

Tentative Agenda

ASSOCIATION FOR HISPANIC CLASSICAL THEATER, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 9, 1995
Camino Real Paso del Norte Hotel, Rm. 327
El Paso, Texas
8:30-12:00 a.m.

1. Call to order (Dietz)
2. Reading and Approval of Minutes (Williamsen)
3. Treasurer's Report (Voros)
4. Election Results and Introduction of New Board Members (Stoll)
5. Report of Nominating Committee: Election of New Officers (Larson)
6. Old Business
 - a. Committee Reports
 1. Production in Translation Committee (Smith)
 2. Video Tape Library (Gregg)
 3. Visual Studies Series (Hegstrom-Oakey)
 4. Student Scholarships and Grants (Mujica)
 5. Liaison with MLA and other Conferences (Stoll)
 6. Electronic Communications (Greer)
 7. Toward 2000 (Benabu)
 - b. Tabled motion to amend by-laws with addition: "In the event that the Association of Hispanic Classical Theater Inc. (AHCT) be dissolved, that the sole recipient of AHCT's assets by the Hispanic Society of America, henceforth to be permitted to retain the name of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater, Inc., in such fashion as it may deem appropriate and possible."
7. New Business
 - a. Approval of Guidelines for the Franklin G. Smith Award and the Walker Reid award.
 - b. Formation of a program or institute for the study and research of AHCT archives.
 - c. Proposal from the Visual Studies Committee
 - d. Fund Raising, Dues
 - e. Next year's meeting dates and times
 - f. Proposal for Conference in Almagro, Summer of 1996

SECRETARY-JOB DESCRIPTION

1. Keep the seal.
2. Keep the Secretary's book of official business:
 - Charter
 - By-Laws
 - Amended By-laws
 - Official papers
 - Minutes of Board Meetings
 - Minutes of General Meetings
 - Copy of each Treasurer's Report
3. Prepare Minutes of meetings, distribute them to board members, and record their approval.
4. Prepare reminders to all members of the status of their dues, at least twice a year.
5. Send copies of brochures in response to all requests.
6. Collect and deposit all dues. Report to Treasurer.
7. Record all dues as paid.
8. Keep all records of membership.
9. Prepare list of current membership for distribution to board.
10. Periodically forward updated membership lists to Video Librarian and President.
11. Maintain e-mail mailing list and distribution system.
12. Maintain text files and distribute them on request.
13. Prepare and distribute Newsletter twice a year. Once in spring following Annual board meeting and once in fall to announce the coming spring events.
14. Distribute notices of meetings, elections, etc. upon request.

Dear Board Members:

Below please find the minutes from this Spring's board meeting. I apologize for the delay in getting these to you, but as I had feared, I was unable to work on this until I was officially freed from the duties of Graduate Advisor. I have included three "apartes" after these minutes directing your attention to issues at hand: the status of our application for Allied Status, the latest on the Association's HomePage on World-Wide Web, and the proposed Almagro conference. Please let me know of any corrections you may have.

In addition, I am working on the newsletter. I want to get it out at the beginning of August. I plan to include a brief summary of the highlights of the minutes, information on the World Wide Web, an update on the "dramaturgas", the Almagro conference and other projects. If there is anything else you would like me to include, please let me know as soon as possible (by July 28 at the latest).

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Association for Hispanic Classical Theater, Inc.

Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 9, 1995
8:30 am-12:00 pm
El Paso, Texas

The meeting was called to order by President Don Dietz. After the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, Sharon Voros gave the Treasurer's Report indicating that the Association has a balance of \$5,693.64 including a generous donation from Everett Hesse.

Election Results and Introduction of New Board Members:

Anita Stoll welcomed new board member Margaret Ruth Hicks (in absentia) and congratulated returning member Barbara Mujica.

Election of New Officers:

Since Vern G. Williamsen, who served as Secretary of the Association for eleven years, did not wish to serve in that capacity any longer, the board reviewed the duties he had been performing. It was decided to divide the functions as follows:

Anita Stoll, in her capacity as Vice-President, will serve as Financial Secretary, in charge of dues and membership; Vern Williamsen will continue to serve as the person in charge of "electronic correspondence" (eg. the "comedia" bulletin board, and WWW home page); and a third person will be elected to serve as "Recording Secretary" in charge of taking minutes and the newsletter. The Association thanks Vern Williamsen for his efforts over the years--so extensive that no one person could be found to assume all the duties.

Cathy Larson reported that Amy Williamsen had been elected Recording Secretary. All other officers will remain in their present posts.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports:

Before turning the meeting over to the committee chairs for their reports, Dietz requested that the committee chairs e-mail all members of their committee requesting help, that together they actively seek funding for their committee activities, and that they set aside a portion of any grant monies received for "development" (advertising, brochures, etc.)

