Portfolio Project 2013 – Prototype Program Plan Assessment Project

**Participants:** Sarah Allen*, Robin Harris*, Keith Pavlichik, Isabel De Ande, Ignacio Magana, Megan Naccionales, Nick Olivier, Alexis Pihl* (*Denotes graduating Theatre Arts Major). All participants were theatre Arts majors, with the exception of one student as a Liberal Arts(Film) major. All student actors had been attending Gavilan College for at least one full academic year.

**Project:** Graduate level performance project with Dr. Haehl – an intensive research and rehearsal process leading to studio production of Nilo Cruz’s play, *Anna in the Tropics*.

**Justification:** In spring term 2013 Gavilan College participated in a joint production of *Bye Bye Birdie* with Christopher High School. Due to the large cast (over 50 students), several of the Gavilan Theatre Arts majors ended up with smaller roles and were frustrated by feeling underutilized within the perimeters of the production of the Actors Workshop series (Thea 13 a-d). Also, three of these theatre majors were graduating at the end of the term and felt let down by their casting and unchallenged by their final roles as Theatre Arts majors.

Dr. Haehl created a separate project for these students that was conducted around the students’ participation of normal Thea 13a-d activities and rehearsals. Students were cast in roles in the play, with one major, AlexisPihl, serving as Assistant Director. As the project had limited rehearsal/meeting times, Dr. Haehl conducted the entire process like a graduate performance project, with students having to do work quickly and independently on period research, character biographies and development and even memorization of lines with-out the aid of faculty supervision/classroom time to complete this work.

Moreover, as a studio production, *Anna in the Tropics* had no support staff for sound, lights, costumes or set. Students within the Portfolio group had to assume different technical/design functions to bring the production to life including publicity, sound design, costume design and light design. As a studio production, we worked with found items/items from the Theatre Arts stock to suggest the set.

**Measures:** Public Performance of *Anna in the Tropics*. Performance Journals. Group discussion after project.

**Outcomes:** All students participating in the project showed substantial progress in their ability to function as independent/professional artists given the extreme limitation of the time and space available to mount this production. In the course of the class project, student participants were evaluated on the following criteria from the Theatre Arts Program Learning Outcomes:

- Work effectively in a team, having developed collaboration and teamwork skills through class
exercises, assignments and performances.
• Demonstrate practical knowledge regarding the responsibilities of the different technical and creative jobs related to theatre and theatre production.
• Master fundamental concepts and vocabulary relating to acting through class exercises and public performances.

All eight students excelled in showing complete mastery of all three PLOs above. The intensive work environment enabled Dr. Haehl to monitor and evaluate the students in their application and demonstration of these skills throughout the spring term. The final project (performance) was of exceptional quality. During the final group discussion/evaluation, each student performer discussed gaining new insights and mastery of the creative process of mounting and participating in a live Theatrical production through the Portfolio Project.