

Proof of the Promise
The Secret Rose Theatre
reviewed by Jose Ruiz

Romantic comedies have been around hundreds of years and The Antaeus Company, went back to the 17th century to unearth this work by Juan Ruiz de Alarcon, acknowledged to be the first professional writer of the Americas. Born in Mexico City, he moved to Spain where he found his fame as a writer and penned this comedy among the many other masterworks attributed to him.

As stories go, this one has several twists and turns, and shows how the concept of relationships developed back in the "good old days." There is the typical beautiful daughter of the gentleman practitioner of the "black art." She is courted by two eligible young men, but the problem is that one suitor is a blood enemy of the family, and the other is an untrustworthy heir of a noble family. Her feelings lean toward the scoundrel, but her father has been approached by the other man, offering to end the feud in exchange for her hand in marriage. This is an attractive prospect and the father encourages the girl to accept it.

This being the 16th century, you would think the outcome is a given, but the father realizes the daughter may have other feelings, and devises a plan to help her discover