

March 19, 2021

Calpulli's First In-Person Production: Cinco de Mayo

Over a year into the pandemic that seems to never end, Calpulli Mexican Dance Company is reopening in style at The Vogel on **May 5, 2021 at 7pm**. Presented by Count Basie Center for the Arts, this wonderfully colorful company will engage the senses with a beautiful tapestry of music and dance. Led by George Saenz, the company's talented musical director, the Calpulli Band will guide us through Mexico in this limited-capacity event featuring musical rhythms and dances. Tickets can be purchased online [HERE](#).



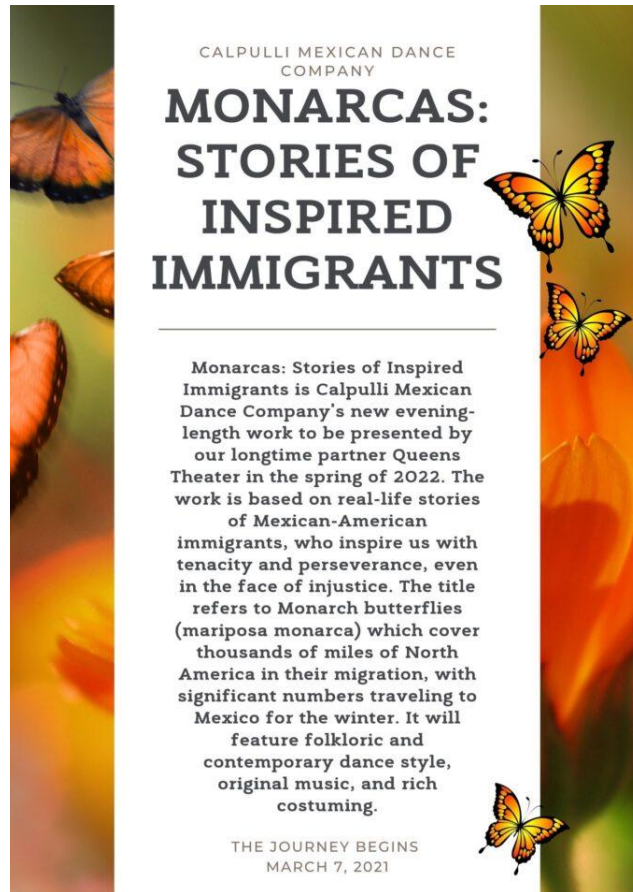
Despues de más de un año de pandemia, Calpulli Danza Mexicana abrirá sus puertas con esta presentación en 'The Vogel' el día **5 de Mayo a las 7pm**. Presentado por Count Basie Center for the Arts, este espectáculocolorido celebrará la música y el baile de México. Dirigido por director musical, George Saenz, y atraves de la música y el baile, viajaremos por México con este evento que demostrará que todavia podemos celebrar cultura con tapaboca. Puede conseguir boletos [AQUI](#).

March 4, 2021

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company begins new production: 'Monarcas'

Calpulli Mexican Dance company begins the rehearsal process for developing 'Monarcas' - a production based on immigrant stories. As the arts world slowly awakens from the shut-downs due to covid-19, Calpulli is part of the rebuilding of the NYC arts industry with this piece.

Follow @calpullimexicandance on social media for updates and to follow along in the production process.



CALPULLI MEXICAN DANCE
COMPANY

MONARCAS: STORIES OF INSPIRED IMMIGRANTS

Monarcas: Stories of Inspired Immigrants is Calpulli Mexican Dance Company's new evening-length work to be presented by our longtime partner Queens Theater in the spring of 2022. The work is based on real-life stories of Mexican-American immigrants, who inspire us with tenacity and perseverance, even in the face of injustice. The title refers to Monarch butterflies (mariposa monarca) which cover thousands of miles of North America in their migration, with significant numbers traveling to Mexico for the winter. It will feature folkloric and contemporary dance style, original music, and rich costuming.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS
MARCH 7, 2021

February 16, 2021

Calpulli Community Classes Continue in Spring 2021

Calpulli Community, Calpulli Mexican Dance Company's donation-based program, continues online beginning March 6, 2021. Classes are held via MindBody Online and in-person in Red Bank, NJ. All who are interested should contact the coordinator for their program for more information.



Saturdays / Sábados

Classes begin March 6th!
¡Clases empiezan el 6 de Marzo!

10am: Ages 5-8 with Grisel Pren
11am: Ages 13+ with Grisel Pren

Contact your coordinator
Contacte a su coordinadora
Crystal Deosaran
crystal@calpullidance.org
718-909-6469



Sundays / Domingos

Classes begin March 7th!
¡Clases empiezan el 7 de Marzo!

11am: Ages 9-12 with Alberto Lopez
12pm: Adult Beginner with Alberto Lopez
2pm: All-level Guitar with George Saenz
3pm: Accordion with George Saenz

Contact your coordinator
Contacte a su coordinadora
Rosalba Vivar
rosalba@calpullidance.org
646-360-4511



September 21, 2020

**Calpulli Mexican Dance Company- Educational Offering: 'Dia de Muertos'
Virtual Assembly**



DIA DE MUERTOS

A Virtual Assembly!

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company will present a performance of their hailed production of "Dia de los Muertos" with prerecorded educational content provided by Artistic Director, Alberto Lopez. During the 50-minute virtual assembly professional high-quality footage of dance performance is interspersed with educational content about the holiday. Lopez will engage the students with lively information about the traditions from this celebration throughout the assembly. Educational content provided will include the meaningful nature of the holiday, the building of the traditional altar, the use of marigold flowers, and the story behind Calpulli Mexican Dance Company's production of "Dia de los Muertos". This fun and engaging student experience will be one to remember!



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
INFO@CALPULLIDANCE.ORG



September 21, 2020

Calpulli Partners with El Paso Community College

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company partners for the month of September with El Paso Community College as they celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. On September 16th, the company participates with the presentation of "El Canelo" - a dance from Veracruz. On September 25th, the company presents "La Danza de las Cintas" from the state of Yucatán as part of the finale of the EPCC celebrations.

August 19, 2020

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company Launches Calpulli Conectado - *Calpulli Danza Mexicana Lanza a 'Calpulli Conectado'*

ONLINE! Calpulli Mexican Dance Company launches Calpulli Conectado- A Virtual Celebration of Dance and Music. With a different theme each week, the first week starts with the dances of Oaxaca, Mexico represented in Calpulli's production of "**Boda Mexicana**". Events include the following:

Weekly Wednesday Dance Classes: Every Wednesday Calpulli company dancers and guest artists will teach a class sharing their professional expertise in dance. Classes will be different each week, as the teachers will rotate every week. Classes will be held LIVE every Wednesday at 6:30pm EST via Zoom. Join the dance class by clicking [HERE!](#)

Folklorico Friday Screenings: Every Friday, the company will show a screening of a different selection of dances. Screenings will feature an introduction by guest artists- with information about the dance and music of the featured suite- followed by the performance. Join us at 7pm EST every Friday! See the schedule for Folklorico Fridays by clicking [HERE!](#)

*Calpulli Danza Mexicana lanza a 'Calpulli Conectado'- Una Celebración Virtual de Baile y Música. Con un tema diferente cada semana, la primera semana empieza con los bailes de Oaxaca, México presentados dentro de la producción de "**Boda Mexicana**". Los eventos incluyen lo siguiente:*

Clases de Baile Cada Miércoles: Cada miércoles, bailarines de Calpulli y maestros invitados enseñarán una clase compartiendo su conocimiento de baile. Clases serán diferentes cada semana y serán EN VIVO cada miércoles a las 6:30pm a través de Zoom.

*Únase a la clase [AQUI!](#) **Presentacion Cada Viernes/ *Folklorico Friday***: Cada viernes, la compañía presentará una selección de bailes diferentes. Cada semana empieza con una introducción por un artista invitado, presentado información educacional de los bailes y la música regional- seguido por la presentación de Calpulli Danza Mexicana. Vea el calendario de presentaciones y únese [AQUI](#).*

July 7, 2020

Calpulli Community Online Event

Comunidad Calpulli organiza su primer recital y actuación en línea para celebrar los aprendizajes en la primera mitad de 2020. ¡Únase a nosotros el 28 de julio!

Calpulli Community hosts its first online recital and performance celebrating learnings in the first half of 2020. Join us on July 28th!





July 7, 2020

Calpulli Featured on Telemundo

Calpulli Danza Mexicana es presentado como parte de las noticias en Telemundo. Nuestros bailarines siguen adelante aún con pandemia. <https://youtu.be/dQQxWOnFIKk>

Exploring the Metropolis

The collaboration began with the music composition. The idea for the region of Oaxaca was to focus on Dia de los Muertos and mix Afro-Mexican and native music into the production. We were hoping to use this in our 2020 Dia de Muertos production, but may present this particular component in late 2021. Through discussions, it was decided to focus on the region of Chihuahua to start.

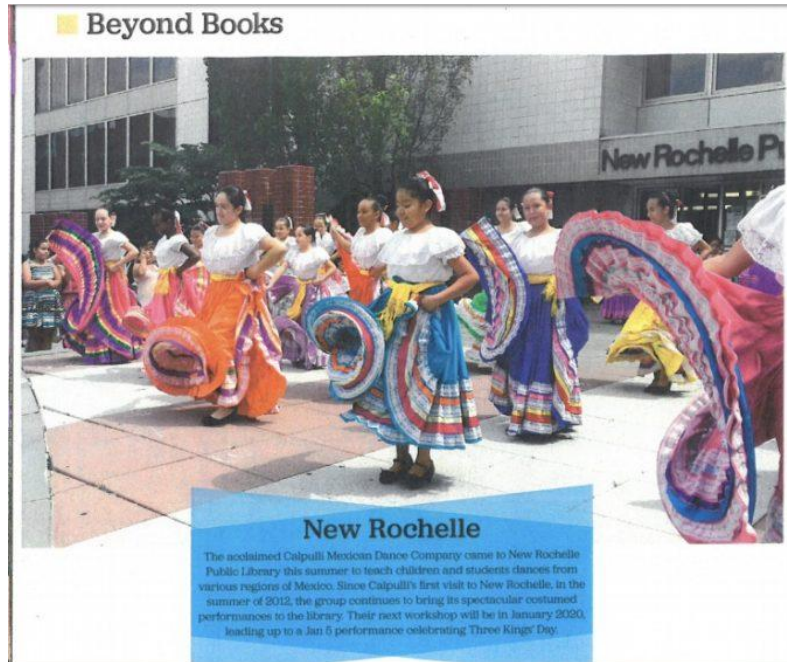
George developed original music from the region of Chihuahua. He developed three original compositions that are informed by roots of the traditional music, but also allow for creativity.

See the link below for the blog post:

<https://exploringthemetropolis.org/2020/06/alberto-lopez-george-saenz-of-calpulli-mexican-dance-company-residency-at-jcal/>

Dec 3, 2019

Westchester Magazine Highlights Calpulli Community!



Calpulli Community in Westchester Magazine

Thank you to **Westchester Magazine** for recognizing Calpulli Mexican Dance Company and Calpulli Community in their '**Beyond Books**' article! We're so proud to be a part of the rich cultural community in New Rochelle. Our next workshop at **New Rochelle Public Library** will be in January 2020, leading up to a Jan 5 performance celebrating Three Kings' Day. Come join us!



