



ASSOCIATION FOR HISPANIC CLASSICAL THEATER, INC.

P.O. Box 4359, Bellingham, WA 98227

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert Johnston
President

Northern Arizona University

Susan Paun de García
First Vice-President
Denison University

Angel Sánchez
Second Vice-President
Arizona State University

Donald R. Larson
Recording Secretary
Ohio State University

Sharon Voros
Treasurer
U.S. Naval Academy

Isaac Benabu
Hebrew University

William R. Blue
Pennsylvania State University

Bruce R. Burningham
Illinois State University

Gwyn E. Campbell
Washington & Lee University

Christopher Gascón
SUNY College at Cortland

Bonnie Gasior
Cal. State Univ., Long Beach

Ben Gunter
Florida State University

Barbara Mujica
Georgetown University

Mindy Stivers Badía
Indiana University Southeast

Darci L. Strother
Cal. State Univ., San Marcos

Laura L. Vidler
U. S. Military Academy

Kerry Wilks
Wichita State University

Amy R. Williamsen
University of Arizona

Charter Members
Donald T. Dietz
David Gitlitz
Matthew D. Stroud
Vern G. Williamsen

AHCT Newsletter August, 2010

Dear Colleague:

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: a report on highlights of the Association's symposium last March; notes from the meetings of the board of directors and the general membership at that conference; reports on other recent meetings and symposia of interest; and several Calls for Papers, including for the 2011 conference of the AHCT in El Paso.

AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium, El Paso, Texas, March 4-6, 2010

This year's symposium, the largest in several years, included twenty-four different sessions and over seventy speakers. The Donald T. Dietz Keynote Address, entitled "Suck. Squeeze. Bang. Blow: How the Plays of Lope de Vega Travel through Time and Space," was delivered by the distinguished British director Laurence Boswell. The former Associate Artistic Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Boswell is known particularly for his advocacy of Spanish Classical Theater in the English-speaking world and has directed some twelve different productions of Golden Age plays for a number of entities, including the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Gate Theatre, and the Stratford Shakespeare Festival of Canada. Although highly entertaining, his talk was at the same instructive and filled with a wealth of illuminating observations. Because Boswell had agreed to participate in another plenary session, a question and answer colloquy led by Isaac Benabu, conference participants were fortunate to be able to hear him a second time and to converse with him more lengthily. A third plenary session, again in question and answer format, featured Gina Kaufmann, the director, Harley Erdman, the translator, and several cast members of the University of Massachusetts's production of Tirso's *Marta the Divine* which had been enthusiastically received when performed the night before during the Chamizal Golden Age Drama Festival.

Other performances included in the 2010 Festival, and enjoyed by attendees of the conference, were: *Entre clásicos anda el juego*, a dramatic pastiche presented by the Escuela Superior de Arte Dramático, Murcia, Spain; Calderón's *Con quien vengo, vengo*, also presented by the Escuela Superior de Arte Dramático; and Calderón's *Casa con dos puertas, mala es de guardar*, presented by Perro Teatro, México City, México. As usual, actors

(360) 961-6468– Robert.Johnston@nau.edu – www.comedias.org

from the various companies joined participants at the conference in the hospitality room of the Camino Real Hotel for refreshments and conversation after their respective performances.

Notes from the AHCT Board of Directors Meeting, Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Election Results: Parliamentarian Gwyn Campbell reported that the following current officers of the Association had been reelected for additional one-year terms: Bob Johnston, President; Susan Paun de García, First Vice-President; Don Larson, Recording Secretary; and Sharon Voros, Treasurer. Angel Sánchez was also elected for a one-year term as Second Vice President.

There were no elections this past year for members of the Board of Directors. The next elections for the Board will take place during the fall of 2010.

Treasurer's Report: AHCT Treasurer, Sharon Voros, reported that the current balance in the checking account of the Association was \$16,869.94. Income since the last report was \$23,786.59 and expenditures were \$23,414.76. The current balance of the Everett W. Hesse Fund was \$35,208.46, and the amount held in reserve for grants was \$1,845. Total assets of the Association were \$50,233.40.

Siglo de Oro Drama Festival: Catherine Light, the Superintendent of the Chamizal National Memorial, spoke of her personal commitment to the Festival, but said that, because of current economic conditions, funding from the Park Service for the Festival would likely be cut in the near future. Michael Groomer, spoke of ongoing outreach activities in connection with the Festival and expressed the hope that those activities would increase support for the Festival locally and throughout the country.

