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Matthew D. Stroud, Trinity University  
Vern Williamsen, U Missouri, Columbia



# The Association for Hispanic Classical Theater, Inc.

Newsletter: Summer 2014

Cordial greetings from the President and Board of Directors of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater! This issue of the newsletter includes highlights of this year's Chamizal play festival and the Association's Symposium, notes from the board meeting at the conference, news on upcoming conferences and a call for papers for the 2015 AHCT Symposium.



Mayte Bona as el diablo Cojuelo in Morfeo Teatro's "La escuela de los vicios." Photo courtesy of the Chamizal National Memorial.

## AHCT Symposium and Chamizal Siglo de Oro Drama Festival 2014

The 39th annual International Siglo de Oro Drama Festival, Feb 26 – March 2, 2014, at the Chamizal National Memorial Theater, El Paso, featured Morfeo Teatro's productions of "La escuela de los vicios," and "La Lozana andaluza," based on the work of Quevedo and Francisco Delicado. Cambalache Teatro y Escuela Superior de Arte Dramático (ESAD) de Murcia performed Moreto's *De fuera vendrá...quien de casa nos echará*, Calderón's *El secreto a voces*, and a compilation of memorable scenes from Lope's plays, entitled "Puro Lope." Audiences found this year's productions highly entertaining, marked by the energy, versatility, and professionalism of the featured performers.

This year's symposium, commemorating AHCT's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and held at the Hilton Garden Inn, featured approximately 25 sessions and 63 presenters and participants. The Donald T. Dietz Plenary Lecture, entitled "Rebeldes con causa," was delivered by Francisco Negro, artistic director of Morfeo Teatro of Burgos. Negro explained the company's approach toward staging literary classics, from the conceptualization of the author's purpose to the actor's performance. He emphasized the rebellious, contradictory nature of theater in its creative phases, and called the work of Quevedo and Delicado "dos de los más claros ejemplos iconoclastas, rebeldes, de la literatura del renacimiento y del Siglo de Oro español." On the actor's craft, he commented: "El trabajo del actor es de absoluto desconcierto...la intuición no encuentra moldes claros en el campo de la

Francisco Negro (right) and Mayte Bona (left) of Morfeo Teatro at the AHCT plenary. Photo by C. Gascón.





Cambalache Teatro's *El secreto a voces*. Photo courtesy of Chamizal National Memorial.

teórica."

A Founders' Roundtable, led by Donald Dietz and Matthew Stroud with messages from Vern Williamsen and David Gitlitz, commemorated the 30 years since the founding of AHCT.

Other sessions included roundtable discussions on the recent AHCT/ Out of

the Wings Symposium in Bath, the teaching of the *comedia*, and the first known performance of Leonor de la Cueva's *La firmeza en la ausencia*, in translation at Oklahoma City University. Attendees also enjoyed a screening of *¡Quijotes! The Ingenious Puppet Don Quijote de La Mancha*, with a presentation by creator and director Jason Yancey, and a three-session practicum that staged two translations of the opening scene of Calderón's *La vida es sueño*. Members celebrated AHCT's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a cake and cava toast generously sponsored by members of Los Paisanos on Friday night, and a banquet at Tabla Restaurant in downtown El Paso on Saturday.

## Notes from the Board Meeting

**Chamizal/Paisanos.** Board members met the new Superintendent of the Chamizal, Gus Sánchez. Gus and Festival Coordinator Anne Doherty-Stephan reiterated their commitment to the festival and thanked AHCT for its many contributions. Their discussion with the board and members of Los Paisanos emphasized effective communication and collaboration between all three groups to make the festival a success.

Hilton Garden Inn, El Paso.  
Photo by C. Gascón



elections this fall to elect up to five new members.

**Elections.** After many years of tireless service to the AHCT as a board member, recording secretary, and president, Robert Johnston has decided to retire from the board. We thank him for his dedication and leadership through the years. President Susan Paun de García and officers Gwyn E. Campbell, Darci Strother, Sharon Voros, and Chris Gascón were re-elected for another year. Board members re-elected for another three-year term were Isaac Benabu, Gwyn E. Campbell, David Hildner, Barbara Mujica, Amy Williamsen, and Jason Yancey. New board members Robert Bayliss and Harley Erdmann began three-year terms. The Board decided to hold

**Treasurer's report.** Treasurer Sharon Voros reported that income for 2013 was \$20,454.32, while expenditures totaled \$20,725.67, resulting in a remaining balance in the operating account of \$12,116.47. The Hesse fund stood at \$39,217.43.

Cambalache Teatro's *De fuera vendrá...quien de casa nos echará*. Photo courtesy of Chamizal National Memorial.



**New submission deadline for symposium.** August 1 was approved as the new deadline for abstracts and graduate student papers for presentation at the AHCT Symposium, with a view towards facilitating the finalizing of attendance and the conference program.

**Comedia Performance.** The 2015 Issues of *Comedia Performance* and *Bulletin of the Comediantes* will focus on the November 2013 Spanish Golden Age Play Festival at Bath. Articles, performance reviews, and interviews will focus on the Bath festival; book reviews will cover titles on a range of subjects as always.

