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**Susan Paun de García**, President Emerita



# The Association for Hispanic Classical Theater, Inc.

Newsletter: January 2019

Cordial greetings from the President and Board of Directors of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater! This issue of the newsletter includes information concerning the upcoming AHCT Symposium and the Chamizal play festival, and news on conferences, gatherings, and translations of interest to Spanish Golden Age enthusiasts.



Photo courtesy of  
Susan Paun de García.

## A Message from Outgoing AHCT President Susan Paun de García

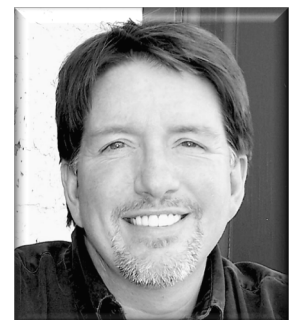
As I step down as President of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater, I would like to thank our officers and board members for their hard work and commitment to the AHCT. Looking back at the past six years, working with fine colleagues and friends has been an honor, a joy, and an experience that I will always cherish.

Going forward, it is clear to me that AHCT will be in good hands under the leadership of President Bruce Burningham. While there is much to do, the Board of Directors is motivated and eager to work with the new leadership to further the mission of the AHCT. I especially want to recognize Laura Vidler for her many years of dedicated service on the AHCT board, and for her recent efforts in strategic planning that will show us a clear path to future success.

The AHCT plays a vital role in our profession. It takes a collective effort to make an association like ours viable, so I hope that this year each member will find a way to serve the organization. If you have stepped up in the past, we thank you. If you have not yet, now is the time!

## A Message from New AHCT President Bruce Burningham

Photo courtesy of Bruce Burningham.



I am honored and humbled to serve as President of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater. There are many exciting things happening in the world of the *comedia*. Amy Williamsen recently organized a wonderful and well attended Comediantes Banquet at Café Ibérico in connection with the MLA Convention in

Chicago. Our conference committee, led by Esther Fernández, continues to make plans for our upcoming 2019 conference in El Paso, Texas. Our friends at El Chamizal National Memorial, led by Gus Sánchez and strongly supported by Los Paisanos del Chamizal, are putting the finishing touches on another great Siglo de Oro Festival. Laura Vidler and her team have begun the important work of creating a new strategic plan for AHCT. Glenda Nieto-Cuevas has been spearheading efforts to increase our scholarly ties to the Almagro festival in Spain. And I recently made a trip to UCLA to meet with Barbara Fuchs and her Diversifying the Classics team to explore ways that AHCT might collaborate with this important project. As we embark together on these and other new ventures, I look forward to working with all of you to promote and foster a greater appreciation for early modern Iberian and Latin American theater.

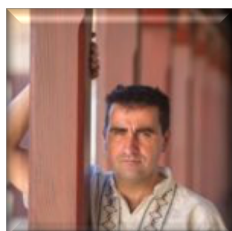


Photo courtesy of Ignacio García.

## AHCT Symposium 2019 Plenary Speaker: Ignacio García, Director of the Almagro Festival

In addition to serving as program director of the Festival Dramafest de México, which concentrates on modern theater, Ignacio García is director of the Almagro Festival Internacional de Teatro Clásico. From the beginning of his career, he has worked to spread knowledge of Spanish Golden Age theater, as well as to promote production of Spanish lyrical theater, including the *zarzuela*, throughout the world. He has directed plays in theaters and festivals in India, Thailand, China, Japan, Australia, Poland, Holland, UK, USA, Russia, Italy, Portugal, Greece,

Switzerland, Finland, Colombia, Peru, Argentina, and Mexico. García has combined his work as stage director with pedagogical endeavours, offering courses, seminars, and master classes throughout Europe and America, and has served as professor of the Escuela de Arte Dramático de Valladolid, the Accademia delle Belle Arti Santa Giulia de Brescia (Italy), and Bande à Part School of Cinema (Barcelona).

