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The Association for Hispanic Classical Theater, Inc.

Newsletter: Summer 2011

The AHCT Symposium and the Chamizal National Memorial XXXVI Annual Siglo de Oro Drama Festival, March 2-6, 2011.

Cordial greetings from the President and the Board of Directors of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater. This issue of the newsletter contains, among other items: highlights of the Association's March Symposium; notes from the meetings of the board of directors and the general membership at that conference; news on recent and upcoming conferences and performances; and a call for papers for the 2012 Symposium of the AHCT in El Paso.

This year's Symposium included twenty-two sessions and over sixty speakers. The Donald T. Dietz Keynote Address, entitled "*El médico de su honra* y los inicios de la Compañía Nacional de Teatro Clásico," was delivered by eminent Golden Age theater scholar Luciano García Lorenzo of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas of Madrid. Dr. García Lorenzo has authored, edited, or co-edited numerous books, including *Autoras y actrices en la historia del teatro español*, *El figurón: texto y puesta en escena*, *La criada en el teatro español del Siglo de Oro*, *El teatro clásico español a través de sus monarcas*, *Diccionario de la comedia del Siglo de Oro*, *La construcción de un personaje: el gracioso*, *El teatro de Guillén de Castro*, and *La novela del siglo XIX*. In addition, Dakin Matthews and Anne McNaughton gave a plenary workshop entitled "Andak's Performance of *Capulets and Montagues*," in which they discussed their new production, which Anne directed and Dakin translated from Lope's *Castelvines y Montes*. A third special session, "Power Moves: Music, Dancing, and Fencing in Comedia's Performance Score," got participants out of their seats to learn to move like the professionals do. Grover Wilkins III, Director of the Orchestra of New Spain, Nena Couch of Ohio State, and Ian Borden from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln provided an exciting workout for eyes, ears, and feet. No injuries were reported.

In addition to the Andak production, the Chamizal's 2011 Festival included performances of *Jazz Club Polonia*, adapted from Calderón's *La vida es sueño*, by EdeStreno of Badajoz, Spain; *Peribáñez*, based on Lope's masterpiece, by Los Barracos from Madrid; *Señor Quijote Mío*, based on Cervantes' classic novel, by Perro Teatro of Mexico City; and Tirso's *El Burlador de Sevilla*, by the Escuela Nacional de Arte Teatral, from Mexico City.





Scene from *Andak Company's Capulets and Montagues*. Photo by John Apicella.

Stage News

Laurence Boswell, newly appointed Artistic Director of the Ustinov Studio Theatre at the Theatre Royal, Bath, England, plans to stage another mini series of Spanish Golden Age plays at the Studio Theatre to commemorate Lope's 450th birthday. The series, like the one he mounted for the RSC in 2004, will consist of three works newly translated for the occasion, to be announced shortly. The cycle will run from mid-September to late December, 2012. The AHCT is considering co-sponsoring a mini-conference at the site.

Dakin Matthews was recognized as the AHCT's first "Distinguished Member" at his plenary session at the March Symposium, for the outstanding work he has done in translating Spanish Golden Age drama in rhymed verse and in staging plays with his Andak company in Los Angeles.

Matthew Stroud's translation of Calderón's *La dama duende*, *The Phantom Lady*, was performed by X Repertory Theater Company (www.xrtc.org), directed by Aaron Ganz, in Los Angeles, May 13-29, 2011. Featuring ballet choreography, it received positive reviews.



Notes from the AHCT Board of Directors and General Meetings, March 2 and 4, 2011.

Election Results. David Hildner and Jason Yancey were newly elected to the Board. Board members Isaac Benabu, Gwyn Campbell, Donald Larson, Barbara Mujica, and Amy Williamsen were re-elected to three-year terms. Chris Gascón has been elected Recording Secretary, and the following officers were re-elected for one-year terms: Bob Johnston, President; Susan Paun de García, First Vice-President; Ángel Sánchez, Second Vice-President; and Sharon Voros, Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report. Sharon Voros reported that the current balance in the AHCT checking account was \$10,484.29, while the balance of the Everett W. Hesse Fund was \$35,987.18. Income since the last report was \$14,796.96, and expenditures were \$17,221.96. The amount held in reserve for grants was \$1,345, and the total assets of the Association were \$46,471.47.

Chamizal Festival. Park Superintendent Catherine Light reaffirmed the Chamizal's commitment to their premiere activity, the Siglo de Oro Festival, and indicated that funding appears stable for next year's events. Outreach Director Dora Martínez noted that theater companies traveling long distances could use another stop or two besides the Chamizal, and that if our educational institutions could host additional performances by visiting groups, it would facilitate their participation in

the festival.

Comedia Performance.

Editor Barbara Mujica reported that Jonathan Thacker has been selected as a new member of the journal's editorial board, and Gwyn Campbell is the new managing editor. The new web site, www.comediaperformance.org, has been created by Patricia Soler, and includes the first five issues.

