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ASSOCIATION FOR HISPANIC CLASSICAL THEATER, INC.

P.O. Box 2701, Flagstaff, AZ 86003

AHCT Newsletter August, 2008

Dear Colleague:

Best summer wishes from the President and the Board of Directors of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater. This issue of the newsletter contains, among other items: a report on highlights of the Association's conference last March; notes from the meetings of the Board of Directors and the general membership at the conference; a report on the symposium, "La violencia en el teatro del Siglo de Oro," co-sponsored by the AHCT, that was held in Stratford, Ontario, this past June; the announcement and call for papers for the AHCT symposium in March, 2009; and updates on AHCT's activities and projects.

AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium, El Paso, Texas, March 6-8, 2008

This year's symposium included twenty different sessions and some fifty-five scheduled speakers. The Donald T. Dietz Keynote Address was given by Grover Wilkins, Music director of the Orchestra of New Spain. Maestro Wilkins spoke on the topic of "Theater and Music: ... You Can't Have One without the Other," enlivening his talk with both musical and visual illustrations. A second plenary session, organized and chaired by AHCT President Bob Johnston, featured three distinguished *Comedia* scholars: Matthew D. Stroud of Trinity University, Isaac Benabu of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and William R. Blue of The Pennsylvania State University. Also of particular interest this year was a round-table discussion with the actors from Producción 2Rc Teatro, Compañía de Repertorio, the group that presented *El alcalde de Zalamea* as a part of the Siglo de Oro Drama Festival, held at the Chamizal Memorial Theater during the conference. The company, which comes from the Canary Islands and is directed by Rafael Rodríguez, made a strong impression on attendees of the symposium, both in its performance of Calderón's play and at the round-table. The production itself was partially supported by a grant of \$500 from the Association.

Other performances included in the Festival, and enjoyed by attendees of the conference, were: *Cuentos del Siglo de Oro*, presented by Teatro

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Gayumba of the Dominican Republic, and directed by Manuel Chapuseaux; Tirso's *La celosa de sí misma*, presented by the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes of Mexico City, and directed by Blanca Verduzco; and an adaptation of Rojas's *La Celestina*, presented by Teatro Círculo of New York, and directed by Beatriz Córdoba. As usual, actors from the various companies joined participants at the conference in the hospitality room for refreshments and conversation after their respective performances.

Notes from the Board of Directors Meeting, Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Election Results: Kerry Wilks and Bruce Burningham were elected to the Board for three-year terms. Chris Gascón and Bob Johnston were reelected to the Board for additional three-year terms. Bob Johnston was reelected President, Anita Stoll as First Vice-President, Susan Paun de García as Second Vice-President, Don Larson as Recording Secretary and Sharon Voros as Treasurer

Treasurer's Report: AHCT Treasurer, Sharon Voros, indicated that the current bank balance of the Association was \$11,699.23. Income since the last report was \$17,688.73 and expenditures were \$15,780.90. The current balance of the Everett W. Hesse Fund was \$34,008.46.

Siglo de Oro Drama Festival: Richard Harris, Superintendent of the Chamizal National Memorial, reported that the financial status of the Drama Festival had improved somewhat since a year ago, partly as the result of a somewhat enhanced allocation from the Park Service and partly as the result of outside grants. The Festival is still operating in the red, however. It is hoped that the imposition of a \$5.00 admission charge for all performances this year will help to rectify the situation. It is also hoped that in the near future the Festival will return to a five-performance schedule.

Annual Symposia: Bob Johnston presented a plan whereby in the future all faculty proposals for presentations at the annual conference would be evaluated by a committee of three or four senior scholars. Following acceptance by the committee, and prior to the conference, the abstracts would then be posted on the Association's webpage where they could be read by interested parties.

Comedia Performance: Barbara Mujica, the editor, reported that both submissions and subscriptions are up from a year ago. Ad revenue is still modest and needs to be improved. The pros and cons of making the journal available on-line were again debated, but no decision on the matter was reached.

Video Library: Susan Paun de García reported that the Association had received a grant of \$1,500 from the Committee on Cultural Cooperation to complete the digitization of the AHCT's video archives. Jason Yancey reported that of the original 315 films in the archives that were to be converted from analog to digital format, 215 have been completed, leaving 103 still to be done. The process of transfer follows one of two methods: 1) deluxe processing, which permits enhanced sound and visual quality, as well as the addition of titles, chapters, and so on; and 2) economy processing, which basically does not allow for the improvements mentioned. Chris Gascón continues to serve as Acquisitions Coordinator for the video library and is always happy to receive suggestions for new acquisitions for the collection.

AHCT Newsletter: The matter of possible electronic distribution of the newsletter was raised once again. For the time being, things will remain as they are, hard copy distribution having the advantage of encouraging members to send in their annual dues.

ATHE and MLA: Bob Johnston announced that the AHCT is working to build a good relationship with the Association for Theatre in Higher Education and will continue to pursue allied status with the Modern Language Association.

Notes from the Meeting of the General Membership, Thursday, March 6, 2008.

