

## THEATER REVIEW

# 'Heridas' totally impressive — fine drama, strong acting

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The Hispanic Theater Guild opens the New Year with a first-rate drama so unexpected and well done that it kept the usually talkative crowd silent. *Las heridas del viento* (Wounded by the Wind), by award-winning Spanish playwright Juan Car-

los Rubio, who was present on opening night, keeps delivering surprises. Directed by Juan Manuel Cifuentes, the Spanish actor who has won accolades in South Florida, *Heridas* is one of the finer productions presented lately by this company at its home in Teatro 8.

David (Humberto Rossenfeld) is given the task of put-

ting in order his father's papers and possessions upon the old man's death. Among the finds is a small locked box containing old letters, speaking of lust, passion and desire of upcoming encounters. They are addressed to Rafael, the dead man, and are from a man named Juan. David, the youngest of three children, remi-



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**THEY KNOW THEIR CRAFT:** Marcos Casanova, left, and Humberto Rossenfeld star in *Las heridas del viento*.

niscas about the lack of apparent love between his parents, and his father's coldness toward him. Shocked by these letters, David needs to find out the truth of who his father was and sets out to find Juan.

Juan (Marcos Casanova), the letter writer, is an aging gay man who decides to make the most out of his encounter with David, a young and attractive 31-year-old. A mental cat-and-mouse chase begins, in which, little by little, revelations are made about Rafael, David and Juan. These poignant revelations point to Juan's vulnerability and to David's longing to know a father now gone.

Directed by Cifuentes, both actors give strong performances. Casanova knows when to deliver a flamboyant and effeminate Juan, and when, overwhelmed by his past, to open his soul in a serious manner. Rossenfeld, who opens and closes the play with monologues, knows when to just listen. The simple, all-white design, also by Cifuentes, leaves the stage almost empty for the numer-



## IF YOU GO

**What:** *Las heridas del viento* by Hispanic Theatre Guild  
**Where:** Teatro 8, 1101 SW Eighth St., Miami  
**When:** 8:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday; through Feb. 6  
**Cost:** \$25-\$30  
**Information:** 305-541-4841

ous meetings between the two men. The actors sometimes are a bit too static, but this is just a small quibble.

Though at times overwritten — too many fancy phrases, especially in Juan's final monologue — Rubio's one-act *Heridas* is Theater with a capital T. It provides the kind of play whose universal theme works in any culture. For the serious, Spanish-speaking theatergoer, *Heridas* shouldn't be missed.



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## Focus: MATH

MEASUREMENT, GEOMETRY & SPATIAL SENSE

### MEASUREMENT

SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THE LONGEST WORD ON THE FRONT OF THE NEWSPAPER. MEASURE HOW LONG IT IS (IN INCHES & CENTIMETERS). USING THAT WORD, WHAT WOULD YOU ESTIMATE THE WIDTH OF THE NEWSPAPER TO BE? HOW WOULD YOU FIGURE IT OUT? FOR OLDER STUDENTS, HAVE THEM MEASURE IT IN INCHES AND CONVERT IT TO CENTIMETERS.

ASSIGN THE STUDENTS TO GROUPS OF THREE. SEND THE GROUPS ON A SCAVENGER HUNT THROUGH THE NEWSPAPER FOR WORDS OR PICTURES THAT REPRESENT UNITS OF MEASURE. FOR A FIVE MINUTE TIME PERIOD HAVE THEM CIRCLE ALL EXAMPLES THEY CAN FIND IN THE NEWSPAPER. AFTER FIVE MINUTES HAVE THE GROUPS COUNT THE NUMBER OF EXAMPLES THEY FOUND. GIVE A SMALL PRIZE TO THE TEAM WITH THE GREATEST NUMBER OF EXAMPLES. DISCUSS OTHER ITEMS OF MEASUREMENT, SUCH AS AGE, HIGHWAY NUMBERS, ACRES, TIME, ETC. INSTRUCT THE STUDENTS TO CUT OUT THE WORDS AND PICTURES THEY CIRCLED AND GLUE EACH EXAMPLE ON A PAGE OF UN-RULED PAPER (HEAVY STOCK). NEXT, INSTRUCT THEM TO FIND EXAMPLES IN THE NEWSPAPER OF ITEMS THAT MAY BE MEASURED USING EACH MEASUREMENT UNITY OR EXAMPLES THAT RELATE TO EACH MEASUREMENT UNIT. HAVE THE STUDENTS GLUE THESE PICTURES OR WORDS ON THE SAME PAGE NEXT TO THE ORIGINAL EXAMPLE. (FOR EXAMPLE, FOR THE WORD "POUND" THEY COULD CUT OUT A PICTURE OF A BANANA, SINCE BANANAS ARE MEASURED BY THE POUND. FOR THE PICTURE OF A RULER, THEY MAY FIND THE WORD "LENGTH") ASSEMBLE EACH GROUP'S PAGES INTO A MEASUREMENT BOOK.

### GEOMETRY & SPATIAL SENSE