



Teatro de Ciertos Habitantes brings to stage one of the most outstanding works of the Spanish-language

Life is a Dream (La Vida es Sueño) by Pedro Calderon de La Barca, is the eighth and most recent project of **Teatro de Ciertos Habitantes**, directed by renowned director, **Claudio Valdés Kuri**. For over seventeen years Teatro de Ciertos Habitantes has dedicated itself to in depth research, exploration and an ongoing process in creating innovative and unique works of theatre.

The Auto Sacramental **Life is a Dream**, written in the year 1674, by Pedro Calderón de la Barca, is almost unknown (unlike the play with the same title written 38 years before) **and an allegorical one-act play**, illustrating the theological history of humanity. Calderon wrote this play after he entered the priesthood later in life and moved away from writing secular plays.

The text builds itself as an amazing treatise of alchemy nurtured by the most profound hermetic knowledge. In it, an initiation journey is suggested, as described by the Hermetic sagas, from the ancient to the present day: the obligatory transit of the aspirant who, in the search for knowledge, puts himself through diverse tests. An inner adventure, Man faces his own shadow, until he reaches clarity.

The cast consists by 14 talented male interpreters, forming an unusual ensemble of actors/singers/musicians/dancers, who have worked for over a year in an intense process of creation.

ALCHEMICAL THEATRICAL PRODUCTION

The lack of artifice dominates in this mise en scene, giving relevance to the text and to the demanding interdisciplinary performance of the interpreters. The theater is used in its entire space, fading the limits between the audience and the actors.

The *pitagoric cuadrivium* (which corresponds to the sciences: arithmetic, geometry, astronomy and music) provides keys to the comprehension of the text and serves as a source of inspiration for the staging: numerology suggests that the allegorical characters that surround Man are his twelve inner aspects, as if we were observing his mind. The sacred geometry displays itself in a fascinating way: from a dot (the beginning of everything) to the Pentagon (the elevated human being) in geometrical-rhythmic transits and symbolical traditional dances. Music is present through unique Mexican Baroque pieces and folklore songs interpreted vocally and instrumentally by the actors, building a bridge between the baroque and the contemporary. Astrology manifests itself in beautiful descriptions that talk about the influence that celestial bodies have upon us.

A sophisticated lighting design demarcates and transforms the space emphasizing the allegorical character of the play.



PHILOSOPHICAL DRAMA

In this play, Calderon synthesizes biblical theological history in a masterful way: the Creation of the Universe, the Fall of the Angel, the Creation of Man, the Expulsion from Paradise, redemption by forgiveness and installation of the Sacraments. However, as in every major Baroque play; words, concepts and images have a symbolic character, with many different interpretations and levels. This philosophical drama both invites and provokes the idea of seeing beyond the immediate and the search for original meaning in symbols that may seem well known to some and obsolete to others.

TEATRO DE CIERTOS HABITANTES

The Mexican contemporary theatre company, Teatro de Ciertos Habitantes has become a reference point of Latin American vanguard theater. Selected past productions include: El Gallo, Monsters and Prodigies, The Grey Automobile, among others. Their productions have been performed with great success in the most important festivals and venues on five continents, receiving numerous awards and critical acclaim worldwide.