



Announcing

THE HISPANO-AMERICAN PLAYWRITING COMPETITION

*In celebration of the
Fiftieth Anniversary of the IDB*

The “Bárbara Simon” Theater Club of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Staff Association invites playwrights to participate in the **Hispano-American Playwriting Competition** in celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the IDB. The IDB Staff Association is an organization that represents employees of the IDB. One of its purposes is to promote their wellbeing through social, cultural, sports, and recreational activities.

Contemporary Hispano-American playwrights have an arduous task in convincing theaters to premiere their plays. This is where literary competitions play a crucial role: by endorsing the quality of a playwright, they create an opportunity that has the potential to advance his or her artistic career. The public has the final word, deciding the fate of the playwright’s work by either accepting or rejecting it, but first, the curtain must rise. Competitions today are an important door to the stage for playwrights.

To participate in the competition, authors may choose one of the following categories:

- a) **Great Hispano-American Comedy for a minimum of seven characters** (Written in Spanish)
- b) **Hispanos in the U.S.A., pero without stereotypes** (Written in Spanish, English, or “Spanglish”)
- c) **Children’s Theater** (Written in Spanish)

Participation in the competition is open to native citizens or foreigners with proof of more than five years of residence in any of the IDB member countries:

Argentina, Austria, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, the People’s Republic of China, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

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Plays will not be subject to aesthetic limitations and must be original (not adaptations) unpublished works. They may not have premiered, won a previous award, or been performed previously in any country, nor may they be participating in selection processes for any other competition during the period of time from the beginning of the selection phase until the award decision is made for this competition.

The jury will select four winners in each category, awarding cash prizes totaling US\$17,000, in addition to the following special prize package:

- a) The **“Bárbara Simon” Theater Club** will perform the winning play from the “Great Hispano-American Comedy for a minimum of seven characters” category in the Enrique Iglesias Auditorium (EVI) at the IDB in Washington, D.C., during its 2010/2011 theater season.
- b) The first prize winner in the “Great Hispano-American Comedy for a minimum of seven characters” category will travel to Washington, D.C., with all travel and lodging expenses paid, in order to attend the world premiere of his/her play.
- c) In 2011, the **“Bárbara Simon” Theater Club** will publish a selection of the 10 best plays from the competition (see details in the “Guidelines” section). The publication will subsequently be distributed to theaters and libraries in Spain and the Americas chosen by the Theater Club.
- d) The **Thalia Spanish Theatre** (New York) will perform the winning play in the “*Hispanos* in the U.S.A., *pero* without stereotypes” category in a world premiere bilingual production during its 2010/2011 theater season.
- e) **Sociedad Educativa de las Artes, Inc. (SEA)**, (New York) will select one of the winning plays in the “Children’s Theater” category to be performed during its 2010/2011 theater season.
- f) **GALA Theatre**, through its GALita children’s program (Washington, D.C.), will select one of the winning plays in the “Children’s Theater” category to be performed during its 2010/2011 theater season.

The competition opens on 1 April 2009 and **ends on 1 December 2009**.

Plays are to be sent in duplicate to:

Luis Simón
Executive Director
Hispano-American Playwriting Competition
IDB Staff Association
1350 New York Ave. NW – Stop B-0670
Washington, DC 20577
U.S.A.

Sponsors for the competition are: IDB; IDB Staff Association; IDB Family Association; Centro Español de Washington, D.C.; Embassy of Spain in the United States; Embassy of Venezuela in the United States; Embassy of Uruguay in the United States; Telemundo; Centro Dramático Nacional (Ministry of Culture, Spain); Thalia Spanish Theatre; GALA Theatre; Sociedad Educativa de las Artes, Inc. (SEA); and the Ministry of Culture of Guatemala.

Only plays that fulfill all the requirements listed in the competition “Guidelines” will be accepted.



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GUIDELINES

1. OBJECTIVES

The **Hispano-American Playwriting Competition** will select plays that embody the specific characteristics of the Spanish-speaking community on the basis of a universal theme.

