

## AHCT Board of Directors

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Illinois State University

**Darci L. Strother**, Vice President for  
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**Esther Fernández**, Vice President for  
the Annual Conference  
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### AHCT Founding Members

**Donald T. Dietz**  
Founder of AHCT

**David Gilitz**  
Emeritus, University of Rhode Island

**Matthew D. Stroud**  
Emeritus, Trinity University

**Vern Williamsen †**  
Emeritus, University of Missouri, Columbia

### AHCT Past Presidents

**Donald T. Dietz**, President *Emeritus*

**Bárbara Mujica**, President *Emerita*

**Robert Johnston**, President *Emeritus*

**Susan Paun de García**, President *Emerita*



# The Association for Hispanic Classical Theater, Inc.

Newsletter: Jan. 2021

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 virtual AHCT Symposium and news on conferences and events of interest to Spanish Golden Age enthusiasts.

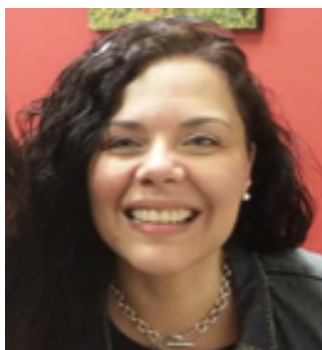
## AHCT Symposium 2021: Recasting the Comedia: Confronting the Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century / Refundir la comedia desde los retos del siglo XXI:

The Annual Conference for the AHCT will take place virtually July 5-11, 2021. Although we would have loved to be together in person in either El Paso or Almagro, the on-going circumstances surrounding the Coronavirus made it clear that going online for a second year was the best option to keep our membership safe, but also active. After the success of last year's last-minute pivot to online activities, we are certain that this year's symposium will also allow us to continue our work of promoting appreciation for Spain's classical theater in production. To that end, there will be three main themes around which working groups will be built: "Theater Practicalities: Innovation, Translation and Pedagogical Collaborations"; "The Intersectional Comedia: Questions of Race, Gender, Class on the Stage"; and "The Comedia under Siege: Confinements, Digitalization, and the Future". Alongside these exciting topics, we will also be offering keynotes from prominent scholars and practitioners; live/digital performances; roundtables with artists; and more! Registration details will be sent to accepted panelists shortly.

As with last year's event, there will be space for auditors, please contact Esther Fernández, VP for the Annual Conference, at [ef14@rice.edu](mailto:ef14@rice.edu) for more information.

**Happenings:** If you have news that you would like to see included in future newsletters or on our social media, please contact Erin Cowling, Secretary, at [cowlinge@macewan.ca](mailto:cowlinge@macewan.ca).

## Election Results: VP for Membership and Registration-Elect



The Board is very happy to announce that **Glenda Y. Nieto-Cuebas** has been elected to serve as Vice President for Membership and Registration-elect. Dr. Nieto-Cuebas will serve in this position under the guidance of our outgoing VP, Darci Strother, for one year before transitioning to the position fulltime. She is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance at *Ohio Wesleyan University*. She has been a member of *The Association for Hispanic Classical Theater* since 2010. The AHCT has become an important part of her academic life, providing her with mentorship and collaborative opportunities with scholars and theatre practitioners. She is deeply committed to studying, supporting, and disseminating Hispanic Classical Theatre and has done it by inviting numerous theatre practitioners, companies, and scholars to her university; designing experiential and travel learning projects focused on early modern theatre; and publishing peer reviewed articles and book chapters as well as co-editing a forthcoming book that focuses on Social Justice in Golden Age Theatre.

The Board would also like to thank Darci Strother, VP for Membership and Registration for her many years of service. Darci will remain as VP of Membership and Registration until the end of 2021, in order to help orient Glenda to the position.

## Election Results: New Board Members



**Harrison Meadows** will be joining the board's 2023 cohort. Harrison Meadows is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He is currently completing a manuscript for his monograph project titled, *Wild Theater: Staging the Margins of Baroque Ideology in the Spanish Comedia*, for which he received a fellowship at the University of Tennessee Humanities Center. Articles related to this research on wildness and wild folk in the Spanish *comedia* have appeared in the journals *MLN* and *Romance Quarterly*, and he also contributed a book chapter to the volume [\*Social Justice in Spanish Golden Age Theatre\*](#) (Univ. of Toronto Press), edited by fellow AHCT members.



