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Female Empowerment in Classical Spanish Theatre

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Female Empowerment in Classical Spanish Theatre

J. Adrian Burr Sarah M. Gielink

Ohio Wesleyan University

Objectives

- Female Empowerment in Classical Spanish Theater
- Findings from our Qualitative Research
- Larger Social Context
- Current Projects

Class project: Workshop Performance of Spanish Classical Theater

Objectives:

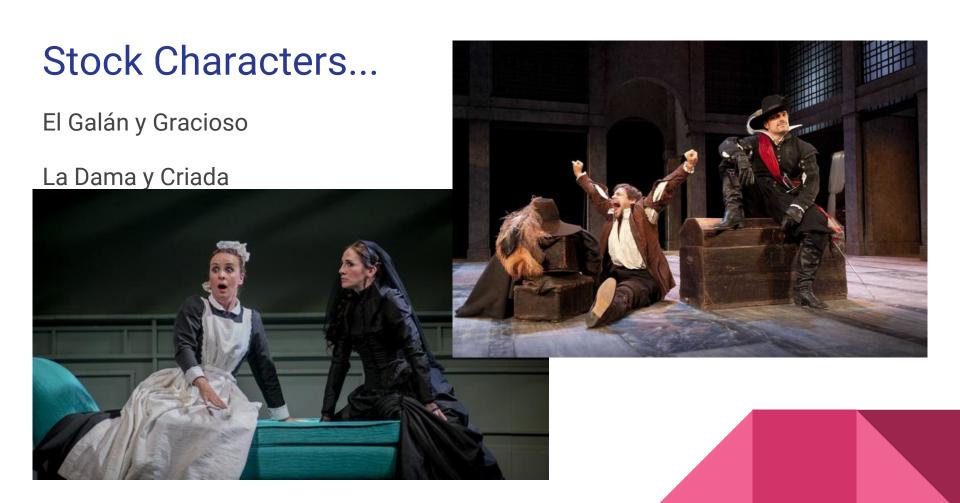
Promote students' understanding of the analysis, adaptation and performance of the Spanish *comedia*.

In this project, students:

- worked in groups in different comedias.
- abridged the three-act plays into shorter versions for a 15-minute performance.
- learned parts and rehearsed for a final class show.
- performed adaptations before a large audience.







"Our goal is to understand Classical Spanish theater as a vehicle for women's empowerment and/or marginalization, both within its original 17th century context and in contemporary society. We will do this by attending the Almagro International Theater Festival in Spain, participating in a theater workshop that focuses on gender, and conducting interviews with Spanish theater and history specialists. Seeing professional portrayals of these classic scripts will allow us to analyze how contemporary performers and directors retain or challenge the gender dynamics "inherent" in these stories. Overall, we want to discover how reinterpretation and rereading (specifically through a feminist lens) of canonical plays can yield positive societal changes for women."

Some ways in which gender is challenged:

- Cross-dressing and gender-bending
- Keeping women's history alive
- Adaptation of classical plays
- Recognizing preconceived notions



Mayte Bona (Cipión), Francisco Negro (Berganza) -- *El coloquio de los perros* by Miguel de Cervantes Felipe Santiago (el Magistrado), Mayte Bona (el Cojuelo) -- *La escuela de los vicios* by Francisco de Quevedo





Rehearsal of *Desengaños Amorosos*, directed by Ainhoa Amestoy

Theory to Practice Grant Female Empowerment in Hispanic Classical Theater

Objectives:

Understand Classical Spanish theater as a vehicle of women's empowerment and/or marginalization, both within its original 17th century context and in contemporary society.

Activities:

- Attend the Almagro National Theater Festival
- Participate in a theater workshops focused on gender: Teatro Inverso and Morfeo Teatro
- Conduct interviews with theater practitioners.



Rosaura by Teatro Inverso





Sources: https://teatroinverso.wixsite.com/teatroinverso,
https://www.alcalahoy.es/2016/05/21/rosaura-inaugura-la-incubadora-2016-ep-e-medias/





La cueva de Salamanca

De lo fingido verdadero

El banquete 1

Sources:

https://www.elcultural.com/revista/e scenarios/Magisterio-de-Satanas-en-La-cueva-de-Salamanca/41155, https://www.masescena.es/index.ph p/detalle-teatro/1057-el-banquetepasa-por-almagro-como-uno-de-losmejores-montajes-del-festival, http://festivaldealmagro.com/es/pro gramacion-festival-almagrocompleta/



Rosaura by Teatro Inverso





Sources: https://teatroinverso.wixsite.com/teatroinverso,
https://www.alcalahoy.es/2016/05/21/rosaura-inaugura-la-incubadora-2016-ep-eomedias/

Hamlet directed by Michelle Terry

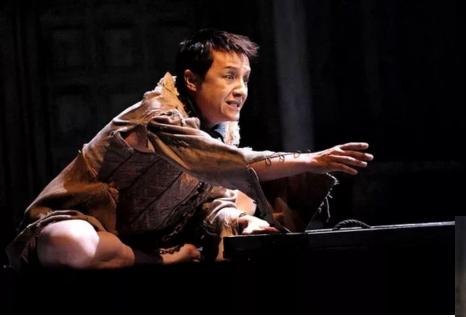








Nadia Nadarajah (Guildenstern)



Blanca Portillo (Segismundo)

Michelle Terry (Hamlet)



Performance and Storytelling in Spanish Classical Theatre

Objectives:

- 1. Professional and educational development Analyze the comedia in depth and work with a professional theatre company (Teatro Inverso) in order to adapt and perform a play, and be able to effectively put into practice *Storytelling* performance style on stage.
- **2. Build bridges between disciplines** Connect Spanish and Theatre studies in an interdisciplinary project.
- 3. Implement Spanish in an academic and creative project Use Spanish in a professional setting in order to write a script and perform for live audience.



Current and Future Projects



Questions