Action Items: The Board approved a new protocol for the nomination and election of members to the Board. The most relevant items were that all terms of current members expire on November 1 of their third year in office, that nominations for new members of the Board may be made by any current member of the Association to any current member of the Board, that the President and the other officers would prepare a slate of candidates for election or reelection to present to the Board, and that an annual election would be held prior to November 1.

The Board also approved changes to the Association's by-laws regarding the election of officers of the Association. The effect of the changes was basically to allow more time prior to the annual meeting of the Board for the election to take place, thus assuring a smoother and less rushed process.

Annual Symposia: President Bob Johnston and the conference organizers indicated that the electronic submission of abstracts and papers for the conference had basically worked well, in spite of some initial difficulties. They reported that that quality of submissions, both from faculty members and graduate students, was high. It was decided that the conference registration fee should remain the same next year, in line with no change in annual dues. Room charges at the Camino Real Hotel will also remain the same for at least one more year.

Comedia Performance: Barbara Mujica, the editor, reported that there had been more submissions this year than ever before and that the average quality was very high. She said that approximately one-third of the submissions had been accepted for publication.

Video Library: Amy Williamsen reported that Jason Yancey continues to be the curator of the lending portion of the video library, and that the move from the University of Arizona to Grand Valley State University in Michigan had been accomplished successfully. Chris Gascón reported that the library had received a new video of a production of Lope's *Fuente Ovejuna* in English that was staged at the University of Utah.

Members' Webpage: Susan Paun de García reported that the new webpage was up and running and had proved to be a great success thus far in managing the directory of members, processing dues and registration, and so on. The relevant URL is: <http://www.ahct.echapters.com>.

Visual Studies: Bob Blue indicated that he had conducted an interview with Fred de Armas for the Pioneers Series of the Archives and that it would be soon be available for viewing by members.

AHCT Newsletter: Don Larson reported that in order to resolve the on-going question of whether the semi-annual newsletter should be distributed in electronic or in printed form, or in some combination of the two, a poll would be taken in order to assess the opinion of AHCT members. All members are asked to participate in the poll and may do so by linking to the URL given above.

Connections with ATHE and ASTR: Ben Gunter spoke about AHCT participation in the 2009 annual meetings of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education and the American Society for Theatre Research. More news about these organizations and their recent meetings will be found below.

Notes from the Meeting of the AHCT General Membership, Saturday, March 6, 2010

After calling the meeting to order, President Johnston briefly summarized the principal changes adopted by the Board in procedures for electing officers and members of the Board and announced the results of the recent election for officers, as outlined above.

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Membership in March, 2009, were approved, as was the Treasurer's Report, presented by Treasurer Sharon Voros. A brief summary of that report is given above.

President Johnston stated that by general consensus the quality of presentations at this year's conference had been impressively high and that the posting of abstracts online prior to the conference had done much to increase interest in the various sessions. AHCT Webmaster Laura Vidler requested that next year all abstracts be sent in PDF format for easier and safer posting. Angel Sánchez announced that dates for the 2011 conference are March 3-5 and stated that, as mentioned above, registration fees and hotel room charges would remain unchanged.

There were a number of miscellaneous announcements. President Johnston indicated that at its recent meeting, the Board had voted to allot \$500 to fund the digitization of Professor Richard Tyler's extensive plot summaries of Golden Age plays, thus enabling the summaries to be posted on the Internet. Amy Williamsen announced that the catalog of video offerings available through the AHCT library had been updated and was now current. She also reported that Jason Yancey, the curator of the AHCT lending library, now had the capacity to put together, at the request of members, special DVDs that would combine related scenes from a number of different Chamizal productions. Finally, Susan Paun de García announced that a grant obtained by the AHCT from the Program on Cultural Cooperation had been used to support this year's Chamizal production of *Marta the Divine* and that a grant would be sought to support another production next year.

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

Other News

The American Society for Theatre Research. ASTR held its annual meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 12-15, 2009. Among the sessions at the conference was one entitled "New Approaches to Plays from the Spanish Golden Age: Destiny, Nation Formation, and Puerto Rican Perspectives," convened by Ben Gunter of Florida State

University, Susan Paun de García of Denison University, Amy Williamsen of the University of Arizona, and Dean Zayas, of the University of Puerto Rico. Three different teams participated in the session, each working on a different play. The first team focused on *Fuente Ovejuna*; the second on *Lo fingido verdadero*; and the third on *Los melindres de Belisa*. The last-named work was performed by students from the University of Puerto Rico during the conference and was, according to the many AHCT members in attendance, a highlight of the meeting. Information on the November, 2010, conference may be found at: <http://www.astr.org>.

