

REVIEWS

2025 *The Dragon* / Character Lancelot, Sofia, Cat

UnProfessional Opinion

"This cast was phenomenal... Spooky Action's eccentric and stylistically daring work is truly a gift to DC theatre... **The committed, versatile performances are a thrill to behold...** This outstanding visionary accomplishment from Spooky Action offers both a profound sociopolitical commentary and a feast of artistry of the highest caliber, It is hilarious, unsettling, and eye-opening. It is theatre at its most exciting and essential, and it transpires mere feet from your seat."

<https://washingtoncitypaper.com/article/772265/the-dragon-continues-to-raise-questions-about-human-nature-and-the-ways-we-perpetuate-evil/>

"The Dragon is a riveting production, and the twin narratives provide compelling explorations of power and protest."

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/washington-dc/article/Review-Spooky-Action-Theaters-THE-DRAGON-a-Stunning-Contemporary-Fairy-Tale-20250929>

*"Dinkova's cast fills the stage with an irrepressible energy, telling a story that should resonate with all of us. **There are standout performances all around—led by Fran Tapia, who enters as the journalist Sofia but whose turn as Lancelot the knight-errant fills the house with her exuberance and optimism.**"*

<https://dctheaterarts.org/2025/09/29/an-antiauthoritarian-fairytale-in-the-dragon-at-spooky-action-theater/>

*"Each actor plays multiple roles throughout the production and expertly transforms through physical and vocal changes. **Tapia as the fierce hero, Lancelot**"*

<https://morristheatredc.com/theatre/review-the-dragon-spooky-action-theatre>

*"**The performances are the strongest component of this production.** The initial friction between the prisoners melts to become an inviting triad of magnetism, and the guards are both pesky and foreboding with their contrastingly goofy "just following orders" mentality. **Fran Tapia shines as Lancelot, the central hero,** flanked on either side by a dynamically emotive Raghad Makhlof and a tragically poised Surasree Das."*

2025 Columbia Heights Bolero Bar / Character Verónica

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/theater/2025/06/16/columbia-heights-bolero-bar/>

"The bolero renditions are stirring and mellifluous"

<https://traslasbambalinasdesdedc.blogspot.com/2025/06/el-botiquin-de-boleros-de-columbia.html>

*"The voices and versatility of **Fran Tapia**"*

<https://dctheaterarts.org/2025/06/22/galas-botiquin-de-boleros-columbia-heights-dazzles-and-delights/>

*"Co-owners Veronica (a grounded, logical presence in **Fran Tapia**) and Claudia"*

*"There were overt political messages, especially in **Fran Tapia**'s character Verónica delivering an emotionally brave and passionately bold monologue about her visa status and the concept of "waiting." Given the increased ICE raids around the country at the time, the question of her status — symbolized by the unanswered question of what her dreaded red letter said — was a palpable one to see."*

<https://www.metroweekly.com/2025/06/review-life-is-a-cabaret-at-botiquin-de-boleros/>

*"**Tapia** imbues **Verónica**'s lament, "Solamente una vez," or "Only Once," with notes of pain and resilience. On edge after a harrowing immigration experience, and given the state of the nation, Verónica also leads her bolero family to face the election head-on with a song in their hearts in Amor de mi alma"*

2025 Head Over Heels / Character Gynecia

<https://dctheaterarts.org/2025/05/08/joy-love-and-hilarity-abound-in-head-over-heels-at-constellation-theatre/>

*Basilus and Gynecia were an unmatched duo, with Oscar Salvador Jr.'s powerful and relaxed presence contrasted by **Fran Tapia's** crazed, loving, and sensual queenliness.*

<https://mdtheatreguide.com/2025/05/theatre-review-head-over-heels-presented-by-constellation-theatre-company-at-source-theatre/>

*"Salvador Jr. and **Tapia** bring the house down in the hilarious "This Old Feeling," combining physical comedy with fantastic lighting design by E-hui."*

<https://www.metroweekly.com/2025/05/constellations-head-over-heels-is-a-joyous-gos-romp/>

*"In a suggestive shadow play set to "Heaven Is a Place on Earth," featuring, unbeknownst to them, Basilius and **Gynecia**, the show finds the beat and the worldly, witty voice of Whitty's book"*

