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The Association for Hispanic Classical Theater, Inc.

Newsletter: August 2013

AHCT Symposium and Chamizal Festival 2013

Cordial greetings from the President and Board of Directors of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater. This issue of the newsletter includes, among other items, highlights of this year's Chamizal play festival and the Association's March Symposium, notes from the board meeting at the conference, news on upcoming conferences and performances and a call for papers for the 2014 AHCT Symposium, which will celebrate the organization's 30th year.

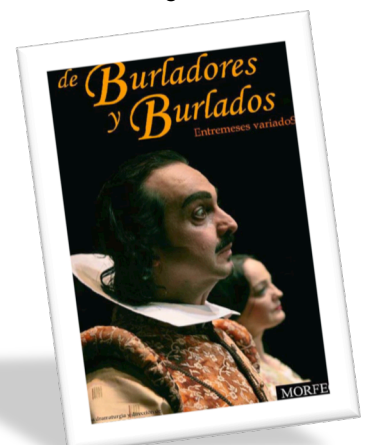


Poster of Nao d'amores' *Misterio del Cristo de los Gascones*. Courtesy of Ana Zamora.

The thirty-eighth annual International Siglo de Oro Drama Festival, March 6-10, 2013, at the Chamizal National Memorial Theater, El Paso, featured Lope's *El caballero de Olmedo*, by Producciones Shake & Falstaff of Puebla, Mexico; Lope's *La vengadora de las mujeres*, by Cambalache Teatro of Murcia, Spain; *Misterio del Cristo de los Gascones*, by Nao d'amores of Segovia, Spain; and Cervantes' *El coloquio de los perros* and a selection of *entremeses* entitled "De burladores y burlados," by Morfeo Teatro of Cuevas de San Clemente, Spain. Audiences were impressed by the variety and high quality of this year's productions.

This year's symposium featured thirty sessions and approximately sixty presenters. The Donald T. Dietz Plenary Lecture, entitled "En Busca de un sentido contemporáneo para la puesta en escena del teatro prebarroco. Nao d'amores: una travesía entre pasado y futuro," was delivered by Ana Zamora, artistic director of Nao d'amores. This unique theatrical company from Segovia undertakes research and training to bring to the stage works of medieval and Renaissance theater that are not part of the usual repertoire, but that represent and illustrate basic developmental steps in Spanish dramatic history. Zamora's informative presentation explained the company's mission of exploring the form and content of pre-baroque Spanish theater in pursuit of verbal, audio, and

Poster, *De burladores y burlados*, Morfeo Teatro Clásico. Courtesy of Francisco Negro.





Ana Zamora responds to a question at the *mesa redonda* after the El Paso performance of *El misterio del Cristo de los Gascones*. Photo by C. Gascón.

visual "languages" through which to bring Spain's rich theatrical heritage to life for contemporary audiences. Zamora took us through the company's work process, showed slides of their home theater, and had members of the cast and musicians perform lively pieces from their repertoire. The musicians also discussed the design of their pre-baroque instruments and demonstrated how they are played.

Unique to the symposium this year were seven workshop sessions in translating the *comedia* from page to stage. Practicum personnel consisting of actors, directors, translators, and dramaturgs led attendees through the process of preparing the first act finale of Moreto's *No puede ser el guardar una mujer* for performance. Three "page work" sessions focused on texts, performance possibilities, and translations, while three "stage work" sessions addressed such performance issues as space, relationships, subtexts, and audiences. The sessions culminated with a performance showcase on Saturday. Thank you to Ian Borden, David Pasto, Dakin Matthews, Harley Erdman, Ben Gunter, and all the Practicum Personnel for bringing us this engaging hands-on experience!

Notes from the Board Meeting

Visitors Anne Doherty Stephan, Siglo Festival Coordinator, and Paisanos members Katherine Brennand and Matthew Desing thanked AHCT for its support of the Chamizal festival and emphasized the need for continued collaboration in attracting theatrical companies to apply for the festival, in evaluating productions, and in providing support during the festival as subject matter experts through introductions before and round table discussions after the shows.

