

EL OBSERVADOR

Searching for My Story

Weaving traditional music, dance and storytelling, artists from different backgrounds present "Cuentos - Searching for My Story," a play to confront questions such as: Who are we? Hispanic? Latino? American? Where do we belong?

This bilingual, family-friendly production by the Miracle Theatre Group and Viva la Cultural encourages audiences to value their heritage and community through this celebration of the cultures of Spain and Mexico.

The cast is comprised of Rebecca Martínez, Joaquín López and Stan Olmstead. Martínez works professionally as an actor, director, singer, folkloric dancer, instructor and choreographer. López, a theatre artist and musician, and Stan Olmstead, musician, perform Spanish-inspired Latin music throughout Portland.

Shows take place Feb. 2-23 at Milagro Theatre, 525 S.E. Stark St., with Saturday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$5 to \$10 and can be purchased by calling 503-236-7253.



Joaquín López (from left), Rebecca Martínez and Stan Olmstead, perform in the play 'Cuentos - Searching for My Story' at Milagro Theater, 525 S.E. Stark St.

Women-Only Buses Rolled Out in Mexico

In response to male harassment

(AP) -- Groping and verbal harassment is an exasperating reality for women using public transportation in Mexico City, where 22 million passengers cram onto subways and buses each day. Some men treat women so badly that the subway system has long had ladies-only cars during rush hour, with police segregating the sexes on the platforms. But that hasn't helped women forced to rely on packed buses, by far the city's most-used form of public transportation — until now.

Acting on complaints from women's groups, the city rolled out "ladies only" buses last week, complete with pink signs in the windshields to wave off the men.

As word spreads about the buses, the women seem delighted, while some men forced to wait a few minutes longer have shown their



Women ride a city bus designated for women only in Mexico City. The city started the female-only city bus program after complaints from women's groups of groping and verbal harassment on public transportation. (AP photo)

anger. Still others have stumbled on board despite the signs, much to their embarrassment.

On Thursday, passengers on one of the female-only buses spent most of their trip down the capital's tree-lined Reforma Avenue chatting or putting on makeup, instead of fighting off unwanted male attention.

Mexico City's female-only buses run along three busy routes throughout the day for now, but the city plans to add them to 15 other routes by April, said Ariadna Montiel, who directs the public bus system.

"Women were asking for this service because of the sexual harassment, especially groping and leering," Montiel said.

And while some men have complained that they have to wait longer for a bus, she said the women are thrilled: "The women are really happy and we have been getting a lot of e-mail and letters from them."

Have you seen me?

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1-800-THE-LOST

Endangered Missing



JESSICA CHAGOZA
Current Age: 12
Date Missing: Jan. 15, 2008
Missing From: Lathrop, CA
Jessica was last seen wearing blue jeans, a bright purple t-shirt, and a multi colored zippered Southpole hoodie; she wears braces and has red highlights in her hair.



MARY RICHARDSON
Current Age: 16
Date Missing: Jan. 13, 2008
Missing From: Redmond, WA



RYAN FEIGHTNER
Current Age: 19

Police believe that Mary is in the company of Ryan Feightner; they maybe in the Seattle, WA or Portland, OR areas.

If you have any information please contact:

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

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Forbidden Love



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE DAVIS

Leonardo (Gilberto Martin del Campo) steals away with La Novia (Mayra Acevedo) under the wrath of his mother, La Madre (Bibiana Lorenzo) in Miracle Theatre Group's production of Federico Garcia Lorca's "Bodas de sangre" on stage Feb. 1-23 at the Milagro Theater.

Inspired by a true story, "Bodas de sangre" takes us to Andalusia of the 1930s, where a young bride-to-be yearns for her forbidden lover and an escape from the constraints of her impending marriage.

The Miracles Theatre Group production at Milagro Theater, 525 S.E. Stark St., is one of the most passionate plays by Federico Garcia Lorca. The playwright fuses breathtaking poetry with visual metaphor, sending emotions galloping at

fever-pitch toward a stunning climax of betrayal and revenge.

The play opens Friday, Feb. 1 at 8 p.m. and runs through Feb. 23, in its original Spanish with English subtitles all nights except Saturdays and opening night. It also features Teatro Español, the only Spanish-language acting ensemble in the Pacific Northwest.

Tickets can be purchased online at milagro.org or by calling 503-236-7253.

English Survival Courses

As a second language, English can be tough to learn. So, Portland Community College is offering a beginning, non-credit English class designed to help those with little or no English language experience understand the basics.

The non-credit offering, Survival English: Level I is an introduction to basic English for non-native speakers and no previous English experience is required. Instructors Kathleen Aaberg and Rochelle Lessner will emphasize using English in actual situations, hoping students will learn quickly in this supportive environment.

The classes are offered at New Columbia, 4610 N. Trenton; and at Holy Redeemer Catholic School, 127 N. Rosa Parks Way. Cost is \$29.

For more information, contact PCC's Community Education office at 503-978-5143.

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