22 A Holy Week Carnival? The *Iberoamerican Theater Festival of Bogotá*[1]

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Introduction

This chapter explores the entangled relations of a contemporary and post-traditional festival with a much older festive substrate associated with *Holy Week* and *Carnival*. In this sense it is not intended as a systematic study of the *Iberoamerican Theater Festival of Bogotá (ITFB)*, much less as a summary of its more than two decade long history. My more modest goal is to read this festival as a material and rhetorical *dispositif* arising in response to a social crisis (Castro Gómez, 2011), closely related to what I have called elsewhere regimes of festive alteration (Vignolo, 2015: 138-159):

1 The *fiesta-bonanza*, distinguished by excess and associated with human, territorial, and resource exploitation on the frontier of capitalist expansion (Braudel, 2002; Taussig, 1980: xii).

2 the *fiesta-revolution*, dominated by the trope of inversion and aiming to undermine the status quo, disrupt the social order, and scramble established dichotomies (Bakhtin, 1984; Eco, 1984).

3 The *fiesta-passion*, where the ritual sacrifice of a savior figure provides the community with a chance to separate from the conflicts that threaten its unity, through the trope of transfiguration. (Girard 1977; Esposito, 2003).

Intertwined, superimposed, and interarticulated, they encompass practically all the festive events of the last 30 years in Colombia, and it would be possible to trace their genealogy back to colonial times (Vignolo, 2015: 139).

Prelude: "I want my funeral to be a real carnival"

Theater notable Fanny Mikey, the legendary founder of the *Iberoamerican Theater Festival of Bogotá*, died on August 16, 2008. Her wake was held in the Colombian Capitol Building in the style of a great state funeral, the first time that such an honor had been accorded to any person of her profession. Thousands of people waited for hours to bid their final farewell to this Argentine woman from a Lithuanian Jewish family, who had once explained that "I am very proud of my