



Miami book fair pays tribute to the late Oscar Hijuelos

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Miami Book Fair International paid tribute this weekend to late Cuban-American writer Oscar Hijuelos at an event that highlighted his contributions to literature in the Americas.

The roundtable discussion, "Oscar Hijuelos: In Tribute and Memory," featured his wife, Lori Marie Carlson, an editor and writer who called her late husband "an extraordinary man" whose career was marked by tremendous achievements, including becoming the first Latino to win the Pulitzer Prize for fiction for "The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love" (1989).

"Hijuelos was a humble, brilliant, spiritual man, a hard worker and a great author of novels. He was the sweetest and most generous man you could ever meet," Carlson told EFE.

The author, who died on Oct. 12, 2013, at age 62 in New York, "had a great capacity for understanding and reaching people," Carlson said, adding that "that's why he had so much success."

Carlson said she was honored by the tribute offered by Miami Dade College, which sponsors Miami Book Fair International, to Hijuelos and its "celebration of the contribution that Oscar made to America and the whole world."

Journalist Mirta Ojito, writer and journalist Ana Veciana-Suarez and Grammy-winning musician Arturo O'Farrill also participated in Saturday's roundtable discussion on Hijuelos.

Hijuelos's most famous novel, "The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love," was later turned into a feature film starring Antonio Banderas and Armand Assante, and it was adapted for a Broadway musical in 2005.

Hijuelos, the New York-born son of Cuban immigrants, wrote nine novels that have been published in more than 30 languages.

The 32nd Miami Book Fair International ends its eight-day run on Sunday. EFE

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