Faith and hope glow like the flickering religious candles in Elaine Romero's Barrio Hollywood, a play that will have its world premiere at 8 tonight at New Theatre. Set mostly in a Mexican-American neighborhood in Arizona, the play explores a family's tight bond and the agonizing aftermath of a boxer's terrible injury. Actress Beatriz Montañez, above, plays Graciela, a woman who finds the same exhilarating grace in dancing that her brother does in boxing. Performances are 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, 2 and 5:30 p.m. Sunday (no 5:30 p.m. show Nov. 14) at the theater, 4120 Laguna St., Coral Gables. Tickets are $30-$40 (students $7 at door). The playwright will attend a reception before tonight's opening (tickets $55); she'll also be at a brunch before Sunday's matinee at 1 p.m. (tickets $45). Call 305-443-5373 or visit www.new-theatre.org.

- CHRISTINE DOLEN

Caption: photo: Beatriz Montanez (a)