



**Teatro del Pueblo**

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### **The Political Theatre Festival: A Brief History**

The Political Theatre Festival is now in its ninth year in the Twin Cities of Minnesota. One of Teatro del Pueblo's main, annual events, it is unlike any other theatre festival, as it combines entertainment with a forum for social change.

The idea for the Political Theatre Festival came about when Teatro's Artistic Director, Alberto Justiniano, was in Ireland teaching conflict resolution. While at a pub one evening, he realized that he wanted to be better-versed in Latin American politics. Though it was originally slated to be presented in 2001, due to the attacks on September 11<sup>th</sup>, the first Political Theatre Festival was postponed to the following year.

Since the first festival, the Political Theatre Festival has confronted such themes as social justice, identity, community, and this year, "Across the Divide," which focuses on immigration and gender issues. Teatro has collaborated with other theatres in the Twin Cities, including Intermedia Arts, Pangea World Theater, and the University of Minnesota, and aims to bring a special guest artist to the festival each year.