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Play developed at Teatro del Pueblo's Political Theatre Festival nominated for Nobel Prize

MINNEAPOLIS & SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA – MARCH 2, 2010 – At the Teatro del Pueblo's 2006 Political Theatre Festival, Nestor Amarilla, wrote and directed an original play entitled *Saved by a Poem*. Now, according to *El Mirador Paraguayo*, this 29 year-old Paraguay native has been nominated for the prestigious Nobel Prize in Literature.

A recent news leak reported that Amarilla has been nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature. The story has been the source of much excitement and controversy, not only because of Amarilla's young age, but because the Nobel nominations are supposed to be kept confidential for 50 years after the nomination. As laid out in Alfred Nobel's will, the Prize is given to "the person who shall have produced in the field of literature the most outstanding work in an ideal direction." If Amarilla is, indeed, honored by this award, it will make him the youngest Laureate to win the prize for literature.

Amarilla received his Bachelor of Arts in Theater from Metropolitan State University four years ago. While studying in the Twin Cities, he wrote and directed numerous plays, including *American Rose*, *Vestido Roto*, *La Pruebera Makes a Good Day*, *Ripped Dress*, and *Saved by a Poem*, also know by its Spanish title, *Fecha Feliz*. Based on a true story, *Saved by a Poem* takes place in the country side of Paraguay in 1975, when General Alfredo Stroessner was in power. In the play, the mother tries to save the life of her only son from dictator Stroessner through a poem.

"We are elated by the news that this play has been nominated for a Nobel Prize," says Teatro's Artistic Director, Alberto Justiniano. "It was an honor to have worked with the playwright on this piece. *Saved by a Poem* is a testament to the human spirit. We would like to congratulate Mr. Amarilla and wish him the greatest success."

Teatro del Pueblo is currently in the second week of its ninth annual Political Theatre Festival, continuing through March 13, 2010. This year's festival is comprised of three series of plays by a range of local and national Latino playwrights like Amarilla. United within the theme of "Across the Divide," the plays traverse geo-political divides and confront the infamous "gender gap," among other social justice issues. Series A and B, three plays each, alternate performances from February 25 through March 7 at the Gremlin Theatre in St. Paul. For Series C, Teatro teams up with Pangea World Theater and the Intermedia Arts Catalyst Series to present *NE 2nd Avenue*, a special performance by Miamian artist Teo Castellanos. It closes the festival, playing from March 11 to 13 at Intermedia Arts in Minneapolis.

More information may be found on Teatro's web site, www.teatrodelpueblo.org. Reservations for the festival's regular performances may be made at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/13486> or by calling 1-800-838-3006. General admission tickets are \$15 a piece; \$12 for Students, Seniors, and Fringe Button-holders; and \$11 for groups of 10 or more. (To make group reservations, call 651-224-8806.)

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