

TO THE FIA MEMBERSHIP

Dear colleagues, comrades and friends:

Cuba has once more been the victim of a natural disaster. Indeed, the second largest city in the country, Santiago de Cuba, and its 600 thousand inhabitants had to suffer the devastating effects of hurricane Sandy a few weeks ago. The attack was incredibly violent, affecting 55 thousand homes, 16 thousand of which were completely destroyed. Despite the measures taken by the Civil Defense, which is quite experienced with such phenomenons, we now have to mourn the death of eleven people.

The State now has to deal with the misfortune of over 300 thousand victims, on top of the rebuilding of one third of the city. Sadly, the reserve fund for disasters cannot cover all of this.

The UN has declared that Santiago de Cuba now is a disaster area and relief is coming from Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Russia, Vietnam, China, Bolivia and Ecuador, which have sent food, clothes and building materials.

The sector of culture, and especially live performance, has strongly been hit:

- The Heredia Theatre, a venue with a capacity of over 4000 seats, pride of the citizens of Santiago de Cuba, has nearly lost all of its roof; winds and water have destroyed the stage and its machinery, hundreds of metres of curtain, as well as over 300 pieces of lighting, stalls and carpet equipment.
- The Martí Theatre, a venue with a capacity of 550 seats, was almost entirely destroyed: the roof was completely destroyed and one of its walls fell down on the stage and the lighting box, completely ruining the lighting and sound systems, the stalls, the air conditioning system, the dressing rooms and the stage machinery.
- The cultural complex “Rogelio Meneses” saw its two theatre venues – of 800 and 300 seats – invaded by the waters. Stalls, carpets and parts of the stages are now ruined and the lighting and sound equipment are severely damaged.
- The Guignol Theatre, a children’s recreation and entertainment centre inaugurated over 50 years ago had recently been restored but has now almost entirely been devastated; it lost its roof, doors, window settings, stage, lighting box, sound equipment, air conditioning system, stalls and dressing rooms.
- The Macubá Theatre lost half of its roof, all of its windows, the stage machinery, all of its seats and tables, as well as its lighting and sound systems.

- Several theatre and dance companies' headquarters were severely damaged, including Folclórico Cutumba's, Calibán's, Cabildo's and Trocha's.

We call for FIA's unions, guilds and associations' solidarity, for actors', dancers' and other stage artists' help throughout the world, inviting them to send us donations through their unions or individually in order to contribute to the rebuilding of Santiago de Cuba, historical and cultural stronghold of our beloved country.

Carlos Padrón Montoya

President of the Stage Artist Association of the Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba (UNEAC), member of FIA

Please send you donation in any currency to the following bank account:

Name: Huracanes restauración de daños

Account Number: 0300000003347326

Bank Name: Sucursal BFI Habana Libre

Address: Calle 25 y L, Vedado, La Habana

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