

Research Grant – Spring 2014

Faculty member: ___Dora A Arreola

Unit: ___School of Theatre and Dance

Project/Proposal Title: **Translating *Gender and Transformation: The Creative Process of Mujeres en Ritual Dance Theatre***

Abstract:

Funds from this grant will help support the publication, specifically the translations, of a bilingual (English and Spanish) book entitled *Género y transformación: proceso creativo de Mujeres en Ritual Danza-Teatro / Gender and Transformation: The Creative Process of Mujeres en Ritual Dance Theatre*. The book documents the fifteen-year history of the company, founded by Dora Arreola, and its impact in the field of contemporary performance. The book will include essays by various authors, and will be published by Centro Cultural Tijuana (CECUT), a federal institution in Mexico, in conjunction with the company's Quinceaños (15th Anniversary Celebration) in November 2014.

Proposal:

In November 2014, Centro Cultural Tijuana (CECUT), one of the most important multi-disciplinary arts centers in Mexico, will honor the history and impact of my company, Mujeres en Ritual Danza-Teatro, with a Quinceaños (15th Anniversary) event, as part of the XII Festival of Literature of the Northwest of Mexico (FeLiNo). The Quinceaños will include a retrospective video, a performance re-staging the first production of the company, and the release of a new book, *Género y transformación: proceso creativo de Mujeres en ritual Danza-Teatro / Gender and Transformation: The Creative Process of Mujeres en Ritual Dance Theatre*. This forthcoming publication is a compilation of articles and essays by diverse authors writing about the trajectory of Mujeres en Ritual and its contributions to the field of performance, from 1999 to 2014. It will be published by CECUT, with 500 copies scheduled for the first printing.

Edited by Sergio Rommel (theatre scholar and President of CAESA, the Council for the Accreditation of Higher Education in the Arts, in Mexico), the book will include authors from Mexico and the United States who focus on analyzing the process and aesthetics of performance. In addition to Rommel, invited writers include: Dr. Maribel Alvarez, Associate Research Social Scientist and Professor, University of Arizona, and editor of "Arts in a Changing America"; Dr. Kirsten Nigro, Director of the Department of Languages and Linguistics, Professor of Spanish and Latin American Theatre at the University of Texas, El Paso; Benigno Sanchez-Eppler, author of *Queer Diasporas* and lecturer at Amherst College; Dr. Liz Foster-Shaner, community-based theatre scholar; and long-time Mujeres en Ritual company member, Maria Vale. As scholars and critics from both Mexico and the United States, some write in English, and others in Spanish. In order to make the book truly bilingual, we need support to commission the **translations**, so that every article appears in both languages.

This project will require two different translators, to be consistent within each language: Laura Jaúregui, published poet, translator and editor from the border region, will translate from English

to Spanish; and Alejandro Espinoza, Professor-Researcher of Art Theory, School of the Arts, University of Baja California, will translate from Spanish to English. (They charge different rates, as reflected in the budget, which is based on quotes from the translators.)

The goal of translating the book is to make it accessible for scholars, professional practitioners, and students of theatre in both countries, as well as broader international audiences in Latin America and globally. Because *Mujeres en Ritual* is a transnational, bilingual performance company, it is most appropriate for the book to contain both languages.

This project directly supports Goal 1 of the primary performance indicators of the University: “Expanding world-class interdisciplinary research, creative and scholarly endeavors.” It also contributes to Goal 2, “Promoting globally competitive...programs that support interdisciplinary inquiry, intellectual development, knowledge and skill acquisition.” It also supports interdisciplinary research, and brings visibility to the USF School of Theatre and Dance through international publication, and helps to leverage external funding.