

(workshop)

## Puente Theatre's Story

Lina de Guevara

**PUENTE Theatre's Story** : a sharing of techniques, stories, exercises, successes and struggles experienced by this theatre in its 20 years of work expressing the experiences of immigrants to Canada: conducted by Lina de Guevara, artistic director of PUENTE."

During the workshop I'll share the history of PUENTE as it relates to language, culture and Transformational theatre, explain and teach some of the basic tools of theatre exploration that we have used such as interviews and image theatre, then talk about Forum and have the students perform a couple of the scenes we use for the ELC program and show how forum works. Hopefully we'll have time for Q.&A. Also I can have handouts on Transformational Theatre, bibliography and samples of scenes.

**Lina de Guevara** is an actor, theatre director and drama teacher. She was born in Chile, where she worked as a professional actor and director in the National Theatre Company (Instituto del Teatro, ITUCH) and in the Austral University (Valdivia). She's a specialist in the techniques of Transformational theatre, Theatre of the Oppressed and Commedia dell'Arte.

Since coming to Canada in 1976, Lina has continued to work in theatre as actor, director, teacher and writer. She has taught in the Canadian College of Performing Arts, the Victoria Motion Picture School, U.of Victoria, Lester B.Pearson College, United World College of the Norhtwest, Teatro Visi?n in California and other institutions. Some of her acting credits in Canada include "Evita & Victoria", "Play Strindberg", "Coming of Age", "Turns", "Children of a Lesser God" and "Talking with...".Her director's credits include "Commedia dell'Arte", "The House of Bernarda Alba", "Mother Courage", "Happy Days", "Pastorela de Juan Tierra el Immigrante", "Letters for Tomas", "Twelfth Night", "Storytelling Our lives", and many others.

In 1988 she founded PUENTE Theatre, to express the experiences of immigrants in

Canada. It is a theatre that uses many languages, images, music, masks, movement and interaction with the audience. Some of the plays she has written and directed for PUENTE are: "I wasn't born here", "Crossing Borders", "Canadian Tango", "Of Roots and Racism", "Sisters/Strangers", "Familya" and "Story Mosaic". She has also taken part as theatre consultant, researcher, translator and writer in the production of several videos documenting PUENTE's work such as "Changing Steps", "Creating Bridges", "Changing Rhythms", "Rosa's Story" and "Like Father, like Son".

PUENTE's productions have been presented in many provincial, national and international festivals such as the 1993 and 1998 Festivals of Theatre of the Oppressed in Rio de Janeiro and Toronto and the International Festival of Pastorelas in Mexico City in December 1999.