THE ART OF WORDS
Myth, Legend and Tradition in Performance

Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies

Spring Symposium
April 1-4, 2014
Georgina Hassan and Nicolás Buenaventura
MYTH AND LEGENDS IN PERFORMANCE

¿Qué dice más que las palabras? El silencio.
¿Qué dice más que el silencio? El pensamiento.

It is an honor to welcome acclaimed playwright, storyteller and performer Nicolás Buenaventura and his troupe to MSU to celebrate worldwide traditions of myth and legends in performance. Early in the week, Nicolás Buenaventura and Joni Starr led a workshop on storytelling open to students of Spanish and Theater. He also delivered a lecture at the Center of Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Musician Georgina Hassan participated in a Composition Seminar in the College of Music with professors Mark Sullivan and Ricardo Lorenz. This grand finale is a performance of an artistic project of Mr. Buenaventura’s creation.

Dar a luz: la aventura del pensamiento [Giving Birth: The Adventure of Thought] is a project that foments and enacts the process of “thinking” through stories, images and music. It recreates the act of giving birth by recounting myths of creation from different origins and cosmologies around the world. According to Buenaventura,

“Giving birth is the epic tale of a birth. It is also an encounter. An encounter with a singer and narrator with stories that feature creation; the vital need for music, the story of the word, an encounter with words that touch, words that envelope and make one want to live and to be; words that allow birth and re-birth; it allows us to decide to come to this world and inhabit it.”

Performance and theater constitute valuable experiential learning through creativity and cultural appreciation. Thanks to a grant from the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives, the Department of Romance and Classical Studies, Department of Theatre, Department of Teacher Education and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies have joined forces to promote creativity, diversity and inclusion through performance. This event continues the Hispanic Theater series initiated in November 2012 with Don Juan Week, followed by Scenes of Magical Realism performed in 2013 by MSU students of Spanish.

Elvira Sánchez-Blake
Associate Professor, Spanish
Department of Romance and Classical Studies
TUESDAY, APRIL 1

7:00-9:00 PM
Storytelling Workshop
With Joni Starr, Teacher Education.
Studio 60, Auditorium Hall.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

2:45-4:30 PM
Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Seminar
*The Art of Words: Myth, Legend and Tradition in Performance*
Nicolás Buenaventura.
Reception followed by seminar.
Room 303, International Center.

7:00-9:00 PM
Meeting with Spanish Club students.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

1:50-3:00 PM
Georgina Hassan participates in College of Music seminar course with Professor Mark Sullivan.
Hart Recital Hall

7:00-9:00 PM
*Dar a luz: la aventura del pensamiento*  
*[Giving Birth: The Adventure of Thought]*  
Nicolás Buenaventura and Georgina Hassan.  
STUDIO 60, Auditorium Hall.  
Performance in Spanish (subtitles in English)

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**Pilar López**
A Colombian anthropologist and doctor of history and civilizations. She has guided the research process of several of Buenaventura’s projects. She is technical producer of *Dar a luz,* and other performances.

**Joni Starr**
Assistant Professor of Arts Integration in the Department of Teacher Education. She currently works with future teachers to instill creativity in teaching. She has directed, choreographed, and adapted multiple stories into plays. She has worked in regional educational theaters and has taught Theater at MSU, Winthrop University, the College of Charleston, and Shanghai International Studies University. She has also produced and directed a Storytelling Festival for rural highland communities in Guatemala. At MSU, she directed the Hispanic Theater plays, *Johnny Tenorio* in fall 2012 and *Magical Realism: Scenes from Latin America* in spring 2013.
Nicolás Buenaventura
Colombo-French screen playwright, film director and performer with over 30 years of performing experience. His award-winning work has been widely presented in Europe, North America and South America. He has published short stories, books and five independent films. He has also directed two commercial movies and 25 TV documentaries. As a storyteller and performer he is a pioneer in creating and promoting a new generation of oral narrators in Latin America and France. As an actor and director he worked with Teatro Experimental de Cali (Experimental Theatre of Cali, TEC). Buenaventura’s work has been presented in tours and festivals around the world.

Georgina Hassan
Argentinean musician, composer and singer. She has two CD albums, *Primera luna* and *Cómo respirar*. In addition, she has collaborated in recordings with North American labels such as Putumayo (Café Latino). Hassan has participated in tours and musical festivals around America and Europe. In 2009 she was invited to be part of a production by Grammy winner, Kepa Junkera, with other recognized singers from Latin America, including Pablo Milanés, Pedro Aznar, Lila Downs and Ivan Lins. She has accompanied Nicolás Buenaventura’s *Dar a luz: La aventura del pensamiento* since May 2013.

Dar a luz: la aventura del pensamiento
Giving Birth: The Adventure of Thought

Dramaturgy, direction and narration: Nicolás Buenaventura

Music: Georgina Hassan

Visuals: Pilar López

Design/Technical Supervisor: Kirk Domer

Lighting Engineer: Kenzie Carpenter

Audio Engineer: Jason Price

Projection Engineer: Hernando Claros

Producer: Elvira Sánchez-Blake

Duration of the show: 1 hour and 10 minutes
Thank You and Special Recognition:

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In addition, we thank the following:

Hernando Claros: Department of Theatre
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Christine Geith; Patrick Hayes; Rashad Muhammad;
Gwyn Shelle; Lauren Zavala: MSUglobal
Daurice Torry and Emily Holley: Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies
What is faster than lightning?
Sight.

What is faster than sight?
Thought.

What is deeper than the abyss?
Sorrow.

What is darker than blindness?
Forgetfulness.

Qué es más rápido que el relámpago?
La mirada.

¿Qué es más rápido que la mirada?
El pensamiento.

¿Qué es más profundo que el abismo?
La tristeza.

¿Qué es más oscuro que la ceguera?
El olvido.

—Nicolás Buenaventura Vidal

Photos by RW Blake
COLLABORATORS
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Department of Theatre
Department of Teacher Education

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