

Grupo de Teatro la Poltrona de UC Davis presents

# *El Coloquio de Los Perros*

*Miguel de Cervantes*

Directed by Adrienne Martín

UC Davis Department of Spanish and Portuguese

6pm, Friday, April 12, 2013

Wyatt Pavilion Theatre

Open to the public | Free-of-charge



**itdp**  
INSTITUTE FOR EXPLORATION IN  
THEATRE, DANCE AND PERFORMANCE

[theatredance.ucdavis.edu](http://theatredance.ucdavis.edu)

The length of this production is one hour without intermission. This production has been rated PG-13. Before the performance begins, please note the exit closest to your seat. Kindly silence your cell phone, pager and other electronic devices. Video, photographic and audio recording of this production are strictly prohibited by law. Food and drink are not permitted in the theater. Thank you for your cooperation.

# El Coloquio de los Perros

## About Grupo de Teatro la Poltrona

Grupo de Teatro La Poltrona was born in 2004 of an initiative to stimulate interest in classical Spanish theater among undergraduate and graduate students at UC Davis and beyond, as well as to design a teaching methodology that integrates theory and performance into Spanish drama courses. To date, approximately 250 students have collaborated in the company's projects; *El Coloquio de los Perros* is our ninth production. Artistic Director, Professor Adrienne Martín (Spanish & Portuguese), seeks to stimulate each student's creativity and encourage productive and dynamic interactions in terms of focus, ideas, and personal contributions. All performances are in Spanish.

## About the Play

Based on Cervantes's fascinating tale of two talking dogs, *El Coloquio de Los Perros* (The Colloquy of the Dogs, 1613), and on José Ortega's theatrical adaptation, our play begins by staging the conversation held between Lieutenant Peralta and his friend Campuzano, an abandoned lover who is being treated at the Hospital of the Resurrection, a hospice for syphilitics in Valladolid. Campuzano confesses that while undergoing treatment for venereal disease, he overheard a strange story told by two dogs, which he wrote down. He urges Peralta to read his pages: as the friend reads the story, Berganza and Cipión, two dogs who collect alms for the hospital, come to life.

Berganza first narrates his picaresque life as a dog with many masters. His tale starts in the Seville slaughterhouse, with the butcher, Nicolás el Romo, as his master. His next adventure is as a sheepdog, where he is dismayed to discover that his master is the real "wolf" who has been raiding the flock. Next Berganza works for a merchant family carrying the son's satchel to school. When he catches the family servant with her lover, however, he fears being starved or poisoned, and decides to run away.

Back in Seville Berganza works as a corrupt constable's police dog. His owner bribes thieves and operates in cahoots with the prostitute Colindres to fleece her clients. When Berganza steals a piece of ham hidden in a client's pants, mayhem ensues and he flees again.

Berganza is next hired by a soldier drummer to perform tricks as a "Perro Sabio" (wise dog). Ordered to leap in the name of a famous local witch, Cañizares, Berganza is shocked when the witch bursts onto the scene, calling him by the name "Montiel." That night, she explains the dogs' mysterious origins: born to the witch "Montiela," Berganza and Cipión were transformed from infants into pups by her friend, the witch Camacha. Repulsed by the witch's grotesque story, Berganza attacks her when she falls into a trance.

Cipión also rejects Cañizares's story, assuring Berganza that Montiela is not their mother, that their ability to speak is instead a sign of future portents. Berganza's story ends at daybreak, when Peralta and Campuzano meet again. Peralta tells his friend that, whether the tale was true or not, and whether the dogs did or did not speak, the story is so well written that it deserves to be continued. Peralta lauds the value of fiction, of a tale well told.

Throughout the play, Cipión and Berganza argue over how each interprets events. Like Cervantes's novel, the play delves into the mystery of origins and identity. It examines the technique of storytelling and critiques the determinist perspective of some realist fiction, which would have dogs and dreams silenced.

## Setting

The play takes place at the beginning of the seventeenth century in several cities in Spain.

## About ITDP

The UC Davis Department of Theatre & Dance's ITDP offers opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff from across the campus community to further research through practical exploration and application. The goal is to expand understanding of creative power, of different kinds of knowledge, especially the embodied, and of communication that offers insight into different cultures and peoples. ITDP encourages cutting edge research and production across fields of practice and in dialogue with the diverse community of Davis and beyond.



