



SEPTEMBER 2007 - AUGUST 2008

SEASON REPORT

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FOREWORD

The 2007-2008 season marked **Repertorio's 40th anniversary**. This milestone gave us the opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments and to look back on the incredible transformation we have experienced, from being a Company with an annual budget of about \$10,000 and a production schedule of two or three plays a year to one with an annual budget of \$2 million and a production schedule of 350 performances of 15 different productions.

Our efforts have received wide recognition including most recently the **Theater Communications Group (TCG) Theatre Practitioner Award** and the **Arts & Business Council's ENCORE Award**. But, aside from this and building a sterling reputation in the process, our biggest accomplishment and what we are most proud of is remaining true to our original mission of bringing the best of Spanish-language theatre to a broad audience. Year in and year out, we have introduced adult and student audiences to high quality productions of classical Spanish plays, excellent Latin American plays from the past and present, and works by new playwrights of Hispanic origin. We have done this while being responsive to our community.

This tradition continued in the 2007-2008 season with what was probably one of our most varied and all-encompassing seasons in our history. Our repertory included our flagship productions of Federico García Lorca's **Blood Wedding**, Carmen Rivera's **La gringa**, Gabriel García Márquez's **Chronicle of a Death Foretold**, Mario Varga Llosa's **The Feast of the Goat**, and four premiere productions: Isaac Chocrón's **Signed and Sealed**, Ricardo Talesnik's **I Love Them Both**, Carlos Lacámara's **Nowhere on the Border**, and Jorge Amado's **Doña Flor and Her Two Husbands**.

For us, we felt it was important to premiere and bring these distinct works to the forefront. In the case of **Signed and Sealed**, this is a play close to our hearts and one written by one of Latin American's most prolific and influential playwrights of his time. The reality, however, is that his works are relatively unknown to new generations. This is why Artistic Director, **René Buch** felt compelled to bring **Signed and Seal** to the stage.

Nowhere on the Border represented an opportunity for us to not only highlight the work of Carlos Lacámara and the artistic vision of José Zayas – both amazingly talented theatre artists – but also to contribute to the immigration debate with a play that treats characters with respect and provides

different perspectives.

Artistically, Jorge Amado's celebrated **Doña Flor and Her Two Husbands** meant intellectual and financial challenges. Within the confines of our stage, we knew this large-scale work was going to require extended rehearsal period and leaps of creativity in getting thirteen actors playing multiple characters on our stage. The risks proved worth taking. The production is a financial and critical success and is introducing new generations of theatergoers to Jorge Amado and to one of his most acclaimed works.

The world premiere of **Nowhere on the Border** and our adaptation of **Doña Flor and Her Two Husbands** led and, perhaps, summarize our sentiments of our efforts in the 2007-2008 season. The first, a story of the hardships and realities of immigration, touched the hearts of our audience. The latter, a risky and ambitious project to mount, introduced adults, students, new and veteran theatergoers to an epic work. These two distinctive works continue to make audiences cry and laugh, respectively.

In all, our repertory attracted **42,425 people** to our theatre with **40% of the total audiences being students** discovering live theatre for the first time. Our work also took us around the tri-state area with **14 touring performances**, reaching adult and student audiences. Additionally, this season we had the pleasure of bringing theatre into various classrooms at four different New York City public schools.

As we look forward into the future, we count ourselves fortunate. We have a committed Board, a moderate endowment, a strong artistic and administrative team and, most importantly, the support of good friends who make our successes and accomplishments possible. We are grateful to our artists, Board, donors, patrons, peers and the countless individuals that have poised Repertorio to continue bringing the best artistic and outreach programming to our community for another 40, 50, 100 years.

Sincerely,



René Buch
Artistic Director



Robert Federico
Executive Director

AWARDS



RENÉ BUCH, ROBERT MARX FROM THE FAN FOX & LESLIE R. SAMUELS FOUNDATION AND ROBERT FEDERICO AT THE ENCORE AWARDS CEREMONY

This season, Repertorio received over 30 different awards for its artistic and management achievements. Here are some of the most significant.

