



PETER ANDREW BOSCH / HERALD STAFF

**A HOME AT LAST:** From left, Ramon Sanchez, Pedro Martell and Jose Noy, members of the wandering Hispanic Theater Guild, have found a long-term home — *Teatro 8* — on Calle Ocho.

## Theater finds home on Calle Ocho

BY MARIKA LYNCH

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Opening night was starlit.

The theater lovers were so determined to produce a play on the life of Cuban liberator Jose Marti that they rented chairs and set up a wooden stage in a friend's backyard.

Tonight, 10 years later, the Hispanic Theater Guild will toast to a new beginning. Group members have a roof over their heads, *Teatro 8* on Calle Ocho.

For a decade, the group has been sinking money from grants and donations into renting stages — from a small theater at the James L. Knight Center to the Big Five Club, said Dr. Ramon Sanchez, Guild president.

Rehearsals were held in living rooms, or a fan-filled studio, sans air conditioning, rented by the group one hot summer.

With the little money left, the guild — which puts on classic plays in Spanish — could produce only two works a year. Now, beginning with Rolando Moreno's *La Sombra de Don Juan* on Jan. 14, organizers hope

### TO JOIN

Membership in the Hispanic Theater Guild costs \$125 per person, per season. For more information, call 305-541-4841.

to expand to a five-play season.

"The past ten years have been incredible, but this is our dream come true," said artistic director Marcos Casanova, looking around the intimate, 94-seat theater.

At tonight's invitation-only fund-raiser, the guild will show a 15-minute video of the 20 plays it has produced since 1989, from the backyard production of Raul DeCardenas' *Un Hombre al Amanecer* to Alejandro Casona's *La Dama del Alba*. Some of Miami's better known actors have participated, from Cuban actress Griselda Noguera, who has appeared in several Spanish-language soap operas, to Manolo Villaverde, who played Pepe in *Que Pasa U.S.A.*

Originally Teatro Casanova,

**'This is our dream come true.'**

— MARCOS CASANOVA,  
artistic director

the theater was built by director Maria Julia Casanova, who owned a performance hall called Huber de Blanc in pre-revolutionary Havana. On the lobby floor, a tile bears the original theater's scripted initials "TC," with this message: "What God wanted."

Last year, TV reporter Angel Zayon acquired the building on eclectic Southwest Eighth Street — across the street from an evangelical church, next door to a cigar factory, in front of a Discount Auto Parts store. The guild has a 10-year lease.

Along with the plays, the group will host lectures on the playwrights. The lectures come with the \$125 per person membership fee. "The idea is to teach, not just see a play," said Dr. Jose Noy, a past-president and founding member of the guild. "You don't even have to read it; we'll spoon-feed it to you."

CITATION (MLA STYLE)

Miami Herald, FINAL ed., 6 Nov. 1999, p. 31. NewsBank: Access World News — Historical and Current, [https://infoweb-newsbank.com/access.library.miami.edu/apps/news/openurl?ctx\\_ver=239.88-2004&rfid=info%3AAsid/infoweb.newsbank.com&svc\\_dat=WORLDNEWS&req\\_dat=0E3DD8B102176220&rfid\\_val\\_format=info%3Aofifmt%3Akev%3Aamt%3Actx&rfid\\_dat=document\\_id%3Aimage%252F2%253A114CF48AE24B9638%2540WHNPX-188898A09DB3CB5%25402451489-188837C68A191BAD%254030-188837C68A191BAD%2540](https://infoweb-newsbank.com/access.library.miami.edu/apps/news/openurl?ctx_ver=239.88-2004&rfid=info%3AAsid/infoweb.newsbank.com&svc_dat=WORLDNEWS&req_dat=0E3DD8B102176220&rfid_val_format=info%3Aofifmt%3Akev%3Aamt%3Actx&rfid_dat=document_id%3Aimage%252F2%253A114CF48AE24B9638%2540WHNPX-188898A09DB3CB5%25402451489-188837C68A191BAD%254030-188837C68A191BAD%2540). Accessed 4 Aug. 2023.

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