2025 Professor Woland / Character Woland

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/washington-dc/article/Review-PROFESSOR-WOLANDS-BLACK-MAGIC-ROCK-SHOW-at-Spooky-Action-Theater-20250329>

*"**Fran Tapia** is fairly slithering as the satanic Woland»*

<https://washingtoncitypaper.com/article/761474/professor-wolands-black-magic-rock-show/>

*"Atop a trap-door stage adorned with a celestial white spiral, our satanic emcee Woland welcomes us into the staticky netherworld of 1930s Moscow. **Tapia** captivates in this role, donning mismatched eye shadow, four-inch pumps, and velvety vocal chops to match her punkish ensemble costumed by Herin Kaputkin."*

*"Manuscripts don't burn" says Professor Woland (**Fran Tapia**) to a forlorn writer in the final moments of Spooky Action Theater's latest production... This statement captures the essence of Spooky Action's incantatory adaptation of Mikhail Bulgakov's The Master and Margarita, re-dubbed here as Professor Woland's Black Magic Rock Show: Despots cannot erase ideas."*

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/theater/2025/03/27/charlottesville-testosterone-professor-wolands-black-magic-rock-show/>

*"Strutting around a cabaret stage, the Satan-esque Woland (**Fran Tapia**, radiating shady bravado) "*

<https://dctheaterarts.org/2025/03/25/hope-rocks-out-in-professor-wolands-black-magic-rock-show-at-spooky-action/>

*"a ringleader reminiscent of a Cabaret-emcee hopeful in horror-show makeup (**Fran Tapia** as the titular and satanic Woland"*

2025 Ajax / Character Tecmessa

<https://mdtheatreguide.com/2025/01/theatre-review-ajax-presented-by-scena-theatre-at-atlas-performing-arts-center/>

<https://dctheaterarts.org/2025/01/26/scena-theatres-harrowing-and-haunting-ajax-tells-a-tale-of-war-and-loss/>

“his wife Tecmessa, portrayed by **Fran Tapia**, who is **heartbreaking and fierce** in her failed efforts for Ajax to continue living for her, and their son Eurysaces.”

“an interesting aesthetic was matched with timelessly powerful performances from local performers.”

<https://washingtoncitypaper.com/article/757720/scena-theatre-offers-an-extraordinary-retelling-of-sophocles-ajax/>

2025 Laughs in Spanish / Character Estella

<https://mdtheatreguide.com/2024/12/theatre-review-laughs-in-spanish-at-1st-stage/>

“The acting under Elena Velasco’s compelling direction masterfully carries this play through a wide gamut of emotional moments and complex episodes of comedic intrigue—certainly a difficult combination to pull off. **This cast does pull it off and then some, Estella, for me, is the deliberate standout.** Verging on a caricature of a somewhat famous actor, Estella is meant to be a spotlight stealer, perhaps that’s been the crux of the problem that she’s had as a mother all along. However, she does not pretend to be anything other than the over-the-top, definitely eccentric, larger-than-life figure she is. **Tapia does a fabulous job tapping into the narcissism and still making it somehow lovable.**”

<https://www.metroweekly.com/2024/12/laughs-in-spanish-mixes-art-world-antics-with-heartfelt-drama/>

“The parent-child tension is generational, universal, and duly captured by Pepin as the harried gallerist Mariana and **Fran Tapia** as her colorfully overbearing Colombiana mom Estella.”

“**Tapia’s over-the-top mom** and Linares’ laidback cop, amusing in a two-hander scene together, deliver the funny most consistently. **Tapia also brings grace and gravitas to Estella’s dramatic scenes, including an argument with Mariana over Estella’s frequent periods of absentee motherhood, and a beautifully shaped monologue asserting herself as the sum of her experiences as a woman, artist, immigrant, mother, and human being.**”

2024 Mummy in the Closet, Evita’s Return / Character Eva Perón

<https://www.washingtonblade.com/2024/12/30/2024-dc-theater-dc-review/>

“Fran Tapia as the taxidermized former first lady. She was terrific.”

<https://dctheaterarts.org/2024/05/14/must-see-mummy-in-the-closet-returns-to-gala-with-eva-peron/>

“Fran Tapia embodies the bigger-than-life, ambitious, and quixotic Eva. The singer-actress, like the character she plays, is indeed a ghost returned, for she first came to GALA as the company’s Paso Nuevo Education Director, only to be snatched up and cast in the Gloria Estefan bio-musical, On Your Feet!, for which she won a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Supporting Performer and went on to do a national tour...”

