

**Theater Review**

# Modern Society Prosecuted

## The Cast

CIELO CAIDO... a tragedy in three acts by Emilio S. Belaval. Produced by the Experimental Theatre of the Ateneo Puertorriqueño for the Puerto Rican Theatre Festival. Directed by Angel F. Rivera, assisted by Elin Ortiz. Sets by Tony Cataldo. Lights by Angel F. Rivera. Sound effects by Wilfredo Garcia. Costumes by Jose Luis Marrero.

At the Tapia Theatre, San Juan, P.R.

Andrea	Josefina del Mar
Adolph	Rafael Enrique Saldana
Rosamunda	Mercedes Sicardo
Nervino	Jose Luis Marrero
Blind Man	Braulio Castillo
Gabi	Sonia Noemi Gonzalez
Ruth	Myrna Casenave
Pablo	Marcos Betancourt
Claude	Elin Ortiz
Kari	Carmen Ina Rodriguez
Sabina	Marimerche Romero
Jean	Paquito O'Neill
Adon	Tony Rodriguez
Messenger	Raymond Tavaréz

**By PEDRO JUAN SOTO**

Emilio S. Belaval, a Supreme Court judge in real life, asked for poetic license last night at the Tapia Theatre in order to prosecute modern society. His charges were betrayal and ruination of spiritual values in behalf of utilitarianism, conformism, cynicism and several other alleged "isms."

Belaval's hypothetical case, known as *Cielo Caído* ("Fallen Sky") is set in an advertising agency, among disillusioned artists and models who busy themselves creating new standards of skin-deep beauty and good-will propaganda. They are made responsible for, and at the same time victims of, a world which, according to one character, has reached a point where "we shall all be devoured



**JOSEFINA DEL MAR**

by the monsters that our very misery has created." A world whose only hope, states Belaval, lies in the physically blind and the very young.

While the Court of World Conscience takes time to pass sentence on modern society, we shall consider the dramatic structure which Belaval (also a distinguished playwright in real life) has chosen to put across his bitter pronouncement.

CIELO CAIDO is a profound, satirical piece of writing which blends comedy and tragedy in such a manner that the audience has no trouble digesting the theatrical concoction, in spite of it's also being somewhat verbose.

Angel F. Rivera has directed the play with definite control and skill even in those spots where the abrupt changes from comedy to tragedy could have floored a less decisive and expert director.

Although the acting was set in too high a key for the first act, exaggerated gesturing and movements across the stage were later abandoned and the performance

wound up superbly. Rafael Saldana played very convincingly a Mr. Adolph, the dictatorial owner of the agency, and Josefina del Mar simply shone in her portrayal of pathetic Andrea. Jose Luis Marrero, as a very shady character, showed he is an actor endowed with magnificent resources. The rest of the cast packed the leading actors with very competent performances.

Tony Cataldo's set were elegant and yet simple, but they present a problem of perspective in the background, where what appears to be a very small terrace is too undefined because of the too big and too wide brick wall which crowds it. There is also a camera, at foreground center, which hides those actors who must play slightly off center.