Video Library.

The remainder of the video archive will be moved from the University of Arizona to Grand Valley State, Michigan, under Jason Yancey's supervision. Many new videos and this year's Chamizal productions are available for rental through www.comedias.org. Mindy Badía and Robert Turner continue their work on a searchable database of all of the archive's holdings.

AHCT website. Laura Vidler and a team of student assistants have made great progress in upgrading the design of the website and the merging of the functions of the comedias.org and eChapters sites.

General Meeting

Announcements. Sharon Voros explained that PayPal is now the preferred method of payment for all transactions on the eChapters website. She clarified that members can still give Susan Paun de García credit card information through a form, which she will then enter so that the transaction will go through PayPal. Laura Vidler thanked members for submitting abstracts in PDF



Scene from Los Barracos' production of Lope's *Peribáñez*. Photo courtesy of Isabel Romero, Teatro Los Barracos, © Centro de Documentación Teatral, dependiente del Ministerio Español de Cultura.

form. She requested that no other information, such as tech requests, be included on the PDFs, to facilitate quicker posting on the website. Kerry Wilks reminded graduate students to send in an abstract in PDF form along with their completed papers.

Everett Hesse Graduate Student Award. Kerry also announced that Melissa Figueroa of Cornell University is the winner of the 2011 Hesse Award for best paper given by a graduate student, for her essay, "The Dangerous Theater of the Moriscos: *Auto de la destrucción de Troya*."

Conference News

Modern Language Association of America: The 2011 annual meeting of the MLA was held Los Angeles, California, January 6-9. The Division on Sixteenth-and Seventeenth-Century Spanish Drama sponsored two sessions: "Approaches to Early Modern Spanish Tragedy" and a Roundtable on "The *Comedia* and the Culture of the Baroque: Reconsiderations of the Legacy of José Antonio Maravall." The annual banquet of the Comediantes took place at the Border Grill Downtown Restaurant.

The 2012 meeting will be held in Seattle, Washington. The Division on Sixteenth-and Seventeenth-Century Spanish Drama will sponsor two sessions: "The Theme of War in Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century Drama," and "The Theme of Humor in the *Comedia* of Early Modern Spanish Drama." Details will be announced in the forthcoming MLA program, as will information about the annual banquet.

Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) and American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR). Ben Gunter coordinated a

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 to campbellg@wlu.edu. Submissions to *Comedia Performance* are due by September 30. Please follow the guidelines at the front of the journal and submit your article, review, or interview to the appropriate editor (please see www.comediaperformance.org).

Comedia Performance also advertises books published within the last five years, performances, study-abroad programs, and special events such as conferences. Ads are only \$100 for a full page; ad revenue helps pay printing and distribution costs. Send camera-ready ads to Barbara Mujica at mujica@georgetown.edu.

Benefits of AHCT membership. Are your dues up-to-date? You can quickly and easily renew your membership on the AHCT eChapters web site, www.ahct.echapters.com (click on "Join us"). Members of AHCT whose dues are up-to-date may borrow videos from the AHCT archive of recent performances of Golden Age plays, receive a copy of the Association's annual journal, *Comedia Performance*, and receive the AHCT Newsletter twice yearly.

Donations to AHCT: Donations in support of any of AHCT's activities are deeply appreciated. To contribute, please send a check or credit card information to: AHCT, P.O. Box 4359, Bellingham, WA 98227. Checks may be unrestricted or earmarked for the Millennium Donors Fund or the Everett W. Hesse Fund.

90-minute panel called "Ripe for Rediscovery: Dramaturgy and the Spanish Comedia Nueva" at ATHE's 25th anniversary meeting in Chicago in July. In addition, Ben and Kathleen Jeffs coordinated the English-language debut reading of Tirso's *El amor medico*, *Love the Doctor*, translated by Sarah Brew and Josephine Harman of UMass-Amherst. The participants in the reading included Bruce Burningham, Rick Davis, John Fletcher, Susan Paun de García, Janine Kehlenbach, Elizabeth Petersen, Noah Simes, Kerry Wilks, and Jason Yancey. The post-performance discussion included the performers, the coordinators, and Mindy Badía, Sarah Brew, Nena Couch, Gina Kaufman, and Shannon Polchow. Ben has also proposed three sessions for the upcoming ASTR conference in Montreal, November 17-20, 2011.

Performances

Airmid Theatre. As part of its 2011 Summer Theatre Festival, Airmid Theatre staged the world premiere production of *A Little Betrayal Among*



Cast of *A Little Betrayal Among Friends*, from Airmid Theatre's Summer Festival 2011. Photo by Tricia McDermott.

Friends, by Caridad Svich, freely adapted and translated from María de Zayas de Sotomayor's *La traición en la amistad*, which

Airmid commissioned in 2005 for production. The play was directed by Tricia McDermott.

Performances took place at Nissequogue River State Park in King's Park, Long Island, New York, July 26-August 14, 2011. Airmid Theatre's mission is to recover, collect, and produce classics by women. For more details, go to www.airmidtheatre.org.

