

The Foreign Languages Newsletter

Clark University · Worcester, Massachusetts

Vol. XXII, No. 2 · October 2002

D'LUGO AT BERLANGA FESTIVAL

On October 15, the *Círculo de Bellas Artes* de Madrid presented a gala celebration on the 50th anniversary of the premiere of Luis García Berlanga's 1952 film *¡Bienvenido, Mister Marshall!* The event was sponsored by la *Mostra de Valencia de Cine* (Valencia Film Festival), the *Círculo de Bellas Artes*, the *Sociedad General de Autores y Editores*, and the American Embassy.

It began with a round table discussion which included three film directors—Luis García Berlanga, José Luis Borau, and José Luis García (winner of an Oscar for *Volver a empezar* (1983)—and two historians of Spanish cinema, Julio Pérez Perucha of Spain and our own MARVIN D'LUGO, representing the United States, who was invited to talk about the U.S. reaction to the film, and how American film historians view this film and Berlanga's cinema in general. Over 200 people attended.

The hour-long *mesa* was followed by the inauguration of the *Círculo's* exhibit of the production history of *¡Bienvenido, Mister Marshall!* which included storyboards, costumes, shooting scripts and other paraphernalia related to the filming of this work, perhaps the most popularly acclaimed Spanish film of the last half-century.

The Tuesday gala was followed by the presentation of a commemorative volume tracing the history of the film's production and related "scandals." When the film was shown at the Cannes Film Festival, where it won three awards, Edward G. Robinson, a member of the festival jury, protested what he believed was the film's anti-Americanism. The US. ambassador

in Madrid actually spoke to Franco about the film's political themes. Nothing was ever done, of course, since Franco actually enjoyed the film.

Part of Prof. D'Lugo's comments were meant to explain—as if Spaniards needed to have this explained to them—that *Welcome, Mr. Marshall!* is not a critique of the U.S. but of the Franco regime. That was something the Spanish censors missed entirely when they approved the film for general distribution without any cuts.

The Madrid celebration was followed by a *gran fiesta* in the town of Guadalix, fifty kilometers from Madrid, where *Welcome, Mister Marshall!* was filmed. The film is being shown in a special retrospective of Berlanga comedies at the *Círculo de Bellas Artes* throughout the month of October.

In March, the celebration of Berlanga will continue in Valencia, with the *Mostra de Valencia* sponsoring a scholarly round table at which Professor D'Lugo will present a formal paper on "Berlanga and his American Friends."

OTHER FACULTY NOTES

INGRID MATOS-NIN, lecturer in Spanish, has been invited to participate in the annual conference of *Tropos*, a professional journal. The conference will be held at Michigan State University on November 16. The title of her lecture will be "La importancia de lo sobrenatural en las novelas de María de Zayas y Sotomayor".

MARVIN D'LUGO also recently attended a symposium in New York entitled "A Celebration of Brooklyn Hispanism," held Oct. 17-18 and sponsored by the Graduate Center of the City

University of New York and the Instituto Cervantes. The occasion was to honor former graduates of the undergraduate Spanish program at Brooklyn College and students of the Sephardic literary scholar Mair José Bendardete. D'Lugo was one of sixteen American Hispanists who presented papers during the two-day celebration, on topics ranging from new approaches to *Don Quijote* to studies of the emergence of Latino literature in the U.S. by Dominican writers who had attended Brooklyn College.

D'Lugo's paper was titled "The Transnational Imaginary in Buñuel's *Los olvidados*." The Brooklyn College group includes some very well-known names, such as Ivan Schulman, Paul Ilie, Albert Sicroff, and Sandra Cypess.

WILLIAM FERGUSON has two reviews forthcoming in *The New York Times Book Review*: Amanda Hale's new novel *Sounding the Blood*, set in a whaling station in British Columbia in the early twentieth century, and Gregg Easterbrook's *The Here and Now*, a novel about how the ideals of the '60s are lost as time goes by.

NEW COURSE IN FRENCH

Assistant Professor of French BETH GALE announces a new course for the Spring: *Lessons Learned: Education in the Twentieth-Century French Novel*. The course will explore literary

portrayals of youth and the passage to adulthood, with an emphasis on the role of the school. Topics include the adolescent body, gendered identity, social structures and narrative strategies. Authors studied may include Colette, Alain-Fournier, Gide, Sagan, Ernaux, and Duras. Taught in French.

SPANISH TERTULIA

The *tertulia* is an informal gathering of students and friends who enjoy conversing in Spanish. The next *tertulia* will be hosted by Teresa Ruano on Monday, October 28 in ES 409. All Spanish speakers, as well as those who aspire to fluency, are cordially invited to attend.

FRENCH TABLE

On October 18, Assistant Professor of French BETH GALE hosted the year's first French table in the Higgins Dining Room. With both faculty and students participating, the event was a great success. The next French Table is planned for Friday, November 22.

LARC HOURS, FALL 2002

Sunday: 2:00-5:00 p.m., 7:00-11:00 p.m.
 Monday: 2:00-5:00 p.m., 7:00-11:00 p.m.
 Tuesday: 2:00-5:00 p.m., 7:00-11:00 p.m.
 Wednesday: 2:00-4:00 p.m., 7:00-11:00 p.m.
 Thursday: 2:00-5:00 p.m., 7:00-11:00 p.m.
 Friday: 2:00-5:00 p.m.

THE FOREIGN LANGUAGES NEWSLETTER is published by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Estabrook Hall 301, Clark University, Worcester, MA 01610. Please send news items and announcements of coming events to Newsletter Editor, care of the Department, or call us at (508) 793-7342, 793-7234.

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