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The Association for Hispanic Classical Theater, Inc.

Newsletter: January 2012

AHCT looks forward to a bright 2012

Happy 2012 and cordial greetings from the President and Board of Directors of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater. This issue of the newsletter contains information on the upcoming AHCT Symposium, March 8-10, 2012, an update on the Chamizal National Memorial's upcoming Siglo de Oro Golden Age Play Festival, and news on recent and upcoming conferences and performances of interest to Hispanic classical theater enthusiasts.

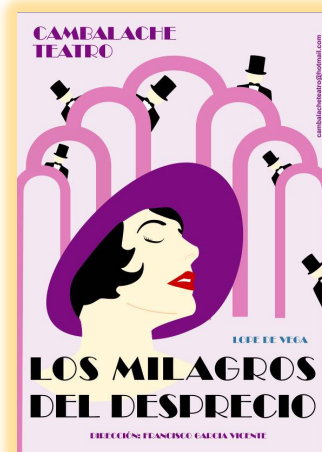
Some important changes have occurred in the AHCT in recent months. Congratulations, first of all, to Susan Paun de García, who has been elected the AHCT's next president. We look forward to the beginning of Susan's term this March, and express our deepest gratitude to outgoing president Robert Johnston for his years of exemplary service as the Association's president. Bob will preside over the meetings at the 2012 Symposium. We will hear more from both of them in the summer newsletter.

Most of you have already noticed the major redesign of the AHCT website, www.comedias.org, completed last summer by webmaster Laura Vidler. New features include: a merging of the functionalities of the previously separate E-chapters and comedias.org websites, a navigable menu bar on top of every page, Paypal widgets interspersed throughout the site to facilitate payments, and new blog and podcast features for posting information, photos, and updates. Please send photos with your authorization to put them up on the site. The AHCT is also now on Facebook, and can be followed on Twitter (@AHCTcomedias).

Finally, Amy Williamsen takes over the duties of Acquisitions Coordinator for the AHCT Video Archive, previously carried out by your humble secretary. If you have a suggestion or lead regarding a video recording of a performance of a Spanish Golden Age play that you would like AHCT to acquire, please contact Amy at amy.williamsen@uncg.edu.

Chamizal National Memorial Siglo de Oro Drama Festival 2012

The Chamizal National Memorial has announced the plays to be performed at the 37th Annual Siglo de Oro Play Festival: *¿Numancia o Fuenteovejuna?*, featuring the work of Miguel de Cervantes and Lope de Vega, Centro Universitario de Teatro,



Stage News

Bárbara Mujica will direct two of Cervantes' *entremeses*, *El retablo de las maravillas* and *La cueva de Salamanca*, next spring at the Devine Theater, Georgetown University. She will also publish *A New Anthology of Early Modern Spanish Theater: Play and Playtext* with Yale University Press this year. This performance-based anthology focuses on the staging of comedias, *entremeses*, and *autos* and includes analyses and photos of performances.

Ben Gunter announces that scenes from Lope's *Nuevo mundo* will be performed by Theater with a Mission to celebrate the Museum of Florida History's March 3 opening of an exhibit on early Spanish presence in Florida.

Rafael Rodríguez's theater company, 2RC Teatro, of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, continues to perform Rojas Zorilla's *Abre el ojo* and *Desmontando a don Juan*, an imaginative interrogation of the Don Juan mythos involving both Tirso and Zorilla's protagonists. The latter, written by Maykol Hernández, won the 2011 award for best new theatrical text in the Canary Islands. It is possible that 2RC will perform one of the plays at both California State University San Marcos and Long Beach this year. Darci Strother and Bonnie Gasior continue to work to bring 2RC to the West Coast.

Scene from Desmontando a don Juan, 2RC Teatro. Photo courtesy of Rafael Rodríguez.



Mexico, D.F., directed by José Caballero; **Antona García**, by Tirso de Molina, adapted and translated into English by Jason Yancey and James Bell, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan, directed by Karen Libman, and including two *entremeses* in Spanish directed by Jason Yancey: Benavente's **Los muertos vivos**, and Quevedo's **El Marión**; **Los milagros del desprecio**, by Lope de Vega, Cambalache Teatro, Murcia, Spain, directed by Francisco García Vicente; and **Tiempo de Carnaval**, which includes the three *entremeses* **El abadejillo**, by Luís Quiñones de Benavente, **Entremés del poeta**, by Agustín Moreto, and **Las carnestolendas**, by Calderón de la Barca, Cambalache Teatro, Murcia, Spain, directed by Francisco García Vicente. Chamizal staff is still in the process of finalizing performance dates. AHCT officers have urged them to offer a different play on each of the principal nights of our annual Symposium.

Director García Vicente comments that in his production of *Los milagros del desprecio*,

"La puesta en escena ideada traslada la acción original del siglo XVII a los gloriosos años 30 del siglo XX. Es ésta una época dorada de entreguerras donde la mujer consigue importantes avances en la búsqueda de la igualdad con el hombre, y donde destaca, además de las propias, las músicas americanas que desde el cine que se consolida con fuerza en Hollywood, cruza el atlántico y seduce a toda Europa."

