

El riviera

By Jonathan Feldman and Delilah Nichols

Cast of Characters:

Esteban (Poor casino dealer)- Jonathan Feldman

Lucia and Dancer 2 (wife of Esteban)- Jessica Edmunds

Rico (casino dealer/Esteban's friend)- Nikola Modrusan

Alejandra (poor cuban who gambles with the president on his birthday)- Tannia

Batista (President of Cuba)- Chase Tallstrom

Newscaster 2- Sarah Chadwick

Newscaster 1- Kenny Anderson

Romero (Boss of all the casino workers)- Erick Pulido

SS Officer 3 (one of Cuba's secret police officers) - Andres Medina

Performer (MC/performer at the casino)- Jake Glover

Waiter- Hannah Wendroff

Gus (Owns the El Riviera casino) - Leo Solomon

Scene 1: El riviera

The Riviera is packed and Rico has a lot of business. You see him dealing cards to a group of people and everyone seems to be having a good time. Rico and his table are set up in stage right. The performer is lying down on center stage.

Lights come on.

Performer pops up, to stand.

PERFORMER:

Welcome everyone to El Riviera, **que noche más llena!** Look at all the beautiful ladies here gentlemen. ¡**Que bueno chico!** Remember tomorrow **es el cumpleaños del Presidente**

Batista!

[crowd cheers]

Come back tomorrow night to celebrate with us, and watch him play cards with Gus Greenbaum. But for now... Let's Dance!

PERFORMER gestures towards DANCER 1 and 2, then exits stage right.

DANCER 1 and 2 are set up on the right side of the stage. At 0:43 DANCER 1 and 2 switch with DANCER 3 and 4. At 1:22 the music is cut and everyone on stage freezes.

Lights fade.

Scene 2: Home

Lights come on.

Lucia enters stage left and brings in two plates. The glasses are already set up on the table. Esteban enters through the doorway stage right. He is slumped over and tosses his briefcase up stage. Esteban lets out a heavy sigh. Lucia smiles at Esteban. She runs towards him to greet him at the door.

LUCIA:

[happy]

Hola mi amor. How was work?

ESTEBAN and LUCIA peck each other on both cheeks.

ESTEBAN:

Esta bien. How was your night?

LUCIA:

My night? **Fue bien...** come sit, I have breakfast ready.

ESTEBAN and LUCIA make their way to the table and take their seats.
[excited]

So did you hear any news? **Qué hay de nuevo?**

ESTEBAN:

Todavía no... not yet, the manager should let us know tomorrow.

LUCIA:

It would be amazing if they had you be the dealer tomorrow for Batista and Gus. ¡Sería como una promoción!

ESTEBAN:

Si, yo lo se, but why would I want to deal for those bastards.

LUCIA:

Esteban!

ESTEBAN:

I can't, I can't just watch them win money- our money- the people of Cuba's money! You know I am getting tired of it. **Estoy cansado chica.**

LUCIA:

Mira coño, it won't only be them at the table, also a regular Cuban, it gives one Cuban a chance to make money. **Va a estar bien chico.**

ESTEBAN:

They do it every year... President Batista **-a el no le importamos nosotros,** the head of El Riviera Gus, and one poor Cuban that has never seen a deck of cards in their life. It's a show, a hoax, a way for Batista to TRICK us INTO BELIEVING he still cares about the poor... when we all know-

LUCIA stands up.

LUCIA:

[panicking]

¡Callate Esteban! Batista is for us, he was in 1940, we were 16 years old then. He has created social programs for us, he helps us. **Por favor entiende.**

[softly]

¿No te acuerdas? He was the voice of the country...

[stern]

and he still is!

ESTEBAN pushes his plate forward. He stands up and starts pacing farther away from LUCIA then back towards her during his monologue and during LUCIA's next line.

ESTEBAN:

[snapping back]

Batista is the voice and puppet of the rich... **no nosotros**. We are simply his slaves. And he does NOT help us. Manuel! He was killed because of Batista. Guerillas are for us. Batista kills people like us, people that the guerilla want to help. **La revolución es importante y debemos apoyarla.**

LUCIA:

That is not true Esteban! Manuel was nice, he was extreme though-

ESTEBAN stops pacing and turns to LUCIA. ESTEBAN continues to look at LUCIA during her monologue.

