

Talking sex with Charo

By Amalia Cuestas
For the Herald

Theatre-goers' choice

She is charismatic and has a great deal of charm. This attractive lady, middle aged but still young, goes by the name of Charo López. Visiting Buenos Aires once again, the Spanish actress currently appears in a one-woman show entitled *Tengamos el sexo en paz*.

The text was written by the Fo family (however, I read in an Italian paper that the idea belongs to Jacopo Fo, and his parents helped him round it off). It's mostly explanations about sex, a master class on this delicate issue with lots of humorous comments, translated and adapted by Carla Matteini. In Argentina, the text was adapted by Cristina Rota.

During two hours, Charo López deftly deals with her demanding stage job. With much poise, she ably stresses the text's amusing points.

Most interesting of all is the straightforward manner sexual matters are dealt with, without any hypocrisy whatsoever. The authors deal with sex and culture, religion, physical considerations, abortion, AIDS, even zen philosophy by Western standards. Their ideas make sense, and call for side-splitting laughter.



Herald photo by Marió Meser

Charo López in "Tengamos el sexo en paz."

Charo López's performance is compelling. She shows slides and speaks about the intricacies of the human body through a hilarious language. López is very good indeed and it's quite difficult to think of any other actress who could play such a difficult role.

The awakening to sex, the questions asked by teenagers, the taboos and repressions have all been factored in when putting together this striking, undeniably original

monologue. There is no bad taste at all here: one of the good points is that it avoids profanities. Dario Fo, Franca Rame and Jacopo Fo have produced a truthful, witty vision of what, after all, is nature itself.

Female and male needs and reactions were taken into account, as well the respective psychological responses to different situations. In the end, the play stresses what really matters: love, tenderness and

affection, which we don't always care to practise.

Charo López, dressed in a most elegant outfit designed by Toni Miró, shines throughout the show, and wins the audience over.

Lighting is by Francisco Leal, also in charge of sets. José Carlos Plaza directs.

(At the Teatro Liceo, Rivadavia corner Paraná. Tel. 381-4291. Tuesday to Friday at 9pm, Saturday at 8.30pm and 11pm, Sunday at 8pm).