

FORNÉS, MARÍA IRENE (1930–)

Born in Havana, Cuba, María Irene Fornés came to live in New York City in 1945. She studied art at the Provincetown School and traveled to Europe to further her career. It was there that she discovered a love of writing and produced her first published play, *La Viuda*. A fellowship from the Hay Whitney Foundation and another from the Centro Mexicano de Escritores helped launch Fornés into a career as a playwright. The winner of eight Obies, among them *Abingdon Square* and *Letters From Cuba*, Fornés gained international recognition for her work. She was managing director of the New York Theatre Strategy, the International Arts Relations (INTAR), and Hispanic Playwrights-in-Residence Laboratory, worked with school children in Theatre for the New City in New York City, and taught students in southern California's Padua Hills Festival.