1. Theater Production in Translation (Smith, chr.; Stackhouse, Monta, Mujica): Dawn Smith reported that funding is assured for now. She also noted that it is too bad that the play in translation "Love's True Lies" was slated for presentation before the symposium began. She discussed possible translation projects in the works. She also reported that the "script library" needs input including annotations on which works are "playable," especially if they are not frequently done. In order to stimulate submissions, the translation awards should be announced on-line. The proposed guidelines for the translation committee of the AHCT, following those originally circulated by Ken Stackhouse, were approved as amended. (See attached).

2. Videotape Library: Karl Gregg reported that the University of Arizona has provided excellent equipment, including a converter capable of handling all video formats. He requested that members place their video orders via e-mail whenever possible since it expedites the process. In response to complaints about the quality of some tapes, he developed a form that borrowers can complete thereby alerting us to any problems. The board responded enthusiastically to this initiative. He also discussed his plans to try to secure videos from additional sources, including the Repertorio Español and Marsillach. After reviewing the tape of LA VIDA ES SUENO that the Association ordered from Films for the Humanities he suggested and the board approved that he return it since it did not meet our needs. (It was a poor quality black-and-white production that could not be copied for our members.)

3. Visual Studies Series (Hegstrom-Oakey, chr.; García Varela, A. Williamsen): Valerie Hegstrom-Oakey announced that the committee has fulfilled its original goal of producing five videos. She reported that the committee has several projects in mind, including a tape of interviews with "pioneers" in our field so that future generation of scholars can see them for themselves and a project on selected "dramaturgas."

4. Student Scholarships and Grants (Mujica, chr.; Hicks): Barbara Mujica reported that this year's fellowship was awarded to Pithamber Polsani. The Association provided \$300.00 toward travel and \$75.00 for lodging in the dorm room. There was brief discussion about how to handle the awards in future years. The committee felt it would be most helpful if the dollar amount available could be established in advance of receipt of applications. The recipients would be able to use the funds for travel and/or lodging. We hope that UTEP will continue to agree to waive the registration fee for the graduate students. It was agreed that the scholarships should be awarded to students whose papers have already been accepted for presentation at the conference. Next year, we hope to have at least \$500 to award. In addition, we plan to invite the winner(s) to meet with the board so that we can congratulate them personally. In order to increase the pool of potential applicants, notice of the fellowship will be posted on the World-Wide Web as well as in the Professional Notes section of HISPANIA (or other appropriate forums). Mujica also reported that the committee plans to seek a grant to guarantee several years of support for the fellowship. All agreed that it is crucial that graduate students know that we are here to support them.

5. Liaison with MLA and other conferences (Stoll): Anita Stoll reported that we were still waiting for the MLA decision regarding the Association's request for Allied Status. She suggested that if granted Allied Status, the Association might wish to establish a committee to set up the sessions which should include papers from Association members that would increase interest in work on performance. She also announced that the liaison with AATSP is working well--three comedia sessions have been planned for the San Diego conference in August.

6. Electronic Communications (Greer, chr.; V. Williamsen): Meg Greer reported on the committee's work on the development of a grant application to NEH to fund the creation of a database containing all theater from Juan de Encina to 1700 in an electronic form that would be readable anywhere and also provide a digital facsimile of the texts. During the first three years, the international team would focus on the Calderón's "comedias" and Sor Juana's theater (all genres). The first Board of Advisors meeting for this project is to be held in September. The AHCT board unanimously approved \$500-\$1000 to support the electronic comedia project.

7. Toward 2000: Although Isaac Benabu, the committee chair, was not present, the board discussed the mission and membership of the committee. Don Dietz, Sharon Voros, Anita Stoll, Ken Stackhouse and Barbara Mujica all agreed to work on this committee designed to see how the association can move into the 21st century.

8. The Board untabled the motion to amend the by-laws with the addition: "In the event that the Association of Hispanic Classical Theater (AHCT) be dissolved, that the sole recipient of AHCT's assets be the Hispanic Society of America, henceforth to be permitted to retain the name of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater, Inc., in such fashion as it may deem appropriate and possible." Lively discussion ensued regarding issues of accessibility and fees. After careful consideration, the proposal was unanimously rejected.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. As mentioned under the committee reports, the proposed guidelines for the Translation Committee, including those for the Franklin G. Smith and Walker Reid awards, were approved as amended. (See attached).

2. The committee discussed the formation of a program or Institute for the Study and Research of AHCT video library and Chamizal Archives. Bill Sontag and Blanca Álvarez, from the Chamizal, generously agreed to help in facilitating research at the Chamizal. They simply request advance notice and they wish to be notified of the results of such research so that the projects can be mutually beneficial. They also requested that we continue to support their efforts in the festival, including the "mesa redonda." It was suggested that it might help if there were a movable microphone so that members of the audience could be heard more easily, thereby allowing for more individuals to participate.

