

An Opinion. . . .

An evening of entertainment and enjoyment? Well, that was exactly what the present author received when he attended the theatrical production of *Los unos vs. los otros* ("The Haves vs. The Have-Nots") at the Colegio Nacional de Guayaquil, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in November of 1975. Written by the Ecuadorian, José Martínez Queirolo, this play zeroes in on the realities of contemporary life in Ecuador—the struggle between those with all the power and those with none. The stage was in fact a boxing ring where an unfolding sequence of conflict was portrayed. And in this corner, the referee booms, Don Dinero (his majesty king Money) and his richly dressed and well groomed family and admirers. And in that corner, Fulano de Tal (Joe So-and-So) and his starving wife and children. The bell rings and the rounds commence. Round follows round. Why doesn't Don Dinero understand that all Fulano de Tal wants is a decent life for his family? Is it a sin to be poor? Work and justice. Don't such things exist? Through the distance, the power, the debauchery, the abuse, can't Don Dinero see where it's all leading? Such indifference must succumb to the 10 count!! And so it does!!

Some sensitive areas are touched on in this five round play. Clear points have to be made. And they are! *Los unos vs. los otros* examines Ecuadorian reality and finds fault in a power structure which perpetuates such a large population of have-nots. There is self-critical soul searching here which the present author found a refreshing contrast to the prevalent trend of blaming forces outside of Latin America for all the problems facing this area of the world. A big plus for the play, the players, and the playwright for a resoundingly successful portrayal of realities that, in fact, touch all of us.

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