**AHCT web presence.** The AHCT web site will be moved to Wordpress. The new format will make editing easier, optimize search engine operations, work well with mobile devices, and facilitate video streaming, a feature that will soon be available for all videos in the AHCT archive. Laura Vidler announced that she will be stepping



Cambalache Teatro's "Puro Lope." Photo courtesy of Chamizal National Memorial.



Gourmet cakes by Julia Cuisine sweetened AHCT's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary toast. Photo by C. Gascón.





Cambalache Teatro's "Puro Lope." Photo courtesy of Chamizal National Memorial.

down as Webmaster. The AHCT expresses its gratitude for her nine years of tireless service building, improving, and maintaining our online presence.

**Hesse Award.** The 2014 Everett Hesse Graduate Student Travel Grant for best paper submitted by a graduate student was awarded to Christopher Oechler of Penn State for his

paper, "Cayetano Luca de Tena, *Fuente Ovejuna*, and Fascist Theater."

## Happenings

**Life is a dream.** Deep Dish Theater Company of Chapel Hill, South Carolina, performed Nilo Cruz's translation and adaptation of Calderón's classic, directed by Marc Williams, May 9-31, 2014. See <http://www.deepdishtheater.org/productions?p=64>.

**Bárbara Mujica's** *A New Anthology of Early Modern Spanish Theater: Play and Playtext*, New Haven, Yale University Press, 2014, will be available in July or August. In addition, the paperback version of her novel *I Am Venus*, based on the life of Spanish painter Diego Velazquez, is scheduled for summer publication.

**El teatro clásico en su(s) cultura(s): De los siglos de oro al siglo XXI.** La Asociación Internacional de Teatro Español y Novo-hispano de los Siglos de Oro (AITENSO) y CUNY Graduate Center anuncian el XVII congreso de AITENSO, New York City, 20-23 octubre, 2015. Plenaristas: Ysla Campbell Manjarrez (Univ. Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez) y Frederick De Armas (Univ. de Chicago). Cada comunicación tendrá una duración de 20 minutos y deberá estar en español. Se publicará en actas una selección de trabajos presentados. Pronto habrá más información en <http://congresoaitenso2015.weebly.com> acerca del plazo y envío de propuestas y la cuota de inscripción. Pueden ponerse en contacto con el comité organizador por correo electrónico: [congresoaitenso2015@gmail.com](mailto:congresoaitenso2015@gmail.com).

"La Lozana andaluza," Morfeo Teatro. Photo courtesy of Chamizal National Memorial.



**Congreso Internacional: Mujer y Literatura Femenina en la América Virreinal**, Universidad de los Andes, Santiago de Chile, 19-20 nov 2014. Creación femenina y presencia de la mujer en la Iberoamérica colonial desde perspectivas múltiples (literatura,

historia, arte, etc.). Fecha límite para propuestas: 10 oct 2014. Las inscripciones deberán hacerse en el formulario en: <http://www.unav.edu/congreso/literatura-femenina/congreso>.

## 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 access the AHCT Newsletter twice yearly.

**Update your member profile.** If your contact information or professional profile has changed recently, please access your file via your username and password, and update your record at <http://ahct.echapters.com/>. If your email address has changed, you may re-subscribe to the listserv at: [http://mail.comedias.org/mailman/listinfo/comedias\\_comedias.org](http://mail.comedias.org/mailman/listinfo/comedias_comedias.org).



## Call for Papers: AHCT Annual Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium, March 19 - 21, 2015, Hilton Garden Inn, El Paso.

The 2015 AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium will take place March 19-21 in El Paso, Texas. These dates coincide with the Golden Age Spanish Theater Festival at the Chamizal National Memorial, March 18-22, 2015. Sessions will begin Thursday morning, March 19, and end Saturday afternoon, March 21. The meeting of the officers of the AHCT will take place Wednesday, March 18, from 9:00 a.m.-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](http://www.comedias.org) website. If you are a graduate student, after submitting your abstract through the website, please also send your completed ten-page paper in Word to [gradsubmissions@comedias.org](mailto: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 August 1, 2014.**

**Hotel Reservations.** The Symposium will once again take place at the Hilton Garden Inn El Paso/University, 111 West University Avenue, El Paso, 79902, 1-915-315-2121. A special conference rate is available to AHCT symposium participants; the rate of \$112 applies to single/double/triple/quad rooms, and includes a hot buffet breakfast for up to two people per room. All rates are subject to a 17.5% tax. Parking is complimentary. The group rate applies Tuesday, March 17 through Sunday, March 22, 2015. Reservations may be made online at [www.elpaso.stayhgi.com](http://www.elpaso.stayhgi.com) or by calling the Hilton's toll-free number 1-877-STAY-HGI (1-877-782-9444). Use the group rate code: AHCT.

**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 \$50 is assessed if registration is paid after February 5, 2015; if registration is not paid in full by February 19, 2015, the participant will be dropped from the program. 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 \$25 payable at the time of registration purchases tickets for the banquet. The aforementioned late fee also applies to auditor registration.) Dues and registration fees can be paid by way of PayPal from the 2015 AHCT Symposium page on the [www.comedias.org](http://www.comedias.org) website.

**Conference Updates.** Further details regarding the symposium will appear on the AHCT webpages as they become available. For special inquiries, please contact the AHCT Conference Director, Darci Strother, [strother@csusm.edu](mailto:strother@csusm.edu).

With best wishes for the summer,

Chris Gascón  
AHCT Recording Secretary  
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