“...In so many ways, this singer-actress is magnificent in the role, captivating us even when she stands, eyes closed, as a mummified statue. But you can’t keep this one in a closet! She flutters her eyes, tangos, flirts, and holds out her arms to embrace the world. She is most affecting taking us through the emotions of each song... no doubt this talented and hard-working professional will continue to shoot meteor-like and become an even more remarkable, much-in-demand superstar.”

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/washington-dc/article/Review-MUMMY-IN-THE-CLOSET-EVITAS-RETURN-at-GALA-Hispanic-Theatre-20240514>

“The new “Mummy in the Closet” is a sure-handed version of the earlier work, with Fran Tapia from GALA’s “On Your Feet” glittering in the title role in an array of white gowns (by Becca Janney). That trademark, arms up pose that indicates her grandeur as leader of the people is never diminished, even as we hear of the embalming, abuse, disfiguring and deterioration of the corpse in its travels (It helps theatrically that she stands in a cabinet rather than lies in a casket) as evil swirls around her.”

“With the intimacy of GALA and the dedication of all involved — it’s like a family, with the starring Tapia taking a curtain call on opening night in a Hugo Medrano T-shirt. For that and all that it portends to the present day, I think I prefer this “Mummy in the Closet” to, say, “Evita” that spawned Perón’s entry to musical theatre.”

<https://www.fcnp.com/2024/05/16/gala-theatres-latest-comedy-brings-exciting-entertainment/>

“At the center of this entertaining madness is winning out actor Fran Tapia as Eva, a corpse sporting a ball gown and the trademark platinum blonde chignon, standing stiffly in a closet, more a mobile cabinet actually. In death, she realizes a silent dignity with flashes of an unyielding passion for social justice.”

“Fran Tapia bears an uncanny likeness to Evita, who is joined by the excellent ensemble who dance the night away in near perfect choreography by Valeria Cossu, easily evoking

the presence of the millions who stood and watched her funeral when Evita died in Buenos Aires. **Whether acting alive or dead, Fran Tapia was splendid in the dual Evita roles, so good that at times, I wondered if the “dead” Evita was a wax figure.** Costumer Becca Janney dressed her in a beautiful white strapless evening gown with a diamond necklace and long diamond earrings copied after the original, and **glamorized by Tapia as Peron’s second wife.”**

<https://www.washingtonblade.com/2024/05/25/evitas-return-theater/>

“Chilean award-winning Tapia possesses a stunningly emotive voice, quickly evidenced in the show’s first number “Evita, Evita,” when near death Eva bravely addresses the needy crowd whom she endearingly calls her descamisados (the very poor).”

“Over about 14 years as a displaced dead body and beyond, Tapia’s Eva embodies the spirit of Argentina’s millions, the common people. They return the dedication: Candles are lit. Prayers are offered. Intercession is sought. Life goes on, but Eva isn’t easily forgotten.”

<https://washingtoncitypaper.com/article/696249/evitas-return-at-gala/>

“Also an actor and singer in real life, Evita (played with gusto by Chilean actor Fran Tapia) dances tango and sings on stage as her mummified body travels from one side of the world to the other hidden in a trunk.”

<https://mdtheatregride.com/2024/05/theatre-review-momia-en-el-closet-mummy-in-the-closet-evitas-return-at-gala-hispanic-theatre/>

“a cast unafraid to push through and roll with it. GALA has assembled just such a cast. The polish and give-and-take between the actors make the inherent fantasy come alive. As Evita, Fran Tapia shines even in the character’s more decomposed states.”

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/theater/2024/05/13/momia-en-el-closet-evitas-return-gala-review/>

“Dead Evita (Fran Tapia) provides a through line — narrating, looking mummified and sometimes reacting to the action like an offended ghost. Dressed in the obligatory white ball gown, Tapia exudes apt intensity.”

2025 Romeo and Juliet / Character Lady Capulet

<https://morristheatredc.com/theatre/review-romeo-amp-juliet-folger-theatre>

“This production’s multilingualism has allowed it to tap into an oft-overlooked array of Spanish-speaking DC performers. Luz Nicolas plays a resoundingly strong Nurse and Fran Tapia a stern Lady Capulet (both are GALA favorites.)”

