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The Association for Hispanic Classical Theater, Inc.

Newsletter: Summer 2012

The AHCT Symposium and the Chamizal National Memorial XXXVII Annual Siglo de Oro Drama Festival, March 8-10, 2012.



Scene from Grand
Valley State's *Antona
García*. Photo by Jan
Lewis.

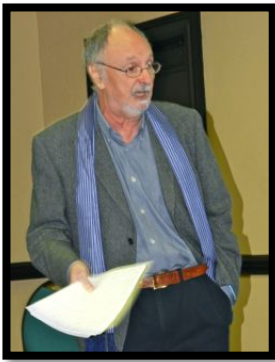
Cordial greetings from the President and Board of Directors of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater. This issue of the newsletter includes, among other items, highlights of this year's Chamizal play festival and the Association's March Symposium, notes from the board meeting at the conference, news on upcoming conferences and performances and a call for papers for the 2013 Symposium of the AHCT in El Paso.

The thirty-seventh annual Siglo de Oro Drama Festival at the Chamizal National Memorial, El Paso, featured Cambalache Teatro from Murcia, Spain, performing Lope de Vega's *Los milagros del desprecio* and *Tiempo de Carnaval*, a compilation of three *entremeses*: Luis Quiñones de Benavente's *El abadejillo*, Agustín Moreto's *El poeta*, and Pedro Calderón de la Barca's *Entremés de las carnestolendas*. Francisco García Vicente directed both plays. The festival also saw the world premiere of an English translation and adaptation of Tirso de Molina's *Antona García* by Jason Yancey and James Bell. The play, directed by Karen Libman and performed by Grand Valley State University Theater, also included two *entremeses* in Spanish, Benavente's *Los muertos vivos* and Quevedo's *El Marión*, both directed by Jason Yancey.

Scene from Grand Valley
State's *El Marión*. Photo
by Jan Lewis.



This year's symposium included twenty-two sessions and approximately sixty speakers. The Donald T. Dietz Plenary Lecture, entitled "Zarzuela barroca, la gran olvidada del teatro clásico español," was delivered by renowned Spanish-Argentine stage director and dramatist Gustavo Tambascio. Tambascio has staged a great number of operas, *zarzuelas*, and original plays in Spain, South America, and Europe. He has served as coordinator of



Gustavo Tambascio addresses the AHCT. Photo by C. Gascón.

Spain's National Center for Historic Music and the Performing Arts, charged with reviving works from the Middle Ages to 1800. Displaying an

encyclopedic knowledge of his subject, Tambascio led listeners on a grand tour of the historical context from which the *zarzuela* emerged in 1657. He instructed the audience on the importance of music and theater in the court of Felipe IV and Calderón's contributions to the integration of music in the baroque *comedia*. Tambascio punctuated his lively talk with colorful historical anecdotes, poetry, song, dance, recitations, and recorded examples, both visual and auditory, of important *zarzuelas* of the period.

The Symposium included two round table discussions: one with director Francisco Vicente García and Cambalache Teatro, the other with the cast, director Karen Libman, and translator Jason Yancey of Grand Valley State's production of *Antona García*. The AHCT was also treated to a staged reading of *Love the Doctor*, a new translation/adaptation of Tirso de

Cambalache Teatro speaks with the Chamizal audience after performing Lope's *Los milagros del desprecio*. Photo by C. Gascón.



Molina's *El amor médico*, by Sarah Brew and Josephine Hardman.



Members of AHCT perform a dramatic reading of *Love the Doctor*. Photo by C. Gascón.

Other special sessions focused on Mira de Amescua; *la vida en el teatro y el teatro en la vida*; *la mujer indígena americana*; and perspectives on *Love the Doctor*. Conference participants also had the opportunity to attend a special screening of the Antena 3 feature film *Lope*, hosted by Grover Wilkins.