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# El Coloquio de los Perros

by Miguel de Cervantes

Adaptation by José Ortega  
Grupo de Teatro La Poltrona

with

Elena Atanasiu  
Isabel Baboun Garib  
Melissa Corbett  
Parisa Esfahani  
Juan Hernando Vázquez  
Timothy F. Johnson  
Emily Kuffner  
Adrienne Martín  
Juan E. Miranda  
Rebeca Rubio  
Diego Valdecantos Monteagudo  
Ana Varela Tafur  
Victoria White  
Miguel Zepeda Torres

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**  
**Adrienne Martín**

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**  
**Isabel Baboun Garib**

**Directed by Adrienne Martín  
and Juan Hernando Vázquez**

## CAST (in order of appearance)

Alferez Campuzano .....	MIGUEL ZEPEDA TORRES
Licenciado Peralta .....	JUAN E. MIRANDA
Cipión .....	DIEGO VALDECANTOS MONTEAGUDO
Berganza .....	JUAN HERNANDO VÁZQUEZ
Nicolás el Romo .....	TIMOTHY F. JOHNSON
Moza .....	MELISSA CORBETT
La Cañizares .....	REBECA RUBIO
Pastor .....	EMILY KUFFNER
Señor .....	MIGUEL ZEPEDA TORRES
La Camacha .....	ANA VARELA TAFUR
La Montiel .....	ISABEL BABOUN GARIB
Maestro .....	MELISSA CORBETT
Niño .....	ELENA ATANASIU
Negra .....	ISABEL BABOUN GARIB
Alguacil .....	TIMOTHY F. JOHNSON
Corchete .....	MIGUEL ZEPEDA TORRES
Rufián 1 .....	EMILY KUFFNER
Rufián 2 .....	MELISSA CORBETT
Rufián 3 .....	PARISA ESFAHANI
La Colindres .....	TORI WHITE
Bretón .....	ELENA ATANASIU
Atambor .....	MIGUEL ZEPEDA TORRES
Profesora .....	ADRIENNE MARTÍN

## BIOGRAPHIES

**ELENA ATANASIU** (*Bretón, Niño*) is a first-year doctoral student in the Spanish & Portuguese Department. Her research interests center on short narrative, cinema and the novel, as well as transatlantic comparative literature. She always had the desire to perform, but never had the chance, so this has been a great opportunity to put her dreams into action. It has been both challenging and rewarding to be part of the Poltrona team and she looks forward to some other exciting projects in the future.

**ISABEL BABOUN GARIB** (*Assistant Director; Montiel; Negra*) is a second-year doctoral student in the Spanish & Portuguese Department working on Latin American literature with a focus on performance and Chilean film studies.

She is also an actress who considers this an awesome experience to continue working on and from the stage. It has stimulated her interest in incorporating theater and performance into her interdisciplinary research and work.

**MELISSA CORBETT** (*Moza, Maestro, Rufián 2*) is a first-year PhD student in the Spanish Linguistics graduate program. She is excited to be in her first play at UC Davis.

**PARISA ESFAHANI** (*Rufián 3*) is very excited to be on stage at UC Davis for the very first time. She is a first year undergrad studying Creative Writing and Women's Studies. She would like to thank the cast and crew for welcoming her on and off stage. Warning: there is a talking dog. Maybe two.

## JUAN HERNANDO VÁZQUEZ

(*Co-Director; Berganza*) is a first-year doctoral student in the Spanish & Portuguese Department working on Contemporary Spanish Drama with a focus on Performance Studies. With a BA in acting from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in Madrid (RESAD), he believes that theater is the union of text and what comes alive through spectacle. After several years without stepping on a stage, *El Coloquio de los Perros* has been a gift to him and he says “gracias.”

**TIMOTHY F. JOHNSON** (*Nicolás el Romo, Alguacil*) is thrilled to once again gird himself with a sword in another production with La Poltrona, having played a soldier in *El retablo de las maravillas*. He is finishing his dissertation on Golden Age soldier-writers, so playing them on stage is another aspect of his research.

**EMILY KUFFNER** (*Pastor, Rufián 1*) is a fourth-year doctoral candidate in the Spanish & Portuguese Department. She is currently writing her dissertation on the gendered discourse surrounding intimate spaces and its deployment in the commerce of prostitution in the novel *La Lozana andaluza* (1528). This is the first time she has been involved with a theatrical production, so it has been a very valuable experience for her as a student of Golden Age Literature, as well as a lot of fun.

