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The Association for Hispanic Classical Theater, Inc.

Newsletter: June 2017

Cordial greetings from the President and Board of Directors of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater! This issue of the newsletter includes highlights of this year's Chamizal festival and the Association's Symposium, notes from the board meeting, news regarding prizes, honors, and events, and a call for papers for the 2018 AHCT Symposium.



The Heresy of Love, The School of Theatre and Dance at Illinois State University. National Park Service photo.

Quique Quinto?, directed by Andrés Carreño, performed by Cabaret Misterio & Efe Tres Teatro, Mexico City; *La reunion de los Zanni*, directed by Adriano Iurissevich, performed by Compañía Teatro Reymala, Spain; and *El retablo de las maravillas*, directed by Francisco Negro, performed by Morfeo Teatro, Spain. The performances were well-attended and well-received by Chamizal audiences. This year's AHCT Symposium, held at the Hilton Garden Inn, featured approximately 22 sessions and 57 presenters and participants. Special sessions included "Reimagining the Spanish Comedia in the Transmedia Age," "The Production of *Heresy of Love*," "Revisión y (re)presentación de la subalternidad en el teatro clásico," "Ñaque del siglo 21, una conversación con EFE TRES Teatro y su acercamiento a los clásicos," "Teatro Breve in Translation and Performance: Francisco de Quevedo y Sor Marcela de San Félix," and "Environment, Expectations and Excess: Physical Performance Elements in Early

La reunion de los Zanni, Compañía Teatro Reymala. National Park Service photo.

AHCT Symposium and Chamizal Siglo de Oro Drama Festival 2017

The 2017 Chamizal International Siglo de Oro Drama Festival, April 19-22, featured *The Heresy of Love*, directed by Robert Quinlan, performed by The School of Theatre and Dance at Illinois State University; *¿Qué con*





El retablo de las maravillas, Morfeo Teatro.
National Park Service Photo.

Modern Theater.” The conference culminated with a Friday night post-production reception and a Saturday afternoon banquet at the Hilton. The Donald T. Dietz Plenary Lecture, entitled “Diversifying the Classics: Translation, Performance, and Canonicity,” was delivered by Barbara Fuchs, Director of the UCLA Working Group on the *Comedia* in Translation and Performance. The following is Dr. Fuchs’ overview of the group’s work:

Diversifying the Classics: Suggestions for Production

In our experience working on translations and adaptations in Los Angeles, we have found that theater practitioners are both surprised and delighted by what

the *comedia* has to offer. From Lope de Vega and Guillén de Castro to their distinguished peer from across the Atlantic, the Mexican Juan Ruiz de Alarcón, the corpus has a great deal to offer those who want to venture beyond Shakespeare to imagine a more diverse repertoire. *Comedias* were plays for the people: performances took place in open-air theaters, where audiences of all classes and both sexes commingled. At the same time, the works are sophisticated dramas, offering pointed reflections on the constructed nature of class and gender as well as the performativity of social roles, issues that resonate with audiences today. The *comedia* offers fantastic roles for women, many of them written for famous actresses in the period—unlike in Elizabethan England, in Spain there were women on stage, although they still relished cross-dressing plots. We aim above all for language that will work for actors and allow them to shine. We have tested our translations both in our workshop, which is regularly attended by practitioners, and in staged readings by Chalk Repertory Theatre and the UCLA Department of Theater. Our translations include dramaturgical introductions and annotations. We can also supply additional support for productions as necessary, and translate or adapt plays that are not on our lists. Please contact Barbara Fuchs at fuchsbar@humnet.ucla.edu for further information, or follow our work at <http://diversifyingtheclassics.humanities.ucla.edu/>. For sample excerpts of plays translated by the Diversifying the Classics project, see: <http://diversifyingtheclassics.humanities.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Diversifying-the-Classics-for-production.pdf>.



Barbara Fuchs delivers the plenary at the 2017 Symposium.
Photo by C. Gascón.