Nov 11, 2019

Apollo Theater Date Added! Navidad: A Mexican-American Christmas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, For information contact: Melissa Cruz (917) 443-8291

mcruz@calpullidance.org

Spanish Translation Follows/ Traducción Sigue

NAVIDAD: A MEXICAN-AMERICAN CHRISTMAS ORIGINAL HOLIDAY PRODUCTION BY THE ACCLAIMED DANCE COMPANY CELEBRATES IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

New York, NY – November 8, 2019 – Calpulli Mexican Dance Company is proud to bring back their holiday production by Artistic Director Alberto Lopez Herrera and Co-Founder & Executive Director Juan Castaño. “Navidad: A Mexican-American Christmas” celebrates the holiday traditions experienced by a young person of Mexican immigrant parents growing up in New York City. This unique cultural production will be presented this holiday season at the **Apollo Theater** for one show on **Sunday December 1st** and at **Queens Theatre** for four shows on **Saturday December 14th** and **Sunday December 15th**.

Experiencing traditions from Aztec-inspired dance to Christmas carols, the youngster tries to bring their two worlds together. In a dream, they imagine the fusion of Mariachi music with Tchaikovsky, folk dance with ballet, and the wonderment of their two cultures. But a tempting character preaches the separation of these customs, and the youngster must choose.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 1st @ 3PM / APOLLO THEATER 253 W 125th St, New York, NY 10027

<https://www1.ticketmaster.com/event/0000576BAD506170>

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14th @ 2PM & 8PM SUNDAY DECEMBER 15th @ 1PM & 5PM

QUEENS THEATRE Flushing Meadows-Corona Park

14 United Nations Ave. South, Corona NY 11368

<http://queenstheatre.org/navidad-mexican-american-christmas>

“Audiences will see how someone born in the USA may experience their parent’s seemingly foreign culture and can be torn about their own cultural identity,” said Mr. Lopez. He continued, “That is, until they discover that these qualities make them stronger. We are so excited to show the traditions of Mexico like posadas and villancicos as well as popular holiday music from the USA and



dances inspired by the famous Nutcracker. We love seeing audiences' reactions when they see the way we blend these influences together in our world of fantasy."

NAVIDAD features commissioned choreographic works by Grisel Pren Monje, Rehearsal Director with Calpulli; Francisco Graciano formerly of the Paul Taylor Dance Company; Javier Dzul, Artistic Director of Dzul Dance Company and Mr. Castaño, Co-Founder of Calpulli. Live music is under the direction of George Saenz who made unique arrangements fusing classical and folk music for the production. Costumes are designed by Mr. Lopez with additional costume design by Amanda Gladu, Animation and Scenery by Ariel Rodriguez, and Lighting Design by Carolina Ortiz.

The Mexican-American Broadway veteran Gabriela Garcia joins the production as Dramaturg to Mr. Lopez bringing her experience in story telling and love of her Mexican-American culture to the production.

"Calpulli's stories are told through dance and music and have always dealt with love," said Executive Director Mr. Castaño. "NAVIDAD is no different, but it tells of love for family, for the multifaceted influences around us, and for oneself. We hope that children of immigrant families see themselves reflected in our story, and we hope immigrants feel celebrated by our story."

Major support was received from the New York Community Trust, New York State Council on the Arts, Dance/NYC, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, and the McGraw Foundation. This program and its performances in New York City is also supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. Additional support was received via the Cultural Immigrant Initiative with Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer and Council Member Daniel Dromm.

CALPULLI Mexican Dance Company celebrates the rich diversity of Mexican and Mexican-American cultural heritage through dance and live music. Founded in 2003, the company tours from coast-to-coast in the USA and made its international debut in 2013 in the Kingdom of Bahrain in the Middle East. In 2019, it made its European debut in Istanbul, Turkey. At its performance at Lincoln Center Out of Doors in August 2015, Calpulli was hailed a "terrific company" by Dance Critic Brian Siebert of the New York Times. www.calpullidance.org



Navidad: Una Navidad Mexico-Estadounidense Producción Original Navideña Por La Aclamada Compañía De Danza A Las Familias Inmigrantes

Nueva York, NY – 8 de noviembre de 2019 – Calpulli Mexican Dance Company se enorgullece en presentar de nuevo su producción navideña del director artístico Alberto López Herrera y el cofundador y director ejecutivo Juan Castaño. “Navidad: una Navidad mexicano-estadounidense” celebra las tradiciones navideñas vividas por un joven de padres inmigrantes mexicanos que crece en la ciudad de Nueva York. Esta producción cultural única se presentará en estas fiestas en el Teatro Apollo para un espectáculo el domingo 1 de diciembre y en el Teatro Queens para cuatro funciones el sábado 14 de diciembre y el domingo 15 de diciembre.

Viviendo tradiciones desde la danza azteca, los villancicos navideños, y canciones populares en los EEUU, la joven intenta unir sus dos mundos. En un sueño, imagina la fusión de la música de Mariachi con Tchaikovsky, la danza folclórica con ballet, y el asombro de sus dos culturas. Pero un personaje tentador predica la separación de estas costumbres, y el joven debe elegir.

**DOMINGO 1 DE DICIEMBRE A LAS 3PM /APOLLO THEATER 253 W 125th St, New York, NY
10027**

Entradas en venta el 12 de noviembre

SÁBADO 14 DE DICIEMBRE A LAS 2PM y 8PM

DOMINGO 15 DE DICIEMBRE A LAS 1PM y 5PM

**QUEENS THEATRE /Flushing Meadows-Corona Park /14 United Nations Ave. South, Corona NY
11368**

INFORMACIÓN Y ENTRADAS (718) 760-0064

<http://queenstheatre.org/navidad-mexican-american-christmas>

“El público verá cómo alguien nacido en los EE. UU. Puede experimentar la cultura aparentemente extranjera de sus padres y puede sentirse desgarrado por su propia identidad cultural”, dijo el Sr. López. Continuó: “Es decir, hasta que descubren que estas cualidades los hacen más fuertes. Estamos muy emocionados de mostrar las tradiciones de México, como las posadas y villancicos, así como la popular música navideña de los EE. UU. Y los bailes inspirados en el famoso Cascanueces. Nos encanta ver las reacciones del público cuando ven la forma en que combinamos estas influencias en nuestro mundo de fantasía .”

NAVIDAD presenta trabajos coreográficos por encargo de Grisel Pren Monje, Director de Ensayos con Calpulli; Francisco Graciano anteriormente de la Compañía de Danzas Paul Taylor; Javier Dzul, director artístico de Dzul Dance Company y el Sr. Castaño, cofundador de Calpulli. La



música en vivo está bajo la dirección de George Saenz, quien hizo arreglos únicos fusionando música clásica y folk para la producción. Los disfraces están diseñados por el Sr. López con un diseño de vestuario adicional de Amanda Gladu, Animación y Escenografía de Ariel Rodríguez y Diseño de iluminación de Carolina Ortiz.

La estrella de Broadway mexicano-estadounidense Gabriela García se une a la producción como Dramaturg ante el Sr. López aportando su experiencia en la narración de historias y el amor de su cultura mexicoamericana a la producción.

“Las historias de Calpulli se cuentan a través del baile y la música y siempre han tratado con amor”, dijo el Director Ejecutivo, Sr. Castaño. “NAVIDAD no es diferente, pero habla del amor por la familia, por las influencias multifacéticas que nos rodean y por uno mismo. Esperamos que los niños de familias inmigrantes se vean reflejados en nuestra historia, y esperamos que los inmigrantes se sientan celebrados por nuestra historia.”

Se recibió un gran apoyo del New York Community Trust, el Consejo de las Artes del Estado de Nueva York, Dance/NYC, la Fundación Harkness para la Danza, y la Fundación McGraw. Este programa y sus actuaciones en la ciudad de Nueva York también cuentan con el apoyo, en parte, de fondos públicos del Departamento de Asuntos Culturales de la Ciudad de Nueva York. Se recibió apoyo adicional a través de la Iniciativa Cultural de Inmigrantes con el miembro del Consejo Jimmy Van Bramer y el miembro del Consejo Daniel Dromm.

CALPULLI Mexican Dance Company celebra la rica diversidad del patrimonio cultural mexicano y mexicoamericano a través de la danza y la música en vivo. Fundada en 2003, la compañía realiza giras de costa a costa en los Estados Unidos e hizo su debut internacional en 2013 en el Reino de Bahrein en el Medio Oriente. En el 2019, hizo su debut europeo en Estambul, Turquía. En su presentación en el Lincoln Center Out of Doors en agosto de 2015, Calpulli fue aclamado como una “compañía excelente” por el crítico de danza Brian Siebert del New York Times. www.calpullidance.org

Nov 5, 2019

Navidad: A Mexican-American Christmas Comes to the Queens Theatre

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company is proud to bring back their holiday production by Artistic Director Alberto Lopez Herrera and Co-Founder & Executive Director Juan Castaño.

“Navidad: A Mexican-American Christmas” celebrates the holiday traditions experienced by a young person of Mexican immigrant parents growing up in New York City. This unique cultural production will be presented this holiday season at the at **Queens Theatre** for four shows on **Saturday December 14th and Sunday December 15th.**

Experiencing traditions from Aztec-inspired dance to Christmas carols, the youngster tries to bring their two worlds together. In a dream, they imagine the fusion of Mariachi music with Tchaikovsky, folk dance with ballet, and the wonderment of their two cultures. But a tempting character preaches the separation of these customs, and the youngster must choose.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14th, PERFORMANCES AT 2PM & 8PM

SUNDAY DECEMBER 15th, PERFORMANCES AT 1PM & 5PM

QUEENS THEATRE, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park

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INFORMATION & TICKETS (718) 760-0064

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Photo: Julieta Cervantes

“Audiences will see how someone born in the USA may experience their parent’s seemingly foreign culture and can be torn about their own cultural identity,” said Mr. Lopez. He continued, “That is, until they discover that these qualities make them stronger. We are so excited to show the traditions of Mexico like posadas and villancicos as well as popular holiday music from the USA and dances inspired by the famous Nutcracker. We love seeing audiences’ reactions when they see the way we blend these influences together in our world of fantasy.”

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“Calpulli’s stories are told through dance and music and have always dealt with love,” said Executive Director Mr. Castaño. “NAVIDAD is no different, but it tells of love for family, for the multifaceted influences around us, and for oneself. We hope children of immigrant families see themselves reflected in our story, and we hope immigrants feel celebrated by our story.”

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www.calpullidance.org



Oct 1, 2019

Proclamation by The Assembly State of NY for Calpulli

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company is honored to receive recognition from Assembly Member Brian Barnwell of the 30th Assembly District in New York State for “outstanding organization worthy of the esteem of both the community and the Great State of New York” – Awarded September 27, 2019



July 28, 2019

Announcement: Search for Full-Time Managing Director

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company announces the search for a full-time Managing Director. Please see the full job description here and at the following outlets. Instructions for applying are within:

[LinkedIn](#)

[Dance/NYC](#)

[Facebook](#)

April 3, 2019

Queens Theatre in Flushing Meadows ready to showcase a lively, authentic Mexican dance group

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

Life got you down? Every now and then, do you feel like kicking up your heels and kicking back a little instead of worrying about the future? Then get your tickets to an authentic Mexican dance performance at Queens Theatre ... and get happy.

Mexican dance is no longer a way to appease the Mayan and Aztec gods. These dancers will be celebrating life, folklore and an important event when Calpulli Mexican Dance Company debuts its first historical work April 13 and 14. "Puebla: The Story of Cinco de Mayo," celebrates the people and cultures of Puebla, Mexico.