ESTEBAN:

And you're saying Batista isn't!

LUCIA:

Since you became a dealer you changed so much.

LUCIA pauses and changes her tone to soft. She looks off remembering old times.

You used to be a simple towel boy at The Riviera pool... who'd take me there in the early mornings, when you were off work... **Recuerdas esos tiempos?** You were romantic, and didn't care about money.

LUCIA breaks away and looks at ESTEBAN. She is now angry again.

Now that you are a dealer all you talk about is money, the rich- and how much you hate Batista! I'm tired of it, you don't eat my meals... **¡Ni mis pasteles!**

ESTEBAN:

You know I love your pasteles **y te amo a ti tambien**, it's just... Batista. As a towel boy, I didn't see the casino from the inside, only the out. I only saw the rich shirtless, but those 50 year old males, they definitely should have kept their shirts on- Now, that I am on the inside, I hear their conversations, I see them. Do you know what I see?

LUCIA:

[quietly]

No.

ESTEBAN stands up and walks to center stage talking to the audience.

ESTEBAN:

Aún no te has dado cuenta? I see gringos, foreigners -**mafiosos**-... lots of them. Maybe a few Cubans here and there, but they are not real Cubans. They don't live the life we do, struggling to put food on the table. The Cubans that I see- the many Cubans that I see will kiss any of those foreigners feet, if it meant money or food. And we are just as bad! The guerillas, the Cubans- the real Cubans, think its wrong, wrong for us to work for rich scumbags like we do...

ESTEBAN looks at LUCIA.

and I know you do too! **Debes entenderlo.**

LUCIA:

[sharply whispering]

I told you to keep your voice down! And you know they are not all like that! **Alguien podría escucharnos.**

LUCIA pauses. She sits down exhausted and takes a sharp breath.

So what do you suggest? Do you want guerillas to lead our country? **Tu crees en esos barbudos?**

ESTEBAN:

Do you want the whole country working for rich foreigners? **Y que los cubanos sean pobres?** For Cubans to be poor?

LUCIA:

And you actually think a guerilla with a gun is going to change that? They will only ruin the country! Esteban... Batista is Cuban, not a guerilla that sparks violence. **La violencia no es buena...** Batista helps us.

LUCIA slams her hand on table.

[angry]

And so what if there are casinos? It makes Cuba special, it shows the world who we are, and it keeps you employed. **Tu necesitas trabajo.**

LUCIA gets up, takes their plates and exits stage left. As she walks, she mumbles to herself while shaking her head.

[mumbling]

Ay mi santa maria, mi esposo, ay.

ESTEBAN continues to sit at the table quietly, he reaches for his pocket, setting a radio on the table.

RADIO REBELDE (previously recorded):

Buenas noches compañeros. This is Che Guevara broadcasting from a closed location in the Sierra Maestra. **Desde las entrañas de Cuba.** Thank you for tuning in. We the guerilla continue to gain strength. We all know what tomorrow night is, Batista's birthday. We have said this over and over, the Casinos make Batista, and Batista makes the Casinos! For the third year, Gus Greenbaum and one random Cuban will play cards... each of them starting with 50,000 dollars. Whoever deals tomorrow,

ESTEBAN begins to pace.

know that you are committing sins. Know that you are part of this economic murder of the Cuban people. If you are the dealer you can change that, you are more powerful than I... Che, am with a gun. Batista is nothing without the casinos and YOU are the casino. You know how you can fight back! **Viva la lucha armada, viva la revolución!!! La unión hace la fuerza!!!** The people, united.. [ALL] will never be defeated. The people, united... [ALL] will never be defeated.

LUCIA walks back into the room from stage left.

LUCIA:

Esteban! Que haces?!

ESTEBAN leaps towards the radio. LUCIA turns off the radio.