Winning plays will be those that maintain a balance between the quality of playwriting, good use of language, and the feasibility of production. The jury will also evaluate the degree of acceptance and impact that the selected plays would have on the Hispano-American public if performed.

This competition can offer its winners publicity for their plays and advancement of their artistic careers, fulfilling the mission of the IDB Theater Club to promote the region's cultural development.

2. PARTICIPANTS

- a) Each author may submit one script per category. Although the author may participate in the three categories with three different scripts, participation in all three categories is not required.
- b) Participation in the competition is open to native citizens or foreigners with proof of more than five years of residence in any of the following IDB member countries:

Argentina, Austria, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, the People's Republic of China, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

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- c) Plays may be written by one or more authors. However, neither the “Bárbara Simon” Theater Club of the IDB Staff Association, nor the Bank or its sponsors, assume any legal responsibility with respect to any litigation that may arise before, during, or after the competition between authors of the same script. If a play with more than one author is selected as the winner, the prize will be awarded to the lead author, but all other authors of the play will be named (see “Documentation” section).
- d) There is no age limit for participating in this competition.
- e) The competition is open to both professional playwrights and those without playwriting experience.
- f) After the names of the competition winners have been announced, the envelopes corresponding to each participant will be opened. If there is evidence that the same author has submitted more than one work in a single category, the jury will disqualify that author from the competition if s/he has been selected as the winner of any of the prizes. The jury may also qualify another play/author that has met all the terms specified in the competition “Guidelines”.

3. CATEGORIES

- a) **Great Hispano-American Comedy for a minimum of seven characters:** A prize will be awarded in this category to a comedy with contemporary subject matter and a brilliant style, written in Spanish and open to any universal theme.
- b) ***Hispanos in the U.S.A., pero without stereotypes:*** A comedy or drama that reflects the positive contribution and values Hispanics bring to the United States of America, without resorting to stereotypes. Stereotypes are understood as exaggerated or vague cultural characteristics that refer to a country, race, social group, gender, etc., as well as to the distorted view that the rest of U.S. society may have of Hispanics in the United States (e.g. drugs, illegality, corruption, failure to integrate, delinquency, etc.). The winning play should be of interest to both Hispanics in the United States and the rest of U.S. society, without being didactic, but rather with a clear intent to promote interculturality and harness the diversity of Hispanic culture for the development of a pluralistic nation that offers opportunities to all its inhabitants. This category provides the option of submitting scripts in Spanish, English, or “Spanglish.”

This category does not require participants to be citizens or residents of the United States of America or to have lived in that country. All individuals mentioned in the “Participants” section are eligible to participate.

- c) **Children’s Theater:** This category awards prizes for plays written in Spanish. The plays may be performed by adult actors, although their subject matter will be directed at a young audience. The plays will communicate human, social, and cultural values that promote harmonious relations between people and encourage the defense of and love for Hispanic culture.

The style is open: The plays may be written for actors, clowns, puppets, marionettes, etc.

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4. PLAYS

- a) Plays submitted will not be subject to aesthetic limitations, and the playwriting style is open.
- b) Submittals must be original (not adaptations) unpublished works. They may not have premiered, won a previous award, or been performed previously in any country, nor may they be participating in selection processes for any other competition during the period from 1 April 2009 through 1 April 2010.
- c) In plays using multimedia or musical scores, only the playwriting and song lyrics will be evaluated. However, the lyrics, music, and other technological components must be unpublished and original.
- d) Plays are to be written on letter-size paper (DIN A4) with line spacing of 1.5 and Arial 10-point typeface. All pages are to be numbered at the bottom (center) and should not be bound.
- e) Plays are to have a minimum length of 30 pages and a maximum length of 80 pages. Plays in the "Children's Theater" category must have a minimum of 20 pages and a maximum of 40 pages.
- f) Plays competing in the "Great Hispano-American Comedy for a minimum of seven characters" and the "Children's Theater" categories are to be written in Spanish only, although the use of turns of phrase from Spain or the Americas is allowed.
- g) Plays competing in the "*Hispanos in the U.S.A., pero without stereotypes*" category may be written in Spanish, English, or "Spanglish."
- h) If any dialectical or idiomatic expressions are used that might not be understood by an audience from other countries that do not share the same idiomatic or dialectical traits as the author's country of origin, a glossary should be included at the end of the work specifying the meaning in context of those words in the Spanish language.
- i) Originals of plays not selected will not be returned to the authors and will be destroyed 30 days after the results of the competition are announced.

