

Wilberto Cantón Honored in México

Wilberto Cantón (1925-1979) was one of the most prominent names in Mexican theatre during the period from 1950 through 1979. As playwright, director, translator and critic, he contributed greatly to a dynamic literary genre during an era of intense growth and development. As a tribute to his long and distinguished career, the Sociedad General de Escritores de México (SOGEM) on April 11, 1983, named the theatre in their headquarters in Mexico City the Teatro Wilberto Cantón. It occupies a large portion of the first floor of the huge structure located at 59 José María Velasco in the colonia San José Insurgentes.

The inaugural ceremonies were presided over by Fedro Guillén, secretary of the Comunidad Latinoamericana de Escritores, Cantón's lifelong friend and executor of his estate. Critic Fernando de Ita presented a commentary of his dramatic work entitled "Wilberto Cantón: El dramaturgo," and fellow dramatist Willebaldo López spoke in tribute. Various excerpts of the author's works were read and the second scene of the first act of *Nosotros somos Dios* was performed. This is perhaps Cantón's best known play and winner of the Juan Ruiz de Alarcón award for the best Mexican play of 1962. Among those in attendance were numerous relatives of the playwright, including his aunt, Isabel Moller, and his brother, Miguel.

The play chosen to be the first presented at the theatre began its run on April 15. *De pétalos perennes* by Luis Zapata, with Beatriz Sheridan and Leticia Perdigón in the only two roles, was directed by José Estrada and has generally received outstanding reviews.

Cantón's hometown, Mérida, also honored him on May 5, 1983, by placing his portrait in the lobby of the Teatro Peón Contreras, largest of the city.

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