Like pieces of art that are perfectly woven together, the show combines the rhythm of the music and the vibrant colors of the dancers' clothing into a memorable event. Close your eyes and you may feel as if you're sipping Mexican coffee in a tiny café with Mariachi music playing in the square.

Historical events helped shape Mexican dance into what it is today, and "Puebla" is Calpulli's first historical production depicting the chronological events of the battle in Puebla, as well as the connections to the U.S. and NYC. Did you know that immigrants from Puebla make up one of the largest groups of Mexican immigrants in the city?

Juan Castaño, managing director and co-founder of the East Elmhurst-based dance company, believes a lot of Americans could benefit from learning more about what makes May 5 so significant in Mexico.

"Cinco de Mayo is a very commercial celebration in the United States, much larger than in Mexico itself. We want to add more substance and history to this cross-cultural opportunity," he explained.

While it's not Mexico's equivalent to the Fourth of July, it does mark a turning point in the country's history and the last time a country in the Americas was invaded by a foreign army.

"Symbolically, it's the story of the underdog, the victory by a small group of Mexican soldiers and commoners over the French army — the strongest military force of the time — in the Mexican state of Puebla on May 5, 1862," Castaño noted.

Alberto Lopez Herrera, Calpulli's artistic director and co-founder, comes from a small town in the south of Puebla called San Antonio Chiltepec. He and Castaño started their company in 2003 and have lived in Jackson Heights, Jamaica and East Elmhurst across 30 years.

"This story and show is an opportunity that I have to share my point of view on my home as a child with the community I have in NYC," Herrera said. "Growing up in Mexico, the Battle of Puebla and Cinco de Mayo was celebrated with parades and lessons in school. In the USA, I saw from a young age that it was much larger, and I was surprised by this. With this story, I would like to make Poblanas and Poblanos, the people of Puebla, proud of their culture and proud of their story."

Calpulli is about celebrating the rich diversity of Mexican and Mexican-American cultural heritage through dance and live music.

"We do that through performances by our touring company, arts-in-education enrichment programming and free or low-cost activities that target the underserved Mexican and Mexican-American communities," Castaño noted.

The show will feature new works by Lopez and commissions by former artistic director Noemy Hernandez, whose works fuse folkloric dance and contemporary movement. There will also be new



pieces by Grisel Pren Monje, who is originally from Cancun, and now works as the company's rehearsal director.

But it is not just about the dancing. Music Director George Saenz brings together Native American traditional music from Mexico, French war marches, European waltzes and Hispanic songs from the 1860s in Puebla to create a unique soundtrack for the show.

"And of course, the colorful costuming that I like to create with the help of other talented garment designers and makers. The costuming really captures the essence and spirits of the French and Mexican characters of the story," Lopez added.

Describing American vs. Mexican cultural values, he said, "I think there are far more things that we have in common than are different, to be honest. However, I think one difference is how folkloric art is instilled in Mexicans at a very young age and perhaps explains why we cherish these traditions so much as adults."

March 30, 2019

Calpulli teams with Global Rhythms



Calpulli Mexican Dance Company is proud to be part of the Global Rhythms program with the Brooklyn Arts Council, bringing our unique experience with movement and music to students in NYC. Learn more about this program and Calpulli's work [here](#).



March 11, 2019

Queens-based Dance Company Plans Local World Premiere And National Tour

NEW YORK – March 11, 2019 – Calpulli Mexican Dance Company (Calpulli) will premiere “Puebla: The Story of Cinco de Mayo” (Puebla) at Queens Theatre on April 13 – 14, followed by a national tour with performances in Texas, Georgia and New Jersey. The Queens-based Company, now in its 16th year, received a national award from the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) making the new production possible. Under the artistic direction of Alberto Lopez Herrera, “Puebla” tells a universal tale of the underdog fighting impossible odds. The setting is the Battle of Puebla when a small army of Mexican soldiers and commoners defeated the French army, the strongest military force of the time, on the 5th of May (Cinco de Mayo), 1862. Through folkloric and contemporary dance, live music and elaborate costuming, the Company will elaborate on the history of the now famous date and celebrate the culture and people of Puebla.

Saturday, April 13th, 2019 at 8:00 p.m / Sunday, April 14th, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Queens Theatre, Flushing Meadows Corona Park 4 United Nations Ave S, Corona, NY 11368

Tickets and Information: www.queentheatre.org

Event link:

<https://453.7d1.myftpupload.com/performances/productions/puebla-the-story-of-cinco-de-mayo/>

Box Office: 718-760-0064 • Tickets: \$20-\$30

“Growing up in Puebla, we commemorate Cinco de Mayo with local parades and history lessons at school. But people in the United States celebrate Cinco de Mayo in a much larger way,” said Mr. Lopez. “However, many times people do not know why they are celebrating,” he added. “I wanted to take advantage of this cross-cultural opportunity to tell a story that brought the focus of Cinco de Mayo back to the brave people of Puebla, my first home, and the cultures that I love.”

The Company of 20 dancers, a core of musicians and guest artists will take audiences on an emotional and educational journey for all ages using the universal language of dance. Audiences in the tri-state of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut will have opportunities to learn about the new story through several outreach events organized by Calpulli and its partners. The first showing of the work-in-progress is at the Kaatsbaan International Dance Center. In addition, all of



Calpulli's community classes reaching over 200 students every week will feature dance and music from Puebla for the coming six months, connecting all of the work of the Company and organization to this new production.

Sunday, March 24th at 2:30 p.m.

Work-in-Progress Showing at Kaatsbaan International Dance Center

33 Kaatsbaan Road, Tivoli, NY

Event link: <https://kaatsbaan.yapsody.com/event/index/348576/calpulli-mexican-dance-company>

Tickets: \$10-\$20

In May 2019, the Company will perform the new production across the United States sharing its story beyond New York City. Calpulli will continue its tour of the production in the first half of 2020 with the continued support of NEFA.

Friday, May 3, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wortham Center in Houston, Texas

Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center in Sandy Springs, Georgia

Monday, May 6, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank, New Jersey

After touring its new production in the United States, Calpulli will make its European debut on May 16, in Istanbul, Turkey.

"Puebla" will feature new works by Artistic Director Alberto Lopez Herrera, a native of San Antonio Chiltepec in southern Puebla. The production will also feature commissions by former Artistic Director of the Company Noemy Hernandez, who specializes in the stylistic fusion of folkloric dance and contemporary movement. Grisel Pren Monje originally from Cancun, Mexico and Rehearsal Director for the Company choreographs several folk-based works in the story. Javier Dzul, Artistic Director of Dzul Dance Company and Juan Castaño, Co-Founder of the Company and Choreographer will also premiere new work. Music Director George Saenz is creating the rhythmic tapestry encompassing Native American traditions from Mexico, French war marches, European waltzes, to Hispanic songs of the era in Puebla. As its first historical production, Calpulli began research in early 2018 to establish the basis for the artistic story developed for the "Puebla: The Story of Cinco de Mayo." The information related to the chronological events around the Battle of Puebla and also connections to the USA and New York City inspired the work. Calpulli notes that



immigrants from the state Puebla makeup one of the largest sub-groups within the Mexican immigrant community in New York City. Also, although there have been attacks on countries in the Americas since the Battle of Puebla, no country has been invaded by an army from another continent since. Interestingly, while in exile, Mexican President Benito Juarez sent his family to live in New York City during the French occupation of Mexico. His wife and children lived in what is now the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

Major support was received from the New England Foundation for the Arts via the National Dance Project Award. The project is also made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, and the McGraw Foundation. Media sponsors and community partners include Riout Dance Center, El Diario de México, the Center for Traditional Music and Dance, BRIC, Casa Puebla, and Spaceworks. This program and its performances in New York City is also supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. Additional support was received via the Cultural Immigrant Initiative with Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer and Council member Daniel Dromm. About Calpulli Mexican Dance Company:

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company's mission is to celebrate the rich diversity of Mexican and Mexican- American cultural heritage through dance including live music. Founded in 2003, the Company continues to grow its domestic and international touring from its home base in Queens, New York. The organization designs arts-in-education experiences for students and teachers and offers free dance and music classes targeting Mexican immigrant and Mexican American communities in New York and New Jersey. It was hailed a "terrific company" by The New York Times. More information about the company is available at calpullidance.org.

Contacto:

Juan Castaño, Director General, 917.693.8265, castano@calpullidance.org

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company Produce Una Nueva Obra “Puebla: La Historia de 5 de Mayo”, Un Homenaje A Puebla y A Los Inmigrantes / La Compañía Establecida En Queens Prepara el Estreno Local Y Una Gira Nacional

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company (Calpulli) estrenará “Puebla: La historia del 5 de mayo” (Puebla) en Queens Theatre el 13 y 14 de abril, seguido de una gira nacional con presentaciones en Texas, Georgia y New Jersey. La compañía con base en Queens, ahora en su décimo sexto año, recibió un premio nacional por el New England Foundation For the Arts (NEFA) haciendo posible la producción. Bajo la dirección artística de Alberto López Herrera, “Puebla” cuenta una historia universal de los de abajo luchando contra las probabilidades imposibles. El escenario es la batalla de Puebla cuando un pequeño ejército de soldados y plebeyos mexicanos derroto al ejército francés, la fuerza militar más ponderosa de la época., el 5 de mayo de 1862. A través de la danza folclórica y contemporánea, música en vivo y elaborada vestimenta, la compañía producirá esta obra sobre la historia de la ahora famosa fecha celebrando así la cultura y gente de Puebla.

Sabado 13 de abril, 2019 a las 8:00 p.m./Domingo 14 de abril a las 2:00 p.m.

Queens Theatre, Flushing Meadows Corona Park 4 United Nations Ave S, Corona, NY 11368

Boletos e Informacion: www.queentheatre.org

Enlace del evento:

<https://453.7d1.myftpupload.com/performances/productions/puebla-the-story-of-cinco-de-mayo/>

Taquilla: 718-760-0064 • Boletos: \$20-\$30

“Al crecer en Puebla, conmemoramos el Cinco de Mayo con desfiles locales y lecciones de historia en la escuela. Pero en los Estados Unidos celebramos esta fecha de una manera mucho más grande”, dijo el Sr. López. “Sin embargo, muchas veces no se sabe por qué están festejando,” agregó. “Quería aprovechar esta oportunidad intercultural para contar una obra que lleve el enfoque histórico de las personas valientes de Puebla, mi primer hogar, y las culturas que amo.” La Compañía de 20 bailarines, un equipo de músicos y artistas invitados llevará a la audiencia a un viaje emocional y educativo para todas las edades utilizando el lenguaje universal de la danza.

La audiencia de Nueva York, Nueva Jersey y Connecticut tendrán la oportunidad de conocer la nueva historia a través de varios eventos de divulgación organizados por Calpulli y sus colaboradores. La primera muestra de la obra en desarrollo es en el Centro Internacional de Danza Kaatsbaan. Además, todas las clases comunitarias de Calpulli que llegan a más de 200



estudiantes cada semana, incluirán bailes y música de Puebla durante los próximos seis meses, conectando todo el trabajo de la Compañía y la organización a esta nueva producción.

