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Three by Three News Release

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FIU News Release

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FIU Hosts Conference on Cuban Theater in the U.S.

As minorities in the United States have captured increasing national attention during the last decades, their creative works have also gained recognition. More and more scholars are focusing on literary works by Hispanics in this country.

"Cuban Theatre in the United States" will be the subject of a three-day conference to be held April 10-12 at Florida International University Tamiami Campus, Southwest Eighth Street and 107th Avenue.

The conference will open Fri., April 10, at 4:30 p.m. in Primera Casa (PC) 213 with a talk by George Woodyard on "Latin American Theatre Today". Woodyard, editor of "Latin American Theatre Review" and associate vice chancellor of the University of Kansas, is a well-known authority on Latin American theater. His presentation will be followed by a question and answer period.

As part of the conference, FIU and the New Theatre will co-produce three one-act plays by Cuban-American playwrights. Under the collective title "Three by Three," Rafael de Acha will direct the American premieres of "The Guillotine" by Matias Montes Huidobro, "Undertones" by Julio Matas and "We are Always Afraid" by Leopoldo Hernández.

The production, featuring a multi-ethnic cast, will open at FIU's University Theater, Viertes Haus (VH) 100 Fri., April 10, at 8 p.m. The playwrights are expected to attend, and, led by de Acha, will engage in a post-performance dialogue with critics, the cast and the general audience.

"Three by Three" will also be staged at FIU Sat., April 11 at 8 p.m and Sun., April 12 at 3 p.m.

The conference will include a roundtable discussion in Spanish on "Cuban Theater in the United States" Sat., April 11, from 2 to 4 p.m at the Dade County Public Library, West Dade Regional Branch, 9455 Coral Way.

Maida Watson Espener, associate professor of modern languages at FIU, who is coordinating the conference, will moderate the discussion. Playwright Matias Montes Huidobro of the University of Hawaii, critics Jose Escarpanter of Auburn University, Luis Gonzalez Cruz of Penn State University, and actress/drama teacher/director Teresa Maria Rojas of Miami-Dade Community College will participate.

Tickets to "Three by Three" will be \$10 for the general public and \$7 for students, with a 50 percent discount for FIU faculty and students. Admission to discussions and to the roundtable session is free.

Those wishing to obtain more information on the conference may call the department of modern languages at (305) 554-2851. For information and reservations on plays, contact Rafael de Acha, artistic director, the New Theatre, (305) 595-4260.

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