**Tania de Miguel Magro** is also joining the board's 2023 cohort. She has a Ph.D. from Stony Brook University and is an Associate Professor at West Virginia University. Her publications deal mainly with the works of Agustín Moreto, Cervantes, and Salas Barbadillo, the figure of Juan Rana, and short theatre. She has prepared critical editions of *El príncipe inocente* by Lope de Vega, and Moreto's *Los engaños de un engaño* and *La misma conciencia acusa*. She is the co-editor of *Social Justice in the Comedia* (University of Toronto Press) and the author of *Staging Violence: Gender and Social Control*

*in Jácaras and Entremeses* (forthcoming Routledge). The recurring themes of her work are gender, power struggles, the Spanish empire, and performance.

**Emily Tobey** is joining the board as a replacement in the 2021 cohort. She received her Ph.D. from Indiana University. Her research focuses primarily on the roles of women - authors, actresses, and theater company managers - in connection with the *Comedia*. She has facilitated collaborative Golden Age costume design projects at several universities and engaged in community outreach in a variety of theater performance projects. Her current project focuses on actresses and costume ownership, emphasizing the ways in which these women influenced production elements of the *Comedia*.



Hasta la próxima... (with thanks to Esther Fernández for contributing vital details!)

Several of our board members are transitioning off of the board after many years of service. We would like to thank Jonathan Wade (Board Member 2018-2020), Christopher Gascón (Board Member 2005-2020 and Secretary 2011-2020), and Sharon Voros (Board Member 1985-2020 and Former Treasurer 1989-2019) for their many years of service.

All of them have been active members of the board and have brought their enthusiasm and energy in many different ways.

Jonathan Wade has illuminated us with his knowledge of Lusophone early modern culture applied to the *Comedia*. He also uncovered with us his talent as a puppeteer and outreach facilitator in his shows for *Dragoncillo Puppet Troupe*. Who will ever forget his performance of Don Constanzo in *El Marión*?

Chris Gascón has been an invaluable member of our intellectual community. His acute work revisiting many of the productions of *Repertorio Español* were groundbreaking examples on how to do rigorous scholarship on performance. In his role as the AHCT Secretary for 10 years, needless to say he exceeded in it for his competency, genuine care and generosity with his colleagues.

Last but certainly not least, Sharon Voros has been a role model for many of us in all her leadership functions and her long trajectory in the AHCT over the years. She is a source of knowledge, of intelligence and poise. Her presentations and articles have opened the field of Comedia Studies to women writers as one the pioneers in this cultural and literary endeavor.

All of them have built on the AHCT's culture and intellectual vitality in very unique ways leaving us huge shoes to fill but also an inspirational path to follow. We truly hope to keep seeing them (in person!!) at future AHCT events!

As incoming secretary, I am particularly indebted to Chris for sharing his vast knowledge and documentation about the AHCT's past, present, and future. Notably, Sharon was invited to join the board by the founders at the second annual meeting in 1985 (see picture at left)! (Did I mention that Chris shared a veritable *wealth* of documentation?!)

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
ASSOCIATION FOR HISPANIC CLASSICAL THEATER, INC.

El Paso, Texas  
Wednesday, March 6, 1985

The meeting was called to order by Donald Dietz, President, at 5:00 P.M. The following officers were present: Donald Dietz, David Gitlitz, Matthew Stroud, and Vern Williamsen.

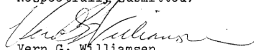
The minutes of the first meeting were read. They were approved as amended to show that Matthew Stroud was to serve as Treasurer and Vern Williamsen as Secretary.

After considerable discussion, the following motions were made, seconded, and approved.

1. The officers present were to constitute a nominating committee for the purpose of forming a Board of Directors.
2. The Board of Directors would consist no fewer than six nor more than sixteen members.
3. The initial Board of Directors would consist of the officers and no more than six directors.
4. The following, present at the Golden Age Drama Symposium at the University of Texas at El Paso, be invited to form the initial board along with one other member whom they would name: Elias Bonilla, Sharon Dahlgren, Francisco Ruiz Ramón, Pablo Cabrera, and Susana Hernández-Araico.
5. The next meeting was called for 4:45 P.M., March 7, 1985.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Vern G. Williamsen  
Secretary, AHCT, Inc.



