

SYNOPSIS OF *THE ISLAND OF NO TOMORROWS*

(a postmodern fable with songs)

2 acts; 38 scenes

TIME: the present

PLACE: Isla Fortuna, a fictitious island nation off the coast of Argentina. A stylized set suggests a hospital room, the study in Don Hilardo's home, the estate of Villa Leche, and a Los Angeles nightclub.

CHARACTERS: 1 man; 7 women

DON HILARDO DE LA CONQUISTA: a poet-farmer; age 34 through 49

ESPERANZA DE LA CONQUISTA: Don Hilardo's daughter; from infancy to age 15

MARIA DELUNA SANTERA: the manager of Villa Leche; age 22 through 37

PITA THEOPHILUS: the nurse of Villa Leche; age 20 through 35

CONSUELO ALPHONSO: the cook and gardener of Villa Leche; age 25 through 40

ISABELLE BEAUMONT: the seamstress of Villa Leche; age 19 through 34

ROZA KUMIKO: the laundress of Villa Leche; age 21 through 36

GABRIELLA MASTRODOMENICO: the composer of Villa Leche; age 40 through 55

PLOT SYNOPSIS: On Isla Fortuna, Don Hilardo's wife dies while giving birth to their daughter, Esperanza. The infant's defective heart is replaced with an artificial one, and since she is not expected to live, Don Hilardo decrees that her brief life reflect his ideal of paradise. To accomplish this, he creates Villa Leche, a commune of nursing mothers who attend to Esperanza's every need. Don Hilardo's dictums require that she only behold beautiful forms, hear words set to music, and consume mothers' milk. She must be protected from all privations, contaminations, or electronic imagery that might induce a longing for a world she will never know. The management of Villa Leche is entrusted to Don Hilardo's mistress, Maria, who oversees the mothers and reports on the child's growth. Fifteen years pass as Esperanza defies her father's predictions and lives to prove his patriarchal paradise is stunting her emotional and intellectual growth. Finally, the mothers agree to revolt, but Esperanza escapes and returns to become the experimental beneficiary of Maria's matriarchal paradise which threatens to become as distorted as Don Hilardo's. In the end, both Maria and Don Hilardo have treated Esperanza as a blank slate on which to draw their ideological fantasies, but she defies them both, escaping their bondage to flourish as a child of her own invention in a globalized, digitized, postmodern world.

THEMES: *The Island of No Tomorrows* is an allegorical exploration of sexual subjugation, political oppression, and the challenges of parenting in the electronic age.