Officers Susan Paun de García, Gwyn Campbell, Darci Strother, Sharon Voros, and Chris Gascón were re-elected for another year; retiring members Bonnie Gasior and Bob Blue were recognized for their service; and new members Manuel Delgado and Tony Grubbs were welcomed to the board. Bruce Burningham and David Hildner will assume the duties of reviewing abstract submissions.

Treasurer Sharon Voros reported that income for the year was \$13,603.19, while expenditures totaled \$16,777.10, resulting in a remaining balance in the operating account of \$11,979.38. The Hesse fund stood at \$36,961.74.

Increases in fees were approved in order to balance income and expenditures. Membership dues were increased \$10 in order to help fund *Comedia Performance*; conference registration was increased \$20, \$15 of which will help balance conference expenditures and income, and \$5 more to offset added amenities and rising costs in the next few years. In addition, several fund-raising initiatives were discussed, prompting the creation of a Donations Exploratory Committee, guided by AHCT founder Don Dietz.

Webmaster Laura Vidler reported that our Facebook profile continues to develop, as other academic and theatrical groups have begun networking with us through our page.

Comedia Performance marked its tenth year of publication with a special issue dedicated to the memory of eminent Calderonista Antonio Regalado (1932-2012). Regalado's voluminous studies on Calderón have had great influence on the work of Golden Age Theater scholars, and a number of AHCT members have had the opportunity to study or work closely with him.

New board members Anthony Grubbs and Manuel Delgado. Photos by C. Gascón.



The winner of the 2013 Everett Hesse Graduate Student Travel Grant was Christopher Oechler of Penn State for his paper, "The Performance of Divine Providence on the Early Modern Stage: The Case of Falling Paintings in Two History Plays."

Kerry Wilks congratulates Christopher Oechler, 2013 winner of the Everett Hesse Award. Photo by C. Gascón.



The colorful foyer of the Chamizal National Memorial Theater in El Paso invites attendees to an opening night reception for the 38th Siglo Festival. Photo by C. Gascón.

Happenings

The Comedia: Translation and Performance. November 25-28, 2013. Sponsored by Out of the Wings and The Association for Hispanic Classical Theater, this conference will be held in the Theatre Royal, Bath, England, and features the Ustinov Studio's performances of new English translations of *La*

dama boba and *El castigo sin venganza*, directed by Laurence Boswell, and *Don Gil de las calzas verdes*, directed by Mehmet Ergen. The registration fee for the conference is 140 British pounds (about \$210) and includes tickets for all performances, admission to all panels and roundtables, two receptions, morning and afternoon tea and coffee each day of the conference, and a light lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday, all of which will take place at the theatre. Although all panels have been formed and no additional submissions are accepted at this date, any AHCT member may register to attend the conference and the plays. Attendees are expected to make their own arrangements for travel and lodging. The conference officially opens early Monday afternoon and closes late Thursday morning. If interested, please contact Susan Paun de García (garcia@denison.edu) for more information about lodging and/or registration instructions. Deadline to register is September 1, 2013.

AISO 2014 en Venecia. La Asociación Internacional Siglo de Oro (AISO) celebrará entre el 14 y el 18 de julio de 2014 el X Congreso Internacional del Siglo de Oro. Fecha límite de envío de título y resumen de la comunicación: 30 de enero de 2014. Véase el módulo de inscripción, <http://www.aiso2014.com/>.

NEMLA 2014, Harrisburg, PA. "Re-writing Cervantes's Fictions from the Stage." This seminar explores how recent performances and adaptations of *Don Quijote* and the *Novelas Ejemplares* create an alternative, experimental way of looking at Cervantes's prose legacy on the stage. Please send 200-word proposals by September 30 to Esther Fernández at efernandez@slc.edu and Gladys Robalino at grobolino@messiah.edu.

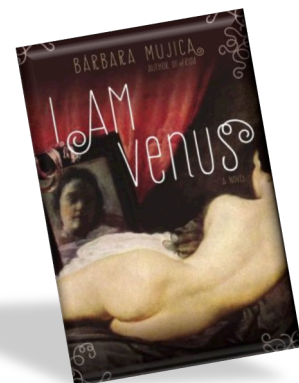
CFP Laberinto Vol 7. "Nationalism and Early Modern Hispanic Culture." *Laberinto*, an on-line journal dedicated to Hispanic early modern literatures and cultures, is calling for papers on nationalism. Manuscripts in MLA format between 15 and 25 pages long should be received by October 1, 2013. Send to Barbara Simerka simerkabarbara@gmail.com, Christopher Weimer cbweimer@aol.com, or Juan Pablo Gil-Osle gilosle1@gmail.com. Visit the journal at <http://laberintojournal.com>.

