10/18/2014 Multi-Print Viewer



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CRITIC'S PICK

Miami Herald, The (FL) - Friday, October 15, 2004

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Faith and hope glow like the flickering religious candles in Elaine Romero's Barrio Hollywood, a play that will have its world premiere at 8 tonight at New Theatre. Set mostly in a Mexican-American neighborhood in Arizona, the play explores a family's tight bond and the agonizing aftermath of a boxer's terrible injury. Actress Beatriz Montañez, above, plays Graciela, a woman who finds the same exhilarating grace in dancing that her brother does in boxing. Performances are 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, 2 and 5:30 p.m. Sunday (no 5:30 p.m. show Nov. 14) at the theater, 4120 Laguna St., Coral Gables. Tickets are \$30-\$40 (students \$7 at door). The playwright will attend a reception before tonight's opening (tickets \$55); she'll also be at a brunch before Sunday's matinee at 1 p.m. (tickets \$45). Call 305-443-5373 or visit www.new-theatre.org.

- CHRISTINE DOLEN

Caption: photo: Beatriz Montanez (a)

Edition: Final

Section: Tropical Life

Page: 38G

Record Number: 0410190027 Copyright (c) 2004 The Miami Herald