Modern Language Association of America: The 2009 annual meeting of the MLA was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, December 27-30. As part of the meeting, the Division on Sixteenth-and Seventeenth-Century Spanish Drama organized three sessions: "Spaces and Places in the Early Modern Public Theater"; "Early Modern Spanish Drama beyond the Public Playhouses"; and "Polyphony in the *Comedia*." The annual banquet of the *Comediantes* took place at Amada Restaurant. Although attendance was down somewhat from previous years, the level of conviviality remained high.

The 2011 meeting will take be held in Los Angeles, California, January 6-9. The Division on Sixteenth-and Seventeenth-Century Spanish Drama will sponsor two sessions: "Approaches to Early Modern Spanish Tragedy" and "Roundtable on the *Comedia* and the Culture of the Baroque." Details will be announced in the forthcoming MLA program, as will information about the annual banquet.

Out of the Wings. Out of the Wings, an AHRC-funded project exploring Spanish theatre in English translation, in association with Merton College, Oxford, sponsored a conference entitled "Spanish Golden Age Drama in Translation and Performance" at Merton College, March 18-19. The conference included roundtables, a semi-staged reading of Gil Vicente's *Don Duardos* in a new translation by Jo Clifford, social events, and a number of sessions in which various members of the AHCT participated, as well as others from the English-speaking world and beyond.

Association for Theatre in Higher Education. The 2010 ATHE conference was held in Los Angeles, California, August 3-6/ Among the sessions of interest to *Comediantes* was one organized by Ben Gunter entitled, "*Comedia* Revived: Websites, Archives, and Multi-Media Resources for Rediscovering Plays from the Spanish Golden Age." The 2011 conference will take place in Chicago, Illinois, August 11-14.

Calls for Papers

AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium, March 3-5, 2011

The 2011 AHCT Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium will take place March 3-5 in El Paso, Texas. These dates coincide with the 2011 Golden Age Spanish Theater Festival at the Chamizal National Memorial. Sessions will begin Thursday morning, March 3, and end Saturday afternoon, March 5, 2011. The meeting of the officers of the AHCT will take place Wednesday, March 2, 2011, 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 include in their proposal any special equipment needs that 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 the following e-mail address: abstracts@comedias.org. They should be submitted as attachments to the e-mail message, preferably in PDF format. The deadline for receipt of all submissions is December 1, 2010.

Graduate students who are interested in participating in the conference are asked to submit completed papers of approximately ten pages, rather than abstracts. This stipulation applies to all students, including those who have been invited to be members of panels, whether organized by faculty members or others. Papers should be sent as an e-mail attachment in Word to: gradsubmissions@comedias.org. 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, 2010.

Events of Particular Interest at the 2011 Symposium. The plenary speaker at the 2011 symposium will be the eminent scholar and teacher, Luciano García Lorenzo. A specialist in Spanish theater, both classical and modern, as well as nineteenth century prose fiction, Dr. García Lorenzo is currently Professor at the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas in Madrid as well as Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago. He is the author, editor, or co-editor of 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 s. XIX*.

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 5pm (MST). The deadline for the conference room rate is January 30, 2011. Participants must mention the AHCT conference and request the group rate of \$90 for a single or double room, or \$109 for a triple room, or \$124 for a quadruple room. Rollaway beds for an extra party 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 1, 2011 to Saturday, March 5, 2011.

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, 2011. 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 \$17 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. Use of the website for these transactions, rather than downloading paper forms, will ensure speed and accuracy and help to preserve our natural resources. To access the site please use the following link: <http://www.ahct.echapters.com>.

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 webpages, as they become available.

Additional Calls for Papers

Northeast Modern Language Association. The 42nd Annual Convention of NeMLA will take place April 7-10, 2011, in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Among the sessions will be a panel entitled "Comparative Approaches to Early Modern Spanish and British Drama." The panel seeks papers on Spanish Golden Age and Elizabethan drama from a comparativist approach through a variety of perspectives such as literary, performative, social and historical, in order to enrich and fill the gaps of a parallel and a merging dramatic tradition. Papers can be in either English or Spanish. Please send 250-500 word abstracts to Esther Fernández, Sarah Lawrence College, efernandez@slc.edu. Responders are asked to include with their abstract their name and academic affiliation, e-mail address, postal address, telephone number, and A/V requirements (if any; \$10 handling fee with registration).