THEATER COMMUNICATIONS GROUP (TCG) PRACTITIONER AWARD

Gilberto Zaldívar & René Buch (2008)

ARTS & BUSINESS COUNCIL'S ENCORE AWARD

Excellence in Arts Management (2007)

HOLA AWARD SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Repertorio Español 40th Anniversary

HOLA LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ricardo Barber (2008)

ACE AWARD, EXTRAORDINARY DISTINCTION

René Buch (2007)

HOLA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Pilar Rioja (2007)

ACE AWARD, EXTRAORDINARY DISTINCTION

Jorge Alí Triana (2007)



RENÉ BUCH RECEIVES THE TCG PRACTITIONER AWARD AT TCG'S NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN DENVER, CO

REPERTORY 2007 - 2008

ANNA IN THE TROPICS

Ana en el trópico

By Nilo Cruz

Directed by René Buch

BLOOD WEDDING

Bodas de sangre

By Federico García Lorca

Directed by René Buch

BOXCAR

Vagón

By Silvia González

Directed by René Buch

CHRONICLE OF A DEATH FORETOLD

Crónica de una muerte anunciada

By Gabriel García Márquez

Adapted & directed by

Jorge Alí Triana

DOÑA FLOR AND HER TWO HUSBANDS

Doña Flor y sus dos maridos

By Jorge Amado

Adapted & directed by

Jorge Alí Triana

THE FEAST OF THE GOAT

La fiesta del chivo

By Mario Vargas Llosa

Adapted & directed by

Jorge Alí Triana

LA GRINGA

By Carmen Rivera

Directed by René Buch

THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA

La casa de Bernarda Alba

By Federico García Lorca

Directed by René Buch

EL INSOMNIO AMERICANO

With Saulo García

Directed by Leandro Fernández

I LOVE THEM BOTH

Las quiero a las dos

By Ricardo Talesnik

Directed by René Buch

MOMMA'S BOYZ

Los nenes de mamá

Written & directed by

Cándido Tirado

NOWHERE ON THE BORDER

En ningún lugar de la frontera

By Carlos Lacámara

Directed by José Zayas

PILAR RIOJA

Spanish Dance

EL QUIJOTE

By Miguel de Cervantes

Adapted by Santiago García

Directed by Jorge Alí Triana

SIGNED AND SEALED

Escrito y sellado

By Isaac Chocrón

Directed by René Buch

TANGO INTIMO

Conceived & directed by

Valeria Solomonoff

ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES



DOÑA FLOR AND HER TWO HUSBANDS

By Jorge Amado

Stage Version Jorge Alí Triana & Verónica Triana

Director Jorge Alí Triana

Production Design Robert Federico

Sound Design and Original Soundtrack Jimmy Tanaka

Choreography & Movement Valeria Solomonoff

Opening Night: March 28, 2008

Performances: 35 and still in repertory

"Doña Flor..." is a tale of passion, love, culinary delights and Brazilian mysticism. Doña Flor misses her late husband's passionate intimacy. She re-marries and magical realism allows her to live with her two husbands. A colorful adaptation of Brazilian Jorge Amado's masterpiece.

Winner of four, 2008 Hispanic

HOLA Awards (Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors)

Outstanding Achievement in a Dramatic Production

Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Cast

Outstanding Achievement in Direction

Outstanding Achievement in Technical Production, Costume Design

"Raucous and bawdy, Repertorio Español's production of 'Doña Flor and Her Two Husbands' begins with a bang: carnival in Bahia, with exuberant music and dancing, revelers in colorful costumes (lots and lots of feathers)...the party onstage was contagious." – Rachel Saltz, The New York Times, April 3, 2008

"The party arrived...Much was expected of this production and Triana (the director) and the cast have surpassed these expectations... they've given us – from beginning to end — a sensual feast and a joyful celebration for all of us to enjoy...the production, scenery, music, costumes, lights and choreography are excellent... the actors are wonderful, all of them... Selenis Leyva and Denise Quiñones offer us two great performances very different...it's worth it to see them both." (Translated from original text in Spanish) – Juan Fernando Merino, El Diario La Prensa, March 30, 2008

"A provocative adaptation...an exciting theatrical experience...the character of Vadinho found its perfect impersonation in Francisco Gattorno's acting!" (Translated from original text in Spanish)– Fernando Campos, El Especial, April 16, 2008

This production was made possible by Altria & The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.



ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES



NOWHERE ON THE BORDER

Winning play of the MetLife *Nuestras Voces* National Playwriting Competition

By Carlos Lacámara

Director José Zayas

Production Design Robert Weber Federico

Opening Night: September 13th, 2007

Performances: 19

A Mexican father searches the Arizona desert for his missing daughter and is detained by an American Minuteman. They learn that their lives have more in common than they thought, revealing that human suffering and compassion transcend all boundaries.

Awards

ACE Awards (Asociación de Cronistas de Espectáculos)

Best Dramatic Production

Best Dramatic Actor

Best Featured Actor

Best New Actress

HOLA Awards (Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors)

Outstanding Achievement in a Dramatic Production

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor

Outstanding Performance by a Featured Female Actor

Outstanding Achievement in Playwriting

"Working under director José Zayas' guidance, the actors offer honest, believable portrayals. Designer Robert Weber Federico's monochromatic desert setting, merciless lighting and sweat-stained clothes provide effective visual touches that help bring the drama to life. Lacámara's thoughtfully written work may look a bit schematic in structure, but his sense of compassion and fair-mindedness regarding his contrasting characters is strong. The playwright does not presume to solve the controversial immigration problem in 'Nowhere on the Border,' but he certainly puts a human face on this troubling issue." --

Michael Sommers, Star-Ledger, October 5, 2007

"This production is welcoming and feels like a mandatory experience for anyone who wants to understand more about the so-called 'immigration debate' that's happening in this country right now." --

Martin Denton, nytheatre.com, September 16, 2007

This production was made possible by MetLife Foundation.



ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES



SIGNED & SEALED

By Isaac Chocrón
Director René Buch
Production Design Robert Weber Federico
Sound Design and Original Soundtrack Alfonso Rey

Opening Night: January 17, 2008
Performances: 10

Personal experiences, encounters and friendships serve as the background in this emotional play about lives lost to AIDS.

"...simply put, this drama by Isaac Chocrón and under the direction of René Buch, is a stupendous play...the set design is somber and precise and the performances are memorable without exceptions." (Translated from original text in Spanish) –Juan Fernando Merino, El Diario La Prensa, February 3, 2008



I LOVE THEM BOTH

By Ricardo Talesnik
Director René Buch
Production Design Robert Weber Federico

Opening Night: October 25th, 2007
Performances: 24

This classic love triangle, pining the struggle between society's expectations for relationships and individual desires, brought together renowned Latin American TV and film stars Francisco Gattorno and Mimí Lazo to our stage.

Awards
ACE Awards (Asociación de Cronistas de Espectáculos)
Best Actor Comedy

HOLA Awards (Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors)
Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor

"Gattorno's performance was excellent...same goes to Mimí Lazo...Buch's direction and Robert Weber Federico's costumes, lighting and set design contributed to the production's success" (Translated from original text in Spanish)– Fernando Campos, El Especial, November 2, 2007



ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES



TANGO INTIMO

Director/Choreographer Valeria Solomonoff
Performers Diego Escobar, Max Pollak, Orlando Reyes, Adriana Salgado, Valeria Solomonoff & Angelina Staudinger
Lighting Design Robert Weber Federico

Performances: 13

"Tango Intimo" explored the social and playful arena provided by tango where women can display their femininity and men their masculinity. The production was inspired by the contemporary experience of negotiating the dance floor and its web of relationships while searching for a partner. "Tango Intimo" brought together world renowned tango dancers and a creative team with international experience.

Nominated for two ACE Awards (Asociación de Cronistas de Espectáculos)
Best Musical Production
Best Direction of a Musical Production
(Winners will be announced early 2009)

"Those who credit Repertorio Español with being a cultural oasis in Manhattan, are once again validated with its recent production titled 'Tango Intimo', a brilliant show!" (Translated from original text in Spanish)– Fernando Campos, El Especial, February 12, 2008



PILAR RIOJA

Director/Choreographer Pilar Rioja
Lighting Design Robert Weber Federico
Costumes Design - Guillermo Barclay
Costumes Execution Susana Ortiz & Graciela Castillo

Flamenco Guitarists
José Luis Negrete, Antonio Muñoz & Arturo Martínez
Flamenco Singers Alfonso Cid & David Castellano

Performances: 31

Pilar Rioja, the beloved 'Queen of Flamenco' celebrated Repertorio's 40th Anniversary and her 37th season with the company with a program that included two new dances titled "De Capote" and "Danzón # 8".

