



August 23, 2007
Contact: Kelly Boggs, CAPA Public Relations
(614) 469-1045; kboggs@capa.com

BALLET FOLKLÓRICO DE MÉXICO COMES TO THE PALACE FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY

“Passionate...Impeccable...an incomparable spot to enter to the richness of a fabulous culture”—*Los Angeles Times*

“Style was there in abundance, beginning with the brilliant costumes...bold, crisp dancing...and the energizing force of music.”—*Dallas Morning News*

Proudly preserving the vibrant heritage of Mexico for half a century, the 10 musicians and 36 dancers of **Ballet Folklórico de México** swirl onto the **Palace Theatre** stage on **Thursday, September 20 at 7:30 pm** as CAPA's Caliente Series kicks off its third year.

With their dazzling costumes, amazing footwork, and joyous music-making, critics have hailed Ballet Folklórico de México for its “choreography (infused) with so much zest and buoyancy” (*LA Times*). *The Dallas Morning News* writes, “...The spirit behind the show (is) unchecked gaiety, madcap energy, and to heck with tomorrow.”

Tickets are \$30, \$25, \$22.50 and \$20 and available now at the Ohio Theatre Ticket Office (39 E. State St.), any Ticketmaster Outlet, or www.ticketmaster.com. To charge by phone, call (614) 431-3600 or (614) 469-0939. The Palace Theatre Ticket Office opens two hours before the performance. Students with a valid ID can purchase tickets at the \$22.50 and \$20 level for half-price. Students between the ages of 13-19 may purchase \$5 High Five tickets while they are available. Groups of 20 or more can purchase tickets at a 20 percent discount by calling Amy Constantine at (614) 719-6900.

Ballet Folklórico de México is the vision of the late **Amalia Hernandez**, who founded the company in 1952. Hernandez had studied dance since early childhood, and while she was well-versed in modern and classical dance, her passion was with the folk dances she remembered from her youth. She left her post at the Fine Arts Institute to create her own dance company, starting with only eight dancers. The company soon had a weekly television program, and during its course, Hernandez choreographed 67 original pieces based on the folklore she had grown to love.

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The company also captured the attention of Mexico's Department of Tourism, and at its request, Ballet Folklórico began touring outside Mexico's borders in 1958, visiting Cuba, Canada, and the US while building a reputation as an unofficial cultural ambassador of Mexican heritage. When they returned to Mexico in 1959, they were national heroes, declared "the best dance company in the world" by then-president Adolfo López Mateos, and offered an opportunity for weekly performances at the National Institute of Fine Arts. The attendance for the Sunday morning performances was so high, a second weekly performance was added on Wednesday nights, a schedule that the company keeps to this day.

Building on the success of her company, Hernandez started a school for Ballet Folklórico that offers classes to the public as well as an intensive preparation for dancers who want to someday be a part of the company. In 1968, the school moved from its classrooms at the National Institute of Fine Arts into its own building, becoming an institution of its own merit.

The company—which now consists of a touring company and a resident company—is permanently housed in the Palace of Fine Arts in Mexico City, where it has made its home since that triumphant homecoming in 1959. Over its history, Ballet Folklórico has given over 5,000 performances, earning over 200 awards that recognize their artistic and cultural achievements.

CAPA's Caliente Series is made possible through the generous support of David and Mo Meuse. Ballet Folklórico de México's 2007 tour sponsors are: Consejo Nacional de Promoción Turística de México, Aeroméxico INBA, and Conaculta.

The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this program with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, education excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. CAPA also appreciates the support of **The Columbus Foundation**, assisting donors and others in strengthening our community for the benefit of all of its citizens, and the **Greater Columbus Arts Council**, supporting the city's artists and arts organizations since 1973.

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CALENDAR LISTING

CAPA Presents BALLEF FOLKLÓRICO DE MÉXICO

Thursday, September 20 at 7:30 pm; Palace Theatre (34 W. Broad St.)

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