President Bob Johnston began the meeting with a warm welcome to the members who were in attendance despite the early hour. Minutes of last year's meeting were approved with minor corrections. Parliamentarian Gwyn Campbell announced the results of the recent AHCT elections: all candidates for election and reelection to the Board had been approved, as had the slate of officers.

The majority of the meeting was taken up by short reports by the heads of the various committees of the Association, with particular prominence given to the Treasurer's report. Treasurer Sharon Voros detailed the major expenses of the Association and spoke of the grants that had recently been received. She stated that the Association's current bank balance is somewhat under \$12,000, about the same as a year ago. Upon conclusion of her remarks, the report was moved, seconded, and duly approved.

Following discussion of the Treasurer's Report Bob Johnston spoke briefly about the upcoming conference, highlighting the Plenary Address of Grover Wilkins, the President's roundtable, and the workshop Saturday morning with the actors from the production of *El alcalde de Zalamea*. He thanked Angel Sánchez, Mindy Badía, and Bonnie Gasior for their efforts in organizing the symposium, and acknowledged the contribution of Chris Weimer and Kerri Wilks, who served as the evaluators of graduate student submissions. He reiterated that part of the Association's mission is to encourage and mentor students. He then announced that the 2008 winner of the Everett W. Hesse award for the best graduate student paper to be presented at the conference went to Jonathan Wade of Vanderbilt University for his paper "Staging the Nation: Jacinto Cordeiro and the Seventeenth-Century Portuguese *Comedia*."

Barbara Mujica, editor of *Comedia Performance*, reported on the recent success of the journal in attracting more submissions and more subscriptions. She encouraged all members of the Association to continue sending the journal their best articles and to urge the libraries of their home institutions to subscribe.

Don Larson spoke briefly about the conference on "La violencia en el teatro del Siglo de Oro," which was to be held in Stratford, Ontario, at the end of June, and encouraged Association members to consider submitting abstracts. (A report on the conference is included in this newsletter.)

Finally, Bob Johnston spoke of the modifications that had been put in place for the 2009 symposium. The major change involves faculty abstracts, which from now on will be evaluated for acceptance by a committee of senior scholars. The policy of charging admission for each performance presented at the Chamizal National Memorial, begun this year, will be continued next year. The charge, while modest in itself, will assist in the effort of putting the Siglo de Oro Drama Festival once again on solid financial footing. Better finances should enable the Festival to once again program five performances every year.

The meeting closed with President Johnston thanking all the members present for their work on behalf of the Association.

Symposium on “La violencia en el teatro del Siglo de Oro”

An international symposium on “La violencia en el teatro del Siglo de Oro,” co-organized by the Hispanic Baroque Project, headquartered at the University of Western Ontario, and GRISO, headquartered at the Universidad de Navarra, was held in Stratford, Ontario, from June 26-29, 2008. The symposium, which was co-sponsored by the AHCT, among other entities, was held in conjunction with the Stratford Shakespeare Festival’s production of *Fuente Ovejuna*, newly translated and adapted by Laurence Boswell and directed by Boswell. Participants in the conference came from a variety of countries, including Canada, Spain, the United States, Great Britain, and France. The invited plenary speakers were Ignacio Arellano of the Universidad de Navarra, the well-known author of *Historia del teatro español del siglo XVII* and numerous other books, and Boswell himself, a former Associate Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, where in 2004 he was the person primarily responsible for the RSC’s highly successful season of Spanish Golden Age plays. Arellano’s address was on the topic “Formas de violencia en el teatro de Calderón,” and Boswell spoke about his experiences translating and directing Lope’s play. Both talks were followed by question and answer periods.

As might be expected, a highlight of the conference was the premiere of Boswell’s new translation of Lope’s play, which received a highly positive reception from attendees of the symposium, as well as others in the audience, and from the critics of the major newspapers of Ontario. The performance was followed shortly afterward by a Festival-sponsored reception for members of the cast and participants in the conference. It was the second major social event for those who attended the symposium, as the day before they were the invited guests at another reception, given in this instance by the Spanish Embassy in Canada. The conference ended with a gala concert given by the group Tarantella, featuring Golden Age musical settings of texts by Lope de Vega.

AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium, March 5-7, 2009

The 2009 AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium will take place March 5-7, 2009 in El Paso, Texas. These dates coincide with the 2009 Golden Age Spanish Theater Festival at the Chamizal National Memorial. Sessions will begin Thursday morning, March 5, and end Saturday afternoon, March 7, 2009. The meeting of the officers of the AHCT will take place Wednesday, March 4, 2009 from 9 am.-12 noon, and the meeting of the Board of Directors will take place that same day from 1:30-5:00.

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 indicate a preferred day for their presentation, as well as any special equipment needs that they may have.

College and university faculty are asked to send paper titles with one-page abstracts and/or proposals for special sessions to Prof. William R. Blue at Pennsylvania State University. Submissions should be sent via e-mail as attachments in Word. Professor Blue's e-mail address is: wrb10@psu.edu. The deadline for receipt of all submissions is November 15, 2008. Please note that this date is earlier than in previous years.

