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Hanging Out with Petrucia Finkler!

April 25, 2010 · [Leave a Comment](#)

Tomorrow we have our first Lunada of the year. I am very excited about beginning our series of staged readings of new work by Latina playwrights. As I posted earlier, Petrucia Finkler's play, *Brilliant Cut* will open our Lunadas 2010.

Just the other day, I asked Petrucia to meet me for brunch. These are some of the things we talked about:

LA: When and how did you become interested in the theater?

P: I was very little when I fell in love with it. At six years old I'd stand outside after a children's play and wait for the actors, so they could sign my program or a poster. Until my teens, I also wrote and directed plays that my cousins would perform for the family during our summer vacations in the beach. We passed a hat around to collect donations and used the money for ice-cream. Before college I was sure I wanted to study theater, but when the time came, I lacked courage and chose journalism instead. I guess life just found a way around my decision, and a few months after I moved to the U.S. in 2001 with my husband, I found myself at an acting school.

LA: How has your experience with Teatro Luna's Play Lab been?

P: I am incredibly happy to be surrounded by all these talented women. We have such different voices and backgrounds and yet, after a few minutes with them at our first meeting, I felt at home. I believe we became very close during the year and extremely supportive of each other's expression. It's a great environment to dare show some stuff we are unsure about. I learn a lot from them and get great ideas and feedback for the pieces I am working on.

LA: What was your inspiration for Brilliant Cut?

P: It started as an exercise for a class at the Chicago Dramatists. We came up with some random objects and descriptions for characters. I ended up with a stuffed raccoon and a pair of twin sisters. The raccoon was so enticing... I had to figure out a way to write a story around it and fit the twins in that!

LA: Any words of wisdom for our readers?

P: Words of wisdom? Hmmm.... Not really, just more of a technical suggestion. If you are invested in the creative field, please never leave your home without a notepad or a digital recorder. Ideas come up at crazy times. I'd usually get some solutions for Brilliant Cut's puzzles while I was driving. I'd pull over and record the thought immediately before it had a chance to escape. Oh yes, and please, do pull over! There you have it: pull over! These are my words of wisdom.

I also left with some encouraging words from Petrucia that I am still mulling over: "Writing is listening" and "art should connect us to something higher than ourselves." Thank you, Petrucia!

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