ESTEBAN:

Lucia, **yo-**

LUCIA:

I told you to never listen to that again! **Estas poniéndonos en peligro coño.** Batista's men are everywhere and you- you listen to the radio? **¡Radio Rebelde!** *(pause)* Do you want to be killed!

ESTEBAN and LUCIA stay standing there.

Lights fade.

Scene 3: Romero's Pep Talk

All of the casino dealers are discussing Batista, Gus and a guest coming into the Casino for Batista's 57th Birthday. Romero is pacing around in center stage.

Lights come on.

The workers enter from stage left and stay standing on stage left.

ROMERO:

[to all]

¡Todos escuchen! Sabemos que día es hoy. We all know what today is. This is the biggest day of the year, Batista's birthday. It's going to be a packed house, the most people you have ever seen in this casino. There will be paparazzi, security, and political leaders from everywhere. El Riviera will be shown off on all aspects. **Va a ser una gran noche.**

ALL:

Si jefe.

ROMERO:

Bueno... Ahora, el famoso Batista, Gus, y el Cubano black jack game is tonight. That means, one lucky dealer gets to deal the game of his life. Every news camera, foreign and domestic will be filming this event. So, we need one of our best, and youngest dealers. I know you have all been waiting for this announcement. But due to recommendations and his performance,

RAUL walks towards ROMERO.

RAUL:

Gracias jefe.

ROMERO:

Woah, woah, woah. ¿Qué haces? You think you're ready to run with the bulls?

RAUL:

Boss... I've been earnin' and burnin', wheelin' and dealin', snappin' necks and cashin' checks. I'm ready.

ROMERO:

Who do you think you are? ¿Qué estás haciendo idiota? Are you trying to embarrass me?

ROMERO picks at his collar.

You're not even dressed for tonight. Eres un desastre.

ROMERO starts walking RAUL towards stage left.

I've had it with you. Get out, you're a disgrace, you're fired. No te quiero ver aquí. You're done.

RAUL exits stage left backwards. ROMERO walks back to center stage. The WORKERS fill in the spot RAUL was previously standing in.

As I was saying, Esteban will be working the table tonight. **Va a ser la noche más importante del año.**

The workers begin to clap and pat ESTEBAN on the back. ESTEBAN walks to center stage towards ROMERO, and shakes his hand. ROMERO grabs ESTEBAN's collar.

If you mess up once. If you mess up once, I'm going to fire your ass. If you do good I look great. Get back there.

ROMERO points to the workers. ESTEBAN nods. ESTEBAN walks back to the other workers. ROMERO fixes up the other workers as he talks.

Now, for all you other dealers. **Escuchen lo que les voy a decir.** You will be dealing to the richest... the most affluent... and the biggest political leaders from all over the world tonight, so be sharp. (*turns back to workers*) And don't- don't! Attempt or do anything stupid. Alright lets do this, see you out there on the tables soon. **Es importante que esten atentos.**

ROMERO exits stage right. The workers follow him offstage and congratulate ESTEBAN as they pass. RICO and ESTEBAN stay on stage.

RICO:
Felicidades Esteban. Congrats man, you can do it. **Esta es la gran oportunidad de tu vida.**

ESTEBAN:
Si, yo se, i'm just so nervous, one mistake and I'm done. **Estar cerca de estas bestias puede ser peligroso.** To be too close to these beasts can also be dangerous.

RICO:
I know, but you are **el mejor,** the best dealer, and thats why you are out there. Good thing it's only one deck poker. **Buena suerte, mi amigo.**

RICO starts walking stage right.

ESTEBAN:
Gracias mi amigo. For the freedom of our people **!Viva Fidel!**

RICO rushes towards ESTEBAN.

RICO:
Shhhhh! **Calla chico que nos pueden oír. Buena suerte camarada.** You are like my brother.

RICO and ESTEBAN hug then and continue talking while they exit stage right.

Lights fade.

Scene 4: El Riviera

The stage is dimly lit. Gus Greenbaum and Alejandra are sitting at the card table. Batista walks and his grand entrance begins.

