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The Association for Hispanic Classical Theater, Inc.

Newsletter: June 2018

Cordial greetings from the President and Board of Directors of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater! So many things combined to make this year's symposium one of our best: a lineup of innovative productions at the Chamizal as part of a newly expanded city-wide festival, an impressive variety of workshops, performances, and presentations at the conference, and events and songs to honor two revered members and an outgoing president. Read about all of these events in this issue of the newsletter.



The 2018 El Paso Nuevo Siglo Festival, and the International Siglo de Oro Drama Festival, Chamizal National Memorial Theater

The inaugural Nuevo Siglo Festival offered exhibits, dance, music, and contemporary Spanish language theater at various El Paso venues from April 7-15 to celebrate the art, culture, and history shared by El Paso and Ciudad Juárez. Performances included the plays presented at the 43rd annual Siglo de Oro Festival at the Chamizal, which featured *La vida es sueño*, by Jazz Vilá Projects, La Habana, Cuba, directed by Jazz Vilá; *Fuenteovejuna*, by Telón de Arena, Mexico, directed by Perla de la Rosa; *Rosaura*, by Teatro Inverso, Madrid and London, directed by Paula Rodríguez and Sandra Arpa; and *El Merolico: Entremeses Bululuados*, by EFE Tres Teatro, Mexico, directed by Fernando Villa and Fernando Memije. This year's shows distinguished themselves by way of engaging contemporary takes and twists on the classics. Interesting casting and surprising adaptive strokes made for innovative and energetic performances.

AHCT Symposium 2018

This year's conference, again held at the Hilton Garden Inn, featured approximately 25 sessions and 85 presenters, performers, and participants. Special sessions included a practicum on team-translating *La Copeadora*, roundtables on social justice in the *comedia*, a panel on *comedia* costume construction, a professional development workshop on chairing committees, a session on sacred and secular plays honoring Don Dietz, a

Members of Jazz Vilá Projects speak with the audience after their performance of *La vida es sueño*. Photo by C. Gascón.



performance of a shadow puppet play, "The Fabulous Johnny Frog!" created by Jason Yancey, a roundtable on the senses in the *comedia*, and a staged reading of *The Mountain Girl from La Vera*, organized by Gina Kaufmann and Harley Erdman.

Paula Rodríguez and Sandra Arpa of Teatro Inverso, based in Madrid and London, delivered the 2018 Donald T. Dietz Plenary Address, "Del verso clásico a la performance: Una nueva forma de habitar los clásicos." Their plenary, part presentation and part workshop, theorized and demonstrated their unique methodology, "Bodily Poetics," which combines storytelling, anthropological theater, viewpoints method, and performance art in order to engage the spectator physically, emotionally, and intellectually.



The cast of *Fuenteovejuna*, by Telón de Arena, speak to the audience. Photo by C. Gascón.



Sandra Arpa of Teatro Inverso explains "Bodily Poetics." Photo by C. Gascón.

Los Paisanos of El Paso generously hosted a post-performance dinner Friday night at Carnitas Querétaro, which culminated with a wonderful theatrical and musical performance of *La Capeadora* by students of the Johnny Carson School of Theater and Film. The AHCT also celebrated the careers of Donald T. Dietz and Charles Ganelin at the conclusion of Saturday's general meeting with the presentation of *Religious and Secular Theater in Golden Age Spain*, dedicated to Don, and *Making Sense of the Senses: Current Approaches in Spanish Comedia Criticism*, in honor of Charles. In addition, throughout the conference, masterful minstrel Ben Gunter penned and led the singing of numerous songs to highlight the many contributions of outgoing president Susan Paun de García, including "Things We Thank Susan For" (Sung to the tune of "My Favorite Things" from *The Sound of Music*):

Full Board in cohorts with terms overlapping;
E-chapters serving as digital staffing;
Ballots with choices that each get a score –
These are some things that we thank Susan for.

Lots of staged readings from brand-new translations;
Affiliate status with other organizations;
Contact with troupes who've not been here before –
These are some things that we thank Susan for.

When the future
Bears good fruit here;
When we grow and flower;
As prosperity visits AHCT we'll see
More to thank Susan for!