Rioja received the HOLA (Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors) Lifetime Achievement Award

"Rioja maintains the noble carriage of classical Spanish dance...In Repertorio Español's aptly chapel-like venue, New York's queen of Spanish dance swathes her summer offering in an aura of theatrical ritual...refreshing!" -Apollinaire Scherr, Newsday, August 22, 2007



40TH ANNIVERSARY GALA



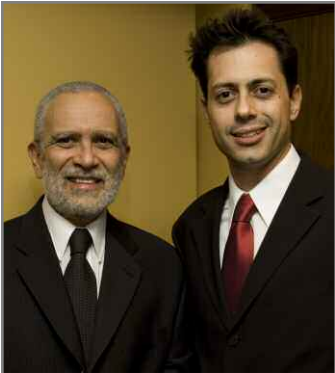
HERA ALVARDO, ILIANA MCGINNIS, CAROLINA CASTERELLA & OFELIA GUIBERT



DENISE QUIÑONES & HORACIO HERZBERG



DESIGNER ANGEL SÁNCHEZ & DENISE QUIÑONES



AMBASSADOR JOSÉ ALFREDO GRAÇA LIMA OF BRAZIL & JOHN MEJIA, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, REPERTORIO ESPAÑOL



SAVA THOMAS & SANDRA SMALL



STANDING: ANGEL SÁNCHEZ, CHRIS COLEMAN, DENISE QUIÑONES, ANDREW THOMAS, JUAN SABATER, RICK BOWERS, ORESTES TARAJANO. SEATED: MARIANNA SABATER, CAROLINE THOMAS, MARIEL CREO & ANAHI BOWERS



DENISE QUIÑONES, JOHN MEJIA, MARTIN SMALL, SANDRA SMALL AND LAWRENCE SMALL



FRANCISCO GATTORNO, COMPANY MEMBER



DENISE GARCÍA, DENISE QUIÑONES & JOHNNY PACHECO



SELENIS LEYVA, COMPANY MEMBER & GABRIEL FLORES



FRIENDS FROM TELEMUNDO NBC: OFELIA CASTIBLANCO, JACQUELINE CANDIA, DENISE QUIÑONES (COMPANY MEMBER) & CARLOS SÁNCHEZ



PATRICIA ARZAYUS FROM BLOOMBERG NEWS, MANOLO GARCÍA OLIVA & RAMÓN PINEDA FROM UNIVISION



ROBERT WEBER FEDERICO, LAWRENCE SMALL & ROGER THOMAS

40TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Honoring Lawrence M. Small For his 30 years of devotion to the company.

On Tuesday, June 2, 2008, Repertorio celebrated its 40th anniversary among 150 close friends including Board members, donors, patrons and such honored guests as New York City Cultural Affairs Commissioner, Kate D. Levin, and Councilwoman, Rosie Méndez.

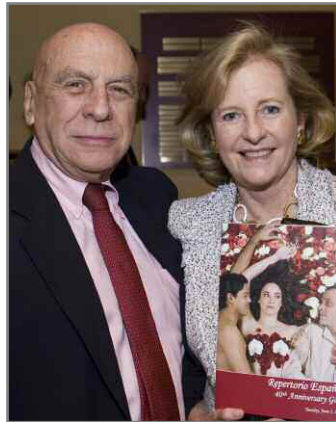
This was an unforgettable night headed by a special performance of ***Doña Flor and Her Two Husbands***. We had the great pleasure of not only commemorating this historic milestone, but also of honoring an individ

ual whose commitment, advice and stewardship has for the past three decades been instrumental to the development of Repertorio.

Since joining Repertorio's Board of Directors in 1981, Lawrence Small has helped Repertorio reach new institutional heights. The development of the Company and its successes would not have been achieved without his leadership and friendship. His devotion continues to drive Repertorio ahead into the future.