To thank our outgoing board members for their devotion to the Association, we will be holding a virtual reception on XXXX, 2021. To RSVP and be included on the zoom call, please email Erin Cowling, Secretary: [cowlinge@macewan.ca](mailto:cowlinge@macewan.ca).

## Comediantes at Conferences:

**MLA 2021:** The 136<sup>th</sup> MLA Convention took place online January 7-10, 2021, with the presidential theme of "Persistence". Sessions related to the theater of the Spanish Golden Age included "Drama Off-Stage" with talks by Sherry M. Velasco, Esther Fernández, and Paul Michael Johnson; "Cultural Mobility in Early Modern Iberian Theater and Performance" with Carmela V. Mattza and Rebeca Rubio; and "Bodies in Motion" with Kathleen Jeffs and Natalia Pérez.

**RSA 2021:** The Renaissance Society of America's annual conference will take place online over six days in April: April 13-15 and 20-22. The AHCT has begun co-sponsoring panels and this year's selection will include "The *Comedia* under Siege" with Esther Fernández, Glenda Y. Nieto-Cuebas, and Erin Cowling, and "The Ephemerality and Fragility of and in Early Modern Theater" with Susan Fischer, Rebeca Rubio, and Felipe Rojas.



### FESTIVAL DE ALMAGRO EN CANARIAS Seminario y encuentros FORTHCOMING Canarias

La Fundación del Festival Internacional de Teatro Clásico de Almagro junto a la Fundación Canaria Auditorio y Teatro de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria van a firmar un convenio donde se exprese la intención de acoger representaciones teatrales y otras actividades vinculadas a propuestas escénicas sobre textos vinculados a los siglos XVI y XVII. La primera actividad consiste en un Seminario que establecerá sus sesiones en torno a la práctica de la representación escénica de la dramaturgia del Siglo de Oro, planteando cuestiones como la adaptación, la interpretación y la dicción del verso entre los creadores y los gestores insulares. En esta primera edición incorporamos la participación de Portugal, del Festival de Teatro de Almada, todo un símbolo de cooperación geográfica entre la península y las islas. Para más información, véase la página web del festival: [www.festivaldealmagro.com](http://www.festivaldealmagro.com)

De los socios de la AHCT va a hablar Darci Strother, vicepresidenta de membresía de la Association for Hispanic Classical Theater, CSU of San Marcos, Estados Unidos, con una ponencia titulada "Panorama desde el puente del teatro clásico en E.E.U.U." También, Rafael Rodríguez, 2Rc teatro participará en los coloquios y encuentros con artistas.

## Upcoming CFPs of interest:



### CFP Special Issue Topic: *The Comedia Under Siege*

This past year, in addition to the crisis of the Humanities that was already besieging us, we have experienced a new challenge that has impacted our lives in many ways. As educators, we had to reorganize our teaching into a remote format. Likewise, many cultural and social initiatives have had to devise new ways of resuming their activity virtually. Within the realm of theatre, companies have had to devise creative proposals for virtual platforms.

This special issue intends to examine a variety of proposals that have been carried out in the Spanish-speaking world in order to keep the *comedia* afloat during a rigorous confinement, and to evaluate the contributions of these innovative and spontaneous creations.

It is important to discuss what this implies for an inherently live medium such as the theatre, where the magic is created through the energy between actors and spectators in situ. How do we process this virtual "fifth wall" applied to the performance of classical texts? Furthermore, how do you establish a virtual connection between actors and spectators?

On a more pragmatic, and broader level, we also wonder how theaters have coped with more than three months of closure. What are the implications of a company performing with a reduced audience capacity? Has COVID-19 made us rethink an alternative form of theatre?