In addition, in order to facilitate the research project of a graduate student who wishes to use the Association's videos for research, the Board unanimously agreed to waive all rental fees. It was also suggested that we consider ways to promote interest in this type of research.

3. The Visual Studies Committee proposed and the board approved that the committee pursue the development of a Visual Studies project on CD-Rom.

4. The Board agreed to maintain the current dues structure. In addition, we all agreed to explore additional ideas for fund-raising.

5. The Board considered Isaac Benabu's proposal that the Association sponsor a conference to be held during the Almagro festival in the summer of 1996. The board tentatively approved pending receipt of further information from Isaac.

6. The President proposed and the Board agreed to hold next year's meeting on the Wednesday morning before the Symposium begins since this year's meeting proved so successful.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy R. Williamsen

[Aparte: The MLA lost the application for Allied Status that Anita had so carefully prepared. We sent all the additional documentation the MLA requested. In July we were informed that our request had been denied because our mission "to produce videos" is too far from the MLA's mission. I feel their understanding of our mission is quite limited and would like to appeal if the Board feels that is appropriate.]

[Aparte: The Home Page for the Association is now up and running. In the newsletter, I will include detailed information on how to access the homepage that now contains the texts of three works in translation and the texts for more than 21 COMEDIAS in Spanish, all properly formatted for use by you and your students.]

[Aparte: Such a conference in conjunction with the Almagro festival is currently being organized by Barbara Mujica and Isaac Benabu. Please contact Barbara Mujica for more information. All who are on the electronic correspondence list should have received this information.]

PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR THE TRANSLATION COMMITTEE OF THE AHCT

1. The purpose of the committee is to encourage the performance of Spanish Golden Age plays in English translation, particularly, but not exclusively, by university theater groups.

2. The committee aims primarily to sponsor performances of Spanish Golden Age plays in translation at the Chamizal Festival of Golden Age Drama, held annually in El Paso, Texas. To this end and on behalf of the AHCT, it seeks financial support from sources such as the Program for Cultural Cooperation Between Spain's Ministry of Culture and United States' Universities.

The committee invites directors and translators to submit proposals for consideration. While the committee will give preference to proposals in which a script in translation has already been accepted by a director for production, it also invites submissions from translators who have not yet found a suitable director. In this case, the committee will endeavor to bring these submissions to the attention of directors who may be interested in staging a Spanish Golden Age play in English.

3. The committee makes two special annual awards:

a) The Walker Reid award--to take the form of a subvention to a theater company undertaking to perform a Golden Age play in English at the annual Festival of Golden Age Plays held at the Chamizal Memorial Theatre in El Paso, Texas. The winning company will also be expected to perform the play as part of the season at their home institution. Since some sources only provide funds in the form of matching grants, successful applicants must be able to guarantee equal funds for their host institution.

b) The Franklin G. Smith Award--to be awarded to the translator of a playscript chosen for performance at the annual Chamizal Festival.

4. The committee will seek volunteer readers for each competition among the membership of the Association. Each playscript will be evaluated by at least two readers, who will be asked to make their recommendations to the committee on the basis of the following criteria:

a) The potential of the playscript for imaginative staging and performance, as well as its appeal to an audience (especially a non-specialist/non-Spanish-speaking audience.

b) The overall quality of the script.

c) The relative accuracy of the translation in relation to the source of the text (while balancing this consideration with conditions imposed by performance and audience).

5. Reader and committee members who themselves submit

translations for consideration are expected to stand aside temporarily from the judging process.

6. The committee will work closely with the staff of the Chamizal Memorial Theater to identify theater groups and directors seeking translations for performance.

7. The committee will advertise the Walker Reid award in appropriate publications with circulation in university theater departments and among other theater groups. Similar announcements will identify award winners.

8. The Walker Reid award is intended to assist with production and transportation costs. Submissions should be received by (DATE TO BE FIXED BY COMMITTEE); funding will be announced by February in the year preceding the year of the play's appearance at the festival (e.g., February 1996 for performance in March 1997). The grantee (i.e. the director) will be required to sign a contract agreeing to the following conditions:

a) that the production incorporating the successful translation will be performed at the Chamizal Festival, as well as during the company's regular season before Chamizal.

b) that the production will be staged as part of the next Festival season following the announcement of the award. The committee will only consider deferrals of the award in exceptional circumstances and for a strictly limited period. If, for any reason, a designated company is unable to comply with these conditions, the committee will be free to redirect the award to a company able to fulfill the necessary requirements.