Domingo, 24 de marzo a las 2:30 p.m. Presentación de obra en desarrollo
Centro Internacional de Danza Kaatsbaan, 33 Kaatsbaan Road, Tivoli, NY

Enlace del evento:

<https://kaatsbaan.yapsody.com/event/index/348576/calpulli-mexican-dance-company>

Boletos: \$10-\$20

En mayo del 2019, la Compañía realizará la nueva producción en los Estados Unidos compartiendo su historia más allá de la ciudad de Nueva York. Calpulli continuará su recorrido con la producción en el primer semestre de 2020 con el apoyo continuo de NEFA. Viernes, 3 de mayo a las 7:30 p.m. en el Centro Wortham en Houston, Texas Sábado, 4 de mayo a las 7:30 p.m. en el Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center en Sandy Springs, Georgia Lunes, 6 de mayo a las 11:00 a.m. y 7:00 p.m. en Count Basie Center for the Arts en Red Bank, Nueva Jersey Después de recorrer su nueva producción en los Estados Unidos, Calpulli hará su debut europeo el 16 de mayo en Estambul, Turquía. "Puebla" contará con nuevas obras del director artístico Alberto López Herrera, originario de San Antonio Chiltepec en el sur de Puebla. La producción también contará con aportes de la ex directora artística de la compañía Noemy Hernández, quien se especializa en la fusión estilizada de la danza folklórica y el movimiento contemporáneo. Grisel Pren Monje, originaria de Cancún, México y directora de ensayos de la Compañía, quien coreografía varias obras folklóricas en esta historia. Javier Dzul, director artístico de Dzul Dance Company y Juan Castaño, cofundador de la compañía y coreógrafo estrenando también nuevas obras. El Director Musical George Saenz está creando el tapiz rítmico que abarca tradiciones de los nativos americanos de México, marchas de guerra francesas, valsos europeos y canciones hispanas de la época en Puebla.

Siendo esta obra la primera producción histórica, Calpulli comenzó la investigación a principios de 2018 para establecer las bases de la historia artística desarrollada para "Puebla: La historia del Cinco de Mayo." La información relacionada con los eventos cronológicos alrededor de la batalla de Puebla y también las conexiones con Estados Unidos y la ciudad de Nueva York inspiraron el trabajo. Calpulli señala que los inmigrantes del estado de Puebla conforman uno de los subgrupos más grandes dentro de la comunidad de inmigrantes mexicanos en la ciudad de Nueva York. Además, aunque ha habido ataques en países de América desde la batalla de Puebla, ningún país ha sido invadido por un ejército de otro continente desde entonces. Curiosamente, mientras estuvo en el exilio, el presidente mexicano Benito Juárez envió a su familia a vivir a la ciudad de Nueva York durante la ocupación francesa de México. Su esposa e hijos vivían en lo que hoy es el Lower East Side de Manhattan. Se recibió un gran apoyo de New England Fundation For the Arts gracias al Premio del Proyecto de Danza Nacional. La puesta



escénica también es posible gracias al Consejo de las Artes del Estado de Nueva York, The Harkness Foundation for Dance y McGraw Foundation. Los patrocinadores de medios y socios comunitarios incluyen el Centro de Danza Rioult, El Diario de México, el Centro de Música y Danza Tradicionales, BRIC, Casa Puebla, y Spaceworks. Este programa y sus actuaciones en la ciudad de Nueva York también cuentan con el apoyo, en parte, de fondos públicos del Departamento de Asuntos Culturales de la Ciudad de Nueva York. Se recibió apoyo adicional a través de la Iniciativa de Inmigrantes Culturales con el miembro del Consejo Jimmy Van Bramer y el miembro del Consejo Daniel Dromm.

Sobre Calpulli Mexican Dance:

La misión de Calpulli Mexican Dance Company es celebrar la rica diversidad de la herencia cultural mexicana y mexicoamericana a través de la danza que incluye música en vivo. Fundada en el 2003, la compañía continúa creciendo su gira nacional e internacional desde su sede en Queens, Nueva York. La organización diseña experiencias de educación artística para estudiantes y maestros y ofrece clases gratuitas de danza y música dirigidas a las comunidades de inmigrantes mexicanos y mexicoamericanos en Nueva York y Nueva Jersey. Fue aclamada como una “excelente compañía” por The New York Times. Más información sobre la compañía está disponible en calpullidance.org.

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company Creates New Work -“Puebla: The Story of Cinco De Mayo,” A Celebration of Puebla and Immigrants



Photo Credit: Julieta Cervante



January 8, 2019

Audition For Calpulli Mexican Dance Company This January!

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company seeks dancers with footwork and/or contemporary dance experience for performances in the upcoming Spring 2019 season and domestic/international touring in 2019.

Dancers should be interested in performing Mexican dances that range from folk to contemporary in style.

Compensation Details

- paid performances: local, touring- domestic and international, and arts-in-education
- rehearsal stipend

Materials To Bring

- headshot
- resume
- folklorico/flamenco/character shoes (something to tap and stomp)

Information can be sent by email prior to the audition to info@calpullidance.org with the subject line "Audition."

Dates/Times

Sunday, 1/13/2019 – 2:45 PM – City Center Studios, Studio 4

Tuesday, 1/15/2019 – 1:45 PM – Ballet Hispánico, Studio 2

Sunday, 1/20/2019 – 2:45 PM – City Center Studios, Studio 4

Auditioners may arrive 30 minutes before the noted audition time to warm-up, sign in, etc.

The duration of the audition is approximately 1 hour.

Studio Addresses

Ballet Hispánico, Studio 2

167 W 89th St

New York, NY 10024

City Center Studios, Studio 4

130 W 56th St



New York, NY 10019

Gracias!

December 18, 2018

Calpulli's "Navidad" on NY1!

See the story by NY1 Reporter Stephanie Simon when she visits Calpulli Mexican Dance Company as they prepare to premiere "Navidad: A Mexican-American Christmas" in November 2018 at the Thalia Spanish Theatre in Queens, NY.



December 9, 2018

Calpulli Receives Award From NYSCA's REDC!

Calpulli Mexican Dance is a proud recipient of an award from the New York State Council on the Arts Round VIII of the Regional Economic Development Council initiative.

List of 2018 REDC Award Recipients

The award will allow the growing organization to fund additional staff for administration enabling enhanced capacity.

Thank you NYSCA REDC!

November 30, 2018

Calpulli's "Navidad" On NBC News!

NBC News' Lynda Baquero interviews Music Director George Saenz and Executive Director Juan Castaño about "Navidad: A Mexican-American Christmas."



El Correo de Queens destaca Calpulli y su obra “Navidad”

El Correo de Queens destaca Calpulli y su obra “Navidad”

El Correo de Queens highlights Calpulli and its story “Navidad”

24 • NOVIEMBRE 29, 2018



Una Navidad Mexicoamericana

Este fin de semana, ponle sabor latino a la temporada festiva viendo NAVIDAD: A Mexican-American Christmas en el Thalia Spanish Theatre, ¡el hogar del único teatro bilingüe en Queens!

Durante un tiempo limitado esta deslumbrante puesta en escena -por la Compañía Mexicana de Danza Calpulli- celebra las tradiciones decembrinas a través de los ojos de una criatura de padres Mexicanos que emigran a la ciudad de Nueva York.

El show cuenta la historia de un joven que intenta unir sus dos mundos culturales: un mundo que es influenciado por bailes inspirados por la cultura Azteca y otro por villancicos Navideños de Estados Unidos. En un sueño, el personaje visualiza la fusión de música de Mariachi con clásicos de Tchaikovsky, danza folclórica con ballet, y disfruta con admiración ambas culturas. Pero un personaje travieso intenta influenciar al menor a mantener las culturas y las costumbres separadas, y el joven deberá escoger.

El espectáculo de música y baile será presentado en el Teatro Thalia del 30 de Noviembre hasta el 16 de Diciembre.

El espectáculo se estrenará este viernes a las 8 de la noche. El sábado comenzará a las 8 p. m. y el domingo, a las 4 p. m. El espectáculo también se presentará todos los viernes, sábados y domingos a la misma hora hasta el 16 de diciembre antes de su fin de temporada. Los precios de las entradas los viernes son de \$40 para adultos y \$37 para estudiantes y adultos mayores. Los programas los sábados y domingos cuestan \$45, mientras que los estudiantes y las personas mayores \$ 42.

Para obtener más información o comprar sus boletos, visite calpullidance.org. La ubicación del Thalia Spanish Theatre es 41-17 Greenpoint Ave, Sunnyside, NY. Teléfono de taquilla: (718) 729-3880.

-Colaboración de Bryan Decaldas

(Foto de Calpulli Dance Company)



November 20, 2018

Calpulli's "Navidad" featured in the Queens Chronicle!

And now, in the company's latest creation, "Navidad: A Mexican-American Christmas," set for a two-week run at Thalia Hispanic Theatre in Sunnyside beginning Nov. 30, the two worlds come together.

The piece, developed by Castaño and his artistic partner, Alberto Lopez Herrera, celebrates holiday traditions experienced by a child of Mexican immigrant parents while growing up in New York City.

"The idea is to use dance to say, 'We're here and we deserve to be celebrated,'" Castano said. "We think of our work as something beautiful, something celebratory."

Link to full article: [A Celebration of Immigrant Holiday Traditions](#)



October 30, 2018

Video: NYXT and the Manhattan Neighborhood Network feature Calpulli Mexican Dance Company, its 15th anniversary, and the story “Boda Mexicana.”

NYXT and the Manhattan Neighborhood Network feature Calpulli Mexican Dance Company, its 15th anniversary, and the story “Boda Mexicana.”



October 1, 2018

Press Release: “Navidad: A Mexican-American Christmas” at Thalia Spanish Theatre

Click the link below for the full bilingual press release for “Navidad: A Mexican-American Christmas”

September 14, 2018

Men's Video Audition – Submit Today!



Credit: Julieta Cervantes

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company seeks male dancers with footwork and/or contemporary dance experience for performances in the upcoming winter 2018 season and domestic/international touring in 2019.

Dancers should be interested in performing Mexican dances that range from folk to contemporary in style.

Compensation Details:

- paid performances: local, touring, and arts-in-education
- rehearsal stipend

Materials To Submit:

- headshot
- resume
- video of execution of Mexican folkloric and/or contemporary dance, or other similar styles of percussive dance

Submissions:

Submissions should be sent to companymanager@calpullidance.org with the subject line "Audition"

Gracias!



July 22, 2018

Calpulli On PBS!

Bare Feet with Mickela Mallozzi showcases the Mexican community in NYC through Calpulli Mexican Dance Company and Mariachi Flor de Toloache.

Airing now on PBS and at the following link: ¡[Viva La Mexico!](#)

July 21, 2018

Dance: New Victory Theater's Summer Sampler

New York Times Mention: Mexika Tiawi! at Victory Dance 2018

By SIOBHAN BURKE

Air-conditioned fun for the whole family awaits at Victory Dance, the New Victory Theater's exuberant and educational summer sampler in Manhattan. Geared toward patrons ages 8 and up, the performances in this series are mostly reserved for summer camps and school programs, but one each week is open to the public for just \$10 a ticket.

This year's final program may prove the most intriguing for dance fans of any age, juxtaposing Ephrat Asherie's hip-hop innovations, Calpulli Mexican Dance Company's reinvention of an Aztec ritual and excerpts from Parul Shah's "Enduring Silence," which offers social commentary grounded in the classical North Indian form kathak. Completing the bill is Dance Theater of Harlem in excerpts from Darrell Grand Moultrie's "Harlem on My Mind," which sets slinky maneuvers on pointe to music by Duke Ellington and other jazz giants. A New Victory teaching artist offers context for each piece and leads a conversation after the show.

For the full article, click [here](#)!



May 22, 2018

Calpulli Receives NEFA National Dance Project Production Grant!

