



Press Release

For immediate release
March 18, 2010

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Going Global: Theatre Communications Group Sends First US Delegation to Bogotá, Colombia

**Theatre artists and administrators to participate at
Festival Iberoamericano de Teatro de Bogotá**

New York – Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre and home to the United States Center of the International Theatre Institute (TCG/ITI-US) has assembled a delegation of 27 individuals, representing the diversity of the American not-for-profit theatre community, festivals, training programs and cultural organizations to travel to and participate in the VIA Program at the 12th edition of the Festival Iberoamericano de Teatro de Bogotá (FITB).

TCG Executive Director, Teresa Eyring said: “The Bogotá theatre festival is one of the largest international theatre festivals in the world, and very few US theatre practitioners know about it or have had the opportunity to attend and experience the exceptional range of theatre being created and produced in Colombia and the wider Latin American landscape. We hope that this delegation will help foster new artistic relationships, collaborations and co-productions with our neighbors in Colombia and beyond.”

The TCG delegation includes José Antonio Cruz, Repertorio Español; Joseph P. Benincasa, The Actors Fund; Steve Cosson, The Civilians; Mariana Fernández, IDB Theatre Club; Michael Fields, Dell’Arte International; John Flax, Theater Grottesco; Michael Garcés, Cornerstone Theatre; Henry Godinez, Goodman Theatre; Mara Isaacs, McCarter Theatre Center; Jason Loewith, National New Play Network; Neel Keller, Center Theatre Group; Kate Kita, Theatre Grottesco; Ellen Lauren, SITI Company; Ana Nuchowich, IDB Theatre Club; Thaddeus Phillips, LUCIDITY SUITCASE; Laura Quiroga, GALita Children’s Theatre; Michael Robertson, Lark Play Development Center; Diane Rodriguez, Center Theatre Group; Luis Simon, IDB Theatre Club; Paul Slee, The Ensemble Studio Theatre; Janet Stanford, Imagination Stage; Andrea Thome, Lark Play Development Center; Sergi Torres, consultant; Courtenay Wilson, William Penn Foundation. TCG leadership attending is Teresa Eyring, Emily Cachapero and Kevin Bitterman.

From March 24-28, the Festival (which runs from March 19-April 4) presents the largest gathering of Colombian and Latin American productions and invites international producers and presenters to see the work and meet the artists through the VIA Program. VIA is sponsored by the performing arts marketplace and business center of FITB and the Chamber of Commerce.

TCG/ITI-US, along with members of its delegation who are particularly interested in establishing or strengthening collaborations with Latin American companies, were asked to offer a series of technical assistance workshops to help inform the international companies about the structure of theatre in the US and models of successful international collaborations.

“Experiences like this one in Bogotá are important on so many levels: It’s an amazing socio-political opportunity to connect our two continents, it will expand our notion of what really exciting theatre can be and it is an honor to be asked to participate in this series of workshops. Exchanges like this can open our eyes to new methodologies, new texts and no doubt even things like new strategies for audience development,” said delegate Henry Godinez.

TCG’s Executive Director was a delegate in the VIA program in 2008; however, this is the first time TCG will have the opportunity to travel to the festival with a delegation of US theatres and artists. Throughout its almost 50 year history, TCG has helped to foster a national resident theatre movement and the evolution of an ecosystem of theatres across the United States. Increasingly, that movement is growing to a global scale and TCG is poised to facilitate this convergence through its leadership as the US Center of ITI, grant-making programs, advocacy efforts on immigration issues, and international coverage in *American Theatre* magazine. In addition, TCG hopes to gain knowledge from this trip that will aid in its efforts in creating a formal plan to increase theatre collaboration between Colombia and the US.

As for the larger Festival, for seventeen days, from March 19-April 4, the 12th edition of FITB will present a selection of the best of performing arts world wide, in different genres and disciplines. The festival has invited more than 80 international companies from 40 countries, will include 320 exhibitions for family and children, 150 out-door performances, and more than 100 Colombian groups.

Created in 1988 by Fanny Mikey and Ramiro Osorio on the occasion of the celebration of the 450th anniversary of the founding of Bogotá, Colombia, FITB has become one of the most significant cultural events in Colombia. Since the first edition, the festival has held its main objective as the integration of Latin American art to the world with the presence of theatre groups from five continents.

For more information and a full list of events go to
<http://www.festivaldeteatro.com/co/en/festival/via/via.html>

Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, exists to strengthen, nurture and promote the professional not-for-profit American theatre. Its programs serve nearly 700 member theatres and affiliate organizations and more than 12,000 individuals nationwide. As the US Center of the International Theatre Institute, TCG connects its constituents to the global theatre community. In all of its endeavors, TCG seeks to increase the organizational efficiency of its member theatres, cultivate and celebrate the artistic talent and achievements of the field and promote a larger public understanding of, and appreciation for, the theatre. TCG is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. www.tcg.org