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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Actor Chaz Mena portrays Cuban Freedom Fighter José Martí in “Roads Scholars” performance at PBCC Stage West

(Lake Worth, Fla. – March 20, 2008) The “Apostle of Cuban Independence,” José Martí, will be brought to life by actor Chaz Mena as part of the Florida Humanities Council “Road Scholars – Ideas on Wheels” program on Thursday, April 3 at 7 p.m. The event will be held in Room 203 of the Harold C. Manor Library at Palm Beach Community College in Lake Worth.

“Charla – A Chat with José Martí,” written and acted by Mena, is a one-man performance set in 1891, with the freedom fighter José Martí’ rehearsing a speech that he will deliver the next evening to a gathering of Cuban exiles in Tampa’s Ybor City. With time running out for the Cuban independence movement, Martí struggles to find the words that will spark the flames of revolution for Cuba’s freedom—*Cuba Libre*--from Spanish rule. Dr. Martí will answer questions from the audience following his speech, followed by a “charla” with actor Mena.



Mena recently appeared in the American premiere of “Murder of Isaac” at Centerstage in Baltimore, and last season was cast in the Tony Award-winning “Anna in the Tropics” at Arena Stage in Washington D.C. His film and television credits include both recurring and guest roles on “Law & Order,” “Third Watch,” and “Miami Vice.” He holds an M.F.A. degree in drama from Carnegie-Mellon University and a B.A. degree in English from Barry University.

The Florida Humanities Council is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, providing funding and coordinating public humanities programs throughout Florida. *Road Scholars* is a travelling forum offering a venue to engage and inform Floridians about the heritage, traditions and issues of our state and its place in the world. The event is co-sponsored by the Lake Worth campus Diversity Committee.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information call (561) 868-3800.

Palm Beach Community College, Florida's first public community college, is celebrating its 75th anniversary throughout 2008. The largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, PBCC serves more than 45,000 students annually through its associate degrees, professional certificates, career and customized training and lifelong learning. The College offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.

Editor's note: A high-resolution photo of Chaz Mena can be downloaded at: www.pbcc.edu/Images/Marketing/Chaz_Mena.jpg

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