SANDRA & LAWRENCE SMALL



RENÉ BUCH & PATRICIA PHELPS DE CISNEROS



GUSTAVO CISNEROS, PATRICIA PHELPS DE CISNEROS, EVELYN LAUDER, MARÍA CRISTINA ANZOLA & LEONARD LAUDER.



COUNCIL WOMAN ROSIE MÉNDEZ & COMMISSIONER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS DR. KATE LEVIN WITH MR. SMALL



JUAN SABATER & ROBERT WEBER FEDERICO



RACHEL SMALL, MARTIN SMALL AND AMY SMALL



FOUNDER LUZ CASTAÑOS & RADAMES DE LA CAMPA



JOSÉ ANTONIO CRUZ ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, REPERTORIO ESPAÑOL & SUSANA MORALEJA FROM BANCO SANTANDER.



MARIFÉ HERNÁNDEZ, JOEL BELL, MARÍA CRISTINA ANZOLA & JOHN HEUMANN

TOURING

Continuing our tradition of sharing and making our work accessible, Repertorio performed the following tours:

- **Boxcar** at the Pepsi Co. Theatre, Norwalk, CT
- **Boxcar** at Palace Theatre, Hamilton, NY
- **Boxcar & The House of Bernarda Alba** at the Coyne Performance Arts Center, Syracuse, NY
- **Boxcar & Nowhere on the Border** at Crotona Park, Bronx, NY
- **Chronicle of a Death Foretold** at the Mershon Auditorium, Columbus, Oh
- **Pilar Rioja** at Shea Performing Arts Center, Wayne, NJ
- **El Quijote** at Brentwood High School, Brentwood, NY
- **El Quijote** at Hofstra University, Long Island, NY
- **Momma's Boyz** at Ramapo High School Spring Valley, NY

¡DIGNIDAD!

Repertorio's ¡Dignidad! program reached new heights this season. Highlights included:

- Served over 800 school groups from the tri-state area. For the majority of the participating students, Repertorio represented their first theatergoing experience.
- Offered 121 school day-matinee performances of 12 different productions including Gabriel García Márquez's *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, Carmen Rivera's *La gringa*, Miguel de Cervantes's *El Quixote* and Federico García Lorca's *Blood Wedding* and *The House of Bernarda Alba*.

These works offered teachers the opportunity to raise various issues in the classroom (feminism, cultural identity, ageism, violence, and the consequences of our actions) as well as introduce students to Spanish literature, culture and traditions.

Each performance was accompanied by pre-performance lectures and post-performance question and answer periods.

Number of school groups that attended Repertorio in the 2007-2008 Season

New York City

Bronx - 117
Brooklyn - 70
Queens - 80
Manhattan - 135
Staten Island - 3

Other Areas

NY State - 100
Long Island - 52
Connecticut - 51
New Jersey - 195
Massachussetts - 8
Pennsylvania - 16

REPERTORIO IN THE CLASSROOM

Part of our year round efforts is partnering with schools with the aim of helping teachers incorporate our work into their classroom curricula. In the 2007-2008 season, our work included offering drama and theatre workshops at **Norman Thomas High School** in Manhattan, **Renaissance Charter School** in Jackson Heights, **Ramapo High School** in Spring Valley and the **Academy of Finance and Enterprise** in Long Island City.

While each of these schools has its specific curricula, we tailored and worked with each school to address their academic needs and challenges. For instance, our role at the **Renaissance Charter School** included offering **six drama workshops to 25 AP Spanish** class students in grades 11 and 12. The aim was to guide and mentor these students in **their final project, a production of Federico García Lorca's, Yerma**. The experience at **Ramapo High School** was completely different. The aim was to engage a group of newly arrived students to the country, many of whom are at high risk of dropping out either because of language barriers or because many of them face the dilemma of having to work to help support their families. Our work in this school included offering a workshop and **presenting a performance of Cándido Tirado's award winning play, Momma's Boyz** – a powerful story with a positive message about decisions and their consequences. This play was specifically chosen with the aim of engaging these students. The workshop was led by the playwright and involved 30 students. This rare treat gave these students the opportunity to hear the inspiration behind **Momma's Boyz**. What was rewarding was seeing the students become involved in the process, asking questions and genuinely showing interest. The success of the experience has led for us to work with the school this current season.