Graduate students who are interested in participating in the conference are asked to submit a hard copy of completed papers of approximately ten pages, rather than abstracts. Along with the paper itself, each submission should include a separate sheet containing the title of the paper, the name of the author of the paper, and the author's postal and e-mail address. In order that they may be given a "blind" reading, the papers themselves must remain anonymous, i.e., they should not reveal the name of the author, either on the first page or in headers or footers. The first page should, of course, contain the title of the paper.

Papers should be sent to: Professor Christopher Weimer, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, 309 Gundersen Bldg., Oklahoma State University Stillwater, OK 74078. Professor Weimer's e-mail, CBWeimer@aol.com, should be used only to request guidelines or to ask questions; please do not send submissions electronically. 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 November 15, 2008. Notification of acceptance will be sent electronically.

Events of Particular Interest at the 2009 Symposium. The Donald T. Dietz Keynote Address at next year's symposium will be given by Edward H. Friedman, Chancellor's Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature at Vanderbilt University, Editor of the *Bulletin of the Comediantes*, and author of innumerable studies on the *Comedia* and Golden Age fiction that are well-known to all Hispanists. The title of his address is "The High Anxiety of Influence: Zayas, Caro, and Sor Juana." A second plenary address at the symposium will be given by David Johnston, Professor of Hispanic Studies at Queens University, Belfast. Professor Johnston is the translator of over thirty plays from Spanish, Portuguese, and French, including Lope's *The Dog in the Manger*, which was produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company in 2004 and which will be presented by The Shakespeare Company of Washington, D.C., in February and March, 2009. The title of his address is "Lope in English Performance: The Tasks of the Translator."

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 4, 2009. Participants must mention the AHCT conference and request the group rate of \$94 for a single or double room, or \$109 for a triple room, or \$124 for a quadruple room. Rollaway beds may be requested for an additional charge of \$15 per night. All rates are subject to a 15.5% tax. The group rate applies Tuesday, March 3, 2009, to Saturday, March 7, 2009.

AHCT Conference Registration: You must be a member of the AHCT to register for the conference. If you are not currently a member, please send membership dues of \$30 (faculty) or \$20 (Retired Members/Students) when registering. The registration for the conference for all faculty attendees, as well as for graduate students who are reading papers or participating in a special session, is \$95. A late fee of \$15 is assessed if registration is paid after February 9, 2009. Registration includes conference attendance, the Annual Banquet of the AHCT in the Dome Room of the Camino Real, transportation to and from the Chamizal National Memorial every evening for the Siglo de Oro Spanish Drama Festival, coffee and refreshments during the conference, 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 \$15, payable at the time of registration, purchases tickets for the banquet.)

Registration payment may be made either by check or by Visa or MasterCard. To register for the conference, please fill out the enclosed form and mail it to: Professor Anita Stoll, First Vice President, AHCT, 2081 Lamberton Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118 (a.stoll@csuohio.edu).

Conference Up-Dates: For additional information about the conference, please contact the AHCT Conference Director, Professor Angel Sánchez, Arizona State University, Department of Languages and Literatures, PO Box 870202, Tempe, Arizona 85287-0202. TEL: 480-965-4576 (office) or 480-786-4633 (home). 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 webpage, as they become available.

Reminder: The AHCT budget depends almost entirely on members' dues which support, among other things, the annual conference, the AHCT journal, *Comedia Performance*, the video library, the *Comedia* bulletin board, the AHCT webpage, the biannual newsletter, and the Everett W. Hesse Endowment. Your dues are paid through the date indicated on the mailing label of the newsletter. If it is time for you to renew, please use the enclosed payment form, and remit to Anita Stoll at the address indicated on the form. An additional form will be included in the winter newsletter, and the form may also be downloaded from the AHCT webpage at: www.comedias.org.

Comedia Performance

AHCT's annual journal, *Comedia Performance*, publishes articles on topics related to the performance of the Spanish *Comedia*. The subscription price is included in the annual AHCT membership dues without additional charge. To purchase individual copies (\$15 each), contact Anita Stoll, Managing Editor, at: a.stoll@csuohio.edu. Please encourage your college or university library to subscribe; a three-year library subscription is \$50. Payment should be sent to Anita Stoll, Managing Editor, 2081 Lamberton Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.

The deadline for submission of articles for consideration for the 2009 issue of *Comedia Performance* is September 30, 2008. Articles should be sent as an e-mail attachment to the editor, Barbara Mujica, at: mujica@georgetown.edu. Editorial guidelines are found in each issue of the journal and also on the journal's webpage: <http://www.comediaperformancetheater.com>.

Theater reviews, book reviews, or interviews should be sent to the appropriate editor, as indicated in the journal and on the webpage.

Comedia Performance accepts advertisements for books, plays, festivals and other events related to theater: Advertisers should contact Amy Williamsen for rates at: amyw@u.arizona.edu.

Donations to AHCT: Donations in support of any of AHCT's projects and activities are deeply appreciated. To contribute, please send a check or credit card information to: AHCT, P.O. Box 2701, Flagstaff, AZ 86003. Checks may be unrestricted or earmarked for the Millennium Donors Fund or the Everett W. Hesse Fund.

Cordial best wishes,



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