Susan Paun de García, outgoing president of AHCT. Photo by C. Gascón.



El Merólico, by Efe Tres Teatro. Photo by C. Gascón.

Notes from the Board Meeting

Elections. President-Elect Bruce Burningham, Vice President for Membership and Registration Darci Strother, Vice President for the Annual Conference Esther Fernández, Secretary Christopher Gascón, and Treasurer Sharon Voros were re-elected to serve as officers in 2019. Board members re-elected to another three-year term (2018–2020) were Ian Borden, Bruce Burningham, Esther Fernández, Christopher Gascón, Yuri Porras, and Kerry Wilks. Joining that same cohort are newly elected board members Judith Caballero and Jonathan Wade. The Board anticipates electing one new member to the board this fall.

Notable actions. The Board authorized the President to facilitate official affiliation with the Renaissance Society of America and the Modern Language Association. Those interested in serving as representatives to



Don Dietz was presented a volume written in his honor, *Religious and Secular Theater in Golden Age Spain*. Photo by C. Gascón.

complete the affiliation processes should see Susan Paun de García. The Board established two graduate student Everett W. Hesse Conference Awards per year to cover the cost of registration. The AHCT will seek to collaborate with the MLA Forum on 16th- and 17th-Century Spanish and Iberian Drama and GEMELA to organize the *Comediantes* Banquet in Chicago for the

2019 MLA. Amy Williamsen is calling for volunteers familiar with the Chicago area to help in the selection of the venue and menu. Valerie Hegstrom is leading an initiative to create pedagogical materials that high school teachers may use to help students understand the Spanish *comedia*. Materials may focus on engaging scenes and include introductions, notes to help with vocabulary, and discussion questions and/or activities. Teachers will be able to access materials on a pedagogy page on the AHCT website.

AHCT 2018 Founders' Prize Winners

The David Gitlitz *Comedia* Prize for Pedagogy and Mentorship was awarded to Valerie Hegstrom. Over her decades of service to the AHCT and our profession, Valerie has impacted the development and career of too many *Comediantes* to count, including several current AHCT board members and dozens of other members of the Association. Her work to incorporate community service and outreach into her teaching stands as a model of what the AHCT aspires to do. The winner of the Walker Reid *Comedia* Production Prize is NowNow Theater's production of *Jealous of Herself*, adapted by Sarah Grunnah from Harley Erdman's translation of *La celosa de sí misma* and performed in Oxford (UK) in 2016. The production's creative adaptation, original music, dance, and framed interludes produced an engaging and organic theatrical experience that received superlative published reviews.

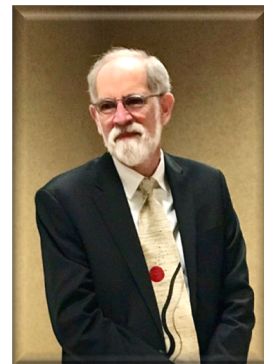
Happenings

Valor, agravio y mujer, by Ana Caro Mallén de Soto, directed by Leyma López. Repertorio Español, New York. There is still time to see Repertorio's production of Ana Caro's masterpiece, with 8 p.m. shows on July 20, August 10, and August 24. <https://repertorio.nyc/#/event/a0S0L00000SNoqjUAD>.

Loco for Love Festival, September 13-16, 2018, Railroad Square Art Park, Tallahassee, FL. Join Theater with a Mission for four days of family fun, featuring drama, *historia*, dancing, dueling, *música*, and dining as Cervantes battles Shakespeare for dramatic and poetic supremacy. Follow the company on facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pg/TheaterWithAMission/events/?ref=page_internal.

