

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, 2010-- 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, 2010, is a dynamic interpretation of traditional Mexican fables and legends, with the title choreography (*La Loteria*) based on the popular Mexican children's game of the same name.

"This is a new type of production for Grandeza Mexicana," explains founder and artistic director Jose Vences, "after three successful concerts of traditional folkloric dance, I wanted to experiment with the larger themes of fantasy and magic that is so alive in Mexican culture. 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 addition to *La Loteria*, an imaginative story activated by the iconic characters of the Loteria game (*el diablo, la dama, el apache*, and more), the show will present *Un Mito Entre El Maiz y Las Flores* (A Myth Among the Corn and the Flowers), a beautiful telling of an ancient Mesoamerica legend about a goddesses' dramatic struggle to find true love. Complimenting these two pieces is *Era el Tiempo de Duendes* (It Was the Time of Elves), based on an old Mexican fable in which rag dolls come alive and dance with magical elves, and a restaging of Grandeza Mexicana's popular works – from the Mexican regions of Chiapas, Yucatan, and Jalisco – that share the concert's theme of magic and surrealism. Live music will be provided by the accomplished *Grupo Cuicatlan* ensemble, directed by Geraldo Palma and Sergio Alonso.

For the second year, the Luckman Fine Arts Complex will also partner with Grandeza Mexicana to provide 300 aspiring folklorico dancers with free tickets the Sunday performance of *La Loteria: Mexico En Fantasia*. Participating students, drawn from local youth folklorico groups across the Southland, will also enjoy a pre-show program aimed at providing access to low-income youth and educating them on the historical context of folk dance.

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. Choreographies are developed through research on Mexican folk dance and culture, input from collaborating choreographers and historians, and by studying and appreciating the work of other artists. Though stylized, the work is drawn from authentic and indigenous dances created by communities across Mexico.

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FOR RELEASE 12 A.M. GMT,
APRIL 7TH, 2007