

Read the text.

THEATER IN COSTA RICA

The beginning of playwriting in colonial Costa Rica took place during the nineteenth century when the main themes were religion, folklore, customs and historical events. Some folkloric authors are Carlos Gagini and Rafael Carranza. Carranza wrote *Un Dueño a la Moda* (1880). During the late 1920's, Héctor A. Castro Fernández introduced European vanguardist styles to Costa Rican theater. For example, in *El Punto Muerto* (1935), an almost science-fiction and surreal work, he portrayed the dehumanization of the world which results from the industrialization of nations.

In 1950, several theater companies were formed, renewing artistic creativity as well as the actors' interest in theater. So, theater studies as a university major was established in order to encourage the professional development of young actors who would later become essential in this industry.



In 1951, Alfredo Sancho founded his *Teatro Experimental*, which apart from interpreting universal foreign plays, produced Costa Rican pieces. During this decade, several theater houses such as *Teatro Arlequín* and *Teatro Las Máscaras* were also opened. This fact illustrated the growing interest in theater by the public in general.

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7) The vanguardist style represented _____.

- A) satirical works
- B) national religion
- C) universal folklore
- D) some surrealistic features

8) The fifties were very important because they inspired the _____.

- A) performance of authors
- B) opening of several theaters
- C) production of just foreign pieces
- D) closure of experimental theaters

9) Mr. Sancho's contribution had to do with the _____.

- A) industrialization of plays
- B) innovation of young actors
- C) opening of Teatro Arlequín
- D) presentation of national pieces

10) When the new theaters appeared, they _____.

- A) prepared new actors in surrealist works
- B) increased the public's interest in this field
- C) became places of renewal for young actors
- D) recovered old plays from the colonial period

6) One of the first Costa Rican theater themes was of _____.

- A) rural sayings
- B) humoristic pieces
- C) stereotypical works
- D) folkloric representations