L.A. Escena. Los Angeles Festival of Hispanic Classical Theater, Greenway Court Theater, September 21-23, 2018. The inaugural L.A. Escena Festival will feature productions of *El Merolico* (featuring three of Cervantes's *entremeses*) and Lope de Vega's *El príncipe Ynocente*, both by EFE Tres Teatro, and Lope de Vega's *Women and Servants*, directed by Sylvia Blush and Jean Carlo Yunen Aróstegui. The festival will also present three staged readings of adaptations of classical plays set in contemporary Los Angeles: *School for Witches, or Friendship Betrayed*, by Madhuri Shekar, based on María de Zayas's *La traición en la amistad*; *Like/Share*, by Janine Salinas Schoenberg, based on Calderón de la Barca's *Los Cabellos de Absalón*; and *La locura de los ángeles / The Madness of Angels*, by Michael Premisrat, based on Lope's *Los locos de Valencia*. For more information on the festival and the plays, and to purchase tickets, go to <http://diversifyingtheclassics.humanities.ucla.edu/la-escena/>.

Charles Ganelin accepts a volume written in his honor, *Making Sense of the Senses*.



"Theaters of Marginality" is the Second Biennial Conference of the [Iberian Theater and Performance Network](#). It will take place on September 21 and 22, 2018 at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Amherst College. This conference is informed by the transhistorical persistence of marginality, which presenters will approach from a textual, performative, and cultural perspective. It will explore non-normative practices and their negotiation in the realm of gender, sexuality, race, class, religion, and identity. Additionally, this

conference will address the boundaries of the performative and theatrical event as a site of inclusion and exclusion with a free performance each night.

Call for Nominations: 2019 AHCT Founders' Prizes.

Next year the AHCT will award two new prizes, The Franklin Smith *Comedia* Translation Prize and The Matthew Stroud *Comedia* Article Prize. Nominations are welcome for both prizes **before October 1, 2018**,

and in both cases any work published or produced within the last three years (since 2015) is eligible.

The Franklin Smith *Comedia* Translation Prize is awarded every three years to an outstanding translation into English for performance of a Golden Age play. This prize is intended to encourage the continued translation of the great corpus of *comedias* and other works of Hispanic classical theater for an English-speaking audience. **The Matthew Stroud *Comedia* Article Prize** is awarded every three years to the outstanding scholarly article or book chapter published by a current member of the association during the past three years, with preference given to articles emphasizing the performance of Hispanic classical theater. Both prizes consist of a certificate and recognition on the AHCT website and conference program and will be presented to the winning authors at the association's annual symposium. For details on how to enter a translation or article into the competition, please consult the AHCT website at <http://www.wordpress.comedias.org/ahct-prizes/>. For further information or inquiries, 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 Golden Age *comedia*. Please note the **new deadline** for submissions: **Articles are due by November 1** and should be submitted to the pertinent editors. To submit material, please visit <http://editorialmanager.com/comedia>. The online system will guide you through the steps to upload your submission to the editorial office. The subscription price is included in the annual AHCT membership dues. Additional copies are \$20 each and may be purchased online by way of paypal at <http://www.wordpress.comedias.org/comedia-performance/>, or through the mail by making a check out to AHCT and sending it 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 (tania.demiguelmagro@mail.wvu.edu). Institutional subscription pricing information is available at https://www.psupress.org/journals/jnls_CP.html. *Comedia Performance* also advertises recently published books, performances, study abroad programs, and conferences. Ads are \$100 for a full page; send camera-ready ads to Barbara Mujica at: mujica@georgetown.edu.



Students Hilda Rey, Emmalee Allen, Maria Small, and Grant Koch from the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film, University of Nebraska, perform at the Paisanos' reception. Not pictured but also performing was Tatianna Hizar.



The Fabulous Johnny Frog, a shadow puppet play created by Jason Yancey. Photo by C. Gascón.

Benefits of AHCT membership. You can renew your membership easily on the AHCT webpage at <http://www.wordpress.comedias.org/ahct-membership-inquiry/>. 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 11–13, 2019, Hilton Garden Inn, El Paso. Submission deadline: September 1, 2018.

The Association for Hispanic Classical Theater invites submissions for its 2019 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 10–13, 2019. 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 "2019 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 Everett W. Hesse Travel Grant (one award) and the Everett W. Hesse Conference Award (two awards covering the cost of conference registration). **The deadline for receipt of all submissions (abstracts and graduate student papers) is September 1, 2018.** Submitters will be notified of their status by November 1, 2018. Check the 2019 conference page for further details on the symposium, registration, and lodging.

With best wishes for the summer,
Chris Gascón
AHCT Recording Secretary
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