricans just blew up nine of our planes in San Juan. \$45 million damage, Mr. President!

REAG: Oh NO! Those were the planes we were gonna use against El Salvador!

ALL: Stop the US Occupation of the Puerto Rican Nation! Free Puerto Rico -- Right NOW!

Then we thank the audience and pass the hat around and pass out our leaflets.