



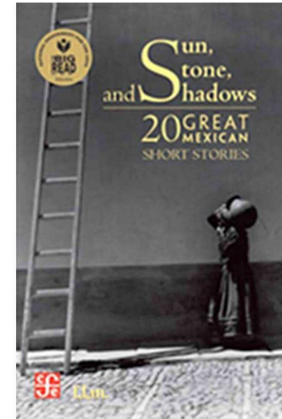
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The Bronx Reads *Sun, Stone and Shadows*: The Bronx Council on the Arts Celebrates the 2nd Annual Big Read in the Bronx

(Bronx, NY – March 25, 2010) Join the Bronx Council of the Arts (BCA) and Hostos Community College as they celebrate **The Big Read in the Bronx 2010** with a free kick-off reception and reading of ***Sun, Stone and Shadows***, an anthology of 20 superb and entertaining Mexican short stories, on Tuesday, April 6, 2010, 3:00-4:00pm at the Longwood art Gallery at Hostos Community College (450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street). All are welcome.

The Bronx Council on the Arts builds on the success of last year's Big Read in the Bronx with an ambitious program designed to celebrate Mexican culture and history and to engage the Bronx in the art of reading. April 6th's kick-off will include a Big Read Ribbon Cutting ceremony and a first story read aloud featuring local officials, artists, teachers and school groups for a special "first story read aloud" event.



Copies of the book will be available in English and Spanish and will be distributed free of charge to all who attend. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Students at local Bronx high schools will also participate in this year's Big Read event by reading the book and engaging in final projects. A few of the schools involved are: Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School (500 students,) Monroe High School and Lehman High School.

BCA President Bill Aguado describes the event, "The Big Read reinforces the Bronx Council on the Arts' commitment to literacy and the literary arts in the Bronx. By engaging the community in these readings, we go beyond the idea of passive entertainment and create an event where the community is a participant as well as an audience."

The Longwood Art Gallery is located at Hostos Community College at 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street in the Bronx. Transportation: IRT 4 & 5, Bx1, Bx19 to Grand Concourse and 149 Street.

All Big Read in the Bronx 2010 events are free and open to the public. They include:

Wednesday, April 7th & May 5th (5:00-8:30pm): BCA's Bronx Culture Trolley, which meets at Hostos Community College, transforms into a Mexican Trolley on the evening of April 7th and on Cinco de Mayo (May 5th) Mexican folk music and story-telling will be featured.

Wednesday, April 7th (6:30-7:30pm): Cuentos de Casa: Latin American Tales by Bobby Gonzalez and the Colorado Sisters at the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos tell stories, accompanied by music, that celebrate the history and people of Latin America.

Wednesday, April 7th (5:30-8:30pm): Students of Wings Academy and their instructor, Ray Felix, create art inspired by Octavio Paz's story, "My Life with the Wave" at the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos.

Saturday, April 17th (12:00-2:30pm): BCA's Bronx Artworks Artisans Initiative presents *Story in a Recycled Bottle*, a free craft workshop, at the Huntington Free Library (9 Westchester Square, next to the Apple Bank), where artist Lucy Aponte will show you how to make a miniature world inside a bottle.

Saturday, April 24th & May 1st (3:00-5:00pm): BCA's Bronx Writers Center (BWC) presents a two-part short story writing seminar at the Huntington Free Library (9 Westchester Square, next to the Apple Bank), facilitated by Mary Roma and Susanna Horng.

Thursday, April 29th (7:00-9:00pm): From One Culture to Another: Spoken Word Night at Barnes & Noble Bay Plaza (290 Baychester Avenue in the Co-op City section of the Bronx) Latino and African-American Spoken Word Artists respond to each other and to the themes in *Sun, Stone and Shadows*.

Saturday, May 8th (2:00-4:00pm): From the Page to the Stage: A Master Class taught by award-winning dramatist Rosalba Rolon is offered at the Pregones Theater (571-575 Walton Avenue, off 149th Street). Budding playwrights and screenwriters are encouraged to reserve a spot in this class.

Army of Artists: Artists of all disciplines are invited to participate in the Army of Artists, a group with the mission of using their creative powers to engage their communities in the art of reading and the love of the written word. More information is available on at www.bronxarts.org.

Visit www.bronxarts.org and click on The Big Read for information about additional Big Read events

About The Bronx Council on the Arts: The mission of Bronx Council on The Arts (BCA) is to encourage and increase the public's awareness and participation in the arts and to nurture the professional development of artists and arts organizations. BCA is celebrating over 45 years as a private, non-profit membership organization that is the official cultural agency of Bronx County. Recognized nationally as a leading arts service organization in providing cultural services and arts programs, BCA serves a multicultural constituency in excess of 1.3 million residents. BCA provides financial support through a variety of funding initiatives to Bronx arts organizations, artists, and community-based organizations. In addition, BCA manages the Longwood Arts Project and The Bronx Writers Center, which help to incubate the talents and skills of Bronx emerging artists while providing programs for the public at large.

For more information about The Big Read in the Bronx: Contact Maria Romano at 718-931-9500 x21 or maria@bronxarts.org, or visit www.bronxarts.org and click on The Big Read.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest. For more information, visit www.neabigread.org. **The Big Read in the Bronx** is presented in partnership with New York Yankees Foundation and Hostos Community College. **Additional support** for this program is provided by the Scherman Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation, the NYS Council on the Arts, the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, the NYC Department of Small Business Services and NYC Council Member James Vacca.

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