Notes from the meeting of the Board of Directors

Election results. Last December, the following were re-elected to the Board of Directors for a three year term: Bruce Burningham, Chris Gascón, Bob Johnston, and Kerry Wilks. This year, Recording Secretary Chris Gascón and Treasurer Sharon Voros were re-elected to serve as officers.

Treasurer's Report. Sharon Voros reported that the current balance in the AHCT operating account was \$12,659.57, while the balance of the Everett W. Hesse Fund was \$36,937.28. Income since the last report was \$13,256.62, and expenditures were \$15,249.83. The amount held in reserve for grants was \$1,345, and the total assets of the Association were \$49,596.85.

Transitions

Robert Johnston presided over the AHCT Symposium for his fifth and final time in March, as he will now pass on those duties to **Susan Paun de García**.



Outgoing President Bob Johnston turns over the leadership of the AHCT to Susan Paun de García. Photo by C. Gascón.

The association thanks Bob for a wonderful and productive term as president, and moves forward with confidence under Susan's leadership.

The AHCT also thanks **Ángel Sánchez** for his many years of tireless service as Second Vice President and Conference Director.



Don Dietz honors Ángel Sánchez for his service to the AHCT at the banquet. Photo by C. Gascón

The association has elected **Gwyn E. Campbell** to succeed Susan as First Vice President and **Darci L. Strother** to take over as Second Vice President and Conference Director.



Chamizal Festival. Superintendent Catherine Light introduced Education Program Manager Anne Doherty-Stephan and Education Specialist Martin Christiansen as the new organizers of the Siglo de Oro Drama Festival. She also introduced Mari Ángeles Gallardo of Los Paisanos de El Chamizal, a volunteer organization that builds financial and material support for the programs of the National Park Service at the Chamizal. President Susan Paun de García will represent the AHCT as a member of Paisanos.



Chamizal personnel dress for the occasion at a reception to celebrate the opening of the 37th annual Siglo de Oro Drama Festival. Photo by C. Gascón.

Comedia Performance. Subscriptions continue to grow and the journal received a record number of submissions this year. Bárbara Mujica announced that 2013 would mark the journal's tenth anniversary, which will call for a special issue.

Video Library. Jason Yancey is utilizing a new method for filming performances at the Chamizal that will allow him to create finished DVDs of performances within hours after the end of each show. This will greatly facilitate and expedite the addition of the recordings to the archive.

Everett Hesse Graduate Student Award. This year's winner is María Quiroz Taub, University of Missouri, for her paper "La violencia de Fresia en *Arauco domado* de Lope de Vega." 🐦🐦🐦

Forthcoming. Bárbara Mujica's performance-based anthology, *A New Anthology of Early Modern Spanish Theater: Play and Playtext*, Yale University Press, will be published in 2013.

A Letter from Robert Johnston

Dear AHCT Colleagues,

Thank you for allowing me to serve you as AHCT President these past five years. I am grateful for your confidence and for the privilege of working closely with so many people whom I truly like and admire. My satisfaction is greater still, since I consider AHCT's purpose and activities so worthwhile.



In the last five years, AHCT members have done much good work. Our annual conferences have featured some fine individual scholarship, interesting sessions with actors, directors and translators, and some remarkable plenary speakers. Thanks to much personal initiative and hard work, the association's membership records, dues payments, and also our newsletter have gone from print to electronic media. We have continued to provide grant support for theater groups applying for the Chamizal's Siglo de Oro Drama Festival, as well as advice, encouragement and, sometimes, constructive criticism to the festival organizers. We have completed the preservation of our AHCT film archive with its conversion from VHS to digital format. We have seen a steady increase in the quality and number of submissions to *Comedia Performance*, now in its ninth year. Our website has a new look and expanded functions. And we have extended AHCT's contacts with outreach initiatives to the Association for Theater in Higher Education and the American Society for Theater Research. All these things have been realized through the investment of much good will, energy, and work on the part of our members. These activities and accomplishments have value of their own, but I also believe that by promoting the understanding and appreciation of Spanish Golden Age theater we contribute, along with our colleagues in other areas of the arts and humanities, to a saner, more humane world. This is indeed good work.