<https://dctheaterarts.org/2024/10/10/folger-theatre-bends-classic-rules-with-a-fresh-and-urgent-romeo-and-juliet/>

“Lady Capulet (a subdued **Fran Tapia**)”

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/theater/2024/10/08/romeo-juliet-folger-review/>

2022-23 On Your Feet, Broadway 2nd National Tour / Character Gloria Fajardo

[Palm Beach Daily NewsGloria Estefan's 'On Your Feet,' is tailor-made for musical theaterNov 16, 2022](#)

“Tapia is wonderful as Gloria’s strict mother, a talented singer in her own right who was prevented from realizing her own dreams of stardom.”

[Broadway WorldReview: ON YOUR FEET! THE STORY OF EMILIO & GLORIA ESTEFAN at The Majestic TheatreDec 10, 2022](#)

“Francisca Tapia’s (Gloria Fajardo) voice was phenomenal but her acting was so realistic she moved the audience from being slightly annoyed with her to being frustrated when Gloria refuses to speak to her daughter, and finally to empathizing with her as she worries about her daughter's life. She did a magnificent job at being a stubborn, misunderstood, mother. When it is finally revealed that she had given up on her own dreams for the sake of her family the audience was so endeared by her acting they couldn't help but have a change of heart.”

[Broadway WorldReview: ON YOUR FEET! at Washington PavilionJan 14, 2023](#)

“You will love the characters of Gloria's family, portrayed masterfully by Francisca Tapia. Their characterizations of the passionate and loving, if sometimes emotionally explosive advocates of Gloria and her career are presented with authenticity and finesse. Each actor embodies vocal prowess and physical ability to create the visual excitement in the latin movements. The supporting cast of this production is beautifully cast with dancers and vocalists of superb abilities.”

[Broadway WorldReview: ON YOUR FEET! at Capital One HallApr 23, 2023](#)

“Francisca Tapia’s Gloria Fajardo captures the complicated relationship with her pop superstar daughter.”

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/maine/article/Review-ON-YOUR-FEET-THE-STORY-OF-EMILIO-GLORIA-ESTEFEN-at-Ogunquit-Playhouse-20230724>

*“**Tapia is a powerhouse of talent** in flashbacks of her career before leaving Cuba. The mature mother persona steps aside for a glimpse of a woman who had the same drive and passion to perform as her daughter, Gloria.”*

2022 Revoltosa - The Troublemaker / Character Soledad

<https://dctheaterarts.org/2022/09/12/gala-delivers-a-daring-update-of-revoltosa-the-troublemaker/>

*“Of the ensemble, **Fran Tapia**, who won hearts and minds in GALA’s production of *On Your Feet* last season, and veteran company member Luz Nicolás **rise closest to the challenge of this production’s artful broad physical comedy mixed with sociopolitical commentary, and both ladies etched distinct characters.**”*

<https://mdtheatrequote.com/shows/la-revoltosa-the-troublemaker/>

2022 On Your Feet, En Español / Character Gloria Fajardo : reviews

<https://dcmetrotheaterarts.com/2022/05/11/a-joyful-and-thrilling-on-your-feet-comes-to-life-in-spanish-at-gala/>

*“The supporting cast of *On Your Feet!* also **delivered equally strong and compelling performances. Fran Tapia** and Madelin Marchant, who played Gloria’s mother and Grandmother, Gloria Fajardo and Consuelo respectively, **worked excellently together in their portrayal of the mother figures in Gloria Estefan’s life.** While their characters were strong complements to the story of the primary focus of the show, **Gloria and Emilio Estefan**, they were also able to undeniably hold their own as fully fleshed-out characters for the audience.”*

*“**In her showstopping performance of “Mi Tierra,” Tapia delivered her lines with immeasurable fervor and grace. She stunned the audience with her breathtaking vocal performance and stage presence, while also maintaining their complete interest in the backstory of her own character. Like her, many of the other cast members delivered wonderfully charismatic and vocally thrilling performances that kept the audience invested and served to fortify the strength of the show and its emotional impact.**”*

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/theater-dance/2022/05/09/on-your-feet-spanish-gala/>

