



THALIA SPANISH THEATRE INC.

41-17 Greenpoint Avenue, Sunnyside, NY 11104
Phone: (718) 729-3880 • Fax: (718) 729-3388
www.thaliatheatre.org • e-mail: info@thaliatheatre.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Spanish Translation Follows/ Traducción
Sigue*

NAVIDAD: A MEXICAN-AMERICAN CHRISTMAS

A NEW PRODUCTION BY THE ACCLAIMED DANCE COMPANY EXPLORES BI-CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS AND IDENTITY

New York, NY – October 23, 2018 - Calpulli Mexican Dance Company is developing a new production by Artistic Director Alberto Lopez Herrera and Co-Founder Juan Castaño celebrating the holiday traditions experienced by a young person of Mexican immigrant parents growing up in New York City that will be presented at the **Thalia Spanish Theatre** from November 30 through December 16. 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. The company of 16 dancers and core of musicians led by Calpulli's Music Director George Saenz return to the Thalia Spanish Theatre with "NAVIDAD, a Mexican-American Christmas." The entirely new program tells a story with commissioned works by Mexican and Mexican-American guest choreographers with new musical arrangements and original works.

THREE WEEKS ONLY! NOVEMBER 30- DECEMBER 16
FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS 8PM; SUNDAYS 4PM

TICKETS \$45; \$37 STUDENTS & SENIORS; Special Group Rates

At THALIA SPANISH THEATRE

41-17 Greenpoint Avenue, Sunnyside (Queens)

Subway # 7 Local to 40th St. Station. Buses Q60, Q32 to Queens Blvd & 41st St.

INFORMATION & TICKETS (718) 729-3880 www.thaliatheatre.org

“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 also can’t wait to hear from audiences about how we blend these influences together in our world of fantasy.”



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NAVIDAD will feature commissioned choreographic works by Grisel Pren Monje, Rehearsals 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. 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.

“Calpulli’s stories are told through dance and music and have always dealt with love,” said Managing 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 and also empathize more with identity formation when two or more cultures influence a young person.”

Angel Gil Orrios, Artistic/Executive Director of the Thalia Spanish Theatre affirms: “CALPULLI’s dancers and musicians are very talented. They are true ambassadors of Mexico’s art & culture. It’s a pleasure and a privilege for us to present a new production after our previous sold-out run. We’re happy our audience really wanted them back, as we say in show business, **by popular demand**”.

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company marks its 15th anniversary in 2018. The performances will mark the third season between the partners beginning in 2014. Up next for the Company will be the premiere of “Puebla: The Story of Cinco de Mayo” in April 2019, a new work funded by the New England Foundation for the Arts. It will make its European debut in May 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey.

About

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. 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

THALIA SPANISH THEATRE is the only BILINGUAL Hispanic theatre in Queens, NY serving a community of more than ONE MILLION Hispanics from every Spanish-speaking nation in the world. For 38 years its mission has been to celebrate the vibrancy and diversity of Spanish and Latin American culture and heritage with unique productions of theatre, music and dance. Its more than 200 productions have been acclaimed by audiences and critics, receiving **180 AWARDS FOR ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE**, including 106 from ACE (the Association of Critics of Entertainment), the 1997 and 1989 ENCORE Awards of the Arts & Business Council, the **1997 NEW YORK STATE GOVERNOR’S ARTS AWARD**, and the **2009 MAYOR’S AWARD FOR ARTS & CULTURE**. In 2007 its musical production of Maestro Jaurena’s **TE AMO TANGO**, recorded live at the theatre and released on CD, won the **LATIN GRAMMY for BEST TANGO ALBUM**. **THALIA** is under the leadership of the prestigious Spanish Director/Writer/Producer **Angel Gil Orrios**, producing every season Spanish, Latin American & Hispanic plays with **BILINGUAL** casts, alternating performances in English and Spanish, musicals, dance programs, workshops for children & youth, and the annual **FREE THALIA OUTDOOR FESTIVAL** in its local park.