5. DOCUMENTATION

- a) Two copies of the play are to be submitted, with the title, category, and pseudonym on the title page. The second page is to contain a list of all the characters, with a very brief description of each. This material is to be accompanied by an electronic copy of the play in a Word file saved to a CD (labeled with the same title, category, and pseudonym).
- b) Each play is to be submitted in a sealed envelope labeled with the same pseudonym, clearly indicating the category. The following information is to be included inside:
 - First and last name (as shown on personal identification documents);
 - Photocopy of identification card, national identification document, or passport;
 - Author's home/work/cellular/mobile phone numbers (with all relevant international codes);
 - E-mail address;
 - Mailing address;

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- If a resident but not a citizen of a country eligible for the competition, the author must submit a copy of either a residency identification document or a certificate signed by a notary public attesting to residency in that country.
- c) Originals are to be mailed by postal service to:
- Luis Simón**
Executive Director
Hispano-American Playwriting Competition
IDB Staff Association
1350 New York Ave. NW – Stop B-0670
Washington, DC 20577
U.S.A.
- d) For more information, please contact:
- Ana Nuchowich**
General Producer of the Hispano-American Playwriting Competition
E-mail address: TEATROBID@iadb.org
Or visit our website: www.teatrobid.org
- e) We will not accept phone inquiries or scripts sent by e-mail.

6. COMPETITION PERIOD

- a) The competition begins on 1 April 2009 and **ends on 1 December 2009.**
- b) If originals are received after that date, the postmark date will be used to determine eligibility.

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7. PRIZES

The jury will select four (4) winning plays in each category, awarding prizes totaling **US\$17,000**, plus an impressive **Special Prize Package**:

Category: **Great Hispano-American Comedy for a minimum of seven characters**

1st PRIZE

US\$5,000

Certificate, publication rights, production rights, and travel to Washington, D.C., with travel, lodging, and approved per diem expenses paid¹

Awarded by: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

2nd PRIZE, 3rd PRIZE, and 4th PRIZE

Certificate and publication rights

Category: **Hispanos in the U.S.A., pero without stereotypes**

1st PRIZE

US\$3,000

Certificate, publication rights, and production rights

Awarded by: IDB "Bárbara Simon" Theater Club

2nd PRIZE

US\$2,000

Certificate and publication rights

Awarded by: IDB "Bárbara Simon" Theater Club

3rd PRIZE

US\$1,000

Certificate and publication rights

Awarded by: Club Español de Washington, D.C.

4th PRIZE

Certificate and publication rights

Category: **Children's Theater**

1st PRIZE

US\$3,000

Certificate, publication rights, and production rights

Awarded by: IDB Staff Association

2nd PRIZE

US\$2,000

Certificate and publication rights

¹ In the case of a collective work involving more than one author, travel, lodging, and per diem expenses will be paid for one (1) author only to travel to Washington, D.C., on behalf of the other authors.

