

Coming-of-age play set in PH now running in LA

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MANILA, Philippines — "Mix-Mix: The Filipino Adventures of a German Jewish Boy," a coming-of-age play based on the true-to-life experiences of young refugee Ralph Preiss who found solace in the Philippines is now running at Los Angeles Theatre Center in California.

The play opened just in time for Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration this May, and will continue through June 16.

Produced by Latino Theater Company and Playwrights' Arena, the play is written by Boni Alvarez and directed by Manila-born Jon Lawrence Rivera.



On its website, latinotheaterco.org, Latino Theater Company shares the play is about "the coming-of-age tale of 13-year-old Rudy Preissman, who escapes Nazi Germany at the age of nine with his family to find safety in the Philippines. Their tropical refuge is upended when Japan invades the islands, forcing the family and their Filipino friends to hide in the heights and depths of sacred Mount Banahao."

In history, the late president Manuel Quezon implemented the open door policy in the late 1930s, which provided refuge to Jewish people fleeing the Holocaust. Quezon wanted to admit about 10,000 Jews in the Philippines but only 1,200 made it before the outbreak of World War 2 and the Japanese occupation.

Included in the cast are Casey Adler, Alexis Camins, Angelita Esperanza, Mark Doerr, Kennedy Kabasares, Myra Cris Ocenar, Jill Remez, Mark McClain Wilson, and Filipino-American actress Giselle "G" Tongi, who is now based in the US.

"What a privilege it is to be an actor that gets to tell these important narratives every now and then! I don't do it often but when I do, it's so encompassing that it deepens my humanity on a truly emotional level. I'm beyond humbled," Tongi wrote on her Instagram account.

For more information, visit latinotheaterco.org/mixmix.

