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The Association for Hispanic Classical Theater, Inc.

Newsletter: January 2013

Happy 2013 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 7-9, 2013, the schedule of the Chamizal National Memorial's 38th Annual Siglo de Oro Golden Age Play Festival, and news on recent and upcoming conferences of interest to Hispanic classical theater enthusiasts.

The AHCT Board of Directors would like to welcome its newest members, Manuel Delgado of Bucknell University and Anthony Grubbs of Michigan State University. The Board also expresses sincerest gratitude for the many years of dedicated service it has received from outgoing members Bonnie Gasior and Ángel Sánchez.



A new year's greeting from AHCT's fourth president, Susan Paun de García

This promises to be an exciting year. I am looking forward to my twentieth year as an AHCT member and am as enthusiastic about our conference as ever. This year, as we renew friendships and welcome new acquaintances in

El Paso, the program promises to be stimulating and enlightening, and the Chamizal Festival de Drama del Siglo de Oro, begun in 1976, will be especially rich this year.

This year's conference will bring together more than 60 scholars and practitioners of Hispanic classical theater. Of special interest is the plenary speaker, Ana Zamora, artistic director of Nao d'amores, a group of professionals with a background in classical theater, puppetry, and early music. Founded in 2001, the group 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. In her plenary, Zamora will elaborate on this process of research, analysis, and production, sharing how Nao d'amores discovers unknown works and brings them from the page to the stage.

The Chamizal "Siglo" festival will offer productions from four companies this year. The festival will open Wednesday, March 6 with Lope's *El caballero de Olmedo*, by Producciones Shake & Falstaff, of Puebla, Mexico. On Thursday March 7, Cambalache Teatro, from Murcia, will present Lope's *La vengadora de las mujeres*. On Friday March 8, Nao d'amores, of Segovia, will bring to El Paso the U.S. premier of their signature production, *Misterio del Cristo de los Gascones*. On Saturday March 9, Morfeo Teatro, of Burgos, will stage an adaptation of Cervantes's *El coloquio de los perros*, and on Sunday, March 10, they will offer a collection of *entremeses*. All of these

Member News

Barbara Mujica, President Emerita of AHCT, won bronze in the Maryland Writers' Association annual fiction contest, historical fiction division, for her novel, *I Am Venus*, which revolves around the famous Rokeby Venus, painted by Diego Velázquez, court painter to Philip IV. *I Am Venus* is scheduled for publication in summer, 2013, and is available for pre-order at Amazon.com. Mujica also won bronze in the short story division for "Imagining Iraq." She was the only contestant to win in two divisions. Mujica's new book, *A New Anthology of Early Modern Spanish Theater: Play and Playtext*, is an illustrated, performance-based anthology to be published by Yale University Press in late spring, 2013. It is now available for pre-order at Amazon.com.

Ben Gunter reports: "Theater with a Mission hopes that you will hear this call for help in condensing Lope's *Nuevo mundo* for performance during Florida's Quincentennial. After a busy 2012 – performing scenes from *Nuevo mundo* for the Museum of Florida History, the Florida Anthropological Society, the Fort Mose Historic State Park, and Florida Living History and reading new translations of scenes from *La Numancia* for the Battle of Bloody Mose and the *Auto de los Reyes Magos* for Navidad en viejo San Agustín and First Christmas at Mission San Luis – Theater with a Mission is preparing to take a an artfully condensed 90-minute, 7-actor production of *Nuevo mundo* around the state in 2013. Will you help? Write us at: benjaminbgunter@yahoo.com.

The Californias saw the arrival of Golden Age Spanish theater in November 2012, with a 3-university tour by 2RC Teatro (Canary Islands). They played to full houses at the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, California State University San Marcos, and California State University Long Beach, as they performed "Desmontando a Don Juan," and "Se busca Juan Rana." The group also offered workshops, and did outreach at San Marcos High School. This tri-national collaboration was spearheaded by **Rafael Rodríguez** (2RC Director, Spain), Jose Guadalupe Flores (UABC, Mexico), and CSU faculty **Bonnie Gasior** and **Darci Strother**.



