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# 'HERIDAS' TOTALLY IMPRESSIVE FINE DRAMA, STRONG ACTING



Category: Teatro en Miami

BY MARTA BARBER | El Nuevo Herald

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 Carlos 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 putting 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, reminisces 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 numerous 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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Teatro en Miami Corp a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization was organized to preserve Hispanic cultural heritage through the arts. Specifically, TEMS mission is to inform, promote produce and creatively participate in all artistic endeavors in order to strengthen our county culture

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