

PALACE THEATER

SHOW INTEL

Season 2023–2024 | Issue 3: *On Your Feet! The Story of Emilio & Gloria Estefan*

HER VOICE. HIS VISION.
THEIR STORY.



ON YOUR FEET!
THE STORY OF EMILIO
& GLORIA ESTEFAN

Watch the trailer for
On Your Feet!



SYNOPSIS

On Your Feet! tells the inspiring story of Emilio and Gloria Estefan. Featuring many of Gloria Estefan and Miami Sound Machine's biggest hits, this vibrant and heartfelt musical begins by introducing us to young Gloria and follows her rise to international musical stardom, overcoming personal and professional challenges to become the "Queen of Latin Pop!"

FUN FACTS

- *On Your Feet!* opened in Chicago in 2015, then moved to Broadway from 2015–2017.
- The show was nominated for multiple awards for choreography, costumes, lighting, and performance, and won two for Sergio Trujillo's choreography, and one for Ana Villafañe, who debuted the role of Gloria Estefan.
- Gloria Estefan is often considered the most successful Latin crossover artist in music history.
- She has released 26 albums, including 10 with the Miami Sound Machine.
- Between the two of them, the Estefans have won 8 Grammy Awards.
- In 2015, they were both honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.
- Gloria Estefan was the first Cuban-American singer-songwriter to receive the Kennedy Center Honors (2017).
- She has written two children's books and collaborated on a cookbook with her husband, Estefan Kitchen, highlighting traditional Cuban recipes. They own several Cuban-themed restaurants.
- Emilio Estefan has also been instrumental in developing the careers of Shakira, Ricky Martin, Jennifer Lopez, Marc Anthony, and Jon Secada.



Photo Credit: Chad Griffith

Photo Credit: Santiago Felipe

CLICK FOR TICKETS TO **ON YOUR FEET!** OR CALL 203.346.2000

FROM HAVANA, CUBA TO LITTLE HAVANA, MIAMI

Gloria Estefan's journey was not only a geographical move from Havana, Cuba to the United States, but is also the story of a family's search for the "American Dream" while holding onto and celebrating their culture and heritage.

Born in 1957 in Cuba to Gloria and José Fajardo, little Gloria ("Glorita") began her life in a middle-class family with ties to then Cuban President Fulgencio Batista. When the Cuban Revolution overthrew Batista and Fidel Castro took power in 1959, the Fajardo family fled Cuba for Miami, settling in Little Havana in 1960.

José Fajardo was recruited along with 1500 other Cuban exiles to fight in the failed Bay of Pigs Invasion in 1961 and was imprisoned in Cuba for 18 months. He later enlisted in the U.S. Military and fought in the Vietnam War. Gloria Fajardo worked as a teacher and raised their daughter while her husband was away. Gloria Estefan became a naturalized citizen in 1974 and earned her degree in Psychology from the University of Miami in 1979.

MUSICAL LEGACY

Coming from a family with strong artistic roots, it seemed natural for Gloria Estefan to turn to music, despite some opposition from her mother. **After hearing them sing at a wedding in 1975, Emilio Estefan and his band the Miami Latin Boys invited Gloria and her cousin Mercedes to join the band (which soon changed its name to Miami Sound Machine).** Gloria and Emilio began dating the following year and were married in 1978.

Their children have followed in their parents' artistic footsteps: their son Nayib is a DJ, actor, and filmmaker while their daughter Emily is a singer-songwriter and musician.

Music continues to run in the family: *The Estefan Family Christmas Album* (2022) features Gloria, her daughter Emily, and grandson Sasha.



Gloria and Emilio Estefan with the Company of On Your Feet! Photo Credit: Santiago Felipe



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