

AMERICANS

or Last Tango in Huahuatenango

**Written, composed, costumed,
produced and directed by the
San Francisco Mime Troupe**

TIME: early in the last quarter of the 20th century

PLACE: San Martín, a small country in Central America

DESIGN:

Daytime curtain: Malaquias Montoya

Dawn Curtain: Larry Montgomery

Nonlethal military aid: Spain

— SYNOPSIS OF SCENES —

Act One:

- Scene 1: The Intercontinental Hotel bar
- Scene 2: The only hotel in Huahuatenango, near the same time
- Scene 3: Garcia's office in the Palacio del Gobierno, the next day
- Scene 4: A safehouse near Huahuatenango, around the same time
- Scene 5: Huahuatenango, that afternoon
- Scene 6: The safehouse, that night

Act Two:

- Scene 1: The Intercontinental Hotel bar, the third day
- Scene 2: Huahuatenango, that night
- Scene 3: Huahuatenango, at dawn
- Scene 4: The hotel bar, next afternoon
- Scene 5: Huahuatenango, some months later

MUSICAL NUMBERS:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Son de San Martín | Song of the Middle |
| Mira Mujer | El Baile del Cacao |
| La Bomba Popular | La Gigantona |
| Overture | |

CHARACTERS, IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:

The Musicians
Demonstrators
Dr. X, A North American
Two Waiters
Dominguez, a landowner, close associate of the overthrown dictator
Hernandez, a citizen of San Martín, of uncertain occupation
Alvarado, leftwing Christian Democrat, ex-member of the ruling junta
The United States Ambassador
Zaragoza, center Christian Democrat, new member of the ruling junta
A Death Squad
Manolito, an orphan
Rufina, a maid
Garcia, commander of the National Guard, chief member of the ruling junta
Lana, a photojournalist
Two National Guardsmen
A Prisoner
Phyllis Wrench, special U.S. envoy
Two Tourists
Luisa, commandante guerillera
Gilberto, second in command
A third Guerillero
A man from USAID
Doña Cuca, a midwife
Three citizens of Huahuatenango
Amirante, an old man with a long memory
A Priest
Buenaparte, a rightwing Christian Democrat, newest member of the ruling junta
More Guerilleros
La Gigantona

THE COMPANY:

Marie Acosta-Colón, Glenn Appell, Joaquín Aranda, Bruce Barthol, Wilma Bonet, Daniel Chumley, Brian Freeman, Chris Fitzsimmons, Al Guzmán, Arthur Holden, Joan Holden, Sharon Lockwood, Tripp Mikich, Esteban Oropeza, Eduardo Robledo, Shabaka, Patricia Silver, Audrey Smith, Andrea Snow, Peter Solomon, David Topham.

WE WISH TO THANK:

Seema Allan, *Barricada* de Nicaragua, Dan Bittker, Nora Böni, Michael Bry, Roger Burbach, the California Arts Council, Adrian Carrasco, Casa El Salvador, Casa El Salvador Farabundo Martí, the Community Arts Distribution Committee of the Zellerbach Family Fund, the Data Center, Howard Dratch, Eduardo Galgano, Elizabeth Farnsworth, the Friendship Fund, Oscar Herrera, Stephen Herrick, Intercontinental Press, Odette Lockwood, NACLA, Oscar Quiroz, Margaret Randall, San Francisco Foundation, San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, Lorraine Thiebaud, Vanguard Foundation and many others!

THE SAN FRANCISCO MIME TROUPE:

Founded in 1959, we are a non-profit, collectively run theater company. Some 80 percent of our support comes from our audience. Donations are welcome, and, happily, are tax-deductible. Our address is 855 Treat Street, San Francisco, CA 94110; phone (415) 285-1717.

No resemblance between the personages and events of this play and actual persons and events is entirely coincidental.

A BRIEF GUIDE TO SAN MARTÍN:

One of the friendliest republics in Central America, San Martín (discovered and named by Columbus on his third voyage) spreads over 32,000 square miles—nearly the size of Indiana. The four million people are mainly Spanish-speaking *mestizos* (although there is an English-speaking black minority on the Caribbean coast), and the predominant religion is Roman Catholic. The capital and largest city (pop. one million) is also called San Martín.

Moving inland from the coastal plains (where malaria is a persistent problem—travelers take note!), two branches of the Central American Cordillera enclose a fertile volcanic plateau. The climate is pleasant, especially at higher elevations, with average temperatures of 80°F, and annual rainfall a moderate 95 inches, most of it in the May-October rainy season. Best time to visit is December through March, but plan ahead: there are no road or rail connections between the Pacific and Caribbean coasts. Mild earthquakes are not infrequent.

Most San Martinians work in agriculture, and the country's chief exports are cacao, coffee, sugar, timber, bananas, rubber and tobacco. Travellers will find that imports include familiar foods, manufactured goods and adequate supplies of gasoline. There is one university, in the city of San Martín. Oil reserves have recently been discovered off the east coast.

KEY DATES IN SAN MARTÍN'S HISTORY:

1525	Maya Indians defeated by Spanish
1821	Independence from Spain
1823	Joins the Central American Federation
1839	Federation dissolves
1857	U.S. Marines halt civil war
1861-97	Dictatorship of Concepción Aguinaldo Bravo ("The Hungry"); spread of cacao, coffee, sugar and rubber plantations

1931	Peasant uprising leaves 30,000 dead. Reforms announced.
1954	Student uprising leaves 3,000 dead. Reforms announced.
1963	Julio César Buenaparte elected president; reforms initiated.
1964	Buenaparte overthrown; U.S. Marines assist restoration of order by Gen. Romeo Avaricioso Bravo ("The Dictator")
1979	Sandinista victory in Nicaragua
1980	Avaricioso assassinated; military-civilian junta assumes power; U.S. assistance increased; reforms announced.

USEFUL TERMS FOR THE TRAVELER IN SAN MARTÍN:

<i>Campesino(a)</i> (com pay SEEN oh)	peasant
<i>Caramba que sí!</i> (car RAM ba kay see)	hell yes!
<i>Cointelpro</i>	secret U.S. government program involving surveillance and disruption
<i>Combatiente</i> (com bat YEN tay)	fighter, esp. guerilla
<i>Compañero(a)</i> (com pan YERE oh)(a)	comrade
<i>Gracias</i> (GRAH see us)	thanks
<i>Gigantona</i> (hee gan TONE ah)	giantess
<i>Guardia</i> (GWAR dee ah)	National Guard
<i>Hacienda</i> (ah see EN da)	plantation
<i>Land Reform</i>	rural pacification
<i>Mira</i> (MEE ra)	look!
<i>Padre</i> (PAH dray)	father, priest
<i>Patrón</i> (pah TRON)	boss, landlord
<i>Piña Colada</i> (PEEN ya ko LAH da)	a mixed drink

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