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ENTERTAINMENT

Juan Bobo premieres in New York

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Tonight, the play "Los Titingós de Juan Bobo" premieres at La Tea Theater in Loisaída. The Teatro Círculo production goes on stage as part of the Puerto Rican Heritage Month celebration.

The musical comedy written by the Argentinian playwright who resides in Puerto Rico, Carlos Ferrari, adapts for the theater the well known stories of Juan Bobo, the simpleton, but not too much, peasant who is a central character in Puerto Rican folklore. The simple wisdom of Juan Bobo is highlighted by the songs, the music and the sayings of the Puerto Rican countryside.

In Puerto Rico, "Los Titingós de Juan Bobo" premiered 10 years ago, produced by the company, Teatro del 60, at the now defunct Sylvia Rexach Theater, in Puerta de Tierra. According to Wanda Arriaga, spokesperson for Teatro Círculo, "This is the last time the play is staged in the U. S. and the first that Ferrari ceded the production rights to another company."

As matter of fact, because of this production the author of "Los Titingós" will be present at the opening. Teatro Círculo won an ACE



'LOS TITINGÓS DE JUAN BOBO,' which premiered 10 years ago in Puerto Rico, opens tonight at La Tea theater in Loisaída, in which could very well be the last time the play is staged in the U.S.

Prize for its production of "Entremeses de Cervantes", last year, which was then invited to participate in the XX Golden Age Festival of El Paso, Texas and went on tour with the Puerto Rican Traveling Theater.

"After 'Entremeses...', Teatro Círculo has decided to return to the roots of Puerto Rican theater," said Arriaga.

"Each culture has a character like Juan Bobo ... ours is more than 100 years old and is part of the Puerto Rican oral tradition," said Arriaga. "We want the new generations ... to be in contact with the people's oral tradition and that it is passed on from generation to generation."

The production at La Tea is directed and choreographed by Axel Cintrón, assisted by Tata Cañuelas. Musical arrangements are by José Moreno and Alfil Ideas, the stage and costume design are by Harry Nadal. The cast is made up by Roberto Rodríguez, Anabel López, Eva Cristina Vásquez, José Cheo Oliveras, Wanda Arriaga, Ricardo Rodríguez Puente, Yeidy Rivero and Luis Felipe Meléndez.

The "Titingós de Juan Bobo" at La Tea, from November 10 to 21 (212-529-1948) and at Citicorp Center from the 14th to the 16th (212-254-2434).