

Teatro de la Luna *—al mejor estilo latinoamericano —with the best Latin American flavor*

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Teatro de la Luna presents

‘EL ABRAZO LUNAR’ The Moon’s Embrace

A performance season featuring four plays from four countries

Teatro de la Luna’s 2011-12 main stage spotlights four outstanding productions, offering an unparalleled opportunity to experience the work of well-known works — and performers — from Costa Rica, Spain, Argentina and Uruguay. The series features a new Spanish-language show (with English dubbing or surtitles) every week from Feb. 23 through Mar. 17 at Gunston Arts Center, Theater Two, in Arlington.

WHAT: *El Abrazo Lunar / The Moon’s Embrace:* A celebration of Latin American theater;
in Spanish with live English dubbing or English surtitles.

WHO: Acclaimed works and performers from **Costa Rica, Spain, Argentina and Uruguay.**

WHEN: **February 23 – March 17, 2012** with Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening performances at 8pm and Saturday matinees at 3pm. Each Friday night show is followed by a discussion led by Professors Antonio Carreño and Rei Berroa from George Mason University, Clinical Psychologist Claudia Campos and Richmond University Professor Claudia Ferman.

WHERE: **Gunston Arts Center – Theater Two**
2700 S. Lang Street, Arlington, VA 22206

TICKETS: **Regular \$35; Students & Seniors Citizens (60+), \$30**
(Groups of 10 or more: 15% discount)

Tickets can be purchased online at www.teatrodelaluna.org or reserved in advance for pickup at will call.

***Note to the Press:* Complementary tickets (two per member of the media) are available for Friday night performances. Please call in advance.**

THE SHOWS:

Costa Rica

Feb. 23-25 *El Inmigrante (The Immigrant)*

This award-winning play, written by César Meléndez, is based on real events. It culminates two years of research on immigration by theater troupe Teatro La Polea, founded by Cristina Bruno Catania and Meléndez to spark dialogue on social issues. The play was inspired by a 1997 article in Costa Rican newspaper *La Nación* and debuted in 2001 — before becoming a phenomenon. Also performed under the

title “El Nica,” it has been seen by hundreds of thousands of people in theaters, schools, colleges, universities, factories, stores, churches, backyard patios and community centers in Costa Rica.

Spain

March 1-3 *Familia en Construcción (Family Under Construction)* U.S. premiere!

In a crammed theater, a group of actors improvise a family: including the mother and her solitude; the father and his sermons; the overwhelmed daughter-in-law; the gay son; the tireless grandmother who can't be quiet — even after death. Encounters, shouts, hugs, kisses, celebrations, daily routines and secrets inevitably appear along this footpath of love and hate, with leaps between laughter and melodrama. Both the audience and the actors become so immersed in the “family” that they forget this is a play. The show is performed by Factoría Teatro, which has been lauded as “aesthetically fresh” and “visually evocative.”

Argentina

March 8-10 *No Puedo Vivir sin Mucama (I Can't Live Without a Maid)* U.S. premiere!

With humor, actor-playwright-director-scholar Perla Laske takes a sharp look at the issue of domestic help. *No Puedo Vivir sin Mucama* incites laughter and reflection about the relationship between maids and their employers, using caricatures to illustrate the histrionic conditions of that interaction. A palpable force moves through the piece, which is marked by ‘round and attractive’ writing. Laske is a gifted, multidimensional performer who uses this work to showcase her talents as a solid dramatic actor as well as her energy as a comedic performer. It's no surprise that her resume includes a number of impressive awards, among them Argentina's *Premio Fondo Nacional de las Artes*, the *Premio al Mérito* from the Universidad Nacional de la Plata, the *Premio Educarte* and a Belgian arts prize.

Uruguay

March 15-17 *Solo Petru (Petru: All By Himself)* U.S. premiere!

The delicate thread of a musical revue meets with the aesthetic of a café concert as Petru Valenski pays homage to the most exalted comedic style of his homeland, using songs, poetry and monologues to bring his audience to laughter. Valenski is a much loved veteran of Teatro de la Luna's International Festival of Hispanic Theater, appearing in *Más Loca que una Cabra (As Crazy as a Loon)* and, more recently, in *ATREVIDOS (The 3 Rascals)*. A member of the Uruguay Society of Actors and a founder of the Compañía Italia Fausta troupe, he has performed throughout the Americas. His show *Quién le Teme a Italia Fausta (Who's Afraid of Italia Fausta)* had a run in Montevideo for a record 16 years!

TEATRO DE LA LUNA was founded in 1991 in response to the growing needs of the area's Spanish-speaking residents. Our mission is to promote Hispanic culture and foster cross-cultural understanding. We do this through stage productions, theater workshops for adults and children, poetry marathons and our annual International Festival of Hispanic Theater.

INFORMATION and RESERVATIONS: 703-548-3092

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Teatro de la Luna is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It receives support from Arlington County Cultural Affairs Division, Arlington Commission for the Arts, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the Cultural Affairs Office of the Foreign Ministry and the Embassy of Uruguay in the United States, private foundations, corporations and individual donors.