

Teatro Ensemble de University of California, San Diego, a bilingual undergraduate theatre troupe to perform play this summer in its Festival Latino

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The New York Shakespeare Festival has invited the Teatro Ensemble de University of California, San Diego, a unique, bilingual undergraduate theatre troupe, to perform Emilio Carballido's compelling one-act play, *Nora*, this summer in its annual Festival Latino.

"The Teatro Ensemble is the first and only student group invited to this prestigious national festival. It's a tremendous honor for UCSD's Department of Theatre to have been singled out as a major training ground for Hispanic theatre artists," Jorge Huerta, UCSD theatre professor and founding director of the ensemble, said.

To finance the New York tour, the troupe will present *Nora* at the Bowery Theatre, 480 Elm St. in downtown San Diego, at 8 p.m. on June 4. The 35-minute play, directed by Huerta, will be performed in both English and Spanish. Tickets are \$5.

Nora, written by Carballido, a prominent Mexican playwright, and translated by playwright John Herschel-Dobles, a UCSD graduate, is a Brechtian, working-class commentary on Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*, set in Mexico City's modest Escandon neighborhood. It was premiered by the ensemble on May 4 at the UCSD Open House.

Five Hispanic theatre companies from the United States and a host of groups from Latin America and Spain will participate in the Festival Latino, which will run from August 9 through September 2. It was established in 1976 by Shakespeare Festival producer Joseph Papp.

"The payoff will be wonderful for students in the ensemble. They will have a unique opportunity to observe and meet important figures in Hispanic theatre and participate in workshops offered by knowledgeable directors, actors and other theatre artists from the Spanish-speaking world," Huerta said.

In addition to the production, six of the twelve student actors have been invited to serve as interns during the entire three-week run of the Festival, according to Huerta. They will act as hosts to the visiting Hispanic theatre companies, introducing them to the festival and to New York.

With a single exception, all the members of the Teatro Ensemble are totally proficient in both English and Spanish. The troupe produces a play every spring quarter and takes it on tour to schools, churches, universities and community centers in southern California and Baja California.

"Our objective is to expose our students and the audience--on both sides of the border--to theatre that reflects the Hispanic experience in the United States and Latin America. The typical theatre audience has no idea that there is a wealth of dramatic literature in Latin America. Unfortunately, much of it has not been translated," Huerta said.

Huerta is internationally known for his research and expertise on Hispanic theatre and is a strong force behind Mexican-American theatre in this country. He participated in the Latino Festival last year as director of I am Celso, a one-man production of the Group Theater Company of Seattle.

Founder and director of El Teatro de la Esperanza in Santa Barbara, Huerta has been on the faculty of UCSD's Department of Theatre since 1975. He received his Ph.D. at UC Santa Barbara.

The troupe hopes to raise \$6,600 to cover air fare to New York and incidentals. Meals and board will be provided by the festival.

To reserve tickets for the fund-raiser, call the Bowery Theater at 232-4088. Tickets are tax deductible. The ensemble is also accepting donations. Checks may be made out to the UCSD Foundation and sent to the Teatro Ensemble, c/o the UCSD Department of Theatre, B-044, La Jolla, CA 92093.

The ensemble will also present Nora--in English only--at UCSD's Undergraduate Theatre Festival at the Warren Theatre on May 30 at 8 p.m., May 31 at 2 p.m., and June 1 at 7 p.m.

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