The New England Foundation for the Arts has awarded \$1,790,000 through the National Dance Project (NDP) to support the creation of 20 new dance works that will tour the United States, including Calpulli's "Puebla: The Story of Cinco de Mayo"

For more information about the grant, click [here!](#)

April 16, 2018

Calpulli Is A NEFA National Dance Project Production Grant Finalist!

For more information about the grant and finalists, click [here!](#)

January 17, 2018

Watch: Calpulli Directors Interviewed for "Boda Mexicana"

See the interview with Artistic Director Alberto Lopez Herrera, Music Director George Saenz, and Guest Choreographer Javier Dzul about their work with "Boda Mexicana."

November 18, 2017

Calpulli Receives Support From Dance/NYC's Dance Advancement Fund



Calpulli Mexican Dance Company is delighted to be a recipient of the Dance Advancement Fund Award from Dance/NYC!

Read more about the Fund [here](#)!

November 18, 2017

Review: “Dia de los Muertos” at the Town Hall

True Love Survives After Death in Dia de los Muertos - BroadwayWorld.com

“With its emphasis on honoring the transition of death, as well as those who have passed on and the undying power of love, *Dia delos Muertos* exemplifies the roots of the commercial holiday we now know as Halloween. If *The Nutcracker* is the go-to performance of the Winter months, *Dia de los Muertos* should be made canon for the Fall.



[Link to Article](#)
[PDF](#)

October 30, 2017

New York Times Review: “Dia de los Muertos” at the Town Hall

Review: When La Catrina Met Giselle

“The dance numbers keep coming — feet stamping, skirts swirling — as narrative turns are woven in with easy-to-follow clarity. The lines of female dead, crossing one another to the same accelerating music to which the Wilis cross, have the same effect as the original, heightened by richer colors. And the hopeful ending allows the men to finish with their forte, striking machetes together under high kicks.”



[Link to Article](#)

[PDF](#)

September 12, 2017

Calpulli's Artistic Director Alberto Lopez featured in Time Magazine's "American Voices"

Our own Artistic Director and Founder Alberto Lopez is featured in Time Magazine's American Voices for his key role and contributions to an organization that celebrates Mexicans and Mexican culture:



([Video Link](#))

(Link above not working? Try [this one](#))



April 17, 2017

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company Presents “Dia de Los Muertos”

Queens-based dance company brings acclaimed production to venues in the tri-state area

Hailed as a “terrific company,” by The New York Times, Calpulli Mexican Dance Company brings its acclaimed production “Dia de los Muertos” (Day of the Dead) to three venues in the tri-state area over the course of two weeks beginning October 26th. Under Artistic Director, Alberto Lopez Herrera, Choreographer-in-Residence, Roberto Lara, and Music Director, George Saenz, the company tells a story inspired by the sentiment and colors of the native Mexican tradition through folk dances, classical ballet, and live music. The company of 20 dancers, guest performers, and core of musicians will take audiences on a voyage from a festive town in Mexico to Mictlan, the beautiful underworld of Aztec mythology, where La Catrina is the mesmerizing Queen.

Thursday, October 26th, 2017, 7:30 PM

Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth St., Red Bank, NJ 07701

Tickets and Information: www.countbasie.org

Event link: <http://www.countbasietheatre.org/events/day-dead-celebration/>

Box Office: 732-842-9000 • All tickets: \$20

Sunday, October 29th, 2017, 4 PM

Queens Theatre, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, 4 United Nations Ave S, Corona, NY 11368

Tickets and Information: www.queenstheatre.org

Event link: <http://queenstheatre.org/dia-de-los-muertos>

Box Office: 718-760-0064 • Tickets: \$20-\$30, Discounts available to groups and multi-season

Saturday, November 4th, 2017, 8:00 PM

The Town Hall, 123 West 43rd St., New York, NY 10036

Tickets and Information: www.thetownhall.org

Box Office and Event Link: <http://thetownhall.org/event/dia-de-los-muertos>

Tickets: \$35-\$50

“Our language of dance is universal, and I think audiences will love our story and how we bring dia de los muertos into a new light,” says Artistic Director Alberto Lopez Herrera, who also designs and makes much of the company’s wardrobe. Choreographer-in-Residence Mr. Lara brings a rich experience in classical dance and related story-telling. Mr. Lara is most notably a former dancer with Ballet Hispanico and Ballet Trockadero de Monte Carlo.

“Dia de los Muertos” has been continually developed since 2012 at venues including the Schimmel Center for the Arts, Aaron Davis Hall, and Penn State Erie. The company premiered the production at Queens Theatre in 2016 during its year-long residence with the partner.



Calpulli Mexican Dance Company Presenta “Día de los Muertos”

La compañía de danza con sede en Queens trae consigo una aclamada producción a teatros en el área tri-estatal

Aclamada como una “compañía fabulosa”, por The New York Times, Calpulli Mexican Dance Company presenta su aclamada producción “Día de los Muertos” en tres teatros en el área tri-estatal a lo largo de dos semanas a partir del 26 de octubre. El director artístico, Alberto López Herrera; el coreógrafo en residencia, Roberto Lara; y el director musical, George Sáenz, nos cuentan una historia inspirada en el sentimiento y los colores tradicionales mexicanos a través de bailes folclóricos, ballet clásico y música en vivo. La compañía integrada por 20 bailarines, artistas invitados, y un núcleo de músicos extraordinarios, llevará a la audiencia por un viaje desde un alegre pueblo mexicano, hasta Mictlán, el bello mundo de los muertos de la mitología azteca, reinado por la cautivadora Catrina.

Jueves, 26 de octubre del 2017, 7:30 PM

Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth St., Red Bank, NJ 07701

Boletos e información: www.countbasie.org

Enlace del evento: <http://www.countbasietheatre.org/events/day-dead-celebration/>

Taquilla: 732-842-9000 • Boletos: \$20

Domingo, 29 de octubre del 2017, 4:00 PM

Queens Theatre, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, 4 United Nations Ave S, Corona, NY 11368

Boletos e información: www.queenstheatre.org

Enlace del evento: <http://queenstheatre.org/dia-de-los-muertos>

Taquilla: 718-760-0064 • Boletos: \$20-\$30, Descuentos disponibles para grupos y de temporada

Sábado, 4 de noviembre del 2017, 8:00 PM

The Town Hall, 123 West 43rd St., New York, NY 10036

Boletos e información: www.thetownhall.org

Taquilla y enlace del evento: <http://thetownhall.org/event/dia-de-los-muertos>

Boletos: \$35-\$50

“Nuestro lenguaje de la danza es universal, y creo que las audiencias van a amar nuestra historia y cómo traemos a día de los muertos a una nueva luz”, dice el director artístico Alberto López Herrera, quien también diseña y hace gran parte del vestuario de la compañía. El coreógrafo en residencia, Roberto Lara, contribuye con su vasta experiencia en danza clásica y



narración de historias. Lara es un reconocido ex bailarín con el Ballet Hispánico y el Ballet Trockadero de Monte Carlo.

“Día de los Muertos” se ha presentado y desarrollado continuamente desde 2012 en lugares como el Centro Schimmel para las Artes, Aaron Davis Hall y Penn State Erie. La compañía estrenó la producción en Queens Theatre en 2016 durante su año de residencia.

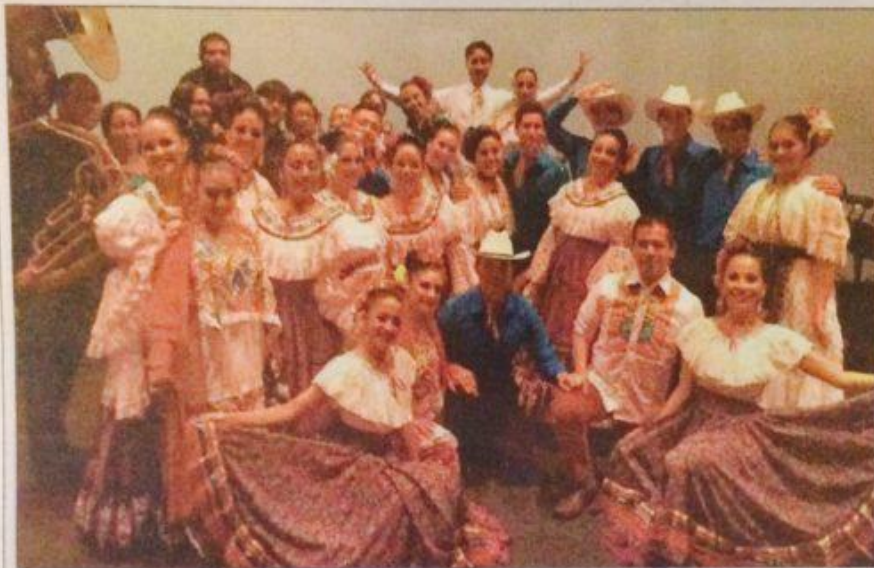
April 8, 2017

Review: “Boda Mexicana” at Queens Theatre

Bright, beautiful costumes with joyous music create the perfect setting for “Boda Mexicana,” or “Mexican Wedding” at Queens Theatre (in the park). This latest offering by the Calpulli Mexican Dance Company is another example of the troupe’s highly professional and consistently appreciated presentations. Their latest performance earns shouts of approval and applause from the audience. The story of two soulmates Abril Anchondo Reynaga and Roberto Lara who are threatened but not conquered by an evil sorceress (Grisel Pren Monje) is rhythmically uplifting. Their meeting, courtship, introductions to family and friends and their wedding ceremony is jeopardized. Of course, there’s a happy ending with dozens of dancers and musicians providing energy and optimism. Artistic director/co-founder/costume designer Alberto C. Lopez Herrera meshes perfectly with choreographer Roberto Lara and his clever storyline. The audience has no difficulty following the characters as their unmistakable affection grows, is brazenly challenged, and then finally triumphs. Music director George Saenz provides high-quality guitarists, violinists, a tuba player, a drummer and singers whose music resonates with Mexican pride and power. Bravo!

Throughout the performance, huge beautiful, scenes and designs are projected against the rear wall (designs by Ariel Rodriguez Mores). Supporting dancers Yuritzy Govea, Stefanie Roper, Juan Castano and Christopher Cortez perform with disarming skill. The unmistakable warmth and affection of provided by another dozen performers helps bring the audience to a final standing ovation. Queens Theatre’s Executive Director Taryn Sacramone has returned from maternity leave with energy and enthusiasm. She greets the audience before opening curtain while house manager Willy Mosquera, at her side, offers his welcome in Spanish. There’s much more onstage this spring. Call 718-760-0064 or visit www.queentheatre.org. As always, save me a seat on the aisle. — Cliff Kadsen, Queens Courier

‘Mexican Wedding’ at Queens Theatre



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There’s much more onstage this spring. Call 718-760-0064 or visit www.queenstheatre.org. As always, save me a seat on the aisle.



March 17, 2017

NBC's Lynda Baquero inquires about "Boda Mexicana"

Co-founder Juan Castaño and Rehearsal Director Grisel Pren talk with Lynda Baquero on NBC's "Visiones" in preparation for the debut of "Boda Mexicana" in March 2017

[Click Here To Watch On NBC's Website](#)



November 4, 2016

Calpulli's Spectacle "Boda Mexicana" on Telemundo

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company Directors and Founders Alberto Lopez and Juan Castano speak to Telemundo about the spectacle "Boda Mexicana" on March 17th, 2017.

