



## 'Flipzoids' explores Filipino-American experience

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By Katie Spielberger

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Flordelino Lagundino first came to Juneau in 2004 to perform in “The Long Season” at Perseverance Theater. “I wanted to be in a show that was about me.”

“What theater in the country was doing a musical about Filipinos? None. I had to go to Juneau, Alaska

A similar impulse to share the stories of Filipinos on stage has led Lagundino to direct “Flipzoids,” which is now on stage. The play is produced by Generator Theater Company, which Lagundino helped found in 2007, and the show is

“It’s important for people to develop as individuals by seeing themselves on stage,” Lagundino said. “Theater is very often it’s not. Very often it’s still a very controlled — and in regional theater, a very white — way of doing things. This play is to insert an idea in the community that these plays also are universal.”

“Flipzoids,” written by Ralph B. Peña, tells the story of three Filipino immigrants trying to understand their new lives. One is a nurse in her 30s, worked hard to come to the United States, where she finds that people don’t accept her as fully assimilating as possible. Meanwhile, her mother, Aying, is still tied to the past, which creates conflict. There is Redford, who immigrated to the U.S. as a child and now in his 20s still doesn’t feel like he belongs. He finds a connection to where he came from.

“My character definitely seems confused, very much so,” said Junior Davidson, who plays Redford. “And the whole, well, can of worms.”

Marisa Marquez, who plays Vangie, is a first generation born Filipino-American from New York. As Vangie’s parents’ generation, which is, “put away your past, put away your past, put away your past.” She and her mother are “American,” which meant, among other things, that their parents did not speak Tagalog to them at home.

“They tried to do what my character did, which is assimilate, assimilate, assimilate,” she said.

“There’s a scene in the play where (Vangie’s) mom does some crazy stuff in a mall,” Lagundino said. “A scene where she’s trying so hard to be perfect, be American. I think a lot of people of color in this county