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New Plays from Spain

SPAIN arts & culture together with Washington DC theatre companies Studio Theatre, No Rules Theatre Company, and Theatre Alliance present staged readings of the works of young Spanish playwrights recently translated into English.

Innovative Washington, DC directors Joshua Morgan (Artistic Director, **No Rules Theatre Company**), Colin Hovde (Artistic Director, **Theater Alliance**), and Jacob Janssen (Assistant Director, *Red Speedo*, **Studio Theatre**) team up with the Embassy of Spain to produce staged readings of three brilliant new plays in a special event curated by independent producer **Gillian Drake**.

The evening will be an international collaboration of Spain's brightest young playwrights **Cristina Colmena**, **Emilio Williams**, and **Mar Gómez Glez** with outstanding DC directors and actors, giving our mutual audiences a cross-cultural experience and a taste of some of the best contemporary playwriting coming out of Spain. No Rules Theatre Company Member Lisa Hodsoll tackles an updated one-woman version of a classic in Emilio Williams' *Medea's Got Some Issues*. *The Office* meets *The X-Files* in Cristina Colmena's *Typing* with Edward Christian and Michael Glenn. Nathaniel Mendez and Jacqui Jarrold join Studio's Jacob Janssen in Mar Gómez Glez's *39 Defaults*, an urban mystery involving two activists. Set in the ballroom of the historic former residence of the Ambassadors of Spain on 16th Street near the trendy U Street corridor, the funny and biting plays will come alive in this elegant, non-traditional setting.

The anthology *New Plays From Spain* has been published by the Martin E. Segal Theatre Center, in collaboration with the Consulate General of Spain in New York, Fundación Autor (Madrid), and the Instituto Cervantes. *New Plays From Spain* is available for purchase from Theatre Communications Group.

(<http://www.tcg.org/ecommerce/showbookdetails.cfm?ID=MES7353>)

SCHEDULE:

Monday, September 30, 2013

Doors open at 6:30pm

Performance begins at 7:00pm

An open discussion with playwrights Cristina Colmena, Mar Gómez Glez, and Emilio Williams and directors Joshua Morgan, Colin Hovde, and Jacob Janssen will follow the performance.

LOCATION:

Former Residence of the Ambassador of Spain
2801 16th Street NW



Washington, DC 20009

TICKETS:

Admission is free, but seating is limited. Tickets can be reserved online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/event/8104247021>

THE PLAYWRIGHTS:

Cristina Colmena, writer and playwright, has lived in New York since 2010. She has published a book of short stories, *La amabilidad de los extraños* (*The Kindness of Strangers*), and several of her short stories have appeared in literary magazines. Her plays, *Typing* and *Happily Ever After*, were included in the *New Plays from Spain* series as part of the PEN World Voices Festival 2013. She holds Bachelor's degree in Audiovisual Communication and Journalism and has worked as a director and screenwriter for television. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing in Spanish from New York University, where she is currently pursuing a PhD in Spanish and Portuguese Literature. She is also a contributor of articles and film reviews for various publications.

Mar Gómez Glez is a Spanish playwright and novelist. Her work has received global recognition including the 2011 Calderón de la Barca Theater Award, the 2008 Arte Joven Latina Award and the 2007 Beckett Theater Award. She is the author of the novel *Cambio de sentido* (2010), the children's book *Acebedario* (2006) and numerous other plays and short-stories. Her plays have performed in Spain and the US, Off-Broadway, (*Wearing Lorca's Bowtie*, The Duke Theater, 2011), and Off-off-Broadway (*39 Defaults*, TeatroStageFest, Casa Mezcal, LaMama Experimental Theater Club, 2012-2014). She holds a Ph.D. with honors from New York University.

Emilio Williams' plays have been produced in Spain, France, Estonia, the United Kingdom and the United States. His most recent comedy *Your Problem with Men* was produced by Teatro Luna in Chicago, and has traveled to New York City and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. In 2012, his one woman show *Medea's Got Some Issues* received "Best International Show" at United Solo Festival, Off Broadway, New York City. In 2010, his dramedy *Tables and Beds*, an unromantic comedy was selected among 80 plays from 12 countries as the winner of the 4th Premio el Espectáculo Teatral. He currently lives in Chicago where he is the Artistic Director of "The Chicago Theater Sweatshop".

THE PLAYS:

Typing Typing the same document over and over again can be boring and a little absurd, but once you are paid for it, it's better not to ask questions and just think about the money. The problem begins when you have to share the typewriter: do you want the right side or the left? A comedy about personnel and personal cuts- you know, the recession.