Production poster courtesy of Darci Strother.

productions met with great success in festivals throughout Spain.

While the annual conference and the concurrent "Siglo" festival draw many members to El Paso, they do not represent the full extent of AHCT undertakings. The Association's journal, *Comedia Performance*, will mark its 10th issue this year under the guidance of Barbara Mujica. The text and video archives, curated by Laura Vidler and Jason Yancey respectively, have aided scholars around the world for decades, and have served as a model now imitated by many other organizations. The AHCT continues to add videos for the benefit of members, and digital texts for the use of scholars everywhere. Through these ventures, we reach out to other scholars and to a wider public sphere as well, through participation in other professional organizations such as ATHE, ASTR, and Out of the Wings. With the latter, the AHCT is collaborating in an exciting venture: a symposium in Bath, England, to accompany the Royal Theatre Bath's Spanish Golden Age productions next November under the direction of Laurence Boswell. Watch the newsletter for future updates!

It has been a great pleasure to work closely with the board of directors and officers of the AHCT for the past fifteen years. Without their efforts and excellence as a team, the AHCT would not have been able to thrive as it has. But as I assume the presidency of the Association, I recognize that it is the membership-- the hundreds of scholars and practitioners who spread the word about the hidden treasures of Hispanic classical theater-- that is responsible for sustaining our organization. ¡Muchas gracias!

Chamizal National Memorial 38th Annual Siglo de Oro Drama Festival 2013

Producciones Shake and Falstaff's staging of Lope's *El caballero de Olmedo* (Wednesday, March 6), directed by Abril Mayett, is set in



Cambalache's *La vengadora de las mujeres*. Photo courtesy of Francisco García Vicente.

Mexico in 1930, in the wake of the *Guerra Cristera*. See: <http://origenespuebla.blogspot.com/2011/10/el-caballero-de-olmedo-de-lope-de-vega.html> for details.

With respect to Cambalache Teatro's production of Lope's ***La vengadora de las mujeres* (Thursday, March 7)**, director Francisco García Vicente comments: "Resulta muy interesante contemplar como, mediante la implícita denuncia, el cuestionamiento, la ironía y la modificación de atribuciones y usos sociales, Lope vulnera lo establecido. El autor no se inscribe en la ideología que se pretendía dominante, sino en los avatares reales del tiempo en que vivió."

Nao d'amores' ***El misterio del Cristo de los Gascones* (Friday, March 8)** is inspired by a renowned statue of Christ housed in Segovia's Iglesia San Justo. Director Ana Zamora comments on some of the texts from which she drew the material of the play: "La literatura medieval ofrece un curioso repertorio de textos que, formando parte de la liturgia, eran interpretados por clérigos que prestaban su voz y su gesto al relato evangélico...A esta categoría de rituales o ceremonias pertenecen una serie de creaciones músico-literarias, que hoy identificamos bajo las



Nao d'amores' *Misterio del Cristo de los Gascones*. Photo courtesy of Ana Zamora.

modernas denominaciones de tropos y prosas de las misas, oficios rimados y dramas litúrgicos de los oficios divinos. Bien avanzado el siglo XV encontramos ya los nombres de los primeros padres del teatro español: con ellos la Edad Media penetra en la Edad Moderna. *El Misterio del Cristo de los Gascones* es una dramaturgia original inspirada en todos estos referentes. . . articulada a partir de textos literario-dramáticos de

procedencia diversa: *Lamentaciones fechas para la Semana Santa y Representación del nacimiento de Nuestro Señor*, de Gómez Manrique; *Auto de la Pasión*, de Alonso del Campo; *Pasión trobada* y *Las siete angustias de Nuestra Señora* de Diego de San Pedro; y *Coplas de Vita Christi* y *Varias obras religiosas*, de Fray Íñigo de Mendoza."