Notes from the Board Meeting

Elections. President Susan Paun de García and officers Darci Strother, Sharon Voros, and Chris Gascón were re-elected to one-year terms. Board members re-elected for another three-year term were Robert Bayliss, Harley Erdman, David Hildner, Amy Williamsen, and Jason Yancey. Newly elected board members Mina García, Glenda Nieto-Cuebas, and Robert Turner III began three-year terms. The Board anticipates elections this November to choose two new members. Subsequent to the meeting, elections were held to choose a President-Elect, as Susan Paun de García will serve her final term as President next year, and a Vice President for the Annual Conference, as the position vacated by Vice President for Membership and Registration Darci Strother was not filled last year. Congratulations to President-Elect Bruce Burningham and Vice President for the Annual Conference Esther Fernández!

Comedia Performance. The AHCT has signed an agreement to publish *Comedia Performance* with Penn State University Press. The board considers this a positive step forward, as it will improve the journal’s visibility and ease of production. Both current and back issues will be available on JSTOR. Editor Barbara Mujica thanked Susan L. Fischer for facilitating the process. The board, in turn, thanked Barbara for all that she has done, and passed the following resolution: “Whereas Barbara Mujica has worked tirelessly to bring *Comedia performance* into being, to improve its quality, and to ensure its publishing future with a reputable press and significant online presence, be it resolved that the AHCT expresses its deepest gratitude to her for all of her efforts on behalf of the journal.”

Comedia Prize Winners

The 2017 Donald Dietz Comedia Service Award was presented to Barbara Mujica. The Don Dietz Comedia Service Award is given every three years to an individual who, in the spirit of AHCT founder Don Dietz, has made significant contributions to the furthering of the AHCT's mission.

The 2017 Vern Williamsen Comedia Book Prize was presented to Margaret Boyle for her contribution, *Unruly Women: Performance, Penitence, and Punishment in Early Modern Spain*. The prize, commemorating AHCT founder Vern Williamsen's dedication to *comedia* scholarship, is awarded to the outstanding scholarly book published by a current member of the Association during the previous three years.

Happenings

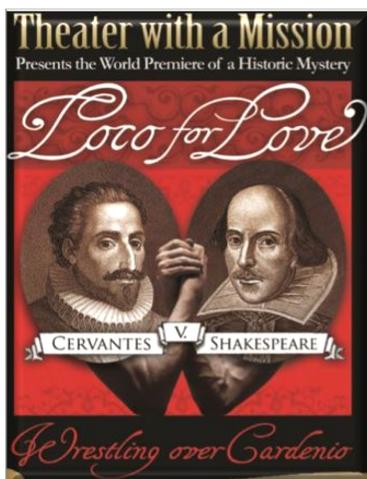
Remembering Walker Reid. Jason Yancey has created a brief film montage in remembrance of Chamizal Cultural Affairs Director and Siglo de Oro Festival founder Walker Reid, 1929-2016. View the video at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B30qN9S4mNJYbkVMVEttV21jSUK/view?usp=sharing>. Walker, we will never forget you and all you have done for us!

Grover Wilkins III honored by Spanish King and Government. Ambassador Enric Panés, Consul General of Spain in Houston, writes: "Conductor Grover Wilkins III, founder and Artistic Director of Dallas's Orchestra of New Spain, has been recently honored by Spain. With the royal sanction of King Felipe VI, *Gran Maestro* of the Order of Isabel la Católica, the *Cruz de Oficial* has been recently bestowed upon Maestro Wilkins by the Spanish government, in recognition of his many years of outstanding research and concertizing with his orchestras in Spain, the United States and Latin American countries." Congratulations, Maestro Wilkins!