November 3, 2016

BroadwayWorld Review: Celebrating Dia de los Muertos with CALPULLI MEXICAN DANCE COMPANY

By: Caryn Cooper

On the weekend of October 29th and 30th, 2016, the acclaimed Calpulli Mexican Dance Company presented audiences with a special Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) production with live music, classical and folkloric dances with a mix of contemporary work with long-time partner at the Queens Theatre. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Alberto Lopez Herrera, Choreographer-in-Residence and former dancer with Ballet Hispanico Roberto Lara, and Music Director George Saenz, the company took audiences on a journey to a small town in Mexico to Michtlan- the beautiful underworld of Aztec mythology.

Dia de los Muertos is a holiday that is celebrated throughout Mexico, and around the world, as a way to honor those who have passed on. Families bring ofrendas (offerings) to the deceased such as flowers, candles, and food to the cemetery, and create altars at home with items such as marigolds (the flower of death), fresh water, the deceased's favorite foods, and sugar skulls (a reminder that death is the sweet continuation of life). It is believed that the spirits will bless those who honor their dead. La Catrina is the most popular image associated with the holiday. Originally created by Jose Guadalupe Posada, La Catrina represents death and the willingness to laugh at death.

This production, tells the story of a breadmaker, Don José, who attempts to have his daughter, Lupita marry Maximiliano, the town's arrogant millionaire, despite her courtship with Raul whom she loves. Maximiliano challenges Raul to a duel, to which he loses. Blinded by his vengeance, Maximiliano sends a poisoned drink to Raul that Lupita mistakenly drinks, ending her life. Lupita arrives in Michtlan where she is received by La Catrina and her happy court. However, Lupita is sad because she did not get to say goodbye to her love, prompting La Catrina to grant Lupita a chance to return to the world of the living for one final dance. La Catrina leaves with Lupita, but not before she reassures Raul that one day he will be reunited with his love in the world of the departed. This gives Raul hope and joy as he decorates and cares for Lupita's resting place.

What a wonderful show! The costumes were just beautiful and the live music was the perfect cherry on top. Being that I have seen the company perform at a number of previous



engagements, I have never seen anything like this. It was a nice mix of traditional dance with a hint of Western dance forms such as ballet. It is different, but it shows how powerful dance can be. And what a talented group of dancers! They perform with such athleticism with the men's high jumps and kicks, and grace as the women danced while balancing candles on their heads.

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company is a Queens-based Dance Company that looks to celebrate the rich diversity of Mexican and Mexican-American culture through dance and music. In this show, they have taken the charge of having Mexican traditional dance, with a captivating love story, while fusing it with diverse styles of dance vocabulary and technique. This collaborative effort highlights the indescribable beauty that is found in the universal language of dance. It is a new opportunity to expand artistic inspiration and connect with audiences, both new and old, in a different way.

If you haven't seen the amazing work of this company, you are missing out! They are truly a terrific company. Be sure to save the date on either March 18th or 19th, 2017, for the company's return to the Queens Theatre for a special presentation entitled Boda Mexicana (Mexican Wedding) that will explore the many wedding/marriage traditions found throughout various parts of Mexico.

This article appeared on *BroadwayWorld.com* on 11/03/2016.

Original Article Here.

March 24, 2016

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company in Residence at Queens Theatre 2016-17 Season

The Queens Theatre announced its schedule for the 2016-17 season Friday. This upcoming season, which will run through April, will be the Theatre's 28th year and will consist of both returning performers and newcomers. It's a lineup marked by new and old plays, a diverse array of dance performances and a number of special events.

"Our audiences can expect an interesting, diverse season, which I hope they will find compelling and memorable," said Taryn Sacramore, executive director of the Queens Theatre. The theatre series will present two classic plays alongside a new play: *In The Car With Blossom and Len*, by Joni Fritz. The play, an original Queens Theatre production, is a comedy about two middle-aged sisters and their aging parents, which will show between Nov. 11 and Nov. 20.

"It's a family drama, it's a family comedy," said Sacramone. "I think it's going to be really something that everybody can relate to."

The two classic plays are Neil Simon's *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, produced by the Walnut Street Theatre, which will run for four slots between March 10 and March 12, 2017, and William Gibson's *The Miracle Worker*, another Queens Theatre production. Brant Russell, *The Miracle Worker's* director, was on hand to discuss the play, which chronicles the true story of teacher Annie Sullivan's guidance to Helen Keller, whose ability to communicate is impaired by deafness and blindness.

"To me this is a play about how different people try to parent an experience into an individual," Brant said. "It's a play about how two parents, when they find themselves unable to do that, are forced to, for lack of a better word, outsource that responsibility, and the heartbreak that comes along with being unable to teach your child to communicate with other people and to communicate with the world."

This year's dance lineup highlights a diverse selection of companies and styles. The lineup features four different acts: Keigwin + Company's contemporary dance tribute to Leonard Bernstein, the Paul Taylor Dance Company, a flamenco group called *Flamenco Vivo*, and the pioneering hip hop company Rennie Harris Puremovement.

"We have one of the strongest dance series in the borough," Sacramore said. "Our mission is to serve the diverse audiences in this community, and dance is something that really brings people together."



Sacramore added that every Saturday matinee will be followed by a “talkback,” which allows audiences to speak and engage with the dance companies’ directors and artistic leaders.

For its special events, the Queens Theatre boasted a new residency with the Calpulli Mexican Dance Company, which will perform two different shows over four dates in October and March. It will be the company’s first residency at the Queens Theatre despite having a long history of performances there. The programs provide exciting Mexican cultural experiences that combine elements of storytelling and dance, according to artistic director Juan Castano.

“We’re narrative and dance without becoming theatre or dance theater,” Castano told The Queens Tribune. “It’s all movement and music.”

The company’s fall program, “Dia de los Muertos,” explores the relationship between the living and the dead, while the spring program, “Boda Mexicana,” explores marriage through different wedding dances and courtship practices from different states across Mexico. Argelia Arreola and Christopher Cortez, two performers from the company, were on hand in ornate, flower-decorated white costumes to display the programs’ highly visual approach.

Other special events include the Titan Theatre Company’s production of A Christmas Carol in December, a technology-based dance company called Visuality and the Apothetae’s production of William Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” The Apothetae is a company that features integrated casts of able-bodied, physically disabled and intellectually disabled actors in order to explore the “Disabled Experience.”

Amy Wong, 74, has been a subscriber at the Queens Theatre since 2001. At the announcement, she said she is most excited to see “In the Car with Blossom and Len” and “The Miracle Worker.” She said the Queens Theatre presents plays that are most interesting to her. “They’re mostly about people, community. Not too avant-garde, not too weird,” she said.

By James Farrell

This article appeared in the *Queens Tribune* on 7/28/2016

[Original Article Here.](#)

September 9, 2015

“Boda Mexicana” del Ballet Calpulli en el Teatro Thalia

Originally appeared in *Impacto Latin News*

See a larger version of the article by clicking anywhere on the image below.

“BODA MEXICANA” DEL BALLET CALPULLI EN EL TEATRO THALIA

Con: Argelia Arreola, Gabriela Castañeda, Juan Castaño, Crystal Deosaran, Juan Pablo Flores, Cindy García, Andrea Guajardo, Chis Konstantinidis, Roberto Lara, Adina López, Pilar Maez, Eli Mendoza, Erick Modesto, Yhasmine Morán, Adriana Paz Chávez, Grisel Pren Monje, Rafael Reyes, Belinda Saenz y Raquel Hernández Solís, bailarines; George Saenz, Lisa Dowling, Mireya Ramos, Jackie Coleman, Karina Colis, Felipe Fournier, Shae Fiol y Juan Lucero, músicos y cantantes. Historia original de Alberto López y Roberto Lara. Proyecciones y animaciones, Arie Rodríguez Flores, Coreógrafo residente, Roberto Lara. Gente, director y cofundador, Juan Castaño. Diseño de sonido, Jaime Castillo. Diseño de luces, Ángel Gil Orrios. Director técnico, Fabrizio Saquicela. Directores musicales, George Saenz y Mireya Ramos. Director artístico y cofundador, Alberto C. López Herrera.

Por Carlos Navedo
IMPACTO



Siempre o casi siempre, los grupos de folklor mexicano que nos visitan incluyen piezas de danza y música que regularmente representan los ritos y variados temas de los estados de Jalisco, Veracruz, Sonora, por mencionar algunos, pero en muy raras ocasiones se pautan números del área del sureste de la república mexicana en este caso el estado de Yucatán.

México es un país rico en su arte danzario y musical, y cada región o estado posee un diferente acento con peculiaridades muy propias que identifican a cada área geográfica con su diferente idiosincrasia.

La última presentación en Thalia Spanish Theatre de Calpulli Mexican Dance Company, con su espectáculo titulado “Boda Mexicana”, es toda una narrativa cuajada de color y arte que se inicia en los tiempos prehispánicos hasta la actualidad.

La fusión de las costumbres de la rica cultura Maya y el sabor colonial, fusionan de manera armoniosa y rítmica los aires del Mayab, transportándonos a los tiempos de nuestra juventud cuando disfrutábamos de nuestra pa-

tría chica. Calpulli, comienza su espectáculo con una ceremonia maya pletórica de amor y desamor y donde el talento de sus magníficos bailarines, la belleza de sus trajes, su música que incluye el tun-kul, especie de tambor precolombino fusionado junto a instrumentos coloniales, para lograr que nuestros sentidos fueran transpuestos a tiempos ya pasados.

Nunca en nuestras experiencias anteriores prodíamos haber experimentado un disfrute sin par, con la excepción de las visitas realizadas por el Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hemández gracias al visionario productor Sol Hurok.

El programa estaba compuesto por cuadros de diferentes regiones titulados: Ritual de primavera, inspirado en leyendas mayas. El recencuentro, representando al estado de Oaxaca. Propuesta de matrimonio, del estado de Guerrero hasta las inmediaciones de Chiapas; Los suegros, del estado de Michoacán; El embrujo del área de Veracruz; Festividades de boda de Yucatán y por último La reconciliación representando al estado de Sinaloa.

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company, es una digna compañía de artistas de primera magnitud que acompaña la danza, la música, el folklor y la tradición autóctona de Mé-



Jarana de Yucatán. (Fotos Pablo Quiñones)



Los novios.

xico y donde su mestizaje es exponente del gran potencial de artístico que posee este país.

Sin discusión alguna un logro total las presentacio-

nes de Calpulli en Thalia y la respuesta del público que colmaba el teatro de Sunnyside en Queens que se hizo eco de un evento tan relevante.



La boda.



La llorona.



La pareja de novios.

November 6, 2014

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company gives folklórico innovative spin

Its name means “large house” in Nahuatl, informally known as Aztec, and refers to divisions of society in the former empire.

For Calpulli Mexican Dance Company, the idea also translates to a different spin on the conventions of folklórico.

The New York troupe makes its Houston debut Friday, presented by the Indo-American Association as part of an initiative to broaden cultural perspectives. With 12 dancers and six musicians, Calpulli is small by folklórico standards.

“That gives us an opportunity to focus more on individual performers and stories,” said managing director and dancer Juan Castaño, who co-founded the company 12 years ago with creative director Alberto.

Lopez and musical director George Sáenz. “It feels fast-paced.”

While the company maintains some classics – Mexican folk dance from Jalisco, with mariachi music, for example – its programs also are infused with original choreography and music that transcends time and cultures.

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company makes its Houston debut Friday at the Wortham Theater Center.

Its opening dance, the ritualistic “Mexica Tiawi,” is based on a symbolic, high-energy dance celebrating Aztec beliefs about harmony and balance in nature. But the title also means “Mexicans Onward.”