## The 2019 International Siglo de Oro Drama Festival, Chamizal National Memorial Theater

The 44<sup>th</sup> annual Siglo de Oro Festival at the Chamizal will take place Wednesday, April 10, through Saturday, April 13, 2019, with all shows beginning at 7:00 p.m. Although the full play schedule has been delayed this year due to the government shutdown, the Chamizal is currently finalizing the lineup, and updates are available through the "Schedule" link at <http://nuevosiglo-el Paso.org/#/>. We report on two of the four visiting productions:

**Wild Thing**, an English translation of Luis Vélez de Guevara's *La Serrana de la Vera* by Harley Erdman, directed by Gina Kaufmann, performed by the UMass Amherst Department of Theater. The original script of *Wild Thing* was written in 1613 by Luis Vélez de Guevara, yet it confronts gender in a way that feels astonishingly of-the-moment. Gila, a peasant girl who calls herself a man, furiously rejects the rules set out for her, preferring the life of a fierce warrior outlaw over subjugation to a husband and society. Join us for this first-ever English-language production of an extraordinary and constantly surprising play that has everything from slapstick



Wild Thing, UMass Amherst Department of Theater. Poster courtesy of Harley Erdman.

comedy to intense drama. <https://www.umass.edu/theater/event/wild-thing>.

Lidia Navarro y Ainhoa Amestoy en *Quijote. Femenino. Plural*, Estival Producciones. Foto cortesía de Lorenzo Pappagallo.



**Quijote. Femenino. Plural**, Estival Producciones, Madrid. Obra basada en el *Quijote* de Miguel de Cervantes, versión Ainhoa Amestoy, dirección Pedro Vllora. Teresa Panza, esposa de Sancho Panza, desconfía de las correrías emprendidas por su marido en compañía del enloquecido Alonso Quijano. Para controlar estas andanzas decide enviar detrás de la pareja a su joven hija Sanchica; la cual le mantendrá informada y desfacerá los entuertos en los que se meta su padre. A lo largo de su viaje, la adolescente escuchará las historias, recomendaciones y

advertencias que le harán todas las mujeres de la narrativa: Marcela, Dorotea, Luscinda, Maritornes, Quiteria y Dulcinea aleccionarán a Sanchica sobre los hombres y la vida. Toda una experiencia plagada de controvertidos puntos de vista que empujarán a Sanchica al mundo adulto y que le plantearán el valor de la decisión y la entereza. <https://youtu.be/fxv5HJrglNg>.

## Happenings

**Strategic Planning Update.** Strategic Planning Committee Chair Laura Vidler reports: "The AHCT is deep into a strategic planning effort, *ahct2028*, which is intended to help drive the organization forward into the next decade. Following a SWOT analysis that sought input from the entire membership, the AHCT Board recently approved revised mission and vision statements as well as a series of strategic themes to guide the organization's future planning. Goal Teams will work together this spring to draft a series of goals and metrics to help guide the AHCT's future decision and planning processes. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all who responded to surveys and calls for comments, to the Goal Teams, and especially to the *ahct2028* Strategic Planning Committee: Kerry Wilks, Bruce Burningham, Jason Yancey, Ben Gunter, Harley Erdman, Amy Williamson, Susan García, and Rob Bayliss." For further details on AHCT's strategic vision and the Goal Teams' work, see the new Strategic Planning page on the AHCT website: <http://www.wordpress.comedias.org/strategic-planning-update/>.

**Election results.** Congratulations to board member Rob Turner, our new Treasurer-elect! In 2020, Rob will succeed Sharon Voros, who has served deftly and faithfully as AHCT treasurer for 19 years. The following officers were elected to one-year terms (January 1 to December 31, 2019): President Bruce Burningham, Vice President for Membership and Registration Darci Strother, Vice President for Conferences Esther Fernández, Treasurer Sharon Voros, and Secretary Chris Gascón. Board members re-elected to a three-year term (January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021, are Mindy Badía, Anthony Grubbs, Ben Gunter, Valerie Hegstrom, Susan Paun de García, Darci Strother, Laura Vidler, and Sharon Voros.

**Harley Erdman's** translation of Luis Vélez de Guevara's *La Serrana de la Vera* will be published this march in the Liverpool UP Hispanic Classics series. This bilingual edition includes Harley's critical introduction and footnotes. He gave a guest lecture on *Serrana* at Tulane last November, and his English stage adaptation of the play, *Wild Thing*, directed by Gina Kaufmann, will debut at The Rand Theater, UMass Amherst, February 14 and 23 before its April performance at the Chamizal. <https://www.umass.edu/theater/event/wild-thing>.

