PUBLISHING NEWS

FROM GRÖNHOLM TO GALERAN

I was present at the final rehearsal before the premiere of El mètode Grönholm (The Grönholm Method) by Jordi Galeran at the Teatret Nacional de Catalunya (National Theatre of Catalonia). The atmosphere was one of defeat: the author unhappy; the actors disoriented; the director, perplexed. The play opened and the audience continued to laugh and applaud enthusiastically at the end, the whole theatre in a standing ovation. Since last May of 2007, El mètode Grönholm has been staged in 25 countries. More than two million people around the world have seen it, more than any other play in the history of Catalan theatre.

The story follows four candidates for an executive position in the waiting room of a multinational company and action (the hiring test) grounds us in real time. This is a brilliant contemporary, classical comedy. It is radically "contemporary" in the way it presents the disasters that arise from inventing identities. And it is a "classical" comedy in that it uses the mechanisms of the pièce bien faite and because it is the work of a critical moralist. Like Molière, Goldoni, Sheridan, Beaumarchais, Wilde and Shaw, Jordi Galeran (1964) is a lucid revealer of society's moral confusions. In El mètode Grönholm, he does this on two different levels. First, he condemns the use of deception as an instrument of power, and second – both more cruelly and compassionately – he shows the completeness of the damage caused by self-deception. Galeran writes thinking of each member of the audience as an individual. This and his talent make him a truly great playwright. El mètode Grönholm is a fine introduction to the author of Dalota, Parauls encadenats (Chained Words) and his most recent play, Concud.

Esteve Miralles

ON STAGE

Six recommended websites for Catalan poetry

La Il·lustració Poètica Metropolitana i Continental (Continental and Metropolitan Poetic Enlightenment)

http://la.illustracio.cat/literatura/poesia.php

This website maintained by the Valencian poet Eduard J. Verger includes a multilingual anthology of Catalan poetry, a good selection of poetry from around the world translated into Catalan, the digital edition of the magazine Canàl (1979-1981) and a presentation of Verger's own work.

Els entra-i-sarts de Brossa (The Ins-and-Outs of Brossa)

http://www.rococres.com/insouts.php

This is the best on-line presentation of the poet Joan Brossa, who produced his work in the confluence between the avant-garde, theatrical, provocative and the plastic arts. Anyone who is interested in Brossa can also consult the website of the Joan Brossa Foundation at www.fundacio-joan-brossa.org (in Catalan, Spanish and English).

Viu la poesia (Poetry Lives)

http://www.viuapoesia.cat/

An innovative selection of Catalan, Spanish and world poetry with search tools providing information by author, readership (adults, young people, children) and genre. Besides poems, it includes didactic proposals, audio and video and, in some cases, interactive material.

Música de poesies (Music of Poets)

http://www.musicaapoesies.cat/

This is a virtual space where music and literature flow together and where one can listen to a wide range of poetry and the Catalan masters have composed from the work of the best poets. The site is a co-production of the Open University of Catalonia, the Government of Catalonia and the Spanish Society of Authors, Composers and Publishers (SGAE).

Mag Poesia (Mag Poetry)

http://www.malphicweb.cat/magpie/catala/

over the last ten years, this Malforca-produced website has been bringing together a wide-ranging anthology of Catalan poets and poems, Catalan versions of world poetry, rock and songs in Catalan, along with stage versions of poetry by the Magisteri Teatre group.

Barcelona Poesía (Barcelona Poetry)

http://www.bcn.cat/cultura/barcelonapoesia.php

This is the website of Poetry Week, which is held in May every year in the capital of Catalonia. Other notable events during the year are the Sant Cugat Festival of Poetry, the Mediterranean Poetry Festival in Mallorca, and the Quimono Poètico in Villafranca del Penedès.

Jaume Subirana