

Gesturing Towards the Decolonial:

Migdalia Cruz's Tragic Subjects

a talk by Dr. Armando García

4:30 pm, Thurs, Jan 30, 2014
Incubator Room, Hyde Hall
UNC-Chapel Hill

Migdalia Cruz's *Fur* (2000) stages a deadly love triangle between a white man (Michael) and two Latina women whom he purchases – Citrona, a sideshow "freak" with a hairy body, and Nena, a hairless woman with a beautiful face. With Cruz seemingly inspired by Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and Césaire's *A Tempest*, I examine *Fur* and its representations of slavery, love, and cannibalism as rehearsals of Caliban's tragedy. By analyzing the play's intertextuality, I argue that Latina theatre stages the most radical of anticolonial gestures (slaves cannibalizing their masters) as tragic iterations of race and freedom. As the protagonist ends her days living in darkness and social death, Cruz and her decolonial imaginary cannot bring about salvation for the damned.

Dr. García is Assistant Professor of Hispanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pittsburgh. He specializes in 20th century U.S. Latina/o and Latin American Literature, Theatre, and Performance. He is currently at work on a book manuscript, *Tragic Subjects, Impossible Indians: The Decolonial Performances of Latinidad*.

Co-sponsored by the Department of Women's and Gender Studies,
The UNC Program in Latina/o Studies, and the Carolina Latina/o Collaborative.

For information, email Ariana Vigil at avigil@email.unc.edu