

FINANCIAL TROUBLE POSTPONES FESTIVAL OF MONOLOGUES - Miami Herald, The (FL) - January 24, 2002 - page 6E

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The International Festival of Monologues, a 10-day event of solo theater works that won raves during its debut in Miami last year, has postponed its second fest until next year.

Lillian **Manzor**, co-director of the event with Alberto Sarrain, said they had hoped to boost their budget from the \$30,000 they operated on last spring. But they've collected just \$11,000 and earlier this month the Florida Humanities Council turned down a request for \$20,000 in funding they hoped would underwrite seven educational stagings of works by the late Cuban playwright Virgilio Piñera.

Piñera, whom **Manzor** calls "the father of modernist theater in Latin America," died in 1979 after being ostracized by leaders of the Cuban revolution.

Also complicating things, **Manzor** said, is the fact that the number of candidates from Cuba wanting to participate jumped to 40, from 24 last year, and the National Center for Theater Arts in Cuba, which oversees actors who travel, demanded the participants be given a per diem of \$20.

But Monologues has no money to cover such expenses.

Last year the festival was a Spanish-language-only event that drew 60 actors from Latin America. **Manzor** and Sarrain decided to expand their horizons this year, inviting actors from all over the world. They also decided to add one-act plays and stage performances in English and Portuguese in addition to Spanish.

As a result, they received "almost 200 proposals, from as far away as Norway and Switzerland," **Manzor** said. "That changed the scope, and the budget, of the event."

WINNING OUT

Some institutions have fared well in winning grants recently. Eleven Florida cultural organizations won a total of \$230,000 from the National Endowment of the Arts last month.

Those in South Florida were: Florida Dance Association, \$30,000; Florida Grand Opera, \$25,000; Florida Stage, \$15,000; Miami-Dade Community College, \$10,000; Coral Gables' New Theatre, \$10,000; New World Symphony, \$50,000; Teatro Avante, \$40,000; and Tigertail Productions, \$5,000.

ON WAY HOME

The Polish painting discovered at Vizcaya last year will soon be on its way home.

Holy Trinity, Seat of Mercy, painted by Nuremberg-born Georg Pencz before 1550, will be

shepherded to New York on Feb. 2 and, in a ceremony arranged by the Polish Embassy in Washington for the following day, it will be handed over to Aleksander Kwasniewski, Poland's president; Przemyslaw Grudzinski, the country's ambassador to the States; Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska, Poland's consul general in New York; and Ferdynand Ruszczyc, executive director of the National Museum in Warsaw.

Richard Farwell, Vizcaya's executive director, and Arva Moore Parks, chairman of the Vizcaya Trust, which governs the 1916 estate, will hand over the artwork.

The painting was one of 35 given to Miami-Dade County in 1980 by Claire Mendel, the Chicago-born German consul in Miami from 1958 to 1970. A photo published in a German book last year caught the attention of Polish curators, who visited Miami last summer and "put the piece under infrared lights," Farwell said.

After additional examination, it was determined that the painting had been plundered from the National Museum by the Nazis during World War II.

BIRTHDAY GUY

When the big 7-0 rolls around, one's allowed to orchestrate one's birthday festivities any way one wishes, right?

Famed University of Miami music professor Ivan Davis certainly thinks so. To mark his 70th, he's throwing a concert, not a party, to benefit a student emergency fund that he created to help UM musicians buy airline tickets to international competitions. It will start at 4 p.m. Feb. 3 at Gusman Concert Hall on the Coral Gables campus; tickets are \$25 (\$20 for seniors, \$10 for students).

Among the invited performers: Former students Adam Aleksander, a prize-winning Canadian-Polish pianist; Willie Anthony Waters, conductor of the Connecticut Opera in Hartford, the sixth-oldest opera company in the nation; soprano Marvis Martin, who has appeared with the Metropolitan Opera; Frank Cooper, pianist, harpsichordist and fellow faculty member; and Jon Nakamatsu, a gold-medal winner at the Van Cliburn competition four years ago.

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