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| Arrivi, Francisco (1915-2007) |
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| Francisco Arriví was instrumental in developing a modern theatre in Puerto Rico during the 1940s-1960s. A playwright, poet, essayist, and tireless promoter of Puerto Rican culture, Arriví authored dramatic scripts for the stage, radio, and television, founded theatre groups, and supervised the theatre wing of the Puerto Rican Culture Institute. Arriví wrote several major essays on Puerto Rican theatre as well as plays ranging from poetic realism to absurdist fantasy and farce. His dramas employ anti-mimetic techniques to treat social themes from a psychological perspective. *Vejigantes* [Carnival Masks] (1958), his major play, is part of a trilogy that addresses Puerto Rican racial prejudice.  Arriví was born in San Juan. As a child, he attended the theater frequently with grandmother, and he staged children’s stories with his playmates on a small stage he built in his backyard. He studied Spanish and Latin American Literature at the University of Puerto Rico, where he is remembered for having composed the official university hymn. In the 1940s, Arriví worked as a teacher and became active in Puerto Rican theater directing plays, translating works for the university theater, and writing his first three-act dramas. He also founded the Tinglado Puertorriqueño in 1945, a company in which many of Puerto Rico’s future leading actors had their first significant roles. |
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| Further reading:  (Morfi)  (Rivera de Álvarez)  (Stevens) |