PERFORMER:
Ladies and gentleman, we welcome President Batista! **El hombre más poderoso de Cuba.**

AUDIENCE and backstage cheers uproariously, cameras flash from off stage. BATISTA shakes ALEJANDRA's hand a smiles toward the audience for a picture. Then walks towards GUS and whispers something to his ear. BATISTA waves to the audience and gestures for them to stop clapping. AUDIENCE and backstage stop clapping.

Stage lights come all the way on.

BATISTA:

Thank you for coming to celebrate my birthday. By honoring me you are honoring the Nation.

BATISTA takes his seat and shakes ESTEBAN's hand. RICO walks to the table, carrying the deck on a small pillow and a silver case. ESTEBAN reaches for the deck and then shuffles it on the table.

"Mambo Rock" by Perez Prado begins to play.

ESTEBAN:

Damas y caballeros, bienvenidos. In today's game of poker, there will be no limit. One winner takes all, in the third annual Batista Casino night. Each player shall begin with 50,000 dollars. Alejandra, your 50 is from Cuba's public fund... gamble wisely. This is one deck poker. **Es la hora de comenzar.** We shall begin.

ESTEBAN deals the cards.

GUS gestures and whistles for the WAITER

GUS:

There we go! Lets get this cigar lit suga'... and how bout drinks all around.

GUS claps his hands. WAITER walks over from stage right to the table and lights GUS's cigar.

WAITER:

What would you like.

GUS:

Dos rum, on the rocks.

WAITER:

Right away, Sir.

She takes his glass on a carrying tray and walks off stage right.

Music gets quieter.

NEWSCASTER 1:

Twenty six minutes into El Riviera's premier game of the year. **Señores este es el juego del año.** Surprisingly, Alejandra- the randomly picked citizen is holding her own, and it is Gus who is bleeding chips.

NEWSCASTER 2:

And of course Batista, is in the lead. **Arriba batista!!**

NEWSCASTER 1 and 2 walk back to the corner.

Music returns to original volume.

There is a medium size pile of chips in the center of the table. WAITER walks in on stage right with two drinks and stops behind ESTEBAN. WAITER sets down a glass in front of BATISTA. WAITER walks over to GUS and sets a drink down in front of GUS.

WAITER:

Here you go. **Solo digame si se le ofrece algo más.**

WAITER continues to stand up stage of GUS.

GUS:

[to Batista and Alejandra]

Ah. Here we are, just what I need...

GUS and BATISTA stand to toast.

Feliz cumpleaños to the greatest man and President Cuba and the world has ever seen!

GUS and BATISTA kling glasses, to applause. GUS takes a gulp of his drink. BATISTA sips.

[to Waiter]

Tutse? How bout a peck right'er for good luck? egh?

GUS points to his left cheek with his left hand. WAITER pecks GUS on the cheek then focuses on the game. ESTEBAN looks at GUS, waiting for his response. GUS shoves all of his chips towards the table and stands.

ALEJANDRA:

Check.

ESTEBAN looks at BATISTA.

ALEJANDRA puts more chips in the center.

BATISTA:

Subo... 2,000.

ALEJANDRA:

Call.

ALEJANDRA pushes more chip into the center.

GUS:

Screw it. ¡**A ganar o perder todo!** I'm all in!

GUS takes a puff of his cigar. Crowd begins to murmur, engaged on the hand.

BATISTA:

Call.

BATISTA shoves a all of his chips towards the center.

ALEJANDRA:

Call.

ALEJANDRA shoves a quarter of her chips into the center.

ESTEBAN:

Voltea tus cartas.

EVERYONE leans in to look at the cards, the room is silent. BATISTA wins the hand.

Batista you have the high hand.

BATISTA:

[smiling]

Yes!

BATISTA humbly waves to the audience. ALEJANDRA sits back discouraged.

GUS:

Ay. Come on!

ESTEBAN:

You will be escorted out this way Mr. Greenbaum. **Por favor siga a ella.**

ESTEBAN gestures at the WAITER.

WAITER escorts GUS out linking onto his arm. GUS takes last puff of cigar leaves it in the ash tray, flips a chip to ESTEBAN, and begins to walk off stage right. As he is about to exit, GUS stops and turns to the audience.