**MLA 2019.** The 134<sup>th</sup> Modern Language Association Annual Convention took place January 3-6, 2019, in Chicago. Sessions related to Spanish Golden Age Drama included "Adaptation as Transaction in Early Modern Spanish Theater," "Performing Sovereignty and Migration," "Models of Caregiving," and "Music in Early Modern Iberia."



**Comediantes Banquet 2019:** Amy Williamsen reports: "A diverse group of nineteen scholars, ranging from medievalists to nuclear physicists, gathered on the evening of January 5<sup>th</sup> at Café Iberico in Chicago to celebrate the *comedia* and fellow *comediantes*. Bruce Burningham, incoming President of AHCT, shared intriguing insights from the very first issue of *Bulletin of the Comediantes* in March 1949: the opening paragraph, penned by Everett W. Hesse, details the first *comediantes* banquet at Bonat's French Restaurant in New York. The legacy of that first monumental occasion continues to thrive. From its very inception, mentoring has been at the heart of the *comediantes*--this first missive explicitly stating that our shared purpose is 'to encourage graduate students to enter this field and to provide an outlet for the exchange of ideas' (I.1.2). This year's event fulfilled both aims. Lively conversation flowed among graduate students and senior scholars, undeterred by the seemingly endless variety of tapas served. If you missed this *comediantes* banquet, plan on joining us next year! Our heartfelt thanks to Margaret Boyle and María Chouza-Calo, members of the MLA forum committee for the MLA LLC 16<sup>th</sup>- and 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Spanish and Iberian Drama, who have agreed to arrange the next banquet in Seattle in cooperation with the AHCT, which will continue to facilitate the PayPal payments. Until then, as Everett Hesse would always say, 'Salud, amor y pesetas.'"



**Are you interested in inviting a Spanish production to perform at your campus?** Please contact Lorenzo Pappagallo, Curator and Producer, XperTeatro Performing Arts, [xper teatro@gmail.com](mailto:xper teatro@gmail.com), and he will get in touch with the artists and help coordinate the tour.



### **Call for Papers: Re-imagining Female Disabilities in Luso-Hispanic Women's**

**Cultural Production.** La Asociación de Estudios de Género y Sexualidades (AEGS) hace una petición de colaboraciones para el número monográfico 45.1 (2019) de *Revista de Estudios de Género y Sexualidad* (anteriormente *Letras femeninas*) dedicado a la representación de la discapacidad femenina, a partir de la producción artística y cultural realizada por mujeres desde un enfoque transhistórico y que englobe ambos lados del Atlántico. Se dará prioridad a propuestas de investigación que estudien cómo en las distintas épocas y culturas luso-hispanas, las mujeres creadoras con y sin discapacidad se han aproximado al tópico de la discapacidad, el cual, de antemano se presenta como una temática excluyente al estar estigmatizada y abusada por la sociedad patriarcal. Las propuestas (250-300 palabras) pueden estar escritas en inglés, español o portugués. Con el envío de las propuestas, se solicita una breve biografía. Para que las propuestas puedan ser consideradas para este número especial, se debe ser miembro activo de AEGS. Enviar las propuestas o pedir más detalles a Esther Fernández ([ef14@rice.edu](mailto:ef14@rice.edu)) y a Victoria Ketz ([ketz@lasalle.edu](mailto:ketz@lasalle.edu)). **Fecha límite: 15 febrero 2019.**

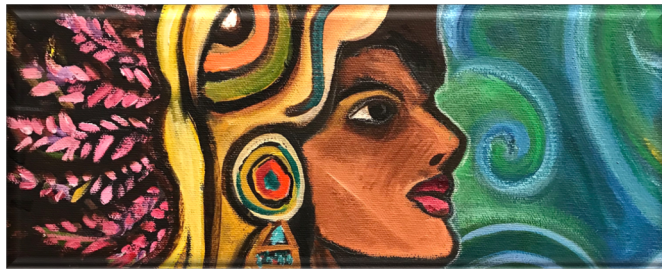
**Call for Papers, MLA 2020: Cultural Mobility in Spanish Theater.** This working group welcomes papers related to practices of translation, adaptation, reinterpretation, appropriation, exchange or piracy that stress the concept of cultural mobility in Spanish theater and performance from a transnational/transhistorical perspective. Please submit 250-word abstracts by **Thursday, February 28, 2019**, to Maria Chouza-Calo ([mchouzacalo@gmail.com](mailto:mchouzacalo@gmail.com)) and Esther Fernández ([ef14@rice.edu](mailto:ef14@rice.edu)).