Ultimately, the goal of each partnership was to enrich the personal and educational experience of each student. Our satisfaction and sense of accomplishments came by seeing students discovering theatre for the first time, expressing themselves creatively, learning new skills and gaining new appreciation of the world around them.

Repertorio in the classroom and ¡Dignidad! were made possible by HSBC Bank, USA, N.A.; the Lehman Brothers Foundation; ConEdison; The National Endowment for the Arts, Teatro Acceso Program; The New York State Council on the Arts, Arts in Education Program; The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Kate D. Levin, Commissioner; Councilman Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.; Councilwoman Melissa Mark-Viverito; The Adolph & Ruth Schurmacher and The Joseph C. & Clare F. Goodman Foundations.

¡Dignidad!

2007-2008 STATS

Total School Matinee Performances - 121
Total Student Attendance* - 22,000
Partner Schools - 4
School newsletters & schedules sent - 65,000

* Figure includes tour performances

METLIFE NUESTRAS VOCES



CARLOS LACÁMARA, AUTHOR OF "NOWHERE ON THE BORDER" AND WINNER OF THE 2006 METLIFE NUESTRAS VOCES NATIONAL PLAYWRITING COMPETITION, RECEIVES THE 1ST PLACE AWARD FROM ROBERT FEDERICO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

This last season, the **MetLife Nuestras Voces National Playwriting Competition** celebrated its 8th year. The program remains strong with the level of sophistication and number of new submissions from across the nation and by first time writers and women increasing.

For this program cycle, we received over 80 scripts. Aside from the tri-state area, entries came from Maryland, Ohio, Oregon, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, California and Florida. Taking

first place was *Kiss Bessemer Goodbye* by Denver playwright, Tencha Ávila; second place, *Meskins/Cycle of Life, Love and Death* by former journalist Fernando Dovalina from Houston, Texas; and third place, *All I Want to Hear* by veteran and past *Nuestras Voces* winner, Rob Santana. The runners up were: *Cartas* by León Acosta from Linden, New Jersey; and *La Memoria es un affaire culinario* by first time playwright, Graciela Berger Wegsman from

Bronx, NY. *Kiss Bessemer Goodbye* will premiere next season at Repertorio.

We are grateful to the MetLife Foundation for its commitment to this program. *Nuestras Voces* nurtures creativity and lets the new voices that form part of the American fabric emerge with their stories and unique cultural perspectives.

Scenes on video of *Nuestras Voces*' winners as well as plays from the repertory are now available at www.repertorio.org. Click here to watch Repertorio's Youtube Channel. <http://www.youtube.com/repertorioespanol>



TARGET \$1 SUNDAYS

This season, we were proud to launch the Target \$1 Sundays. Providing access, promoting cultural enrichment, and bringing families together remain the core of this initiative. Over 2,000 people had the opportunity to discover works such as Miguel de Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, Carmen Rivera's *La gringa* and special presentations such as Flamenco dance with the legendary, Pilar Rioja and the stand-up success, *El Insomnio Americano*.

What remains the most satisfying is the phenomenal response. Each Target \$1 Sunday performance continues to reach 100% capacity. Audiences leave with a sense of enjoyment, engagement and appreciation. The feedback we receive is a deep and genuine appreciation and recognition for the opportunity Target \$1 Sundays provides.

TARGET \$1 SUNDAYS KICKOFF EVENT



2007 - 2008 PARTNERS

We owe our successes and achievements to our wonderful Board, artistic and administrative staff, and, in particular to the many individuals, patrons, corporations, foundations, and friends that support our work. That support, makes the difference in keeping our commitment of presenting and offering the best programming that our community deserves. Box office revenue covers only a fraction of our production and outreach expenses. This page is dedicated in acknowledging our partners and friends that joined us this season in making this an unforgettable season:

PUBLIC FUNDS

New York State Council on the Arts:
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Arts in Education & Capital Projects*

*

The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs:
Kate D. Levin, Commissioner

*

National Endowment for the Arts:
Teatro Acceso Program

*

Office of the Hon. Michael Bloomberg:
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Mary Sharp Cronson

Clementina Tang-Cuadrado

Eduardo Zappi

Due to space restrictions, we were not able to list all of our generous friends.

Please visit <http://www.repertorio.org/support> for a full listing. Thank you!

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René Buch

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