



**EL GESTICULADOR
(SECRET FACES)**

by RODOLFO USIGLI

presented by

TEATRO HISPANO de DALLAS,

Cora Cardona, Artistic Director

and

THEATRE THREE

Norma Young, Artistic Director

Jac Alder, Executive Producer-Director

Charles Howard, Associate Producer

from April 24th thru May 3rd, 1987

THE CAST

The Family

PROFESSOR CESAR RUBIO...Doug Stewart
ELENA RUBIO...Cora Cardona*
MIGUEL RUBIO...Chris Carlos**
JULIA RUBIO...Dolores Godinez

The American

PROFESSOR OLIVER BOLTON...Randolph McKee

The Politicos

GENERAL NAVARRO...Richard Rollin*
SALINAS...Carlos Salinas
GARZA...George Grant
TREVINO...Frank Pena
RAFAEL ESTRELLA...Rudy Seppy
EPIGMENIO GUZMAN...Everett Sifuentes

Villager

EMETERIO ROCHA...Roger Alan Gorton

Henchmen

SALAS...Darryl Jackson
LEON...Danny Wilcox

*Member Actors' Equity Association
**Candidate for AEA Membership

ACT ONE:

Northern Mexico, Summer 1938.

ACT TWO:

The same, four weeks later, 5pm.

ACT THREE:

The same, four weeks later, 11am.

There will be two 10 minute intervals.

TEATRO HISPANO de DALLAS

Teatro Hispano de Dallas is a non-profit theatre organization formed to stage Hispanic productions in Dallas. The primary objectives are: to inspire greater appreciation and awareness of the cultural identity and experience of the Hispanic community through the performing arts, and to reflect and maintain the rich Hispanic theatre heritage. Teatro Hispano encourages and develops local aspiring Hispanic actors and other artists. The organization was founded by Cora Cardona and Jeff Hurst in 1985 with the extraordinary support of Vicki Meek and Liz Flores.

The organization acknowledges the support given by Sol Villasana during its formative stages. Present officers of the board are: President, Jesse Tafalla; Secretary, Guadalupe Beltran; Treasurer, Hector Escamila. Members of the board include Luz Lozano, Emily Tobolowsky, Jesse Chairez, Robert Cardona, Irene Belton and Rene Castilla.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: EL GESTICULADOR is one of Usigli's most overtly political plays, yet is about much more than politics. In it Usigli deals with the way politicians manipulate the masses for their own purposes, and how the people not only accept but seem to demand this manipulation. But, as the title suggests, the play is also about fabrication -- the fabrication and revision of history, the fabrication of false heroes. Although specifically about Mexican life after the revolution, the play transcends Mexico and presents us with universal views of truth; what it is, how we perceive it, and how we twist and shape it to suit our purpose.

DESIGNERS

Sets...Jac Alder
Costumes...Bruce Coleman
Lights...Robert McVay
Sound...Tristan Wilson

STAFF

Assistant Director...Jacky Flynn
Technical Director...Tristan Wilson
Production Co-Ordinator...Cheryl Denson
Master Painter...Charles Howard
Costumier...Chris Kovarik
Sound Operator...Dona Henley
Publicist...Gary Yawn
Box Office Manager...Kati Porter

EL GESTICULADOR is presented by special arrangement with
La Sociedad Mexicana de Autores.

ABOUT THIS JOINT VENTURE

The City of Dallas has a Division of Cultural Affairs led by the Parks and Recreation Board. The DCA has a "Minority Incentive Program" which distributes funding to major organizations for programming to promote the concept of cultural diversity in the Arts. This play, as well as the May 2nd conference on Hispanics and the major Arts institutions of Dallas, have been underwritten by the "Minority Incentive Program". Additional generous support for the conference has been provided by FRITO-LAY under the leadership of Charlie Cotton, FRITO-LAY Vice President and member of Theatre Three's Board of Directors.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rodolfo Usigli was born on November 17, 1905 in a modest district of Mexico City. He was five years old when the revolution began, and the exploding of guns had barely subsided when he reached manhood. Usigli's importance has been noted by many authorities including Willis Knapp Jones, an American expert on Spanish American theatre. Jones includes Usigli as one of the three leading modern Spanish American dramatists along with Argentinian Samuel Eichelbaum and Rene Marques of Puerto Rico.

The Mexican literary historian Carlos Gonzales Pena comments about Usigli: "Strength and delicacy, refinement and originality, a penetrating spirit of close observation, a peculiarly ardent manner concealed by a cold objectivity and biting irony, are characteristics of Usigli. His remarkable dramatic skill and gloomy outlook make him a controversial figure."

In 1935 and 1936, Usigli studied at Yale under a Rockefeller Foundation grant. He was a contemporary of American playwrights Clifford Odets, S. N. Behrman and Eugene O'Neill. In 1944, as a diplomat for Mexico, Usigli was sent to Paris where he became friends with the French playwright Jean Anouilh. On a trip to England he visited with George Bernard Shaw. Shaw and Usigli shared an ardent mutual admiration with Shaw declaring that CROWN OF SHADOWS (Usigli's play about the Virgin of Guadalupe) was much better than anything Shaw had written at the same point in his life.

Usigli died in Mexico City in 1979. EL GESTICULADOR had been his most controversial work. The original production was closed by the government.