

PRESS RELEASE

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GRANDEZA MEXICANA PRESENTS NEW CONCERT
AT THE LUCKMAN FINE ARTS COMPLEX
CELEBRATING THE CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL
INTERSECT OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Diciembre Mexicano

Los Angeles, CA – July 15, 2009-- Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company (GMFBC) proudly invites you to attend its newest concert production, *Diciembre Mexicano* presented by the Harriet and Charles Luckman Fine Arts Complex, on the California State University, Los Angeles campus. This spectacular folk dance concert, presented on December 19th, 2009, is a dynamic interpretation of traditional cultural and religious events that mark the holiday season in Mexico.

“This is a new production for Grandeza Mexicana,” explains founder and artistic director Jose Vences, “I wanted to experiment with the larger themes of religion and spirituality which have become indistinguishable in many aspects of Mexican culture. This blurring of the sacred and profane, throughout Mexico’s past and present, is what makes Mexico unique. What we’ve created are choreographies that are different from anything we have presented so far – pieces that the audience will connect with on a whole new level.”

The show includes three new choreographies. In the first piece, “*Guadalupe-La Virgen Indigena, The Mother of all Mexico*,” we come to know how this 16th century icon of the Virgin Mary, forever changed the fabric of Mexican society. In her apparition to a peasant, Mexicans of different races and classes will use her image to fight for independence, social justice and solidarity. Her image is now ubiquitous in Mexican pop culture and yet her significance to the Mexican people has not been diminished. Famed Mexican novelist Carlos Fuentes said, “...one may no longer consider himself a Christian, but you cannot truly be considered a Mexican unless you believe in the Virgin of Guadalupe.”

In the second act, “*Pastorela*,” or re-enactments of the Nativity story, were instituted in early colonial Mexico by missionaries to impart religious knowledge to the indigenous people. This Mexican Christmas tradition is still performed in towns and villages across Mexico. These theatrical representations of the shepherds on their way to honor baby Jesus, mix religious teachings with indigenous folklore and ribald comedy to tell the eternal story of good and evil, with a unique Mexican flare. The show concludes with “*Navidad*,” which centers on the tradition of Las Posadas or fiestas in preparation for Christmas. The nine days of posadas symbolize Mary’s nine months of pregnancy. The fiestas are filled with food, family, religious symbolism, and traditional Mexican music. The festive and celebratory nature of these events are favorite of the Mexican people.

Live music will be provided by the accomplished *Grupo Cuicatlan* ensemble, directed by Geraldo Palma and Sergio Alonso.

Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company, a professional quality folk dance company founded by Jose Vences in 2003, has as its primary goal to present performances that inspire and educate audiences on the beauty and diversity of Mexico’s colorful dance traditions.

GRANDEZA
MEXICANA

FOR RELEASE 12 A.M. GMT,
JULY 15TH, 2007