I Am Venus. Bárbara Mujica, author of the acclaimed historical novels *Frida* and *Sister Teresa*, turns her eye to 17th-century Spain and the court of King Phillip IV in her new book, *I Am Venus* (Overlook Press / Hardcover, \$26.95 / ISBN: 978-1-4683-0657-6). I

Reminders

Comedia Performance, AHCT's annual journal, publishes articles on topics related to the performance of the Spanish *comedia*. The subscription price is included in the annual AHCT membership dues. A three-year library subscription is \$75; individual copies are \$20 each. Checks should be made out to AHCT and sent to Managing Editor Dr. Gwyn E. Campbell, Dept. of Romance Languages, 406A Tucker Hall, Washington and Lee University, Lexington VA 24450. Direct e-mail inquiries may be sent to campbellg@wlu.edu. Submissions are due by September 30. Please follow the guidelines at the front of the journal, submit articles to the editor and book reviews, theater reviews, and interviews to the editors of each of those sections (see www.comediaperformance.org). *Comedia Performance* also advertises books published within the last five years, performances, study-abroad programs, and conferences. Ads are \$100 for a full page; send camera-ready ads to Bárbara Mujica at mujica@georgetown.edu.

Benefits of AHCT membership. You can renew your membership easily at <http://www.comedias.org/AHCT/AHCT/Membership.html>. Members of AHCT whose dues are up-to-date may borrow videos from the archive of performances of Golden Age plays, receive the Association's annual journal, *Comedia Performance*, and receive the AHCT Newsletter twice yearly.



Am Venus chronicles the scandalous affair between the great Baroque Spanish painter Diego Velázquez and a young model who became his Venus—and the grave consequences of their love. (Photo courtesy of the author.)



ATHE Orlando, August 2-4, 2013. Theater with a Mission, led by Ben Gunter, performed "Lope's (small) New World" at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education conference in Orlando, August 3, 2013. AHCT members also participated in three panels focused on staging Lope's play, women in the Spanish Golden Age, and teaching the *comedia*. (Photo by Alejandra Rodríguez.)

Performances

Repertorio Español's Fourth Van Lier Directing Fellowship Play Festival.



Scene from Repertorio's *Reinar después de morir*. Photo by Michael J. Palma.

Once again, the Van Lier Fellowship productions at Repertorio Español, 138 East 27th St., New York, NY, are all Golden Age plays. A number of AHCT members have attended the shows this

summer, and have been delighted with the performances. Particularly impressive is the willingness of these directors to think outside of the tried-and-true canon to select engaging works that have seldom been performed in our times. *Reinar después de morir*, by Luis Vélez de Guevara, directed by Inés García, featuring a clash between a king and his son over his marriage, ran from June

27 to July 7. Lope de Vega's "insane" comedy of two separated lovers, *El loco por fuerza*, directed by Leyma López, played from July 25 to August 4. The festival will conclude with Guillén de Castro's playful exploration of gender "norms," *La fuerza de la costumbre*, directed by Freddy Mancilla, with shows August 22, 23, 25, 30, and September 1 (see www.repertorio.org for times

and tickets). The festival is made possible by The New York Community Trust.

Poster, *La fuerza de la costumbre*.
Courtesy of Daniel Martínez and Repertorio Español.



AHCT 30th Annual Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium, February 27 – March 1, 2014

The 2014 AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium, featuring special events to commemorate AHCT's 30th year, will take place February 27-March 1 in El Paso, Texas. These dates coincide with the 2014 Golden Age Spanish Theater Festival at the Chamizal National Memorial, scheduled to run February 26 - March 2, 2014. Sessions will begin Thursday morning, February 27, and end Saturday afternoon, March 1, 2014. The meeting of the officers of the AHCT will take place Wednesday, February 26, 2014, from 9 am -12 noon, and the meeting of the Board of Directors will take place that same day from 1:30-5:00 p.m.

