

EL OBSERVADOR

Mexico's First Modern Comedy

'Rosalba Y Los Llaveros'

Bellas Artes Production presents "Rosalba Y Los Llaveros," a Spanish comedy of manners, at Milagro Theatre, 525 S.E. Stark St., April 5 - 28.

Set in the late 1940s, "Rosalba y los Llaveros" is a delightful comedy of manners in which a defiant young woman from Mexico City visits her cousin, turning their lives upside down in a futile attempt to "liberate" them from their provincial lives and exposing many family secrets along the way.

Considered Mexico's first modern comedy, the play is a wonderful blend of fresh realism and Mexican costumbrismo from one of Mexico's most renowned, prolific and successful playwrights.



The play's cast, Teatro Espanol, is the Pacific Northwest's only Spanish-language acting ensemble and hails from Latin America, Mexico, Venezuela and Peru.

"Rosalba Y Los Llaveros" is in Spanish with English supertitles. Show times are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 to \$18.

For more information, call 503-236-7253 or visit www.milagro.org.

Everyone's lives turn upside down when a young woman from Mexico City tries to "liberate" her provincial cousins, in the Spanish language production of "Rosalba Y Los Llaveros" at Milagro Theatre, April 5 - 28.



A U.S. Coast Guard keeps watch on 19.4 metric tons of cocaine confiscated from the cargo ship Gatun in Panama City. (AP photo)

Cartel Behind Cocaine Seizure

(AP) U.S. officials said Mexico's powerful Sinaloa drug cartel is behind the record 20-ton cocaine shipment that was recently seized by the U.S. Coast Guard off Panama's Pacific Coast.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff called the seizure, worth nearly \$300 million, the largest ever by the Coast Guard. The drugs were found in containers on a ship that left Guyana and passed through the Panama Canal on March 15 on the way to the Mexican state of Sinaloa, said Panama's top drug prosecutor, Jose Almengor.

Coast Guard officials detained 11 Mexicans and three Panamanians during the seizure about 20 miles southeast of the island of Coiba off Panama's coast. The Mexicans will be taken to the U.S. to face trial, while the Panamanians will be jailed in Panama.

Almengor said the Sinaloa cartel has just begun to establish itself in Panama, which borders Colombia. The majority of Colombia's drugs move along Central America by boat or plane and then pass through Mexico over land before they are smuggled into the United States.

Vatican Pushes Mexico on Abortion

(AP) -- The Vatican on Friday sent in its top anti-abortion campaigner to Mexico City to kick off the Roman Catholic Church's aggressive campaign against plans to legalize abortion in Mexico.

The church's campaign pushes the limit of Mexico's constitutional ban on political activity by religious groups. It is also drawing President Felipe Calderon, a conservative who opposes abortion, into a showdown with leftists spearheading the bills to legalize abortion in the first three months

of pregnancy.

"In the name of Jesus Christ and his Gospel, we ask, we implore they do not approve an unjust and bloody law that kills the innocent," said the Rev. Hugo Valdemar, spokesman for the Catholic Archdiocese of Mexico City.

While the church has always been against abortion, the Vatican especially does not want to lose its anti-abortion fight in Mexico, which has the second-largest Catholic population in Latin America.

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Street Creations



Three Graces is a mixed media collage and ink by Jussara Luz Padilha, one of the featured artists for Last Thursday on Alberta Street.

Mystical, Playful Creations

The paints and prints of Brazilian-born artist Jussara Padilha will have an encore presentation for Last Thursday, March 29 at Onda Arte Latina/Cross Currents Gallery, 2215 N.E. Alberta St.

Padilha, who now lives in Ashland, uses color, clean lines and graphic composition as hallmarks of her work. She creates a bridge between the mystical and playful through her dynamic sense of color, evoking the sense of joy of creation.

She studied at Pratt Institute in New York and worked for Yoko Masaki Design Studio before leaving for India where she studied meditation and worked with art and music for a period of eight years.

Her art is strongly influenced by her native country of Brazil as well as the aesthetics and philosophies of India and Indonesia. Another source of inspiration has been poetry by writers as diverse as Pablo Neruda and Rumi. She began using her own poetry in creating some of her recent images.

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