## **AHCT Reminders**

**New Graduate Student Award Opportunity.** The AHCT Board has established two new graduate student **Everett W. Hesse Conference Awards** per year to cover the cost of conference registration, in addition to the **Everett W. Hesse Travel Award**, which is awarded to help with travel expenses. The new prizes were inspired by the generous contribution of a donor who prefers to remain anonymous. Many graduate students find it difficult to secure funding to attend conferences. You can support them and this new initiative by making a donation via the AHCT website. Look for the "Donate" button and the "Support Graduate Student Attendance" message on the right side of every page (<http://www.wordpress.comedias.org/>).

**Comedia Performance**, AHCT's annual journal, publishes articles on topics related to the performance of the Spanish Golden Age *comedia*. Articles are due by October 1. 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](mailto:tania.demiguelmagro@mail.wvu.edu)). Institutional subscription pricing information is available at [https://www.psupress.org/journals/jnls\\_CP.html](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](mailto:mujica@georgetown.edu).

**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](http://mail.comedias.org/mailman/listinfo/comedias_comedias.org).



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

## The AHCT Annual Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium April 11–13, 2019, Hilton Garden Inn, El Paso, TX.

The dates of the Symposium 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. Our keynote speaker is Ignacio García, Director, Almagro Festival Internacional de Teatro Clásico. Sessions will begin Thursday morning, April 11, and end Saturday afternoon, April 13. The meeting of the officers of the AHCT will take place Wednesday, April 10, from 9am–12 noon, with the meeting of the Board of Directors to follow, from 1:30–5pm. For information and updates on the plays to be performed at the *Siglo de Oro* Festival, click the "Schedule" link on the Paisanos page: <http://nuevosiglo-el-paso.org/#/>.

**Hotel Reservations.** The Symposium will once again take place at the Hilton Garden Inn El Paso/University, 111 West University Avenue, El Paso, 79902. A special conference rate of \$115 is available to participants that **reserve by March 16, 2019**; the rate applies to single/double/triple/quad rooms, and includes a hot buffet breakfast for up to two people per room (request breakfast coupons at reception desk upon check-in). All rates are subject to a 17.5% tax. Parking is complimentary. The group rate applies Monday, April 8 through Saturday, April 13, 2019. Reservations may be made online at [www.elpaso.stayhgi.com](http://www.elpaso.stayhgi.com) (the group rate code is "AHCT"), or by calling the hotel directly at 1-915-351-2121. Rooms that have not been reserved by the cutoff date will be released and the best rate available will apply.

**AHCT Conference Registration.** You must be a member of the AHCT to register for the conference. Current membership dues are \$65 (or \$120 for two years) for faculty and \$55 (or \$100 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 \$125. A late fee of \$50 is assessed if registration is paid after March 1, 2019; if registration is not paid in full by March 15, 2019, the participant will be dropped from the program. Registration includes conference attendance, the AHCT annual banquet, transportation to and from the Chamizal Wednesday through Saturday evenings for the Drama Festival, and the Friday evening post-performance reception. (Note: a special registration rate of \$40 applies to students who do not present papers or attend the banquet. An additional \$25 payable at the time of registration purchases tickets for the banquet. The aforementioned late fee also applies to auditor registration.) Registration fees and dues can be paid by way of PayPal at <http://www.wordpress.comedias.org/2019-el-paso/>.

**Conference Updates.** Further details regarding the symposium will appear on the 2019 conference page on the AHCT website as they become available. For special inquiries, please contact the AHCT Conference Director, Esther Fernández, at [ef14@rice.edu](mailto:ef14@rice.edu).

With best wishes for 2019,  
Chris Gascón  
AHCT Recording Secretary  
[christopher.gascon@cortland.edu](mailto:christopher.gascon@cortland.edu)