ESTEBAN shuffles cards and deals a new hand. CROWD applauds.

GUS:

Ladies **están invitadas**, my place after this shindig for Fulgencio. The penthouse- room 3.

GUS and WAITER walk off stage right. NEWSCASTER 1 and 2 walk towards center stage.

Music fades out completely.

NEWSCASTER 1:

What a turn of events, Gus has been booted from the table! **Esto es inesperado.**

NEWSCASTER 2:

Yeah, well he fell for a couple of Batista's bluffs. Lets take a live look in, in what seems to be the last hand of the game. **No lo podemos perder. Que ira a pasar?**

NEWSCASTER 1 and 2 walk back to the corner.

"Mambo Jose" by Perez Prado begins to play.

ESTEBAN:

Presidente Batista. Do you call, raise, fold? **Que va hacer su alteza?**

BATISTA:

I, I.. raise, meto todo... I'm all in.

BATISTA shoves all of his chips towards the center. He slams both of his hands on the table and stands up. ALEJANDRA pushes all of her chips towards the center.

ALEJANDRA:

[nervous]

Mi santa maria.

ALEJANDRA puts her hands into a praying position. The room is silent.

ESTEBAN:

Dele vuelta a sus cartas.

BATISTA flips, he has a straight, the room claps and awws (previously recorded). ESTEBAN signals for ALEJANDRA to flip her cards. ALEJANDRA flips her cards, she has a higher straight.

ESTEBAN:

Alejandra, congratulations. You are awarded 150,000 dollars. **La suerte te ha favorecido hoy en esta noche.**

The room begins to cheer. BATISTA reaches out to shake ALEJANDRA's hand and they smile for a picture. ESTEBAN shakes BATISTA's hand.

Feliz cumpleaños Presidente!

BATISTA nods at ESTEBAN and starts to leave stage right. He walks off on stage right. Before walking off he waves at the audience, but barely looking. NEWSCASTER 1 and 2 chase after BATISTA with their microphones and follow him off stage. ESTEBAN shakes ALEJANDRA's hand.

ALEJANDRA:

Yes! Yes!

ALEJANDRA grabs handfuls of chips and is screaming excitedly. ESTEBAN walks over next to her trying to calm her down. ALEJANDRA puts the chips back down on the table.

Lights fade.

Scene 5: Back Room

The game is over and Esteban's shift is done for the night. Esteban enters the back room of The Riviera to get ready to leave.

ESTEBAN is kneeling in center stage, tying his shoe.

Lights come on.

RICO enters stage left and walks next to ESTEBAN. ESTEBAN turns and looks at RICO. ESTEBAN smiles smugly.

RICO:

You did it amigo. **No lo puedo creer.**

RICO and ESTEBAN high five.

ESTEBAN:

[smiling]

I was so scared and nervous! She won! Cuba won, and on Batista's Birthday! **Lo hemos ridiculizado frente a todo Cuba.**

RICO:

Maravilloso. You did perfect... Mira.

RICO turns on the television. The projector turns on to a previously recorded newscast.

Look what you accomplished. **Todo Cuba lo esta viendo.**

RICO and ESTEBAN turn their backs to the audience.

NEWSCASTER 1:

In other news, aside from the festive partying... for the first time, both Gus and Batista losted in poker at the annual Batista table. **Algo sin precedentes, dificil de creer.**

NEWSCASTER 2:

Reports have been surfacing that it was rigged. I mean, how is a regular Cuban supposed to win, beat Gus and Batista? **La gente se esta preguntando si hubo trampa.**

RICO turns off the T.V.

ESTEBAN:

[keeping his cool]

Do you think they are going to look into that? That it was rigged? **Sabes lo que esto significa chico?**

RICO:

Come on, rich people lose sometimes, they will only look into it if Batista is a really sore loser. **Yo tengo mis dudas.**

ESTEBAN:

[nervous, leading towards anger]

I hope they don't, I'd be finished, you know it! **Me aterra solo en pensarlo!**

RICO:

Don't worry... you will be ok... ella ganó! **Todo se vio limpio.**

ESTEBAN and RICO exit stage right continuing to talk quietly.

