



Sponsored by the Repsol Foundation

THE FIRST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CREATORS' GATHERING SHOWS THE MOST CULTURAL SIDE OF MADRID

- The festival kicks off officially today with the opening ceremony at the Teatro Español, the festival will run until next Sunday 12th.
- The ceremony was attended by representatives of Madrid City Council, the Madrid Regional Government and Buenos Aires City Council, this year's guest city.

Madrid, 10 July 2009. The First Annual Creators' Gathering opened this morning at the Teatro Español with representative of Madrid and Buenos Aires cultural institutions. Also present were all the artists and creators taking part in this first event that aims to promote a creative space in the city, to be an example of coexistence and a cultural reference point for the city of Madrid. LETRA, which will be held until 12 July, features a programme for literature, theatre, cinema, poetry and debate lovers with activities being held in the streets and squares of the quarter known as the Barrio de las Letras. The band, Ensemble Nuevo Tango, performed "Verano Porteño", by Astor Piazzolla and "A Evaristo Carriego", by Eduardo Rovira at the opening ceremony.

The Repsol Foundation's Executive Vice Chairman, Enrique Locutura, said that "We support this initiative because we are aware of its importance and the opportunity that it gives society to exchange ideas, debate openly and contrast opinions in all areas of the arts."

Beltrán Gambier, the festival's artistic director, defined the Gathering as "a meeting point for creator's from Spain and abroad. We want to make culture accessible to all Madrid's citizens" – he added- "and generate debate between creators of both cities, involving all the citizens. We would like everyone who wishes to participate, thereby revitalizing the cultural life of Madrid's Barrio de las Letras.

At the event, the President of the Fundación Temas de Arte and executive directors of the Festival, Víctor del Campo, gave special thanks to the Madrid City Council and Regional Government. He also mentioned the sponsors, the Repsol Foundation and High Tech, and all of the institutions and bodies that

have offered their venues to the Festival. "It is impossible to hold a festival of this size without help."

After these speeches, the Arts Councillor, Alicia Moreno, handed the LETRA award to the Cultural Minister for Buenos Aires for his collaboration to the programme of the Barrio de las Letras Cultural Festival.

Over the whole weekend, those who wish will be able to enjoy all the activities free of charge, except some of the film screenings.

Highlighted events include the cinema forum held on Saturday at 10:30 am in the CaixaForum, featuring an appearance by David Trueba and Juan José Campanella, and the art forum on the same day at 8 pm at the Thyssen Bornemisza Museum with an appearance by Alicia Arteaga and Alberto Corazón.

On the Repsol Foundation

The Repsol Foundation as part of its commitment to culture supports the *Letra* project with the aim of making culture more accessible to Madrid's residents and promoting cultural participation and gathering. In short to promote a space for cultural creation that is both an example of public coexistence and a cultural reference point for the City of Madrid.

The Repsol Foundation sponsors different cultural initiatives such as the Almagro Classical Theatre Festival and the exhibition of the Brazilian photographer Mauro Restiffe at Photo España 2009.

On the Fundación de Temas de Arte

It was founded in 1998 with the aim of organising and promoting different non-profit art and culture events in the City of Madrid.

It has developed important social, cultural and art projects with high public and media impact with the support of prestigious institutions and public administrations.