Call for Papers. The Association for Hispanic Classical Theater particularly encourages studies on all aspects of performance of Siglo de Oro dramatic texts, though proposals for papers or special sessions at the annual symposium on other topics related to Spanish Golden Age theater are welcome. Papers should be 20 minutes in length, and may be delivered in Spanish or English. To submit an abstract for the AHCT Symposium, fill out the AHCT Symposium Abstract Submission Form on the www.comedias.org website: http://www.comedias.org/AHCT/AHCT/2014_Conference_2.html. If you are a graduate student, after submitting your abstract through the website, please also send your completed ten-page paper in Word to



Poster, *El loco por fuerza*.
Courtesy of Daniel Martínez and Repertorio Español.



Kerry Wilks, Ben Gunter, and Amy Williamsen introduce a show at the Chamizal. Photo by C. Gascón.

gradsubmissions@comedias.org. This applies to all students, including those who have been invited to be members of panels, whether organized by faculty members or others. Graduate students whose papers are accepted for presentation will be considered for the AHCT Everett W. Hesse Travel Grant. The submission form will allow applicants to indicate any special equipment needs, as well as to volunteer to help at the symposium. Conference participants who will be using the projector for their presentations should plan on bringing their own laptops. The deadline for receipt of all submissions (abstracts and graduate student papers) is November 1, 2013; submitters will be informed of their status by December 1, 2013.

Hotel Reservations. Note that the Symposium will take place at a new location this year, the **Hilton Garden Inn El Paso/University**, 111 West University Avenue, El Paso, 79902. A special conference rate is available to AHCT symposium participants; the rate of \$85 applies to single/double/triple/quad rooms, or participants may select the \$95 single/double/triple/quad rate and receive a hot buffet breakfast for up to two people in the room. All rates are subject to a 17.5% tax. Parking is complimentary. The group rate applies Tuesday, February 25 to Saturday, March 1, 2014. Reservations may be made online or by calling the Hilton's toll-free number, 877-782-9444, and providing AHCT's group reservation code (forthcoming). Visit the hotel website at: <http://hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/texas/hilton-garden-inn-el-paso-university-ELPGIGI/index.html>.

AHCT Conference Registration. You must be a member of the AHCT to register for the conference. Current membership dues are \$50 (or \$90 for two years) for faculty and \$40 (or \$70 for two years) for retired members and students. The registration fee for the conference for all faculty attendees, as well as for graduate students who are reading papers or participating in a special session, is \$125. A late fee of \$25 is assessed if registration is paid after January 30; a late fee of \$50 applies for registrations after February 13, 2014. Registration includes conference attendance, the annual banquet of the AHCT, transportation to and from the Chamizal National Memorial every evening for the Siglo de Oro Spanish Drama Festival, and refreshments in the hospitality room after the theater performances. (Note: a special registration rate of \$40 applies to students who do not present papers or attend the banquet. An additional \$20 payable at the time of registration purchases tickets for the banquet. The aforementioned late fees also apply to auditor registration.) Dues and registration fees can be paid on the comedias.org website by way of PayPal from the 2014 AHCT Symposium page: http://www.comedias.org/AHCT/AHCT/2014_Conference_2.html.

Help wanted. Please consider volunteering to help the conference run smoothly. If you are interested in serving a shift at the registration table or in the hospitality suite, in chairing a session, in driving a van to the Chamizal for performances, or in facilitating a round table discussion after a performance at the Chamizal, please indicate your willingness to do so on the on-line Abstract Submission Form, and you will be contacted by the Conference Director. These are important services that greatly enhance everyone's experience at the conference!

Conference Updates. Further details regarding the conference and the Siglo de Oro Drama Festival will appear on the AHCT webpages as they become available. **Be on the lookout for announcements regarding special 30th anniversary events at the 2014 Symposium!** For special inquiries, please contact the AHCT Conference Director, Darci Strother, strother@csusm.edu.

With best wishes for the academic year,

Chris Gascón, AHCT Recording Secretary
christopher.gascon@cortland.edu