With respect to the three pieces that make up *Tiempo de carnaval*, García Vicente remarks, "la riqueza y complejidad que poseen es una síntesis del arte barroco, aunque exponen distintas estructuras



Scene from Los milagros del desprecio, Cambalache Teatro. Photo by Alex Soto.

Scene from Las carnestolendas, Cambalache Teatro. Photo by Carlos Segado.



narrativas.

Puede apreciarse, así, que *El abadejillo*, *El poeta* y *Las carnestolendas* son una especie de "mundo abreviado" de la presencia del carnaval y el teatro dentro del teatro a lo largo de un prolífico periodo teatral."

Conference News

Modern Language

Association of America:

Sessions related to early modern Spanish literature abounded this year at the 2012 MLA convention, held in Seattle, Washington, covering topics such as the emergence of the modern mind, the book, humor, passion, the ocean, women's authorship, Cervantes and the U.S., and footwear. Barbara Simerka, organizer of this year's Comediantes Banquet, reports: "On Saturday, January 7, we dined at Cascina Spinasse restaurant in the historic Capital Hill neighborhood. Owner Jason Stratton is a nationally renowned chef who combines traditional Piedmontese techniques and local northwest products. There were 28 persons in attendance, who enjoyed a six-course extravaganza."

The Division on Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Spanish Drama sponsored 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." Organizers Robert Shannon and Baltasar Fra Molinero report that "Las dos sesiones organizadas por la División de teatro español de los siglos XVI y XVII constituyeron un éxito por la calidad y profundidad teórica de los ponentes así como por la acogida del público presente." The "humor" session featured papers by Alejandro García-Reidy of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Sonia Velázquez of Princeton University, and Vicente Pérez de León, of Melbourne University, while presenting in the "war" session were Tanya de Miguel Magro of West Virginia University, Nelson López of Bellarmine University, and Cory Reed, of the University of Texas at Austin.

MLA 2013 Boston. Chair of the Executive Committee of the Division on Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Spanish Drama Fra Baltasar Molinero announces that the topics for the 2013 MLA convention in Boston will be the following: "Censorship and the Spanish Comedia." Acts and programs of censorship on texts, performances, performers, and producers of comedias from the sixteenth-century to the present. "The Morisco Minority in Spanish Early Modern Drama." Any aspect of the presence the Muslim minority in Spain after 1492 in Spanish dramatic texts, including the Granada uprising of 1568, the expulsion, and life in the Morisco Diaspora. For either session, send 400-word abstracts to Baltasar Fra-Molinero, Bates College, bframoli@bates.edu. Deadline: 15 March 2012.

GEMELA 2012 Conference: "Building Bridges." The 2012 Grupo de Estudios sobre la Mujer en España y las Américas (GEMELA) Conference will be hosted at the University of Portland, Oregon, September 13-15, 2012. The conference will focus on women's



cultural production in Medieval and Early Modern Iberia and Colonial Latin America. Papers or sessions that focus on the conference theme of "building bridges"

between geographical spaces or between disciplines are highly encouraged. Suggestions for discussion papers and/or workshops on theory, pedagogy, and other related topics are also welcome. This year's keynote speaker will be Professor Nancy van Deusen of Queens University, author of *The Souls of Purgatory: The Spiritual Diary of a Seventeenth-Century Afro-Peruvian Mystic*, Ursula de Jesús (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2004) and *Between the Sacred and the Worldly: The Cultural and Institutional Practice of Recogimiento among Women in Colonial Lima* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2001). Papers may be delivered in Spanish, English, or Portuguese. Send a one-page abstract by April 15, 2012 with a subject heading of "conference" to: gemela2012@yahoo.com. Graduate Students should send an abstract along with a full text (7-10 pages max.) All presenters must pay 2012 membership (\$30 for two years) and the conference registration (\$100 faculty/\$50 students) by June 1, 2012. Participants traveling from abroad can pay upon arrival at the conference but need to confirm participation by June 1.

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 Barbara Mujica at mujica@georgetown.edu.

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

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.



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.

Plenary Speaker. 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 tentative conference schedule, including session and reading times, will be e-mailed to attendees as soon as possible, and will be posted by mid-February to the program website: (http://www.comedias.org/AHCT/AHCT/2012_Conference.html).

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 5pm (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. Although memberships expire on March 1, any dues paid in conjunction with registration for the 2012 conference will extend membership until March 1, 2013. 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 register for the upcoming conference is online at http://www.comedias.org/AHCT/AHCT/2012_Conference.html. Use of the website for these transactions will ensure speed and accuracy and help to preserve our natural resources.

Van drivers exempted from paying conference registration fee. In order to provide transportation for those who want to attend the theater performances, the 2012 Symposium needs volunteers to drive the vans from the Camino Real to the Chamizal on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 8, 9, and 10. Van drivers do not have to pay the conference registration fee. If interested, please contact Ángel Sánchez (angel.sanchez@asu.edu).

Conference Up-Dates. For additional questions or 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.

With best wishes for the new year,

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

