

## ENTERTAINMENT/TELE



TAMARIS CANALS, Jose Cheo Oliveras and Wanda Arriaga star in "The Mischievous Juan Bobo," by Carlos Ferrari. The play will be performed in Jersey City next Tuesday.

## Puerto Rico's lovable Juan Bobo is coming to Jersey City next week

By Arturo Martinez  
Journal correspondent

Juan Bobo is perhaps the most popular Puerto Rican folkloric character. He's a bumbler and a street philosopher. Everybody dumps on him, laughs at him and with him.

But everybody loves him. Jersey City residents will have an opportunity to see a play with music based on this character when the Puerto Rico Traveling Theater of New York brings its summer production to Roberto Clemente Field, between Sixth Street and Manila Avenue, next Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

"Los Titingos de Juan Bobo" ("The Mischievous Adventures of Juan Bobo") is an adaptation of the well-loved short stories which "belong to the oral and popular tradition of Puerto Rican folklore," according to Jose Cheo Oliveras, the artistic director of the Teatro Circulo of New York, which is collaborating with the PRTT in this production.

"Juan Bobo is a character

### "Los Titingos de Juan Bobo"

Puerto Rico Traveling Theater of New York  
Roberto Clemente Field, Sixth Street and Manila Avenue, Jersey City.  
Aug. 15 at 6:30 p.m.  
Admission is free.  
The play is presented in Spanish.  
English summaries available.

who tries to make sense of the materialistic society in which traditional and spiritual values have been lost," says Oliveras.

The play, with a cast of 10 actors, singers and dancers, stars Roberto Corbea in the title role. It combines some of the character's most popular anecdotes with music and songs. The performance is in Spanish, but there will be a brief synopsis in English for those needing one.

"Juan Bobo" will also be performed this month in Newark,

Paterson, Allentown, Pa., as well as more than 20 other locations in New York. The Jersey City appearance is sponsored by the city's Puerto Rican Day Parade Committee (Desfile Puertorriqueño).

Miriam Colon, artistic director of the PRTT, says the aim of the company is to bring free, quality theater to the people in the barrios and parks of urban areas, particularly those unable to afford Broadway prices.

The company has been doing this for 32 years, and it also has a theater on 47th Street in New York for its winter presentations. The play is written by Carlos Ferrari and directed by Axel Cintron.

Oliveras says those familiar with the Juan Bobo character will find a "warm, nostalgic theatrical experience, while new audiences will get a crisp, amusing visit to the Puerto Rican folklore."

For other locations and times, contact the PRTT at (212) 354-1293.