

SPANISH THEATER SOUGHT FOR CITY

Agency Formed to Improve
Links With Latin Culture

By LOUIS CALTA

The establishment of a philanthropic, educational and literary organization to create a better understanding of Latin American and Spanish culture among American audiences was announced here yesterday.

The new organization, called Las Artes, Inc., seeks to achieve its goal through the presentation of concerts, readings of Spanish works, plays, musicals, and the provision of scholarships for study in the Spanish arts.

Gilberto Zaldivar, co-producer with Frances Drucker of the Greenwich Mews Theater, has been named producer of the group's theater arm.

Until eight years ago he operated a theater of his own in Cuba, where he was born. With the advent of the Castro regime Mr. Zaldivar came to this country. He declined to supervise a government-sponsored theater.

First Play Next Month

The group's first play "La Dama Duende," by Calderon de La Barca, will be given at the Greenwich Mews Theater next month on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

"We have had plays in New York performed in Greek and Italian, but none in the Spanish language on a permanent basis," Mr. Zaldivar said yesterday.

"New York is a city where we have millions of Spanish-speaking people, and I would say that establishing a Spanish theater here also would improve the relationship between Spanish-Americans and other ethnic groups," he added.

Mr. Zaldivar said that since Spanish is "the leading language being taught in New York high schools" his theater presentations could prove of immeasurable help to students of Spanish.

Many Actors Available

The producer, who staged Spanish-language productions of "Yerma," by Garcia Lorca, and "La Celestina," by Rojas, at the Greenwich Mews, said:

"There are hundreds of Spanish actors in New York working in restaurants and offices who are highly desirous of working again in the theater. It's hard for Spanish, Cuban and Puerto Rican actors who come to live here to find opportunities to perform. We hope to fulfill that longing."

Maruja Mas, who came here from Spain a year ago, has the leading role of Doña Angela in "La Dama Duende." Others in the cast are Carlos Rafart, Lamberto Cano, Magaly Alabau, Tony Salim, Luz Castanos, Manuel Montero, Roberto Robles and Margarita Neidelman. Rene Buch has directed.

Margarita Guso is president of Las Artes, Inc., which has a membership of 1,000 Latin Americans and Americans interested in Latin-American culture.