



Mr. Alex Alibrandi, Dr. Markus Thiel, Ms. Jennifer Osejo, Ms. Luciana Orte, Mr. Hugo Dana, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Ms. Agata Pilitowska, Ms. Cynthia Del Rio, Ms. Isabella Venturini, Mrs. Maria Nowotarska, Mr. Tommy Hollywood

DECO'S DIVINE DIVA

BY CHRISTINE CALY-SANCHEZ

On November 9, 2017, the Polish-Canadian Theater in Toronto treated an FIU audience to another riveting play presented in Polish with English subtitles projected onto a screen. Performed by mother and daughter actors, Maria Nowotarska and Agata Pilitowska, *Tamara L* is an exposé of the life and work of Tamara de Lempicka (1898-1980). Lempicka was an artist whose stunning work defined the glamour and sophistication of the early 1900s, and whose personal life was as newsworthy as any celebrity's is today.

Polish-born Maria Gorska married Tadeusz Lempicki and lived for a time in St. Petersburg, Russia. Due to increasing instability during the Russian Revolution, they fled to Paris where she changed her name to Tamara Lempicka and immersed herself in becoming a great painter. Her style became the epitome of French Art Deco with its bold sensuality, and she enjoyed immense fame and fortune. Lempicka was also a rebellious spirit who did not

conform to the mores of the day--her numerous romantic liaisons made her an intriguing and sought-after star.

The play, which took place at FIU-Biscayne Bay campus — Mary Ann Wolfe Theater, marked a wonderful evening of art, theater, and historical significance. A reception was held after the show and approximately 70 guests gathered in the lobby to meet the actors, take photos, nibble on some canapés and view large color posters of Lempicka's work displayed throughout the space.

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence is grateful to The American Institute of Polish Culture, The Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Miami, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, the Chopin Foundation of the US, the Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland at FIU, the European Student Association, and the Council for Student Organizations (CSO) for making this event possible.



Miss Nel Velez-Paszyc, Ms. Agata Pilotowska, Mrs. Beata Paszyc, Mrs. Maria Nowotarska, Mr. Zbigniew Slabicki, Ms. Lynne Schaefer, Mrs. Joanna Wiel



On stage