

## The South Coast Repertory Hispanic Playwrights Project

The South Coast Repertory, founded in 1964 by co-directors David Emmes and Martin Benson, is a non-profit, professional resident theatre serving Orange and Los Angeles Counties in California. Each year in its Mainstage season, September through June, the group presents a six-play series of modern and classic drama. The group also sponsors many Community Outreach programs, including a touring program and a Neighborhood Theatre Workshop.

This year, on July 11-12, three plays by Hispanic American playwrights were performed in an unstaged reading, each followed by a discussion session with the actors, playwright and director. The plays performed were: *Once Removed*, by Eduardo Machado; *Birds*, by Lisa Loomer; and *Charley Bacon and his Family*, by Arthur Giron. The first play deals with a Cuban family's adjustment to life in the U.S. after fleeing Cuba in 1960. *Birds*, set in Los Angeles and Mexico, chronicles the life of a Hispanic family in the 60s and 70s. The last play deals with the dreams of a young man who wants to be a dancer; the stereotypes of machismo and bravado in daily life that contrast with the productions of the nearby Hollywood film studios. These three plays were chosen for this series from among 83 scripts submitted by Hispanic American writers from across the country.