Director Francisco Negro of Teatro Morfeo explains his approach to Cervantes' ***El coloquio de los perros* (Saturday, March 9)**: "En nuestra propuesta de 'El coloquio de los perros' se han cambiado

los papeles originales que protagonizaban dos perros (y de una evidente ambigüedad a la hora de plasmarlos con verismo) por el de un hidalgo depauperado y un mendigo harapiento, también 'perros' desheredados de la fortuna, que, con el mismo afán que Cervantes, narran sus experiencias entre lo amargo y la comedia." Negro also provides an interesting historical backdrop that informs Teatro Morfeo's ***De burladores y burlados: Entremeses variados* (Sunday, March 10)**, which features works by Lope de Rueda, Quiñones de Benavente, and Bernardo de Quirós: "Hacia 1650, Antonio de Escamilla, reconocido autor de

comedias, formó una discreta agrupación con María de Quiñones y Mateo de Godoy entre otros, llegando a tener, veinte años después, una famosísima compañía de título real con más de veinte intérpretes, representando incluso para la corte del mismo Felipe IV. Con la licencia de cómo imaginamos pudo ser, esta comedia hace honor a la memoria del comienzo de tan afamada andadura, de éstos y otros ingeniosos cómicos y autores que legua a legua legaron el glorioso teatro del Siglo de Oro."

Teatro Morfeo's *De burladores y burlados*. Photo courtesy of Francisco Negro.



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 Barbara 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.

Donations to AHCT, a 501(c)3 corporation, are deeply appreciated. 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.



Conference News

Modern Language Association: There were a number of sessions related to early modern Spanish literature this year at the 2013 MLA convention in Boston, covering topics such as Quevedo's politics, operatic adaptations of Spanish literature, and representations of violence. José R. Cartagena, this year's Chair of the Executive Committee of the Division on Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Spanish Drama, reports: "Este año la División de teatro español de los siglos XVI y XVII patrocinó dos sesiones: 'The Morisco Minority in Spanish Early Modern Drama,' moderada por José R. Cartagena-Calderón y 'Censorship in the Spanish Comedia,' moderada por Baltasar Fra-Moliner. Las sesiones han resultado un éxito, tanto de asistencia como por la calidad de las ponencias. En la sesión sobre los moriscos escuchamos las ponencias de Melissa Figueroa (Cornell University), Christina H. Lee (Princeton University), Christopher B. Weimer (Oklahoma State University, Stillwater) y Javier Irigoyen-García (University of Illinois, Urbana), todas de alto nivel académico. En la mesa sobre la censura y la comedia tuvimos el gusto de escuchar interesantes ponencias de Felipe Ruan (Brock University), Anthony John Grubbs (Michigan State University) y Patricia W. Manning (University of Kansas)." José also organized the annual Comediantes Banquet: "El sábado, 5 de enero en plena víspera de Reyes, cenamos en el restaurante español Tapeo, localizado en el corazón de la elegante Newberry Street, conocida por sus boutiques, restaurantes internacionales y su arquitectura del siglo XIX. En la suculenta cena de tapas compartimos mesa, conversación y mantel con veintiocho amables colegas en un salón elegante, reservado exclusivamente para nosotros."

American Society for Theatre Research. A working session on "New Approaches to Plays from the Spanish Golden Age through Hidden Histories of Women & Native Americans" contributed a two-hour exploration of Ana Caro's *Valor, agravio y mujer* and Lope's *Nuevo mundo* to a conference on "Theatrical Histories" held in Nashville, November 1-4, 2012. Two dozen scholars from theater and modern language backgrounds collaborated over six months to produce this session, which offered dramatic readings of target scenes from each play; brief position papers and lively discussions on translating, staging, and teaching the two plays; cutting-edge reports on university and community productions in progress in English; and questions about future directions for interdisciplinary work on the *comedia* from respondent Susan Paun de García. A variety of materials are available for review at <http://spanish-golden-age-plays.wikispaces.com/Working+Session+2012>.

MLA 2014 Chicago. Barbara Simerka will serve as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Division on Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Spanish Drama for the 2014 MLA convention. She announces the following session themes: I. Domesticity and the *Comedia*. The marriage plot, family relations, domestic spaces, spinsters, widows, orphans. II. Lope de Vega and Peasant Drama: 400 Years Later. New approaches, canonical and lesser known plays and authors, campesinos/as. Submit one page abstract and one page abbreviated CV to simerkabarbara@gmail.com by March 1, 2013.

