

GALA Hispanic Theatre 41st Season Continues with Modern Mexican Masterpiece Featuring Julieta Egurrola, Star of Mexican Stage and Screen

Culture 2017-01-05 10:02:26

Washington, DC – GALA Hispanic Theatre continues its 41st season with the U.S. premiere of the modern Mexican classic of ***Yo también hablo de la rosa*** **Too Speak of the Rose** by **Emilio Carballido**, directed by GALA Producing Artistic Director **Hugo Medrano**. ***Yo también hablo de la rosa*** is performed in Spanish with English surtitles from February 2 through February 26, 2017 at GALA Theatre, 3333 14th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. The theater is one block from the Columbia Heights metro station on the Green/Yellow lines. Discounted parking is available behind the theater at the Giant Food garage.

In this searing look at poverty and society's response to it, two poor teens who accidentally derail a train while skipping school become the subject of a media frenzy. As they follow the occurrence, diverse people reveal, with biting humor and wit, their socio-political views on the cause of the incident and provide insight into the complexities of Mexican life in the 1960s. In searching for the truth behind the accident, the author presents a broader view that is sometimes a hilarious political commentary, as well as a new perspective on reality.

"I was drawn," states director Medrano, "to this play because like so many of Carballido's plays he combines realistic and symbolic elements in which the ordinary coincides with the extraordinary. Moreover, his examination of unjust structures deeply rooted in Mexican society and history still has great relevance to societies today."

Playing the role of the medium is **Julieta Egurrola**, one of Mexico's leading actors and a member of the Compañía Nacional de Teatro. A stage, film and television star, she has appeared in more than 50 theater productions, including *In memoriam*, *Crímenes del corazón*, *Querida Lulú*, *Clotilde en su casa*, *Tío Vania*, and *Copenhague*. Her film credits include *Profundo Carmesí* and *En el país nada*, and her television credits include *Mujeres de negro*, *Los rey*, and *La Lobo*. Among her Best Actress awards for film are an Ariel Award and the Mayahuel Award, and several Best Actress awards for her theater work, including the Yolanda Guillaumín Award, María Teresa Montoya Best Actress Award, and awards from several associations of Mexican theater critics.

Press Night and Noche de GALA is Saturday, February 4, 2017 at 8 pm, under the gracious patronage of the Ambassador of Mexico Carlos M. Sada. This production is supported in part by the Embassy of Mexico, the Mexican Cultural Institute, the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), the *Secretaría de Cultura* (Mexico), the *Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes* (INBA), the *Fondo Nacional de Cultura y Arte* (FONCA), and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

Student matinees are on February 9, February 10, February 16 and February 17 at 10:30 am. For more information, contact education@galatheatre.org.

ABOUT PLAYWRIGHT EMILIO CARBALLIDO

Emilio Carballido (1925-2008) was an acclaimed Mexican novelist, playwright and screenwriter. A member of the group of writers known as the *Generación de los 50*, he wrote more than a hundred plays and scripts, two volumes of short stories, and nine novels. Other noted writers of the group included [Sergio Magaña](#), [Luisa Josefina Hernández](#), [Rosario Castellanos](#), [Jaime Sabines](#), and [Sergio Galindo](#).

As a playwright his first work was *Rosalba y los Llaveros*, which premiered at [Palacio de Bellas Artes](#) in 1950, directed by well-known poet and stage director [Salvador Novo](#). Subsequent plays included *Un pequeño día de ira* (1961), which

earned him the [Casa de las Américas Prize](#): *¡Silencio pollos pelones, ya les van a echar su maíz!* (1963); *Te juro Juana que tengo ganas* (1965); *Yo también hablo de la rosa* (1965); *Acapulco los lunes* (1969); *Las cartas de Mozart* (1974); and the hit *Rosa de dos aromas* (1986).

