

Los Angeles Times

Fifth Annual One-Act Festival (Theatre 40, 241 Moreno Drive, on the Beverly Hills High School campus, (213) 466-1767). "Credo" by Craig Lucas. "Spilt Milk" by Glenn Alterman. "Dos Corazones" by Richard Helleesen and "Santa God" by Tim Sims. "This quartet of well-written, superbly performed and gracefully directed short plays includes a potential classic

in 'Dos Corazones,' about two women in a maternity ward sharing a room who don't share a common language" (R.S.). Wed.-Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m. Ends Feb. 6. \$10. &

LA Village VIEW

Richard Helleesen's *Dos Corazones* is the most substantial piece of the festival. It centers on two new mothers in a maternity ward shortly after delivery. One is a sophisticated and nervy Anglo, deep in postpartum depression, who can't manage to love her new daughter. The other is a seemingly sunny and traditional young Latina who cherishes her infant son with simple and absolute love. Much of the fun comes from the attempts at communication between two women who don't share a common language. The play has just enough unexpectedness and wit to prevent it from slipping into sentimentality, and it's acted with stylish conviction by Suzanne Goddard and Jill Remez.

THEATER REVIEW

By RICHARD STAYTON
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Fed up with disaster-watch television? Had enough catastrophe? Then get a humanism fix at Theatre 40's fifth annual One-Act Festival. This quartet of new American plays offers earthquake relief in the form of compelling characters who overcome crisis without the aid of rescue teams.

The Festival's keynote play is Richard Helleesen's "Dos Corazones." Two women in a maternity ward have recently given birth. One is poor and speaks Spanish. The other is wealthy and speaks only English. Their intimate hospital room becomes a microcosm of Los Angeles, evoking the city's bilingual differences and cultural conflicts. Poignantly directed by Peter Ellenstein, profoundly performed by Suzanne Goddard and Jill Remez,

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THEATER NEW REVIEWS

FIFTH ANNUAL THEATER 40 ONE-ACT FESTIVAL This four-play bill features impressive writing and performances, with Richard Helleesen's *Dos Corazones* shining the brightest. Set in a hospital maternity ward, the play studies two new mothers from opposite sides of the proverbial track. Cheryl (Suzanne Goddard), surrounded by balloons and flowers, lies in a funk of disappointment at the essential loneliness of her upper-middle-class life and vacuous marriage. She's ironically comforted by the far more grounded and optimistic Spanish-speaking Anna (Jill Remez), whose husband couldn't even get off work to help her through labor. It's a tender portrait with luminous performances, skillfully directed by Peter Ellenstein.