**ADRIENNE MARTÍN** (*Co-Director; Profesora*) is Professor of Golden Age Spanish Literature in the Spanish & Portuguese Department and a specialist in Cervantes. She founded Grupo de Teatro La Poltrona in 2004 to stimulate interest in classical Spanish theater among undergraduate and graduate students, and has produced and directed seven plays at UC Davis. She is delighted and grateful that *El Coloquio de los Perros* has received support from the Department of Theatre & Dance's ITDP.

**JUAN E. MIRANDA** (*Licenciado Peralta*) is excited to be in his second performance at UC Davis. He performed last quarter on his research in “Reflections of Performance: Performing For and Against Hegemony,” under Lynnette Hunter. As a PhD

student in Latin American Literature with a Performance Studies Designated Emphasis, he is delighted with his companion actors and looks forward to more shows before he graduates.

**REBECA RUBIO** (*Bruja Cañizares*) will start her PhD program in the Spanish & Portuguese Department this coming fall where she plans to specialize in Golden Age Spanish theater. By adapting into drama and performing this exemplary novel by Cervantes, she can see how he condensed so many voices and diverse characters in a dog's speech. Rebeca has been doing amateur theater for 15 years in Spain and hopes this is the first of many characters she will play with La Poltrona.

**DIEGO VALDECANTOS MONTEAGUDO** (*Cipión*) says “Hello, or should I say woof?!” He is a first-year PhD student focusing on Spanish Golden Age poetry. He plays a dog who is able to talk, but he is still a dog. Although he had never thought as a dog, it became really interesting once he decided to be a part of *El Coloquio* ... thinking, moving, living on a stage as a dog would ... Being in his mind, and being one of them has been a challenging yet interesting performance exercise. And now he can bark, too (woof!).

**ANA VARELA TAFUR** (*La Camacha*) is a PhD student in the Spanish & Portuguese Department. Ana is thrilled to honor Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra for the first time on stage.

**TORI WHITE** (*La Colindres*) is delighted that her first experience of acting should be in a production of Cervantes. A third-year student in the Comparative Literature PhD program, she studies early modern literature in English, Spanish, and Italian.

**MIGUEL ZEPEDA TORRES** (*Alferez Campuzano, Señor, Atambor*) is a first-year PhD student in Hispanic Linguistics focusing on historical linguistics and technology in second language acquisition. He has never performed as an actor, so this is a unique opportunity for him. As a linguist, he wants to deeply thank Professor Jesús David Jerez-Gómez for instilling in him an appreciation for Golden Age literature, in which, as in this play, he finds archaisms to be fascinating.

## Poster Design

DAVID HERNANDO VÁZQUEZ

## Production Staff

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Facilities Manager/Audio Supervisor  
Publicity Director  
Costume Shop Director  
Master Electrician  
Costume Shop Foreman  
Scene Technician/Properties  
Company Managers

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THOMAS J. MUNN: Lighting Design  
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MARY BETH CAVANAUGH:  
Choreography  
PAMILA GRAY: Lighting Design  
ROBIN GRAY: Stage Management  
MICHELE LEAVY: Acting



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**SPECIAL THANKS** to IDTP and  
the UC Davis Spanish and Portuguese Department for their support and assistance.

## **COMING SOON**

### **The Edge Performance Festival**

Various locations at Wright Hall  
Thu-Sun, April 25-28 & May 2-5  
(See website for times and ticket information.)

### **ITDP: The Dogs of War Text**

By William Shakespeare  
Adapted and Directed by Josy Miller  
Thu-Sat, May 16-18 & 23-25 | 8pm  
Sun, May 19 & 26 | 2pm  
Wyatt Pavilion Theatre  
Free-of-charge

### **13th Annual UC Davis Film Festival**

Produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance  
Cinema and Technocultural Studies & Art Studio  
Co-sponsored by the Department of Design  
Presented by the Davis Varsity Theatre  
Wed-Thu, May 22-23 | 8:30pm  
The Davis Varsity Theatre  
616 Second Street in Davis  
Tickets available at Varsity box office starting May 15.

### **ITDP: I Will Survive: dancing apart post-racial, global warming modes of crisis**

Choreographed by Mary Ann Brooks and Kevin O'Connor  
Dates and times to be announced.  
University Club Studio  
Free-of-charge

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