

Arts at Argonne

presents

Bernal's Picasso

*An illustrated play in one act by Cele Abad-Zapatero and Jill Campbell,
and a unique excursion into the intersection between the sciences and the arts*

Staged Reading

Auditorium, APS Conference Center, Argonne National Laboratory

Sunday, May 4, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.

Based on an original idea and script by Cele Abad-Zapatero

Directed by Gregory Gerhard



In their imagination, dedication, and drive, and in their sense of being misunderstood by the public, scientists and artists often resemble each other more than either group realizes.

Bernal's Picasso recounts one instance when that resemblance was recognized. The play is based on the historical encounter between Picasso, the iconic artist of the twentieth century, and the charismatic crystallographer and peace activist J.D. Bernal. The meeting of these two giants is memorialized in a unique artistic record: a mural left behind by Picasso at Bernal's flat at Birbeck College on November 12, 1950. The mural is the centerpiece of the play, serving as a pivot point for an inspiring conversation between these main characters.

Picasso and J. D. Bernal together? What did they talk about? Crystallography and art? Politics? The tribulations and romantic problems in their lives? Answers to these questions and others form the texture of the play. Through this dramatic structure, the play attempts to provide a forum for dialog and discussion of the connections and differences between the sciences and the arts, the origins of molecular biology, and related themes.

Dr. Celerino Abad-Zapatero worked for over twenty years in macromolecular crystallography for drug discovery at Abbott Laboratories and is currently an adjunct professor at the Center for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Not only is he a well-known crystallographer, he is also (in the words of Wayne Hendrickson of Columbia University) "a romantic and a visionary," whose keen observations and fabulous cultural repertoire give him a unique insight into the interplay between science and society and a keen understanding of how to bring science to the layperson. *Jill Campbell* is a professional playwright and screenwriter whose plays have been performed in Alaska, Chicago, Dublin, London, New Jersey, and New York. She is an associate with Juggernaut Theatre Co., where she facilitates a writing workshop, and a member of the NewShoe women's theatre group in New York. She is a graduate of Ithaca College with a BFA in theatre and is represented by Abrams Artists in New York.

Admission to this event is *free*.

Arts at Argonne – Upcoming Events

Saturday, date TBD, 8:00 p.m. *replacement concert* (March 8, 2008 tickets)

All events are open to the public. Photo ID is required to enter the laboratory site. Call 630-252-4793 for details.

This production is partially supported by the American Crystallographic Association,

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