El Grupo de Investigación Siglo de Oro (GRISO) de la Universidad de Navarra anuncia la convocatoria del Congreso Internacional **Humanidades digitales: visibilidad y difusión de la investigación**, que se celebrará en Pamplona los días 23 y 24 de mayo de 2013. <http://www.unav.es/congreso/humanidades-digitales/presentacion>.

II Congreso Ibero-Asiático de Hispanistas (Japón 2013). El Departamento de Estudios Hispánicos de la Universidad de Estudios Extranjeros de Kyoto (Kyoto University of Foreign Studies), el Grupo de Investigación Siglo de Oro (GRISO) de la Universidad de Navarra y el Instituto de Estudios Auriseculares (IDEA) convocan el II Congreso Ibero-Asiático de Hispanistas, que se celebrará en la ciudad de Kyoto (Japón) los días 21-23 de septiembre de 2013. Este II Congreso Ibero-Asiático de Hispanistas pretende reunir a investigadores de todo el mundo, con especial atención a los del área asiática, territorio de Hispanismo en desarrollo, propicio para un encuentro científico que permita un intercambio de información y un contacto personal que los organizadores consideramos conveniente y beneficioso para impulsar los estudios hispánicos. <http://www.unav.es/congreso/ciash2013>

The Comedia: Translation and Performance. 25-28 November 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, timed to coincide with Laurence Boswell's productions of three Spanish Golden Age plays that will be running in repertory in the Ustinov Studio: *La dama boba*, *El castigo sin venganza*, and *Don Gil de las calzas verdes*. All three plays will be performed during the conference, which is designed to sustain and develop the ongoing conversation between academics, translators, and theatre practitioners. Conference costs will be kept to a minimum. Details of accommodation in the Bath area are available at <http://visitbath.co.uk/>. For conference details, see: <http://www.facebook.com/events/107347369429589/>.

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.

Plenary Speaker. The plenary speaker at the 2013 symposium will be award-winning director Ana Zamora, founder of *Nao d'amores*, which focuses primarily on pre-baroque Spanish theater. Since creating the company in 2001, she has directed such productions as *Comedia llamada Metamorfosea*, by Joaquín Romero de Cepeda (2001), *Auto de la Sibila Casandra*, (2003) y *Auto de los Cuatro Tiempos* (2004) both by Gil Vicente, *Misterio del Cristo de los Gascones* (2007), *Auto de los Reyes Magos* (2008), *Dança da Morte/ Dança de la Muerte* (2010); and *Farsas y Églogas de Lucas Fernández* in co-production with the *Compañía Nacional de Teatro Clásico* (2012). Her work has been recognized through numerous awards, including the *Premio Fuente de Castalia* 2012, *Premio Nebrija a Escena* 2011, *Mejor Dirección Teatral en los Premios Teatro de Rojas* 2010; *Premio Ojo Crítico de Teatro 2008 otorgado por Radio Nacional de España*; *Premio ADE de Dirección* 2008, *Premio Clásicos 2007 de RTV Surco / TV La Mancha*, *Premio Segoviana Bien Vista, Categoría Cultura y Arte* 2002; *Premio José Luis Alonso, de la ADE* 2001.

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 to receive 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 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.) Dues and registration fees can be paid by way of PayPal from the 2013 AHCT Symposium page on the comedias.org site:
http://www.comedias.org/AHCT/AHCT/2013_Conference.html.

Van drivers exempted from paying conference registration fee. In order to provide transportation for those who want to attend the theater performances, the 2013 Symposium needs volunteers to drive the vans from the Camino Real to the Chamizal and back on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 7, 8, and 9. Van drivers' conference registration fee will be waived. If interested, please contact Darci Strother, strother@csusm.edu.

Conference Up-Dates. For additional information about the conference, or if you are interested in serving on the **hospitality committee**, which organizes the hospitality room open after each performance, or in **facilitating a mesa redonda** after a performance at 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 AHCT webpages as they become available.

With best wishes for the new year,

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