39 Defaults A Spanish political activist arrives in New York and meets Liz, who brings him to her apartment. Ricard has defrauded 39 banks in Spain. He claims this is not a crime, but a general call for financial disobedience. *39 Defaults* explores trust in an era when hospitality meets surveillance, and idealism confronts daily necessities. He is a political activist and she hides a secret. Audience and actors share Liz's living room, where attraction battles suspicion. Although fictitious, the play was inspired by Robin Bank, activist and member of *Temps de Re-volts* collective.

Medea's Got Some Issues The irreverent brainchild of Madrid-born playwright and stage director Emilio Williams. The one woman show is both a madcap parody and a tribute to Euripides' classic tragedy. The comedy, in a version starring the actress Ana Asensio, won "Best International Show" at the 2012 United Solo Festival, Off-Broadway and received a Special Mention by the Jury of Monomaffia 2013.

THE THEATERS:

Studio Theatre: The Studio Theatre is dedicated to producing the best in contemporary theatre. Their restless, innovative spirit generates an uncommonly rich and diverse body of work, encompassing provocative new writing from around the world, unique special events, and inventive stagings of contemporary classics. Devoted above all to artistic excellence, The Studio Theatre strives to present audiences with extraordinary writing, sophisticated design, and stunning performance. The Studio Theatre is also committed to nurturing future generations of theatre professionals. Toward this end, they offer rigorous theatre training for both adults and young people, provide year-long apprenticeships for early-career arts leaders, and involve emerging talent in the creation of their work. They believe in accessibility and inclusion, and open their doors to students and audiences across the region through a wide variety of outreach programs. A premiere cultural organization in Washington DC, The Studio Theatre is proud to make a vital contribution to their neighborhood and city.

No Rules Theatre Company: No Rules Theatre Company found its origins at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Anne Kohn, Joshua Morgan and Brian Sutow, all students with a reputation for creating work beyond their rigorous course loads, decided to come together to produce a show. The result was a sold-out run of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* that played at The Garage in Winston-Salem. In June of 2009 *Hedwig* began a second run in Washington, DC, where it was also met by critical praise and boasted many sold-out performances. From these humble beginnings the company's unique dual-city structure of performing work in Washington, DC and Winston-Salem, NC was born. In just a few short seasons NRTC has grown rapidly, thanks in no small part to its reputation for consistently strong casting, experiential designs and dynamic programming. Each season the company presents a broad spectrum of work that seeks to illuminate a theme from several dynamically unique perspectives. In 2011 No Rules received the Helen Hayes Award for Best Emerging Theatre Company in recognition of the company's talent and unique contribution to the city's artistic landscape. Now moving into its fourth season, the company is thrilled to be in residence at the Tony Award© winning Signature Theatre Company in Arlington, VA as well as the state-of-the-art Hanesbrands Theatre in the heart of downtown Winston-Salem, NC. As the company continues to grow, it persists in challenging itself in the pursuit of artistic excellence, while also seeking to greatly expand its education and outreach programs, helping to insure that great art is made accessible to all.

Theater Alliance: A catalyst for innovation and diversity, Theater Alliance is among DC's pre-eminent theater companies, one that consistently produces thought provoking and socially pertinent work, successfully uniting audiences of all backgrounds through the power of creative presentation and participation. Theater Alliance was founded in 1993 with the distinct goal of producing work that would illuminate the experiences, philosophies and interests of DC's diverse populations. Each season, they produce three to four plays including world, American and Washington DC premieres. Theater Alliance has been recognized for its artistry with 21 Helen Hayes nominations. Theater Alliance is a member of the League of Washington Theaters, The Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, CHAMPS (Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce), and Cultural Tourism DC.

SPAIN arts & culture

SPAIN arts & culture features the most cutting-edge works of international renowned Spanish artists in fields such as design, urban culture, architecture, visual arts, film, performing arts, literature and music. A series of exhibitions, conferences, showcases, and performances take place every year at the most prestigious American cultural institutions bringing a taste of all the creativity, history, and talent of Spanish artists to the American public.

This program is organized by the Embassy of Spain's Cultural Office in Washington, D.C. and its network of General Consulates and Cervantes Institutes in the United States together with the Spain-USA Foundation. The Spanish-American cultural cooperation aims to create multiple links between the creative sectors of both countries and promote modern Spain's fertile spectrum of contemporary artistic expression. Follow us online www.spainculture.us / www.facebook.com/SpainArtsCulture / www.twitter.com/SpainCultureUSA