Lights turn off.

Scene 6: Secret Police

Batista's men are on their way to Esteban's house to teach him a lesson. Lucia and Esteban have no idea they are coming over.

Lights come on.

ESTEBAN walks on from stage right into an awaiting, cheerful LUCIA.

LUCIA:

Esteban me siento muy orgullosa de ti. You were wonderful! A promotion must be coming!

LUCIA and ESTEBAN kiss on the cheek.

ESTEBAN:

Gracias mi amor, I know. What were the newscasters saying?

LUCIA:

That it was a wonderful evening, but it was an embarrassment that both Batista and Gus losted. **Ellos hicieron el ridículo.**

ESTEBAN:

It was a very intense game, the Cuban woman Alejandra, she could not stop winning! It was a victory for Cuba! **Todo el mundo en Cuba quería que ella ganara.**

LUCIA:

It was, but Esteban, you met them, they could not have been all that bad? Right? **Batista y Gus aceptaron su derrota.**

ESTEBAN:

Si, they are obviously going to be polite, when every camera in the caribbean is filming them. Batista, is a really generous guy- five dollars, **cinco dolares de propina** for dealing an hour of poker, to the biggest table of the year. Your uncle tito, would give me ten dollars to get his wife out of the house!

LUCIA:

[laughing]

Oh Esteban, here I made you your favorite... pasteles. **Has de tener hambre.**

ESTEBAN:

Ugh, Lucia you know I love them, but I mean every time we have a celebration?

LUCIA:

I knew you don't like my pasteles! **Debes decirlo.**

There is a very heavy knock on the door. LUCIA and ESTEBAN freeze. A few more strong knocks follow. They slowly look towards the door.

SECRET POLICE 1:

¡Es el Federal, policía de Batista! Open the door!

LUCIA:

Esteban.

LUCIA grabs ESTEBAN's arm.

ESTEBAN:

[quietly]

I am so sorry. You have to go. **Vete! Vete!** Hide! Leave!

LUCIA, squeezes tighter, looking at him. ESTEBAN throws himself from her and raises his voice.

Go!

LUCIA runs offstage. ESTEBAN straightens out his clothes and slowly walks towards the door. There is continuous hard knocking. ESTEBAN opens the door. Immediately OFFICER 3 grabs him, as the ALL OFFICERS enter into the house. OFFICER 3 throws ESTEBAN on the couch, ALL OFFICERS crowd ESTEBAN. OFFICER 3 and 4 stand on either side of ESTEBAN.

SS OFFICER 1:

Bajo! Carlos, check the house. Vete, vete!

SS 1 goes to stage left. SS 2 grabs some pasteles.

Well done last night, you had quite the honor dealing to el Presidente. **Has hecho un buen trabajo.**

ESTEBAN:

[breathing heavily]

Si, it was an honor to- **esa es la verdad.**

SS OFFICER 1:

You must be a very talented, young, bilingual dealer, to receive that job. **Te crees muy inteligente.**

SS 2 walks back in holding a radio, and cuts SS 1 off.

SS OFFICER 2:

Señor, the house is clear, but I found a radio.

ESTEBAN:

Is it a crime to have a radio? Eso no es nada malo.

SS OFFICER 1:

Callate. What channel Carlos?

OFFICER 2:

Ciento uno.

OFFICER 1:
Radio Reblede, eh?

SS OFFICER 2 puts down the radio and grabs the pasteles, SS OFFICER 2 and 1 walk to the back of stage left and whisper to each other. They walk back over.

OFFICER 1:
Esteban Ramirez, si?

ESTEBAN:
Correcto.

OFFICER 1:
Tu amas a Cuba?

ESTEBAN:
Si, yo amo Cuba.

OFFICER 1:
It must have been an honor to deal to El Presidente and the most powerful man in Cuba.

ESTEBAN:
Si.

OFFICER 2:
You know the guerrillas are becoming much stronger these days. A lot of communists.

OFFICER 1 points to OFFICER 2.

OFFICER 1:
Are you a communist?

OFFICER 2 raises his arms and smiles.

OFFICER 2:
No, no, no.

