Preface

The present volume is intended as an introduction to the contemporary theater in Latin America presented through studies on individual playwrights. The editors have chosen this approach rather than a thematic or country-by-country one because they consider virtually all the major themes and dramatic currents in recent Latin American theater to be present in one or the other of these writers. Further, they believe that by concentrating on a limited number of dramatists, and by having the production of each essayed by a critic familiar with his or his country's theater, much greater depth is afforded than would otherwise be possible.

While the dramatists included in the study doubtless rank among the most significant in Latin America today, Carlos Solórzano (Guatemala and Mexico) and a number of other playwrights, such as Sergio Vodanović (Chile), Wilberto Cantón (Mexico), Elena Garro (Mexico), Francisco Arriví (Puerto Rico), and Demetrio Aguilera-Malta (Ecuador and Mexico) have also made exceptional contributions. However, since comprehensive essays on each of these dramatists—except Vodanović—are already available, they are not presented here. In the case of Vodanović, an essay was originally planned but regrettably was not forthcoming.

The editors would like to give thanks to the eleven colleagues who contributed to the volume. We also pay homage to the fifteen playwrights herein treated, for they have provided us all with material for many pleasurable and stimulating hours of reading and reflection.

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