**Instructions for Authors:** We are looking for shorter papers (20 pages max.) that explore how COVID has affected the performance of the *Comedia*. Papers must follow the [guidelines as outlined by Romance Quarterly](#). Send proposals (abstracts) by Feb 15, 2021 to the editors: Esther Fernández ([ef14@rice.edu](mailto:ef14@rice.edu)), Erin A. Cowling ([cowlinge@macewan.ca](mailto:cowlinge@macewan.ca)), & Glenda Y. Nieto-Cuebas ([gynietoc@owu.edu](mailto:gynietoc@owu.edu)).

## Comedia Performance:

CFP Special Issue: Recasting the *Comedia*: Confronting the Challenges of the 21st Century  
**(Selected papers from the 2021 Association for Hispanic Classical Theater/Almagro Festival Virtual Conference)**

In conjunction with the AHCT Virtual Symposium 2021, select papers from the three conference topics will be printed in the 2022 issue of *Comedia Performance*. All panelists will be invited to submit their revised papers based on the below deadlines. Papers must follow the regular style guidelines for *CP*. For more information, please contact the guest editors.



### Guest Editors:

Erin Alice Cowling (MacEwan University) [cowlinge@macewan.ca](mailto:cowlinge@macewan.ca)

Esther Fernández (Rice University) [ef14@rice.edu](mailto:ef14@rice.edu)

Glenda Y. Nieto-Cuebas (Ohio Wesleyan University) [gynietoc@owu.edu](mailto:gynietoc@owu.edu)

### Timeline:

Full Drafts: September 1, 2021

Revised papers submitted to CP online system: October 30, 2021

Expected Publication: April 2022

## New Publications by Members:

*eHumanista Cervantes*: Esther Fernández and Adrienne L. Martín guest edited the recent volume (8) of *eHumanista Cervantes* as a special issue on *Teatralidad en la obra de Cervantes*. Of particular interest to our members might be the section on experimentation and innovation in new adaptations and readings of Cervantes's work. As an open access journal, the number is available in full online: <https://www.ehumanista.ucsb.edu/cervantes/volumes/8>

**Social Justice in Spanish Golden Age Theatre:** Co-edited by Tania de Miguel Magro, Mina García, Glenda Y. Nieto-Cuebas, and Erin Cowling, this volume explores how issues of social justice around questions of race, gender, and social mobility appear in the early modern *comedia*. The book is divided into three parts: Social issues in the plays as written for early modern audiences; the incorporation of modern interpretations of justice in new adaptations; and interviews with contemporary practitioners. Pre-orders of paper/cloth/eBook at a discount of 25% are available now at the University of Toronto Press website: <https://utorontopress.com/ca/social-justice-in-spanish-golden-age-theatre-2>

## AHCT Reminders:

**Grad Student Award Opportunities:** Graduate students who are accepted to the 2021 Virtual Symposium have the opportunity to submit full papers for the Hesse Awards. Details will be in your acceptance letter! Please don't miss this exciting opportunity to win an award to cover your costs for participating and to get some early feedback on your work.

**Comedia Performance:** Although the 2022 *Comedia Performance* issue will be guest-edited with a focus on the papers given at the 2021 Virtual Symposium, they will still be accepting book reviews, play reviews, and interviews. 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/>. 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; checks should be made out to AHCT and sent to the AHCT treasurer. Send camera-ready ads to Barbara Mujica at: [mujica@georgetown.edu](mailto:mujica@georgetown.edu). You can email book review editor Sharon Voros: [sdvoros@gmail.com](mailto:sdvoros@gmail.com) for an updated list of available books.

**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).

**Que en paz descanse...** This is not how I expected to end my first newsletter as the new Secretary of the AHCT, but 2020 was not the year we expected it to be in any way, shape, or form. It is with very heavy hearts that we announced the passing of one of the four founders of the Association, Dr. David Gitlitz, on December 30, 2020. I reached out to those who were

there with him at the beginning, and Dr. Matthew Stroud and Dr. Sharon D. Voros provided the following tributes:



*I first met David Gitlitz at the MLA annual convention in 1979. We were both presenting papers on Lope's *El castigo sin venganza* at the Division 71 session. (This was the division for 16th and 17th century drama; it was in a huge room and probably 150-200 people attended.) We hit it off, found we had several mutual interests, and became conference friends (the kind you like to spend time with but only see at conferences). Our paths crossed a couple of other times, but we were brought together in an institutional sense when we were*

