

### **Primera Fiesta Internacional de Teatro Simposio-Festival. Educación teatral: Métodos, políticas, estéticas**

The 25 papers presented during this three day Symposium (25-27 September 2003) dealt with various approaches to teaching drama, and with discussions on style and technique; it also covered children's theatre, the creative process, the role of the drama teacher, inter-relations between theatre and other disciplines, and current research on acting and writing theatre. The individual sessions dealt with first hand experience with theatre from teachers and from students, and theatre education in the U. S., in Puerto Rico, and in the rest of the Caribbean. The keynote speakers were: George Woodyard (University of Kansas), Lowell Swortzell (NYU) and Gustavo Meza (Escuela Teatro Imagen, Chile).

The festival took place at the University theatre Julia de Burgos, the Lucy Boscana Theatre of the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, and the Botanical Gardens. It featured creations by the following groups: From Puerto Rico, The Agua, Sol y Sereno ensemble presented *Pasacalles lo digo a los cuatro vientos* and *La descalza agonía*; the Drama Department of the University of Puerto Rico showed two entremeses: *Los habladores* and *El retablo de las maravillas*; Teatro Performativo Puerto Rico-New York presented *Híbrido local*, and *Alejandra y Javier*; Nicolás Buenaventura (Colombia-France) performed *Cuentos para mujeres*. The Spaniard Juan Manuel Cifuentes presented Fernando Fernán Gómez's *Defensa de Sancho Panza*. Teatro Avante from Miami, featured *La feria de los inventos*, and the Swiss group "The Kolypan Project" brought *Alegría, alegría* to the stage.

The books presented were by Beatriz Rizk, *Rito y representación. Los sistemas mágico religiosos en la cultura cubana contemporánea* and Edgar Ceballos' *La ópera 1901-1925*.

The combination of theoretical and practical approaches to theatre turned out of be most animated, well attended by the college population, and stimulating in the lively, even heated, yet always constructive exchanges of opinion. This event was directed by Rosalina Perales (University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras.)

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