Jonathan William Thacker, Professor of Spanish Golden Age Literature and Tutor in Spanish, Merton, has been appointed to the King Alfonso XIII Professorship of Spanish Studies in the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages at the University of Oxford. Congratulations, Jonathan! For details, see: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/gazette/2016-2017/1june2017-no5171/notices/#253554>

Harley Erdman has written the libretto for a new opera, *The Scarlet Professor*, based on the book by Barry Werth, with music by Eric Sawyer. The professional premiere of the opera will take place September 15–17, with a public symposium on September 16, and additional performances by students and recent alumni of Five College Opera on September 23–24, Theatre 14, Mendenhall Center for the Arts, Smith College, Northampton, MA. <http://www.thescarletprofessoropera.com/>.

Loco for Love, Theater with a Mission. Poster courtesy of Ben Gunter.



Theater with a Mission (TWAM) presented the "Wedding Cliffhanger Round" from its original play *Loco for Love* for the Southern Shakespeare Festival, May 12–14, in Tallahassee, Florida. *Loco for Love* pits Cervantes vs. Shakespeare in a storytelling smackdown about which author tells the History of Cardenio most *maravillosamente*. For more information about new "rounds" to the play and TWAM's fall tour of *Loco for Love 2.0*, visit Theater with a Mission on Facebook, follow @TWAMFlorida on Twitter and Instagram, and look for resources on the website-in-development at TWAM.com.

The Iberian Theatre and Performance Network has organized a September 2017 tour with actors Isabel Rodes and David Boceta performing at Bentley University (14–15), University of Cincinnati (19–20), and Indiana University (21–22). For updates on times and locations, visit <https://itpn.mla.hcommons.org/>. They will be performing two short



The cast of *¿Qué con Quique Quinto?*, Cabaret Misterio & Efe Tres Teatro, at the mesa redonda after their performance. Photo by C. Gascón.

plays, *Haciendo Memoria*, about the Spanish Civil War, and *Entre el amor y los celos*, featuring short scenes taken from a selection of Spanish Golden Age plays (*Punishment without Revenge*, *The Dog in the Manger*, and *The Shy Courtier*). An acting workshop and round table will follow the performances.

MLA 2018, New York: Marginality in Spanish Theater. This two-session working group organized by David Rodríguez Solás, U Mass Amherst, and Esther Fernández, Rice University, will discuss the theatrical mechanisms by which the constant presence of marginal figures on stage negotiates the nation's social realities.

Call for Nominations: AHCT Prizes.

The Walker Reid Comedia Production Prize is awarded every three years to an outstanding production of a Golden Age play in any language. This prize, which is intended to encourage live performance of the great corpus of Hispanic classical theatrical texts and consists of a certificate and recognition on the AHCT website and conference program, will be presented to the winning producer, director, and company at the association's annual symposium. To enter a production into the competition, producers, directors, or companies should send a digital video and confirmation of the producer's or director's membership in the AHCT to AHCT Production Prize, Attn: Robert Bayliss, Department of Spanish & Portuguese University of Kansas 2650 Wescoe Hall Lawrence, KS 66045. Born-digital publications may be submitted by sending relevant media or URL and a letter identifying the work to rbayliss@ku.edu. Entries may be sent at any time but must be received by 1 October of 2017 in order to be considered for the current award cycle. Entry into the competition constitutes authorization to include the submitted performance video in the AHCT video archive. Publishers may enter more than one title, but no work may be entered in more than one AHCT competition. Shipping labels or enclosures should indicate the names of the prizes for which the translations are competing. Membership may be established at the time of submission. For further information, contact Robert Bayliss at rbayliss@ku.edu.

The David Gitlitz Comedia Prize in Pedagogy and Mentorship is awarded every three years to an outstanding teacher and mentor of Hispanic classical theater. This prize, which is intended to encourage the professional development and mentorship of a new generation of *comediantes* and consists of a certificate and recognition on the AHCT website and conference program, will be presented to the winner at the association's annual symposium. To nominate a *comedia* teacher or mentor, send a letter of nomination and confirmation of the individual's membership in the AHCT to AHCT Pedagogy/Mentorship Prize, Attn: Robert Bayliss, Department of Spanish & Portuguese University of Kansas 2650 Wescoe Hall Lawrence, KS 66045. Entries may be sent at any time but must be received by 1 October of 2017 in order to be considered for the current award cycle. Membership may be established at the time of submission. For further information, contact Robert Bayliss at rbayliss@ku.edu.