Repertorio Español. The Van Lier Directing Fellowship Play Festival showcased the work of four young directors this year at the Spanish Repertory Theater Repertorio Español, in New York City. The Festival featured Calderón's *El medico de su honra*, directed by Javierantonio González, June 16-26; Calderón's *La dama duende*, directed by Julián Mesri, July 7-17; Lope's *La discreta enamorada*, directed by Gamaliel Valle Rosa, July 21-31; and *Tres*



Program cover, *Tres obras cortas del Siglo de Oro*. Courtesy of Repertorio Español. Photo by Manuel de los Galanes.

obras cortas del Siglo de Oro, directed by Andrés Zambrano, August 25 – September 4, a work that includes Lope's *Las cortes de la muerte*, Calderón's *Las visiones de la muerte*, and Cervantes' *El retablo de las maravillas*. Repertorio Español will also begin performing Juan Ruiz de Alarcón's *La verdad sospechosa* in repertory, directed by Pedro Salazar, starting October 6, 2011. For more details, go to www.repertorio.org.

AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium, March 8-10, 2012.

The 2012 AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium will take place March 8-10 in El Paso, Texas. These dates coincide with the 2012 Golden Age Spanish Theater Festival at the Chamizal National Memorial. Sessions will begin Thursday morning, March 8, and end Saturday afternoon, March 10, 2012. The meeting of the officers of the AHCT will take place Wednesday, March 7, 2012, 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. Those submitting proposals should include in their e-mail message any special equipment needs they may have. As before, conference participants who will be using Power Point for their presentations should plan on bringing their own laptops. College and university faculty are asked to send paper titles with one-page abstracts and/or proposals for special sessions to: abstracts@comedias.org. They should be submitted as attachments to the e-mail message in PDF format. The deadline for receipt of all submissions is December 1, 2011. Graduate students who are interested in participating in the conference are asked to submit completed papers of approximately ten pages in Word, accompanied by a brief abstract in

PDF format, to 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 Support Grant. The deadline for the submission of completed papers is December 1, 2011.

Events of Particular Interest at the 2012 Symposium. The plenary speaker at the 2012 symposium will be the renowned Spanish-Argentine stage director and dramatist Gustavo Tambascio. A specialist in directing opera and Spanish musical theater, Tambascio has staged a great number of operas, zarzuelas, and original plays in Spain, Latin America, and Europe. He has served as Coordinator of the National Center for Historic Music and the Performing Arts, charged with reviving works from the Middle Ages to 1800. Tambascio's vast repertoire includes a number of works either from or inspired by the Spanish Golden Age, such as Lope's *La discreta enamorada*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Mauricio Sotelo's *Dulcinea*, Dale Wasserman's *Man of La Mancha*, and Tomás Marco's *Segismundo*.

The plays that will make up the Chamizal Golden Age Drama Festival, held in conjunction with the annual symposium, have yet to be determined, but as soon as they are known an announcement will be

made on the AHCT website.

Hotel Reservations. The Symposium will take place at the Camino Real Hotel in El Paso, Texas. Hotel reservations may be made by phone at 1-800-769-4300 or 1-915-534-3099, Monday through Friday, 8am to 6pm (MST). The deadline for the conference room rate is February 1, 2012. Participants must mention the AHCT conference and request the group rate of \$90 for a single or double room, \$109 for a triple room, or \$124 for a quadruple room. Rollaway beds for an extra party in a single-bed room may be obtained for an additional charge of \$15 per night. All rates are subject to a 15.5% tax. The group rate applies Tuesday, March 6, 2012 to Saturday, March 10, 2012. Parking is \$2 per car per day. Other hotels within walking distance include: the Double Tree, 600 N. El Paso St., (915) 532-8733; the Gardner Hotel, 311 E. Franklin Ave., (915) 532-3661; and the Holiday Inn, 409 E. Missouri Ave., (915) 544-3333.

AHCT Conference Registration. You must be a member of the AHCT to register for the conference. Current membership dues are \$40 (or \$70 for two years) for faculty and \$30 (or \$50 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 \$105. A late fee of \$25 is assessed if registration is paid after February 7, 2012. 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 \$30 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 easiest way to pay dues and/or to register for the upcoming conference is online at the AHCT eChapters website for Association members, www.ahct.echapters.com. Use of the website for these transactions will ensure speed and accuracy and help to preserve our natural resources.

Conference Up-Dates. For additional information about the conference, please contact the AHCT Conference Director, Professor Angel Sánchez, 3921 Golden Keys Way, Chandler, AZ 85226, 480-786-4633. E-mail: Angel.Sanchez@asu.edu. Further details regarding the conference and the Siglo de Oro Drama Festival will appear on the *Comedia* bulletin board, in the Winter Newsletter, and on the AHCT webpages, as they become available.

With best wishes for the new academic year,

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