AHCT is now twenty-eight years old. The association's leadership has changed considerably in the sixteen years I have served as secretary and as president, and its way of operating has changed also. Younger colleagues have replaced the original, founding members, and positive steps have been taken to keep our process of governance aligned with the evolving values and expectations of our profession. I have great confidence that Susan Paun de García and our other new officers will lead in a way that will both respond to change and preserve the association's identity and goals. I know they will also strive to protect its greatest asset: our members' confidence, good will, and willingness to contribute.

Thank you once again.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert M. Johnston
Northern Arizona University – Emeritus
AHCT President, 2007-2012

Conferences

Congreso Internacional "Teatro y Poder en el Siglo de Oro." 31 de julio – 1 de agosto 2012, organizado por el GRISO (Grupo de Investigación Siglo de Oro) y la Universidad de Navarra. Para más detalles: <http://www.unav.es/congreso/malon-de-echaide-2012/>

ATHE. The Association for Theatre in Higher Education holds its annual conference August 2-5, 2012, in Washington, D.C. This year's theme is "Performance as/is Civic Engagement: Advocate, Collaborate, Educate." The Spanish Golden Age is represented by two events. The Friday 8am session entitled "A Toolkit for the Comedia: Engage Your Community with the Spanish Golden Age," organized by Kathleen Jeffs, features AHCT members Rick Davis, Harley Erdman, Ben Gunter, Janine Kehlenbach, Hugo and Rebecca Medrano, Susan Paun de García, and Jason Yancey. On Saturday night, several of the above, along with Suzanne Morrison, David Pasto, and Jason Price, will stage a reading of Kathleen Jeffs' new translation of Guillén de Castro's *La fuerza de la costumbre*, *The Force of Habit*. This event constitutes the English language debut of the play. For details on the conference, visit: <http://www.athe.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=6>.

GEMELA. Grupo de Estudios sobre la Mujer en España y las Américas (pre-1800) will hold its conference, "Building Bridges," September 13-15, 2012, in Portland, OR. For details, go to <http://www.gemela.org/conference.html>.

ASTR. The American Society for Theatre Research Conference, "Theatrical Histories," will be held November 1-4, 2012, Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel, Nashville, TN. Ben Gunter has organized and launched a working session for the conference entitled "Undercover: New Approaches to Plays from the Spanish Golden Age through Hidden Histories of Women and Native Americans." He has interdisciplinary teams working on new approaches to teaching, researching, and performing Ana Caro's *Valor, agravio y mujer* and Lope de Vega's *El nuevo mundo descubierto por Cristóbal Colón*. More information is available at: <http://www.astr.org/component/content/article/15-working-sessions/231-2012-working-session-cfps#und>. A growing body of material may be found on the session's wiki: <http://spanish-golden-age-plays.wikispaces.com/Working+Session+2012>.

AILCFH. The Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femenina Hispánica will hold its 22nd annual

conference November 8-10, 2012, at Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI. For details, visit: <http://ailcfh.echapters.com/newsletter.php?uid=&nid=92>

MLA. The Modern Language Association's 128th Annual Convention will take place in Boston, January 3-6, 2013. The Division on Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Spanish Drama will sponsor two sessions, "Censorship and the Spanish Comedia" and "The Morisco Minority in Spanish Early Modern Drama." Details on sessions will be forthcoming at: <http://www.mla.org/convention>.

University of Miami Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque Symposium. Early Modern Women: New Perspectives. Feb 21-23, 2013, U of Miami, Coral Gables, FL. 500 word abstracts and 2-page CVs to emwj@miami.edu by Oct 15, 2012.

Performances

La vida es sueño. Compañía Nacional de Teatro Clásico debuted their production of Calderón's classic at the Almagro festival in July, and performances will continue in Madrid at the Teatro Pavón beginning in September. This version by Juan Mayorga is directed by Helena Pimenta and features Blanca Portillo as Segismundo. For details, go to: http://teatroclasico.mcu.es/es/temporada/verobra.asp?id_obra={D05C7B90-12BF-4F78-A598-1C4A6642771F}&idioma=es.