*“Samuel Garnica, who inhabits Emilio with a balanced brew of overt charisma and underlying intensity, shares the show’s cathartic showstopper “If I Never Got to Tell You” with **Fran Tapia**, a standout as Gloria’s bitter mother.”*

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/washington-dc/article/BWW-Review-ON-YOUR-FEET-La-Historia-De-Emilio-Y-Gloria-Estefan-En-Espanol-at-Gala-Hispanic-Theatre-20220508>

*“The interactions of Gloria's mother (a steely, perceptive performance by **Fran Tapia**) and Gloria's Grandmother ...with Gloria are gems of familial love and contradictions. ...and portray the tough love that mothers pass on to foster courage in their children. The scene where **Ms. Tapia** implores her child to fight on (when she is struck by tragedy) is unforgettable in its emotional power.”*

<https://www.metroweekly.com/2022/05/d-c-stage-review-on-your-feet-at-gala-hispanic-theatre/>

*“**Tapia** registers another musical highlight leading a Havana nightclub performance of Estefan’s anthem “Mi Tierra.” The dancing in that number, based on Sergio Trujillo’s Tony-nominated choreography for the original Broadway production, and in the “Turn the Beat Around” megamix is as vibrant and exciting as it gets.”*

*“Garnica and **Fran Tapia**, portraying Gloria’s mother, a former singer also named Gloria, deliver a lovely duet on “Si Jamás Te Había Confiado (If I Never Got to Tell You),” the one tune composed expressly for On Your Feet! by Gloria and daughter Emily Estefan.”*

*“The show astutely addresses the lifetime of hopes and resentments underlying Gloria’s relationship with her mother, while also depicting the emotional contrasts between **Tapia’s** bitter Mama Gloria...”*

<https://washingtoncitypaper.com/article/558157/on-your-feet-taps-into-your-senses/>

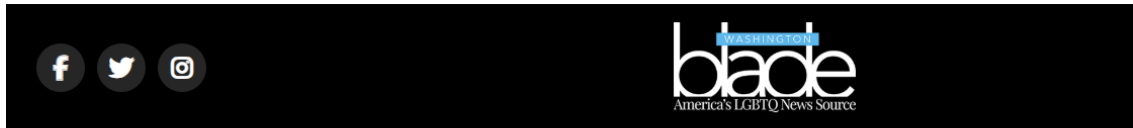
*“In a sequence of sequins and dynamic dance moves, **Tapia** shows us a versatility that can carry two versions of herself across time, space, and spirit. The effervescent young woman we meet is worthy of the bar-spitting “Rapuela” of real-life “Big Gloria” Fajardo.”*

*“Gloria’s mother, **Gloria Fajardo** (the dynamite **Fran Tapia**), brimming with biting remarks and disapproving of Gloria’s new music career and love interest (“I’m 48, and I know 48 things,” she claps back at Gloria in Spanish during a fight over her daughter’s future).”*

Featured Press Articles

The Dragon

<https://www.washingtonblade.com/2025/10/05/the-dragon-review/>



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THEATER

'The Dragon' a powerfully subversive play once banned in Russia

Relevantly set in immigrant detention center acted out by detainees

Published 1 week ago on October 5, 2025

By Patrick Folliard



Mummy in The Closet

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/article/-FRAN-TAPIA-STARS-AS-EVA-PERN-IN-MUMMY-IN-THE-CLOSETEVITAS-RETURN-at-Teatro-GALA-Washington-DC-20240529>

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FRAN TAPIA STARS AS EVA PERÓN IN 'MUMMY IN THE CLOSET:EVITA'S RETURN' at Teatro GALA, Washington DC

Show runs through June 9th, 2024

By: Felicitas de la Fare May 29, 2024


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Chilean performer **Fran Tapia** delivers a stunning portrayal of Eva Perón in the musical "MUMMY IN THE CLOSET:EVITA'S RETURN" at Teatro GALA in Washington, DC. Renowned for her powerful stage presence and emotional depth, Tapia's portrayal of the iconic Argentinian First Lady is truly a masterpiece. This new musical, with its unconventional twist, delves into what happens after Evita's death, focusing on her legendary afterlife. In the role of Evita, Francisca Tapia stands out, charming the audience even in the character's most deteriorated states. Tapia demonstrates exceptional skill by seamlessly blending humor and depth, creating a performance that is both profound and hilarious. Leading a production that boldly embraces theatrical risks, Tapia ensures that each gamble pays off, resulting in a delightful and unforgettable theatrical experience.