Out of the Wings. Out of the Wings, in association with the Dramaturgies Project, and the Translation, Adaptation, and Dramaturgy Working Group of the International Federation for Theatre Research, will sponsor an international conference at Queen's University, Belfast, April 18-20, 2011. The conference, entitled "Invisible Presences: Translation, Dramaturgy and Performance," will explore the dramaturgical processes of translation in performance practice, whether across language and culture or the translation of ideas into material production. Those interested in participating in the form of a 20 minute paper or a two hour workshop are asked to submit proposals of 300 - 500 words, along with 150-word biography, by 30 September 2010, to the organizers: Alyson Campbell, a.e.campbell@qub.ac.uk; David Johnston, d.johnston@qub.ac.uk; and Kurt Taroff: k.taroff@qub.ac.uk. For further information please consult the Out of the Wings website: <http://blog.outofthewings.org/tag/translation>.

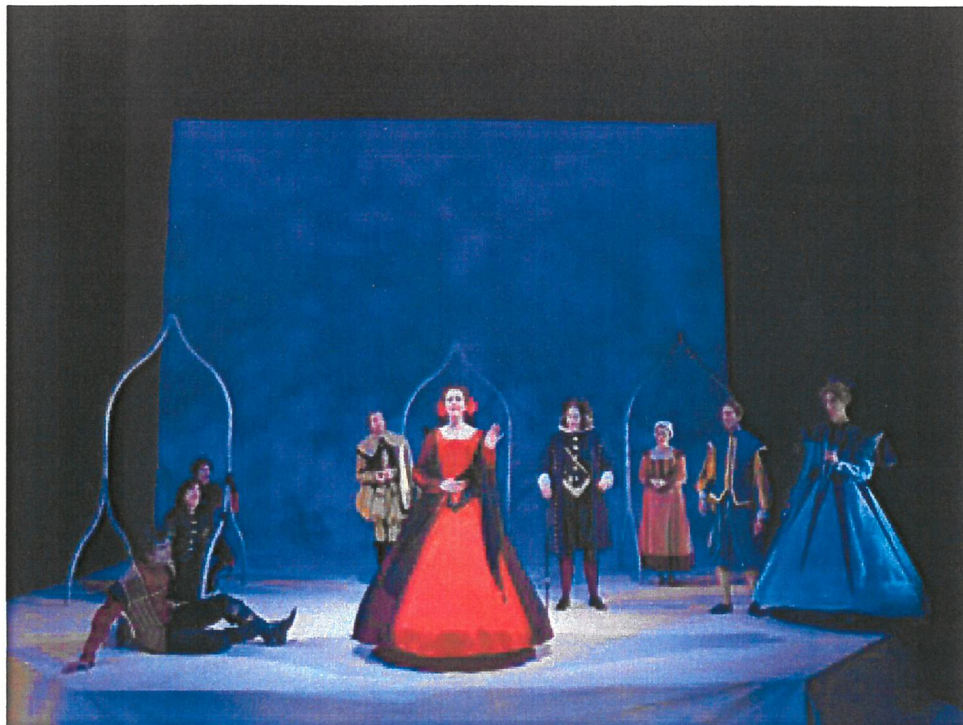
Reminder: The AHCT budget depends almost entirely on members' dues which support, among other things, the annual conference, the AHCT journal, *Comedia Performance*, the video library, the *Comedia* Bulletin Board, the AHCT webpage, the biannual newsletter, and the Everett W. Hesse Endowment. To determine whether it is time for you to renew, please consult the AHCT website for members at: <http://www.ahct.echapters.com>. After logging in, go directly to the Members page. Renewal is easy and can be done right on the website with either a credit card or PayPal.

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 (\$20 each), contact Sharon Voros, AHCT Treasurer, at: voros@usna.edu. Please encourage your college or university library to subscribe; a three-year library subscription is \$75. Payment should be sent to Professor Sharon Voros, 15500 Mt. Calvert Rd., Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.

The deadline for submission of articles for consideration for the 2011 issue of *Comedia Performance* is September 30, 2010. 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: 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. For information about costs advertisers should contact Barbara Mujica, the editor, at mujica@georgetown.edu.



The cast of Tirso's *Marta the Divine*, as seen on March 5, 2010, at the Chamizal Golden Age Drama Festival in a new adaptation by Harley Erdman, directed by Gina Kaufmann.

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 4359, Bellingham, WA 98227. Checks may be unrestricted or earmarked for the Millennium Donors Fund or the Everett W. Hesse Fund.

With cordial best wishes for the remainder of the summer and the coming academic year,

Donald R. Larson
 AHCT Recording Secretary
 Department of Spanish and Portuguese
 The Ohio State University
 Columbus, OH 43210
 E-mail: larson.3@osu.edu