Sometimes a message is implicitly understood in the music, Castaño said. But works such as a new suite of dances based on the Dia de los Muertos character La Catarina emphasize a universal theme, he added: “In life, we’re all different, based on classes, but in the end we’re all the same.”

Calpulli’s La Catarina – who might be an Aztec goddess – wakes up in “the other world” and must come to terms with it. The dance’s marimba score is influenced by music from the states of Chiapas and Oaxaca.

Calpulli’s founders met as dancers with other American folklórico companies, which often incorporate student performers. They wanted a more “unwavering commitment to professionalism,” Castaño said.

Early on, their repertoire skewed traditional and focused on education.

While Calpulli continues to embrace “all the different textures that infuse folklórico,” Castaño said, “audiences don’t always understand the nuances of ethnic dance.” That’s where the Calpulli directors saw a window for creating work that might strike more people as relevant.



Lopez, a native of Puebla who began studying folklórico at age 12 in his native country, also developed a passion for theatricality and garment design. His dance-theater influences give the work its oomph – including animation as well as contemporary choreography and meticulously designed costumes.

Castañó grew up in El Paso but took his first folklórico lessons at Grinnell College in Iowa while he was earning a degree in chemistry. He continued performing in New York while he added a master's in business administration to his résumé.

That's where he met Lopez and Sáenz, who's from Laredo.

"Growing up in border cities, George and I had such a strong influence of the culture in our world," Castañó said. His family is still spread across South Texas, and many of them have never seen him perform.

"It's really exciting for us to come back home. It's going to be an emotional reunion," he said.

This article Appeared in the *Houston Chronicle* on September 9, 2015.

Original Article



August 3, 2015

The New York Times Review: “Terrific Company”

On August 2nd, 2015, Calpulli Mexican Dance Company performed as part of the Lincoln Center Out of Doors’ Heritage Sunday celebration with the Center for Traditional Music and Dance. New York Times dance critic Brian Seibert shared the following about Calpulli and its performance:

“This terrific company of warm, generous dancers and a mostly female band gave a quick, vibrant tour of Mexican traditions – from Yucatán, Oaxaca, Jalisco – with eye-popping costumes for every stop. The finale with flying machetes was something to see.”

Please visit the following **link for the full review** which includes other artists and events as part of Lincoln Center Out of Doors.



November 6, 2014

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company at City College Center for the Arts

November 1st

In the midst of post- Halloween hangovers and debauchery, a beautiful dance company restored a connected holiday to its cultural origins. Calpulli Mexican Dance Company brought *Día de los Muertos* to City College's revitalized Center for the Arts November 1st, giving the audience a rich lesson or a sentimental journey, full of live music and lively dancers.

It cannot be emphasized enough how special this production is, providing an educational experience to those not fully aware of the depth and diversity of Mexican culture and dance. As the two hour performance moved from region to region, the music, movement and language changed. The northern calabaceado from Baja California made way for a sweet song in the Purépecha language, marking the reunion of a deceased mother and her little daughters. Vocalist Enrique Acevedo brought the house to tears with "*Cucurrucucu Paloma*", holding a ridiculously long note and filling our hearts with longing.

Elegant houses and refined heads of state shape the tone and style of *Gavilan Gavilancillo*, *El Jaliciense*, and *La Negra*. The Aztecs were represented in a suite with the Náhuatl title *Mexika Tiawi* (Mexicans Onward)! The ritualistic piece holds true to the described concept of selfknowledge and harmony. *Noches en Veracruz* showed the multiple cultures that inspire the stories and dances of the coast. Dancers with machetes never cease to impress, and here, in the dances *El Buey* and *Sones Nayaritas*, it was done with great flair.

Bringing the work back to the sacred meaning of the holiday, El Regreso shows mourners with marigold petals praying for a return of those lost, laying the path with color and love. As the performance closed with *Sinaloense Soy*, we have traveled through Mexico and fallen in love with El Día de los Muertos in a deeper, more meaningful way.

by Layla Macoran

Originally published in the *NY Examiner*

September 6, 2013

NY Examiner: “It cannot be emphasized how special this production is...”



NY Examiner: “It cannot be emphasized how special this production is...”

Reviewer: Layla Macoran

Photo by: Stefanie Delgado

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To find out more about Calpulli Mexican Dance Company and its programming, visit

www.calpullidance.org. Go to www.citycollegecenterforthearts.org for a listing of upcoming events.

June 10, 2013

Calpulli cameo performance at Shakespeare in the Park- The Tempest



Calpulli brings Mexican dance from Veracruz to “The Tempest” in this unique and wildly colorful interpretation of one of Shakespeare’s masterful works.

Written By William Shakespeare

Music & Lyrics by Todd Almond

Conceived And Directed by Lear deBessonet

Choreography by Chase Brock

Featuring Todd Almond, Laura Benanti, Carson Elrod,

Jeff Hiller, Norm Lewis, and Jacob Ming-Trent

September 6, 7, & 8 – 8pm

THE TEMPEST will showcase 200 New Yorkers from all five boroughs who will share the stage with professional actors and community partners for this three-night civic event.

THE STORY PROJECT lets us learn about our incredible partner organizations and provides us with an opportunity to connect to the individuality of each of the ensemble members through interviews. For ensemble member interviews and bios, visit the Public Works Blog.



Free Public Works Tickets will be distributed, two per person, at 12:00 p.m. on the day of the show at the Delacorte Theater. Free tickets will be available via the Virtual Ticketing drawing on the day of the performance. Summer Supporter tickets are also available for a tax-deductible donation of \$75 each. For information and to donate, call 212-967-7555.

Public Fare, a seasonal open-air café at the Delacorte Theater will be open with limited menu to cater to patrons of THE TEMPEST. Hours are 5:00-8:45pm and more information may be found at publicfarenyc.com.

PUBLIC WORKS is designed to cultivate new connections and new models of engagement with artists, audiences and the community each year. In its inaugural year, it is creating an extraordinary example of participatory theater with this free, original musical adaptation of THE TEMPEST, inspired by a 1916 community theatrical event of Caliban by the Yellow Sands at the stadium at City College in New York.

THE TEMPEST will also feature cameo performances from community art groups that have a strong artistic and cultural tradition. These cameo groups include Ballet Tech, the NYC Public School for Dance, with choreography by Eliot Feld; the Calpulli Mexican Dance Company, which creates folkloric and contemporary works while exploring Mexican traditions; the Kaoru Watanabe Taiko Ensemble, a taiko drumming group; the Middle Church Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir, a choir based in New York's East Village; the New York City Taxi Workers Alliance; Raya Brass Band, which performs Balkan "gypsy" music; Lydia Callis, a sign language interpreter who gained national attention for her interpreting alongside Mayor Bloomberg during Hurricane Sandy; and Stephen Duncan, a New York City performance artist who specialized in super-sized soap bubbles.

April 19, 2013

Calpulli Celebrates its 10th Anniversary

June 1st & 2nd, 2013, Calpulli Mexican Dance Company celebrates its 10th anniversary with a weekend of events at the historic Harkness Dance Center at the 92nd St Y in Manhattan. Get your tickets for all 3 events for only \$50!

Calpulli Danza Mexicana celebra su decimo aniversario con un fin de semana de eventos en el Centro de Danza Harkness en el historico 92d St Y en Manhattan. Consiguan sus boletos para los 3 eventos por solo \$50.



Saturday, June 1st @ 8pm: Calpulli Dance Celebration/ Calpulli Fiesta de Danza

Dancing time for everyone. Calpulli's touring company, youth dance students, Calpulli musicians, and special guest artists perform to commemorate 10 years of artistic creation, education, and community outreach. Join Calpulli for food, friends, drink, music, and of course, dancing. \$30 for adults, \$5 for children

Tiempo para bailar para todos. La compañía de Calpulli, estudiantes del programa juvenil, la banda de músicos Calpulli, e invitados especiales se presentan para conmemorar 10 años de creación artística, educación, y dedicación a comunidad. Antojitos, amigos, bebidas, música, y, por supuesto, a bailar! \$15 para adultos, \$5 para niños



Saturday, June 1st @ 2:30pm: Family Dance Workshop/ Taller familiar de Danza

Calpulli Teaching Artists and Students from Calpulli Youth Dance in Staten Island and Queens guide, entertain, and dance with audiences exploring dances from Mexico, including the lively dances from the state of Sinaloa! \$15 for adults, \$5 for children

Artistas didacticos de Calpulli y los estudiantes de Calpulli Danza Juvenil en Staten Island y Queens guia, entretienen, y bailan con el publico explorando bailes de Mexico, incluso los bailes movidos del de Sinaloa! \$15 para adultos, \$5 para ninos





Sunday, June 2nd @ 3pm: Calpulli @ Sundays at Three

Calpulli performs and discusses traditional, fusion, and contemporary works. Commissioned new works by choreographer Francisco Graciano will be performed alongside Calpulli's repertoire from the last 10 years and new works from Artistic Director, Noemy Hernandez. \$15 for adults, \$5 for children

Calpulli presenta y habla sobre danzas tradicionales, de fusion, y del ambiente contemporaneo. Nuevas obras comisionadas del coreografo Francisco Graciano se presentaran juntos con repertorio de Calpulli de los ultimos 10 años y nuevas obras de Director Artistico, Noemy Hernandez. \$15 para adultos, \$5 para niños

September 24, 2011

Calpulli Makes International Debut to the Middle East



Calpulli Mexican Dance Company is delighted to share news of the international debut coinciding with its 10th anniversary year-long celebration. Calpulli will perform in the Kingdom of Bahrain in the Middle East as part of the International Circuit World Cultures Festival from April 19th-21st, 2013. The company is co-headlining the cultural event with Bhangra Empire and is the only representative of the Americas.

The company is travelling to Bahrain with a cast of 12 dancers and 6 musicians. Viva Calpulli! Viva Bahrain!





October 1, 2008

Calpulli Triumphant Season at Queens Theatre

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company receives rave reviews from the Queens Courier. (Click image for [larger version.](#))

72 THE QUEENS COURIER • BUZZ • DECEMBER 1, 2011

FOR BREAKING NEWS VISIT www.queenscourier.com

a view from the cliff

Calpulli Danza Mexicana returns to Queens

Musical! Bailadores! Que viva Mexico! The main stage at Queens Theatre once again spotlights the incomparable Calpulli Danza Mexicana. Their eighth year entertaining our borough's audiences reprises the passion and pageantry that has continuously marked their tributes to the musical heart and soul of Mexico.

The performance, divided into eight segments, celebrates different regions and raices (roots) of Mexican culture. The first dance, Mexika Tiawi, features enormous plumed headdresses atop Aztec warriors. Next, Mi Huasteca features dances from central and north-eastern Mexican states. The dancers' exuberance is contagious as the audience can't help but follow the pounding rhythms and react to the bright beautiful costumes. The third segment brings us to Baja California, while the final scene in the first act is a vivid musical view of Veracruz.

At intermission, it is impossible to ignore the drawings that line the lobby. The exhibit entitled "Yo soy...tu eres..." ("I am...you are") features ancient and modern figures that make a philosophical point.

Act II begins with a specially commissioned piece entitled "Flores para Xochimilco" by choreographer Francisco Graciano. As the second act continues, more glimpses of Mexico are presented. High spirited dancers and musicians take the audience through the western states of Michoacan, Guerrero and Jalisco. Stunning, vibrant costumes provide the ladies with the tools they need to energize their male suitors, who respond with dancing energy of their own.