Among his plays adapted for film were *Rosalba y los llaveros* (1954); *Felicidad* (1956); *La danza que sueña la tortuga* (1975); *El censo* (1977); *Orinoco* (1984), and *Rosa de dos aromas* (1989). In 1972 he received two [Ariels](#), Mexico's highest film awards, for his screenplay of [Alfonso Arau's](#) *El Águila descalza*. In 2002, he received the [Ariel de Oro](#), a lifetime achievement award for his more than 50 films, including his collaboration on *Nazarín* (1959) by [Luis Buñuel](#).

In 2007, Carballido and his partner of 20 years, Héctor Herrera, were among the first same sex couples to apply for a civil union following its legalization in Mexico City. Carballido died a year later in Xalapa, Veracruz, and shortly thereafter the [Governor of the State of Veracruz](#) ordered a day of mourning and announced that the State Theatre and a state literary prize would be renamed after him.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Yo también hablo de la rosa is directed by **Hugo Medrano**, GALA's Founding Producing Artistic Director. He has directed and performed in classical and contemporary plays in Argentina, Spain, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Cuba, New York, Miami, and Washington. Among the more than 120 productions he has directed are *Los empeños de una casa*; *Yerma*; *La casa de Bernarda Alba*; *Amor de Don Perlimplín con Belisa en su jardín*; *Valor, agravio y mujer*; *Cervantes: maestro del entremés*; *La verdad sospechosa*, and *El rufián Castrucho*. Other credits include *Doña Rosita la soltera*, *La zapatera prodigiosa*; *Bodas de sangre*, *Puro Tango*, *Canto al Perú Negro*, *El Bola-Cuba's King of Song*, *Caribeaña Imperia*; *Candombe: Tango Negro*; and *Raíces cubanas*. He was nominated for a 2000 Helen Hayes Award for his direction of *La dama boba* by Lope de Vega, received a Helen Hayes Award nomination for his performance in *El protagonista*, and received the 1994 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Lead Actor for his portrayal of Molina in *El beso de la mujer araña*.

In addition to **Julieta Egurrola**, the cast includes GALA company members **Marta Cartón**, **Oscar Ceville**, **Roberto Colmenares**, **Chema Pineda-Fernández**, **Jessyka Rodríguez**, **Lorena Sabogal**, and **Manolo Santalla**, who all appeared in *Crónica de una muerte anunciada*. Also appearing are **Edwin R. Bernal**, who also appeared in *Crónica de una muerte anunciada*; **Peter Pereyra**, who appeared in *Mariela en el desierto*; **Sharon Desiree**, who appeared in GALita's *El mundo es un pañuelo*; and **Melissa Strova Valencia**, who appeared in *Volcanes – Cuentos de El Salvador*. Making his first appearance at GALA is **Steven Soto**.

Scenic design is by **Daniel Pinha**, who last designed *Divorciadas, evangélicas y vegetarianas* at GALA, and Light design is by **Alberto Segarra**, who recently designed *Fuego Flamenco XII*. Costume Design is by **Alicia Tessari**, who designed for *El desdén con el desdén* and *Volcanes*, and Sound Design is by **Neil McFadden**, who designed for *El Paso Blue* at GALA. Properties are by **Jessica Cancino**. **Tsatami Duciela** is Stage Manager. **Lena Salins** is Production Manager, and **Reuben Rosenthal** is Technical Director.

TICKET INFORMATION

Regular tickets are \$40 on Thursday evenings and Sundays, and \$45 on Friday and Saturday evenings. Senior tickets (65+) are \$30, and student and military tickets are \$25. Groups (10+) are \$22 each. To purchase tickets, call 202-234-7174 or visit www.galatheatre.org. Tickets are also available on Ticketplace and Goldstar.

WHAT : GALA Hispanic Theatre 41st Season Continues with Modern Mexican Masterpiece Featuring Julieta Egurrola, Star of Mexican Stage and Screen
WHEN : 2017-01-05 10:02:26

WHERE :

CONTACT:

Dubraska Vale 202-234-7174 dubraska@galatheatre.org/