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Thalia Spanish Theatre & Calpulli Mexican Dance Company Sponsors:

This program is made possible with public funds from **THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS, THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS** with the support of **GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO** and the **NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE, STATE ASSEMBLYWOMAN CATHERINE NOLAN**, and **THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS** in partnership with the **City Council**. Additional support provided by **THE HAROLD & MIMI STEINBERG CHARITABLE TRUST, THE HENRY & LUCY MOSES FUND, THE SHUBERT FOUNDATION, THE MCGRAW FOUNDATION, and HISPANIC FEDERATION**. Special thanks to **CITY COUNCILMEMBER JIMMY VAN BRAMER**, Chairman of the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations, and to **THE CITY COUNCIL CULTURAL IMMIGRANT INITIATIVE**. Media sponsors and community partners include El Diario de México, Artist & Craftsman Supply, Dance/NYC, and Spaceworks.



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NAVIDAD: A Mexican-American Christmas

Una nueva producción de la premiada compañía de baile Mexicano explora celebraciones bi-culturales y la identidad

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company ha desarrollado una nueva producción del Director Artístico Alberto Lopez Herrera y Co-Fundador Juan Castaño. Una deslumbrante puesta en escena que celebra las tradiciones decembrinas a través de los ojos de una criatura de padres Mexicanos que emigran a la ciudad de Nueva York. El espectáculo de música y baile será presentado en el Teatro Thalia del 30 de Noviembre hasta el 16 de Diciembre. El show cuenta la historia de un/una joven que intenta unir sus dos mundos culturales: un mundo que es influenciado por bailes infusionados con 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 folklórica 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. La compañía cuenta con 16 bailarines y una orquesta de músicos, conducida por el Director Musical de Calpulli, George Saenz, quienes regresan a Teatro Thalia con “NAVIDAD”. Una nueva propuesta artística que cuenta una bella historia con piezas comisionadas a coreógrafos Mexicanos y Mexico-Americanos con arreglos musicales nuevos y números originales.

TRES ÚNICAS SEMANAS!
NOVIEMBRE 30-DICIEMBRE 16, 2018
VIERNES Y SÁBADOS 8PM, DOMINGOS 4PM
BOLETOS \$45; \$37 ESTUDIANTES Y RETIRADOS
Precios Especiales de Grupo

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“El público verá como alguien nacido en Estados Unidos puede crecer experimentado dos “mundos” diferentes y puede sentirse dividido en su propia identidad cultural”, dice el señor López, Director Artístico, él agrega “Eso es, hasta que el personaje descubre que esas cualidades lo enriquecen como persona. Estamos muy alegres de mostrar tradiciones Méxicas, como las posadas y villancicos, además música popular navideña de Estados Unidos y bailes inspirados por el famoso espectáculo del *Cascanueces*. También nos causa mucha ilusión ver la reacción de nuestro público al experimentar como hemos mezclado estas dos culturas en un mundo de fantasía”

NAVIDAD presentará coreografía original comisionada a Grisel Pren Monje, Director de Ensayos de Calpulli, Francisco Graciano, exmiembro de Paul Taylor Dance Company, Javier Dzul, director artístico de Dzul Dance Company y Juan Castaño, cofundador de Calpulli. El vestuario está diseñado por el Sr. López con diseños adicionales por Amanda Gladu, la animación y escenografía son de Ariel Rodríguez, y diseño de luces de Carolina Ortiz.



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“Las historias de Calpulli son contadas a través de danza y música, y siempre tienen el amor como el epicentro”, dice el Director General Juan Castano. “NAVIDAD” no es la excepción, este espectáculo habla del amor hacia la familia, y de las influencias multifacéticas en nuestro alrededor. Esperamos con anhelo que hijos de inmigrantes se vean reflejados en esta historia, no importa su país de origen, y esperamos que los inmigrantes se sientan celebrados y que empaticen con el desarrollo de identidad cuando dos o más culturas influyen a una persona joven.”

Angel Gil Orrios, Director Artístico/Ejecutivo de Teatro Thalia afirma que: “Los bailarines y músicos de Calpulli son muy talentosos. Son verdaderos embajadores de la cultura y el arte de México. Es un placer y un privilegio para el teatro presentar una producción nueva después de haber vendido totalmente la última producción . Nos alegra que nuestra audiencia los pidiera de regreso, como se dice en el mundo del espectáculo, regresaran **a petición de publico!**.”

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company cumple su decimoquinto aniversario en el 2018. Las funciones marcaran la tercera temporada de colaboración entre el teatro Thalia y la compañía de baile. Próximamente para Calpulli, será la premier de “Puebla: The Story of Cinco de Mayo” en Abril 2019, una nueva obra patrocinada por New England Foundation for the Arts. La cual hará su debut europeo en Mayo 2019, en Estambul, Turquía.

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