



Arts Engagement  
and Education

## Yaz

“At approximately 4:30am yesterday...”

*From Happiest Song Plays Last*

By Quiara Alegria Hudes: <http://www.quiara.com>

Gender: Female/Feminine Presenting

Style: Contemporary Dramatic

Age Range: 30s

**Link to Buy Script:** [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### **Plot Summary**

At the dawn of the Arab Spring in an ancient Jordanian town, Elliott, an Iraq War veteran struggles to overcome the traumas of combat by taking on an entirely new and unexpected career: an action film star.

At the same time, halfway around the world in a cozy North Philadelphia kitchen, his cousin Yaz takes on a heroic new role of her own: as the heart and soul of her crumbling community, providing hot meals and a place to sleep for the needy. She is also dealing with her feelings for her older married friend Agustín.

Set to the joyful sounds of traditional Puerto Rican folk music, this poignant play chronicles a year in the life of these two kindred souls as they search for love, meaning and a sense of hope in a quickly changing world.

### **At this Moment**

Yaz is speaking at a community gathering outside of City Hall. She delivers a public statement after the unexpected death of Agustín, an elder in the Puerto Rican Community in Philadelphia, who was also her music teacher and closest friend. In addition to a friendship based on activism and partying, the two developed a romance and in Agustín’s final weeks, attempted to have a child together.

### **Monologue**

At approximately 4:30am yesterday Agustin Moreno checked into the Kappa Health partners emergency room complaining of pain in his left arm. He was told to have a seat and suffered a heart attack within ten minutes of sitting down. For the next hour he sat dead, slumped over in his chair, in full view of the security guard and reception desk. No one lifted a finger. He was finally discovered dead because he was being robbed of his wristwatch and was not resisting. Agustin Moreno was a high school guidance counselor, six months short of retiring with pension, and he had health insurance. Kappa Health Partners have had three inpatient deaths currently under investigation including a grandmother who drowned because her tracheotomy had not been cleaned in days. I can only pray, dear God, that maybe one person is watching, maybe two people are seeing this today, who will continue Agustin’s work in the community. Here is what you have to do:

Take your music to people who don’t know anything about Puerto Rico or North Philadelphia, and teach. Take it to 5<sup>th</sup> and Lehigh and create a festival of Bomba y Plena.

Take your music to city Hall and take it to Doña Rita’s sick bed.

Then grab ahold of a güiro player and go out to the maximum-security prison at Graterford and bring tears of memory and joy to men who made a mistake or are paying for someone else's mistake. And next time some brass hats decide to lay war games on the land of your patria, grab your guitar and jump on the next bus to Lafayette Park by the White House. And since you will almost always be performing for free, get a job where you can help the young people of our community grow in strength and wisdom. Then, as a new week starts, stand over by a piano and sing life into your congregating. And don't forget, after all that, to let us know that you enjoy what you're doing. My Philadelphia neighbors, we are calling for an immediate boycott of every Kappa Health Partners clinic in the city. Saturday morning outside the Kappa Health emergency room on Olney; it's protest time. Rain or shine, bring your signs. Bring your guitars. Bring your lozenges because we will be heard. What will we have? Survival. When will we demand it? Saturday. See you there.

**Helpful Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y63RPuEKanM>