

**Press Release - For Immediate Release**  
**- August 16, 2005 -**  
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## **PLAYREADING IN SPANISH**

**WHAT:** *"El Médico a Palos" / A Doctor in Spite of Himself*

**WHEN:** Friday, August 26, 6:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Instituto de México  
2829 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009  
(near Columbia Heights Metro Station – Green Line)

**Teatro de la Luna** and the **Instituto de México** present a playreading of *"El Médico a Palos" / A Doctor in Spite of Himself*, adapted and directed by Artistic Director Mario Marcel from the French play by Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, better known as Molière on Friday, August 26, at 6:00 p.m. This presentation is the culmination of Teatro de la Luna's artistic expression workshops at **EOFULA Spanish Senior Center**, through its *Theater for the Third Age* program.

**About the Author:** (Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, Paris, 1622-1673) **MOLIERE**, French playwright and actor. Born into a rich, bourgeois commercial family, his father was a royal upholsterer. A student in the Jesuit Clermont school until 1639, he was licensed in Law in 1642. In 1643 he helped found the L'illustre Theatre, together with the comedienne Madeleine Béjart, but gave up the project in 1645. For the next 13 years, he worked with Dufresne group, performing in commedia dell'arte. In 1658 he established the Troupe de Monsieur group, where his plays *The Pretentious Young Ladies* and *School for Wives* had great success, followed by *Tartuffe*, *Don Juan*, *The Misanthrope*, *A Doctor in Spite of Himself*, and others. In 1673, during a production of *The Imaginary Invalid*, he became violently ill; moved to his home, he died shortly thereafter. Molière's greatest achievement was adapting commedia dell'arte to conventional French theater, which incorporated music, dance and text, where humor almost always won. He fought against the hypocrisy of his time through irony.

**About the Play:** *A Doctor in Spite of Himself* has three basic themes: to ridicule medicine, the vulgar rich, and the three states of love (youth, adult, and something beyond mature). All these themes - as his entire body of work - are enveloped in the most subtle of moods, in excellent farce, in big laughs, and the entire theatrical joy that is the theater of Molière.

After the reading, there will be a short discussion between the audience, performers from EOFULA and the director, followed by refreshment. Entrance is free. Teatro de la Luna produces this program through help from the **Inter-American Development Bank - Solidarity Fund**.

### **INFO & RESERVATIONS: 202-882-6227**

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