OFFICER 1 points to OFFICER 3 and 4.

OFFICER 1:
¿Eres comunista?

OFFICER 3 and 4 raise their arms and smile.

OFFICER 3 and 4:
No, no, no.

OFFICER 1 points to a person in the audience.

OFFICER 1:

Are you a communist?

He pauses. Then he looks at ESTEBAN.

Are you a communist?

ESTEBAN:

No no no. **Yo solo soy un cubano.**

OFFICER 1:

Then can you explain to me how Presidente Batista and the head of the casino both lost to a woman who has never seen a deck of cards in her life. **¡Habla pendejo!**

ESTEBAN:

I'm just the dealer. Haven't you ever heard of beginners luck?

OFFICER 1 punches ESTEBAN

OFFICER 1:

I don't believe in beginners luck It's a bunch of crap. *(pause)* I'm gonna ask you one more time.

How

did that young lady win last night? **Habla. Dime la verdad.**

ESTEBAN looks down.

Are you a communist?

ESTEBAN spits at OFFICER 1. OFFICER 1 whips the spit off his face and mumbles something to himself, then looks at OFFICER 2.

ESTEBAN:

¡Viva Fidel, Viva la revolución!

SS OFFICER 1 and 2 raise their arms about to beat ESTEBAN.

Lights turn off.

All OFFICERS beat ESTEBAN for about 5 seconds.

SS OFFICER 2:

Hold this guerilla down!

OFFICER 2 slowly walks down stage right.

A gunshot is heard.

SS OFFICER 4 rushes over to SS OFFICER 2 and shoves him.

SS OFFICER 4:

Carlos! You always shoot early. **¿Qué pasó chico?** It was my turn this time!

OFFICER 1 starts to break up the fight, and is interrupted by OFFICER 3.

OFFICER 3:

¿Qué piensa? Señor, should we leave the body?

OFFICER 1:

No, let's get rid off him, **claro que no.**

OFFICERS 3 and 4 grab a foot and drag ESTEBAN off stage.

Scene 7: Home Alone

The stage is black, a radio is sitting on the floor. Throughout the radio broadcast, you hear Lucia weeping. She is draped on the couch.

RADIO REBELDE (previously recorded):

Buenas noches a todos! transmitiendo desde las montañas de nuestra patria! Today, was victory for Cuba. We exposed the weakness of Batista. He lost, he lost the game, but it was much more than a game. It showed the true strength of the regime. But it is all thanks to one brave man, the greatest dealer Cuba will ever see. Esteban Ramirez, he made a sacrifice for his people, for us. I am sorry to tell you, but he has been killed. Batista continues to spill blood.

Unable to listen anymore, LUCIA angered, turns off the radio. LUCIA gets up and walks down center stage, she is still crying. She stands still as she speaks. Her voice is num.

LUCIA:

How can a country divided survive? Brother against brother. Sister against sister. Husband against wife. Cuba is torn between two poles, **está dividida en dos**: The nightlife of the casinos – gambling, sex, booze **la gente mas rica**. Everything you could ever want. On the other hand – political repression, income inequality, **la gente pobre sufre**, people suffering in the slums of the cities and the farms of the country. Indeed, Batista has spilled blood but so have the rebels. **Que vamos a decir?** Do we want two Cubas? A Cuba of repression or a Cuba of the casinos?

Curtain closes. Audience claps like the play is over.

Scene 8: El Riviera

_____ *Curtain opens, stage lights come on.*

The dancing and music continues from where it ended (1:22). DANCER 3 is coming up from the dip with DANCER 4. She spins away and grabs ESTEBAN. DANCER 4 exits the stage. ESTEBAN and Hannah are joined by LUCIA and Kenny. ESTEBAN and LUCIA spin into each other. The music slows down when ESTEBAN and LUCIA meet. It speeds up again and LUCIA and ESTEBAN begin to dance. SS OFFICER 1 enters and pulls a gun to ESTEBAN's head. Everyone stop and looks at ESTEBAN.

Stage lights turn off for a few seconds then come on again.

All of the CAST come back on stage for bows.

The curtain closes.