VIDEOS

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STEP AFRICA! THE MIGRATION REFLECTIONS ON JACOB LAWRENCE JUNE 7 - JULY 14

<https://www.lanacion.com.ar/estados-unidos/es-chilena-vive-en-eeuu-e-interpreta-a-eva-peron-en-un-musical-la-historia-nos-representa-a-los-nid24052024/>

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24 de mayo de 2024 • 09:51

Franco Della Vecchia



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<https://www.univision.com/local/miami-wltv/redefiniendo-a-eva-peron-momia-en-el-closet-y-la-impactante-interpretacion-de-fran-tapia>

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Redefiniendo a Eva Perón: Momia en el Clóset y la impactante interpretación de Fran Tapia

La meticulosa preparación de Fran Tapia para interpretar a Evita revela aspectos menos explorados de su vida, como su historia de amor con Perón y su temperamento fuerte

POR: UNIVISION

PUBLICADO 15 MAY 2024 - 06:55 PM EDT | ACTUALIZADO 15 MAY 2024 - 06:55 PM EDT

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La colaboración con expertos en danza, música y acento argentino enriquece la representación teatral, aportando autenticidad y profundidad a la narrativa de Evita

<https://www.cronista.com/informacion-gral/es-argentina-y-triunfa-en-broadway-en-una-nueva-version-de-avita-quien-es-fran-tapia/>

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Es chilena y triunfa en EE.UU. interpretando a Evita: quién es Fran Tapia

La actriz gana espacio en el país del Norte interpretando a la "abanderada de los humildes". Qué significó para ella ponerse en la piel de un personaje emblemático.



Actualizado el 16 de Mayo de 2024 · 19:14

Escuchar 3:00 minutos 🔖

De Chile a EE.UU. Fran Tapia es otro ejemplo de la latina que va a "hacer la América" y conquista el corazón de Washington D.C. La actriz gana espacio y

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<https://www.eluniversal.com/estilo-de-vida/181939/fran-tapia-y-su-rol-transformador-en-mummy-in-the-closet>

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Fran Tapia y su rol transformador en "Mummy in the Closet"

"Mummy in the Closet: Evita's Return" es una comedia musical oscura que se atreve a fusionar géneros musicales como el vals, el tango, la milonga, la murga y la tarantella



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<https://www.univision.com/local/nueva-york-wxtv/fran-tapia-la-estrella-polifacetica-que-resplandece-en-los-escenarios-globales>

Fran Tapia: La estrella polifacética que resplandece en los escenarios globales

Su éxito en el teatro musical, incluyendo reconocimientos con el Helen Hayes Award, destaca su habilidad para conectar con la audiencia a través de interpretaciones auténticas y conmovedoras

POR: UNIVISION
PUBLICADO 15 MAY 2024 - 07:04 PM EDT | ACTUALIZADO 15 MAY 2024 - 07:04 PM EDT

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Fran Tapia demuestra un compromiso profundo con la educación artística y el activismo social, liderando programas que inspiran a jóvenes a explorar su creatividad

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/article/Review-Chilean-Artist-FRAN-TAPIA-as-Gloria-Fajardo-on-The-2nd-Broadway-National-Tour-of-ON-YOUR-FEET-20230103>

2024 TONY'S GUIDE



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Tour dates run through May 2023!

By: Felicitas de la Fare Jan. 03, 2023

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Fran Tapia is a professional actor, dancer and singer from Chile, a true triple threat who is currently performing at the National Tour of the Broadway show On your Feet!

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THEATER

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Published 9 months ago on October 12, 2024
By Patrick Folliard

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Fran Tapia as Lady Capulet, Caro Reyes Rivera as Juliet, and Luz Nicolas as Nurse in William Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet,' directed by Raymond O. Caldwell at the Folger Theatre through Nov. 10. (Photo by Erika Nizborski)

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Fran Tapia as Lady Capulet (above) with Caro Reyes Rivera as Juliet and Luz Nicholas as Nurse in 'Romeo and Juliet.' Photo by Erika Nizborski.