El desdén con el desdén. Gala Hispanic Theatre, Washington, D.C., will perform Moreto's masterpiece from September 13 to October 12, 2012. Directed by Hugo Medrano. For details go to: <http://www.galatheatre.org/espanol/index.php>.

Courage, Betrayal and a Woman Scorned. Ian Borden will direct a new performance adaptation of Amy Williamsen's translation of Ana Caro's *Valor, agravio y mujer*, debuting in October at the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Details will be forthcoming this fall at <http://www.unl.edu/theatrearts>.

First Christmas in La Florida, January 5, 2013, 10am-4pm. "Viva Florida 500" at Mission San Luis, Tallahassee, FL, commemorates Florida's 500th anniversary and the arrival of Ponce de León. Organizers project performances of Juan del Encina's *Égloga de las grandes lluvias*, Lope's *Nuevo mundo descubierto por Cristóbal Colón* and *Auto sacramental de la circuncisión y sangría de Cristo nuestro bien*, and the *Auto de los Reyes Magos*. <http://www.missionsanluis.org/visitorInfo/specialEvents.cfm#viva>.

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 to *Comedia Performance* are due by September 30, and should be sent to comediaperformancesubmissions@gmail.com. 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 Bárbara Mujica at mujica@georgetown.edu.



Scene from *Antona García*. Photo by Laura Vidler, courtesy of Grand Valley State University and the Comedia Theory Institute.

Benefits of AHCT membership. Are your dues up-to-date? You can renew your membership 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.

Scene from Grand Valley State's *Los muertos vivos*. Photo by Jan Lewis.



Donations to AHCT in support of any of our activities are deeply appreciated. The AHCT is a 501(c)3 corporation. Tax-deductible contributions in any amount may be made by visiting www.comedias.org and clicking the "Donate" link, or by sending a check or credit card information to: AHCT, c/o Dr. Susan Paun de García, 301 Fellows Hall, Denison University, Granville, Ohio 43023. Checks may be unrestricted or earmarked for the Millennium Donors Fund or the Everett W. Hesse Fund.

AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium, March 7-9, 2013.

The 2013 AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium will take place March 7-9 in El Paso, Texas. These dates coincide with the 2013 Golden Age Spanish Theater Festival at the Chamizal National Memorial, scheduled to run March 6-10, 2013. Sessions will begin Thursday morning, March 7, and end Saturday afternoon, March 9, 2013. The meeting of the officers of the AHCT will take place Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 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. 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, 2012.

Graduate students interested in participating in the conference are asked to submit completed ten-page papers in Word, with 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, 2012.

Events of Particular Interest at the 2013 Symposium. The Symposium plenary speakers and the plays that will make up the Chamizal Siglo de Oro Drama Festival are in the process of being determined. As soon as they are known, the AHCT will announce them on the 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, 2013. Participants must mention the AHCT conference and request the group rate of \$80 for a single or

AHCT members gather for the banquet at the Dome Restaurant in the Camino Real. Photo by C. Gascón.



double room, \$99 for a triple room, or \$115 for a quadruple room. All rates are subject to a 15.5% tax. The group rate applies Tuesday, March 5 to Saturday, March 9, 2013. 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, 2013. 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 e Chapters website for 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, or if you are interested in serving on the hospitality committee or in driving a van to the Chamizal, please contact the AHCT

Conference Director, Darci Strother, strother@csusm.edu. Further details regarding the conference and the Siglo de Oro Drama Festival will appear on the Comedia bulletin board, in the January Newsletter, and on the AHCT webpages, as they become available.

With best wishes for the new academic year,

Chris Gascón
AHCT Recording Secretary
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SUNY Cortland
P.O. Box 2000
Cortland, NY 13045



Scene from Grand Valley State's *Antona García*. Photo by Jan Lewis.

