



krannert center

YOUTH
SERIES

18-19

SCHOOL DAY PERFORMANCES
FOR PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND HOME
SCHOOLS, GRADES PreK-12

BALLET
FOLKLÓRICO
DE MÉXICO

 ILLINOIS
College of Fine & Applied Arts





ABOUT THE ARTIST

Dancer and choreographer Amalia Hernández founded Ballet Folklórico de México in 1952, drawing from her extensive training at the Mexican Academy of Dance and her considerable professional success. Ballet Folklórico brings together the music, dance, and costume of Mexican folklore from pre-Colombian civilizations through the modern era. With its permanent home at Mexico City's historic Palacio de Bellas Artes, the company—composed of seasoned professional folk dancers—has premiered 40 pieces in its 68-year history. The company also has an esteemed team of teachers who provide instruction at the School of Folkloric Ballet of Mexico associated with the company.



ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Celebrate the rich and colorful traditions of Mexico through regional dances that weave history with spirited rhythm, dazzling costumes, and cultural pride. Ritual, historic, and celebratory music and dance of Mexico's Aztec, Michoacán, and Yaqui peoples and more are featured in a captivating program from a company praised as "an imaginative repository of the country's multi-layered history and rich anthropology" (*Chicago Sun-Times*).

SPOTLIGHT ON AMALIA HERNÁNDEZ

Amalia Hernández Navarro was born in Mexico City in 1917 to the military officer and politician Lamberto Hernández and his wife Amalia Navarro, whom Amalia credited with fostering her love of the arts. Amalia studied ballet privately and at the National School of Dance for a period of time, integrated modern dance into her training via United States-based teachers, and then worked at the Fine Arts National Institute. As she evolved as an artist, Amalia turned to her Mexican heritage for inspiration. She traveled to different regions throughout Mexico to learn traditional dances and ultimately founded Ballet Folklórico de México in 1952 with just eight dancers. By 1959, the company had grown to 60 performers, garnered an endorsement from the Mexican government, were featured on the television program *Función de Gala* for 60 weeks straight, and participated in the Pan American Games. Amalia, who passed away in 2000 at age 83, continues to be celebrated for her many contributions to preserving and promoting indigenous Mexican culture.

To learn more about Amalia Hernández, explore Duncan Tonatiuh's book *Danza!: Amalia Hernández and El Ballet Folklórico de México*.

IMPACT OF THE ARTS FOR YOUTH

This season we invite school communities to explore the performing arts through a selection of topics that reveal the IMPACT of the Arts for Youth.

- Introduction to the arts
- Meaning and cultural context
- Production
- Art-making and creativity
- Careers
- Training

IMPACT Focus: M is for Meaning and Cultural Context

The dances you will see in the Ballet Folklórico performance are based on many different traditions that are all part of Mexican culture. The following are some of the most popular dances on Ballet Folklórico programs.

Fiesta en Tlacotalpan (Tlacotalpan Festival)

This dance is based on the celebrations of the Virgin of Candelaria (also called La Morenita) in the city of Tlacotalpan, Veracruz. Spanish, Arabian, and African influences can be seen in this dance in which the women wear lace dresses and the

men don white *guayabera* pants and a red sash. Dancers showcase their quick *zapateado* dance steps on top of a raised wooden platform called a *tarima*. This dance also uses giant puppets (*mojigangas*) that represent characters like the clown, *la jarocho* (woman from Veracruz), the angel, and others.

Danza del Venado (Deer Dance)

Traditional lands of the Yaqui nation are in the modern Mexican state of Sonora and what is now Arizona. Yaqui peoples have strong connections to their traditional culture, and the Deer Dance is a ritual dance that was performed as a way of preparing hunters for the important and life-sustaining deer hunt and as a way of showing gratitude to the deer.

Fiesta en Jalisco (Jalisco Festival)

Jalisco is a western state in Mexico. For this dance, *charros* (cowboys), and *chinas* (women wearing the traditional *china poblana* dresses which include a hand-woven shawl and bright sequined skirt) perform to mariachi music. You might recognize a number of the mariachi instruments: violins, trumpets, and members of the guitar family such as the *vihuela* and *guitarrón*. This section also includes the famous *El Jarabe Tapatío* (Mexican Hat Dance).

Program subject to change.

Match the words to the correct image using clues in the program text above.

VIHUELA



TARIMA



MOJIGANGAS



CHINA



SOMBRERO CHARRO



ON THE MAP

BALLET FOLKLÓRICO DE MÉXICO COMES FROM . . .

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

Locate the following states on a map of Mexico:



SONORA

VERACRUZ

JALISCO

Ballet Folklórico de México

Friday, November 9, 2018 at 10am

Tryon Festival Theatre

Approximately 60 minutes

Recommended for grades 1-8

Public Marquee performance

Friday, November 9, 2018 at 7:30pm

*Ballet Folklórico appears by arrangement
with CAMI Music LLC.*

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 GREENING THE ARTS

LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS

Krannert Center has partnered with Champaign Public Library and The Urbana Free Library to help expand your students' Youth Series experience. Our local libraries have placed materials that relate to Ballet Folklórico de México on display, and librarians are prepared to help your students immerse themselves in the wide-ranging subject areas that are covered by the production. These resources will be available approximately two weeks before through two weeks following the performance.

We hope that you are able to take advantage of these exciting partnerships with our local libraries!

www.champaign.org | www.urbanafreelibrary.org

SPURLOCK MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Drop in for a self-guided, interactive visit before or after the performance. Museum guides will offer hands-on object studies and gallery-based challenges for students related to the themes of Ballet Folklórico de México. The Spurlock Museum also has a variety of resources for classroom use. Contact Kim Sheahan at ksheahan@illinois.edu or 217.244.3355 for information on available artifacts and lesson plans.

