

Experimental Theatre in Venezuela

The I Jornadas de Búsqueda y Experimentación Teatral took place March 21-May 19, 1985 in Caracas. Organized by the Centro Latinoamericano de Creación e Investigación Teatral (CELCIT) in collaboration with the Instituto de Cooperación Iberoamericana (ICIV), the event formed part of the preliminary activities for the celebration next year of the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Federico García Lorca. The stated aim of the festival was to give an opportunity for experimental theatre groups to present their work and thus to show the current tendencies of unconventional theatre in Venezuela. The participating groups (among them Shock Teatral, Contradanza, Taller Experimental, Taller Actoral, Corso Teatro, La Misere, Teatro Altosf, and S.D.A. Maracaibo) are all engaged in creating a new theatre voice for Venezuela. The plays presented included both collective works and plays by individual authors. Among the most interesting was Shock Teatral's performance of García Márquez' *El coronel no tiene quien le escriba*, adapted for the stage and directed by Hernán Marcano. Luis Molina, CELCIT's director, is hopeful that the festival will continue in future years. Already plans are underway to organize, through CELCIT's Spanish affiliate, an Encuentro Latinoamericano de Teatro Alternativo, to be held in Madrid and other Spanish cities this November. The Jornadas demonstrate the promise that experimental theatre holds as a means to enrich Venezuela's theatrical tradition.