*both invited to corporate founders for AHCT in 1984. He served as Vice-President and I enjoyed seeing him every year in El Paso. When I met him, he was a professor at the University of Nebraska, but after a few years he decided to pursue a career in academic administration at the University of Rhode Island. Given the distance to El Paso, the demands on his time, and his diminished academic emphasis on literature, I saw him less and less. Rather than in El Paso, I would see him on occasion during his annual driving trip from Rhode Island to southern Mexico (!). The past few years our contact was only via his blog. David was influential in my early career, and I always had, and still have, good thoughts of him. May he rest in peace. – Matt Stroud*

*And from Sharon Voros: What I remember most about David Gitlitz is his infectious smile with his upbeat attitude that was always engaging and welcoming, especially for me as a newcomer to the El Paso Symposium, this in the mid-eighties when all scholarly events took place on the UTEP campus in conjunction, of course, with the Siglo de Oro Spanish Drama Festival at the Chamizal National Memorial. Just about the time I met David, Donald Dietz was founding the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater, Inc. (AHCT). At that time the AHCT was not in the conference business but was set up to record and preserve live performances at the Chamizal as well as solicit grants to provide partial funding for theater companies to present at the Festival. David, I believe, was the first vice president of the AHCT and I was among the first board members. After each performance, several of us went to private homes in El Paso for informal gatherings and discussion of the plays we had just seen. We all decamped in what was then the Travel Lodge of Highway 10, with interstate traffic constantly whizzing by. Later on, as some of you might remember, the AHCT organized receptions every night, following performances at the Chamizal. I remember David's book on Lope de Vega from 1980 and his interest in Lope and theater allowed for many a productive discussion in El Paso. The collegiality of the El Paso Symposium was such that I wished to continue attending and I've missed only two symposia since 1984. David certainly contributed to this friendly, welcoming atmosphere.*

*As some of you know, David had a wide range of scholarly interests. He often attended festivities for the Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexico City and, as a professor at the University of Rhode Island, conducted study tours for course credit along the Camino de Santiago. He always sent me information and at one point I was able to send a midshipman to study at the Escuela Naval in Spain and he was able to walk along this famous pilgrimage route with information that David had given me. He has a book on the Camino as well. While most of our discussions were at the El Paso Symposium itself, I did see David at the annual meeting of the Philological Association of the Pacific Coast for the "Quincentenary of a Continuing Encounter/ The Iberian Peoples & Other Cultures," organized by Susana Hernández Araico in Las Vegas,*

Nevada in 1991. David, the keynote speaker, spoke on Jews in the “New World.” An avid hiker, David was also able to enjoy the outdoors surrounding Las Vegas.

In his last e-mail to me on June 14, 2019, David spoke to me about his current passions. He was a contributing citizen to his village in Mexico, Santa Cruz Etla, “traditional but in transition,” and he was writing a book on his experiences there. His book *Living in Silverado on Jews and the mining industry in the colonial period* was about to be published in October 2019 by the University of New Mexico Press. Other books reflect his scholarly attention to the cultural encounters of Sephardic Jews and their contributions to Spanish culture, such as *Secrecy and Deceit: A Converso Chronology* in which he describes the expulsion of Jews from England in 1290 that pre-dated the expulsion Edict in Spain of 1492. He also discusses the destruction of the Jewish community in Sevilla in 1391 and the transformation of two significant synagogues in Toledo into churches, the Tránsito, now a museum of Sephardic Culture, and what is now called Santa María la Blanca that somehow managed to preserve its Star of David. He also invited me to come to Oaxaca, “one of the most lively, interesting, and exotic places I have ever visited, let alone lived in.” His enthusiasm was contagious! Since I received my PhD with the last name, Ghertman, I asked him if he knew of any Sephardic connections with it. He did not!

According to his obituary in *H-Judaica*, his last Facebook post on December 17, 2020, read, “We live in dark times, but there is light.” David will be missed by anyone who had the good fortune to know him. My condolences to his family. — Sharon D. Voros



This newsletter was prepared and submitted by Erin Alice Cowling, Secretary of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater in January 2021. Any corrections, questions, or notes for future news, please direct your correspondence to [cowlinge@macewan.ca](mailto:cowlinge@macewan.ca).