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Awarded by: IDB Staff Association

3rd PRIZE

US\$1,000

Certificate and publication rights

Awarded by: IDB Family Association

4th PRIZE

Certificate and publication rights

The Hispano-American Playwriting Competition will also award the following
SPECIAL PRIZE PACKAGE:

- The **“Bárbara Simon” Theater Club** will perform the winning play in the “Great Hispano-American Comedy for a minimum of seven characters” category as a world premiere in the Enrique Iglesias Auditorium (EVI) at the IDB in Washington, D.C., during its 2010/2011 season. The play will be performed in Spanish.
- The winner of the “Great Hispano-American Comedy for a minimum of seven characters” category will travel to Washington, D.C., with travel, lodging, and approved per diem expenses paid, in order to attend the world premiere of his/her play during the 2010/2011 season.²
- The play awarded first prize in the “*Hispanos* in the U.S.A., *pero* without stereotypes” category will be performed as a world premiere bilingual production at the **Thalia Spanish Theatre** (New York) during its 2010/2011 theater season.
- **Sociedad Educativa de las Artes, Inc. (SEA)** (New York) may select one of the winning plays from the “Children’s Theater” category for its world premiere during the 2010/2011 theater season.
- Through its children’s program, GALita (Washington, D.C.), the **GALA Theatre** may select one of the winning works from the “Children’s Theater” category to produce during its 2010/2011 theater season.
- In 2011, the **“Bárbara Simon” Theater Club** will edit and publish a selection of the 10 best works from this competition. The book will subsequently be distributed to directors, producers, theaters, and libraries selected by the “Bárbara Simon” Theater Club. For that publication, plays will be selected from among the four winners of each of the competition’s three categories.

Cash prizes may not be shared (only one play will be selected as the winner for each prize) and must be awarded. In the event of a tie, the Chairman of the Official Jury for that category will decide the winner.

The Official Jury may decide not to award publication and production rights for any of the winning works at its discretion.

² In the case of a collective work involving more than one author, travel, lodging, and per diem expenses will be paid for one (1) author only to travel to Washington, D.C., on behalf of the other authors.

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8. JURY

- a) **Official Jury:** The competition has three teams of international Official Juries (one for each category), each with a chairman and voting members. The members of these juries are highly esteemed professionals who make up a diverse group of individuals with different backgrounds. They aim to provide balance, a diversity of opinions, and quality in the final decision. Each group consists of playwrights, directors, producers, set designers, critics, and/or university professors in Literature or Playwriting. A list of the members and their respective biographies can be found on the Theater Club website (www.teatrobid.org).
- b) **Pre-selection Jury:** This jury is made up of graduate students in Hispano-American Literature, Playwriting, and Theater, at prestigious universities. This group, under the supervision of their respective professors, will analyze each of the plays to be submitted for the competition and will evaluate them, selecting the 30 plays (per category) to be evaluated by the Official Jury. The selection criteria and scoring will be previously determined by the Official Jury.

9. DECISION

- a) The decision by the Official Jury of the Hispano-American Playwriting Competition will not be subject to appeal.
- b) A meeting will be held on 15 March 2010 to open the winning envelopes in the presence of authorities from the IDB Staff Association, the "Bárbara Simon" Theater Club, and other sponsors under the supervision of an official and in compliance with strict standards of ethics.
- c) The results will be announced in a public ceremony on 1 April 2010 during the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the IDB in Cancun, Mexico.
- d) Winners will be notified by telephone and e-mail. Participants can view the list of winners on the Theater Club website (www.teatrobid.org) starting on 1 April 2010.

10. ACCEPTANCE

- a) In participating in this competition, the winners agree in advance to sign the publication contract for their plays.
- b) The prize received is considered payment for publication rights.
- c) Plays performed will not receive any additional copyright payments. The prize from this competition is considered payment therefor.
- d) The author will grant consent to use his/her name for purposes of promoting and publicizing the award.
- e) Neither the "Bárbara Simon" Theater Club of the IDB Staff Association nor the sponsors assume any legal responsibility in the case of copyright litigation pertaining exclusively to the parties affected. The competition jury may revoke the prizes and award them to new participants if any violation of these guidelines is determined.
- f) The winners will not receive any compensation other than as described in the "Prizes" section.

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- g) Participation in the "Hispano-American Playwriting Competition" implies full acceptance and agreement with these guidelines. The jury is solely responsible for the interpretation of these guidelines and for any unforeseen considerations.

Last updated: 1 September 2009
