

# Whida Peru (100%)

Libretto by David Simpatico, Music by Josh Schmidt (50% or Larger)

*No entity but producers, stars, or pre-approved prior presenters of the Play may receive billing above the title, with only stars receiving larger or more prominent billing than that afforded to Authors.*

## Character

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**Whida Peru:** (female; or m-f trans performer; somewhere between 30 and death;) a Puerto Rican transgender agoraphobic psychic, who has not left her apartment in 3 years, 3 months and 3 hours since the day her lover, Juannie, was accidentally killed by a city bus. She is a shut-in, finding companionship with the spirits of the Dead, most especially, Juannie. When Juannie declares they must break up, Whida Peru rages through the five stages of accepting his death, and with his help, she finally unlocks the front door, ready to step back out into the land of the living.

A below Mid-C to 2 A's above mid C (C4 to A5)

May be transposed down an octave to accommodate Male performer

## Description:

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Whida Peru's salon is a rent-controlled limbo of musty shadows and haunted spirits (*The Apartment Speaks*). Whida Peru gathers the Spirits of the Dead for this special occasion (*The Blessing*). She shares her happiness with the convening, invisible spirits (*Livin' The Life*.)

As Whida calls the spirits to attendance (*Incantation*), three poltergeists wreak havoc on the apartment (*Invisible Bitches*.) Whida calms them with the help of her spiritual conduit, Frannie Riccardelli (who died on 9/11), and sends an erotic invitation to her Juannie (*Come*.)

With Juannie's arrival, Whida sets up their anniversary party (*Juannie, pt. 1*.) But Juannie has come to break up, forever (*You have to let me go/Juannie, pt. 2*.) Whida is incredulous (*Anger/Stay*.) She tries to figure out a compromise (*Bargaining*.) Juannie is resolute, which forces Whida to examine the frozen status of her life, and the prospect of living without Juannie (*Alone, alone...*)

Whida gradually accepts the split from her lover (*Acceptance*). With a full heart, Whida bids Juannie goodbye. She agrees to give Frannie's widow a message from the hereafter (*So like your...*). Whida puts on her coat, and steps out of the apartment, back into the world of the living (*Epilogue*).

Originally Directed by Jonathan Butterell  
Originally Music Directed by Andy Boroson  
Originally Starring Judy Blazer

## Bios:

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**Josh Schmidt** is the award-winning composer of ADD1NG MACH1N3. Recent credits include the critically acclaimed MIDWESTERN GOTHIC (Signature DC), A MINISTER'S WIFE (Lincoln Center Theatre; Writer's Theatre - Best Musical Jeff Award), WHIDA PERU (Premieres - Inner Voices 2010/59E59) and GIFT OF THE MAGI (American Players Theatre). Incidental scores include DINNER WITH FRIENDS (Roundabout), WHEN THE RAIN STOPS FALLING (Lincoln Center), 3 KINDS OF EXILE and DYING FOR IT (Atlantic Theater), MODEL APARTMENT (Primary Stages), FIFTY WORDS (MCC), and WORKS AND PROCESS (Guggenheim Museum. Josh is also an accomplished sound composer/designer whose Broadway & Off-Broadway credits include THERESE RAQUIN (Roundabout/Studio 54), HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES (Walter Kerr), BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS (Nederlander), WATER BY THE SPOONFUL (Second Stage), CRIME AND PUNISHMENT (59E59), and regionally for Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Goodman Theatre, Writers Theatre in Glencoe (Artistic Associate), South Coast Repertory, Stratford Festival, The Kennedy Center,

Seattle Repertory Theatre, Cleveland Playhouse, Ford's Theatre, Alley Theatre, Milwaukee Rep, among others. **ADD1NG MACH1N3** and **A MINISTER'S WIFE** both have original cast recordings on PS Classics.

**DAVID SIMPATICO** is a playwright, librettist and performance artist whose work has been presented at major theatres around the globe, including London's Hammersmith Apollo, Lincoln Center, Williamstown Theatre Festival, and the New York Shakespeare Festival. Career highlights include: the stage adaptation of *High School Musical* (Disney Theatricals); the full-length opera, *The Life and Death(s) of Alan Turing* (Justine Chen, composer; commissioned by American Lyric Theatre); the sung-thru music drama, *The Screams of Kitty Genovese* (Will Todd, composer; Edinburgh Fringe Festival); and the libretto for Pulitzer Prize-winner Aaron J. Kernis' *Garden Of Light* (NY Philharmonic at Avery Fisher Hall, conducted by Kurt Masur). He is currently adapting Robert Bloch's *That Hell-Bound Train* as a jazz opera with composer Lisa DeSpain. Three new non-musical plays are currently being shopped around: *Wilde About Whitman*, *Waiting for the Ball to Drop* and *X Gay Bar*. David recently earned his MFA in Creative Writing from the MountainView Writers at Southern New Hampshire University. He is an alumnus of the Composer Librettist Development Program at American Lyric Theater, and a graduate of Northwestern University. Along with playwright Darrah Cloud, he runs Howl Playwrights, in Rhinebeck, NY where he lives with his husband, Robert and his dog, Elmo.

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#### ADDITIONAL CREDITS

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Whida Peru is presented by special arrangement with Premiera Inc.

Whida Peru was originally commissioned, developed, and presented by Premieres in New York, New York, Paulette Haupt, Artistic Director in 2010.

*On the title page of all programs and on posters, either physical or digital, in type of appropriate size in relation to other credits.*