AHCT 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 3-year library subscription is \$75; individual copies are \$20 each. Checks should be made out to AHCT and sent to Managing Editor Dr. Tania de Miguel Magro, Dept. of World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics, P.O. Box 6298, 216 Chitwood Hall, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506-6298. Send direct e-mail inquiries to: tania.demiguelmagro@mail.wvu.edu. Submissions are due by September 1. 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.



Cardenio (Giancarlo Herrera) wrestles with Fernando (Nicholas Benetatos) in TWAM's *Loco for Love*. Photo courtesy of Ben Gunter.

Benefits of AHCT membership. You can renew your membership easily on the AHCT webpage at <http://www.comedias.org/AHCT/AHCT/Membership.html>. Members of AHCT whose dues are up-to-date may borrow or stream videos from the archive of performances of Golden Age plays, receive the Association's annual journal, *Comedia Performance*, and access the semiannual AHCT Newsletter.

To update your member profile, please access your file via your username and password, and update your record at <http://ahct.echapters.com/>. If your email address has changed, re-subscribe to the listserv at: http://mail.comedias.org/mailman/listinfo/comedias_comedias.org.



El Paso Gracias a Dios,
Hal Marcus. Chamizal
National Memorial. Photo
by C. Gascón.

Call for Papers: The AHCT Annual Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium, April 12–14, 2018, Hilton Garden Inn, El Paso. Submission deadline: September 1, 2017.

The Association for Hispanic Classical Theater invites submissions for its 2018 Symposium. The conference dates coincide with the world's longest-running Spanish Golden Age theater festival, the *Siglo de Oro* Drama Festival at the Chamizal National Memorial, April 11–14, 2018. The AHCT provides conference attendees tickets and transportation to and from the Chamizal each evening to attend the plays. The Association encourages studies on performance aspects of *Siglo de Oro* plays, though proposals for papers or

special sessions on other topics related to Spanish Golden Age theater are welcome. Possible areas of analysis may include, but are not limited to:

- Contemporary performances of Golden Age plays
- Performances in interesting historical and/or cultural contexts
- Music and/or dance in relation to performance of *Siglo de Oro* plays
- The performance history of a play or thematically related plays
- Audiences or reception theories in relation to performance
- Directors' and/or actors' perspectives on *Siglo de Oro* plays
- Intercultural exchange in the performance of Golden Age plays
- Performance elements of Golden Age plays in translation
- Costumes, props, lighting, sets, and/or scenery
- Golden Age performance and technology or social media
- Interactive workshops on performing Golden Age drama
- Round table discussions on performance
- Performance aspects of dramatic texts

Papers should be 20 minutes in length, and may be delivered in Spanish or English. To submit an abstract, visit <http://www.wordpress.comedias.org/conferences/>, the "conferences" page of the AHCT website, follow the link for the "2018 El Paso" conference, and click the link for the "Abstract Submission Form." If you are a graduate student, after submitting your abstract, please also send your completed ten-page paper in Word to gradsubmissions@comedias.org. This applies to all students, including those who have been invited to be members of panels, whether organized by faculty members or others. Graduate students whose papers are accepted for presentation will be considered for the AHCT Everett W. Hesse Travel Grant. **The deadline for receipt of all submissions (abstracts and graduate student papers) is September 1, 2017.** Submitters will be notified of their status by November 1, 2017. Check the 2018 conference page for further details on the symposium, registration, and lodging.

With best wishes for the summer,
Chris Gascón
AHCT Recording Secretary
gasconc@cortland.edu