Lovely Noemy Hernandez (interim artistic director), George Saenz (music director) and Juan Castano (managing director) continue the high



A VIEW FROM THE CLIFF

BY CLIFF KASDEN



The main stage at Queens Theatre once again spotlights the incomparable Calpulli Danza Mexicana.

quality and professionalism that takes the troupe through venues in Queens and across the country. Que Buena Onda!

For more information on Calpulli Danza Mexicana, surf to www.calpullidance.org or check Facebook, Youtube and Twitter at "Calpulli Mexican Dance."

For the latest on Queens Theatre's multicultural projects, click on www.queentheater.org or call the box office at 718-760-0064.

Wintry days may be shorter but there's no shortage of entertainment on Queens stages. As always, save me a seat on the aisle.



April 3, 2008

Symphony Space features Calpulli in Curriculum Arts Project

Curriculum Arts Project (CAP) is one of the oldest and most respected arts education programs in the nation, bringing Symphony Space's performing arts programming into New York City classrooms. Acclaimed by one teacher as "the most effective arts program that I've experienced in 28 years of teaching," CAP reaches 6,000 students annually, teaching them how history, culture, and the arts are all interconnected. By teaching the arts in the context of social studies, CAP shows young people that the arts are a bridge to a wider world than they ever imagined.

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company has been featured for several years.

November 15, 2007

Colgate University presents Calpulli Mexican Dance Company

Calpulli Mexican Dance Fiesta

On Friday evening, the Calpulli Mexican Dance Company performed at the Palace Theatre. The group performed a combination of popular, as well as lesser known, traditional Mexican music and dance. This well-attended and colorful event was sponsored by ArtsMix, the African, Latin, Asian, and Native American (ALANA) Cultural Center, the Africana and Latin American Studies Program and the Music Department.

The dances were divided into nine sections, each representing a different Mexican state. Each of these sections included three or four dances, which were linked through their presentation of a particular aspect of Mexican culture or type of dance unique to that region. Most dances portrayed some sort of celebration. Many told stories. In the opening pieces, grouped under the heading "Fiesta en Yucatan," the dancers acted out a wedding ceremony. The bride and groom stood around a pole, while female dancers held ribbons that extended from the pole and danced in a circle. "Los viejitos de Michoacán," or "Little Old Men from Michoacán" was a comical rendition of elderly men dancing. The dancers wore masks and walked and danced with canes.

Many dances were more organized and traditional, relying on columns, squares or circles for organization. Some dances used the whole room; dancers often entered from the back of the room, and in one case, moved off of the stage, swirling their colorful skirts just inches away from audience members.

Another common feature of several dances was displays of balance: dancers moved smoothly, balancing trays, bottles or candles on their heads. During one of the wedding dances, the bride balanced a tray containing glasses and a bottle of alcohol on her head, while the groom balanced a single, larger bottle. Both continued to dance, while the other dancers stood watching and clapping.

With a few exceptions, the dancers were accompanied by six musicians who played a variety of instruments, including guitars, violin, percussion, trumpet and harp. The musicians sang during a few songs as well, adding elaborate harmonies to the mix.

However, during one group of songs, called "Caminos a Aztlán," or "Roads to Aztlán," the musicians sat down. The dancers played simple drums and shakers on stage, blew into conch shells and stomped in time with the music, shells around their ankles emphasizing the pulsing tribal beat. These dances featured elaborate costumes, including dramatic feathery headpieces. The blue lighted stage and eerie percussion music contributed to the tone of the dance. The dancers' colorful costumes and boisterous, well choreographed movements made the performance entertaining for all ages. Children even practiced dance moves they had witnessed during the intermission. The concert concluded with a group of more well known, Mariachi-style songs under the title "Sones jaliscienses,"



or "Rhythms and Songs from Jalisco." These dances were some of the most vibrant, as female dancers wearing full, traditional skirts and male dancers wearing traditional outfits, with the Calpulli Mexican Dance Company's symbol on their backs twirled around the stage in pairs. The whole audience was clapping along by the end of the evening, when the group performed the familiar "El Jarabe Tapatio."

The Calpulli Mexican Dance Company was founded in 2003 and is based out of Jackson Heights, NY. Through both performing and teaching, the group tries to preserve Mexican culture in song and dance.

By: BettyJo Roby for Maroon News



May 4, 2005

Brooklyn College Awards Calpulli Mexican Dance Company Don Quijote Award

CELEBRATING THE MANY FACES OF LATINO IDENTITY:

FIRST DON QUIJOTE AWARDS TO DAILY NEWS'

JUAN GONZALEZ & CALPULLÍ MEXICAN DANCE CO.

BROOKLYN, NOVEMBER, 2007 – The Possible Dream: Latino Arts, Communities and Leadership Encuentro 2007, an all-day event celebrating Latino cultures, will take place at Brooklyn College on Thursday, November 15, 2007. New York Daily News columnist Juan González and the Calpullí Mexican Dance Company will each receive a Don Quijote Award during an evening at the College's Bedford Lounge. Already in its second year, Encuentro is sponsored by the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, the Latino Faculty and Staff Organization, and the students. This year's theme, "Las Caras Lindas: The Many Faces of Latino Identity," will address some of the most pressing issues facing U.S. Latino communities and will showcase artistic and musical presentations.

"Encuentro 2006 was a huge success because it brought together the College's students, faculty, staff and alumni, community artists and organizations, as well as CUNY associates to showcase the arts and leadership roles of Latinos in the U.S.," said Dr. María Pérez y González, the chair of the Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Department. "The Encuentro 2007 promises to be another exciting opportunity to celebrate Latino diversity everywhere," Pérez y González said. In addition to celebrating the Puerto Rican Heritage Month and the 39th anniversary of the College's Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, the event will feature the new Don Quijote Awards, presented for the first time to honor individuals or groups that provide exceptional leadership in the arts, education, or journalism and who are dedicated to social justice and to service the Latino communities.

About the Award Recipients

The Calpullí Mexican Dance Company was founded in 2003 by a group of artists that seeks to enrich and promote a diverse image of the Mexican cultural heritage in the U.S. By providing instructional sessions for parents and schools, Calpullí has a tremendous impact on the Latino communities.

Juan González is a renowned Daily News columnist and the winner of the George Polk Award for commentary and the 2004 leadership award of the National Hispanic Heritage Foundation at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. González was the 2001-2003 Belle Zeller Professor at the Brooklyn College Departments of Political Science and of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies.

Contact: María Perez, Antonio Nadal, 718 951 5561

Ernesto Mora, 718 951 5882

Calpulli Performs at Natives Theater

48 **TEMPO** CAPTURING THE RHYTHM OF LATIN NEW YORK

New York Post, Wednesday, May 4, 2005 nypost.com

MY OH MAYO!



Check out the Calpulli Dance Company at Natives in Queens.

Fun festivities to give your May 5 extra Mex appeal

By RUBY MILLIEN

TOMORROW is Cinco de Mayo, one of the most celebrated days of the year for the Mexican-American community. Although it's commonly referred to as Mexican Independence Day, the fifth of May is really a day commemorating the Mexican Army's defeat of the French in 1862's Battle of Puebla. We amassed some of our favorite local options — from special one-day menus to film screenings and concerts.

Here's a glimpse at the city's most enticing events.

between 26th and 27th streets. (212) 294-1000. Bocaditos platter, \$55.05

FLICKS

As part of the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival, Village East Cinemas will screen the documentary **"Mundo Cannabico"** ("Cannabico World") by critically acclaimed Mexican director Julio Zenil. The forty-minute film discusses views on the usage and legalization of cannabis through interviews with everyone from California-based rap group Cypress Hill to Gaspar Frega, director of Canamo magazine in Barcelona.

Tomorrow, Village East Cinemas, 181 Second Ave. at 12th Street. 10 p.m. \$10.

DANCE

Your festivities don't have to end tomorrow. Check out Queens' own Calpulli Mexican Dance Company this Saturday as they showcase **"Tiempo de Campesuchili: Danzas Tradicionales de Mexico."** Sixteen dancers will perform various pieces to the live music of New York's own Mariachi Bustamante.

May 7, Natives Restaurant and Theater, 82-22 Northern Blvd. at 83rd Street, Jackson Heights, Queens. (718) 271-6794. 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. \$20.

NEW YORK POST

Dine Out

IXTA
Come join us for the celebration of Cinco de Mayo
5/2 - 5/8
SPECIAL MENU

La Prima Donna ITALIAN RESTAURANT
163 West 47th Street.
(Two city and 10th Avenue)
Tel: 212-398-3400
Broadway's warmest new setting
up the finest Tuscan fare.

EATS

The upscale eatery **Rosa Mexicana** offers a Cinco de Mayo Family-Style Dinner. A live mariachi band sets the mood as guests chow down. The special menu includes appetizers like **Tamal Oaxaqueño** (a banana leaf-wrapped tamale topped with wild mushrooms and grilled asparagus) entrees like **Rollo de Pollo** (chicken breast stuffed with huitlacoche), and desserts like the **Budín de Mango con Salsa de Moras**



Graham Morrison



HERE'S WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT US:

"On October 30, 2016, I attended "Dia de los muertos/ Day of the Dead," presented by Calpulli Mexican Dance Company. At first, I did not know what to expect. Death is not a favorite topic of ethnic Chinese Americans. When I was assured there a story behind the dance, I decided to attend. Anything with a great story is good by my. Dance is not my first love but the story of young lovers parted by cruel fate, motherly Catrina, Queen of the underworld world of the Dead, grants Lupita permission to visit her lover Raul in the world of the living, reminded me of the Greek legend of Persephone, mom Demeter and Hades, the terrifying ruler of the world of the dead. So great there are connections between this folk story in the new world and that of myth from the old world. The audience's enthusiasm was infectious. The theater was full; young children attended, grandparents were there. The costumes were like enormous colorful fans for women and pinstripes for the men. The dancers smiled and the folks welcomed Raul back to the world of the living."

Amy Wong, Queens Theatre & Calpulli Patron

"...Calpulli...will lead by example...accompanied by mariachi music and aztec drums. It won't be hard to coax your little ones onto their feet for some dancing with these seasoned pros."

Time Out New York

"...colorful performance leaves the audience applauding and eager for more."

Queens Courier

"...performed with vigor and soul to spare."

Sydney Skybetter, Dance Critic

"I admire Calpulli for the great programming and equally for their ability to bring new and diverse audiences to our venue."



Jeffrey Rosenstock, Former Executive Director Queens Theatre in the Park

"The whole community was delighted by your excellent work, including those from the College, the Town and importantly, the local Mexican-American community."

Peter Hulen, Wabash College, Indiana

"Calpulli's performance was the perfect complement to our Día de los muertos [Day of the Dead] celebration! Students truly enjoyed the live music and dancing. The interactive portion of the show was a pleasant surprise, the audience was engaged and, at the end of the show, expressed interest in the rich Mexican culture."

Amelia Moreno, Cedar Crest College

"It was truly a fantastic show! We were elated with the Día de los Muertos program and every audience reaction I saw and heard was extremely positive! You and your company are an utter joy to work with..."

Luke Gorka, Performing Arts Coordinator, SUNY Geneseo, Wadsworth Auditorium

"I love the way you continue the tradition but stretch, re-introduce Mexican folklore with/for modernity."

Angelica Guel, Educator and Dancer

"What a wonderful show!...If you haven't seen the amazing work of this company, you are missing out!"

BroadwayWorld.com on Calpulli's "Día de los Muertos"